

NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

North Slope Borough Assembly Chambers
Utqiagvik, Alaska
August 23, 2018
11:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gordon Brower, Chairman
Rosemary Ahtuanguak
Esther Hugo
Wanda Kippi
Fredrick Neakok
Steve Oomittuk
Robert Shears

Regional Council Coordinator - Eva Patton

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
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3 (Utqiagvik, Alaska - 8/23/2018)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to go ahead
8 and call the meeting back to order and get out of
9 recess from yesterday. We're a little bit past 11:00.
10 Do we need roll call or do we just need to go ahead and
11 get back to work.
12
13 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
14 Roll call vote would be helpful at this time. We can
15 establish quorum.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think
18 Wanda has not come in yet.
19
20 MR. NEAKOK: She should be here soon.
21 We just got done
22 eating.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, do you want to
25 do the roll call real quick for us.
26
27 MS. PATTON: Sure. Gordon Brower,
28 Utqiagvik.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm here.
31
32 MS. PATTON: Welcome, Gordon. Robert
33 Shears.
34
35 MR. SHEARS: I'm here.
36
37 MS. PATTON: We just heard Wanda Kippi
38 is on her way in. Steve Oomittuk.
39
40 MR. OOMITTUK: I'm over here.
41
42 MS. PATTON: Welcome, Steve Oomittuk.
43 Fredrick Neakok.
44
45 MR. NEAKOK: Good morning.
46
47 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Jerry
48 Sikvayugak.
49
50

1 (No comment)
2
3 MS. PATTON: Jerry is absent in
4 Anaktuvuk Pass. Esther Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass.
5
6 MS. HUGO: I'm here.
7
8 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Esther. Lee
9 Kayotuk, Kaktovik, is in a training today and will not
10 be with us. Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak, Nuiqsut.
11
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.
13
14 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Rosemary.
15 Thank you. At this time we do have six Council members
16 present. Again, Wanda Kippi was just on her way and
17 will be joining us here shortly as well.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
20 Coordinator. I think we a quorum and we can get back
21 to business. We'll acknowledge Wanda when she comes
22 in. With that, I think we're under Item 11, agency
23 reports. We concluded with Fish and Game, so I think
24 we're on Gates of the Arctic National Park.
25
26 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
27 actually do have one more caribou report from ADF&G.
28 Jason Caikoski was hoping to be able to call in here at
29 11:00. I do have a brief summary on both the Central
30 Arctic and the Porcupine Caribou Herd that Beth Lenart
31 had provided for the Council, so that should be on your
32 table in front of you there.
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.
35
36 MS. PATTON: Maybe I'll just check in
37 and see if Jason Caikoski is on teleconference at this
38 time.
39
40 MR. CAIKOSKI: Hi, Eva. I'm here.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have the floor.
43
44 MR. CAIKOSKI: Hi, folks. I don't
45 really have anything to present. As you know, Beth
46 normally does these agency reports and she's out of
47 town, so we provided you with like a two-page summary
48 of the most recent info and data we gathered from
49 Central Arctic and Porcupine Herd. I told Eva I'd call
50

1 in. If you guys wanted to look over that sheet that we
2 handed out and I can answer any questions you have
3 about it or anything else that comes to mind.
4

5 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if
6 I may. Jason, we have several Council members who were
7 weathered out and are not able to be here in person.
8 They are on teleconference. I know you guys try not to
9 read from the summary, but because we do have several
10 that were not able to receive the summary and don't
11 have it in front of them, if you wouldn't mind maybe
12 just to cover the key bullet points there.
13

14 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yeah, sure, I can do
15 that. So this summer that's ending now we did not get
16 a photo census for the Central or Porcupine Herd. The
17 last photo census for Central Arctic was in 2017, so
18 last summer, and it resulted in an abundance estimate
19 of 28,000. Slightly above the number in 2016. Some of
20 this increase was likely due to higher resolution
21 photography.
22

23 At this point, considering the estimate
24 we got last year and then some of the demographic
25 metrics like parturition rates, survival estimates, et
26 cetera, we basically consider the Central Arctic Herd
27 stable at the 20-some thousand at this point.
28

29 For Porcupine Caribou, the abundance
30 estimate last year was 218,000. That's the highest
31 recorded abundance since we've been doing these surveys
32 starting in the late '60s. Survival, parturition
33 rates, early summer calf survival have all been
34 excellent the last few years. We suspect the herd is
35 continuing to grow.
36

37 So those are the main two points.
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any
40 questions to -- who is the presenter?
41

42 MR. SHEARS: Jason Caikoski.
43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Jason. Any questions
45 to Jason.
46

47 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. This is Point
48 Hope.
49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Point Hope.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. So you weren't
4 able to get a photo census for 2018, is that what you
5 said?

6

7 MR. CAIKOSKI: That's correct. Yeah,
8 for both herds. We didn't really attempt one for
9 Porcupine because they're well above management
10 objectives, so we switched to every other year or every
11 third year schedule. We did try to get Central Arctic
12 because it's near the lower end of the management
13 objective, but the weather just was not cooperative and
14 they didn't group up this year.

15

16 MR. OOMITTUK: You said you had an
17 estimate of 218,000?

18

19 MR. CAIKOSKI: The 218,000 is for
20 Porcupine Caribou and that was last year's estimate.
21 Based on the demographics, we think that herd is
22 continuing to grow, but don't have a current number for
23 this summer. And the Central Arctic Herd abundance
24 estimate was 28,000 last year. We think that herd is
25 probably stable at best.

26

27 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Thank you.
28 We keep getting cut off, so I'm trying to get the
29 numbers right.

30

31 MR. CAIKOSKI: Okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
34 Any other questions for Jason from the Council.

35

36 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Shears.

39

40 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, Jason. Bob
41 Shears here. A question about the Porcupine Herd photo
42 census process. How do you accomplish the photography
43 in Canadian air space. Is there a joint agreement? Is
44 this a count that is accomplished through multi-
45 national organizations?

46

47 MR. CAIKOSKI: That is exactly correct.
48 So in years when Porcupine aggregate both in Alaska and
49 in Yukon/NWT (Northwest Territory) we do the

50

1 photographing in both countries with telemetry support
2 by the Yukon Department of Environment. So we do the
3 radio telemetry in Alaska. We photograph those groups
4 with our aircraft and they we go to Canada. Yukon
5 Department of Environment does the radio tracking, but
6 we still do the photography in Canada.

7
8 MR. SHEARS: Thanks.

9
10 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yep.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further questions
13 for Jason from the Council.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I got a question on
18 the Porcupine Herd. The amount of harvest that occurs,
19 is that well measured in Alaska? I've heard
20 periodically that the Porcupine Herd has not made its
21 way on more than one occasion to be able to harvest
22 from Kaktovik.

23
24 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yeah, so communities
25 within the range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, mostly
26 Kaktovik, Arctic Village, Venetie and then a little bit
27 from the villages on the periphery, Fort Yukon,
28 Chalkyitsik, et cetera, we have very poor harvest
29 reporting. So what we do in lieu of that is we
30 estimate harvest based on per capita harvest rate by
31 all those villages and that's just kind of a standard
32 that we use.

33
34 So for Alaska, unreported harvest for
35 all the villages within the range, including some right
36 on the periphery, we estimate somewhere between 400 and
37 700 caribou a year, but that's no year specific. So
38 it's just a range we use for every single year. We
39 don't have year specific harvest let's say from
40 Kaktovik or Arctic Village.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. There's
43 some interesting things I think I learned. You could
44 get a registration permit and then report your catch in
45 locations online and I think that should be highly
46 encouraged. Some of the villages have poor mail
47 delivery systems and the ability to provide harvest
48 reporting, you put that on line I think it would
49 simplify a lot of things I would think.

50

1 MR. CAIKOSKI: No, I agree. I think
2 the Department and the Board of Game would be
3 supportive if local residents, whatever system it was,
4 would encourage or it would be easy for them to report
5 harvest for every year.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further questions
8 for Jason from the Council.

9
10 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Esther from
13 Anaktuvuk.

14
15 MS. HUGO: Jason, I just wanted to know
16 the Porcupine Herd they no longer travel to our area,
17 do they? This is Esther from Anaktuvuk.

18
19 MR. CAIKOSKI: Hi, Esther. Yes, your
20 observations completely match the satellite and
21 telemetry data we have. We have not had any Porcupine
22 Caribou get over to Anaktuvuk for as long as we had
23 satellite collars on the herd, so at least the last 10,
24 15 years.

25
26 MS. HUGO: Thank you. That's the big
27 herd that we'd usually get when I was growing up. So
28 thank you.

29
30 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yep.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther. I
33 just want to welcome Geoff Carroll, a long time ADF&G
34 biologist up in the Arctic. It's always good to see
35 Geoff when he shows up.

36
37 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just like Esther, you
40 know, my dad was a reindeer herder back in the '30s and
41 '40s before pipeline days and all of these barriers
42 were developed. And they would highly guard the
43 reindeer against caribou very heavily. He recalled
44 sometimes looking at major herds. I don't know how
45 they could detect it, but they did because they moved
46 quite a bit around.

47
48 When he talks about going from upper
49 Ikpikpuk to Kayuktusiluk and visiting people over that

1 way on the Colville, their range of the reindeer was
2 quite extensive. They often would interact with herds
3 and watch herds collide. That was something that he
4 had mentioned when he was alive anyway. He would talk
5 about herds were able to -- big herds collide together.

6
7 I just thought that was important
8 because I think caribou move quite freely and easily
9 without all that industrial infrastructure in place.
10 Anyway, I just thought it was important to mention
11 that.

12
13 MR. SHEARS: I've got one more
14 question, Mr. Chair.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair.

17
18 MR. SHEARS: Go ahead.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Whoever is online go
21 ahead.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: This is Vince Mathews. I
24 just want to give an update on harvest reporting to
25 improve for the Porcupine Herd in Alaska. We have been
26 talking with the four tribes involved with that herd
27 and we have contacts in each of the communities. This
28 winter I'll be working with them to put in a tribal
29 wildlife grant to explore ways of getting a higher
30 confidence level or getting harvest data on the
31 Porcupine Caribou Herd. So that is pending, you know,
32 for a grant that will be submitted next year.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vince. I
35 think those are great initiatives and hope the money
36 comes and they all go to the tribes and they get
37 somebody that's working on these kind of things. I
38 think it's important work.

39
40 Mr. Shears.

41
42 MR. SHEARS: Jason, do you see any
43 foreseeable risks to the
44 Porcupine Caribou Herd calving due to the seismic
45 exploration coming up in the 1002 area of ANWR next
46 year?

47
48 MR. CAIKOSKI: Just so everybody
49 understands what he's talking about, there's an

50

1 environmental assessment that's being drafted right
2 now. Not by Fish and Game, through BLM that would
3 permit seismic exploration in the 1002 area during this
4 winter and potentially next winter. It's my
5 understanding that the seismic work will be done
6 entirely in winter when the ground is frozen. They'll
7 be on ice roads, building ice roads, snow roads, that
8 kind of thing, done during the middle of winter.

9

10 They're not going to be permitted to
11 conduct the work until there's adequate snow cover and
12 those type of things. They'll be out and have all
13 their equipment, et cetera, off of the 1002 lands prior
14 to calving by quite a bit. I think like March. So the
15 seismic work itself should not be occurring any time
16 there's caribou of any numbers.

17

18 As you guys probably know, most of the
19 Porcupine winters on the south side of the Brooks Range
20 in both Alaska and Canada. Sometimes in the Richardson
21 Mountains. Old Crow Flats as well. There should not
22 be much disturbance. There shouldn't be many caribou up
23 there. So the seismic work itself shouldn't have any
24 impact or very little impact on caribou.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jason.
27 That was kind of my train of thought on the impacts.
28 Any further questions to Jason from the Council.

29

30 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. This is Point
31 Hope.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Point Hope.

34

35 MR. OOMITTUK: Hello. Just a little
36 bit of a biological background. You know, in the early
37 2000s they did a count with the Western Arctic Caribou
38 Herd, the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd, the Central Arctic
39 and Porcupine. It peaked at over 700,000 animals. Do
40 you have any idea what -- and they come together in
41 certain areas. They overlap each other in Unit 26A on
42 a map that we could see these. Do you have any idea
43 what the population is, the total amount, for 2017 or
44 2018?

45

46 MR. CAIKOSKI: If we were to use the
47 most recent Porcupine and Central estimates, which
48 would be both from last year, we're looking at
49 something around 240-250,000. If Carmen is there, we

50

1 could add up then -- we could put whatever the current
2 estimate of Teshekpuk and Western Arctic is on top of
3 that. I'm guessing it's somewhere around 500,000 to
4 600,000, I'm guessing.

5
6 MS. DAGGETT: Jason, this is Carmen
7 with Fish and Game and 56,225 is the Teshekpuk Caribou
8 Herd number and I believe the Western Arctic Caribou
9 Herd is 259,000 if I'm not mistaken.

10
11 MR. CAIKOSKI: All right. Hold on here.
12 Yeah, so roughly 560,000 is what that math tells us.
13 Obviously some of those estimates aren't current, but I
14 think it's fair to say somewhere between 500-600,000
15 between all four.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jason.
18 Did you get that, Steve?

19
20 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. So when you
21 do these -- you know, I noticed in the past they did
22 per village, you know, with the estimated usage of the
23 caribou for each of the villages. Do you guys still do
24 that kind of research of the number of caribou for each
25 community from the herd or is that a different -- or
26 you just mainly do the census?

27
28 MR. CAIKOSKI: I don't think I totally
29 understand the question. Are you asking.....

30
31 MR. OOMITTUK: The harvest of -- what's
32 the harvest of each community, whether it's bulls or
33 females at certain times of the year? Do you guys do a
34 count of the harvest for what is taken in each
35 community throughout the year what is estimated
36 compared to the numbers and how it dropped? Is there
37 any research on that why the numbers had dropped so
38 drastically? Is it a disease that went through on some
39 of these herd? You know, the Western Arctic Caribou
40 dropped by more than half. When you do these censuses,
41 do the predators overtake that much of the herd and was
42 that considered?

43
44 You know, you're talking some big
45 numbers. We don't have a population of people, you
46 know, what the total population of the North Slope is
47 for that. What, 10,000? Per household, the number. I
48 seen some old -- you know, they say one per family,
49 different things. Do you guys do a number on what is
50

1 actually taken in each community when you do your
2 census on harvesting?

3

4 MR. CAIKOSKI: For Porcupine Caribou
5 and the bulk of the communities in Central Arctic Herd
6 range, we do not have village specific harvest either
7 in total numbers or time of year or by age or sex
8 class. I'll let Carmen address that for Teshekpuk and
9 Western Arctic.

10

11 MR. OOMITTUK: And also include -- do
12 you guys monitor sport hunters or do they get permits
13 and what is taken from nonresidents or sport hunters
14 that come into the area within the Borough?

15

16 MR. CAIKOSKI: For nonlocal hunters and
17 for nonresidents we do have records of what they take
18 and when they take it for Porcupine and Central Arctic
19 and I suspect for Teshekpuk and Western Arctic as well.
20 So we do have those data.

21

22 MS. DAGGETT: Steve, this is Carmen
23 with Fish and Game.

24

25 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. Are we going
26 to hear those numbers?

27

28 MR. CAIKOSKI: Let me look them up for
29 Porcupine. For Porcupine, the last -- basically since
30 the mid '80s the highest harvest by nonlocals and
31 nonresidents combined has been 149 caribou. It's
32 generally between 75 and 130 per year. For Central
33 Arctic Herd, let me look here. Well, last year Beth
34 has that 223 caribou were taken by nonlocal hunters or
35 nonresidents.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jason.

38

39 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That was the
42 information you needed there, Steve.

43

44 MS. DAGGETT: He had kind of another
45 part to his question about the Teshekpuk and the
46 Western Arctic Herd taken and evaluating that. I can
47 answer that part of the question if you like.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there,

50

1 Carmen.

2

3 MS. DAGGETT: This is Carmen Daggett
4 again with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Steve,
5 you asked questions about how many caribou are being
6 taken out of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk Herd and
7 how we're evaluating that. Right now we're working
8 with that RC907 caribou registration permit and those
9 permits several of them have been issued.

10

11 I believe there were 17 that were
12 issued to Point Hope, about 16 to Utqiagvik, 7 to
13 Wainwright, 7 to Point Lay, 4 in Nuiqsut, 14 in Atkasuk
14 and 12 in Anaktuvuk Pass. They were issued last year
15 and we're still waiting to hear back from many of those
16 hunters to give an estimate of harvest based off of the
17 permits that we do have out would be a little premature
18 for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd for sure.

19

20 I think that data, even when we do get
21 it, might not entirely be completely representative of
22 all the hunters because we still need to get a lot more
23 permits out to those villages. That's how I would
24 address that particular question about harvest in the
25 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd.

26

27 As far as the Western Arctic Caribou
28 Herd goes, there's been extensive amounts of permits
29 that have gone out in Unit 23. In Unit 22, there's an
30 RC800 permit that they've been working on getting out
31 for a little bit longer than the RC 907 permits. Those
32 will all be included in the take for the Western Arctic
33 Herd in addition to the animals that would come from
34 Unit 26A.

35

36 So the short answer is that any data
37 that we would have right now on harvest through our
38 RC907 permits would be preliminary and probably won't
39 be complete until we get more permits out in hunter's
40 hands.

41

42 As far as other means of getting data,
43 I know there's been subsistence surveys and things like
44 that done in villages. As far as getting regular data
45 on that, I know they do their surveys on a cycle and
46 it's often every three years or so from what I
47 understand. I don't have those numbers in front of me.
48 I could get them if you wanted me to look them up. I
49 could talk to Beth Mikow about that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen. I
2 just wanted to.....

3
4 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I still have one
5 more question, Mr. Chair, Gordon.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there,
8 Steve.

9
10 MR. OOMITTUK: Just out of curiosity,
11 you know, after the closure of hunting to nonresidents
12 on Federal lands, and especially with the Western
13 Arctic Caribou Herd, do you have an estimated number of
14 nonresidents? Now they're going on State land. I saw
15 something in the report that they're moving to State
16 land where they're able to hunt, the nonresidents.

17
18 But, you know, the last two years it's
19 been closed to nonresidents. Have you seen a number of
20 nonresident caribou hunting drop or is the number still
21 at its estimated count for nonresident hunting on the
22 Western Arctic Caribou Herd?

23
24 MS. DAGGETT: That's a great question,
25 Steve. Quite honestly I'd have to do a little bit of
26 research to answer that
27 question. It would be kind of difficult to answer the
28 portion about State lands versus Federal lands and
29 shifting, but it would be easier to probably parse out
30 -- you know, comparing numbers between the years that
31 we had that closure in the Noatak region versus not.

32
33 So we might get some sense of where
34 those hunters were and it might take a little while to
35 tease that out, but it probably could be figured out.
36 But I can't answer that question right now. I'd have
37 to do some research and get back to you.

38
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, thank you. I was
40 just wondering if the nonresident hunters have to get a
41 permit or, you know, how much are they able to harvest
42 and if they're being regulated and one day do harvest
43 an animal, are they taking what they're supposed to
44 take and who monitors all that when you have a
45 nonresident hunter come in on State land and taking
46 caribou and then taking it back to where the residents
47 may live. Are they taking the actual poundage of meat
48 that is -- is that monitored by any of the Fish and
49 Game or the game wardens?

50

1 MS. DAGGETT: Great question, Steve.
2 I'll try to make sure that I answer all the parts of
3 that question that you asked. So, first of all, they
4 are required to have permits. They're also required to
5 purchase a metal locking tag as a nonresident hunter.
6 They're allowed to take one bull per year at least out
7 of Unit 23. I would want to double check myself on the
8 26A regulations, but I think they're pretty similar if
9 I'm not mistaken, but I'll double check myself on that.

10
11 As far as how they're monitored, I know
12 after having lived in Kotzebue myself and worked quite
13 closely with Trooper McGinnis there, I've been to
14 several meetings with him and heard him describe how he
15 would patrol those areas and also spend some time at
16 the airport too when hunters come back through
17 Kotzebue.

18
19 A lot of the hunters that come through
20 23 would work with different outfitters and those
21 outfitters had processing facilities at the airport and
22 were pretty diligent about trying to make sure that
23 their hunters were taking good care of their meat and
24 the Unit 23 working group had worked pretty extensively
25 to try to reduce and address the issue of wanton waste
26 of caribou coming out of that region.

27
28 So there's definitely people who have
29 been turned in in the past for doing that and have
30 gotten in trouble for that, but it seems like the
31 number of people that are seeing that and complaining
32 about that have gone down since all those Unit 23
33 working group things have been implemented.

34
35 There's also the pilots who are
36 licensed to fly in that area are required to take a
37 pilot orientation in order to be able to work in that
38 area. That's what I'm familiar with out of Unit 23.

39
40 As far as what happens in 26A, I would
41 say we have less of a law enforcement presence as far
42 as troopers go in this region. Also I have to admit
43 that I haven't been here long enough to really have a
44 good sense of what happens here. So I have a lot to
45 learn and I'm just going to admit that up front because
46 you guys all know it too. So I'm not going to comment
47 on what's happening in 26A other than I know that
48 there's not law enforcement that's based here through
49 Alaska State Troopers anyways.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.
2 Hope that was informative there, Steve.

3
4 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
7 to ADF&G from the Council.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Let's
12 go to the next agency report.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
15 I may, just check and see if we still have Rosemary
16 online.

17
18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, I'm here.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Okay, Rosemary. I just
21 wanted to make sure we didn't lose you. If you had any
22 questions for Jason on the Central Arctic Herd.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So we
25 have Gates of the Arctic
26 National Park. That would be Marcy Okada.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Jason, for
29 joining us. It's a busy field season for everybody, so
30 I really appreciate that.

31
32 MR. CAIKOSKI: Thank you, guys. I just
33 wanted to let Eva and all you guys know I'm going to
34 sign off now. I've got another meeting to go to, but
35 thanks for having me.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Marcy,
38 you have the floor.

39
40 MS. OKADA: Good morning. My name is
41 Marcy Okada. I'm the subsistence coordinator for Gates
42 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Eva's
43 handing out some handouts I'll be covering today. We
44 have Kyle Joly on the phone and he's going to give a
45 presentation on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
46 projects that Park Service has been doing.

47
48 So we have Steve and Rosemary on the
49 phone and unfortunately they don't have the Park
50

1 update, so if you folks don't mind I'm just going to go
2 ahead and read it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead. I
5 think that would be real helpful for Steve and
6 Rosemary.

7

8 MS. OKADA: So Gates of the Arctic
9 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission met in
10 Allakaket on April 17th to 18th, 2018. There was much
11 discussion on the Ambler Mining District Road with the
12 National Park Service providing updates and Allakaket
13 and Alatna tribal members providing testimony, and the
14 SRC members sharing information about their comment
15 letter that went to both the Park Service and the
16 Bureau of Land Management.

17

18 The Park Service presented information
19 on proposed wildlife regulations for hunting and
20 trapping in National Preserves that are in the process
21 of being amended. The SRC took action to send a
22 welcome letter to the Department of Interior Secretary
23 Ryan Zinke to introduce themselves and to share their
24 concerns about the Ambler Mining District Road.

25

26 Additionally, Park Service Staff
27 provided updates on both natural and cultural
28 resources. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for this
29 coming November in Fairbanks. As you folks know,
30 Esther Hugo is our representative on the Gates of the
31 Arctic SRC. I'm not sure if Esther wants to add any
32 information on this meeting we had in April.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MS. OKADA: If not, I'll just keep
37 going. Kyle Joly is going to give more information
38 about caribou, but I did include a recent study that
39 was done on lichens and caribou winter habitat. So I'll
40 just leave it to Kyle to share a little bit more
41 information about that project.

42

43 Park Service was able to conduct bear
44 surveys in nearly all 160 sample units which cover
45 approximately 18,213 square kilometers in Gates of the
46 Arctic. Sample units are representative of the Park
47 habitat. Survey data was used to estimate bear density
48 and the number of bears per area.

49

50

1 I did strike out a line and I'm going
2 to add information to that line that was struck out.
3 The preliminary estimate for brown bear density in the
4 survey area, which included Gates of the Arctic
5 National Park and Preserve and surrounding lands in
6 Units 26A and B, 25A and 24A and B is 565 bears with 50
7 of those bears being cubs because the survey area is
8 larger than Gates of the Arctic.

9
10 Dall sheep surveys were conducted July
11 2nd to 8th of this year in the Itkillik and Anaktuvuk
12 areas by a pilot and one observers. All transects were
13 completed in the Itkillik and about 80 percent of the
14 transects were completed in the Anaktuvuk areas.
15 Overall, numbers appear to be stable in both areas with
16 no major increase or decrease, but lamb recruitment
17 appears to be low in the Itkillik area.

18
19 Data will be analyzed and results will
20 be available at your next meeting. Park Service will
21 continue annual sheep surveys in northeastern part of
22 Gates of the Arctic to monitor changes in sheep
23 population demographics.

24
25 I also want to share that our longtime
26 sheep biologist Kumi Rattenbury is no longer with the
27 Park Service, so we'll be filling that position
28 hopefully soon.

29
30 National Park Service and Alaska
31 Department of Fish and Game conducted a salmon stream
32 survey in Gates of the Arctic and Kobuk Valley National
33 Park from July 23rd to August 13th. The effort was
34 used to identify undocumented salmon streams and
35 spawning habitat in the Upper Koyukuk and Kobuk Rivers.

36
37 Lastly, I have an update from our
38 Ranger Division. In response to requests from
39 Anaktuvuk Pass residents, Gates of the Arctic was able
40 to staff the Ranger Station throughout the summer by
41 revolving staff in and out during times the local
42 Ranger was away from the station.

43
44 We have a new Ranger. He used to work
45 for Gates of the Arctic and he has now returned as a
46 supervisor. He was hired to coordinate search and
47 rescue, law enforcement and medical response. He'll be
48 based out of Bettles for part of the year.

49
50

1 Remaining barrels on Park Service lands
2 at Chandler Lake near Anaktuvuk Pass were removed this
3 summer by Rangers, so this completes the coordinated
4 barrel removal project which started back in 2016.

5
6 MR. SHEARS: What's that mean, the
7 remaining barrels?

8
9 MS. OKADA: So these were barrels left
10 by the military. Some barrels were on Park Service
11 lands around Chandler Lake and some barrels were on
12 private lands around Chandler Lake. So for the Park
13 Service side we had finished cleaning up those barrels.

14
15 MR. SHEARS: These were like barrels
16 that were already staged, pulled out of the ground and
17 were ready to be removed. You guys just finished
18 picking them up or you actually dug more out?

19
20 MS. OKADA: So for this remaining
21 portion all the barrels have been dug out and they were
22 staged and we just had to go pick them up and take them
23 out.

24
25 MR. SHEARS: Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On the same question,
28 on the Park Service side, was there any synergies
29 developed to clean up the entire area even on private
30 lands?

31
32 MS. OKADA: So for the private lands
33 portion it was done through the tribe and a contractor.
34 The Park Service just worked on the Park Service side
35 of the lake.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It seems to me you
38 guys ought to be able to hold hands and use the same
39 contractor or something like that so that maybe there
40 would be some cost savings realized.

41
42 MR. SHEARS: Mitigate cumulative
43 impacts.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, mitigate some
46 of that, you know, using additional different
47 contractors. You guys do things together and we're
48 trying to advocate for as much as we can for any other
49 studies and things. If somebody is already conducting
50

1 a study, you don't have to restate it. You can
2 probably pirate some of that information or work
3 together or do things together to minimize the impacts
4 on subsistence.

5

6 MS. OKADA: Guide Richard Guthrie, who
7 is permitted to guide in Itkillik Preserve Units 26A
8 and B, did not have any clients this past season for
9 sheep and bear hunting.

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There were several search and rescue events that occurred in the Park and Preserve this summer mostly from inexperienced boaters who were challenged by high water conditions. Injuries that were incurred were treated by Park Service staff.

The last two bits of information are more for Steve out of Point Hope. Park Service recently hired Joe Dalle-Molle as a supervisory Park Ranger based in Kotzebue to coordinate search and rescue, law enforcement and medical response in the Western Arctic National Parklands.

Lastly, long-time Ranger/Pilot Dan Stevenson based out of Kotzebue will be retiring at the end of September.

So if there's no other questions I'll move on.

(No comments)

MS. OKADA: So the next sheet is just a compiled list of field projects that occurred in Gates of the Arctic. All of these projects have to be permitted. They received a research permit and they're reviewed by an interdisciplinary staff within our office. Many of them are Park Service projects, but then we also have projects that were conducted by various universities and other entities.

I just want to point out that when it comes to projects that have sites or locations near Anaktuvuk Pass, we do require that the principal investigator or someone who is part of the project present their project information to either the city or tribal council. If the councils have concerns, then that input is incorporated. So that's just a compiled list if any folks have specific questions about any of

1 these projects.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

MS. OKADA: If you come up with
questions later on.....

7

8

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

9

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

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MR. OOMITTUK: Point Hope. I know you
have appointments to the Gates of the Arctic
Subsistence Resource Commission. I know the Governor
appoints three and the Secretary of Interior appoints
three and the RAC appoints three. Do you have a list
of who's all on the Arctic Subsistence Resource
Commission? Are they the ones that you go up front to?
I know Esther Hugo was recently appointed for Anaktuvuk
Pass to the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory
Council.

23

24

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26

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28

MS. OKADA: So I could go ahead and
list off our Commission members and how they're
appointed or I can send that to you, Steve, but if the
Council is interested I'll go ahead and list off our
members.

29

30

31

32

33

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, are you
interested learning who are the members or were you
just wanting information on how those members are
appointed?

34

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MR. OOMITTUK: I know they're appointed
but what kind of -- you know, there's the Commission
look at everything, you know, the Gates of the Arctic
Subsistence Resource Commission. I was looking for
what exactly is their job title. You know, what do
they oversee on the Gates of the Arctic so that we can
better understand, you know. What kind of power does
this Commission have.

43

44

45

46

47

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you,
Steve. I'm going to ask Marcy to go ahead and
elaborate a little bit more on that so that we're a
little bit more informed.

48

49

50

MS. OKADA: Steve, you're correct.
Three seats on the Commission are appointed by the

1 Secretary of Interior, three seats are appointed by the
2 Governor of Alaska and three seats are appointed by
3 three different RACs. North Slope RAC, Northwest
4 Arctic RAC and the Western Interior RAC.

5
6 Esther is appointed by this RAC to our
7 SRC. We try to save two seats for the Community of
8 Anaktuvuk Pass and right now that second seat is vacant
9 and we're in the process of trying to fill it and
10 that's the Secretary of Interior appointed seat.

11
12 The SRC for Gates of the Arctic as well
13 as all the SRCs for Park Service lands, monuments and
14 parks basically provide recommendations through a
15 hunting recommendation plan that goes to both the
16 Secretary of Interior, so they have a direct line to
17 Secretary Zinke, and that same recommendation also goes
18 to the Governor of Alaska so that we can keep the State
19 well informed. In essence, that basically helps to
20 guide subsistence management within the Park.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a question
23 following along that line there, Marcy. Does the
24 governor appoint anybody he wants or is there a certain
25 discipline that they -- was it Ryan Zinke -- I think
26 some of the concerns about who's making subsistence
27 recommendations and where they're coming from maybe
28 should really know about subsistence quite a bit in
29 order to make real prudent decisions for the Park.

30
31 MS. OKADA: So on our end for the Park
32 Service we try to recruit SRC members by traveling to
33 the communities and getting the word out that there is
34 such a Commission in existence and share with the
35 tribal councils if they would like to put a name forth
36 of folks that might be interested in serving on the
37 Commission.

38
39 So we try to get local input many times
40 to have people fill these seats. Then they go ahead
41 and apply and their name is put forth to the Secretary
42 of Interior. Also there's an online application for
43 the State side that goes to the Governor of Alaska. So
44 we do try and recruit folks that do have local
45 knowledge and use of the Park.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I hope
48 that was helpful, Steve, a little bit more information
49 from Marcy on that.

50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, thank you. I was
2 getting mixed up because somebody was giving me papers
3 at the same time while I was trying to talk and I got
4 myself all confused there for a second. Thank you for
5 that information.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Go ahead
8 and continue there, Marcy.

9
10
11 MS. OKADA: So my final update is on
12 the Ambler Mining District Road. As was shared at your
13 last meeting, there was a public comment period,
14 scoping period that was open and it closed on January
15 31st. A total of 201 unique correspondences were
16 received. In addition, more than 15,400 form letters
17 were submitted by the National Parks Conservation
18 Association and Wilderness Watch. Each comment was
19 read, analyzed and uploaded to the permanent project
20 record. There is a public comment summary report
21 that's available online.

22
23 So speaking to Steve's comment
24 yesterday about concerns whether this road will
25 eventually become public. Many of the public scoping
26 comments received did bring up those exact concerns
27 that this proposed industrial road might become public.
28 There was concerns about outside hunters coming in
29 utilizing an access road.

30
31 Currently the Park Service is working
32 on an environmental and economic analysis and that's
33 what we're required to do per ANILCA. So we're on
34 track and that draft analysis will be available to the
35 public for review and comment for a minimum of 30 days.
36 We're also waiting to hear more from the Alaska
37 Industrial Development and Export Authority on whether
38 they're going to proceed with this particular project.

39
40 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Shears.

43
44 MR. SHEARS: Marcy, is the Park
45 considering the advantages of this road to provide
46 greater public access to one of the most access-
47 restricted Parks in the nation? Are there other
48 thoughts, plans in the background for like a visitor
49 center or moving the Park headquarters onto the road?

1 MS. OKADA: As you might already know,
2 the road would go through the southern portion of Gates
3 of the Arctic, which is a Preserve Unit and Preserve
4 Units are open to both sport hunting and subsistence.
5 There has been much discussion on how we would manage
6 that portion of the Preserve should a road go through.
7 There has been discussion about a visitor's center and
8 how we would staff that local area. As of this point
9 it's in discussion and will be addressed through the
10 environmental and economic analysis.
11

12 MR. SHEARS: I guess my thought was
13 would National Park Service take some ownership of the
14 road or is there any thought, you know, like other
15 National Parks and Preserves do?
16

17 MS. OKADA: I guess I would answer that
18 question we're -- you know, nationally, Parks and
19 Preserves and Monuments, historic sites, they're
20 managed for the public, the greater extent of America,
21 so we have to take that into consideration.
22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Were you done on the
24 Ambler Mining District road and ready for questions?
25

26 MS. OKADA: I'm done with my updates
27 and if there are any further questions, I'm happy to
28 take them.
29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
31 Marcy on all of her subject matters.
32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: Is this the Ambler Road?
34 Is that what you're
35 talking about?
36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Steve, that it
38 was.
39

40 MR. OOMITTUK: My understanding is that
41 this road is not going to be open to public use. You
42 know, that's what they said about the Haul Road up to
43 Prudhoe Bay. It's a whole different story now. The
44 migration route of the -- there was some concerns that
45 were brought up because of the Western Arctic Caribou
46 Herd migration route going south. It's near Ambler and
47 where the mine is at, you know. There were some
48 concerns that were brought up on that. Although it's
49 not in our region, but the Park Service did come to
50

1 Point Hope because we have concerns with the Western
2 Arctic Caribou Herd which we depend on.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
7 Any further questions for Marcy.

8
9 MR. SHEARS: One, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Bob.

12
13 MR. SHEARS: Back to the Dall sheep
14 survey. Darn. I was a little disappointed that just
15 stable, no growth. We've had some better winters than
16 what caused the traumatic population decline back in
17 2012-2013. I was really hoping that we would see some
18 reported growth in the Dall sheep population. Is there
19 any indication or conclusions that can be drawn why
20 it's not growing faster?

21
22 MS. OKADA: I sure wish we had Kumi
23 right now, but I don't think I could answer that
24 question. I think from year to year we're going to
25 continue to monitor those local populations in Itkillik
26 and Anaktuvuk Pass. We do the entire Park survey every
27 few years. Probably scheduled to do one in 2020.

28
29 So through surveys we'll continue to
30 monitor the populations in the Park and Preserve and
31 just see what happens. In the meantime, we're also
32 working with local sheep hunters in Anaktuvuk Pass to
33 collect samples that are tested for disease. Then also
34 have a sheep pellet project where their anak is
35 collected and to look at what they've been foraging on.

36
37 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
40 for Marcy.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Thank
45 you, Marcy, for your updates and reports.

46
47 MS. OKADA: So we have Kyle Joly online
48 and he's going to give a presentation via PowerPoint.
49 So that big screen is coming down and then he'll give
50

1 an update and also an update on projects that the Park
2 Service has been doing with the Western Arctic Herd.
3 Then also Eva has some additional handouts if folks
4 want to look at those particular studies in more
5 detail.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. So we're
10 going to go ahead and leave our mics and go to the rest
11 of the audience to watch a PowerPoint.

12
13 MR. JOLY: Hello, Mr. Chairman. This
14 is Kyle Joly with the Park Service. I was just
15 wondering if you can hear me and can you see the screen
16 yet.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: They're going to work
19 on the screen right
20 now. It should be coming down.

21
22 MR. JOLY: All right. Well, I'm Kyle
23 Joly, wildlife biologist for Gates of the Arctic and
24 I'm also the lead caribou biologist focusing in on the
25 Western Arctic Herd. I've been working with caribou
26 for about 20 years now and then heading up the Western
27 Arctic Herd monitoring projects for the Park Service
28 for the last 10 years.

29
30 Were you able to get the PowerPoint up
31 yet?

32
33 MS. PATTON: Hi, Kyle. Just one moment
34 so we get the screen down and your PowerPoint loaded.
35 We'll check back in in just a moment. The screen is
36 coming down now.

37
38 MR. JOLY: Okay.

39
40 (Pause)

41
42 MS. PATTON: Okay, Kyle. So we've got
43 your slide show lined up here and Marcy is going to
44 forward it. So just holler when you want to go onto
45 the next page image here.

46
47 MR. JOLY: Great. Thanks a lot, Eva.

48
49 MS. PATTON: If you don't mind again,
50

1 we've got a couple Council members that are on
2 teleconference, so they don't have these handouts in
3 front of them. So feel free to provide lots of detail
4 if you can so those that are on teleconference can also
5 follow along.

6

7

Thanks.

8

9 MR. JOLY: Yeah, sure. I'll try and be
10 as descriptive as I can. Marcy, do you want to just
11 flip to the next slide.

12

13

MS. PATTON: You're good to go.

14

15

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23

Go ahead and flip to the next slide,
Marcy.

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MS. PATTON: You're on, Kyle, so you
can probably just let Marcy know the next one and it
seems to be working pretty good here.

29

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MR. JOLY: Great. So Carmen gave an
update yesterday about the herd, so I'm not going to
touch too much kind of on the demographics or the
population side of things unless you guys have specific
questions. What I was going to do is focus in on Park
Service monitoring efforts.

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Back in 2009 the Park Service, in close
collaboration with Fish and Game, BLM and Fish and
Wildlife Service, started up our monitoring effort and
we deployed GPS collars at Onion Portage, which is in
Kobuk Valley National Park on the Kobuk River. So we
first deployed GPS collars in September of 2009. Since
that time we put out over 200 collars and we've got
those collars reporting in three times a day. So we've
got about 500,000 locations of caribou out in Northwest
Alaska. It's one of the largest caribou databases in
the world of its kind.

Go ahead to the next slide.

1 So one of the key things that we've
2 been doing with our monitoring is to look at caribou
3 distribution and what you see here is an annual map of
4 where Western Arctic Caribou have spent their time.
5 The orange is kind of the high use areas and then the
6 bright orange is the really high use areas.

7
8 What you see there is that the calving
9 area shows up and then the corridor that goes to the
10 southwest to the Lisburne area where they spend early
11 July before the bugs get really bad -- or as the bugs
12 get really bad they spend their time there and then
13 they'll shoot east across the Brooks Range, then in the
14 fall will typically -- most of the them will go through
15 the Brooks Range, through Kobuk Valley, often through
16 Onion Portage.

17
18 In the last 10 years or so they've
19 really been spending a lot of time on the Seward
20 Peninsula rather than heading further south into the
21 Nulato Hills.

22
23 Next slide.

24
25 Another thing that we do is look at the
26 distribution of migration. So what you're looking at
27 here is a map of the Noatak River and it's split up
28 into different segments and we show what percentage of
29 the population is going through different portions of
30 the river. You can see in this that for fall 2017 that
31 the bulk of the distribution came through -- so almost
32 half the animals came through the Noatak about where it
33 splits between Noatak Preserve and Gates of the Arctic.
34 There's a little bit on either side.

35
36 Then there's quite a few, about
37 14 percent, came through that very western portion of
38 the river and that was kind of a late pulse, which is
39 fairly common. We'll have animals come running down
40 the coast sometime in November and running right
41 through the town of Kotzebue.

42
43 Next slide.

44
45 Along with the distribution of
46 migration we're also looking at the timing of
47 migration. What this graph is showing is when the
48 average time that caribou come through the Kobuk River.
49 In general, the caribou on average have been coming a
50

1 little bit earlier in the year. That's what this graph
2 is showing. It's the seven years that we have data for
3 for when they're crossing the Kobuk in the fall.

4
5 One interesting thing is that while in
6 general the average has been earlier and earlier just
7 by a few days, the first animal crossing has been
8 coming later and later. So that's something
9 interesting that we've been able to track over the
10 years.

11
12 Next slide.

13
14 As well as fall migration we also look
15 at spring migration. We've seen a real big variability
16 when spring migration starts. How we're tracking that
17 is just when the animals are crossing the Selawik River
18 on their northward migration. There's been a couple
19 years where it's been very late. 2012, 2013 has been
20 very late spring migration, but 2014, '16, '17 were
21 very early. Happening in mid April.

22
23 Next slide.

24
25 Another thing that our program has been
26 able to do is we've done a lot of research and
27 published a lot of papers on our research. This is
28 just a slide showing some of the titles of the recent
29 papers. These were all done in the last two years. I
30 was just going to take time to look at one of them, but
31 I'll be happy to take questions about any of them.

32
33 Next slide.

34
35 The one paper that I was going to point
36 out is called Early Fall and Late Winter Diets of
37 Migratory Caribou in Northwest Alaska. So what we did
38 is we had a whole bunch of people go out and collect
39 fecal samples of caribou and we keep them frozen and
40 then we send them off to labs and identify what the
41 caribou have been eating.

42
43 What these graphs are showing is that
44 there's not really a huge difference between fall,
45 which is September, and late winter, which is primarily
46 March, samples. You'll see it's about 70 percent of
47 the diet is lichen, which is also known as reindeer
48 moss. The other things that show up are shrubs, things
49 like willows, moss shows up about 10 percent of the

50

1 diet, and you've got graminoids, which is grasses and
2 things like that, tussock grass.

3
4 One thing that we found in this study
5 is that caribou that are migrating -- we have a certain
6 percentage of the population that doesn't migrate.
7 They'll stay up by Wainwright or something like that.
8 Those animals tend to have a lot less lichen in their
9 diet and they're also more nutritionally stressed than
10 other animals.

11
12 An interesting thing, the last two
13 years we've had the highest percentage of animals
14 failed to migrate, so they all stayed in the Brooks
15 Range or further north. The last two years it's been
16 closer to 50 percent of our collars haven't migrated.

17
18 Next slide.

19
20 So I just wanted to keep it short and
21 kind of introduce you to what we've been doing.
22 Hopefully Marcy has been keeping you updated with our
23 papers and reports and things like that. I'm more than
24 happy to answer questions. We've got a lot of other
25 reports and presentations and things like that. Those
26 can be found on our website, which is spelled out
27 there, which is a really long one. For you on the
28 phone, it would be easier just to email it to you if
29 you're interested in learning more about the program.

30
31 With that, I'd be happy to take any
32 questions that you might have.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
35 Kyle on his caribou stuff.

36
37 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Point
38 Hope, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

41
42 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know on the
43 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, the last couple years
44 we've noticed -- you know, usually we get them first
45 part of July in the DeLong Mountains area, but the last
46 couple of years lately they've been coming during the
47 later part of July, almost in August. They're a little
48 fatter, but we noticed they're staying up north a
49 little longer.

50

1 We've had a good couple years of
2 caribou coming closer to our communities too. Even
3 though it's later, but they're coming back in their
4 usual routes that they travel ever since the closure of
5 nonresidential hunting on Federal lands up north. Like
6 they're not being turned around and going somewhere
7 else, rerouted. For so many years the nonresidents or
8 sport hunters would be dropped in front of the herd and
9 reroute them, but now in the last few years they're
10 coming back to their natural stomping grounds and we're
11 seeing more and more in our area.

12
13 We don't have to go 60, 70 miles to get
14 caribou the last few years. They're practically right
15 on our doorstep. There was calves running around in
16 Point Hope early morning last year. There's some at
17 the airport. It's good to see. Even though the
18 numbers are still down, it's good to see them coming
19 back taking their natural route that they've always
20 traveled.

21
22 MR. JOLY: Thanks for those
23 observations, Steve.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
26 for Kyle.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have one. You said
31 recent paths that the majority or some or a portion of
32 the Western Arctic Herd is electing not to migrate over
33 the Brooks Range. Is that what I heard?

34
35 MR. JOLY: Yeah, almost every year we
36 have a small fragment of the population staying north.
37 Often it's in the Wainwright area. Sometimes up by
38 Point Hope. It's usually just a few scattered animals.
39 Two years ago, two winters ago we had something like 40
40 percent of our collars not migrate south of the Kobuk
41 and then last year -- I don't have the final number,
42 but I'm guessing about 50 percent didn't migrate south
43 of the Kobuk. They ended up in the northwest portion of
44 Gates of the Arctic primarily.

45
46 It was also a terrible winter for
47 survival of the collared animals as well. So I don't
48 know if deeper snow had anything to do with it. I
49 don't know if you guys saw bad snow conditions up

1 there, icing events, deep snow. Is that something that
2 you guys were seeing?
3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think that it
5 was a pretty good snow year in many of the villages,
6 many of the communities experienced that. So I was
7 just curious as to the amount of those that just
8 overwintered in the North Slope side. Was that a
9 substantial amount this year or was it just a fragment?
10

11 MR. JOLY: Normally I'd say an average
12 is probably about 5 percent of the collars end up
13 north. There's some years one collar might show up or
14 two. This year I would say about 50 percent didn't
15 make it south of the Kobuk. Most of them ended up in
16 the mountains where Tinayguk comes into Gates of the
17 Arctic, April Creek, Easter Creek, the upper upper
18 portions of the Noatak. We generally don't see large
19 numbers of Western Arctic Caribou ended up there, so it
20 was a little unusual for us.
21

22 Previously, I was noting those bright
23 orange spots on slide number four looking at the annual
24 distribution and that's because previous to the last
25 two years we saw this increasing trend of use of Bering
26 Land Bridge of the western portion of the Seward
27 Peninsula.
28

29 When we first started tracking it was
30 like 8 percent of the collars used it and then it
31 doubled to 16 and it doubled to 32 and it doubled to 64
32 and then we had one year it was like 75 or 78 percent
33 of all the collars ended up in Bering Land Bridge.
34

35 Since that time for reasons that I'm
36 not sure of we've had less animals migrate. We're
37 trying to figure out what might be causing that, but
38 we're not sure what that is at this point.
39

40 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I have a
41 question.
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.
44

45 MR. OOMITTUK: I know you noticed the
46 wind patterns have been changing the last few years.
47 Lately we've been getting a lot of east wind or
48 southeast wind. The majority of our winds are staying
49 from the south or the east. I know the caribou like to
50

1 go towards the wind when there's a bunch of mosquitos.
2 Lately you see the mosquitos are looking like birds
3 now. Swarms of them.
4

5 With the wind patterns changing, have
6 you guys seen them going further east, like you said
7 going into the Brooks Range, getting away from the
8 mosquitos that are out there. Warmer temperatures.
9

10 It seems like it's getting kind of
11 cooler, like we're getting back to our normal. It's
12 August and kind of cool out today. We've noticed
13 bigger snowflakes. An abundance of snow. But a lot of
14 east wind and south wind. I don't know if that would
15 change some of the routes for some of these caribou
16 especially in the fall time.
17

18 MR. JOLY: Yeah, certainly caribou are
19 responding to the wind, temperature, precipitation,
20 rain and snow events. We've seen caribou walk 100
21 miles in one direction just walking right into the wind
22 during bad insect seasons. Just get in a line and just
23 walk right into the wind without stopping.
24

25 We don't really have good wind data
26 outside of the coastal villages where the weather
27 stations are. The Park Service has been working on
28 that and we've added about 16 weather stations across
29 the region and focusing on the Interior areas where we
30 don't have much data.
31

32 Unfortunately, I can't really say that
33 we can quantify how much of changes in migration
34 patterns and movement patterns are due to those wind
35 changes that you're seeing, but our hope is that
36 eventually we will be able to start looking at that.
37

38 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, because, you know,
39 when we have a lot of west wind, especially in the fall
40 time when the caribou are around, they come to our
41 coastline and they're right in our neighborhood in
42 abundance and they walk towards the wind. We always
43 like that west wind, but we haven't seen much west wind
44 lately. Most of it is south or southeast. It seems
45 like the prevailing winds have always made a
46 difference.
47

48 MR. JOLY: Thanks, Steve. Very
49 interesting observations. We hope to look at wind as a
50

1 factor of caribou movements more. I think with these
2 new weather stations coming online that we will be able
3 to do that in the next few years, but we haven't done
4 it so far.

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

7

8 MR. JOLY: Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thanks,
11 Kyle. Any other presentations on the screen that's
12 coming up? There's a question from Anaktuvuk.

13

14 MS. HUGO: Yes, Kyle, this is Esther.
15 I've got a question going back to the 2009 tundra fire.
16 I just want to know do the caribou go around that area
17 or do they avoid that tundra area that burned back
18 then? I know the lichen take years and years to grow
19 back and I'm just curious about that.

20

21 MR. JOLY: Hi, Esther. Nice to hear
22 from you. Yeah, good question. So back in 2009 there
23 was the largest tundra fire ever up on the North Slope,
24 the Anaktuvuk River fire. In general, caribou during
25 the winter will avoid burned areas because the fires
26 burn up the lichen, which I mentioned constitute about
27 70 percent of their diet. Some animals we saw had 90
28 percent of their was lichen.

29

30 So in winter they will avoid those
31 areas. The lichen that caribou prefer can take 50 to
32 150 years to return, so they're very slow growing. So
33 caribou tend to avoid those areas for a very long time.

34

35 Interestingly, the grasses grow back
36 stronger and fast after a fire. So it's possible that
37 if caribou are encountering those burned tundra areas
38 say in late spring or early summer that they might
39 actually be attracted to it because there might
40 actually be more vegetation there. In forested area
41 fires tend to be avoided at all times of the year
42 because the trees fall down and create this jumble,
43 which is very hard for caribou to get through.

44

45 So in the forested areas they'll avoid
46 them pretty much year round, but in the tundra you
47 don't have those toppling trees. My guess is that
48 they'll probably avoid that area during the winter and
49 probably not so much say in the summer and early fall.

50

1 The Western Arctic Herd really haven't
2 got out that way in a number of years. It's probably
3 been seven or eight years since we had many Western
4 Arctic Caribou as far as Anaktuvuk. They've been
5 getting close, like Chandler Lake and things, but
6 really haven't been getting over to the Anaktuvuk
7 Valley itself a number of years now.

8
9 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Kyle. Besides
10 the sport hunters it might be due to the tundra fire
11 that they haven't been migrating our way.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MR. JOLY: Yeah, you know, in the fall
16 I don't know if after a year or certainly by two years
17 that the grasses will have grown back and probably
18 grown back even stronger than they were. Talking to
19 Randy who went out on that fire, I know that was a
20 really intense fire and burned really hard.
21 Unfortunately from the Western Arctic Herd side they
22 just haven't been getting that far over, so I haven't
23 been able to see if that fire is having an impact on
24 where they're moving. It would probably be more
25 related to Teshekpuk and Central Arctic Herd animals
26 that would be over that way more often.

27
28 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Kyle. Good
29 morning.

30
31 MR. JOLY: Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
34 for Kyle on this presentation.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kyle.

39
40 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 I'll hang on for a little bit if there are any follow-
42 up questions.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Does that
45 conclude the PowerPoint and we can get back to our
46 seats?

47
48 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair and
49 Council. I just want to bring to the Council's

50

1 attention we do have a small handful of some of the
2 reports that Kyle had referenced if you'd like a copy
3 or have any questions to follow up with Kyle in the
4 future. One of the research reports I know of
5 particular interest to Esther and others from Anaktuvuk
6 Pass, Effects of Environmental Features in Sport
7 Hunting on Caribou Migration in Northwest Alaska. This
8 was in the Noatak area, but it starts to look at some
9 of the questions that Anaktuvuk Pass has been asking in
10 terms of impacts to caribou migration. Caribou Vital
11 Signs report for the Park Service and then also the
12 report that Kyle was just mentioning, the Early Fall
13 and Late Winter Diets.

14
15 Kyle, can you remind me. Were you
16 thinking you might be around and available possibly for
17 the winter meeting timeframe?

18
19 MR. JOLY: Yeah. If the Council was
20 interested, I could make an in-person visit as long s I
21 didn't have a scheduling conflict. It would be fun to
22 come up there.

23
24 MS. PATTON: So if the Council has more
25 questions, we might be able to -- that might be an
26 opportunity at the winter meeting as well. I've got
27 copies here if you like.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. We
30 might as well roll up the screen and get back to
31 business.

32
33 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. Is there
34 other different agencies? Is National Bureau of
35 Wildlife in the audience there?

36
37 MS. PATTON: Hi, Steve. This is Eva.
38 I think we did have Brian Person on teleconference
39 earlier. I know he had mentioned he had a pretty busy
40 schedule and was kind of multitasking while on
41 teleconference. Do we still have Brian Person on
42 teleconference?

43
44 (No response)

45
46 MS. PATTON: Sounds like not right at
47 the moment, Steve. We could try to reach them if you
48 had questions specific to the North Slope Borough and
49 maybe they'd be able to join back up with us after

50

1 lunch.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, yeah. I just had
4 some questions on North Slope Borough wildlife. Are we
5 breaking for lunch or are we going to continue on?

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, I'm going to
8 see what the Council wants to do. I think there's a
9 couple more reports and we can actually wrap up if we
10 wanted to. Just for your information there was just an
11 email that was circulated within the Borough for the
12 North Slope Borough Wildlife Committee meeting coming
13 up in September.

14

15 So what's the wish of the Council. Do
16 you guys want to take a lunch break or do you guys want
17 to push forward?

18

19 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I just got
20 notice that.....

21

22 MR. OOMITTUK: For me I think we should
23 go forward and continue until we're done. I know we
24 just started at 11:00 and it's only been a couple
25 hours. I'll go with the majority.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bob.

28

29 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I just need to
30 briefly step out for about 15, 20 minutes to meet with
31 a consultant who is in town only for today at 1:00 to
32 1:20 but I would recommend continuing. I'll catch up
33 with you guys.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good, Bob. The
36 rest of the Council do you guys want to move forward
37 since we were late and try to wrap up early today?

38

39 MS. KIPPI: Continue on.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Steve. I
42 think the majority says let's get her done.

43

44 MR. NEAKOK: Roger. I'm all for it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the next one on
47 the list would be U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If

50

1 I may, kind of our strategy that we have was we're
2 thinking maybe Randy Brown on his fisheries research
3 would go last to have an opportunity for the Council to
4 have -- he's got some great slide shows. I know Bob
5 would be interested in that one. Then Vince Mathews.
6 As the Council wishes if you'd like to take up Randy's
7 next.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's see, what's
10 next? We're putting too much in our brains. Let's
11 just go by what's next. What do we want to do next.

12
13 MS. PATTON: So we have just two agency
14 reports left. One is Randy Brown on FRMP project
15 updates.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Let's get
18 Randy Brown up and let's get going.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Okay. He's got a slide
21 show as well, so sorry we just put the screen up.

22
23 (Pause)

24
25 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Council
26 members. Are you guys ready?

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're ready.

29
30 MR. BROWN: So my name is Randy Brown.
31 I'm a fish biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
32 Service out of Fairbanks. I work with a couple
33 colleagues, Mike Courtney and Andy Seitz on this
34 project. They're from the university. We've been
35 doing a number of Dolly Varden projects up north. You
36 folks know these fish as Arctic char. Formerly, in
37 fish taxonomy, they've been classified as Dolly Varden,
38 so that's how I'll be referring to them, but know we're
39 speaking about the same thing.

40
41 This is some work that I've been doing
42 on the Canning River over the last few years. Next
43 slide. We started this in 2014 and it's largely
44 because the possibility of development in the 1002 area
45 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was kind of
46 imminent ever since the passage of ANILCA back in 1980.
47 We weren't really expecting it to be opened up this
48 last year. What we wanted to do was get an idea how
49 these fish were using that lower part of the river
50

1 before the development got going real strong.

2

3

Next slide, please.

4

5

6 So one of the reasons we were
7 interested in this is because water is a really big
8 issue over in the west, like in the Sagavanirktok River
9 area and farther west. This Google image shows there's
10 lakes all over the place and a lot of the ice roads and
11 domestic use and development water can be drawn from
12 lakes over in this part of the North Slope.

12

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Next slide.

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But when you get over into the 1002
area between the Canning River, which is on the left
side of this image, same scale as the other, and the
Hulahula River, which is most of the 1002 area you see
there, are really very, very few lakes. A few around
the Canning River Delta and actually some of those are
brackish and pretty much nothing else.

The Canning River is the largest source
of water in the entire 1002 area. So we're a little
bit concerned that if it was opened up, that there
might be some incentive to try to draw water out of the
Canning River, which has really not been permitted over
in the west except for some of the large gravel pits
that have been dug in river channels to stockpile water
there.

There's only three rivers within the
1002 area that have these big anadromous runs of Dolly
Varden, the Canning, the Hulahula and the Aichilik over
on the eastern side. If the development were ever
going to happen, it was certainly going to be crossing
the Canning River first. So we thought let's figure
out how these fish are using the Canning. The timing
of migrations and other things before this got rolling
so we know what's at stake with this.

Next slide.

So back in the '70s when they were
looking at a possible -- this was during the Arctic gas
research where they were thinking of several different
methods to get oil and gas from Prudhoe Bay down to
southern markets and one of the possible options was
running a line across the North Slope over to the

1 Mackenzie and down. So there was a lot of money put
2 into figuring out what kind of obstacles they would
3 face and how they would manage that.
4

5 So this Peter Craig and Peter McCart, a
6 really incredible fishery scientist, they started
7 looking at where fish would spawn and would overwinter
8 in the entire eastern Arctic and this was a map they
9 made of the Canning River where they identified the
10 major spring areas, major water spots and where the
11 fish were occupying, which are the dark-shaded regions
12 in this case.
13

14 Then there were icings, you know, big
15 ice fields in a few places where they were unable to
16 identify whether fish were actually using those in the
17 winter in the downstream of that Ignek Creek and down in
18 the delta itself. So we thought, well, those are
19 certainly encroaching in on the 1002 area and it would
20 be good to know if fish were using those spots.
21

22 Next slide, please.
23

24 And the water over in the eastern
25 Arctic some of you may be really familiar with those
26 rivers, but they're big, wide, shallow, fast rivers
27 that flow out of the mountains. During the winter the
28 flow in those rivers stops. What you have are these
29 perennial springs. This is a picture of one of the
30 perennial springs about six miles up the Marsh Fork of
31 the Canning River.
32

33 You can see it just comes out of these
34 two ports in the side of this mountain down a little
35 waterfall into a slough of the Marsh Fork there. When
36 things freeze up in the winter, the river goes away.
37 It freezes up and there's no water flowing in it, but
38 that spring keeps going and that spring is, as with all
39 of the springs over in the east, it's ancient water.
40 That's water that fell as rain or snow on the south
41 side of the Brooks Range anywhere from about 600 to
42 6,000 years ago and is coming up on the north side now.
43

44
45 So it flows at a constant rate in all
46 of these springs. Constant rate and constant
47 temperature all through the year. It's unaffected by
48 any of the weather that is going on or summer and
49 winter. The water out of that spring comes out at 5
50

1 degrees Celsius, which is 41 degrees Fahrenheit. It
2 creates a river or a stream for about a mile before it
3 gets frozen up into an aufeis field below, but there
4 are spawning Dolly Varden in there and overwintering
5 fish that hunker down in there. Those springs are
6 actually where all of the fish in the eastern Arctic
7 reside all winter long.

8

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Next slide.

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This is a picture of Fish Hole 2 on the
Hulahula River. I did some work over there a little
more than 10 years ago. Essentially what you have --
this is a late winter shot and what you have is the
spring that flows for a few miles from where it emerges
from the ground and then it gets bound up in this big
aufeis field that can go for 8 or 10 miles downriver
and fills the valley.

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Upstream of that spring there's no
water in the riverbed and downstream of the aufeis
there's no water, so they become isolated, which is how
the smaller springs work. But this spring is full of
fish in the winter and as soon as spring comes along
and the snow melts it cuts a path through that ice,
they go to sea. The adults do anyway. But this is how
a lot of those springs over in the eastern Arctic are.

29

Next slide.

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So starting back in the '70s and going
until pretty recent there have been some efforts to map
all of the major springs that fish overwinter in in the
eastern Arctic. There's a few in the Anaktuvuk River,
quite a number up the Sagavanirktok in some of the
tributaries there, the Kavik, the Canning River has
quite a number of springs and the Hulahula has four,
the Aichilik has one, the Egaksrak has a spring, the
Kongakut has quite a bit of water down in the lower
stretch and then the Firth River and there's a few
other areas farther to the east, the Babich (ph) and
the Big Fish and the Rat River up the Mackenzie. Those
are the sites where virtually all of the big anadromous
Dolly Varden spend the winter.

46

Next slide.

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So what we did is go down into the
lower Canning above the braided delta and we put in a

1 radio receiving station, which is that tower there with
2 a solar panel and a receiver and some antennas so that
3 when radio-tagged fish went out to sea we were able to
4 get a record of that and when they came back we could
5 get a record of that. We went and tagged fish with
6 some radios.

7

8

Next slide.

9

10 So our objective -- you can see these
11 are a little smaller than your little finger, but they
12 were going to transmit for about two and a half years
13 and we could identify them by flying over in an
14 airplane and that tower was able to identify them going
15 out or coming back in. We wanted to get mature size
16 fish and there have been a number of studies that have
17 shown that they mature somewhere around 40 centimeters
18 at the smallest fork length and that's about 15 inches
19 or so long.

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So we wanted to get out a sufficient number of fish to be able to have our statistics work out when you have -- it works out better with large numbers than small. So we were going to put out 105 transmitters each year for two years. It didn't work out exactly that way but pretty close. These fish would be sedated. We do an operation which would take three or four minutes, put them back into the river and they would come to and be ready to swim off within about five minutes and they'd go on their way.

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Next slide.

We were really expecting to see a bunch of fish that were in spawning condition coming in in the latter part of August and early September, but that's not really what happened. Most of the fish looked like this fish here, bright silver with no sign of spawning. We tagged 67 fish that first year and 65 of them looked like this and were definitely not going to be spawning. Two were in spawning condition. It did kind of puzzle us.

43

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Next slide.

But they went in and overwintered from near the mouth of the Marsh Fork, which is about 80 or 90 miles up the river, down to a little below Ignek Creek, so it was about a 60 mile stretch of the river

1 that these fish went in to overwinter. About half of
2 them left the river in the spring in early June and a
3 few of them died over winter and the rest of them
4 stayed in the fresh water, which we weren't really
5 expecting at all.

6

7

Next slide.

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9

10 So Fred DeCicco is a fish biologist
11 that worked with Department of Fish and Game mostly on
12 the Seward Peninsula in northwest Alaska and he was
13 able to identify this really unusual life history over
14 in the Noatak, Wulik and Kivalina Rivers where some
15 Dolly Varden -- it would overwinter in their natal
16 streams -- would forego a trip to sea to feed the next
17 summer and stay in fresh water and then spawn that fall
18 and stay another winter in fresh water. For about 20
19 months they would be in fresh water.

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Next slide.

1 This was essentially a bar graph of our
2 deployment over the course of the summer with the green
3 bars being fish that were in spawning condition when we
4 tagged them and the light bars were fish that were
5 definitely not preparing to spawn. So we got very few
6 of the fish preparing to spawn in the fall.

7

8

Next slide.

9

10 So we started following them. The ones
11 that were preparing to spawn we tracked them in the
12 fall to their spawning areas. Those little shaded
13 circles on this map are where the spawning fish were in
14 these clusters near Ignek Creek, Shublik Spring, up
15 Eagle Creek there's an isolated spring up there and at
16 the mouth of Eagle Creek Plunge Creek.

17

18 About a third of all the spawning fish
19 were present at the mouth at the Marsh Fork right along
20 the delta front there. The ones in the Upper Canning
21 beyond there and the Upper Marsh Fork were these
22 isolated springs like the one I showed you over on the
23 Fish Hole 2.

24

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Next slide.

26

27 The overwintering areas were -- so this
28 is both spawners and non-spawners from the Marsh Fork
29 mouth down. Only the spawning fish went up into Upper
30 Eagle Creek and the upper part of the drainage, Marsh
31 Fork and the upper mainstem, in those isolated springs.

32

33

Next slide.

34

35 But you notice some of those fish were
36 overwintering down in that lower area right above the
37 delta there. So this is a Google Earth image of the
38 big delta of the Marsh Fork where it joins into the
39 mainstem and it's about a three or four mile stretch of
40 river right along the front of the Marsh Fork that
41 these fish were spawning in and overwintering in.

42

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Next slide.

44

45 And that area stays open all winter
46 long. It's full of fish. It's a really important
47 place in the Canning. I think there's either perennial
48 springs or maybe an inriver aquifer in the gravel
49 that's built up there that leaks out and keeps that

50

1 area thawed through the winter.

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Next slide.

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5

So this is a plot of their migration.

6

The June bars in this one are the numbers of fish that

7

are headed out in the spring out to sea. You notice

8

the marks with the dates over them 2015, '16, '17 are

9

the three annual periods where we had outmigration

10

data. What you'll notice is there's about a

11

10-day-long period where all these fish blast out into

12

the ocean. Past the station and down through the delta

13

and into the ocean.

14

15

Whereas the return migration, which

16

happens in July, August and September, they sort of

17

slowly trickle in. The average time out to sea is

18

about 45 or 50 days. Because they're really not eating

19

when they're in fresh water that's probably the time it

20

takes for them to recharge their energy needs for the

21

whole year.

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Next slide.

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So one of the other things we found

26

because we did aerial surveys of all of these

27

overwintering areas between the Anaktuvuk and the Firth

28

River for the three years after the initial tagging.

29

We found that quite a few fish migrated into other

30

streams to overwinter.

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32

One thing about these Dolly Varden is

33

they're unable to overwinter in the sea because the

34

saltwater freezing point is depressed below where their

35

fluids can tolerate it. They would freeze out in the

36

sea under ice. So they have to come back into fresh

37

water to overwinter.

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We had two go into the Hulahula, two in

40

the Aichilik, one in the Egaksrak, 23 of them went over

41

to the Kongakut and we had two up in the Upper Firth

42

River. I don't know why they didn't go to the western

43

rivers, to the Sag or the Kavik or Anaktuvuk, but we

44

didn't find any of them there.

45

46

Of all the fish that went to sea and

47

came back into freshwater, about 37 percent of them

48

went into other rivers. This has always been

49

considered to be a real small fraction of fish, but

50

1 nobody else had radiotelemetry technology to work with,
2 so I think it was just a matter of putting this
3 technology to work to discover this.
4

5 But this is what they do over in
6 Northwest Alaska. They go freely into all sorts of
7 drainages to overwinter, but they seem to have fidelity
8 to their natal stream for spawning. So it looks like
9 they're following that same pattern in the north.

10

11 Next slide.

12

13 This is just a photograph of the Lower
14 Kongakut in October. So we're looking kind of south
15 and east. The delta is immediately behind us. We're
16 right about the top of the delta. Most of the fish
17 were in about the 10 miles from here on up towards
18 Caribou Pass before the river takes a turn to the south
19 there. We're looking upriver on the stream.

20

21 Most of our radio-tagged fish were in
22 this stretch of the river and we could see down in it.
23 It wasn't very deep and it was clear. This whole
24 stretch was just packed with fish, all of these pools.
25 It was an amazing spot there. And the Kongakut in this
26 stretch has quite a bit of water flowing through it all
27 through the winter. It has open leads and it ices up,
28 but there's a lot of water flowing under the ice.

29

30 Next slide.

31

32 The last thing I want to show you is
33 about survival. We had enough radios that we were able
34 to identify survival difference between post-spawners,
35 those that spawned in the fall, and we looked at their
36 survival over the next year, and non-spawners, those
37 that did not spawn in the fall and we looked at their
38 survival and compared the two.

39

40 Fish that survived the first winter
41 provided data for the second and that's why our numbers
42 are actually summed more than the tags that we put out.
43 But you can see, for example, if we had 180 post-
44 spawners that were alive in the fall, and we had 139
45 that were alive in the spring, showing a winter
46 survival of about 77 percent compared to non-spawners
47 that survived at about 92 percent through the winter.

48

49 Then we tracked the number that went to

50

1 sea. For post-spawners it was 139 went to sea and only
2 61 came back into fresh water, whether in the Canning
3 or one of the other streams. For marine survival, about
4 44 percent. So over half of the fish that went to sea
5 failed to come back of post-spawners. They died at
6 sea. Whereas non-spawners, 102 went to sea and 58
7 returned, giving about a 57 percent survival.

8
9 So non-spawners are clearly surviving
10 at a better rate. When we look at the full year, we
11 had only about a third of the post-spawners survived
12 through a whole year, whereas almost two-thirds of the
13 non-spawners survived through a whole year.

14
15 We've always been kind of puzzled why
16 Dolly Varden don't get old. Arctic char in lakes and
17 lake trout in lakes can get old. They can be 20 and 30
18 years old and lake trout even up to 50 years old and
19 Dolly Varden very few of them get beyond about 10 years
20 old. They mature at around six or eight and we have
21 almost no fish over 10 years old. It always puzzled us
22 and we didn't really see where there was that great a
23 mortality in fresh water. To see that really most of
24 their mortality occurs when they're out at sea.

25
26 I actually appealed to Lori Quakenbush
27 -- next slide -- to try to see what she thought. She
28 is a -- some of you may know her, but she is a great
29 marine mammal biologist with Department of Fish and
30 Game. She sent me this picture of a beluga that was
31 taken in Cook Inlet. She had an opportunity to look in
32 its stomach and it had five whole sockeyes in the
33 stomach. If they can catch sockeyes in Cook Inlet,
34 they could surely catch Dolly Varden up in the Beaufort
35 Sea.

36
37 It would actually surprise me if they
38 don't target the mouths of these big rivers like the
39 Sag or the Canning or the Kongakut in early June to
40 catch that big outmigration because you're going to
41 have tens of thousands of these fish heading out into
42 the sea, blasting into that near shore marine water,
43 some of it behind lagoons, all in a really short period
44 of time. It would really surprise me if they don't
45 congregate there, the seals and the belugas, to take
46 advantage of that food source. I suspect that's what's
47 going on and why there is such a large marine
48 mortality.

49
50

1 Next slide.

2

3 So I just wanted to acknowledge some of
4 the major supporters of this project. My office, the
5 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, OSM Fisheries Resource
6 Monitoring Program, which you folks have some
7 influence, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska
8 Department of Fish and Game and then the field crew
9 members including Uinniq Ahgeak.

10

11 Next slide.

12

13 That's all I have.

14

15 So I can take questions if anybody has
16 any.

17

18 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Point Hope, Mr.
19 Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know, the
24 Dolly Varden or Arctic char, you know, has always been
25 a vital food source to the people of Point Hope. We
26 like to get them when they're coming back south. It
27 used to be the mid part of August. Lately they were
28 early this year and the later ones were a lot bigger
29 than what we've seen in the past. It's good to see the
30 Arctic char coming back more and more.

31

32 The last 20 years it seemed like we
33 didn't get that much as we did in the '70s or '60s.
34 It's a delicacy to us to fill up our ice cellars or
35 freezers. We never eat it cooked. We always have it
36 frozen raw and never smoked them. It's good to hear
37 all this study.

38

39 You said that they winter in the fresh
40 water, is that what you were saying? And they can live
41 up to 50 years, some char? I don't know what the
42 changes of climate and everything. Do you have an
43 estimated count of the Dolly Varden that migrates up
44 north and stays? I don't know if I heard right that
45 some of them stay the winter up near Canada area on the
46 east side of Alaska and some go down south.

47

48 I was trying to follow, but I kept
49 getting cut off there. I'm on teleconference. It was

50

1 very interesting hearing that they can go without
2 eating for so long. Some of these Dolly Vardens are
3 pretty big lately. This year they're catching some
4 pretty good sized Dolly Vardens. They're very tasty.
5 I didn't realize they could get that old, you know. I
6 don't know how you can tell how old the fish is. I
7 don't know how they figure that out.

8

9

Thank you for that report.

10

11

It was very interesting.

12

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MR. BROWN: Hi, Steve. This is Randy
back again. So I must have cut out in that aging
thing. What I was saying was that the Dolly Varden
almost none of them get over about 10 years old, but
the lake trout can get up to 50 years old. Lake trout
are closely related to Dolly Varden. Arctic char
living in lakes which is that -- so, from a fish
biologist perspective, Arctic char are a little
different taxinomically than Dolly Varden.

The ones we classify as Arctic char in
Alaska are living in these lakes similar to what the
lake trout do. They can get pretty old, 20 or 30 years
old. Lake trout get quite a bit older. But these
anadromous Dolly Varden almost never get over about 10.

The aging is done using their ear
bones. They have to be sliced and then looked at under
a microscope. That's the way that works. They
overwinter in fresh water. They don't have the ability
to be out under the ice in the super cooled water of
the saltwater during the winter.

MR. OOMITTUK: We have some
interference there or something.

MS. PATTON: Yeah, Steve, we're going
to try to disconnect from whoever has got us on hold
here.

(Pause)

MR. OOMITTUK: This is Steve here. I
just had one more question. How far south do the char
go or the Dolly Varden when they are coming back. You
mentioned that some of the lake char stay yearly in
those areas and they live longer, the trout. How far

1 south do the char go or the Dolly Varden when they
2 migrate out?

3

4 MR. BROWN: Steve, I think the Dolly
5 Varden in the northwest, which is the Noatak, the
6 Kivalina, Wulik, that's isolated from the Beaufort Sea
7 populations. The Beaufort Sea populations pretty much
8 have natal origins in the Anaktuvuk River over towards
9 the Mackenzie River and I don't think they go anywhere
10 else. I think they occupy the coastal Beaufort Sea
11 waters in that area during the summer and they all
12 retreat into those rivers. I don't think they make
13 that run down into Kotzebue Sound or along the Chukchi
14 coast at all.

15

16 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Do you have
17 any concerns with the Dolly Varden with diseases or
18 with the climate change? Have you done any studies?

19

20 MR. BROWN: Yeah, Steve, I don't think
21 we have any concerns with them. We were doing this
22 research specifically to look at
23 how they are -- you know, the timing of their
24 migrations in the Canning River, where they're
25 overwintering. We were gathering other information too
26 because we could, but it was more from the interference
27 with natural flow patterns in the Canning River that we
28 thought development might bring on these fish.

29

30 But I think that they're doing fine in
31 the rivers up there. They're being harvested along the
32 coast in the winter and a few of the spring systems,
33 but I don't think there's an overharvest issue. I
34 think their habitat is wonderful right now. We hope it
35 stays that way.

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

38

39 MS. DAGGETT: Hi, Randy. I'm Carmen.
40 I'm the area biologist here. I had just a quick
41 question. The type of tags that you were using were
42 VHF tags, correct?

43

44 MR. BROWN: Well, they're 162 MHZ.

45

46 MS. DAGGETT: So you would have to fly
47 over them to be able to detect where they're at, right?
48 You wouldn't be able to look at their -- you don't have
49 a map with where you would see them, right? You would

50

1 have to fly a survey to do that, correct?

2

3 MR. BROWN: Yeah, that's correct. We
4 have to fly over the top of them. We fly at 1,200 or
5 1,500 feet over ground. We have antennas and
6 essentially we can hear them. They're in pretty
7 shallow water and we hear them sometimes out at 5 to 10
8 kilometers, out to about 6 miles, and we get multiple
9 records with signal strengths and we identify the
10 position at the strongest signal strength as we go over
11 the top of them.

12

13 MS. DAGGETT: Okay.

14

15 MR. BROWN: But you do have to fly them
16 or have a station where they swim by and you get a
17 record of them then.

18

19 MS. DAGGETT: Right. The reason why I
20 asked was because I know that Brendan Scanlon had done
21 some GPS tag work out of the Kivalina and Wulik and he
22 had tracked some Dolly Varden all the way over to
23 Russia.

24

25 So I was curious if you guys had ever
26 done anything with GPS tags to see if they indeed were
27 staying completely in that area or if they were
28 migrating out elsewhere because they seem like they
29 could. But as you're saying, they obviously don't seem
30 like they're going westward.

31

32 So I was just curious about that.

33

34 MR. BROWN: That's an interesting point
35 because the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
36 funded Andy Seitz and Mike Courtney and I helped out on
37 that project as well. They put these pop-up tags
38 because they can't transmit from under the water and we
39 deployed them in a number of Dolly Varden from the
40 Kongakut and the Sagavanirktok in coastal water in
41 Kaktovik Lagoon. Some of those fish went as much as 50
42 or 60 miles offshore. They went along the coast
43 between the Sagavanirktok and the Mackenzie and then
44 some of them went far offshore, which we didn't know
45 they were going to do.

46

47 The work that you're talking about when
48 Brendan was involved Mike Courtney and Andy Seitz were
49 both involved in that. Those fish went out near

50

1 Wrangell Island out into the Chukchi. Those were from
2 the -- I think it was the Wulik River if I remember
3 right where they tagged them. Some of them were taken
4 in the Seward Peninsula in Kotzebue Sound or they were
5 located way out in the Chukchi, which we didn't know
6 they did.

7
8 Fred DeCicco had put regular dart tags
9 on a number of Dolly Varden from that Kotzebue Sound
10 area and a couple of them ended up up the -- in one of
11 the Russian rivers south of the Bering Strait, the
12 Anadyr. So we've known they can go a long ways, but
13 we've seen no sign that any of the northern populations
14 have gone down into the Chukchi. It wouldn't surprise
15 me if there was a fish now and then, but I would be
16 surprised if it was much.

17
18 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you. That's it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
21 questions for Randy. Geoff.

22
23 MR. CARROLL: Randy, that was a
24 fascinating talk. Would you explain again the source
25 of the water for those overwintering pools. I think
26 you called it ancient water.

27
28 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I think that's one of
29 the more fascinating stories in the eastern Arctic at
30 all is the perennial springs. There have been a number
31 of researchers from the university and elsewhere that
32 have looked at that. They do some sort of stable
33 isotope analysis. I don't know exactly what it is, but
34 they're able to identify how long it's been underground
35 and isolated from the atmosphere.

36
37 The springs are different. For example
38 Red Hill Spring, which is a hot spring, it's up around
39 95 degrees Fahrenheit, about 33 degrees Celsius. So
40 it's quite hot. They think that one has been down
41 quite deep in the earth before it rose to there, but
42 that one was about 6,000 years underground. Most of
43 the others were somewhere between 600 and 6,000 years
44 underground.

45
46 There's a big area in the southern
47 Brooks Range that is porous limestone and that's where
48 they claim the origin of that water is. It went
49 underground through the Brooks Range and emerges along
50

1 a particular fault line on the north side where most of
2 the springs exist. Some of them are really strong
3 springs, like on the Kongakut. It starts right there
4 near Caribou Pass and it just flows and then goes all
5 through the delta and it goes across the lagoon and
6 onto the Barrier Island before the end of winter. It's
7 a huge flow in that river.

8
9 The Ivishak is another one that is
10 really strong flowing. There's a few of them. But
11 that's all the water there is over there from the
12 Ivishak east. If it wasn't there, there wouldn't be
13 fish in those rivers.

14
15 MR. CARROLL: Well, that's amazing. So
16 the water actually originates from south of the Brooks
17 Range and comes all the way up there. Okay.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MR. BROWN: Yeah, there's a number of
22 really good papers on that. I think it's well founded.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
25 for Randy.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Having none. Thank
30 you very much. It was interesting and learned a lot
31 myself too.

32
33 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
36 I may just ask Randy. It's really unfortunate we don't
37 have Council member Lee Kayotuk here from Kaktovik
38 because I know he would really, really appreciate the
39 opportunity to engage in discussion with you. A lot of
40 the things you reported on are things that he's
41 reported over the years in terms of the community's
42 observations of where the Dolly Varden char are and
43 their overwintering habits.

44
45 Lee actually grew up in coastal Canada
46 in his early years and familiarity with where the char
47 are moving and feeding with the coming and going of the
48 ice. So I was just curious if -- I know Karen helps
49 manage that FRMP grant program and oftentimes there's

50

1 funds in there for a visit to the community itself. If
2 there was any plans to have a presentation in Kaktovik
3 with the community there on your research findings for
4 this and some of the other projects as well.

5
6 MR. BROWN: Well, I've worked in
7 Kaktovik before and I would gladly go there and speak
8 on this research.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much.
13 I think it would be well worth the effort for Kaktovik
14 and their fisheries. They're always talking about
15 char.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
18 might just add too Randy Brown has done many many years
19 of whitefish research as well. If the Council had any
20 questions or wanted to bounce observations off of Randy
21 for some of his insights. The Council had quite an in-
22 depth discussion yesterday in terms of their
23 observations, changes they're seeing with whitefish in
24 the region. Randy is a real resource there as well.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. The
27 whitefish dialogue we were trying to put together a
28 prioritization for a study on the North Slope based on
29 the observations from Colville River, Nuiqsut folks and
30 also the Tusikvouk Lake whitefish in that area and the
31 issues surrounding that. Then the major other
32 whitefish spawning areas around the Ikpikpuk and the
33 Admiralty Bay, that drainage that goes from the
34 Ikpikpuk River. The health of that is very healthy in
35 my view as I fish there quite a bit.

36
37 The issues developing around Nuiqsut
38 about Saprolegnia issues, fish mold in the whitefish in
39 that area and the impending possible development of the
40 Smith Bay area, the drainages for whitefish in that
41 area. Just concerns that we have an area that hasn't
42 been touched with industrial operations and
43 development.

44
45 It would be ideal to get the baseline
46 information if not already, but with concerns around
47 the Colville Delta. If you look at the Colville Delta,
48 there's pads, there's many of the islands in there, the
49 development around that has spurred on for at least 20
50

1 years now. That was, I think, what we were talking
2 about.

3
4 MR. BROWN: Well, I've been keeping
5 track of the fungus infections of broad whitefish, the
6 reports of those, and I've observed that in the Yukon
7 Drainage and also out in the Selawik Drainage as well.
8 I've spoken with Todd Sformo about that and I think he
9 was going to put a proposal together the last round to
10 set up a monitoring program because -- I advocated that
11 first because if there's just a small fraction of the
12 broad whitefish that are being seen with fungus.

13
14 It's a common thing that happens in
15 other populations as well. It might not be anything to
16 worry about, but if all of a sudden you had a large
17 fraction of the harvest being affected by this, then I
18 think that would warrant some sort of action to try to
19 figure out what was going on. I think that would be
20 much harder research to do.

21
22 So I thought if there was somebody that
23 could actually monitor the harvest and say, okay, how
24 many fish did you catch, how many were affected and put
25 that together for a couple years, then we'd have a
26 better handle on whether this was a big deal or whether
27 it was -- you know, maybe it's new to that fishery, but
28 maybe it's still at a low level.

29
30 We've seen it on the Koyukuk River
31 after spawning. I saw it out in Selawik where there
32 were a lot of Arctic grayling but also the humpback
33 whitefish being affected there. We probably saw -- and
34 I think that was a heat thing because it was in the
35 middle of the summer and the water was really warm at
36 that point.

37
38 I know the State Pathology Lab says
39 that fungus is always present. It's present in all of
40 the streams in Alaska and it tends to take advantage of
41 fish in some weakened condition or with a weak spot
42 where they've been abraded or a wound or something. So
43 I thought that would be a first step to addressing that
44 issue.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Randy. I
47 think there's some efforts by the North Slope Borough
48 to have those kinds of samples make its way to them so
49 they could analyze them. I think they've sent them

50

1 even out, even out of the country to take a look at
2 them as well.

3
4 The other issue was that one of our
5 major lakes that's been in use forever is having
6 stress. I don't know if it's stress, but the harvest
7 levels have drastically declined in our lake, the
8 Tusikvouk Lake, and it's of the same species.

9
10 I don't know. There's issues
11 surrounding that fish and we thought it's important to
12 maybe check on this in the areas up in the north. I
13 appreciate the time and the feedback.

14
15 MR. BROWN: So if I could make one more
16 comment. Broad whitefish are capable of migrating an
17 awful long way and the Yukon juveniles go out to sea
18 near the mouth and I think they stay not too far off
19 from the mouth. They don't go offshore or long
20 distance from the mouth, but those same fish will
21 migrate up and spawn in the Yukon Flats and in the
22 Tanana and the Upper Koyukuk River. So they're making
23 thousand mile journeys upstream when they mature.

24
25 So I would not assume that broad
26 whitefish in these lakes anywhere along the North Slope
27 stay in those lakes. They may spawn somewhere
28 dramatically different far away. All broad whitefish
29 as well as humpback whitefish spawn over some sort of
30 gravel substrate. Broad whitefish we're not aware of
31 anywhere they spawn that isn't in flowing water.

32
33 So those are the places I'd be looking
34 for if you're looking for spawning areas. If there are
35 not any in these big lakes we're fishing because their
36 strategy is in the summertime they go into either
37 coastal waters or into lakes that are shallow and very
38 productive and they feed like crazy, but they then
39 leave and go somewhere else for overwinter and to
40 spawn. Like I say, it can miles and miles away. So
41 it's not a trivial matter to find out where they spawn
42 or what the range of a population is. That takes some
43 dedicated effort.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Randy.
48 Like everybody said, I think the char one was pretty
49 fascinating. The pools of water and things like that
50

1 was interesting. Thank you very much. We can almost
2 clap for this one.

3

4 (Applause)

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: All this fish talk is
7 making me hungry to go have an Arctic char.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you very much,
12 Randy. Glad you could be here in person.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We can make our way
15 back to our seats and then roll up the screen.

16

17 MS. PATTON: We can gather back here.
18 We have one more agency report yet and that is Vince
19 Mathews for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
20 reports.

21

22 Vince, are you still with us online?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I am.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you.
27 We're just getting the screen up from the PowerPoint
28 and regathering our Council here and we're good to go,
29 Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Eva.
32 We're going to go down the line. Are we with Arctic
33 National Wildlife Refuge next?

34

35 MS. PATTON: Yes. Correct.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: This is Vince Mathews
38 with Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. As you know, I
39 generally attend your meetings, but I apologize. I am
40 staffing at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center in
41 Coldfoot, which is very exciting because we have
42 visitors from over 50 different countries come through
43 here and a majority of the United States.

44

45 They're very interested in learning
46 about the Arctic including the cultures. So this year
47 we had our Native liaison Crystal Leonetti come up and
48 make a presentation which was well received on the
49 cultures in Alaska.

50

1 Early in your meeting during your
2 Regional Council updates and concerns there was
3 discussion about monitoring and law enforcement efforts
4 on the Dalton Highway Corridor. I did some outreach on
5 that so I could give you an update on the efforts
6 within the corridor. First I'll start off with Fish
7 and Wildlife Service efforts.
8

9 MS. PATTON: Vince, can I just
10 interject here for a minute. Are you on speakerphone
11 by chance?
12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Can you hear me better
14 now?
15

16 MS. PATTON: Yes, much better. Thank
17 you.
18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Well, real
20 quickly, I'm up here in Coldfoot if you caught that.
21 We do a lot of visitors and we do an outreach program
22 myself as well as others on the Native cultures. It's
23 important that we get that message across to all the
24 visitors from around the world.
25

26 Early in your meeting you guys talked
27 about concerns and wanting more information about
28 monitoring and law enforcement efforts on the Dalton
29 Highway. Here's a brief report on that.
30

31 Beginning the first week of August Fish
32 and Wildlife Service sent one Federal wildlife
33 officer/pilot to patrol the Dalton Highway via airplane
34 and conducting road-based patrols. The officer
35 concentrated on air boat activity in the Happy Valley,
36 Sag River DOT and Galbraith Lake areas along the
37 highway and to the east in the Arctic National Wildlife
38 Refuge.
39

40 There was no air boat activity or
41 hunting violations observed, not documented on the
42 Refuge. In addition to road-based patrols, the Fish
43 and Wildlife Service had been conducting law
44 enforcement sheep patrols via airplane in the northern
45 areas of the Arctic. Very little activity has been
46 observed both in the numbers of hunters but also in
47 non-consumptive users. Patrols on the Refuge will
48 continue through the remainder of the hunting season.
49

50

1 That's part of the Fish and Wildlife
2 Service effort, but since the corridor is also part of
3 Bureau of Land Management area, I have information on
4 the Bureau of Land Management law enforcement efforts.
5 So basically the detailed law enforcement Ranger for
6 BLM has been based out of Galbraith Lake and has been
7 working on the north end of the corridor and he did not
8 observe -- I shouldn't say it that way. We don't have
9 any hard data of what he observed as far as hunting
10 pressure.

11
12 I will stop there on the law
13 enforcement part and see if there's any questions on
14 that.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to
17 Vince on Law enforcement.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Vince.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

24
25 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Point Hope.
26 Thank you for that. I was concerned that there needs
27 to be an increase in law enforcement and watching that
28 area. Thank you.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And I did mention
31 that now there is a State Trooper now stationed in
32 Coldfoot, which would also be assisting with law
33 enforcement efforts along the Dalton Highway corridor.

34
35 So with that let me turn to the summary
36 that you have in front of you and I'll just hit some
37 high points because Jason already covered the Porcupine
38 Caribou Herd, which is discussed on Pages 2 and 3 in
39 your handout. I assume you have a copy of the handout.

40
41 Okay. So then we'll just go to the
42 moose, which is on Page 4. The main point there is
43 that the last survey 94 moose were observed during
44 2018, which is the largest number since 1984. So
45 there's been an increase in that.

46
47 If Lee was online, he'd be talking
48 about the permits, which basically the Refuge Manager
49 authorizes two permits for subsistence harvest, a bull
50

1 moose in the Kongakut River Drainage. So permits were
2 issued to the residents and one bull was harvested
3 during this program in 2017.
4

5 The key point here is because of the
6 continued low moose population elsewhere on the north
7 side of the Brooks Range the Refuge recommends that
8 hunting be limited to the Kongakut River Drainage and
9 that no more than two permits per year. We're planning
10 on surveying the drainage again in April 2019.
11

12 MuskoX pretty much the standard has
13 been no survey has been conducted and they're not just
14 basically seen that much in the Refuge.
15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, Vince.
17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On your moose, the
21 amount of moose that were -- what was the previous
22 count and what was the jump and what was the age? Were
23 they all fawns or were they mature recruitments? We've
24 always thought and some biologists have indicated that
25 these are transient, they come in from somewhere else
26 and take up space and they suddenly get counted and
27 then maybe next year or a couple years down the line
28 they'll have a drastic decline and say where did they
29 go and then we'll have an issue with harvesting again.
30

31 Those are the easy train of thought
32 that we've expressed for many, many years for Kaktovik
33 about the ability to harvest that moose and the
34 transient nature of these moose. I just want to maybe
35 get a small picture of where did they come from. Were
36 they born or did they come in from somewhere else?
37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Gordon, I don't have that
39 information with me, but I can get it for the next
40 meeting. There's been lengthy discussions even at your
41 meetings in the past about them. Some consider them a
42 migratory moose population and where they migrate from
43 and to and how they get up further north based on
44 population possibly further to the south.
45

46 So I would have to bring it up at the
47 next meeting. Actually show the data over time and
48 then if there was any information about their migration
49 pattern. I'm almost certain someone came to your
50

1 meeting and testified at length on that. I'll put it
2 down as something to bring to your next meeting.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vince.
5 Yeah, it would be very informative and I think it would
6 probably amount to maybe potential change in how
7 harvesting occurs if we are able to concretely and
8 definitively determine. Because it was said before, I
9 could say maybe 15 years ago, the argument was raised
10 that, I mean, you kill all the moose off right there
11 and the recruits will come in from another location.

12

13 A lot of the traditional knowledge
14 around that seem to suggest that they come in and then
15 they hang out in this area. It seems like it's
16 starting to occur and I'm not sure we're capturing
17 those statements made because it's just starting to
18 become prehistory now because it's so long ago that we
19 stated some of these things.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. And it was also
22 an issue with Eastern Interior on that portion of the
23 migration. I will get material together and maybe we
24 can get the person that could best discuss this maybe
25 on your next agenda. I know it's been discussed at
26 your meetings and at Eastern Interior meetings.

27

28 So I'll move on. You guys talked about
29 sheep. I think I'll leave it up to you to look that
30 over. I know there was discussion earlier in the
31 meeting why haven't the sheep populations rebounded, if
32 that's the right word, in the Gates of the Arctic.

33

34 There seems to be some relatively high
35 lamb abundance in 2016 and '17 within Arctic National
36 Wildlife Refuge.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Vince, I think we lost
39 you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, after all, he's
42 in Coldfoot in a remote area.

43

44 MR. EVANS: This is Tom Evans. If I
45 could say something on the moose. I have a bit of an
46 update on the moose in the Kongakut.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Sure, Tom. I think that
49 would be great while we're waiting for Vince to join us

50

1 again. You could provide that update.

2

3 MR. EVANS: To answer the question that
4 Gordon had, there were 80 adult moose and 14 yearlings.
5 Those are 11 month, year old moose in the last survey.
6 There was some talk in the last report that I got from
7 Steve Arthur for information from him was that they
8 think that maybe in the past some of the surveys
9 haven't been conducted when the majority of the moose
10 are in the area and the evidence for that is they're
11 finding snowmachine tracks up by the passes and they
12 think those are from sheep hunters. So they don't know
13 if disturbance from hunters has affected previous
14 counts in the Kongakut area at least where most of the
15 moose seem to be.

16

17 So that just gives you a bit of an
18 update on what I know.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, I gather the
21 phone went dead. We've been having trouble with phones
22 here in Coldfoot. I don't know where to re-begin. I
23 was going to suggest that as far as the summaries on
24 like the Pacific Common Eider and like the tundra
25 nesting birds on the Canning River and the Alaska
26 Migratory Land Bird Monitoring Survey be left for you
27 guys to review at your leisure and if there is
28 questions, I can work those back through Eva if that's
29 okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that's
32 appropriate considering we might have another outage
33 and maybe you'll get cut off.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We know you're busy.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I apologize for the
40 cutoff. I don't know what caused that, but we've been
41 having -- there goes my computer crashing. Anyway, I
42 think what you're generally interested in is on Page 12
43 on commercial permits. The Refuge is required to
44 regulate businesses that bring in clients and who guide
45 clients during their Refuge days.

46

47 In 2018, the Refuge issued 19 permits
48 for air operator businesses, 16 permits for
49 recreational guide businesses and 15 polar bear viewing

50

1 tour operators and/or boat operator guide businesses
2 and 11 hunting guide businesses.

3
4 I believe you would all know that
5 there's been an increased interest in polar bear
6 viewing and part of the commercial polar bear viewing,
7 so there's been a temporary freeze on guided polar bear
8 viewing. It was made at the end of 2016 to try to
9 stabilize the increase while the Refuge evaluates
10 options for managing polar bear viewing program in the
11 future. So the freeze will continue while the
12 evaluation effort is underway.

13
14 So those that already have permits will
15 be able to renew them as long as they had a permit in
16 2016 and aren't proposing to do anything different.

17
18 I'll pause there on the polar bear
19 viewing management to see if there's any questions or
20 if you have additional information on the management of
21 polar bear viewing.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vince.
24 Questions to Vince on commercial recreational
25 permitting.

26
27 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I have a question,
28 Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there,
31 Steve.

32
33 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, on the polar
34 bear issue, it seems like I saw something on Facebook
35 about polar bears interacting with grizzly bears and
36 mating and seeing a polar bear that looked like a
37 grizzly bear. Are they able to mix? Is there any
38 sightings of polar bears that look like grizzly bears?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: If I understand your
41 question, is there breeding between polar bears and
42 possibly grizzly bears?

43
44 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, there's been
47 reports of that. Again, I'm not a biologist. I just
48 go by what I read and hear at meetings. There are some
49 of them around, but they are very few. There's

50

1 interest in finding out if there's going to be any
2 changes in the numbers. Right now my understanding is
3 there's very few -- I can't even think of the new name
4 for the polar grizz. But that's the latest I know of
5 from reading different articles and public meetings.
6

7 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. Yeah,
8 because I know it was in the Arctic National Wildlife
9 Refuge area and I was just wondering if you knew
10 anything about that. Thank you.
11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Polar bears do range
13 pretty far. It was a few years ago one ranged as far
14 down as Yukon Flats area. So some do range pretty far
15 and there is some change in how and how long they stay
16 on shore. Everyone will be monitoring that situation.
17

18 We're near the end here. I already
19 talked about the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center.
20 Extremely important because we're outreaching to -- I
21 can't list all the countries. As far away as Vietnam,
22 China, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, et cetera.
23 They're definitely interested in the Arctic environment
24 but also the Arctic cultures.
25

26 Finally, I'll put in a little campaign
27 pitch here. There is what's called the Native Youth
28 Community Adaption and Leadership Congress. I was
29 asked to be faculty to that. That is over 100 high
30 school aged youth from across America that are
31 recognized for their leadership and get together at a
32 congress to look at different issues.
33

34 Why I'm bringing it up here is that
35 there was only 10 from Alaska and with 220 tribes there
36 needs to be more interest by youth across the state to
37 maybe look into going to the congress. The ones that I
38 observed from Alaska definitely blossomed there. For
39 some of them it was their first time out of state.
40 They blossomed by the fact that they were able to see
41 other Native youth in leadership.
42

43 Hopefully we'll get more interest for
44 future congresses. That will be held in July. With
45 that I will pause and see if there's any questions.
46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Vince, this is
48 Gordon. I'm going to go back one page and go back to
49 your polar bear guiding and the recreational
50

1 permitting. To what extent do you work with your
2 applicants to make sure they're meeting other
3 regulatory requirements within the North Slope Borough?
4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Gordon, I would not know
6 about that. What I can do is get Jennifer Reed who's
7 the one that's heavily involved in this planning effort
8 and monitoring and all that for the polar bear. I
9 really don't know on that. I just know there's a lot
10 of discussions between the various parties there. You
11 know better than I there's a complex land makeup there
12 that brings up other issues. So I would have to have
13 Jennifer get back to you on that. You're focusing on
14 the youth ambassador or are you looking at the guides
15 themselves?
16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I was going
18 back a little bit. I'm very proud of the youth
19 ambassador stuff and I think that's super awesome. But
20 I was going a couple pages back to not just the polar
21 bear viewing issues, and there are those because we've
22 had some permitting issues surrounding that and local
23 resident concerns about outside guides working in areas
24 and taking up space they believe should be relegated to
25 the community to express other things like the
26 recreational guides in the ANWR itself and the extent
27 of the orientation that's provided to them about other
28 regulatory processes that they need to go through
29 because I don't think we've seen the 19 permits that
30 you've issued, that ANWR has issued to guides make its
31 way to the North Slope Borough themselves as well.
32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. You know, it's a
34 lengthy process when they go through to get these
35 permits, but your question is how is the North Slope
36 Borough informed or involved in it. Is that what
37 you're asking?
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Not involved. I mean
40 we'd like to be involved and talk more about building
41 relationships and things like that, but those operators
42 that are operating without a Borough permit are
43 basically in violation. Should we find out about it,
44 we will issue violation notices to those folks. It's
45 like \$1,000 a day from the beginning of their
46 operation. It could easily be a \$300,000 fine if we
47 look at their permits issued to them and they've been
48 operating under that and providing reports. We just
49 count the days back.
50

1 If you have 365 days a year and you're
2 holding that permit for five years and we find out on
3 year two, you could easily have a \$600,000 fine issued
4 from the Borough because every day that a violation
5 exists is a separate offense. That's the kind of
6 regulatory responsibility we have on some of these
7 kinds of issues within the Borough.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. I'll have to
10 look into that. I'm speculating the guides are
11 required to contact the Borough, but I don't have
12 direct knowledge of that.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think it's
15 important. I think the BLMs, the Gates of the Arctic
16 folks, ANWRs, the boroughs, the State, we all need to
17 sit down in some way to be able to put the names and
18 faces together and talk about the approach to some of
19 these things. I think it's an important thing and it
20 should be expressed. If we get an applicant, we try to
21 say, well, you better make sure you've got an ANWR
22 permit or you need a DNR permit or you need some other
23 permit from BLM or something.

24
25 We're pretty diligent about making sure
26 we try to let the applicants know there's other
27 regulatory requirements and hurdles because I've been
28 to a Big Game Services Board meeting before and
29 sometimes we're not even welcome to those things.
30 There's a lot of cowboy mentality with some of these
31 guides. I've been approached saying, you know, North
32 Slope Borough? We don't need no Borough permit, we've
33 got our ANWR permit. Those kind of things. They feel
34 you get one permit you're good to go. Those kind of
35 issues need to be overcome and that mentality needs to
36 -- I've just experienced it before.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I'll carry it
39 forward and see if we can get a more clear
40 understanding of all this. Again, you have different
41 avenues of addressing this as a Regional Council letter
42 or annual report. But, yes, I've heard this concern
43 elsewhere. What is the coordination between these
44 different agencies and organizations involved. So I'll
45 carry that forward and see if we can get a clearer
46 understanding.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vince.
49 Any other questions for Vince.

50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. This is Point
2 Hope. I just had one more. I don't know if I heard
3 Gordon earlier, but regarding the moose in Unit 26B.
4 Is Barter Island still allowed to receive two permits
5 from February 15 to April 15th to a drawing? Did you
6 mention that the population is up at 82? I understand
7 in order to give them two permits there have to be more
8 than at least 50. I think that's what was stated last
9 year or something. Now that there's 82 are they
10 allowed three permits or is it going to get higher or
11 stay at the same at two permits for the Native Village
12 of Barter Island?

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: In answer to your
15 question, I believe there's an understanding of
16 different levels of the amount of moose are there and
17 that's why it's limited to two to that drainage. So if
18 the population was to expand higher, and I don't know
19 what level that would be, then there could be
20 additional permits issued.

21
22 I think Gordon asked different
23 questions about, you know, is this population emerging
24 in there or is it one that's just testing the area or
25 is it more than that. But right now at this level, to
26 make sure that that moose population continues to be in
27 the North Slope area, it's going to be limited to two
28 bulls by drawing permit.

29
30 I wish Lee was here because I know he
31 pushed to increase that to three, but right now the
32 response has been it would not be wise to go above two
33 bulls.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
36 might add too.....

37
38 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Thank you.

39
40 MS. PATTON:that Lee Kayotuk and
41 other residents of Anaktuvuk Pass had reached out both
42 to Gordon Brower and OSM because there was only one
43 moose harvested and had some difficulty due to weather.
44 Had really appreciated the response of Arctic National
45 Wildlife Refuge manager and staff.

46
47 Hollis Twitchell was very engaged in
48 those communications with the community to be able to
49 extend that moose hunt season for additional
50

1 opportunity for people to be able to get out. They do
2 have to travel quite a ways to reach that destination.
3

4 So Lee has been very engaged with this
5 and really appreciate Gordon responded right away with
6 his cell phone he has on him when he's working and on
7 travel and then really appreciate the response of the
8 Refuge to turn around and have an extension to the
9 season for the community there.

10

11 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, thank you. So OSM
12 is the Office of Subsistence Management?
13

14

15 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's correct,
16 Steve. Sometimes there's actions that are taken by the
17 Federal Subsistence Board out of season. Those are
18 called special action requests. In a lot of cases the
19 Refuge or Park Service, the Federal land managers, have
20 what's called a delegation of authority letter that
21 gives them a range of flexibility for the manager to be
22 able to make those decisions in season.

23

24 That's what happened here, was the
25 community reaching out and saying the weather didn't
26 allow us to access those moose during the season, if
27 they could have an extension to have some more time for
28 effort to reach that moose population. So that's what
29 the Refuge did with their authority to extend that
30 moose season beyond what's on the reg books there.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

33

34 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I will go on mute
37 and I appreciate your patience and we'll leave it at
38 that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I guess
41 we'll move on to the next item. Barrow Field Office.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
44 really wish we could have had Ernest Nageak and Uinniq
45 Ahgeak here with us today. As you know, they both work
46 for the Barrow Field Office. Uinniq is a fish and
47 wildlife biologist for the Field Office. As Randy
48 noted, she spent a couple seasons working on those
49 research projects with Randy and she could have shared
50 her experiences as well. It is still kind of the field

1 season and they do a lot of education outreach programs
2 and migratory bird surveys. I know both of them have
3 been quite busy and unfortunately weren't able to join
4 us here today. I did call and leave a message.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. We'll
7 move down to Bureau of Land Management. I don't know
8 if they jumped the line earlier or if this is a
9 different.....

10

11 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

14

15 MR. OOMITTUK: I just have one
16 question. This is the U.S. Wildlife Service Barrow
17 Field Office, Ernest Nageak, is that what you're
18 saying?

19

20 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct, Steve.
21 Ernest Nageak is the Native liaison for the Barrow
22 Field Office. They have an office right here. They've
23 been based here for quite some time. A lot of their
24 focus is on migratory bird research and monitoring
25 programs. They also have amazing youth and educational
26 programs for students where they're out in the field.
27 Uinniq has a fisheries degree. She went through the
28 ANSEP program and she is a fish and wildlife biologist
29 based here in Barrow.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, because the reason
34 I -- you know, the concern was brought up to me earlier
35 today by Jack Schaefer about a bunch of dead birds by
36 Cape Thompson on the murre. We had over 300,000 that
37 nest over there and 600,000 at Cape Lisburne. There's
38 been some articles, recent things that came out. You
39 know, there was a vessel that went up there recently to
40 check on these and I guess they're doing some research
41 on why they're finding so many dead birds in the Cape
42 Thompson area. They're finding out starvation because
43 the warmer season.

44

45 So they have some reports. I was just
46 wanting to see if any of the wildlife on the North
47 Slope knows anything about that, if anybody was there.
48 I thought Ernest, but I guess they're not there. The
49 vessel Tiglax is sailing up Cape Thompson for the first

50

1 time in 20 years. With the warmer waters I guess
2 they're doing research what the murrens eat. When they
3 dive into the warmer waters they have to go further
4 down and they're not reaching their food supply.

5
6 The Point Hope people we like to eat
7 murrens. They're good eating, but we don't eat them
8 very often, but we collect their eggs usually end of
9 June, first part of July. Like I said, we have 300,000
10 that nest at Cape Thompson and 600,000 at Cape
11 Lisburne.

12
13 I was just wondering if they had any
14 information. This is recent news that I just received
15 today and there were some concerns and are the North
16 Slope Borough Wildlife looking into that. I was hoping
17 Craig George was there or somebody from the North Slope
18 Borough Wildlife or Taqulik Hepa.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. Yeah,
21 Steve, we did have some staff on this morning. I know
22 they indicated they were pretty busy, so were trying to
23 juggle meetings and other work. I don't know if we
24 have them on at this time. Because the Federal
25 Subsistence Management Program doesn't directly address
26 migratory birds often we don't have those specialists
27 at the meeting, but I will relay your observations and
28 concerns to the Migratory Birds Office and have folks
29 get in touch with you.

30
31 You had mentioned Jack Schaefer. Is he
32 with the tribal council now or the city council at
33 Point Hope?

34
35 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, he's on the tribal
36 council.

37
38 MS. PATTON: I'll get back to you and
39 touch base with Jack Schaefer and I'll check in with
40 the North Slope Borough folks as well too and let them
41 know your report here and interest for more
42 information.

43
44 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. So
47 we're done with the Barrow Office. Are we back to BLM?

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

1 did bounce our BLM report up early yesterday. We still
2 do have Tim here if there's any further questions for
3 BLM, but he did provide his report and update
4 yesterday.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
7 Special action updates if any.

8
9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
10 For this region there haven't been any special action
11 updates other than the extension to the moose season
12 which was handled through the Refuge office.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that.
15 OSM. Josh.

16
17 MR. REAM: Good afternoon. For the
18 record, this is Joshua Ream, anthropologist with OSM.
19 Also serving as the leadership team member here at your
20 meeting.

21
22 I just have a few updates for you.
23 Some of our staffing updates as well as some regulatory
24 updates. We already touched on some of those. I want
25 to make sure you're aware of what's happening with the
26 final publication of the rule for the recent wildlife
27 actions.

28
29 We did have one fairly large departure.
30 Our Assistant Regional Direct Gene Peltola, Jr. left
31 his position to become the new Regional Director for
32 the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska. So he will be
33 serving in that capacity on the Federal Subsistence
34 Board. In the meantime, Tom Doolittle is serving as
35 the Acting Assistant Regional Director.

36
37 We did also have a new arrival. Greg
38 Risdahl has started as the new Fisheries Division
39 Supervisor at the Office of Subsistence Management. He
40 received his bachelor's of science in wildlife biology
41 with a minor in anthropology from the University of
42 Montana. He has a master's of science from Montana
43 State University in wildlife and fisheries management.

44
45 Greg previously worked for OSM as a
46 wildlife biologist. He has served as Deputy Refuge
47 Manager at Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and most
48 recently at the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge as its
49 manager. Over his career he has worked in both

50

1 wildlife and fisheries management, so we're excited to
2 have him on board. It's been some time since we had a
3 supervisor of the Fisheries Division.
4

5 We do have a number of vacancies still
6 though at OSM. One of those being the Anthropology
7 Division Supervisor. Paperwork has been submitted to
8 the Alaska Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and
9 Wildlife Service for approval to recruit to fill this
10 position and we're waiting on those authorizations.
11

12 We're waiting on a staff
13 anthropologist. The paperwork to hire the position has
14 been approved and is currently with Human Resources for
15 publication.
16

17 A fisheries biologist. The position
18 posted on USA Jobs recently and Tom Doolittle has
19 received a list of qualified applicants to consider for
20 hiring. And an administrative assistant, but OSM has
21 not been authorized to fill this vacancy.
22

23 So the 2018-2020 Federal wildlife
24 regulations that we spoke a bit about at the beginning
25 of the meeting, the regulatory year began on July 1st
26 of 2018, but the changes to the regulations based on
27 the Federal Subsistence Board's actions in April have
28 not yet been published in the Federal Register. Those
29 changes are therefore not in effect until this is
30 published and we're anticipating that this should
31 happen hopefully in September.
32

33 This has two specific consequences for
34 the Federal Subsistence Management Program. First,
35 modifications to regulations made in the April board
36 meeting did not take effect on July 1st as intended and
37 will not take effect until the Federal Register notice
38 is published.
39

40 For example, the new definition of bear
41 bait adopted in Wildlife Proposal 18-51 does not yet
42 exist or the C&T for deer in Units 1 through 5 has not
43 yet been expanded to all Southeast residents as
44 authorized in the adoption of WP18-02.
45

46 Second, any wildlife actions that
47 resulted from Board approval of temporary wildlife
48 special actions last regulatory year expired on June
49 30th.
50

1 However, the Federal Subsistence Board
2 has issued several temporary delegation of authority
3 letters to authorize the land managers in particular
4 areas to enact certain wildlife regulatory
5 actions adopted by the Board in April of 2018. Those
6 are the ones that have not yet published. These
7 temporary delegation of authority letters were issued
8 to the following in-season managers and will expire
9 when the new wildlife regulations are published.

10
11 For the Craig Ranger District of the
12 Tongass National Forest Unit 2 deer to implement WP18-
13 01. Thorne Bay Ranger District also in the Tongass in
14 Southeast for Unit 2 deer. Yakutat Ranger District
15 also in the Tongass for Unit 5A moose. To the
16 Superintendent of Wester Arctic Parklands Unit 23
17 caribou in the Noatak National Preserve. This is the
18 implement the partial closure adopted in WP18-46 as
19 modified. And then to the Anchorage Field Office
20 Manager of the BLM for Unit 23 caribou in the Squirrel
21 River Drainage to implement partial closure adopted in
22 WP18-46 as modified.

23
24 I did see a press release come through
25 my email yesterday that these managers have implemented
26 their authority to close that portion of Unit 23 until
27 the final rule is published. If there's any questions,
28 I'd be happy to try to answer them.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
33 Josh. I'm sorry, I was responding to a Nuiqsut thing
34 here.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
39 While there's a pause I'd just like to reiterate again,
40 as Josh mentioned, since the Federal Register has not
41 been posted yet and we had talked about this yesterday
42 and I had handed out this draft informational flyer and
43 how to get information out to the communities. Once
44 the Federal Register does post, the hunting permit
45 requirement registration permit for hunting caribou in
46 Unit 26A will go into effect.

47
48 This is a transition period, a very new
49 thing for folks here, so it's going to take some time
50

1 to get that word out. So that's not in effect now, but
2 when that Federal Register notice does go into effect
3 permits will be required for the hunting of caribou on
4 Federal lands in Unit 26A. It's the same permit as the
5 State is issuing, so people would get that permit
6 through the State office and through Carmen here in
7 Barrow.

8

9

Thank you.

10

11

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

12

13

MR. NEAKOK: Chairman, if I can.

14

15

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Fredrick.

16

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MR. NEAKOK: Along with the permitting requirements are individuals going to be required to get a hunting license for that as well? In certain areas if you choose to go fishing you need a fishing license and a king stamp. Then if you do hunt waterfowl, you've got your hunting license and then you've got your duck stamps. Whenever I do my PFD I do get my hunting, trapping and fishing license should I choose to go fishing or hunting in other areas. Is that something going to be required along with these permits?

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. Thank you for asking that, Fredrick. Yes, it's often one of the questions that's asked. Currently a hunting license is required for all hunters, whether Federal subsistence hunters or hunting under State regulations. So that's a requirement that's in place already. Getting this new registration permit a person would have to have a hunting license to get the registration permit.

The registration permit itself is free. However, there is a cost for a hunting license, but that's a regulation that's been in place for a long time, both under State and Federal subsistence regulations. It will be an extra step to get permits on top of a hunting license and many people don't have access to internet or computer. So how we can best help support people.

Again, the registration permit came from the communities as well to have a better

1 understanding of what the subsistence harvest is and
2 the needs are. So thank you for that question. That's
3 something we can also put in the informational flyer is
4 kind of the basic background information for current
5 regulations.

6

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Thank you.

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10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Having said that, I'm
11 going to find out. Is it on Federal public lands for
12 subsistence user mandatory
13 to have a license to do their subsistence activities
14 now?

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Those kind of things that people have a
mentality as we have the right or the indigenous
people's right to hunt on these lands that we've
existed on and why should somebody else come over here
and tell me otherwise. There's that mentality, so you
guys need to realize that.

1 MS. DAGGETT: This is Carmen Daggett
2 for the record with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
3 I just want to make a couple clarifications in regards
4 to the permits too. When you're talking about getting
5 your hunting license, you don't need a hunting license
6 until you turn 18. However, the permits are under kind
7 of different age brackets and if you're over the age of
8 10 you would need your own permits for big game. So I
9 just want to make that clarification.

10
11 If you're under the age of 10, you
12 would be hunting on another adult's permit and you
13 would be reporting what you got underneath their permit
14 or whatever, but if you were over 10, then you would be
15 on your own permit.

16
17 If you were an elder, you would be
18 eligible for that permanent hunting license, but you do
19 have to apply for that and you also need a permit.
20 Even though the permit costs you nothing you still
21 should get one. So just to clarify on those.

22
23 MR. NEAKOK: Mr. Chair, if I could.

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25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

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27 MR. NEAKOK: Another thing with these
28 permits. You know, some of us grew up traveling the
29 land with our parents and our grandparents and the
30 location requirement and our GPS is usually in our
31 head, you know. Not everybody carries a GPS with the
32 digits or the longitude and latitude. Just as a
33 reminder.

34
35 MS. DAGGETT: That's an excellent
36 comment, Fredrick. We're aware of that and when people
37 report on their RC907 permits where they're hunting, we
38 don't require GPS coordinates. Most of the time when I
39 take reports from people the description is something
40 along the lines of five miles upriver from the village
41 of wherever they're hunting or 15 miles east of
42 wherever they're living or something like that or a
43 drainage listed, some physical feature. We're aware
44 that people don't always have GPSs with them and
45 there's ways to deal with that issue. That's a good
46 point.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
49 for OSM. Go ahead, Esther.

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1 MS. HUGO: I notice that this is permit
2 regulations for residents of Unit 26A and that's where
3 we are and I just want to say good luck. I will get
4 home and let them know they need to get these permit
5 regulations, but like Gordon said, I never carried a
6 hunting license when I'm out there because my mom and
7 my dad didn't have to have that. So I never did up to
8 this day. So this is something that we need to pass on
9 at my home and I know how well it's going to go.

10

11 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for your
12 comments, Esther. As I mentioned before when I gave my
13 presentation on the RC907 permits that I do plan
14 personally to travel to every one of the villages and
15 try to get information out to people. I appreciate any
16 help that you guys can give in helping to educate
17 people about that. The idea is to not make criminals
18 out of people. The idea is to get information about
19 harvest. That's where we're going with the RC907
20 permit.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I very much
23 didn't like that comment, don't want to make criminals
24 out of people. We've never been criminals ever. We
25 live off of the land the way that God put us on this
26 land to do. We subsist. We don't commercialize it.
27 We live on the land. I just don't like that statement.
28 I think that it's important to talk about it and work
29 together about it, but limit the rhetoric about we
30 don't want to criminalize anybody.

31

32 To me, I just think that's sending the
33 wrong message and walking into an argument. There are
34 people who
35 are going to stand up adamantly and say in uncertain
36 terms that language is too harsh. We should be working
37 in conformance with existing law. Those kind of
38 language is I think palatable. If you start to talk
39 about criminalizing people, yeah, you might have
40 somebody turn around and walk out or put you in a
41 position with heated dialogue. So I just want to make
42 you realize.

43

44 Do I need a hunting license to catch my
45 whale, my bowhead whale? When that's a Federally
46 mandated indigenous right to subsist? Those are the
47 things that you need to realize when you're dealing
48 with the indigenous people that we are connected to
49 these resources different than any other place. We

50

1 have a customary and traditional use determination.

2

3 But I certainly do agree that we need
4 to talk about it in order to look at the level of
5 harvest and make everybody productive in doing some of
6 these things. Thank you.

7

8 MR. NEAKOK: Mr. Chair, if I could.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
11 Fredrick.

12

13 MR. NEAKOK: Another issue with
14 purchasing a hunting license some of the economies in
15 some of these villages there's almost -- there's very
16 few jobs. Having to purchase a license when a lot of
17 people rely heavily on the PFD and regional or village
18 corporation income, it's just another strain on a lot
19 of the people in Alaska. Not just on the North Slope,
20 but everywhere. Not everywhere is as fortunate as the
21 North Slope.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Fredrick.
26 Any other questions to OSM.

27

28 Joe from Native Village.

29

30 MR. LEAVITT: What I don't like.....

31

32 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Point Hope.
33 Were you calling on somebody, Gordon?

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Steve, I've got
36 Joe and then I'll go to you if you're up next.

37

38 MR. LEAVITT: Okay. I just wanted to
39 comment on this one because us people hunting all these
40 years it's our basic human right to subsist. You've
41 got to remember that. That's what somebody told me and
42 I still believe that.

43

44 Anyway, when you get a 10-year-old and
45 you want him to have a permit, I think that is totally
46 wrong. It should be set at 18 or 16. That is totally
47 wrong. You're attacking our children. If they get a
48 violation when they're young, it's going to stay with
49 them for a while. You're offending that person at such

50

1 a young age. That is totally wrong when a 10-year-old
2 has to have a permit. It should go with the family.
3 To me that is totally wrong. It's way too harsh.
4 That's what I just wanted to comment on. To me it's
5 totally wrong. I just wanted to say that.

6

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Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve. Thank you,
Joe. You're up next, Steve.

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MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. I agree with
Joe and I agree with Gordon. I've never had a hunting
license. I caught my first moose about 30 years ago.
Never caught a moose before. Here it was in July. We
don't see moose in our area. There's a lot of fires
and the moose come to the west. I caught this moose
and I cut it up and since it was my first moose I gave
it all away.

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I was hanging the skin to dry so I
could give it away too and a game warden came by. This
was like '83, '84. He started talking to me, hey, you
got a moose. I said yeah. He asked me where I caught
it. Oh, just down the road there. And he asked me
what did you do with the meat and I told him I gave it
away because it's my first one. I had maybe a couple
pounds in my freezer and he took it away from me. He
said it's not moose season. You're not allowed to hunt
moose. He took my skin. He took my meat, that little
piece of meat. I was going to give it away. Then I
got charged. I never hunted a moose again after that.

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I've hunted most of my life without a
license. Like you said, we subsistence hunt. We hunt
when the animals are here. Back in the days when they
were saying we had to hunt ducks at a certain time.
That's what it feels like. They were arresting all
these people that were hunting ducks because it's not
duck season. It almost feels like we're still in that
time and era. We have lived off the land and the ocean
since time immemorial. We hunt when the animals are
here. They usually come at a certain time, but we're
seeing differences in migration times.

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But putting a hunting license on a kid,
you know, 10 years old, I mean -- you know, we live in
such a different time and era, but the majority of the
people with the high cost of living, the high cost of

1 transportation, the high cost of fuel, we still rely on
2 our food source. If we're having to pay for a hunting
3 license even puts more of a burden and then have to pay
4 for our kids' license, our grandkids.

5

6 I agree with what Gordon and Joe said.
7 I thought we had a subsistence right to hunt animals
8 when they're there. There was no law. We're
9 subsistence hunters. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. I just want to add one little thing and I won't dwell on it any further. I attended the ICC, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference in July over here. One of the themes in the Utqiagvik Declaration and it goes to the U.N. and because it is an internationally recognized forum one of the things that everybody here has kind of expressed when you're dealing with indigenous people is food security issues and to be able to manage to our own recourse, our harvesting and our traditional use of these resources.

I don't know how the State or the Federal government can categorize us or clump us together when they have mechanisms in place to recognize minorities. When the black man is a minority, the predominant race being the Caucasians and then filtering down and then there's preferences afforded those by affirmative actions based on minorities.

I learned something in ICC because they do a census on just the Inuit. Not the Indians, the Athabaskans and other races and stuff, just the Inuit population in Greenland, Canada, Alaska. I learned that we are 168,000 in the entire world where there are millions and millions of black people, white people and I couldn't comprehend almost that we're practically bordering extinction if you look at the amount of population of other races.

It seems to me not just ANILCA but affirmative action and those kind of laws that create preference treatment and including the indigenous people's rights that's now protected and affirmed now eight times these rights in the U.N., affirmed eight times in the United Nations, which the United States is a signatory to that among the world leaders about these

1 rights. Still we're being managed that we're the same
2 and should be afforded the same as the rest of the
3 population of the United States or Alaska.
4

5 There's a lot of things here and I know
6 we can't solve these issues here, but it's worth
7 expressing some of these things that are out there. I
8 am very much happy and elated that that tribe somewhere
9 between Anchorage and Fairbanks, I forgot the tribe's
10 name, it's Aetna or something like that, Secretary
11 Zinke gave them a Memorandum of Understanding to
12 develop their own management of their resources to give
13 them the right to do their own permitting tribally
14 under those kind of scenarios.
15

16 So there's different kinds of things in
17 the works. I would heavily advocate for that in the
18 interim until the United States wakes up a little bit
19 more about what their obligations are under the U.N.,
20 which they're signatory to and affirmed already eight
21 times in the U.N. about these rights.
22

23 Anyway. I can go on and on and on and
24 on, but I just get plumb full of these kind of things
25 in my head and I get afraid for our children and for
26 our people that it's hard to reach them in some of the
27 most remote places on the North Slope and the limited
28 internet access. Like everybody says, they're already
29 having a very hard life. There's no way you could
30 retire in Anaktuvuk. People have to work and provide
31 every day.
32

33 If I keep talking, I know I'm going to
34 be here until 5:00 because I get too long-winded on
35 some of these. I'll yield back the remainder of my
36 time.
37

38 Go ahead, Josh.
39

40 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
41 to respond to Steve's question about the Unit 23
42 closure I believe is what he was referring to. It was
43 not rescinded. In fact, the Federal Subsistence Board
44 approved it into permanent regulation. The only thing
45 we're waiting on is that final rule to be published. In
46 the meantime, the managers from BLM and Western Arctic
47 Parklands have implemented their delegated authority to
48 close that area. So, Steve, that limited area in the
49 Noatak, the Eli, the Aggie and the Squirrel River is
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1 currently closed.

2

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Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you get that,

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Steve?

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MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, thank you.

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I just want to hear -- because it seems to me there is better opportunity to define a controlled use area if it were either State or Federal to talk in agreement to look at these areas for -- let me just say it. There's a preponderance of the evidence that the caribou is the number one food source in Anaktuvuk Pass, that it requires special action in these controlled use areas to afford the uninterrupted migration movement of the caribou to where the resources are normally found and harvested by the community.

That may warrant different categorization, a tier level for the community itself. Only residents in that area of that village in that area of influence have from July till October limited to subsistence in a defined area for all species in those areas to limit the absolute interruption of large-scale terrestrial mammal migration events.

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. I can answer some of the history of the Council's work on that controlled use area. The Council did, you're correct, work on a proposal to the State Board of Game because much of that area to the north of Anaktuvuk Pass where the concern for the migration of the caribou coming through is on State lands. There is some controlled use area on the National Park Service lands.

1 The Council had worked a couple of
2 cycles to submit a proposal to expand the closure and
3 also expand the animals that people could fly in to
4 hunt in that area, so requesting it to be closed for
5 hunting of other animals too during that sensitive
6 migration time period.
7

8 The Council had worked closely with the
9 community of Anaktuvuk Pass as well. Ultimately, James
10 Nageak was serving on the Council the first time the
11 Council was working on this and the community had
12 decided to hold off on that proposal. I know the
13 second time around again working with the community of
14 Anaktuvuk Pass they were actually working -- we had
15 generated kind of a template from the Council and the
16 community of Anaktuvuk Pass was working a little
17 further on perhaps expanding both the timeframe and
18 also the boundaries.
19

20 Ultimately there was a consensus in the
21 community of Anaktuvuk Pass. Esther has spoke to this
22 before that because the caribou haven't been coming
23 through the community was looking at other options that
24 they may have, which might include themselves flying in
25 to hunt caribou since they weren't coming near the
26 community. So there wasn't a proposal that was
27 submitted in the last round from Anaktuvuk Pass either.
28

29 It's still up to the community and the
30 Council in the next State Board of Game proposal
31 process if they wish to pursue that Unit 23 controlled
32 use area on the State lands. As we had talked about
33 yesterday, the Council can revisit much more targeted
34 ideas for how to address on Federal lands the needs of
35 Anaktuvuk Pass and the wildlife proposal cycle is
36 coming up again this winter. So these are things we
37 can begin to work on with staff how we might be able to
38 address it on Federal lands.
39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva, for
41 the reminder and remembering as far back as that
42 because you were starting to pull some of my Rolodex
43 out and I remember some of that dialogue. James was
44 around at the time and was leading and spearheading
45 some of the efforts to how the controlled use area
46 might be expanded on top of that.
47

48 I think the North Slope Borough
49 Wildlife Department put a little bit of fear of God
50

1 into that as well. If you start fiddling with that
2 controlled use area and open it back up, the State may
3 just take it all away or something to that effect and
4 those kind of things. That's what I kind of remember.
5

6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
7 There was some discussions around concerns and State
8 staff could speak more to this. The Board of Game does
9 function a little bit differently than our Federal
10 Subsistence Board does, so if a proposal goes in to
11 open up consideration of an area, the Board may make
12 other decisions that maybe are not in line with the
13 request, but it opens up the discussion.
14

15 I know there was concern for folks that
16 had worked on that controlled use area at the beginning
17 and felt they'd gotten some pretty good headway and
18 making some protections there were I think genuinely
19 concerned that opening it back up again might pose some
20 risks. So I don't think it was an arbitrary discussion
21 that they had on those concerns.
22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I think
24 it's still important to continue that dialogue. I
25 certainly believe all the communities should have an
26 area of influence that has much more rigorous
27 restrictions surrounding a village area of influence.
28 In the Borough's village comprehensive plans it's
29 described as "immediate boundaries outside of the
30 village district boundaries that support the
31 contemporary traditional and subsistence uses that
32 provide for the community." That's the definition
33 around the area of influence for a community in the
34 comprehensive planning.
35

36 I encourage all those that do land
37 management in Federal lands look at these comprehensive
38 plans that are comprehensive plans for villages.
39 They're new and they've been developed. Anyway, I
40 think they're important.
41

42 Any other questions for OSM, for that
43 matter ADF&G folks that are sitting here. Did you want
44 to provide additional feedback, Carmen, or are you
45 good?
46

47 MS. DAGGETT: There was just a few bits
48 of information I thought I would add. I wanted to make
49 it clear that there's a \$5 low income license that's
50

1 available to people if they need it, so we make those
2 regularly available in addition to the regular hunting,
3 fishing, Duck Stamp licenses.
4

5 And you do not need a hunting license
6 until you're 18. I know there was some confusion about
7 that somewhere along the line there, but you don't need
8 a hunting license until you turn 18.
9

10 If there's any interest and thinking
11 about changing the age at which people might be
12 required to have a permit, there's a proposal process
13 to go through that on the State side of things and
14 maybe that's something you guys might want to talk
15 about as a constructive way to deal with that concern.
16

17 We're trying to do education and
18 outreach again about these permits. Right now we're
19 working with the laws that currently exist, so
20 therefore providing that information accurately to you
21 is important. So those are the way they currently
22 exist, but if you wish to change them, you can try to
23 do that through the Alaska Board of Game.
24

25 Thank you for your guidance on
26 language. Duly noted.
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've encountered it
29 myself on how you
30 phrase things. There's palatable ways and there's
31 other ways that just about spurs an argument.
32

33 Anyway, thank you very much. Any other
34 questions for OSM or forever hold your peace.
35

36 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may. Just
37 a quick follow up again. On the Federal side, because
38 this is very new and it's understandable people have
39 been hunting and following their traditional way of
40 life and the whole idea of a permit for hunting is a
41 really new thought process and a challenge for people
42 because as you know people don't have access to
43 resources often to get these things and just outreach
44 and the communications of this is coming up and here's
45 the process.
46

47 It was supported by this Council and
48 other Councils again in the interest of having a better
49 understanding of subsistence harvest and where. I know
50

1 a lot of discussion from Anaktuvuk Pass to have
2 documented year after year just how important those
3 caribou are for the community. We've been limited.
4 You know, the harvest information comes from occasional
5 Subsistence Division community surveys, which are
6 wonderful, but they're only able to happen every few
7 years.

8
9 As Esther noted in some of our past
10 meetings there's a lot of information missing for
11 Anaktuvuk Pass to show year after year. The interest
12 of having the registration permit is an avenue to
13 report directly and which herd people are hunting from
14 and where. It certainly doesn't come from wanting to
15 regulate further. The interest was to better
16 understand subsistence harvest needs.

17
18 So this transition is going to move
19 forward in that spirit of how can we support folks in
20 getting that information so that we're aware of what
21 the subsistence needs are and the needs of the
22 community.

23
24 Again, we're just starting and it's
25 understood that it's going to take time to reach out to
26 folks and we want to hear your feedback and these
27 challenges that people are facing and how we might be
28 able to help with that.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. I
33 certainly agree. I think it's very palatable when we
34 know and there's a lot of expression made in the
35 counting, the census and we feel it because the
36 periphery of those animals is not gracing the community
37 as much because it has contracted to such extent that
38 it's more difficult.

39
40 Other areas on the Slope is the same
41 thing. Right now I think we're being blessed
42 everywhere. I see Wainwright is harvesting. Just
43 about everybody is harvesting caribou.

44
45 So I think it's important the dialogue
46 to work because of the caribou decline issues. I think
47 that's palatable that there needs to be a much more
48 effective way of monitoring and capturing the harvest
49 and once we do it from there and use that as its

50

1 foundation I think going forward it will just start to
2 be more routine and easier to digest. That's my take.

3

4 Thank you very much, OSM.

5

6 MR. REAM: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Item 12, future
9 meeting dates.

10

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you very much,
12 Council, for all of that feedback and discussion. We
13 will take that to heart and be working with you.

14

15 You'll find your meeting calendars on
16 Page 30 and 31. The Council had selected a tentative
17 date already for the winter 2019. Currently the North
18 Slope in Utqiagvik on February 13th and 14th. This
19 Council likes to meet on Valentine's Day. So if those
20 dates work for you and your schedules, please let us
21 know.

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Point Hope, it
24 sounds good.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I agree that's good.
27 If we find something different -- it's months away.
28 It's hard to predict what's not going to work, but
29 those are always a for sure thing that we've met on
30 those dates. So, February 13 and 14 good enough. I
31 guess we can talk about the fall 2019 and the winter of
32 2019, right?

33

34 MS. PATTON: Well, it's helpful for us
35 because all the Councils start selecting meeting dates
36 early on. We realize this is a whole year in advance,
37 but it gives us an idea so that we can schedule all 10
38 of the Council meetings during that fall window.

39

40 I might just note that this Council has
41 tended to alternate back and forth for the fall
42 meeting. We're meeting here in August right now prior
43 to fall whaling season and oftentimes the Council will
44 alternate back to after the fall whaling season. I
45 might just mention we do seem to have a little more
46 challenges with fog at this time of year. I know for
47 Lee Kayotuk getting out of Kaktovik the fog is really
48 bad frequently this time of year. For Point Hope too
49 and other places.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So what
2 do you think, October 22 and 23 good enough?
3

4 MS. PATTON: I'll just check with all
5 the Council how that works for your fall subsistence
6 schedule and whaling captains in particular for whaling
7 season.
8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Whaling is over by
10 that time in my books, October 22, October 23.
11 Although we've had extended seasons from time to time,
12 but I fully expect that to -- October 6?
13

14 MR. NEAKOK: No.
15

16 MR. OOMITTUK: Sounds good.
17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, October 22 and
19 23 sounds good for 2019 next year's fall meeting. We
20 can confirm that in the winter of 2019. Call it good.
21

22 So Item 13, closing comments. Does
23 anybody want to have a few closing comments. I know we
24 did a lot of commenting.
25

26 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Point Hope.
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.
29

30 MR. OOMITTUK: I just want to thank
31 everybody for coming. It's been a good two days. I
32 learned a few things and we had some good talks. It's
33 good to see that the char are getting strong in their
34 numbers as caribou are getting higher. Thank you, Eva,
35 for all your hard work getting these meetings together.
36 I'm sorry I couldn't be there in person. Maybe next
37 year's weather will be better.
38

39 Thank you, guys. All have a great
40 August. September is around the corner. Our winter is
41 about here. Thank you.
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Aarigaa. Quyanagpak.
44 Thank you, Steve, for bearing with us on the telephone.
45

46 MR. OOMITTUK: All right, Gordon.
47 Thanks. The chair is getting a little hard. I've been
48 sitting for two days. Good they got cushions.
49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, sometimes I
2 think we should lay on the floor and put our mics on
3 the floor so we don't have to sit so long.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other closing
8 comments from the Council.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Item
13 14.

14

15 MS. KIPPI: I so move for adjournment.

16

17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to make
18 some closing comments.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Nuiqsut closing
21 comments go ahead.

22

23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It's very hard to
24 sit on the process and watch the changes that are
25 happening to our lands and water and not being able to
26 provide effective discussions that allow our community
27 to have hope to continue to subsist into the future. I
28 think a lot of our process is checking off the box and
29 it's very concerning that others that are at this table
30 with the various roles do not make it easy for us to
31 provide comments.

32

33 Giving the less than two seconds to get
34 onto the mic to provide a comment isn't very
35 considerate especially when you're asking for comments
36 and provide comments yourself without allowing your
37 participants on the phone to communicate.

38

39 It is very difficult to watch these
40 changes because we are suffering these issues daily and
41 the communications are not coming anymore because it
42 feels like we are communicating on deaf ears. Our
43 efforts to try to protect our way of life are important
44 and our village is not a sacrifice zone for the
45 decisions of the administration that we live upon. We
46 deserve to have subsistence and continue our way of
47 life into the future regardless of the effort to permit
48 and change our lands and waters.

49

50

1 I pray that these efforts to
2 participate in this process do not continue to cost all
3 of our people the hardship I'm feeling in my stomach
4 every day of these meetings. Every day trying to come
5 and participate in this process knowing that there are
6 permits and processes that are going to continue to
7 change our way of life and we aren't effectively able
8 to prevent any of these issues.
9

10 Thank you very much.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
13 Thank you very much. You're always so well spoken.
14 Any other closing comments.
15

16 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.
17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Esther.
19

20 MS. HUGO: I just wanted to say that
21 I'm happy to be here on behalf of our community and I'd
22 just like to say we need to revisit the proposal WP18-
23 57 and it should specifically be only in the 26A area
24 where we live and it doesn't include 26B or the 23
25 unit.
26

27 As for the collaring of our caribous,
28 because caribous don't talk, I would like to see some
29 kind of a device that doesn't have that collar around
30 their neck. I mean I'm sure today's technology we can
31 figure out some way of eliminating the collar and
32 putting a chip or, I don't know. Just some thoughts.
33

34 Thank you.
35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.
37 Yeah, I think those are very important. We've seen the
38 struggle and even reports about caribou collaring and
39 its effects on caribou from time to time. Any other
40 closing comments.
41

42 MR. NEAKOK: If I could.
43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Fredrick.
45

46 MR. NEAKOK: You know, rather than
47 maybe using collars maybe we can use ankle monitors
48 just the same as we do some people. Maybe ankle
49 monitors might work.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Fredrick.
2 All right. Any additional closing comments.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, I'm going to
7 entertain Item 14.
8
9 MS. KIPPI: I so move to adjourn.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
12 to adjourn.
13
14 MR. NEAKOK: Seconded.
15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.
17 All those in favor of adjourning signify by saying aye.
18
19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 MR. OOMITTUK: Everybody, goodbye and
27 thank you.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We are adjourned.
30 Quyanaqpak, everyone.
31
32 MS. HUGO: See you, Steve.
33
34 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.
35
36 (Off record)
37
38 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
39
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4)ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

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

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through
12 ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 NORTH SLOPE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME
14 II taken electronically on the 23rd day of August 2018;
15

16 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
17 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
18 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print
19 to the best of our knowledge and ability;
20

21 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
22 interested in any way in this action.
23

24 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 7th day of
25 September 2018.
26

27
28 _____
29 Salena A. Hile
30 Notary Public, State of Alaska
31 My Commission Expires:09/16/22
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