

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6  
7 VOLUME I

8  
9 Inupiat Heritage Center  
10 Barrow, Alaska  
11 October 31, 2016  
12 9:00 a.m.  
13

14  
15  
16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17  
18 Gordon Brower, Chairman  
19 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak  
20 Lee Kayotuk  
21 Gordon Brower  
22 Robert Shears  
23 Steve Oomituk  
24  
25 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton  
26  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 10/31/2016)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Good morning, Council members. Before we start I'm going to start off with our agenda and do an invocation and anybody want to volunteer from the audience to do an invocation.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Maybe I'll just appoint somebody like Dr. Yokel, maybe.

DR. YOKEL: No can do Gordon.

(Laughter)

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right, I'll do an invocation on behalf of Dr. Yokel.

(Laughter)

(Invocation)

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right. We don't have a Chair right now and the Vice Chair is out and so with that I'm going to call the meeting to order and consider myself, if it's okay with Bob, since we're the only two members here as maybe as an acting Chair just for the interim until we get people in.

MR. SHEAR: Approve.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right, we have a unanimous Bob.

(Laughter)

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Lee's on line.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Is Lee on line. Lee, are you there?

MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning, this is

1 Lee.

2

3                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right. We  
4 need a Chair over here and we need your consent to  
5 somebody present here to gavel in and gavel out of this  
6 meeting and Bob has graciously nominated me as Acting  
7 Chair until we get a little bit more organization.

8

9                   MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning, Gordon.  
10 Mr. Chair. I'd like to do a roll call and establish a  
11 quorum.

12

13                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Well, thank  
14 you, and I think that's unanimous now, we have Lee  
15 confirming and Bob made the, I think, the motion that  
16 I'll consider myself as the Acting Chair until we get  
17 some organization going here.

18

19                   Before we do roll call and  
20 establishment of quorum, I'd like to do some  
21 introductions. Would it be appropriate for those that  
22 are here to introduce yourself, your Staff and any  
23 members that are -- if you could introduce yourself  
24 it'd be real great.

25

26                   We'll start off right there.

27

28                   MR. LIND: Good morning. My name is  
29 Orville Lind. I'm the Native Liaison for the Office of  
30 Subsistence Management out of Anchorage. I'm the son  
31 of Fred and Annie Lind and my grandparents are Dora  
32 and Fred Lind-Holm from the Village of Chignik.

33

34                   Quyana, Thank you.

35

36                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

37

38                   MR. SHEARS: It's good to have you  
39 here.

40

41                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yes, good  
42 morning.

43

44                   MR. MATHEWS: My name is Vince Mathews.  
45 I'm the Refuge Subsistence Coordinator for Arctic,  
46 Kanuti and Yukon Flats out of Fairbanks.

47

48                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
49 Vince.

50

1                   It's too bad we don't have a mic, it  
2 seems like everybody's not lining up immediately.

3  
4                   MR. KLIMSTRA: Good morning. This is  
5 Ryan Klimstra with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
6 Game, Barrow Office.

7  
8                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
9 Ryan, very good. Good morning.

10  
11                   Obviously you noticed I've had about  
12 five cups of coffee already.

13  
14                   (Laughter)

15  
16                   MR. SHEARS: Welcome.

17  
18                   DR. YOKEL: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
19 Council. I am and remain Dave Yokel for the BLM.

20  
21                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right, Dr.  
22 Yokel, my favorite guy.

23  
24                   MR. CASTEILANOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 Thank you members of the Council. My name is Gilbert  
26 Casteilanos. I'm the International Affairs Specialist  
27 for US Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage, Alaska.  
28 It's a pleasure to be here.

29  
30                   Thank you.

31  
32                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good,  
33 thank you.

34  
35                   MS. CREACHBAUM: Good morning, Mr.  
36 Chair and member of the Council. My name is Sarah  
37 Creachbaum and I am on a temporary assignment with Fish  
38 and Wildlife Service working with Gilbert Casteilanos  
39 on external affairs.

40  
41                   Thank you.

42  
43                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right. It  
44 makes me feel real special, we've got some special  
45 investigators.

46  
47                   (Laughter)

48  
49                   MS. FRITZ: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
50 Council. My name is Stacy Fritz. I'm the

1 anthropologist subsistence specialist with the BLM  
2 Arctic Office in Fairbanks and I'm the coordinator of  
3 the NPR-A subsistence advisory panel and I'll see some  
4 of you next week.

5

6 Thanks.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
9 Stacy, very good, got a good job.

10

11 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman  
12 and Council members. It's great to be back meeting  
13 with you again. I'm Karen Hyer and I'm working with  
14 fisheries issues with the North Slope Council and I  
15 work for OSM.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
18 Karen. Those are my kind of people, fisheries, I fish  
19 a lot.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. SHEARS: Welcome.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.

26

27 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. I'm Nikki  
28 Braem. I'm with the Division of Subsistence. I'm the  
29 lead for the Arctic area and I'm based in Fairbanks.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
32 Nikki, thank you.

33

34 MR. REAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
35 members of the Council. My name is Joshua Ream. I'm  
36 an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence  
37 Management in Anchorage and I have been assigned to the  
38 North Slope.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good.

43

44 MR. SHEARS: Welcome Josh.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: We'll get to  
47 know you much more closely as time goes by.

48

49 MS. HARDIN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
50 Members of the Council. My name is Jennifer Hardin.

1 And typically when I come before you I am the  
2 anthropology chief at the Office of Subsistence  
3 Management but right now I am the Acting Fisheries  
4 Division Chief for the Office of Subsistence  
5 Management.

6  
7 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

8  
9 MR. PELTOLA: Good morning. My name is  
10 Gene Peltola, Jr., and I'm the Assistant Regional  
11 Director for the Office of Subsistence Management.

12  
13 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good.

14  
15 MR. SHEARS: Welcome.

16  
17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And then our  
18 scribe over here.

19  
20 MS. HALL: Lynn, Computer Matrix.

21  
22 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good,  
23 what's your -- you said Lynn.

24  
25 MS. HALL: Lynn.

26  
27 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
28 Lynn, very good.

29  
30 Well, with that, Bob, do you want to  
31 introduce yourself.

32  
33 Well, you're going to have to use mine  
34 now, it's not turning red on you.

35  
36 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, this is Bob  
37 Shears with the Regional Advisory Council representing  
38 Wainwright, am I correct Eva.

39  
40 MS. PATTON: I don't know, Bob has two  
41 hats.

42  
43 (Laughter)

44  
45 MR. SHEARS: Barrow/Wainwright. Good  
46 morning.

47  
48 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Lee, if you  
49 could introduce yourself please.

50

1 MR. KAYOTUK: Lee Kayotuk, Village of  
2 Barter Island. Good morning.  
3  
4 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Anybody else  
5 on line that can introduce themselves.  
6  
7 MR. SHARP: This is Dan Sharp, Bureau  
8 of Land Management, Anchorage.  
9  
10 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
11 Dan.  
12  
13 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill Klein with the  
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commissioner's  
15 Office, based in Anchorage.  
16  
17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
18 very much.  
19  
20 All right, I think -- go ahead.  
21  
22 MS. OKADA: This is Mary Okada with the  
23 National Park Service, Arctic National Park and  
24 Preserve.  
25  
26 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Good morning,  
27 Marcy.  
28  
29 MS. OKADA: Good morning.  
30  
31 MS. PATTON: Anyone else joined us on  
32 line this morning.  
33  
34 (No comments)  
35  
36 MS. PATTON: No.  
37  
38 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.  
39 Well, I'm Gordon Brower. I'm the Acting Chair this  
40 morning. I'm a member of the Regional Advisory Council  
41 for Barrow, just for Region 10 I guess, also.  
42  
43 Eva, did you already introduce  
44 yourself.  
45  
46 MS. PATTON: Eva Patton. Council  
47 Coordinator for the North Slope Subsistence Regional  
48 Advisory Council. And, I just wanted to provide some  
49 updates, too.  
50

1                   We have -- so a couple of Council  
2 members who were weathered out yesterday, flights were  
3 cancelled, but are expected to be able to fly in today,  
4 and they will be arriving this afternoon. Our thoughts  
5 and prayers are with Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak and her  
6 mother, and Rosemary is attending to her mother in  
7 Anchorage but may be able to call in for teleconference  
8 at some portions of the meeting as well. Sam Kunaknana  
9 is also in Anchorage and has some appointments and  
10 hoped he would be able to call in by teleconference as  
11 well so we will be checking in with them when we gather  
12 the rest of our Council.

13  
14                   And, Gordon, if you wanted to briefly  
15 touch on the agenda and then I can followup for folks  
16 too on the plan and strategy here so we have quorum.

17  
18                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
19 Evan, before we do roll call and establishment of a  
20 quorum, today we've got review -- well, there's the  
21 review and adoption of the agenda.

22  
23                   Review and approval of minutes. Prior  
24 meeting minutes.

25  
26                   Reports. Council member reports.  
27 We'll hear from them obviously.

28  
29                   Chair's report. Is there a Chair's  
30 report.

31  
32                   MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
33 Currently Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak as the Vice Chair, is  
34 Acting Chair.

35  
36                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Uh-huh.

37  
38                   MS. PATTON: For the public and those  
39 folks who have joined us, many of you know, our  
40 longtime Chair Harry Brower, Jr., who has served on the  
41 North Slope Subsistence Council for 23 years, since the  
42 inception of the Federal Subsistence Management Program  
43 was elected Mayor of the North Slope Borough this  
44 summer and has subsequently retired from the Council to  
45 attend to that. Very big and important busy business  
46 so we're hoping maybe we'd have a chance to acknowledge  
47 and recognize the longtime Chair of the Council.  
48 Harry's been on international travel and so if we have  
49 that opportunity later in the meeting we hope to  
50 recognize Harry for his service.



1                   Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak is the current  
2 Vice Chair but, again, as noted, in her absence, Gordon  
3 will be Chairing the meeting.

4  
5                   Thank you.

6  
7                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right. So  
8 we'll do that, about the Chair's report.

9  
10                  Public and tribal comments on non-  
11 agenda items. It's going to be  
12 available each morning but it'll be a  
13 little later.

14  
15                  Old Business.

16  
17                  Draft nonrural determination policy.

18  
19                  Lee, just for your information we did  
20 gather with OSM folks over at the hotel, Top of the  
21 World Hotel last night just to get a briefing on  
22 rural/nonrural determination so we can have a little  
23 bit better understanding as we try to move forward with  
24 that.

25  
26  
27                  MR. KAYOTUK: Okay.

28  
29                  ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Did you have  
30 any questions on that there, Lee.

31  
32                  MR. KAYOTUK: Not at this time, no.

33  
34                  ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.

35  
36                  .805(c) report from the Federal  
37 Subsistence Board. And I guess that's  
38 on the agenda, not exactly sure what  
39 that is unless somebody say something  
40 and it might spark a memory.

41  
42                  MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So  
43 the .805(c) report is the report back from the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board to the Council.

45  
46                  ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay.

47  
48                  MS. PATTON: And that's essentially  
49 informing the Council of the action that the Board took  
50 at this past winter's meeting so when we get to that on

1 the agenda I'll be providing a brief overview and their  
2 letter is included there on Page 35 as well.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah.

5

6 MS. PATTON: So that's what that is.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: You know, I  
9 want to apologize to everybody, I do have a new job too  
10 and it's really, really busy. I mean I find myself,  
11 you know, pulled in every direction almost but  
12 nevertheless, you know, this stuff is important to me  
13 and I should, you know, try to extend myself further.  
14 You know, if I could clone myself, I'd do it.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: But let's see,  
19 Item 8, public and tribal comments on non-agenda items  
20 -- well, again that's -- it seems like I said that  
21 already.

22

23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. As  
24 we had discussed, we will be adding one item under new  
25 business.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Which is the wildlife  
30 special action 16-03 submitted by ADF&G and that  
31 analysis was included.....

32

33 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: 16-03.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Yes.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.

38

39 MS. PATTON: And we have an opportunity  
40 for the Council to review and take action on that. The  
41 Board has not yet taken action on that wildlife  
42 proposal. We have -- for the public attending, we do  
43 have extra copies of that analysis, so we'd like to add  
44 16-03 on the first action item under new business this  
45 afternoon when we have quorum.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And that is an  
48 action item.

49

50 MS. PATTON: Yes, it is.

1                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: So under new  
2 business, the order of business we'll take up 16-03  
3 special action under new business as the first subject  
4 matter, and that's the request.

5  
6                   MR. SHEARS: I'll nominate it as an  
7 amendment to the agenda.

8  
9                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: We have a  
10 motion on the floor to move.....

11  
12                  MR. SHEARS: No, I mean once we  
13 establish it.

14  
15                  REPORTER: Use your mic please.

16  
17                  MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. When we  
18 establish quorum for this meeting and get around to  
19 reviewing and adopting the agenda, it's my intent to  
20 nominate special action 16-03 as an amendment to the  
21 agenda, just to inform you of my intent.

22  
23                  ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good.  
24 Thank you, Bob. And I got to refrain too because I'm  
25 thinking that we're already in meetings here and, you  
26 know, there's invisible here to say yes.

27  
28                  (Laughter)

29  
30                  ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: So we'll wait  
31 until we get that quorum to establish that further.

32  
33                  So that's very good.

34  
35                  And just for refresher for Lee and  
36 others that might be on line, 16-03 is that the Unit 23  
37 or the ANS.

38  
39                  MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
40 That is a special action that was submitted by ADF&G  
41 regarding Unit 23.

42  
43                  ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay.

44  
45                  MS. PATTON: Requesting to reverse 16-  
46 01, the current closure that's in place, to open that  
47 hunt back up to non-residents.

48  
49                  ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. I mean  
50 there's a special request to do a reversal on that

1 action. Well, we have time today for somebody like me  
2 or Bob to counter that and say we need a special action  
3 with the current conditions on the North Slope with  
4 freezing rain blanketing all over the tundra to  
5 continue a special action because I think this year is  
6 going to be a very hard year for caribou, you know,  
7 with what's going on with temperatures up here.

8

9                   Anyway, just want to note that, as  
10 something maybe an intent that we need to continue to  
11 do.

12

13                   Anyway, Fisheries Proposals, that's on  
14 the agenda.

15

16                   17-04 revise method and means of use of  
17 gillnets.

18

19                   MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We  
20 do have, under new business as well, was the Fisheries  
21 Resource Monitoring Program, Priority Information  
22 Needs, and the Council did form a working group and we  
23 did get feedback and discuss some of those subsistence  
24 priority research needs for the region. So after 16-03  
25 that'll be our next major action item on the agenda, is  
26 that recommendation from the Council of what those  
27 priority information subsistence research needs should  
28 be.

29

30                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Is that  
31 something that's already -- is that under fisheries  
32 proposals?

33

34                   MS. PATTON: That's under 10A, the  
35 original 10A on your first page of the agenda.

36

37                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Oh, here it  
38 is.

39

40                   MS. PATTON: Yeah, so it's right at the  
41 bottom there.

42

43                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.

44

45                   MS. PATTON: And, again, that's to  
46 direct the Federal Subsistence Fisheries Resource  
47 Monitoring Program how, both identifying the research  
48 and then, you know, priorities for where that funding  
49 should go.

50

1                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I've already  
2 got one that should be the number 1 priority.  
3  
4                   (Laughter)  
5  
6                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And, Dr.  
7 Yokel, should know about it.  
8  
9                   (Laughter)  
10  
11                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.  
12  
13                   Review revision of Memorandum of  
14 Understanding with the State of Alaska.  
15  
16                   That's going to come up as Item C.  
17  
18                   D. Review of annual report, reply and  
19 identify issues for 2016 annual report.  
20  
21                   E. Charter Review.  
22  
23                   F. Feedback on All Council meeting.  
24  
25                   G. Tongass Submerged Land Proposed  
26 Rule.  
27  
28                   H. Review, discussion and  
29 recommendation of Council on Arctic  
30 flora and fauna.  
31  
32                   I. Review and recommendation of  
33 relevant State Board of Game wildlife  
34 proposals, supplemental. That should  
35 be interesting.  
36  
37                   MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So  
38 the Council did submit a proposal to the Board of Game  
39 requesting a reconsideration of ANS for the Teshekpuk  
40 and Western Arctic Caribou Herds.  
41  
42                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Right.  
43  
44                   MS. PATTON: And we do have -- Nikki  
45 Braem has traveled here in person and so she'll be able  
46 to provide a comprehensive overview of the --  
47 essentially the analysis that was provided to the Board  
48 of Game and opportunity for the Council to have  
49 questions and discussion on that.  
50

1                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good,  
2 it's going to be important.

3  
4                   You got anything under 10, any of those  
5 listed that -- I'm just naming out the agenda so far  
6 just to -- just a brief overview.

7  
8                   12. Agency Reports. Time limit for  
9 each agency is 15 minutes unless  
10 approved in advance.

11  
12                   So I haven't had any requests for  
13 advanced approval over 15 minutes.

14  
15                   MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. At  
16 the request of the Council we have an in-depth caribou  
17 report. The Council usually likes to take an ample  
18 amount of time to review the latest information on.....

19  
20                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Should we  
21 entertain that now or.....

22  
23                   MS. PATTON: .....the herds.

24  
25                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....to  
26 increase time for that or -- because it says 15 minutes  
27 and if it's going to be an hour that's going to be  
28 interesting.

29  
30                   (Laughter)

31  
32                   MS. PATTON: We can revisit that when  
33 we've got all the Council members.

34  
35                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay.

36  
37                   MS. PATTON: Generally.....

38  
39                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Caribou is  
40 probably going to be one of those that's going to  
41 be.....

42  
43                   MS. PATTON: Yes. And that's at the  
44 request of the Council to have an in-depth caribou  
45 report.

46  
47                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay.

48  
49                   MS. PATTON: And we did have, also,  
50 Council member interest and community interest in the

1 muskox update as well, along with the ADF&G report.  
2  
3 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good.  
4  
5 So we'll have:  
6  
7 Tribal governments.  
8  
9 Native organizations.  
10  
11 Wildlife Special Action updates.  
12  
13 ADF&G.  
14  
15 Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
16 Preserve.  
17  
18 BLM-NPR-A.  
19  
20 National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service, Barrow Field Office.  
22  
23 OSM.  
24  
25 Under Item 12 as agency reports.  
26  
27 All right.  
28  
29 13. Future meeting dates. I guess  
30 we'll deliberate that later on.  
31  
32 So that is a brief overview of the  
33 agenda items. And I think we need to have the people  
34 here to be able to reorganize that if need be.  
35  
36 So with that we've done introductions  
37 and said hi to everybody and obviously we don't have  
38 very many people here so I'm going to see if we can do  
39 a roll call and see if we can establish a quorum. If  
40 we can't, and by the way of we can't get a quorum I  
41 think we need to recess until such time that we get  
42 those people here and either I or Bob will go on the  
43 VHF, on the local radio, and try to let the community  
44 know that.....  
45  
46 MS. PATTON: Thank you.  
47  
48 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....that  
49 we're going to -- once we do that.  
50

1                   Anyway, with that I'd like to call roll  
2 call and establish a quorum, Madame Secretary.  
3  
4                   (No comments)  
5  
6                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: You're the  
7 secretary, right.  
8  
9                   MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.  
10  
11                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, go  
12 ahead.  
13  
14                   MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. Lee Kayotuk.  
15 To establish a quorum for October 31st at this time  
16 I'll do a roll call, members, name and community of  
17 each member present at this time.  
18  
19                   Gordon R. Brower, Barrow.  
20  
21                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I'm here, Lee,  
22 and I'm sorry if I made an error, I thought Eva was the  
23 secretary for a second, but she's the coordinator and I  
24 said Madame Secretary.  
25  
26                   MR. KAYOTUK: Oh, okay.  
27  
28                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: So Mr.  
29 Secretary.  
30  
31                   MR. KAYOTUK: Okay, no problem.  
32  
33                   Continuing on.  
34  
35                   Robert Shears, Barrow/Wainwright.  
36  
37                   MR. SHEARS: Good morning, Lee.  
38 Present.  
39  
40                   MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning.  
41  
42                   No. 3 2016 - Vacant.  
43  
44                   No. 4 2015/2016 - Steve Oomituk, Point  
45 Hope.  
46  
47                   (No comments)  
48  
49                   MR. KAYOTUK: No. 5 2017 - Vacant.  
50



1 No. 6. 2014/2017 - Sam Kunaknana -  
2 Nuiqsut.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 MR. KAYOTUK: No. 7 2017 - Vacant.  
7  
8 No. 8 2018 - Vacant.  
9  
10 No. 9 2016/2018 - Lee Kayotuk,  
11 Kaktovik, Secretary - present at this time.  
12  
13 No. 10 - 2009-2018 Rosemary  
14 Ahtuanguaruak, Barrow, Acting Chair.  
15  
16 (No comments)  
17  
18 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning, Gordon.  
19 Council. Mr. Chair, I did roll call and establish a  
20 quorum at this time, continue further on with your  
21 agenda.  
22  
23 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
24 Lee. I'm going to have to I think make a judgment call  
25 here. This does not establish a quorum, we need, I  
26 think, four present, or on line, and we have three. So  
27 we do not have the ability to move forward at this  
28 point and make decisions on behalf of this body.  
29  
30 So what's the wish of the members  
31 present.  
32  
33 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. We had this  
34 discussion earlier before the meeting convened with  
35 Eva, we understand that Steve Oomituk is arriving on  
36 Alaska Airlines here in Barrow this morning and should  
37 be available by the end of the morning.  
38  
39 With, Lee, Lee, I understand you're  
40 going to try to catch a plane this morning to fly to  
41 our location here in Barrow arriving here about 2:30  
42 this afternoon, is that correct?  
43  
44 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, correct. I'm  
45 supposed to depart about 11:05 a.m.  
46  
47 MR. SHEARS: Okay, it sounds like we  
48 got a quorum coming. But we will not have Steve,  
49 Gordon, me and Lee all together in this room until  
50 about 2:30 this afternoon.

1                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Maybe I can --  
2 this is Gordon Brower, maybe we can recess until 1:00  
3 o'clock and try and see if we can get a quorum to start  
4 around 1:00 o'clock. If Rosemary is available on line,  
5 she might suddenly be available. I think there's going  
6 to be efforts to contact Rosemary. And myself, Bob,  
7 Rosemary and then Steve should be arriving by 1:00  
8 o'clock, I believe, and we should be able to get,  
9 hopefully a quorum at 1:00 o'clock and then that will  
10 be solidified by 2:00 o'clock with Lee arriving.

11  
12                   MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

13  
14                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: How about  
15 that, sounds like a plan.

16  
17                   (No comments)

18  
19                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Well.....

20  
21                   MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

22  
23                   MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. I believe  
24 that it would be -- to correct this and not establish a  
25 quorum at this time with an affirmative.

26  
27                   MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
28 Yes, and the discussion also with the Council was so  
29 Steve Oomituk will be arriving about 11:30 this  
30 morning so should be able to join us, you know, get  
31 settle in and have some lunch and join us actively by  
32 1:00 o'clock and I will give Rosemary a call and  
33 confirm if she has an opportunity to call in this  
34 afternoon, and part of the discussion with the Council  
35 last night in terms of strategy is we expect to have  
36 quorum this afternoon to reconvene at 1:00 and we're  
37 prepared to make dinner for folks if the Council has an  
38 opportunity to work through the action items on the  
39 agenda today and we should have quorum tomorrow as  
40 well. But if we're able to take care of action items  
41 tonight and into the evening, if necessary, and then  
42 tomorrow -- the agency reports are also very important  
43 and at the request of the Council for critical  
44 information for both to bring back to the communities  
45 and for decisionmaking in the future, so we would cover  
46 those tomorrow and should have four people here as  
47 well.

48  
49                   Thank you.

50

1                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, before  
2 we go to recess, and make motions to go into recess  
3 here, can you just tell me the vacant -- are we shy on  
4 communities or is it Barrow, or is it just anybody  
5 that's interested should apply. I'd like to announce  
6 that sometime, that if Barrow is shy on applicants, you  
7 know, put it on the radio or something like that.

8  
9                   MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
10 That would be fabulous to post that out on the radio  
11 and an opportunity, while the Council is here, to meet  
12 with folks and answer questions. We are in another  
13 cycle for Regional Advisory Council applications so we  
14 have a packet of applications here and also the  
15 information on the Federal Subsistence Program.

16  
17                   We do have several vacant seats on the  
18 Council.

19  
20                   We, relatively recently had lost Teddy  
21 Frankson of Point Hope, who passed away and we had some  
22 retirements recently. So James Nageak of Anaktuvuk  
23 Pass just retired after the last meeting in order to  
24 pursue -- he was recently appointed to the Cultural  
25 Board, so he'd be working on that board at the college  
26 and wanted to dedicate his time to culture and language  
27 pursuits. And then Harry Brower, Jr., also just  
28 retired from the Council this summer after being  
29 elected Mayor of Barrow. So we did lose a couple  
30 people in advance of new applicants coming on board.

31  
32                   So the appointment process for this  
33 year of applicants from last year will be appointed in  
34 December and then seated on the Council in the February  
35 winter meeting. So we are anticipating two to three  
36 seats to be filled with those new applicants, however,  
37 they don't start their term until winter but we still  
38 have, now, two vacancies that were left by the recent  
39 retirement of James and Harry. So we're likely to have  
40 two vacant seats moving forward and we are seeking  
41 applicants. We've been working with the communities,  
42 reaching out to the communities, we're anticipating  
43 we'll have applicants seated from Atqasuk and Anaktuvuk  
44 Pass. We are still seeking applicants from Wainwright,  
45 Point Lay and Point Hope and those are the three  
46 communities that.....

47  
48                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Wainwright,  
49 Point Lay and Point Hope.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Yes. And encouraging  
2 people to apply from all the communities, that  
3 representation is very important, and to have -- you  
4 know we're happy to have more than one individual from  
5 different areas, too, so as much encouragement  
6 throughout the region and in Barrow is very much  
7 encouraged and to help make those connections too in  
8 the community.

9  
10 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
11 thank you, Eva. I think we got a little bit clearer  
12 picture. I just wanted to know for my own personal sake  
13 and, you know, I want to try to encourage others. And  
14 for me, my term is up in 2017, does that mean I get to  
15 work all of 2017 with that.

16  
17 MS. PATTON: Correct. So you'll still  
18 be in your current seat through 2017. The application  
19 process to the Regional Advisory Councils is a lengthy  
20 one.....

21  
22 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Uh-huh.  
23 Right.

24  
25 MS. PATTON: .....and ultimately the  
26 appointments are made by the Secretary of Interior, so  
27 even though you're on the Council 2017, your seat, in  
28 order to continue on would require you reapplying now.

29  
30 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Oh, so I got  
31 to reapply now, okay.

32  
33 MS. PATTON: Yeah. And we do have --  
34 at least now one of the things -- so the Councils had  
35 all written a joint letter to the Secretary of the  
36 Interior with some recommendations for how to have a  
37 more effective Regional Advisory Council process, and  
38 one was requesting alternates so that we have backup  
39 and we have more than one individual, potentially from  
40 each community, that's in the loop and, you know, part  
41 of the process to draw on in times when another  
42 individual can't travel. Had a request to extend the  
43 terms from three years to four years. And then another  
44 part of the request -- and we haven't gotten a response  
45 back on that yet -- but another part of the request was  
46 to simplify the process for incumbent applicants who  
47 have served on the Council for some time. So we do  
48 have a simple form for you to fill out.

49  
50 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, I think

1 that's important. Because if you look at my  
2 tenure.....

3

4 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....I got an  
7 award for like five years, like last year.....

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....but  
12 actually I would probably be the second longest Council  
13 member if I didn't forget that I was expiring like, was  
14 it 2008 or something like that, that I had been on  
15 since 1998 and then reapplied and reapplied every time  
16 my term expired and then I missed three years because  
17 the application process, I completely spaced it, but I  
18 did attend all the meetings even though I was not a  
19 Council member.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MS. PATTON: I won't let you forget.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay, very  
28 good. Maybe we should entertain going into recess  
29 maybe until 1:00 o'clock, if we can do that then I  
30 think we will do a lot of justice to the agenda at that  
31 time.

32

33 Bob, do you want to.....

34

35 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Lee, if  
36 you'd concur a motion to recess until 1:00 o'clock.

37

38 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair and Council  
39 members, and the group there that participated in this  
40 North Slope Borough Subsistence Regional Advisory  
41 Council, all members, I would like to make a motion to  
42 pass -- to reconvene at 1:00 o'clock this afternoon  
43 until we get all the parties, hopefully available for  
44 this meeting, at this time.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
47 Lee.

48

49 At this time we are recessed until 1:00  
50 o'clock and we'll see you all then.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I'll call the  
6 North Slope Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory  
7 Council meeting back into order.

8

9 We convened earlier this morning at  
10 9:00 a.m., we couldn't get a quorum, and -- because we  
11 have other Council members that are grounded, I guess,  
12 the airplanes can't land in Kaktovik and then we're  
13 waiting Steve Oomituk to arrive, and I'd like to ask  
14 the coordinator how we proceed, do we need to do roll  
15 call to establish a quorum now, because we couldn't  
16 establish a quorum.

17

18 Mr. Secretary, I know you're on line  
19 now, I thought you would make it, but it sounds like  
20 the airplane couldn't go to Kaktovik, and if you could  
21 establish quorum by roll call we need four Council  
22 members on to establish a quorum.

23

24 Lee.

25

26 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, thank you. I  
27 could not make it out there today, and there was no  
28 room, so the meeting, I'll do a roll call here.

29

30 October 31st, 2016.

31

32 Gordon Brower.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Gordon Brower  
35 is here from Barrow.

36

37 MR. KAYOTUK: No. 2. Seat 2. 2011-  
38 2016, Robert Shears, Barrow/Wainwright.

39

40 MR. SHEARS: Good afternoon, Lee.  
41 Robert Shears is here.

42

43 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 3 2018 - Vacant.

44

45 Seat 4. 2015-2016 Steve Oomituk, Point  
46 Hope is en route.

47

48 MR. OOMITUK: Steve.....

49

50 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 5.....

1 MR. OOMITUK: .....Oomituk is here.  
2  
3 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay, sorry about that  
4 Steve.  
5  
6 Seat 5, 2017 - Vacant.  
7  
8 Seat 6, 2014-2017 - Sam Kunaknana,  
9 Nuiqsut.  
10  
11 (No comments)  
12  
13 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 7 - 2017 - Vacant.  
14  
15  
16 Seat 8 - 2018 - Vacant.  
17  
18 Seat 9 - Lee Kayotuk, present at this  
19 time.  
20  
21 Seat 10 - 2009-2018 - Rosemary  
22 Ahtuanguaruak, Barrow.  
23  
24 (No comments)  
25  
26 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. Proceed with  
27 the roll call for October 31st, 2016.  
28  
29 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
30 Lee. Thank you. It appears that we have established a  
31 quorum. We have four members on line, we'll  
32 acknowledge those other members when they join the  
33 meeting so we have enough to conduct business.  
34  
35 We'll go to -- do we want to do  
36 additional introductions, it looks like we have new  
37 public members and those that haven't been introduced  
38 this morning, if they could come in and introduce  
39 themselves would be appropriate at this time, and  
40 there's a mic right over here.  
41  
42 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good afternoon. My  
43 name is Pat Petrivelli and I work for the Bureau of  
44 Indian Affairs. I'm the subsistence anthropologist and  
45 I work out of Anchorage.  
46  
47 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
48 Pat.  
49  
50 MR. L. BROWER: Good afternoon. My

1 name is Louis Brower. I'm just a resident of Barrow,  
2 subsistence hunter.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
5 Lou.

6

7 MR. NAGEAK: Roy Nageak from Barrow.  
8 I'm with the BLM Barrow office, also a subsistence  
9 hunter.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
14 Roy.

15

16 Any other folks that hadn't introduced  
17 themselves from this morning and those that may be on  
18 line.

19

20 MS. KENNER: Hello, this is Pippa  
21 Kenner with OSM in Anchorage.

22

23 MS. MAAS: This is Lisa Maas, wildlife  
24 biologist with OSM in Anchorage.

25

26 MS. DAGGETT: This is Carmen Daggett,  
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kotzebue.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, the last  
30 person did a lot of beeping, if you could restate your  
31 name.

32

33 MS. DAGGETT: Carmen Daggett, Alaska  
34 Department of Fish and Game, Kotzebue.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
37 Kotzebue.

38

39 MS. LAVINE: Robbin LaVine,  
40 anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
43 Robbin.

44

45 All right, we're going to proceed down  
46 the -- it appears that -- I think that we have all  
47 those that needed to introduce themselves. We went  
48 through lengthy introductions this morning of -- maybe  
49 Steve, if you want to introduce where you're from and  
50 what you do and all the animals you got.



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(Laughter)

MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, my name is Steve Oomituk. I'm from Point Hope. Recently appointed Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Board. Honored to be on. I was weathered in in Point Hope but made it here so Point Hope is -- we were fortunate to see a lot of caribou came through our area. It's been awhile since they have been traveling quite a ways to go get caribou, you know, subsistence hunters, when they shut down Unit 23 to non-residents on Federal lands, the migration route seemed like it was coming back through our area.

Just for the record I'm Steve Oomituk from Point Hope.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: (In Inupiat) Steve.

It's always good to, you know, elaborate our region when we're representing communities, it's always good to hear those things.

So before we go any further, maybe I'm going to refer to our coordinator, where are we on the agenda or do we need to go through the process of adopting the agenda, I think that we had a few things that we needed to reorganize for this afternoon.

MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yes, Mr. Shears, go ahead.

MR. SHEARS: Motion to adopt the agenda.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: There's a motion on the floor to adopt the agenda for the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council for October 31 to November 1.

MR. OOMITUK: Second.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Seconded by Steve Oomituk.

Any questions.

1 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Bob.  
4  
5 MR. SHEARS: During our review this  
6 morning, I'd like to introduce an amendment to the  
7 agenda under new business. First item before A,  
8 Special Action Proposal 16-03.  
9  
10 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: There's a  
11 motion on the floor to amend the agenda to include  
12 under new business above Item A, Special Action 16-03.  
13  
14 MR. KAYOTUK: Second.  
15  
16 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Seconded by  
17 Lee, I think.  
18  
19 MR. OOMITUK: Question.  
20  
21 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.  
22  
23 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Question's  
24 been called for. All those in favor of amending the  
25 agenda to include the Special Action 16-03 signify by  
26 saying aye.  
27  
28 IN UNISON: Aye.  
29  
30 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All those  
31 opposed, same sign.  
32  
33 (No opposing votes)  
34  
35 MR. SHEARS: Question on the main  
36 motion.  
37  
38 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Is there any  
39 objection to closing discussion on the agenda item --  
40 on the agenda, there's.....  
41  
42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We  
43 had also discussed with Council members this morning,  
44 while we have quorum here for sure, and we anticipate  
45 to have quorum tomorrow as well, but to take care of  
46 the primary action items this afternoon, and those are  
47 identified by an asterisk on the agenda, and so we were  
48 considering taking up all those action items first,  
49 while the Council is present and full to take action  
50 and then following up with the other items.

1                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
2 Eva.

3  
4                   And if we can get a motion to take care  
5 of all the asterisks here during this afternoon's  
6 session we'd probably -- just in case we don't get a  
7 quorum tomorrow or something like that. I know there's  
8 other meetings going on but to take care of all the  
9 action items this afternoon.

10  
11                   MR. SHEARS: Okay. Mr. Chair. A  
12 motion for order of business to address all those items  
13 on the agenda marked with an asterisk as our order of  
14 business, a priority for today, under our quorum.

15  
16                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: There's a  
17 motion on the floor to prioritize all the asterisk  
18 agenda items, to take care of those today.

19  
20                   MR. OOMITUK: Second.

21  
22                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Seconded by  
23 Steve Oomituk from Point Hope.

24  
25                   MR. KAYOTUK: Question.

26  
27                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Question has  
28 been called for. All those in favor of prioritizing  
29 all the agenda items with an asterisks, for taking care  
30 of those today, signify by saying aye.

31  
32                   IN UNISON: Aye.

33  
34                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All those  
35 opposed, same sign.

36  
37                   (No opposing votes)

38  
39                   MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

40  
41                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: It looks like  
42 motion carries.

43  
44                   MR. SHEARS: One more subject for  
45 question was called, I should have brought up for  
46 attention, under agency reports. We discussed adding a  
47 caribou report, ADF&G caribou report due to the first  
48 order of business there.

49  
50                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah. Do you

1 want to do that in a motion because we did discuss  
2 that, probably the ADF&G caribou report would be more  
3 than 15 minutes and there was a most likely that the  
4 caribou report could go into an hour, maybe, who knows.

5  
6 MR. SHEARS: Okay, Mr. Chair. I'll  
7 form the motion then, that we amend the agenda to add  
8 caribou report under ADF&G as the first item of  
9 business, No. 12, agency reports, and that we suspend  
10 the rules on time limits for that report.

11  
12 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: There is a  
13 motion on the floor to prioritize the agency report and  
14 getting ADF&G to do their caribou report and to suspend  
15 the rules and allow it to pass a 15 minute period.

16  
17 That's the motion.

18  
19 MR. KAYOTUK: Second. Lee.

20  
21 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Seconded by  
22 Lee from Kaktovik.

23  
24 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.

25  
26 MR. OOMITUK: Question.

27  
28 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Question has  
29 been called for. All those in favor of the motion,  
30 signify by saying aye.

31  
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33  
34 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All those  
35 opposed that ADF&G shouldn't be first, say aye.

36  
37 (No opposing votes)

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: No opposition,  
42 motion carries.

43  
44 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

45  
46 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Bob.

47  
48 MR. SHEARS: Eva, this is a question to  
49 our coordinator, you mentioned a muskox update that's  
50 not listed on the agency reports, could you give us

1 more formation on what that is, is that a request or a  
2 possible information item that could be inserted under  
3 agency reports.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
6 Absolutely. So there had been requests from the  
7 Council in the past for updates on the muskox report.  
8 It wasn't originally in the agenda for this meeting,  
9 Ryan, confirmed that there were requests from the  
10 community also to provide an update on the muskox  
11 report so we have that available to add a brief report  
12 on that in addition to the caribou report at this  
13 meeting.

14

15 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Mr. Shears.

18

19 MR. SHEARS: Wainwright is particularly  
20 -- has a particular focus of attention on muskox this  
21 year.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. SHEARS: I'd like to add that to  
26 the agency reports if I could get a second.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: There's a  
29 motion on the floor from representative Bob Shears  
30 representing Barrow and Wainwright to add muskox to  
31 agency reports, along with the caribou report.

32

33 MR. KAYOTUK: Second.

34

35 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Seconded by  
38 Lee Kayotuk from Kaktovik.

39

40 MR. OOMITUK: Question.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Question has  
43 been called for. All those in favor of adding muskox  
44 to agency reports, signify by saying aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All those  
49 opposed same sign.

50

1 (No opposing votes)  
2  
3 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Motion  
4 carries.  
5  
6 All right, the main motion is back,  
7 we've had several amendments to the agenda and we're at  
8 the main motion to accept the agenda.  
9  
10 MR. SHEARS: Question.  
11  
12 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Question has  
13 been called for to accept the agenda as amended. All  
14 those in favor of the agenda with the amendments  
15 signify by saying aye.  
16  
17 IN UNISON: Aye.  
18  
19 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All those  
20 opposed, same sign.  
21  
22 (No opposing votes)  
23  
24 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Motion  
25 carries. We have an agenda.  
26  
27 Item 6.  
28  
29 Before we go any further, I just wanted  
30 to maybe clarify from earlier this morning, there were  
31 only three of us and one of them was Lee on the phone,  
32 Steve hadn't been here and Rosemary hadn't called in,  
33 and between the three of us we needed to have a Chair  
34 officiate here and Rosemary is the Vice Chair, Harry  
35 Brower, Jr., was elected Mayor, and then he was the  
36 Chairman of this group and he has since then resigned,  
37 because his tasks are a lot greater now, but that  
38 leaves a lot of open seats and the Vice Chair not being  
39 able to be here and, you know, bless her heart,  
40 Rosemary has to take care of her mom in Anchorage at  
41 the hospital so it's a family emergency over there, and  
42 between the three of us I was nominated as Acting  
43 Chair, so if there's any objection to me being Acting  
44 Chair, Steve, it's a good time to say that or if you  
45 concur. I want to make sure that our work is official  
46 and there's no confusion going forward.  
47  
48 MR. OOMITUK: No objection.  
49  
50 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right.

Chair for today.

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Item 6. Review and approval of previous minutes.

MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair. Make a motion to approve the March 9, 2016 minutes.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: There's a motion on the floor from Steve Oomituk from Point Hope to adopt the March 9, 2016 meeting minutes which took place at the -- I think it was the All Council's meeting where we met with all the Councils of the state, it was at the Egan Convention Center. I remember that clearly, because we had special visitors, like Lt. Governor, and things like that, that spoke at the All Conference Meeting. So we have a motion on the floor to accept the minutes.

MR. SHEARS: Second.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Been seconded by Bob Shears.

Any discussion.

(No comments)

MR. OOMITUK: Question.

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Question has been called for. Any objection to the question.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Hearing none, all those in favor of approving the March 9, 2016 minutes that were held at Anchorage at the Egan Convention Center signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

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

(No opposing votes)

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Motion carries. Our minutes are adopted.

1 MR. SHEARS: Should we skip down to No.  
2 9A or.....  
3  
4 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Did you want  
5 to go.....  
6  
7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
8  
9 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yep, go ahead,  
10 Eva.  
11  
12 MS. PATTON: We did address action  
13 items but it would be wonderful to have a brief  
14 opportunity for Council member reports, to be able to  
15 check in with each other and provide a brief update  
16 from each of your communities.  
17  
18 Thank you.  
19  
20 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good.  
21 Everybody always loves brief reports from Council  
22 members.  
23  
24 (Laughter)  
25  
26 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: So we'll start  
27 all the way from the west, we'll start from Point Hope,  
28 you got the floor there Steve Oomituk.  
29  
30 MR. OOMITUK: Good afternoon. This  
31 year was very good for Point Hope. We got seven  
32 whales. It's been awhile since we got seven whales.  
33 Although our ice conditions weren't the best, we only  
34 had ice about a half a mile out. You know, usually we  
35 go out whaling 14 miles in the beginning of April and  
36 so, you know, usually we use our maps, but the  
37 currents, usually 14 miles out, so we had to use a lot  
38 of motorboats to get out there. And the current moves  
39 a little closer in May. But a lot of oogruks and a few  
40 walrus. A lot of fish. You know, we've been getting  
41 all kinds of fish, a lot of salmon this year, char,  
42 herring. It's been a real good season for Point Hope.  
43  
44 We've seen a lot of traffic, more and  
45 more traffic in our ocean waters. Ice being opened  
46 more and more, we see a lot more cruise ships coming  
47 through and a lot of unidentified ships that we -- and,  
48 you know, we rely on the ocean and the land, and a lot  
49 of people had concerns about all the traffic and  
50 especially with the Northwest Passage opening up and



1 more traffic, and it looked like a shorter route for a  
2 lot of industry, you know, and going through the Panama  
3 Canal, once that Arctic Ocean opens up, you know, we're  
4 -- the Point Hope people are real concerned with all  
5 the traffic in the Arctic waters because our way of  
6 life depends on the ocean, you know, we live a cycle of  
7 life that revolves around all the animals, and  
8 especially in the ocean. You know the largest of all  
9 the whale, you know, feeds on the smallest of all  
10 things.

11  
12                   And we had -- there were some people  
13 that were talking about, you know, Southeast, the  
14 Panhandle, with all the cruise ships and all the  
15 traffic they have and all the dumping that they do,  
16 their black water and sewer water and our ocean is so  
17 fragile, you know, we want to just try to find -- they  
18 want to know what kind of regulations we can put on  
19 these ships that are going to be migrating through the  
20 Arctic for a shorter route. You know the lead is open  
21 quite a bit, our ice pack moves further out from Point  
22 Hope. Our northwest winds are -- you know tears up our  
23 land quite a bit and there's 300-400 miles of open  
24 water, you know, the ice pack moving further and  
25 further, the main ice, you know, they had a lot of  
26 concerns on that.

27  
28                   But other than that, you know, the  
29 animals were in abundance.

30  
31                   Different migrations of birds.

32  
33                   A lot of east wind, they were concerned  
34 we never seen so much east wind in Point Hope. You  
35 know, they talked about the old ways, the old houses,  
36 the old sod houses, you know, their doors were on the  
37 west because of the east wind, Point Hope houses are on  
38 the south, you know, because we had a lot more north  
39 wind, you know, warmer climate, (In Inupiat) the old  
40 sides, their houses were built for warmer climates,  
41 3,000 years ago. So we're seeing, you know, and  
42 there's -- you know been talking about global warming  
43 for awhile and, you know, seeing the changes that are  
44 happening. But, you know, the animals are still here.

45  
46                   And they just have a lot of concern  
47 about the traffic and what's going to happen with, you  
48 know, how they pollute the water, dumping all that  
49 black water, sewer water from the ships.

50

1                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: (In Inupiat)  
2 Steve.

3  
4                   Pretty good report from Point Hope.

5  
6                   Is there any questions for Steve. I  
7 got one in particular.

8  
9                   You said caribou was pretty plentiful  
10 this year, is that different than previous years. I've  
11 heard struggle with caribou, do you see anything that's  
12 potentially alarming concerning the weather for caribou  
13 at all, I've been hearing a little bit, tidbits about  
14 concerns about caribou issues for this year already  
15 from people thinking about the rain and freezing rain  
16 and things like that.

17  
18                   MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, you know, the  
19 caribou were in abundance this year. It's been a long  
20 time. A lot of our subsistence hunters had been going  
21 quite a ways, you know, 50, 60 miles east just to get  
22 caribou and, you know, they always see these small  
23 planes flying out there and it seemed like they could  
24 see the herds but -- you know, coming but it seemed  
25 like the small airplanes were going down and diverting  
26 them further east. I don't know if they were  
27 sporthunters or trying to, you know, move the herd  
28 towards their hunters that are on Federal lands, you  
29 know, there was a lot of concerns with Unit 23 and  
30 Noatak and Kotzebue area and Kiana, Noorvik, you know,  
31 the migration routes of the caribou changing, you know,  
32 you see so much sporthunters come into Kotzebue. This  
33 year it was a little bit different for the people  
34 because it was closed to non-resident hunters on  
35 Federal lands and, you know, they can hunt on State  
36 lands but not on Federal lands, non-residential. Now,  
37 the residents can go, you know, and hunt out there.

38  
39                   And, you know, this year talking with a  
40 lot of people, it seemed like the caribou were coming  
41 back in their natural migration routes. They're not in  
42 abundance but, you know, we know the Western Arctic  
43 Caribou Herd, the population dropped quite a bit and  
44 that was a big concern. But, you know, the caribou are  
45 hanging around, staying a little longer and they're  
46 still catching some in Point Hope.

47  
48                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

49  
50                   Thank you, Steve.

1                   We'll move on to Bob.

2

3                   MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5                   Very similar to Steve's report for  
6 Wainwright. Experienced another successful year,  
7 probably more prosperous than last year when I reported  
8 on my previous report.

9

10                  A fairly mild spring. Early thaw. And  
11 early whaling season that quickly resulted in filling  
12 the quota, all seven, were on the ice and harvested and  
13 into cellars within 10, 12 days. What's novel about  
14 it, though, however, is that the whaling community in  
15 Wainwright typically expends a lot of effort and fuel  
16 and time to go far abroad to get their whales. The  
17 leads, where the whales typically gather, are 10 to 20  
18 miles away from Wainwright. This year the ice was out  
19 right in front of town, 400 yards from the beach.  
20 Really -- there's a lot of concern that they'd have to  
21 go a long ways to find the whales in the broad open  
22 lead, it was miles wide, but that wasn't the case. The  
23 whales were following the ice edge and they were being  
24 harvested within five miles of town and all seven  
25 whales were pulled up on the ice butchered right in  
26 front of town. In fact, people drove their vehicles  
27 down to where they cut the whales out and took their  
28 shares home in the back of their pickup trucks. Never  
29 even -- not a concept that could even be imagined by  
30 any of the elders there. That's where global warming  
31 was actually supportive for harvest for Wainwright in  
32 that regards.

33

34                  Followed by a very successful and  
35 productive oogruk hunting season. Many oogruk. In  
36 fact, they may have even been a little overharvested,  
37 some people were saying.

38

39                  ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Shhhh.

40

41                  (Laughter)

42

43                  MR. SHEARS: That was quickly shared.  
44 Because Barrow has a -- Wainwright hunts with aluminum  
45 boats, not like the traditional hunts in Point Hope and  
46 Barrow where they use skin boats, manufactured by seal  
47 skins, so a lot of seal skins were being shipped out of  
48 Wainwright this spring to support the other  
49 communities.

50

1                   The birds, migratory birds came in on  
2 schedule in May, and tremendous quantity of them.  
3 Absolutely successful harvest. Good nesting habitat.  
4 There wasn't a huge population of foxes predating on  
5 them. However, what I'd like to note is that it seemed  
6 like there was a lot more seagulls, the (In Inupiat)  
7 feeding on the eggs, far inland. I logged about 200  
8 miles on my hooves this spring hiking, camping, spent  
9 about 10 days in a tent just getting to know the  
10 country inland from Barrow, and saw tremendous  
11 quantities of nests but as soon as the eggs were laid  
12 the seagulls were harassing the nesting birds more so  
13 than I noticed in the past.

14  
15                   Not a tremendously bad mosquito season.  
16 Not a lot of -- I wouldn't say it was any worse, in  
17 fact, it was probably a little better than most years,  
18 due to the weather conditions, at least along the  
19 coast, so there wasn't a lot of insect stress on the  
20 animals.

21  
22                   The caribou very healthy this fall,  
23 late summer, early fall. Those caribou that were  
24 harvested were very healthy. However, they weren't  
25 harvested in great quantities around the Wainwright  
26 area. They were available and committed and dedicated  
27 hunters, I got out there and spent a week, got my boat  
28 and son up there and spent some time hunting with him,  
29 we caught a lot of grayling. The water levels were  
30 extremely low, again, this year, more so than in the  
31 past. Seeing historical lows that were actually  
32 rivers that were typically at their lowest stage 20 to  
33 30 feet wide, eight to 12 inches deep, were completely  
34 dry at crossings. The rivers were actually stopping --  
35 stopped flowing on some of the minor tributaries that  
36 feed the Kouk River, the primary river system in  
37 Wainwright. So very dry conditions noted. Very low  
38 runoff from the tundra. However, a rain, even a mild  
39 rain would restore the rivers to operation, flowing  
40 operation for another week.

41  
42                   Right now Wainwright is harvesting  
43 caribou, diligently out there getting their five cows a  
44 day. They're very healthy. It's pretty easy  
45 harvesting them in these conditions. Now, that the  
46 snow hit the ground and then thawed and then froze and  
47 got rained on and snowed on again, I'm getting reports  
48 that caribou are fairly handicapped at getting away.  
49 They're moving very slow. So then there's a lot of  
50 concern right now if that's going to stress them

1 significantly through this winter, this is pretty early  
2 to have their graze covered with ice. So that's a big  
3 concern that we have right now, is this current weather  
4 that we're experiencing outside today, you know, how is  
5 it going to affect the caribou through this winter.

6

7 That's my report, Mr. Chair.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
10 Bob. Any questions for Mr. Shears out of Wainwright  
11 and parts of Barrow.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: If not, I'm  
16 going to go and the next community is Barrow.

17

18 And I'll give a brief report but maybe  
19 extend also to those that are residents of Barrow and  
20 see what they got to share as well.

21

22 But I think my season started pretty  
23 good, you know. I'm glad my brother is here, Louis, if  
24 you guys haven't met my brother. What do they call  
25 that, when you're the same age for about a week in the  
26 same year, is that like Irish twins or something.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Right. So we  
31 do that once a year, he catches up to me and then we  
32 don't know what to do for a week.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: But, anyway,  
37 we got kind of a cool arrangement sometimes. He goes  
38 spring whaling sometimes, he goes fall whaling a  
39 majority of the time, but I love to go spring whaling  
40 all the time, but he was spring whaling this year so I  
41 was apt to support spring whaling. And I think it was  
42 okay. There were whales that were caught in the  
43 spring. We didn't catch a whale this year but, you  
44 know, it's not the end of the world when that happens,  
45 but, you know.

46

47 The previous fall I had been fishing  
48 and a lot of the fish that I catch goes to support my  
49 whaling activities to feed the crew and feed families.  
50 And then about 80 percent of my catch goes to blanket

1 toss. And that's what I basically ended up doing. I  
2 think I gave out 20 sacks of fish to whaling captains  
3 to supplement their crews so they can help their own  
4 crews with food needs out on the ice while they're  
5 hunting whales. And then I also donated another 20  
6 sacks to a successful whaling captain so the community  
7 can continue to reap the rewards of all of our  
8 subsistence efforts to have a happy community. You got  
9 to have good subsistence activities.

10  
11 Like Bob indicated, seal hunting was  
12 real good. And I'm fortunate that I got a son that has  
13 taken up the torch to go out and seal hunt and we  
14 noticed that our skin boat was real leaky this year and  
15 when we went in the Fourth of July skin boat races, I  
16 don't know if we came in second or if we came in first,  
17 but, anyway, but we noticed that we needed to replace  
18 the skin so we got enough bearded seal skin seals to  
19 replace that boatframe, the skin, so that was  
20 fantastic. So seal hunting was fantastic. I'm very  
21 saddened that I think I heard that bearded seals is now  
22 being listed. I'm not exactly sure.

23  
24 MR. SHEARS: Yes.

25  
26 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: But I thought  
27 I heard through the grapevine that bearded seal is  
28 going to be listed, maybe the government getting sued  
29 from the environmentalists or something. But, anyway,  
30 how do they know, that's my concern.

31  
32 But my son also got a walrus this  
33 summer and I was real fortunate and I was real happy,  
34 some of my nephews gave me some walrus so my yard is  
35 stinking out there, I got hidden pouches that I'm aging  
36 walrus and afraid a polar bear might come around.

37  
38 So I think those types of hunts were  
39 really good for our community, you know, the seal  
40 hunting and that kind of stuff.

41  
42 Caribou. I did go up to my camp to go  
43 haul my Honda to get ready for fall fishing and at  
44 first I heard some other boaters, like Po Brower and  
45 then and some others saying that the river was super  
46 shallow, but towards the middle of August the rain just  
47 kind of poured in and I went up there and there was a  
48 lot of water up there, with two boats and dropped off  
49 my Honda and went up river, got three or four caribou,  
50 and caribou was pretty good, they were fat. I was

1 getting ready for my fall fishing.

2

3 I didn't make it to my fall fish camp  
4 first time in maybe 40 years, I didn't go fishing, and  
5 I'm sad about that. But I am glad that if you look at  
6 the cover of our book this year.....

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....it has me  
11 fishing and I have one, two, three nets on one hole so  
12 that's typically my fishing right there. I was real  
13 happy about that. And thanks for calling me to supply  
14 photographs about fishing in the Federal public lands,  
15 and that's what we're all about, you know, we're taking  
16 care of families and our communities.

17

18 I only heard from the grapevine from  
19 other fishermen that the river did not freeze up, all  
20 the way up until October 15, the river was slushy and  
21 the mouth may have gotten ice but the river was still  
22 flowing. A lot of people, I think, missed out on that  
23 type of fish run. The runs up there, quite frankly,  
24 are very extensive. For Ikpikpuk River, it's probably  
25 the largest run of whitefish anywhere on the North  
26 Slope, like the Colville River is a mecca for (In  
27 Inupiat), Ikpikpuk is, I think the mecca on the North  
28 Slope for whitefish. And if we can't continue to  
29 harvest these things I have a concern about global, you  
30 know, this trend in warming up. Because I don't like  
31 my roe to turn orange or to turn red. And when they're  
32 fresh they're bright yellow, and that's the best flavor  
33 right there. So it can easily waste your eggs because  
34 it's a delicacy in our communities, it's a delicacy.  
35 And we need to find a way to do something about that  
36 because I think it really is a food security issue if  
37 you can't depend on nature to assist you to freeze your  
38 catch to preserve it.

39

40 But, anyway, I don't think the fish  
41 runs are in any danger up that way because we've been  
42 fishing up there for the last -- I've been fishing up  
43 there since I was practically a baby, you know, and  
44 watching my parents do it and they taught us how to do  
45 it and I never tried to miss that, and I was always  
46 told, don't ever stop fishing. One day the people are  
47 going to starve and people have to know where these  
48 resources are, where you can get them in abundance so  
49 much that you can go there one time and feed an entire  
50 community, you know, that's what that place represents.

1 So I've always been told that.

2

3 That's probably the extent of my  
4 report.

5

6 I think fall whaling we weren't  
7 successful but we did help a lot of other whaling  
8 captains tow in whales. It's not a cheap thing. It  
9 doesn't -- it's not like you could just go out there  
10 and do it. The amount of expense that you put to  
11 spring whale or fall whale is a very expensive thing.  
12 It's a very expensive deal to undertake.

13

14 So with that I will stop there as  
15 representing Barrow and see if there's any other  
16 members here that would like to say a little bit about  
17 hunting and -- out of the.....

18

19 MR. SHEARS: Lee.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....community  
22 of Barrow.

23

24 MR. SHEARS: Lee.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Before we go  
27 to Kaktovik, before we extend it to the next community.

28

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: With that if  
33 there's nobody that wants to talk about their hunting,  
34 it's a good opportunity.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right, we  
39 do -- before we go to Kaktovik we got one community  
40 member that will talk.

41

42 MR. L. BROWER: Good afternoon. Louis  
43 Brower for the record.

44

45 Yeah, I concur with most of the reports  
46 that I've heard.

47

48 We do have unusual patterns that are  
49 very noticeable in our community and in our weather out  
50 here. So I just wanted to mention that it is really a



1 hardship for those of us that tend to go out and  
2 provide -- try to provide for our families out there.  
3 And so when I hear the concerns of planes chasing  
4 caribou, that draws out a lot of anger.

5  
6           That anger is not to be captured too  
7 hard here but when you decide that that's going to be  
8 something for the public, a concern, the options to  
9 address those should be very visible and how do you get  
10 that to them on there. And just as individual that  
11 hunts mainly for myself, a lot for our community, that  
12 hardship is very noticeable because when you do get out  
13 there to go hunting and the animals are deterred away,  
14 that's the repercussion that we have to take sometimes,  
15 you're very successful with what you do and there's  
16 those -- often where you're not very successful due to  
17 these little mishaps that you might see -- they might  
18 be little to the individual that's doing it but it's a  
19 lot for the individual that's wanting to go out and get  
20 it, and so it's very expensive.

21  
22           This year I did have a successful hunt  
23 due to the amount of rain that we had. So this is the  
24 first year in my 50-plus years that I was able to go to  
25 the very end of Ikpikpuk on there and so I was very  
26 fortunate to be on that ride so that told me that the  
27 water was extremely high and, you know, I didn't catch  
28 what I was going after at that time, which was moose,  
29 but I did get my caribou so I was very happy about  
30 that.

31  
32           Other than that, spring hunt, you know,  
33 talking about global warming, our platform has really  
34 changed here. We have some of the most active sea ice  
35 anywhere in the world. And when you're out there  
36 hunting in the spring hunts, it's a change that I've  
37 never witnessed -- or I've never had to deal with  
38 before so, you know, the ice is not as strong, it  
39 doesn't freeze as much as it used to. It's freezing  
40 later and thawing earlier, add two months to my dad's  
41 time to today's time. And, you know, you don't leave a  
42 big window for freezeups anymore so I just wanted to  
43 bring that out. So there is a lot of -- a lot that's  
44 happening with global warning on there and how do you  
45 propose to address that and to who.

46  
47           Thank you.

48  
49           ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
50 Louis Brower, for helping us to understand more about

1 issues and concerns in and around Barrow. I do echo  
2 some of the concerns about what Wainwright is hearing  
3 and about this rain that's coming and, you know, it's a  
4 freezing rain and concerns about caribou in a period of  
5 time when the caribou is already stressed in their  
6 population. Even though they're healthy, the amount of  
7 people that subsist off of these resources is pretty  
8 large, I think 34 communities in total, subsistence on  
9 all of these caribou that go in and out of our region.

10

11 So with that is there any other Barrow  
12 representative, or Barrow resident that would like to  
13 talk about their issues and concerns to the Board.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: If not I'm  
18 going to go over to Kaktovik. I think, Lee, from  
19 Kaktovik, it's Council's reports from communities.

20

21 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, Gordon and Council  
22 members and members of the meeting there today.

23

24 We had not so bad of a spring, quite  
25 early spring. A few people got some geese, others did  
26 not. Towards the summer a lot of fish were caught on  
27 rod and reel and during the ice break up there, and you  
28 heard a lot of wind so we didn't have a good summer  
29 here and all the caribou is way east of Kaktovik and  
30 higher in the Brooks Range and so forth, but it wasn't  
31 so good at all this summer. You know, right now we  
32 just found like 40 caribou west -- east of Kaktovik  
33 just recently and we had a few hang around this summer  
34 but a lot of people didn't get to get their caribou  
35 this summer. And I believe the high traffic is  
36 probably keeping the caribou inland and didn't really  
37 reach the coast here. Most of the time when people  
38 went out -- they got a few but, you know, like one or  
39 two here and there but other than that the caribou  
40 stayed basically inland and then no way of getting up  
41 there to try to harvest some caribou.

42

43 But for the summer there breakup was  
44 fast, early and did harvest three belugas this summer  
45 and, again, we went out to harvest our three bowhead  
46 whales and we got probably like 60 polar bears in the  
47 area but now we probably got about 10, 15 or maybe like  
48 that, but, again, they're moving out now, but -- we  
49 have an open ocean out there but other than that the  
50 lagoons are frozen. We did come up to a grey whale

1 when we were hunting the bowhead but -- just for a few  
2 minutes, though, so other than that.

3

4                   Towards the fall there were a lot of  
5 geese and a lot of snow geese, lots of snow geese  
6 everywhere in the inlands. It wasn't too bad of a fall  
7 but at least we got a few caribou that's hanging around  
8 towards the east and I believe it's reindeer because  
9 they were there last fall and I don't think they really  
10 moved out hopefully -- we did get a few of those -- a  
11 few people did get a few, and up until we get to the  
12 rivers here, getting more snow and written up -- or  
13 open up seasons for hunts.

14

15                   So other than that that's all I have  
16 for Barter at this time.

17

18                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
19 Lee, for that report out of Kaktovik.

20

21                   I always like to listen to your  
22 reports. And maybe I'm going to -- I thought I heard  
23 somebody chime in and I'm wondering if Nuiqsut  
24 representative Sam Kunaknana has joined us or Rosemary  
25 Ahtuanguaruak.

26

27

28                   (No comments)

29

30                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I guess not.  
31 I think there's another hand raised from the audience  
32 here for a report.

33

34                   MR. L. BROWER: Yeah, good afternoon,  
35 Louis Brower for the record.

36

37                   Yeah, just -- I just wanted to put my  
38 two cents in. I heard you mention that, you know,  
39 there was in the grapevine that bearded seal might be  
40 going on the endangered species list, that's kind of  
41 odd to hear because even in social media, there's  
42 another report that came in that I read a little bit  
43 about, which there's an over abundance of bearded seals  
44 in the far eastern side of the Arctic Ocean on there,  
45 so just to add that into your report, that mentions  
46 that the thought of bearded seals going into the  
47 endangered species.

48

49                   Plus also this summer was one of the  
50 first times I've ever gotten more than 14 salmons, so

1 that was a blessing.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
6 Lewis. Well noted.

7

8 Yeah, there were a lot of people  
9 getting salmon, and that was pretty cool, this summer,  
10 it was awesome.

11

12 So with that if there -- I think we're  
13 -- if there's any other Council member reports, I think  
14 we've accounted for all the Council members reports and  
15 I'm going to refer to Eva, our coordinator.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
18 Yeah, and if Rosemary and Sam are able to join us at a  
19 later point today then certainly we'll take the time to  
20 check in with them.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Uh-huh.

23

24 MS. PATTON: So thank you for sharing  
25 and the public as well.

26

27 At this time we're down to old  
28 business, and our first item on the agenda, which is an  
29 action item, is to review and provide feedback on the  
30 draft nonrural determination policy.

31

32 And, again, the Board is seeking  
33 feedback from the Council, any insights and  
34 recommendations and ideas and Jennifer Hardin will be  
35 presenting to the Council on that draft policy, and you  
36 can find the draft policy on Page 17 of your meeting  
37 books. And it might be helpful to follow along with  
38 that draft policy. There is a timeline in there that  
39 helps provide some guidance on the steps of when this  
40 -- any proposals would come before the Council. And  
41 Jennifer will take it from there.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
46 Jennifer, you have the floor for nonrural  
47 determinations.

48

49 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
50 the record my name is Jennifer Hardin and I'm the

1 acting Fisheries Division Chief for the Office of  
2 Subsistence Management.

3

4           And as Evan noted the policy that we're  
5 going to be talking about today begins on Page 17 of  
6 your book. What I'd like to do is just do a short  
7 presentation, talk -- informal presentation about the  
8 policy for you, just highlighting a few topics, both  
9 the history leading up to this point and then some  
10 specific items of note within the draft policy.

11

12           So as you all know we've been working  
13 on the nonrural/rural determination process, a revision  
14 to it, for several years now and we're almost to the  
15 finish line. We've been working on this, at least --  
16 in earnest, at least since 2012. And just to briefly  
17 summarize how we arrived here today, I'll remind you  
18 that in November 2015, a Final Rule was published  
19 changing the rural determination process. A copy of  
20 that Final Rule begins on Page 25 of your book. As a  
21 result of that Final Rule the process was simplified  
22 and it was simplified as to eliminate specific criteria  
23 from regulation and also the Final Rule set forth that  
24 the Board will now determine the areas and communities  
25 in Alaska that are considered nonrural, as such all  
26 other areas and communities would be considered rural  
27 Federal subsistence purposes.

28

29           A list of the nonrural communities was  
30 also published in November of 2015. That list you can  
31 find on Page 18 of your book. And also we've included  
32 a copy of the Direct Final Rule that sort of set that  
33 starting point so -- set the starting point for a list  
34 of nonrural areas. We've included the Direct Final  
35 Rule on Page 34 of your book.

36

37           So just as a reminder, the list of  
38 nonrural areas that is in place today represents the  
39 list of nonrural areas that predated -- that existed  
40 prior to 2007, so we just sort of turned back the clock  
41 in terms of the list of nonrural areas so the pre-2007  
42 list.

43

44           So the next step in the process  
45 happened in January of 2016. At that time the Board  
46 directed Staff to develop a draft policy that would  
47 define the Administrative process for future nonrural  
48 determinations. A draft of that policy -- yes, sir.

49

50           ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Maybe just a

1 question. This list of nonrural, this is not -- these  
2 communities here are deemed nonrural. And the -- if  
3 your community is not listed on here it's a rural  
4 community, right?

5

6 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

7

8 MS. HARDIN: Yes, sir, Mr. Chair.

9

10 For the purposes of Federal  
11 subsistence, any community not listed.....

12

13 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay.

14

15 MS. HARDIN: .....would be considered  
16 rural.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And does this  
19 differentiate between communities, whether they're  
20 around State land and can be conceived to be hunting in  
21 Federal public lands on adjacent lands, does that  
22 include communities that are surrounded by State public  
23 lands?

24

25 MS. HARDIN: Yes, Mr. Chair, it does  
26 not take into consideration whether communities are  
27 surrounded only by Federal public lands or State public  
28 lands, so indeed the areas that are deemed rural for  
29 Federal subsistence purposes may and does include  
30 communities that are surrounded primarily by State  
31 lands.....

32

33 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay.

34

35 MS. HARDIN: .....however the rural  
36 status is sort of the foundation for the Federal  
37 subsistence priority and so it's the first step in  
38 determining the populations that are eligible for that  
39 subsistence priority on Federal public lands.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. I just  
42 wanted to establish a basis for my question first just  
43 to hear how your methodology is here. It seems to me  
44 that the rural ones were already those encountered --  
45 when was the change 2015?

46

47 MS. HARDIN: The list that is now in  
48 regulation of nonrural areas is the list that existed  
49 prior to 2007.

50

1                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay.

2

3                   MS. HARDIN: And I'm sure someone will  
4 correct me if I misspeak here but I believe those  
5 determinations were from 2002.

6

7                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. And  
8 having dealt with nonrural and rural determinations --  
9 because I've been on the Board basically probably about  
10 15 years with a little break in between, but I kind of  
11 have a good understanding of that, and -- so it's based  
12 on these decisions that were already made in that rule,  
13 but I don't see Prudhoe Bay in here and it seems to me  
14 there's a selective -- am I not seeing something here  
15 because Prudhoe Bay was deemed a -- not to be rural, it  
16 was deemed to be oil and gas provence, with 10,000,  
17 15,000 rotational workers coming into Prudhoe Bay and I  
18 could remember at least five to six years ago, maybe  
19 longer, we argued concerning whether Prudhoe Bay was a  
20 rural community in the sense of a community and we  
21 argued there's no schools, there's no real sense of a  
22 community attached to that. But I'll shut up at that  
23 point, I just want to see how you carved Prudhoe Bay  
24 out of that one.

25

26                   MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In  
27 2007 a new list was published in the Federal Register,  
28 that essentially added two new -- among other things it  
29 added two new communities or areas to the list of  
30 nonrural, that included Prudhoe Bay and Saxman in  
31 Southeast Alaska. There was widespread -- there was  
32 many -- there were many, many comments received from  
33 the public in response to that action and much  
34 critique. In addition there was the Secretarial Review  
35 of the Federal Subsistence Program which occurred and  
36 began in 2009 and as part of that review it was  
37 determined that the Program would take a look at its  
38 rural determination process at large, so the whole --  
39 to see how things were being done and whether they were  
40 being done appropriately according to what was called  
41 for in ANILCA.

42

43                   As a result the Secretaries -- the  
44 Board made a recommendation to the Secretaries of  
45 Interior and Agriculture to change the determination  
46 process to no longer make rural determinations, but to  
47 make nonrural determinations. So a long story to get  
48 us to where we are now. Once that decision was made,  
49 the Board then had to establish a starting point and  
50 because of the difficulties of the 2007 Federal Rule --

1 or Final Rule, it was decided to turn back the clock to  
2 the pre-2007 date which then made Saxman -- among other  
3 things, Saxman became rural again as did Prudhoe Bay.  
4 In terms of Prudhoe Bay, it's important to note here  
5 that to be eligible for the Federal subsistence  
6 priority you need to be a rural resident and a rural  
7 resident is defined as a permanent full-time resident  
8 of the community or area that is considered rural and  
9 in Prudhoe Bay there are virtually no full-time  
10 permanent residents.

11  
12 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: You got  
13 something there Bob. I kind of heard you like  
14 swallowed a frog or something.

15  
16 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, a  
17 question again to Jennifer. Reiterate Deadhorse has  
18 zero residents?

19  
20 MS. HARDIN: That's a great question.  
21 So Prudhoe Bay and Deadhorse being considered together,  
22 there are likely some full-time year-round residents in  
23 Deadhorse at this time. At the time that the analysis  
24 was done, to look back to -- to come up with the 2007  
25 list that moved Prudhoe Bay from the rural to nonrural  
26 list, they found between zero and five full-time  
27 permanent residents in the area. That may -- we're now  
28 at 2016, so that number has likely changed.

29  
30 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And then the  
31 last thing, and I hate to beat a dead horse, probably,  
32 and probably is a dead horse, you know, because it's  
33 Deadhorse, you know, we're talking about Deadhorse, but  
34 it kind of makes me think, you know, does one person or  
35 two people create a community or does a community need  
36 to have the sense of a community. This is an oil and  
37 gas province, which every piece of land is probably  
38 owned by maybe three or four oil executives that lease  
39 it for 50 years or in perpetuity at this point  
40 probably, and a billion dollar estate for each one of  
41 these things. Those are just some of the questions,  
42 and maybe it's an argument for some other time, but  
43 basically you're telling me that Prudhoe Bay is  
44 considered rural right now and we would have to argue  
45 those facts if we wanted to change it.

46  
47 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 Yes, Prudhoe Bay is considered rural at this time. In  
49 order to be eligible to hunt or fish on Federal public  
50 lands, however, Prudhoe Bay rural residents would have



1 to have a customary and traditional use determination  
2 as well.

3

4                   However, those questions that you've  
5 raised are exactly the type of question that if a --  
6 once a policy is in place for making nonrural  
7 determinations, those are the same sorts of questions  
8 that would be asked and discussed during any type of  
9 analysis and with the Councils, which we'll go over  
10 when we get to the policy.

11

12                   But the draft policy that I'm bringing  
13 to you today is a way to address, if the Board adopts  
14 it, a way to begin addressing questions like that for  
15 different communities and areas around the state.

16

17                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
18 continue with your presentation. I will try not to  
19 deviate too much.

20

21                   MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23                   So the next step in the process is --  
24 as I mentioned, in January, the Board directed Staff at  
25 the Office of Subsistence Management to develop a draft  
26 policy, they approved the draft policy in January and  
27 asked that we take it out to the Councils to get your  
28 feedback and your comments on the draft so it is not a  
29 final policy. And that brings us to today, and, so,  
30 again, the policy begins on Page 17. I wasn't planning  
31 to walk through the policy in detail with you today but  
32 -- because we want to focus our time on your comments,  
33 but I will -- I would like to note a few items  
34 regarding the process that's laid out and the timeline  
35 that's suggested in the draft policy, if that's okay  
36 with the Council.

37

38                   You'll see on Page 19 that the Board  
39 will only address changes to nonrural status of  
40 communities or areas when such a change is requested  
41 with a formal proposal. The draft policy outlines  
42 what's required when submitting a proposal. So if you  
43 look on Page 19 you'll see a bulleted list of  
44 information, that anybody who wants to submit a  
45 proposal will need to include in the proposal. The  
46 policy also sets out the administrative process that  
47 will be used to address proposals. Provides a general  
48 schedule for addressing proposals. And also defines  
49 the public process that's involved in acting on a  
50 proposal.

1 I really want to stress in the policy,  
2 when it talks about the items that are required in a  
3 proposal, submitted proposals must address why the  
4 Board should consider a change in status and provide  
5 detailed information to support that change. So the  
6 onus is on the proponents to demonstrate that a change  
7 is needed. The Board will be looking for specific  
8 information to support that claim.

9

10 If you take a look at Page 20, you'll  
11 see that these proposals -- once a proposal is  
12 received, it will then go through -- it will go to the  
13 Board and the Board will be asked to determine whether  
14 it's met the threshold, has it included the information  
15 that was asked for, and then has it also addressed the  
16 three bullet points that are on Page 20 of your policy  
17 in your book.

18

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

20

21 MR. SHEARS: I have a question for  
22 Jennifer.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead.

25

26 MR. SHEARS: The Board will identify if  
27 the threshold limits have been met -- requirements have  
28 been -- that's the responsibility of the Board, it is,  
29 to identify that the threshold requirements have been  
30 met.

31

32 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. Yes,  
33 Mr. Shears, however, when we get to the process  
34 timeline you'll see that before the Board does that,  
35 the proposal will go to the affected Regional Advisory  
36 Council and we'll be asking Regional Advisory Councils  
37 to provide information and comment and a recommendation  
38 to the Board before they make that threshold  
39 determination. Recommendations on whether the proposal  
40 meets the threshold's according to the Council's  
41 perspective.

42

43 MR. SHEARS: So that leads to my  
44 question, who adjudicates the proposal, agrees with it  
45 or disagrees with it.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: The Federal  
48 Board.

49

50 MR. SHEARS: Not to make a judgment

1 call whether the threshold limits have been met, but  
2 who agrees with it or disagrees with it; who says yes  
3 it meets all the threshold limits, it is a proper  
4 proposal, not approved, I don't agree with it -- who  
5 says that?

6

7 MS. HARDIN: Thank you. Through the  
8 Chair. I think you're asking two separate questions  
9 and correct me if I'm wrong.

10

11 So the first being, does it meet the  
12 threshold and then if it does, who determines whether  
13 or not the change will be made, is that the question  
14 you're asking?

15

16 MR. SHEARS: (Nods affirmatively)

17

18 MS. HARDIN: So after a threshold  
19 determination is made, if the Board determines, okay,  
20 they've addressed these items that we've asked  
21 proponents to address, it's a valid -- it meets the  
22 threshold, it goes to full -- it would then go to a  
23 full analysis, which means it goes back to Staff, Staff  
24 starts to analyze the proposal, but more importantly, a  
25 very detailed and in-depth public process begins, which  
26 includes tribal consultation, ANCSA consultation,  
27 public meetings in the affected areas, public comment  
28 period and the Council would receive the analysis and  
29 all of the public comments that we received to-date and  
30 then the Council will be asked to also make a  
31 recommendation on what -- on whether or not the  
32 analysis -- the proposal should be adopted.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Hand the Chair  
35 over to Bob for a second because I'm going to ask a  
36 question>

37

38 MR. SHEARS: I got it.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr.  
41 Chair, Gordon Brower for the record. I've heard  
42 through the grapevine with our meeting, pre-meeting  
43 that deference is an issue. When we're going to --  
44 somebody has a concern that a community shouldn't enjoy  
45 rural status and deference is not going to be afforded,  
46 either this Council and can you tell me if that's one  
47 of the processes, and if the Regional Advisory Council  
48 is optional or is it hardwired in to get our  
49 recommendation, and on top of that layer, the concern  
50 about giving deference to a body of folks like this

1 that represents a community is, you know, Barrow is a  
2 pretty good sized community and one day somebody's  
3 going to introduce potential Legislation stuff and  
4 saying, hey, Barrow shouldn't enjoy non -- or rural  
5 status and it's too huge and it should be ranked like  
6 Fairbanks and Valdez or some other place. Can you talk  
7 about that in terms of giving deference to a community.  
8

9 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If  
10 I may I'll address your second question first, which is  
11 whether or not the Councils having are -- or getting  
12 Council input is optional or mandatory, and ask you to  
13 turn to Page 22 of your book.  
14

15 Page 22 you see the general process  
16 timeline and you'll note No. 3 of that timeline and No.  
17 7 of that timeline specifically require the affected  
18 Regional Advisory Council review and comment. That's  
19 the timeline for processing proposals is a long  
20 timeline. What we set forth is a three year timeline,  
21 and that's to assure that the Councils would see the  
22 proposals twice, if they meet the threshold twice, and  
23 so we have to follow your schedules for your meetings,  
24 and then also because of all of the public input and  
25 consultation that would take place.  
26

27 So not optional.  
28

29 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: It's  
30 hardwired.  
31

32 MS. HARDIN: It's hardwired.  
33

34 And then -- but if you'd turn back to  
35 Page 21 what you're referencing is, this language, the  
36 last paragraph on Page 21 that says the Board will look  
37 to the Regional Advisory Councils for confirmation that  
38 any relevant information brought forth during the  
39 nonrural determination process accurately describes the  
40 unique characteristics of the affected region, however,  
41 deference to the Councils does not apply. What this  
42 means is that in Section .805 of ANILCA deference is  
43 provided to the Councils for matters related to take of  
44 fish and wildlife, and so at this point the policy does  
45 -- states that deference does not apply because  
46 rural/nonrural determinations don't specifically relate  
47 to take.  
48

49 In previous discussions though with the  
50 Board, the Board -- the language that was used was

1 giving significant weight to the Council's  
2 recommendations.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr.  
5 Chair, I'm going to followup with another question  
6 here. You know I think this is a -- this is an action  
7 item too, here, I think it's one of those with an  
8 asterisk, right?

9

10 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Correct. The Board is  
13 seeking feedback from the Council so.....

14

15 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay.

16

17 MS. PATTON: .....this is draft policy  
18 and so.....

19

20 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: So what we  
21 say.....

22

23 MS. PATTON: .....you know any  
24 comments, concerns, feedback.....

25

26 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Eva, so what  
27 we say, and I would like to emphasize that to the  
28 Board, the Council, that this has an asterisk behind it  
29 because it's draft and it's probably going to be  
30 becoming law pretty soon and we're at the final stages.

31

32 When you talk about deference because  
33 it's related to take is what I'm understanding, and  
34 rural and nonrural is not talking about the take, but  
35 when you're tied to cultural and traditional uses and  
36 how you may need to differentiate between how it  
37 impacts Mr. Shears, I mean I'm not being a racists  
38 or.....

39

40 MR. SHEARS: It's fine, I understand.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....anything  
43 like that Bob, you're a user just like me.....

44

45 MR. SHEARS: You're not out of order,  
46 continue.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....but I  
49 just want to recognize indigenous people have a  
50 different kind of a right, just like we have a right to

1 the bowhead that nobody else has. And there needs to  
2 be some accountable and measurable way to account for  
3 these cultural aspects. When our communities are  
4 getting so large that 50 percent of the population are  
5 now different ethnic groups that don't have the same  
6 cultural ties to the land, the animal, the resources in  
7 these areas, we may have a ceremonial right to some of  
8 these things, and other things, how are those types of  
9 things would be impacted and is there -- that's why I  
10 thought there's a connection to be made by giving  
11 deference in some way because I think the individuals  
12 might have different rights, and that might be  
13 something overlooked.

14  
15 I'm not exactly knowing what I'm  
16 exactly trying to say but I think there's different  
17 kind of people with -- there's always this thing up in  
18 the air, the indigenous people's right to subsist in  
19 the loop.

20  
21 MR. SHEARS: If I could offer you the  
22 Chair back I'd like to reword exactly what you just  
23 said.

24  
25 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right, Mr.  
26 Shears, go ahead.

27  
28 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 Enhancing on what Gordon's saying and  
31 as a supportive statement, tribal consultation needs to  
32 weigh in a little -- weigh in as a heavier component or  
33 as a weighted component compared to the public comment.  
34 In this regard is that the indigenous need for  
35 subsistence access is more than just a sustained  
36 physical health. Both the indigenous need and the  
37 public need is a common need, it's a need for  
38 sustenance, for nutrition, it's a food resource, both  
39 share that. However, for -- subsistence has an even  
40 greater need for the indigenous population, the Inupiaq  
41 -- I should say the -- it's an emotional need, it's a  
42 mental health need for indigenous qualities. It's a  
43 racial characterization to say that the indigenous need  
44 subsistence to -- oh, I can't find the words now,  
45 Gordon, I'm sorry, I thought I could help you here.

46  
47 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: It's cultural,  
48 it's tied to cultural activities.

49  
50 MR. SHEARS: To identify their cultural

1 and associate their culture with.

2

3                   An Inupiaq that does not have access to  
4 subsistence it could be argued is not an Inupiaq. It  
5 is -- there is such a loss of mental and emotional  
6 health that goes with it, that not only will they not  
7 have a food resource, they will wither even faster than  
8 I would wither by not having the food resource. I  
9 think that's the best way of saying my -- I can live  
10 longer without subsistence than an Inupiaq can. And,  
11 therefore, tribal analysis of the nonrural  
12 determination needs to weigh stronger than the public  
13 association, or the public comment.

14

15                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Mr. Shears,  
16 you know, we're just trying our best, you know, this is  
17 a serious matter, and it's rural/nonrural, one day I  
18 think Barrow's going to be hit with that because  
19 somebody's going to slap us on us.

20

21                   Mr. Nageak.

22

23                   MR. NAGEAK: Ben Nageak for the record.  
24 I'm just going to speak as a subsistence hunter and the  
25 conversation that Robert was just having and was what  
26 the Chairman Gordon Brower stated. Kind of hit a raw  
27 nerve that I've seen in my lifetime.

28

29                   Because I'm at that age where I grew up  
30 on the edge of a real subsistence lifestyle with my  
31 parents, the way that they had lived according to the  
32 rules and regulations of the natural law that was  
33 around us and everything that controlled it was where  
34 the animals were, where the fish were, and where they  
35 were migrating to or where the availability was. Our  
36 people never stood in one place, there were camps like  
37 20 miles each all the way down the coast and our  
38 ecological sites prove that. When we're thresholds of  
39 people are being talked about right now, but I always  
40 remember who passed away with cancer, who was basically  
41 a subsistence hunter most of his life, Raymond, and  
42 right before he died he says Roy, you got to remember  
43 to talk for the animals, because they can't talk for  
44 themselves, they can't communicate. And when he said  
45 that, my thought and my progress of being a hunter  
46 stopped, when I started connecting with all the animals  
47 that I hunt and I love to eat.

48

49                   And then when we're talking about who's  
50 going to be hunting and who is rural and nonrural, it

1 depends on the availability of the animals that are  
2 being hunted and being used for food. And the concept  
3 of designating rural and nonrural, it's a spiritual  
4 thing to me, and to the animals. It's a spiritual  
5 connection that has been passed down for many  
6 generations. Some people have it, some people don't.

7

8                   And then when you look at what would be  
9 rural and what would be nonrural, it depends on what  
10 the State government spends on, and a lot of the rural  
11 areas don't really get their share of the State monies.  
12 Like for instance, in large areas of the State they  
13 don't get subsidized road maintenance and care, and  
14 they don't get the subsidized State ferries, that  
15 decreases the transportation of people, food, and what  
16 they need in each city that is in the subsidized State  
17 transportation system, and that's where the division  
18 starts. The threshold of people that are in those  
19 urban areas, and the rural areas, population shouldn't  
20 be a matter, it's a matter of who is being subsidized  
21 heavily in food, transportation, especially health  
22 care. And when you look at the monies that are being  
23 spent for people that are in rural area to get better  
24 doctors and better health care, it really impacts how  
25 they live or whether they'll have enough food in the  
26 rural areas or in the villages that are on subsidized  
27 transportation-wise, that should be a key thing.

28

29                   And a good example of whether it's on  
30 State land or Federal land, when you look at the North  
31 Slope and the impact it has on, especially a village  
32 like Anaktuvuk Pass, or the other NANA region villages  
33 that really is dependent on the caribou herd, what the  
34 Federal government did this last summer, and just allow  
35 the rural local area people to hunt on Federal lands,  
36 kind of impacted the caribou herd and within the last,  
37 how many five, 10 years, a downhill slope of the  
38 caribou herd was starting to go down, and the local  
39 knowledge of the people that kept saying we don't see  
40 the caribou herds no more wasn't heard until that  
41 little move by the Federal government to ban nonlocal  
42 hunters access to a critical area just showed how much  
43 the caribou herd migration is being impacted by  
44 nonrural area people that have airplanes to go as they  
45 please to any point in Alaska, Federal or State non-  
46 regulated-- non-regulated access that impacts the  
47 threshold of the animals that rural area people depend  
48 on. When you look at rural areas it's those isolated  
49 villages that aren't in the subsidized transportation  
50 system and that should be a key thing.



1 Prudhoe Bay, it's on the subsidized  
2 transportation system, it's got a Haul Road, main  
3 thing, and we always complain of all the people that  
4 are coming from the urban areas to go to those areas and  
5 we always blamed them for stopping the migration to  
6 Anaktuvuk Pass but that, just by a little move from the  
7 Federal government, access to Federal lands kind of  
8 opened up our eyes and say, ah, ha, we should be  
9 looking at the threshold of the animals and the impact  
10 by nonrural residents that fly around a lot, too.

11  
12 Think about it.

13  
14 Let's look at the threshold of animals  
15 and the subsidized system of transportation that the  
16 rural areas aren't looking at, or not receiving and  
17 they're paying a high price of health care, food, and a  
18 lot of other stuff that need to be flown in that cost a  
19 lot of money and the more money that they spend for  
20 stuff like this, the less chance of subsistence hunting  
21 that they have to buy gas and ammunition and all the  
22 other stuff which isn't subsidized either.

23  
24 I'll just leave it at that.

25  
26 It's a spiritual thing, it's not a  
27 cultural thing.

28  
29 When you are connected to what God has  
30 created for our needs, it's a spiritual association  
31 with the land, with the sky, with the environment,  
32 especially the animals that don't know how to speak for  
33 themselves.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: (In Inupiat)

38  
39 Thank you, Roy.

40  
41 And if you could proceed there,  
42 Jennifer.

43  
44 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
45 thank you for -- all those comments were really  
46 fantastic and exactly what we're hoping to get from you  
47 today. So some of the questions that we wanted to make  
48 sure that we asked you -- thank you, Orville -- were,  
49 you know, does the draft policy make sense to you the  
50 way it's laid out. Do you see any gaps in the policy,

1 you've already noted several that I think you would  
2 like the Board to hear, related to deference, social,  
3 cultural and spiritual aspects of subsistence and how  
4 those would be analyzed in a proposal if a proposal  
5 went before the Board.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Jennifer, I  
8 got one more.

9

10 And, I'm sorry, I like to jump in  
11 sometimes because -- before I lose my train of thought,  
12 you know. And I'll hand the Chair over to Bob real  
13 quick and get recognized here.

14

15 MR. SHEARS: Got it.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: For those  
18 communities, you know, because we're talking about  
19 entire communities when you're talking about rural,  
20 nonrural, because you got to designate a community,  
21 right, for that purpose.

22

23 Here's a big, big concern, currently  
24 the North Slope Borough is embarking on comprehensive  
25 planning for all of its communities, all of its village  
26 communities, they're all rural and we work with each  
27 tribe, trilateral commission, the community to identify  
28 an area called the village area of influence, where are  
29 all your hunting locations, this is your area of  
30 influence, and it does a few things for the Borough,  
31 like let's just say an oil and gas company decides that  
32 they want to drill for oil and it's in one of the  
33 communities area of influence -- same thing as  
34 yesterday, like I get really -- think like there's a  
35 connection to be made and then my coughing starts.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: But this  
40 village area of influence is recognized by the  
41 community as, this is my hunting area, this is where I  
42 pick berries and there's a special place over this way,  
43 so they identify a large area around their community  
44 called the village area of influence. An oil company  
45 wants to come in and go drill for oil or gas, and we  
46 say, hey, you want to do that there you're in  
47 Anaktuvuk's village area of influence, so we look at  
48 village policies, economic policies, subsistence  
49 policies and a high likelihood that there's going to be  
50 larger impacts for that community. Now, what does it

1 mean for the Federal government or the State regulatory  
2 government when we've developed these and they're  
3 adopted by the North Slope Borough Assembly to protect  
4 that village area of influence, and for subsistence and  
5 for these, the resources are coming.

6  
7                   Isn't that something that you need to  
8 take into account or should consider in a rural or --  
9 rural community that there is an identified, for those  
10 community members that are rural in their determined --  
11 the determination is they're rural, now how far does it  
12 extend, does it extend 200 miles over that way and 200  
13 miles this way, but I think to be practical and to  
14 recognize where the rural communities subsist is  
15 identified and there should be a strong emphasis that  
16 even when the caribou come back up to numbers, this  
17 rural community should enjoy this village area of  
18 influence exclusive to that community, and not put the  
19 guides back in that village area influence because  
20 that's what it amounts to. You can do these things and  
21 have better planning.

22  
23                   That a young hunter -- by the way I  
24 hear this all the time, people pool resources together,  
25 maybe three families pool money together and say we're  
26 going to buy three drums of gas, you five guys go and  
27 get as much as you can for us, that's how communities  
28 survive because the amount of jobs there are, and I  
29 don't think they ever get out of that village area of  
30 influence that they -- but once they get out there  
31 they're confronted by somebody from Fairbanks, with  
32 their own airplane, you know, from a rural community,  
33 because there's no regulation protecting where they are  
34 to hunt, and, so you see where I'm getting with using a  
35 village area of influence and you put somebody with an  
36 aircraft in the same hunting place where this guy has  
37 pulled his resources to hunt in that village area of  
38 influence and now he's competing with Fairbanks  
39 hunters, Anchorage hunters in an area that should be  
40 exclusive under a rural community for those rural  
41 hunters.

42  
43                   It's almost like you -- and I hear this  
44 all the time, those rural hunters sometimes want to  
45 shoot the airplanes down, because they're direct  
46 competitors to bringing food on the table for that  
47 community. It's like a food security concern, a food  
48 security issue.

49  
50                   I hope, you know, under rural and

1 nonrural determination, these geographic extent around  
2 the community recognized by the Borough in  
3 comprehensive planning that the communities built, it  
4 should extend to some of these planning initiatives  
5 that the Federal government, OSM, ADF&G and those  
6 people should recognize these things.

7  
8 I get kind of too much sometimes and  
9 when I explain -- because sometimes I can't explain  
10 well what I see and -- and what I think is why we got  
11 Unit 23 the way it is right now, where the (In Inupiat)  
12 came down, Unit 23 is only for Federally-qualified  
13 users, not -- those guys that are not Federally-  
14 qualified users in Fairbanks of this area, and you  
15 don't have a rural determination to it, you're booted  
16 out, you know. One day that Unit 23 will return back  
17 because the caribou will come up to 300,000. But you  
18 don't want to put those guides and hunters back in the  
19 same position of competing for those same resources, a  
20 community versus somebody with a private airplane.

21  
22 And that's all I want to demonstrate  
23 and that's it.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 MR. SHEARS: I'll give you the  
28 Chairmanship back.

29  
30 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead,  
31 Jennifer. Sorry for the long-windedness but I thought  
32 it needed to be explained because this has an asterisks  
33 behind it and I'm pretty sure you're gathering the  
34 information.

35  
36 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Brower.  
37 What you've just described, I think is a fantastic  
38 example of a holistic comprehensive planning. And I  
39 think as it relates to the Federal Subsistence Program,  
40 it touches on various aspects of the program.

41  
42 So in terms of rural status, if a  
43 proposal was submitted and it was deemed to have met  
44 the threshold and it went to full analysis, that's  
45 where we would be looking to you and the Council and  
46 others to let us know about this information that's  
47 been developed within the Borough about areas of  
48 influence and I would imagine that kind of information  
49 would contribute to analysis. This policy doesn't  
50 address the specifics of analysis, just lays out the

1 process, but I think that's where the tie-in is there.  
2 And areas of influence that you've described certainly  
3 touch on customary and traditional use determinations  
4 that are based on historic patterns of use, which it  
5 sounds like we're talking about a similar thing. And  
6 then also where those sorts of -- that sort of  
7 information comes into play in the Federal Program, is  
8 where we do have limited resources or increased  
9 competition for resources and the Board is asked to  
10 enact the subsistence priority and prioritize among  
11 users and uses. So that is another area where that  
12 type of information would come into play.

13

14 So thank you for that.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah,  
17 Jennifer, there's also a Borough website with all of  
18 these things, a great -- with the comprehensive  
19 planning that the Borough is going through and I think  
20 it's very useful and I hope ADF&G, OSM, you guys, you  
21 know, those plannings have been going on for about  
22 three years now and it's been wonderful to work with  
23 communities like Point Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright,  
24 everybody working to be more comprehensive to planning  
25 and looking at future development and things like that.  
26 And I think you guys need to get on the bandwagon too.  
27 Those are real informations.

28

29 And by the way they get adopted by the  
30 North Slope Borough Assembly as a plan. These are  
31 under Alaska Statutes, they're under North Slope  
32 Borough code of ordinances, saying we got a  
33 development, and by the way we got to update them every  
34 two years. So I think they're great planning tools and  
35 I think they're much needed to be recognized in some of  
36 these, like rural/nonrural things.

37

38 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair, can I make a  
39 comment.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, go  
42 ahead, Steve, from Point Hope.

43

44 MR. OOMITUK: You know, when Roy was  
45 talking, his comments, you know, we seen a lot of  
46 changes in our time, you know, from a totally  
47 subsistence way of life, you know, that's a given word  
48 to us, you know, our way of life that was brought down  
49 to us through time immemorial, you know, from no  
50 electricity, to dog teams, to where we're at today, you

1 know, we've seen so much changes, and when they come up  
2 with policies and, you know, they put so many different  
3 words that we can't understand and we have to look at  
4 it and really understand it, you know, our people, you  
5 know, on the Slope, you know, we got 88,000 square  
6 miles, you know, we've lived off the land and the  
7 animals all our life. Without them we wouldn't be who  
8 we are, we wouldn't be here. They're our clothing, our  
9 shelter, you know, we had a connection of spirituality,  
10 our housing, you know, the whales, the sod houses were  
11 made from the whale jaw bones. The drums of our skins.  
12 You know we have a connection with the animals, it's  
13 not just food, it's our identity as a people, our  
14 spirituality as a people.

15  
16                   You know, when you talk about rural and  
17 nonrural and people subsist, that want to come into our  
18 areas and hunt and take the food back and they call it  
19 subsistence, you know, they take -- you know, we live  
20 in a very high cost of living, we don't have very many  
21 jobs in our communities, you know, the animals, our  
22 resources, you know, we've seen so much decline in some  
23 areas, we've seen a lot of changes. And, you know, we  
24 -- on Roy's comments there, you know, we the animals  
25 are who we are. Without them, you know, we wouldn't be  
26 here.

27  
28                   And, you know, you're putting something  
29 in front of us that I feel that we don't have a full  
30 Board and that, you know, it is an action item, we just  
31 made quorum, I feel that we need more, you know, I mean  
32 the four of us are going to decide on this, I think we  
33 should have a full Board here before we make any  
34 decision on this, or passing it.

35  
36                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Steve, and  
37 maybe we need to clarify a little bit. We're just  
38 providing comments on a process that they need to hear  
39 some of the concerns. We're not making a decision to  
40 approve rural and nonrural determination ourselves.  
41 But we're commenting on somebody else's role and the  
42 concerns that are raised as a Council member and maybe  
43 as a community.

44  
45                   MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chairman. Roy Nageak  
46 again.

47  
48                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Roy. Let me  
49 see if I was correct real quick on what I said and then  
50 I'll recognize you in just a second.

1 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Yes, that is correct. We are here to receive your  
3 comments and your feedback so that we can take those  
4 forward to the Board. The Board will take up this  
5 draft policy in January to make a decision about any  
6 changes that need to be made to it, revisions or  
7 whether to adopt it as is. So all the comments that  
8 we're receiving from the Councils will be factored into  
9 the draft policy and go forward to the Board.

10  
11 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
12 Jennifer.

13  
14 And I just wanted to make sure you  
15 understand, Steve.....

16  
17 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.

18  
19 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....so we  
20 could be liberal in what we're saying.

21  
22 MR. OOMITUK: Right.

23  
24 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Because  
25 somebody else is going to make that decision, we just  
26 need to provide some feedback and say, hey, you know,  
27 if you're going to think about doing that, think about  
28 having this and this and that.

29  
30 All right, Roy.

31  
32 MR. NAGEAK: When I look at what the  
33 responsibilities of each municipal government has, from  
34 a city perspective the conservationist areas that you  
35 need the blessing of the city council for, and so many  
36 times there's areas that could be gravel pits but they  
37 can't be developed without the city council's approval,  
38 and whether those same concepts within the Borough,  
39 North Slope Borough or State municipality, especially  
40 within their boundaries -- inside their boundaries have  
41 that same ability to be designating areas of  
42 development and I think that has been done and the  
43 responsibilities of development and able to tax and  
44 utilize what is being developed, but I don't know  
45 whether any conservation or subsistence areas fall onto  
46 those designations.

47  
48 Because when ANCSA happened, the  
49 Inupiaq people were so few but they were the most  
50 impacted when land selections came about. The lands

1 that we utilize are just like right on the edges of (In  
2 Inupiat), like take Barrow, for example, upper edges of  
3 (In Inupiat), and over by (In Inupiat), that's the only  
4 private property that the Inupiats claim or were given  
5 to them in the Barrow area, but we know for a fact that  
6 before the start of the State of Alaska and being a  
7 territory and the way that our people hunted, and  
8 migrated with the animals, covered basically the whole  
9 North Slope Borough area.

10

11                   And when you think about what happened  
12 during this last Alaska Federation of Natives, and  
13 where a national christian church apologized to the  
14 Alaska Natives for what they had done within their own  
15 system, and that goes back to reflect on what really  
16 started taking of land across the United States which  
17 was the Doctrine of Discovery. And the statement made  
18 at that time, that these aren't Christian people, so  
19 that with that they went forward and started conquering  
20 land and disseminating the indigenous people, but what  
21 really gets me is, in front of the Presbyterian Church,  
22 and when our church was established 1898 within this  
23 area, and when the Native Claims Settlement Act was  
24 created it was 1970, and that comes to the question of  
25 when the original land and the taking of indigenous'  
26 people's land was being made, because there was no good  
27 Christians, they weren't Christians as identified by  
28 the people that came across and using Christianity as a  
29 whole to create America, 1898 we were good Christians  
30 before ANCSA 1970, so if we say that these are our  
31 hunting grounds and we are good Christians, how is it  
32 that they were able to take it away from us.

33

34                   I'll leave it at that.

35

36                   But we still have our subsistence  
37 rights and the right for people to hunt beyond the 20  
38 mile limit that we got patented lands for, especially  
39 for Barrow. The regions that are under the North Slope  
40 Borough, all the lands are our hunting grounds and  
41 that's how the North Slope Borough was, with the  
42 boundaries, that's where all the Inupiaq people used to  
43 hunt before. So that opens the question of how good  
44 Christian people could lose land in so large amounts  
45 when the Doctrine of Discovery was utilized and it's  
46 still being utilized.

47

48                   Thank you.

49

50                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,



1 Roy.

2

3 Jennifer, you could continue and we'll  
4 try to refrain.

5

6 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7 I've concluded my presentation so really we would just  
8 love to hear from you any other comments that you have  
9 on the policy or changes that you'd like to see or  
10 additions that you'd like to see made.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Members of the  
13 Council.

14

15 Lee, you got anything you want to add  
16 to rural/nonrural determination presentation and the  
17 proposed policy.

18

19 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
20 the Council.

21

22 At this time, so I was looking at the  
23 rural and nonrural items that they listed, I was  
24 reading these and, you know, so like say Barrow,  
25 Nuiqsut and Kaktovik are not listed, yet they're just  
26 making a recommendation towards this nonrural -- and so  
27 comment period at this time.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, Lee, I  
30 wouldn't want your community to be listed on this  
31 little list here.

32

33 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: If you're on  
36 this list, man, you're going to have trouble hunting, I  
37 would think.

38

39 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, I know, just  
40 looking at the list forward, very clearly, and at this  
41 time, no, I don't have anything until, you know,  
42 towards the final, you know, if you want to make  
43 comments would be recommended in a timely manner  
44 period.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
47 Lee. And I think it was important to, you know, hear a  
48 lot of people say things about this, because, you know,  
49 it has a lot of issues and ramifications if you're  
50 going to be a rural community versus a nonrural

1 community.

2

3                   Anyway I think people need to  
4 understand that.

5

6                   MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.

7

8                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any other  
9 concerns.

10

11                   MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

12

13                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Mr. Shears.  
14 Wainwright.

15

16                   MR. SHEARS: I've been listening, I've  
17 been thinking. You know in my day job I work for the  
18 North Slope Borough Planning Department and I work  
19 closely with the community planner. I'm sitting here  
20 doing what's called a SWOT analysis on this draft.

21

22                   SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses,  
23 Opportunities and Threats. And I'm looking at rural  
24 designation and nonrural designations under both --  
25 doing a SWOT analysis under both of them and I'm  
26 envisioning the Barrow Comprehensive Plan that was just  
27 completed last year, it's on the North Slope Borough's  
28 website and it does population projections and  
29 demographics for Barrow, but it only looks out 20  
30 years. And the analysis that was performed on that,  
31 that projects the population and the demographics of  
32 our community here in Barrow, that was the first thing  
33 I went to, very first page I went to in the Barrow  
34 Comprehensive Plan when it drafted up, was to see if  
35 the community of Barrow was at risk to lose its rural  
36 designation status and immediately it looked like, no,  
37 there's no threat. We don't cross the 7,000 population  
38 threshold within 20 years. However, there is a trend.  
39 There's a trend that shows, you know, an increase in  
40 population of Inupiaqs and an even faster increase in  
41 population of non-Natives within the community. And  
42 where, if you extend those out beyond the planning  
43 period, out there about 30 years, you get a point where  
44 the community of Barrow does cross the threshold where  
45 it could be considered for nonrural designation based  
46 on its population exceeding 7,000, at which point you  
47 got an almost even split, the -- right now the Inupiaq  
48 holds a majority of the population, somewhere around  
49 7,800 percent of the population in Barrow is Native,  
50 but out there about 30 years it gets pretty closer to

1 an even split, which would make an -- which would  
2 create an opportunity for somebody, any individual, as  
3 according to the rules under the nonrural determination  
4 policy, to submit a proposal for consideration of  
5 making the community of Barrow nonrural, which would go  
6 through the process as outlined in this policy.

7

8                   And I look at that and I'm listening to  
9 what Roy -- and I'm thinking, you know, immediately my  
10 knee-jerk reaction I'm thinking in my head, that's a  
11 threat, that's a problem because we're going to -- if  
12 Barrow loses its rural designation, so many people that  
13 depend on subsistence, Native, non-Native are going to  
14 lose their right to the generosity that the harvest  
15 regulations provide. Will now be conformed to a much  
16 lower harvest limit. Much more constrained subsistence  
17 activities. There will be starvation, spiritual, and  
18 physical, all of a sudden I'm feeling threatened, I'm  
19 feeling kind of nervous.

20

21                   But then I look at it kind of another  
22 way, that was a threat analysis under the SWOT, now I  
23 look at it from another point of view, I'm going to  
24 turn my head around, shut that thought out of my head  
25 and I'm going to look at it from an opportunity and I'm  
26 thinking of what Roy Nageak just said here in  
27 testimony, think about the animals, if you envision the  
28 population of Barrow of 8,000 people, you know, 4,000  
29 Native, 4,000 non-Native all hitting the area of  
30 influence hard, and subsistence the very real  
31 possibility that there's going to be a heavy impact on  
32 the animal population. So this could possibly be a  
33 tool for managing that, to protect the animals, this  
34 policy at that point.

35

36                   And so this policy is also an  
37 opportunity.

38

39                   The strengths and weaknesses I  
40 addressed earlier though, they're almost similar.

41

42                   I feel that the weakness in this policy  
43 is that it doesn't give weight to the Native need  
44 versus other users.

45

46                   The strength in it, though, is that it  
47 allows wisdom to prevail with time. The three year  
48 timeline to employ it, the going out and getting public  
49 consultation, to reach out to the ANCSA corporations,  
50 it -- I like that it is a slow process and a careful

1 deliberation, so that there's plenty of time to  
2 carefully think about all of it because there's many  
3 aspects to being rural or nonrural. There may actually  
4 be an advantage for Barrow some day, I can envision  
5 scenarios where it'd be an advantage where even all of  
6 you would agree with me, it could be an advantage of  
7 going nonrural for our community, to protect our  
8 wildlife from the threat of the population that is  
9 attempting to harvest or even overharvest it.

10

11                   So in that case I'm fairly supportive  
12 of what you've laid out so far now Jennifer. I think  
13 I'm more on board. I don't feel as threatened as I did  
14 before. I think there's a little more area of work that  
15 needs to be done in creating emphasis within it for  
16 tribal consultation.

17

18                   But I have just one question, you know,  
19 the Board as -- excuse me, as the North Slope Advisory  
20 Council weighs on this, would the acting members of the  
21 community that is being considered, would they lose  
22 their seat on this Board if their community was to  
23 become nonrural and designated through this process.  
24 Say for instance, there's three Barrow seats on this 10  
25 member Council here today, right, and if we were  
26 considering a proposal to make Barrow nonrural, would  
27 we then become a seven member panel, if it was to pass?

28

29                   That's one of my threat analysis that I  
30 was thinking of, I never could get an answer to.

31

32                   Jennifer.

33

34                   MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

35

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

37

38                   MS. PATTON: The Councils are  
39 predominately made up of rural residents in the region.  
40 We do have some examples for -- like Eastern Interior  
41 region, where there are nonrural residents, for  
42 example, individuals who reside in Fairbanks or North  
43 Pole, which is a nonrural area, who do serve on the  
44 Council based on their knowledge and experience, both  
45 in subsistence hunting and also are commercial  
46 sportseat on the Council. So the Councils are -- the  
47 role is to represent the rural communities within the  
48 region. And so in the event, and it would be a  
49 process, you know, and some of the concerns that you've  
50 identified in terms of a hard population threshold,

1 those are now eliminated under the current policy  
2 that's being proposed here, and so it would be a  
3 process with input from the community and from the  
4 Council, and if that were to happen though, there are  
5 still seats that people with experience in subsistence  
6 and knowledge of the region who would be  
7 representatives for the region.....

8

9 MR. SHEARS: That answers my  
10 question.....

11

12 MS. PATTON: .....could still serve on  
13 the Council.

14

15 MR. SHEARS: .....Mr. Chair.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Jennifer.

18

19 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
20 thank you, Eva. I just wanted to note that with a  
21 change in the regulations, those population thresholds  
22 that Mr. Shear mentioned, they were eliminated from  
23 regulations. So population size can be one of the  
24 factors that's considered in a nonrural analysis, but  
25 the intent of taking those criteria out was to make the  
26 process more flexible so that it could more accurately  
27 focus on the unique characteristics of each region, so  
28 population is one factor but not the only factor that  
29 would be considered, and that speaks to the other  
30 topics that you all have covered today about the social  
31 and cultural aspects, or connections for the community  
32 under consideration, among other factors that would be  
33 looked at in analysis.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you.  
36 That's enlightening, and I think it's good to know that  
37 those threshold levels are not exercised because things  
38 have changed over time and this policy would be  
39 different.

40

41 So, Bob, go ahead.

42

43 MR. SHEARS: So thank you for bringing  
44 that to my attention. So just mathematically when I  
45 think of thresholds, I think of numbers. But in this  
46 case the threshold is not a number, it's not a defined  
47 limit. Threshold is a concept that will be considered  
48 by panels of people.

49

50 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead.

1 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. Thank  
2 you, for -- yes, so we've used threshold now in a few  
3 different ways so I apologize for that.

4  
5 When I was speaking about threshold  
6 analysis earlier, that the threshold determine that the  
7 Board would make, that would -- really what I'm  
8 speaking to is that the Board will look at the proposal  
9 and say -- or ask the question of is it based on  
10 information not previously considered by the Board,  
11 does it provide a rationale for determining the  
12 nonrural status of a community that takes into  
13 consideration unique characteristics of the community,  
14 and does it provide substantive information that  
15 supports the provided rationale. So there -- and if it  
16 does meet those -- if it does address those things and  
17 the Board could conceivably say it meets what they call  
18 the threshold for moving to the next stage in the  
19 analysis.

20  
21 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you.  
22 Any further questions for Jennifer.

23  
24 MR. SHEARS: So I'll keep -- continue  
25 clarifying.

26  
27 So any person can submit a proposal and  
28 the proposal can contain an argument that defines a  
29 threshold that's not defined, is not clearly defined,  
30 it seems to me that someone with creative writing  
31 skills who works in a law office, an environmental firm  
32 in Denver, Colorado, could petition the Board to make a  
33 substantive effort in evaluating a proposal to make  
34 Barrow a nonrural designation and they could -- and it  
35 would have to be considered through the process. It  
36 could even be worded in such a way with scientific  
37 evidence behind it that could elevate it so that the  
38 threshold would be substantive enough to require public  
39 consideration. There's not a lot of limits, the  
40 definition in here that would prevent that from  
41 happening.

42  
43 I mean am I understanding that right,  
44 anybody can submit a proposal, so long as they're a  
45 very good technical writer with a lot of scientific  
46 information at their fingertips.

47  
48 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Jennifer.

49  
50 MS. HARDIN: Yes, through the Chair.

1 Mr. Shears. Anyone can -- could submit a proposal, and  
2 one of the reasons that those proposals will come  
3 before affected Regional Advisory Councils is to get  
4 input from the Councils on whether the information  
5 that's been provided does accurately reflect the unique  
6 characteristics of the affected region.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I'm going to  
9 hand the Chair over to you for a second, Mr. Chair.

10

11 MR. SHEARS: I got it Gordon.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, on the  
14 same line of concern, is there a -- is that hardwired  
15 into Federal law, you know, I mean I would have a  
16 problem with the Wilderness Society, you know, wanting  
17 to change the status of one of our communities because  
18 they're seeing these threats and, you know, I already  
19 see the Wilderness Society counting wolverine every  
20 year, there's permits that come in, they want to count  
21 all the wolverines so they can put some sort of  
22 proposal in to limit the take on wolverines. I mean  
23 that's one thing -- and Bob brings another good point,  
24 in there should be a way to capture frivolous  
25 proposals, you know, I think that's an alarming thing  
26 to hear, something like that. Like if there was one it  
27 should be on Prudhoe Bay, somebody should do that one.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead,  
32 Jennifer.

33

34 MS. HARDIN: Mr. Chair. Anyone can  
35 submit a proposal because this is -- we're talking  
36 about Federal public lands and anyone is eligible --  
37 any citizen is eligible to submit a proposal, any  
38 person. If you look on Page 20 of your draft policy,  
39 you'll see language in there that's titled limitation  
40 on submission of proposals to change from rural to  
41 nonrural, and this language is intended to be -- to  
42 limit what you've described as frivolous proposals, or  
43 repetitive proposals. So if a proposal goes in front  
44 of the Board and it's rejected for failure to comply  
45 with the guidelines or it's rejected after careful  
46 consideration by the Board, no proposals to change that  
47 community or area status as nonrural shall be accepted  
48 until there's been a demonstrated change in the  
49 community's rural identity.

50

1                   So if you -- so first of all, I'd like  
2 to say that the comments that you just provided are  
3 great comments and will go forward to the Board as  
4 something that needs to be -- that you feel -- you  
5 would like to see addressed in the policy and then if  
6 you -- we'd love to hear from you if you feel like this  
7 language that I just noted goes far enough, and any  
8 suggestions you might have related to that.

9

10                   Mr. Chair.

11

12                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Roy.

13

14                   MR. NAGEAK: Roy Nageak again.  
15 Subsistence hunter. I don't think it's going to work  
16 for the city of Barrow, because -- the city of (In  
17 Inupiaq) just want to clarify that.

18

19                   (Laughter)

20

21                   MR. NAGEAK: All these rural and  
22 nonrural considerations is not going to work if there's  
23 no enforcement available from the State and the Federal  
24 government. Look at it right now. Even if these are  
25 passed, who's going to control hundreds and hundreds of  
26 airplanes, sports guides, NANA region and North Slope,  
27 how many Fish and Game people are there, last count for  
28 the North Slope one or two State -- maybe the only guy  
29 right there, but he's not enforcement, he's just a good  
30 guy.

31

32                   (Laughter)

33

34                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thanks Roy.

35

36                   (Laughter)

37

38                   MR. NAGEAK: The guys that actively  
39 seek wanton waste, especially with the caribou, when  
40 they're just taking heads, it seems like the only  
41 people that are being picked on are the Native people.  
42 Selective law enforcement. There needs to be better  
43 enforcement of the take and the threshold of the  
44 animals that are in these lands.

45

46                   Again, the consideration for the  
47 animals rather than nonrural or rural designation, but  
48 the availability. And, again, the Federal government,  
49 in their own way solved a lot of problems that we've  
50 been looking at on the North Slope and blaming the



1 development and the industrial with the movement of the  
2 caribou. There's enough. There'll be enough. Caribou  
3 is a high, large item of interest because it's on land.  
4 And with good planning, the Federal government could  
5 close off sections of their large wrath of land  
6 periodically to support and maintain the big herd, even  
7 the State. And what we see on the ocean side is just  
8 designation of endangered species without no data,  
9 polar bear, with no data available. We've always had  
10 good years. And my wife has always controlled how my  
11 boys hunt, this is enough, that's it, there's self-  
12 internal control that we do because the women in our  
13 families know when we have enough for that species and  
14 enough for the skin boat. But then when you start  
15 sharing, people that are in need that keep asking for  
16 meat, she says go catch couple more oogruks because  
17 there's people that are in need of the meat and the  
18 boys go out and they take off and they give to the  
19 people that are in need.

20

21                   The threshold of endangered species and  
22 how it is being designated it's not -- it's just  
23 guessing and it's something that is happening outside  
24 of our environment, global warming, but we're taking  
25 the bulk of the impact in the rules and regulations  
26 that are being made, just by guessing.

27

28                   Oh, the polar bears are being  
29 endangered by global warming.

30

31                   Oh, the bearded seals are being  
32 endangered by global warming.

33

34                   So you Inupiaqs you better stop  
35 hunting.

36

37                   We're not responsible for global  
38 warming. So why do we take the impact. We know what's  
39 out there. We know what traditional knowledge is of  
40 our animals, that's why our women, when they say stop  
41 hunting we stop hunting, we got enough for what we need  
42 for the upcoming year. They have the inner control  
43 that we have utilized, every family knows, our  
44 subsistence hunters they know what is needed for a  
45 year, those are our internal controls, internal  
46 knowledge, and then you see these people play politics  
47 with global warming and then they place the law on us.

48

49                   And the laws of nonrural and rural,  
50 it's just dividing us as citizens of the State of

1 Alaska.

2

3 We need to be together on this.

4

5 And if the rural areas are being  
6 impacted by non-subsidized and high cost of  
7 transportation, then look at it from that angle on who  
8 really needs the food, rural or nonrural.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Once again,  
13 thank you, Roy.

14

15 Any further questions for Jennifer.  
16 I'm pretty sure -- okay, we got one.

17

18 Louis.

19

20 MR. L. BROWER: Yeah, Louis Brower for  
21 the record.

22

23 I was just reading the information on  
24 here and the question that I have, it pertains to --  
25 where did I read that -- this policy is intended to  
26 clarify existing practices under current statutes and  
27 regulations on here, so my question is when's the last  
28 time you've reviewed the statutes and regulations for  
29 this policy. Because when I look and read in the  
30 introductions prior to 2015, and in the second  
31 paragraph, in October 2009, second sentence, going  
32 down, December 31, 2012, and go to the next page, you  
33 see 2014, I see November 2015 down to the third  
34 paragraph, last sentence, Final Rule 2007, on there, so  
35 the question I have is when these policies and  
36 regulations are updated, you know, I'd like to see it  
37 updated to the time that we have now because some of  
38 the information that was regulated prior to my dad  
39 hunting and doing his subsistence over there, the laws  
40 back then almost don't apply today on there, you know,  
41 so they created what was meant for them back in the  
42 '70s, which impacted how they hunt, times are different  
43 today and so the question that I have on there is that  
44 if you're going to be using words like enforceable, at  
45 law, or inequity against the United States, these  
46 documents -- I'd like you guys on the panel to make  
47 sure that you're our -- your own community's rules,  
48 regulations and statutes are utilized in this document  
49 on there because that will make a big impact statement,  
50 what happens and how it hunts, back in '70s will not

1 apply today. Our populations are twice, almost in  
2 every community what it was back then. The needs and  
3 hunting lands has probably doubled in size on there.

4

5                   And the connections that we have, you  
6 know, we all live off the land, we all utilize it to  
7 benefit us, our families and our communities. The  
8 words that I hear today are very helpful in removing  
9 stress with what I've heard so far. So I commend you  
10 guys, I take my hats off to you guys that have to work  
11 on that.

12

13                   So just wanted to add to this, the  
14 question on there, for the current statutes and  
15 regulations on there, I think that's real crucial to  
16 utilize what's going to work best for each community  
17 for today.

18

19                   Thank you.

20

21                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
22 Lou. Any feedback on that there, Jennifer.

23

24                   MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 Just reiterate that the regulation, the rural  
26 determination regulations were changed in 2015, and the  
27 purpose of this policy, if it's -- once it's finalized  
28 would be to ensure that if we have to make nonrural  
29 determinations or if there are proposals to change a  
30 nonrural area back to rural, that that process proceeds  
31 in a manner that will take into account the unique  
32 characteristics of each region.

33

34                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I'm going to  
35 pass over the Chair.

36

37                   MR. SHEARS: I got it Gordon.

38

39                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
40 Bob.

41

42                   You know just looking at dates and  
43 timelines and stuff, how made the decision to use  
44 determinations made going back, what is it, about 10  
45 years now, to use that information as the starting  
46 point to move forward with a brand new regulation? Is  
47 that -- I mean that's currently what's going on here  
48 with the change, that everything is rural except for  
49 these ones listed here and that's our starting point.

50

1                   See, and when I want to make a point I  
2 start coughing, you know.

3

4                   MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

5

6                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thanks for  
7 giving me water.

8

9                   But who made that determination when  
10 there was already, like I don't see Prudhoe Bay listed  
11 here, and there was already arguments to those --  
12 arguments had already been fought to remove Prudhoe Bay  
13 and make it the same category as Fairbanks and stuff  
14 like that. But who's argument was that to do that?  
15 Just out of curiosity.

16

17                   MS. HARDIN: Mr. Chair. The Federal  
18 Subsistence Board made the decision to make the  
19 starting point the pre-2007 list of nonrural areas.  
20 There was only one other change to the list and that  
21 was in 2007 and there were an enormous number of public  
22 comments and public feedback received about that  
23 process, which generated a complete review of the rural  
24 determination process, and so the Board made the  
25 decision to use the starting point, the list that  
26 existed prior to that 2007 change.

27

28                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: That's all I  
29 had. I just wanted to know who's idea it was. I'm  
30 pretty sure there's one person in the Federal  
31 Subsistence Board who's big idea happened. But,  
32 anyway, we'll just leave it at that, the Federal  
33 Subsistence Board did it and we'll just have to relent  
34 to that.

35

36                   Any further questions for Jennifer on  
37 rural determination policy -- nonrural determination.

38

39                   MR. SHEARS: Just one final comment,  
40 Mr. Chair.

41

42                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, go  
43 ahead, Bob.

44

45                   MR. SHEARS: And I'll hand the Chair  
46 back to you.

47

48                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yes, go ahead.

49

50                   MR. SHEARS: This is going before the

1 Board for approval, going to the Board for approval  
2 next year, am I correct?

3

4 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. This  
5 will go to the Board in January of 2017.

6

7 MR. SHEARS: Just a -- I know we've  
8 been talking about this, you know, rewriting the  
9 nonrural determination -- you know been seeing this  
10 coming before the Council now for a number of years,  
11 we've been talking about this, but I get the -- this  
12 wasn't exactly what I had in mind from the beginning.  
13 It works. It's a useful tool, but I wouldn't mind  
14 seeing this cook for another year, what's the hurry to  
15 have this in place.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead,  
18 Jennifer. Good question.

19

20 MS. HARDIN: The Board has asked to  
21 take this up in January. We can certainly -- we will  
22 certainly forward that comment to the Board. Currently  
23 we have changed the regulation but we don't have a  
24 process in place of moving forward and so we need to  
25 establish a process to move forward. This would -- if  
26 the Board was to finalize a policy, if you look in your  
27 timeline, proposals would be accepted during fisheries,  
28 at the same time where we request proposals to change  
29 fish and shellfish regulations, so the next time that  
30 would occur would be January of 2018, so the Board is  
31 looking to -- would like to have a process in place  
32 before we get to that point.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any further  
35 questions for Jennifer.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: If not, thank  
40 you for your presentation. I hope we provided a  
41 multitude of comments and concerns that you'll take  
42 back and analyze and conjure something up with all of  
43 that stuff.

44

45 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Could I ask  
46 for a five minute break.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: There's a  
49 request for a five minute break, what's the wish of the  
50 Board.

1 MR. OOMITUK: Second that.  
2  
3 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Lee.  
4  
5 MR. KAYOTUK: Question.  
6  
7 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right, the  
8 question was there so we're on break.  
9  
10 (Laughter)  
11  
12 (Off record)  
13  
14 (On record)  
15  
16 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Our next  
17 agenda item is -- I'd like to recognize that Rosemary  
18 has joined the Council here telephonically and welcome  
19 Rosemary.  
20  
21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.  
22  
23 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And I'll refer  
24 to Eva real quick where we are on the agenda. We just  
25 did the rural/nonrural determination policy and there  
26 was extensive dialogue on that.  
27  
28 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
29 thank you so much Rosemary for calling in and just let  
30 us know how we can be of help and support here, glad to  
31 hear your voice on line and our best wishes to your mom  
32 and your family.  
33  
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you,  
35 everybody.  
36  
37 MS. PATTON: And, Rosemary, the Council  
38 was going to work through action items first while  
39 we've got quorum here today, just to make sure we cover  
40 all those things. We just covered the draft nonrural  
41 determination policy. .805(c) report is just a basic  
42 report from the Board and I'll circle back around at  
43 the end of all the action items and cover that for the  
44 Council briefly.  
45  
46 We added to the agenda, No. 10, under  
47 new business, Wildlife Special Action 16-03, which, if  
48 the Council recalls, again, was a proposal submitted by  
49 ADF&G for Unit 23 to open that area to non-residents,  
50 and that was anticipated that the Board would take

1 action on the proposal. With the recent retirement of  
2 Tim Towarak, the Chair of the Board, action has not  
3 been taken on this yet and so there's an opportunity,  
4 since the Council's are meeting in this timeframe, for  
5 each of the Councils to review and make recommendations  
6 on this wildlife special action. So we have Joshua  
7 Ream who you had met earlier, who is our new  
8 anthropologist with OSM, and he jumped in head first  
9 and did a fabulous really in-depth analysis which you  
10 have before you now, and includes -- these are color  
11 that the Council has, and we do have copies for the  
12 public on the table over there of the analysis, and  
13 Josh will provide a review and opportunity for  
14 questions and discussions.

15  
16 Then this is an action item so the  
17 Board is seeking feedback from the Council and your  
18 recommendation.

19  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
23 Eva.

24  
25 We'll take up, under new business,  
26 Staff analysis for WSA 16-03. Joshua Ream you have the  
27 floor.

28  
29 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good  
30 afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of the Council.  
31 Again, my name is Joshua Ream, my English name. My  
32 Tlingit name is (In Tlingit). I'm an anthropologist at  
33 the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. I  
34 am going to summarize the analysis for Special Action  
35 Request SWA16-03 that you have in front of you. There  
36 are also copies of the State's original request at the  
37 side of the room. Each of you should have both of  
38 those documents in front of you, the copy of the  
39 request and a copy of our analysis.

40  
41 Last April, the Federal Subsistence  
42 Board approved Special Action Request WSA 16-01 and  
43 closed Federal public lands in Unit 23 to the harvest  
44 of caribou except by Federally-qualified subsistence  
45 users until June 30th, 2017. Federally-qualified  
46 subsistence users are residents of communities listed  
47 in Table 1 on Page 7 of the analysis.

48  
49 Last June the State of Alaska, through  
50 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game submitted a

1 special action request to the Federal Subsistence Board  
2 asking that Federal public lands in Unit 23 be reopened  
3 to caribou hunting.

4

5                   The Board has not acted yet on WSA 16-  
6 03 for several reasons.

7

8                   One being that currently the Board does  
9 not have a Chair and cannot take action. The former  
10 Chair Tim Towarak left the Board in September. We're  
11 asking you to take action on the State's request 16-03.

12

13                   At its fall 2015 meeting the Northwest  
14 Arctic Council submitted WSA 16-01 requesting that the  
15 Board close Federal public lands in Unit 23 to the  
16 harvest of caribou except by Federally-qualified  
17 subsistence users. The Council approved the submission  
18 of 16-01 because of the uncertainty of how newly  
19 approved regulations would impact the herd along with  
20 the State's inability to produce accurate population  
21 estimates for the year due to poor light conditions  
22 that were encountered during their aerial surveys. And  
23 the degradation of meaningful subsistence activities  
24 due to user conflicts in the region. Council members  
25 acknowledge that the special action was a tool provided  
26 to them by Title VIII of ANILCA to protect subsistence  
27 uses and that it would represent a one year trial,  
28 after which the action's effects would be evaluated.

29

30                   In March of 2016 the All 10 Councils  
31 met in Anchorage. The Northwest Arctic and North Slope  
32 Councils recommended the Board approve WSA16-01. The  
33 Seward Peninsula Council opposed the action. The  
34 Western Interior Council abstained from voting on the  
35 action. At its public meeting in April 2016, the Board  
36 approved WSA 16-01 closing Federal public lands in Unit  
37 23 to the harvest of caribou by non-Federal;y-qualified  
38 users for the period between July 1st, 2016 through  
39 June 30th, 2017, the regulatory year.

40

41                   The Board determined that there was  
42 sufficient evidence indicating that the closure was  
43 necessary to allow for the continuation of subsistence  
44 uses and for the conservation of a healthy caribou  
45 population as mandated under ANILCA Section .815.  
46 Evidence included public testimony expressed to the  
47 Board by residents of the area, the position of two  
48 affected Councils, the Northwest Arctic and the North  
49 Slope, and the current status of the herd. The Board  
50 concluded that a closure to all but Federally-qualified



1 subsistence users was consistent with providing a  
2 subsistence priority and assurance that a rural  
3 preference was being provided. The Board also  
4 concluded the closure recognized the cultural and  
5 social aspects of subsistence activities, which may be  
6 hampered by direct interaction between local and non-  
7 local users.

8  
9 In the current request, WSA16-03, the  
10 State said that new information indicated improvements  
11 in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, calf production,  
12 recruitment, survival and weight, that adult females  
13 exhibited very good body conditions and high pregnancy  
14 rates in 2015 and in 2016 and that the WACH population  
15 estimate for the fall 2015 was 206,000 caribou falling  
16 within the WACH Management's plans conservative harvest  
17 management strategy. The WATCH, Western Arctic Caribou  
18 Herd Management Plan's Strategies are described in  
19 Table 2 on Page 15 of the analysis.

20  
21 The proposed Federal regulation is on  
22 Page 3 of the analysis in front of you. The extent of  
23 Federal public lands effected, those which are  
24 currently closed comprise about 69 percent, or a little  
25 over two-thirds of Unit 23. As described in the  
26 previous analysis for WSA 16-01, since 1988 the Alaska  
27 Department of Fish and Game, the US Bureau of Land  
28 Management, the National Park Service and the US Fish  
29 and Wildlife Service have discussed, researched and  
30 implemented regulations to address user conflicts in  
31 Unit 23. Two examples shown in Map 2 on Page 6 are the  
32 Board of Game's Noatak Controlled Use Area and the  
33 Noatak National Park and Preserves special commercial  
34 use area. The Noatak Controlled Use Area is closed  
35 from August 15th through September 30th to the use of  
36 aircraft to transport big game hunters into the area.  
37 In the Noatak Special Commercial Use Area, commercial  
38 transporters can transport caribou hunters only after  
39 September 15th in order to allow a sufficient number of  
40 caribou to cross the Noatak River to establish  
41 migration routes and to allow local hunters the first  
42 opportunity to harvest caribou in the area. However,  
43 Federally-qualified subsistence users have consistently  
44 reported conflicts with non-local caribou hunters and  
45 observe aircraft affecting the behavior of individuals  
46 and groups of caribou in areas of Unit 23. This is  
47 summarized in the user conflict section of the analysis  
48 beginning on Page 35.

49  
50 The biological background for the herd.

1 The WACH The WACH Working Group developed a management  
2 table for this herd, again, this is Table 2 on Page 14  
3 of the analysis. Caribou populations naturally do  
4 fluctuate over time. Since peaking at 490,000 animals  
5 in 2003, the caribou population has declined over 55  
6 percent since that time. The Alaska Department of Fish  
7 and Game completed a photo census of the herd in July,  
8 which yielded a population estimate of 200,928 caribou.  
9 The rate of decline has decreased.

10

11 The harvest of caribou from the Western  
12 Arctic Herd has been relatively stable since between  
13 1990 and 2013, and is shown in Figure 5 on Page 22.  
14 From 1999 to 2013 the average annual estimated harvest  
15 was 11,984 caribou, ranging from 10,666 to 13,537  
16 animals per year. Local hunters have taken about 95  
17 percent of the harvest of this herd since the late  
18 1990s. Based on harvest reports to the Alaska  
19 Department of Fish and Game, in 2012 and 2013  
20 regulatory years, the reported harvest from this herd  
21 by non-local hunters were 520 caribou, and 397 caribou  
22 respectively.

23

24 We looked at the number of non-  
25 Federally-qualified subsistence users hunting in  
26 different parts of Unit 23 on Map 8 on Page 31. The  
27 darker the area on the map, the higher the use by non-  
28 Federally-qualified users.

29

30 Map 10 on Page 40 shows land status in  
31 Unit 23. The cross hatched areas are Federal public  
32 lands that are currently closed to the harvest of  
33 caribou by non-Federally-qualified subsistence users.  
34 State lands, which have remained open, are indicated in  
35 pink or the darker shade of gray on the copies that are  
36 not in color.

37

38 Current events. The Office of  
39 Subsistence Management has held public meetings in  
40 Barrow, Kotzebue, and Nome, these were held in July of  
41 2016, we accepted comments to the Board concerning  
42 WSA16-03 and those are summarized in the analysis as  
43 well.

44

45 Consultation between tribes and the  
46 Board was held in August for WSA16-03 at the US Fish  
47 and Wildlife Service regional office in Anchorage, in  
48 person and by teleconference. And opportunity for  
49 ANCSA corporations to consult with the Board was also  
50 held in August at the regional office in Anchorage, in

1 person and by teleconference. Comments from these  
2 meetings are also described in the analysis beginning  
3 on Page 44.

4

5                   The Northwest Arctic Council voted  
6 unanimously to oppose WSA16-03 in the most recent round  
7 of RAC meetings, as did the Western Interior Council.  
8 The Seward Peninsula Council will be acting on the  
9 proposal this week.

10

11                   Currently pending are also two  
12 proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Game by the  
13 Noatak, Kivalina, and Kotzebue Sound Fish and Game  
14 Advisory Committees. These proposals to be considered  
15 to in January of 2017 seek an extension to the  
16 boundaries of the Noatak Controlled Use Area.

17

18                   If the Board approves WSA16-03, Federal  
19 public lands in Unit 23 will reopen to caribou hunting  
20 by non-Federally-qualified subsistence users for the  
21 remainder of the regulatory year. In its request to  
22 the Board, WSA16-03, the State said that new  
23 information indicated improvements in caribou calf  
24 production, but calf production has likely had little  
25 influence on the herd's population decline. Decreased  
26 calf survival through summer and fall, and decreased  
27 recruitment into the herd have likely contributed to  
28 the population decline. New information indicated  
29 improvements in the herd's caribou recruitment,  
30 survival and weight. Recent research demonstrates that  
31 2015 and 2016 cohorts make up a large proportion of the  
32 herd. Because of their young age, they remain somewhat  
33 vulnerable to difficult winter conditions. Evaluating  
34 the over-winter survival rates of the large cohort of  
35 2016 will help to put the demographic potential of this  
36 cohort into context.

37

38                   Increased cow mortality has likely  
39 affected the herd decline. New information indicated  
40 that indicated that adult females exhibited very good  
41 body condition and high pregnancy rates in 2015 and  
42 2016. And the new data demonstrated decreasing annual  
43 cow mortality rates in three of the past for years.

44

45                   Results of a July 1st, 2016 photo  
46 census survey resulted in a population estimate of  
47 200,928 animals. Results of this census indicate an  
48 average annual decline of five percent per year between  
49 2013 and 2015, representing a lower rate than the 15  
50 percent annual decline that was experienced between

1 2011 and 2013. While there is substantial uncertainty  
2 in the harvestable surplus estimates, the overall trend  
3 is decreasing as the population declines. If  
4 population projections and harvest estimates are  
5 accurate, the harvestable surplus is likely already  
6 being exceeded.

7  
8 The preliminary OSM conclusion at this  
9 time is neutral on temporary Special Action WSA16-03.  
10 The analysis has demonstrated that there are many valid  
11 arguments for both supporting and rejecting WSA16-03;  
12 however, data gaps also exist that hinder a complete  
13 understanding of the complete biological and  
14 anthropological components surrounding this issue.

15  
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the  
17 Council.

18  
19 I'll try to answer any questions that  
20 you may have for me.

21  
22 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
23 Joshua. I think this is a very, very good analysis.  
24 Just from hearing what you're talking about and you  
25 bring a lot of common sense approach to pros and cons,  
26 and the argument for both sides is -- I don't know if  
27 it's split even or not, but you need to err on the side  
28 of caution a lot of times because in my own personal  
29 opinion, you have 34 communities that are depending on  
30 this resource. 34 communities, including North Slope  
31 communities on this caribou.

32  
33 So before I ask any other questions I'm  
34 going to refrain and see if there are concerns and  
35 questions from Point Hope and from Wainwright and  
36 Barrow, Kaktovik.

37  
38 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chairman. What's the  
39 bio on this person that's making the comments. We  
40 don't know who he is, where he came from and what's his  
41 background.

42  
43 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good.  
44 Very good. Joshua, I think if you could talk about  
45 yourself, where you came from and what you've been  
46 doing.

47  
48 MR. REAM: I would be happy to, thank  
49 you, Mr. Chair. Again, my name is Joshua Ream. I'm a  
50 new anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence

1 Management and I have now been assigned to the North  
2 Slope. I came from the State's Division of Subsistence  
3 approximately four months ago and I was with them for  
4 three and a half years. While I was with them I was  
5 pursuing my doctoral degree at the University of Alaska  
6 Fairbanks. It's an inter-disciplinary degree in ethno-  
7 biology. I was working primarily in Southeast Alaska  
8 with Tlingit People's in the Wrangell and Petersburg  
9 Area to document their relationships, their cultural  
10 relationships to non-game species on the landscape and  
11 also to evaluate wetland health through the populations  
12 of amphibians that exist in freshwater areas in  
13 Southeast Alaska.

14  
15 So I have been working for the State,  
16 and now for the Feds, on both fisheries and wildlife  
17 issues for several years and through my graduate work I  
18 have also worked with non-game species in the state.

19  
20 MR. NAGEAK: Where were you born and  
21 raised, again.

22  
23 MR. REAM: I was born and raised in  
24 Pennsylvania and both sides of my family are from that  
25 area. I have lived in Alaska on and off since 2003,  
26 most recently since 2009.

27  
28 MR. NAGEAK: And you started working  
29 for the State when?

30  
31 MR. REAM: Three and a half years ago,  
32 sir.

33  
34 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you.

35  
36 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Question's  
37 from the RAC.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Anybody want  
42 to indulge or I'm going to start indulging here in a  
43 few minutes.

44  
45 (Laughter)

46  
47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon, this is  
48 Rosemary.

49  
50 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Rosemary, go

1 ahead.

2

3

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate this  
4 discussion and I agree that we should err on the side  
5 of caution. Doing research does have its plus and  
6 minuses and when we are showing researchers showing  
7 concern then I support the stance that we had taken in  
8 our previous meeting with the Northwest RAC and  
9 initiating identifying protective measures that we need  
10 to do to give us hopes that we will not have an  
11 extended time of trying.

12

13

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
14 Rosemary. Those are good points and I always like to  
15 say we got to err on the side or caution when we're  
16 dealing with putting food on the table for a lot of  
17 communities with caribou.

18

19

Any other comments from the North Slope  
20 RAC.

21

22

MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

23

24

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Bob Shears  
25 from Wainwright/Barrow.

26

27

MR. SHEARS: The population being where  
28 it's at, it's good to have a good count. 200,000  
29 animals puts us on a borderline between conservation  
30 and preservation.

31

32

With being cognizant of that, I think  
33 it's too soon to jump to conclusion although that is  
34 good news that we've had, hoping that we can get  
35 another year of data to identify a trend. So I won't  
36 be making a motion to adopt this resolution, this  
37 proposal.

38

39

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you.

40

41

MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

42

43

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Steve Oomituk,  
44 Point Hope.

45

46

MR. OOMITUK: Yes, I agree with Bob.  
47 You know it's too soon yet. The numbers look good, you  
48 know, I know we talked about 100 -- 200,000, it's still  
49 early. You know, it's the first time in years that  
50 we've seen caribou in our area and it -- they can still

1 hunt on State land, and this is Federal lands that  
2 they're restricted from, non-residentials.

3

4 I have no more comments, I agree with  
5 Bob.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
8 Steve.

9

10 Ryan, from State of Alaska.

11

12 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and  
13 Council members. I just wanted to point out a couple  
14 of things, not, you know, I mean just simple things  
15 here, not disagreeing with anybody by any means, just  
16 wanting to make sure that we, you know, remember a few  
17 things, and also to say a couple things about how this  
18 came about.

19

20 You know, at the time when the State  
21 put this through we didn't have the new population  
22 estimate and at that time we were confident that this  
23 non-resident harvest was sustainable and we still are,  
24 you know, even with this new population level, that we  
25 can handle 500 caribou. I just wanted to point that  
26 out.

27

28 You know, and this is only for Unit 23,  
29 right. This is only for folks in Unit 23, as far as  
30 where people can go, where. So all that does, you  
31 know, is it just kind of changes where the harvest  
32 happens, right, in 23. It's still happening, you know,  
33 it just maybe creates more user conflict. It could be  
34 a possibility, we don't really know, you know, 100  
35 percent, but looking at the maps and the analysis and  
36 things like that, it's, you know, like there's  
37 possibilities there. You know, we're not going to know  
38 how this really worked until we get, you know, kind of  
39 the harvest information after this winter as far as,  
40 you know, non-local versus local and where and what sex  
41 and all that stuff.

42

43 Let's see, what else did I have.

44

45 So, you know, something else I just  
46 wanted to, you know, just so we can think about it, I  
47 guess these are all points just to think about, not to  
48 rub anybody the wrong way or create some sort of thing.  
49 But, you know, the other thing was we had just had a  
50 huge regulation change, you know, just previous to this

1 and now we're not really going to get a chance to fully  
2 see what the effects of that were. Maybe that was  
3 doing something good but now, I don't know. Maybe we  
4 don't know, maybe this helps people, or, you know, was  
5 it from this regulation change, you know. So those are  
6 just.....

7

8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Can I.....

9

10 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes, sure.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: You know  
13 you're going really fast but I'm trying to be right  
14 behind you, are you talking about the regulation --  
15 regulatory changes that we enacted changing from 10  
16 caribou to five caribou and no more hunting bulls from  
17 while they're rutting and things like that and limiting  
18 time and then trying not to hunt female caribou while  
19 they're super pregnant and that's the regulatory change  
20 you're talking about?

21

22 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's correct.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: But you know  
25 what those are traditional practices. We enacted  
26 traditional practices that was already done by local  
27 people and we wanted to make sure it was recognized by  
28 the sporthunters because 99.9 percent of the time the  
29 sporthunters and the other folks are looking for the  
30 biggest bull. You know how many one -- one bull can  
31 impregnate one caribou, and I watched it. I watched it  
32 in the upper Ikpikpuk, one bull beating out 50 other  
33 bulls, I mean fighting, I mean horns are clashing, that  
34 one bull easily gets a harem of about 50 or 60. When  
35 you kill bull you're minimizing the recruitment of  
36 probably 50 females, easily.

37

38 So those are just some of my own  
39 traditional observations. I've watched what a big bull  
40 is all about. They call it (In Inupiat) in my world.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, no, I agree with  
45 you Gordon, that's a good point, and thanks for sharing  
46 that. And, you know, did you guys -- maybe this is a  
47 question for another time, but what was the perspective  
48 on the landscape this year, did folks see fewer bulls?  
49 I'm just curious from a biological standpoint of, you  
50 know, how the herd's doing and things like that.



1 Was there fewer bulls out there, more.

2

3 MR. SHEARS: Wainwright, fewer bulls.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, we went  
6 caribou hunting this fall, we only got females.

7 There's a few other ones that got some bulls and young  
8 bucks, but I mean that's -- you know, usually that's  
9 the prime one that I'm hunting, but if I'm going to  
10 hunt females I select and look for the biggest female  
11 that are not, you know, rearing a child or something,  
12 or calf, you know.

13

14 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thanks -- thanks for  
15 that information there. Those are just things I just  
16 wanted to bring up to think about, you know, that  
17 things can shift around with this location, it could  
18 even bring more non-residents to 26A, you know, for  
19 example. I think Bob had made that point at one time.  
20 You know, so I guess we'll see what happens in the  
21 future. I just wanted to have those thoughts -- you  
22 know, food for thought anyhow, so thank you for letting  
23 me share.

24

25 Thanks.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
28 Ryan, from the State.

29

30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Is that you  
33 Lee.

34

35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This is Rosemary.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead,  
38 Rosemary.

39

40

41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Is there any means  
42 in which we can assess the harvest so that if there is  
43 a concern that there is a reaction without waiting for  
44 the count, is there going to be any check that allows  
45 us to watch what's happening out there, if we're not  
46 going to support restricting to non-resident users,  
47 what other mechanisms are we going to be looking at to  
48 ascertain that -- if there's already concern that we  
49 could be harvesting over the threshold level, is there  
50 going to be any assessments?

1                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah,  
2 Rosemary, maybe I need to gather my thoughts and your  
3 train of thought here, I didn't quite get -- are you  
4 talking about we might further have to visit or monitor  
5 or some research going on to make sure that the  
6 threshold level that Joshua has expressed, that we may  
7 already be exceeding that, already, that monitoring  
8 start to be funded and research going on to monitor  
9 that?

10  
11                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, what kind of  
12 -- are we going to have any assurances -- if we're not  
13 going to take the bold action to be as cautious as we  
14 can, restricting it now because we're concerned about  
15 our numbers; if we're not going to do that, do we have  
16 any other mechanisms that we're going to be assessing,  
17 not waiting for next year's count when we go through  
18 this harvest this next year.

19  
20                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: It sounds like  
21 you want to proactive instead of reactive.

22  
23                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. I want to make  
24 sure that we're monitoring appropriately so if we do  
25 get a concern on thresholds, that we are able to react  
26 as necessary.

27  
28                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I think that  
29 raises some pretty good concerns and issues and it  
30 seems like we have a really good scholar here with  
31 Joshua that put together a study and, you know, just  
32 from what he's saying I would say don't support WSA 16-  
33 03, and would be important to hear the justification  
34 for the Northwest Arctic RAC on why they opposed 16-03  
35 as well or the other RAC, just as an insight and what  
36 they're looking at, but it seems to me that the study  
37 that you did, your analysis, seems to suggest that we  
38 maintain Unit 23 as a area for Federally-qualified  
39 subsistence users at this time.

40  
41                   I think it's actually premature to turn  
42 something over based on possibly a 900 count caribou  
43 addition to what we thought -- it seems to me it didn't  
44 make -- the count didn't establish 30,000 more caribou,  
45 it established maybe nearly 1,000 maybe, and we need to  
46 continue to be in a preservation mode because the  
47 Federally-subistence qualified users need that much.  
48 We need -- there needs to be a new threshold, this  
49 study going on, what is the amount -- the harvestable  
50 surplus and do we use the harvestable surplus in the

1 Federal regs and is the State use that harvestable  
2 surplus to create the ANS. I mean those are two almost  
3 intertwined, because one's State and one is Feds, and  
4 there needs to be, I think, a more comprehensive study  
5 about every community that this caribou herd visits and  
6 err on the side of caution and make sure that it  
7 supports every community, and don't keep us on the  
8 borderline.

9

10 If we're going to consider changing  
11 something it should be on the basis of sustained yield.  
12 It has to be sustainable. The sustained yield  
13 principle. It doesn't mean you harvest it to a  
14 borderline. You have to be able to do it every year.  
15 You don't change the rule mid-stream just so the guides  
16 and operators and non-resident hunts, rural communities  
17 can go to it, and say oh there's 900 extra, let's get  
18 all of those 900 extra and then you're going right back  
19 down, that's not sustained yield. You must also plan  
20 for sustained yield for the non-resident and the non --  
21 the rural -- the nonrural communities, and don't play  
22 with the numbers where you're on the borderline all the  
23 time. That's, I think, just prudent.

24

25 Roy -- or I'll have Joshua respond real  
26 quick and then I'll get Roy on next.

27

28 Go ahead Joshua.

29

30 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just  
31 a couple of points. I think the Councils that have  
32 already met, especially the Northwest Arctic and the  
33 Western Interior had discussions very similar to the  
34 topics that you were pointing out, on erring on the  
35 side of caution. The Northwest Arctic as well as many  
36 members of the public during our public meetings  
37 mentioned that this is a one year trial and they'd like  
38 to see it play out so that they can determine whether  
39 or not it was effective in meeting their needs. I  
40 know that the Western Interior also had extensive  
41 discussions on the bull/cow ratios and the importance  
42 of those and it was pointed out that being below the 40  
43 bulls to 100 cows was quite significant and they wanted  
44 to make sure if it was below, that the closure remained  
45 in place.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
50 Joshua.

1 Roy.  
2  
3 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you. I wanted to  
4 welcome -- too close -- okay, I thought you were  
5 telling me.....  
6  
7 (Laughter)  
8  
9 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
10 Chairman. And, welcome to Alaska.  
11  
12 (Laughter)  
13  
14 MR. NAGEAK: Always the lowest one on  
15 the totem pole that's told to go meet with the Eskimos,  
16 it's okay, you're learning.  
17  
18 MR. REAM: Thank you.  
19  
20 MR. NAGEAK: Roy Nageak, subsistence  
21 hunter for the record.  
22  
23 Just 10 years ago, wait 18, 19, my son  
24 was like 19, 20 years old and working for the State of  
25 Alaska because he went through the high school system  
26 of tagging caribou up in the Kobuk River with the  
27 caribou management by the State of Alaska and he worked  
28 with the State of Alaska in high school and during the  
29 summers and that's when he became a Fish and Wildlife  
30 guy, became dear to his heart, especially with the herd  
31 -- caribou herd, which the Western Arctic Herd migrates  
32 without no boundaries between NANA region, Nome, and  
33 other areas and like I say, about 10 years ago a big  
34 herd, and I always check in the summertime, like in  
35 July when the mosquitos start bothering them, and I  
36 went up to the Caswell Road and there must have been  
37 like a thousand caribou right along -- this is personal  
38 experience -- long ago -- 10 years ago, in fact, and I  
39 saw thousands of caribou and I called the house up and  
40 my son answered and I said, man get my fourwheeler  
41 ready, get everything ready we're going to go catch  
42 caribou there's like a thousand herd right along the  
43 Caswell Road. And he says, only, we just landed on the  
44 plane and there's like a herd of 10,000, that's  
45 covering from the Caswell Road all the way into the  
46 Meade River Area and it's like a herd of 10,000. And  
47 I'm going you got to be kidding me, no, dad, we flew  
48 over all of them. And the management of the caribou at  
49 that time and the process of management has gone down  
50 to where it's pitiful.

1                   The State of Alaska is mismanaging the  
2 Western Arctic Herd and in the process we've seen the  
3 concerns of development and the air traffic that covers  
4 in cities like Nuiqsut and then Anaktuvuk Pass of game  
5 guides and the use of aircrafts in the sense,  
6 controlled by the Game Board, what is made available  
7 across the two regions in the management and the taking  
8 of the caribou herd, the big caribou herd that was able  
9 to sustain at that time, 10 years ago, the taking of  
10 all the caribou, but somewhere along the line it  
11 started going down rapidly. And then just the closing  
12 of Game Unit 23 after the last six, seven years, of  
13 Anaktuvuk Pass not having game go through their  
14 mountains, which used to migrate in hundreds, and this  
15 during the Federal -- and I went through and I kept  
16 asking NANA people that I know, I says, how is the  
17 closure of Unit 23 to non-locals, how was that, we  
18 never seen so many caribou come by, like how they used  
19 to be, and then Anaktuvuk Pass, we know that, there is  
20 hundreds of caribou that went through, because of what,  
21 the only reason that it points out is the change of  
22 local in Game Unit 23 and how the impact of airplanes  
23 and game guides impact a herd.

24  
25                   And that's why my earlier comments look  
26 at the threshold of the animals rather than rural and  
27 urban, nonrural area people. The residents of Alaska  
28 should have first priority for the food, not for the  
29 racks, for the food. And I bet you if we put that on  
30 ballot and direct the State of Alaska that this  
31 resource must be used for food, not for game guides for  
32 the biggest racks, I agree with Gordon, because I've  
33 seen big bulls and chasing me while I'm trying to get  
34 their females without the young ones, they're  
35 aggressive and they're like harems of 30, 40 and it's  
36 good for us because it -- I would never go near a bull  
37 that's in rut, you tell me man, don't like the stink,  
38 it stays with you for like a week, if you men know what  
39 I mean. But just (In Inupiat) let's save Alaska  
40 through the Game Board have been oppressive and  
41 suppressive to the Native people that depend on the  
42 natural resources for their food.

43  
44                   And it really bothers me, and like I  
45 stated earlier again, how can game wardens, how many do  
46 they have in the NANA region -- how many game wardens  
47 in the NANA region, Unit 23, State of Alaska.

48  
49                   MR. KLIMSTRA: There's one State guy.  
50

1 MR. NAGEAK: What?  
2  
3 MR. KLIMSTRA: There's one State Game  
4 Warden in Unit 23.  
5  
6 MR. NAGEAK: One. One.  
7  
8 MR. KLIMSTRA: There's none in 26A.  
9  
10 MR. NAGEAK: And then they use the  
11 State Troopers to take care of people like in Point  
12 Hope, like when all the caribou died off from  
13 starvation and they blamed some people over there, but  
14 that's the past.  
15  
16 But when you look at one -- and maybe  
17 one for the North Slope and nobody's taking care of the  
18 air traffic and it just goes all over and do as they  
19 please.  
20  
21 I was at the AFN, again, and I  
22 approached Faa, okay, there seems to be a problem here  
23 in the North Slope with development and all those air  
24 traffic, how do you control all that, he says, we  
25 can't, there's no money to track any planes or anything  
26 out there on the North Slope or NANA region but we sure  
27 could track ourself with a little GPS and see where --  
28 just one simple law of stating, if you're going to use  
29 an aircraft to go hunt the natural resources like the  
30 caribou, it should be law, that you should show us  
31 where you've been and where you hunt and what you take.  
32 There should be a law against taking bulls. And I bet  
33 you this law, we put it as a ballot, that there'll be  
34 no bulls, or any caribou that is to be hunted in the  
35 State of Alaska must be for food, not for racks that  
36 need to be flown out, and it's a natural resource that  
37 needs to be kept in Alaska.  
38  
39 It's time.  
40  
41 It's time.  
42  
43 If they can't regulate it, one  
44 enforcement officer in the NANA region and I don't know  
45 how many on the North Slope, they can't manage it,  
46 there's too many chances of not following the law.  
47  
48 And, also, again, the threshold of the  
49 caribou, this little closure of Unit 23 expanded where  
50 the caribou used to roam freely and allowed them to go

1 in areas that they feed out of that they know and  
2 they're going by the hundreds to return to where they  
3 were deviated by aircrafts and that's why the  
4 decimation of the herd, because they're not allowed to  
5 roam freely as they have in the past by game guides,  
6 pilots, or planes. They should stop using planes to  
7 decimate a natural resource. They should stop hunting  
8 to make money, people come from outside to make money  
9 or pay money for our resources that is being utilized  
10 for food for the state of Alaska.

11  
12 Rural and nonrural.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
17 Roy.

18  
19 Any other comments from Council  
20 members.

21  
22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Lee, you have  
26 any comments on the analysis provided by Joshua Ream.

27  
28 MR. KAYOTUK: No, not at this time.  
29 You know, our caribou is pretty scarce on the east side  
30 of Kaktovik but these new seasons are changing quite a  
31 bit and it's not easy to go out there and get something  
32 in the same day, you'd have to hunt and track to see  
33 where these animals are, where they're going, or any  
34 movement in the area of different units.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
39 Lee. And, you know, we recognize you're in the far  
40 eastern portion of the North Slope and your caribou is  
41 usually primarily maybe the Porcupine Herd and maybe  
42 parts of the Central Arctic Herd in those areas. But  
43 once in a great while I've seen Lincoln Parrett, a  
44 little animation, go hop over the Pipeline once in  
45 awhile, and a few.....

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER:  
50 .....stragglers go over your way.

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon.  
2  
3 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead,  
4 Rosemary.  
5  
6 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I thank everyone for  
7 the discussion on this. I understand our Board wants  
8 to be cautious on making a decision on this point. I  
9 do recognize my own preference would be most proactive  
10 but because we have to work within our Board, and we  
11 don't have the support to support the resolution, I  
12 recognize that. I just want to state that my  
13 preference would be to be as most proactive as we can.  
14  
15 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
16 Rosemary.  
17  
18 Any other North Slope Regional Advisory  
19 Council member comments on 16-03.  
20  
21 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.  
22  
23 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Steve, Point  
24 Hope.  
25  
26 MR. OOMITUK: Yes, you know, when you  
27 observe, when you hunt -- you know, when you shoot a  
28 bull, you know, that's a leader, and, you know, the  
29 rest of the herd is lost. You know, like what Roy was  
30 saying there, you know, we hunt them at a certain time  
31 but, you know, when sporthunters go out there to shoot  
32 the biggest bull, you know, and all these females and  
33 younger bulls are following, if you shoot that big one  
34 that's in the front the rest of the herd is lost, you  
35 know, until somebody takes over. In the old days, you  
36 know, we always let the first herd come through, you  
37 know, so the rest of the herd will follow, you know, we  
38 never killed the first caribou that come through.  
39  
40 You know, now we see more and more  
41 sporthunters being pushed in front of the herd and, you  
42 know, the changing of the migration and then like what  
43 he said, I was talking with Anaktuvuk Pass people  
44 recently at AFN, you know, after the closing of Unit 23  
45 it's the first time they seen so many caribou come  
46 through their Valley, you know, it's Anaktuvuk Pass,  
47 you know, they've been going through there for  
48 thousands of years.  
49  
50 Thank you.



1                           ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
2 Steve.  
3  
4                           I'm going to hand the Chair over  
5  
6                           MR. SHEARS: I got it, Gordon.  
7  
8                           ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
9 Bob.  
10  
11                           And, yeah, I, you know, I get concerned  
12 when I hear things like from the State that they're --  
13 like it's almost an unmanageable influx of people, I  
14 think he is telling it like it is. There's people  
15 breaking the law right now and that they're going to do  
16 this anyway and I think that there needs to be  
17 recognition of some of that until you're able to  
18 confirm that this is a legitimate concern that they're  
19 not being monitored to the level they should be  
20 monitored.  
21  
22                           Let me finish up here, Ryan, and  
23 we'll.....  
24  
25                           MR. KLIMSTRA: I just wanted to clarify  
26 something.  
27  
28                           ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead.  
29  
30                           MR. KLIMSTRA: I just wanted to clarify  
31 that I was not saying that anyone was breaking the law,  
32 I guess, what I meant by that, that the harvest is  
33 going to occur anyhow, is it's going to occur on State  
34 land in Unit 23, or it's going to occur in other  
35 places, like 26A, legally, but that harvest of those  
36 non-residents still does occur regardless of the  
37 Federal land closure. That's all I intended there.  
38  
39                           ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
40 very much. And that will cause me to rephrase what I  
41 was going to say.  
42  
43                           So it happens regardless. State land,  
44 it might be a little bit over. But, there, I think,  
45 lies the heart of some of the problem, why is not the  
46 State on board with the residents needs, the local  
47 people's needs. They have a system in place, too,  
48 called a Tier I, Tier II. There are levels of  
49 management as the herd declines. But they're  
50 reluctant, in my view, to be proactive enough and to

1 limit -- to limit the argument of those that are trying  
2 to put food on the table, with those that fly in with a  
3 \$150,000 airplane, come with Cabela's Jim Shockey, you  
4 see him on TV anyway, I see Jim Shockey TV and they're  
5 getting woodland caribou and I say, oh, man, he's going  
6 to shoot that big bull and I sure wish I could have  
7 eaten that one. But these are reality. The State  
8 needs to have the same principles, I think, that the  
9 Federal government has stepped in -- has always been,  
10 to make a rural subsistence priority. Remember that  
11 1994 impasse -- I think it was 1994 impasse, the State  
12 would not accept a rural subsistence priority and then  
13 the Federal management was created, or enacted, or  
14 something happened that the Feds had to take over  
15 because the State was unwilling to look at the poor  
16 people, our people, us, our need, our Walmart, this is  
17 a big Walmart for us.

18

19 Those are the types of concerns they  
20 need to recognize.

21

22 Instead, they argue that the  
23 harvestable surplus in the Feds world translates into  
24 the amount necessary for subsistence, that calculation,  
25 and I have a problem with that. That the argument was  
26 that this RAC recognized some change in -- they said in  
27 2014 they suddenly realized and recognized that the  
28 amount necessary for subsistence, ANS, they recognized  
29 it in 2014, that all along, that the Teshekpuk Herd,  
30 Western Arctic Herd were calculated as one herd, all  
31 along. When the same biologist, the same area  
32 biologist, when you ask him point blank, if Teshekpuk  
33 Herd had its own ANS and the Western Herd had its own  
34 ANS, would it support a non-resident hunt, no, the herd  
35 is already declined to the point. If you separate the  
36 ANS for both of them, couldn't support the non-resident  
37 hunt. They would have to go into a tier hunt, that's  
38 how come they argue that ANS, they want to fight for  
39 it, to say that the Teshekpuk Herd and the Western Herd  
40 are one herd. You tell that to Lincoln Parrett and his  
41 radio will transmit, electronics, and he says, oh, no,  
42 this is Teshekpuk Herd, he goes over here, Western  
43 Arctic Herd goes here and they separate, they have  
44 their own distinct locations. You can't argue with  
45 science. And I think you can't argue with science,  
46 they are not one in the same herd, they may overlap,  
47 but they're different herds.

48

49 So I can go on and on and on and on to  
50 talk about why it's necessary to do some of these

1 things and err on the side of caution, err on the side  
2 of putting food on the table for people that depend on  
3 this every single day.

4

5 Okay, I'll subside.

6

7 MR. SHEARS: Here you go, Gordon.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead, and  
10 your name, Please.

11

12 MS. BRAEM: Hi, this is Nikki Braem,  
13 and I'm with the Subsistence Division at Fish and Game.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
16 Nikki, you got the floor.

17

18 MS. BRAEM: All right. So some of this  
19 maybe we'll get into tomorrow when we talk about how  
20 that ANS that was set in January 2014, how that  
21 happened, the process. One of the things I thought I  
22 might comment on now, though, currently I went and  
23 looked at some of our -- you know, some of the analysis  
24 that Lincoln did relative to -- say 2016, as to what  
25 the combined harvestable surplus of both herds is, what  
26 the biologists think, I'm not the biologist, so looking  
27 back through the documents, combined the harvestable  
28 surplus, they think, is 14,500 caribou. That's based  
29 on what Lincoln referred to as a six percent harvest  
30 rate.

31

32 The ANS that the Board found, because  
33 we provide information to the Board, and then the Board  
34 makes the decision, was 8,000 to 12,000 for both herds  
35 as the ANS, and so what kind of hunts that Fish and  
36 Game can offer on State lands has to do about the  
37 relationship between the harvestable surplus and the  
38 bounds of the ANS, you know, the 8,000 to 12,000. So  
39 typically when the harvestable surplus is above the  
40 upper bound of the ANS, meaning it's above 12,000 in  
41 this case, the State typically offers non-resident --  
42 non-Alaska hunting and so that's how we find ourself in  
43 the situation we are right now, with regard to State  
44 management. And so, you know, we'd go into Tier I,  
45 which means, you know, typically no non-residents at  
46 12,000 and then if we get down to 8,000 harvestable  
47 surplus that's when they start distinguishing between  
48 Alaskans, that's mean when it's in really poor shape.

49

50 But I don't want to take up all your

1 time, because I think we're going to spend a lot of  
2 time tomorrow on this one. And I certainly have some  
3 more information to offer about how the Board  
4 deliberations went on this decision in 2014, because I  
5 was involved with preparing the presentations and the  
6 document you might have seen about options for ANS, for  
7 the herds, we had several options we offered at that  
8 time, though, the Board elected to do what it did.

9

10 So I'll take questions, but I know you  
11 guys don't want to veer off too far into this ANS thing  
12 today because we could really go, I mean we could go  
13 for hours, right.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, well,  
16 maybe I'll have one minor question here, Bob.

17

18 MR. SHEARS: Go ahead, Gordon.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I asked the  
21 question to the biologist, because it was about the  
22 ANS, and -- and how they were conceived of the  
23 Teshekpuk and the Western. If you had an independent  
24 ANS for Teshekpuk Herd and you had an independent ANS  
25 for the Western Arctic Herd, would those schemes of  
26 non-resident, even the tier systems start to emerge, it  
27 was a resounding yes. It was a resounding yes. The  
28 State should be on a tier system right now, and picking  
29 and choosing who should be hunting on State land.  
30 That's what it amounts to.

31

32 And that's all I wanted to say and hear  
33 your opinion on that.

34

35 Yeah.

36

37 MS. BRAEM: Mr. Chair. I don't know  
38 that I get to have an opinion.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MS. BRAEM: We did -- well, I can say  
43 this, when we prepared options for the 2014 meeting we  
44 had five -- I think we had four or five options that we  
45 presented to the Board. Some of them were for a  
46 combined ANS that was actually higher than the 8 to  
47 12,000 and you can see it in the record and the  
48 document I wrote at the time, that would have made the  
49 ANS higher overall. Still saying it's one big herd,  
50 but the ANS higher.

1                   Some of the options broke it down by  
2 herd, more than 8,000 to 12,000 for Tesh -- or for the  
3 Western and then a different one for the Teshekpuk.  
4 There were a suite of options which were prepared for  
5 the Board to consider. We don't -- Staff don't get to  
6 recommend an option just because it's an allocative  
7 decision.

8  
9                   So like Lincoln and I don't get to make  
10 recommendations about which one to pick. We prepare  
11 all the information and they ask us questions.

12  
13                   And so at that time, after we gave  
14 fairly lengthy presentations on the process, and then  
15 presented the best available data we had, grant you,  
16 there wasn't a lot of deliberation by the Board, I  
17 would not call it lengthy, ultimately one of the Board  
18 members stated, well, we can't really -- we just don't  
19 think that in 1992 when they set the ANS for the  
20 Western Arctic Herd, that they failed to think about  
21 the Teshekpuk Herd, they must have intended the  
22 Teshekpuk Herd to be part of this and that pretty much  
23 -- and everybody said, okay, and they voted to -- their  
24 finding was that, okay, that's where we're going to  
25 keep it. Since then we've looked at some of the record  
26 from that time, in 1992, 1992 I was -- I had just got  
27 here in the state, I didn't work for the State then,  
28 that's when I first got to Nome, back in the day, in  
29 1992 the Department of -- you know, on the wildlife  
30 side of things, you know, the old State subsistence law  
31 had been struck down in the McDowell Decision and the  
32 State went about passing new subsistence law, and in  
33 1992 suddenly they were like, oh, my gosh, we need to  
34 visit all this stuff now and so there were a lot of  
35 wildlife populations and fish stocks that had customary  
36 traditional use determinations but suddenly they called  
37 it the consistency review and suddenly they're trying  
38 to set ANS for everything in 1992. Fisheries did it  
39 differently, they kind of took it a bit at a time and  
40 each cycle, each regular cycle. Wildlife, part of it,  
41 kind of got done in this massive push in 1992, a little  
42 bit bleed over into 1993. And the record isn't always  
43 -- like the completeness of the record of the  
44 decisionmaking process and what was presented isn't  
45 always great. Though we did go back and take a look at  
46 the 1994 meeting where they took up the Western Arctic  
47 Herd. And I didn't pick that one up, actually my  
48 supervisor did, and listened to the recording and it  
49 was poor, it was tape, you know, but the Teshekpuk Herd  
50 didn't come up in deliberations in November 1992.

1                   And so, anyway, what it's worth that's  
2 all I can -- I can tell you that that's what we found  
3 in listening to the record.

4

5                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: See, that's  
6 important stuff. Because it's new in 2014 and that's  
7 where we kind of took our hats off and said, what, you  
8 know. It's good to hear people that have the ability  
9 to go back and listen to the tape recordings and things  
10 like that, because to me it yields to some of the train  
11 of thought about mismanaging herds and stuff like that.  
12 It may not be intentional, maybe it is intentional, I  
13 don't know, but in 2014 we learned that the combination  
14 of the two herds yielded this ANS that was supporting,  
15 and continued to support the hunts you see on TV, the  
16 Jim Shockey and all this, you know, cool stuff, and,  
17 you know, I'd like to go on Jim Shockey hunts, you  
18 know, but that's what it yielded to, it was to the big  
19 game lobby.

20

21                   But those are asides from the concerns  
22 that we have in making sure putting food on the table  
23 is a priority. And that's how come, I think, ANS, has  
24 a lot to do with the views and managing Federal public  
25 lands in the way that the law is intended to provide  
26 for sustained yield and don't play around with the  
27 herds. That's what I think the message is. When you  
28 combine the ANS, that also tells everybody else that  
29 you can -- Lincoln says that the Teshekpuk Herd is  
30 about 38,000, the Western Arctic Herd is about 200,000,  
31 but they're combined on an ANS, the hunting pressure on  
32 the Western Arctic Herd is the same on the Teshekpuk  
33 Herd with that type of an ANS, that means the Teshekpuk  
34 Herd is going to deplete maybe at two and a half times  
35 the rate of depletion because it's such a smaller herd.  
36 200,000 versus 38,000. Plus that ANS supporting a much  
37 higher take on the State side of thing yields to  
38 decimating the Teshekpuk Herd. If you look at it in  
39 that context.

40

41                   So, anyway, it's good to hear these  
42 things because it puts into perspective what we need to  
43 think about 16-03, and it's a State proposal to take  
44 Federal public lands and reintroduce Jim Shockey right  
45 next to my son. That's just as an example. I'm using  
46 my son as an example. He loves to go hunt caribou for  
47 me, in our area of influence, where it's an village  
48 area of influence. You take that 16-03 and pass it,  
49 you're putting Jim Shockey right next to my son and  
50 arguing for that caribou. You're going to bring those

1 arguments back, that's what it amounts to.

2

3                   And those are the type of concerns we  
4 need to also consider, is a -- how would you phrase  
5 that, it's a wonderful traditional hunting experience,  
6 not offering an argument. When our culture is based on  
7 non-conflict, we're not a conflict, we like to share  
8 and we share with communities, but when it's a totally  
9 different kind of hunt in the same traditional hunting  
10 grounds you provide an argument to where people are  
11 holding guns and those kind of things.

12

13                   Those are some -- there needs to be a  
14 -- maybe one of you guys know the term, it's a  
15 reasonable traditional hunting experience, in the way  
16 that we're supposed to do it. Traditional way.  
17 Outside of the bounds of those village area of  
18 influences, that's where the -- outside of the village  
19 area of influence, you're not going to have an  
20 argument, I don't think. So in reintroducing -- until  
21 there's a system that recognizes this, I think 16-03  
22 should be denied until there is a willingness to  
23 recognize village area of influence and to provide for  
24 a reasonable traditional hunting experience for all the  
25 communities.

26

27                   Jennifer.

28

29                   Go ahead, Jennifer.

30

31                   MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
32 just wanted for the record, just to state, I know  
33 you're going to speak a lot more after -- when you --  
34 probably tomorrow after you get through the action  
35 items on the issue of amounts necessary for subsistence  
36 in the State program, I just wanted to state for the  
37 record, just a reminder, that the Federal Program does  
38 not use ANS or amounts necessary for subsistence, what  
39 the Federal Program focuses on is subsistence as the  
40 priority consumptive use on Federal public lands and  
41 whether or not Federally-qualified subsistence users  
42 have subsistence opportunity. And so when the Board  
43 and the Council and OSM, when OSM does an analysis and  
44 when the Board and the Councils consider requests to  
45 close or open Federal public lands to non-subsistence  
46 uses, we're all looking at what ANILCA provides for and  
47 whether or not a closure is necessary to protect  
48 healthy populations of fish and wildlife, or to protect  
49 the continuation of subsistence uses.

50

1                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Mr. Chair, I'm  
2 going to yield over to you for a second so I can.....

3  
4                   MR. SHEARS: I still got it, you got  
5 the floor.

6  
7                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. You  
8 know what, we completely recognize that the Federal  
9 government is not using ANS, that's how come this Board  
10 made a proposal to affect the State Board of Game.  
11 This RAC said, State quit using that ANS this way,  
12 you're mismanaging the herd because even -- the Federal  
13 management, because we're going to hunt outside of  
14 Barrow and these are on our primary hunting use, the  
15 State reg is not going to overrule us, we're going to  
16 abide by the Federal regs, and -- but our herd moves,  
17 our herd moves to State land, where the ANS is an  
18 issue, because they're going to have the same hunting  
19 pressure as the Western Arctic Herd, because they're  
20 combined together. That's where we have the issue that  
21 this -- this body has recommended we propose an impact  
22 and affect the State Board of Game, because we know  
23 better.

24  
25                   (Laughter)

26  
27                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: The Federal  
28 guys know better than the State guys.

29  
30                   (Laughter)

31  
32                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: But that's  
33 just, I think, important for Anaktuvuk Pass, because  
34 Anaktuvuk Pass is surrounded by State land and we care  
35 and love our relatives so much that we'll say, hey, you  
36 know, that State land north of Anaktuvuk should be on a  
37 tier hunt, a selected hunt and if you separate the ANS  
38 because that's State land, and a biologist already  
39 confirm it, the hunts wouldn't support the non-  
40 resident, and maybe not even the rural -- the non-rural  
41 areas would be limited by aircraft from going to there  
42 as well.

43  
44                   So we did everything in our power to  
45 help Anaktuvuk Pass, to incorporate the Noatak  
46 Controlled Use Area restrictions that are much more  
47 heavier and apply them in Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use  
48 Area as an additional measure of how we can try to  
49 affect and make sure Anaktuvuk, the caribou are coming.  
50 And you know what, I think the caribou are so happy



1 that they were doing this, they finally came through  
2 this year, first time in five or six years, like Roy  
3 said, the caribou made it to Anaktuvuk just as the law  
4 was put down, no more non-Federal users for right now,  
5 like there was an overjoying of animals, maybe, I don't  
6 know, I don't know, it's just a coincidence or if it's  
7 actually there was a change in use that allowed the  
8 caribous to finally migrate where they should go  
9 through, who knows.

10

11 But like I said, we know that the State  
12 regs, that the ANS doesn't apply on Federal land, but  
13 our animals, like Roy said, our animals move, they  
14 don't recognize State and Federal boundary, they hop  
15 over it and now they're in a different hunting  
16 regulation once they go over to the State boundary, and  
17 that's what I -- I think we need to emphasize those  
18 kinds of things.

19

20 Jennifer.

21

22 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 Jennifer Hardin, for the record.

24

25 Thank you for that. It's obviously a  
26 very critical topic for this Council. I simply just  
27 wanted to -- I meant to just bring it back to 16-03 --  
28 WSA 16-03 and just to let the Council know that we did  
29 not base the analysis on ANS and so when you take  
30 action on WSA 16-03, on this action item, that you  
31 would be aware of what we addressed in the analysis.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you.  
34 And I don't think we were planning on basing it on ANS  
35 but I think there should be some connections that we  
36 see because we're afraid of how the State looks at this  
37 under ANS and that's where we're trying to affect that  
38 as well. They really should be in a tier hunt  
39 situation on State lands where these herds go to.

40

41 Any more comments on 16-03.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I think we  
46 deliberated quite a bit and I think this is an action  
47 item to where we will need to entertain a motion,  
48 whether to not support 16-03, which would say that the  
49 North Slope Regional Subsistence Advisory Council  
50 recommends to the Federal Board of Game not to overturn

1 that initial decision. It should still be Federally-  
2 qualified users.

3

4 So any other dialogue on 16-03 before  
5 we make this action item complete.

6

7 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Bob.

10

11 MR. SHEARS: Respectfully. And maybe  
12 we might get some coordinator's advice on this subject.  
13 I'm not so strongly opposed to Special Action Request  
14 16-03 as to make a motion to reject it. I'm certainly  
15 not supportive of making a motion to support it. What  
16 is the consequences of a no action.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
19 The Council has several options.

20

21 One is a motion.....

22

23 MR. SHEARS: Reject. Excuse me, if I  
24 can interrupt you.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Sure.

27

28 MR. SHEARS: We saw the options that  
29 were identified in here, reject, support or support  
30 with qualifications. Three options are listed in here,  
31 I'm talking about a fourth option, no action.

32

33 MS. PATTON: And the Council always can  
34 make a motion to take no action. And there's actually  
35 another option, too, which Councils -- since this is in  
36 the Northwest Arctic region, although the North Slope  
37 residents have C&T for hunting in Unit 23 as well, the  
38 Council can always make a motion to defer to the other  
39 Council in the region.

40

41 So there are several options there and  
42 there's always an option for the Council to take a vote  
43 if you made a motion to support and each Council member  
44 is able to vote in their own preference.

45

46 But it is an action item, and so the  
47 Board is seeking feedback because it has this  
48 opportunity from the Council to receive feedback and  
49 there's been a lot of supporting discussion here.  
50 Generally the motion would then follow with the support

1 that was provided from the discussion.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I'll pass the  
4 Chair over to Bob real quick.

5

6 MR. SHEARS: Got it.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay, in the  
9 same line of that discussion, you know, I have really  
10 good reason, I think, to oppose 16-03.

11

12 For one thing Anaktuvuk Pass is right  
13 on that border, and I think parts of Anaktuvuk Pass may  
14 be in Unit 23, in their area of influence under the  
15 North Slope Borough's comprehensive plan that describes  
16 an area of influence for use and take. And another  
17 community, Point Hope, is just borderline in the use  
18 area. Even though it's coincidence, and the amount of  
19 caribou that was not frequenting Anaktuvuk Pass and  
20 some of the things I heard Roy talk about from AFN, how  
21 did your community finally do and it's overwhelming,  
22 like somebody turned the lights on for the caribou and  
23 their paths are back and people are harvesting like  
24 it's the old days and the animals are coming back, and  
25 maybe because of altered migrations from aircraft and  
26 non-residents inundating these areas. Because once  
27 they know where the locations are, where the best  
28 harvesting locations that the community use, those  
29 areas really get a lot of competing users, because the  
30 Natives know where they are and where their trails are.

31

32 Those are some of the things that I --  
33 you know that I would rise to say that we would reject  
34 16-03 and that it is absolutely premature with not  
35 sufficient sustained yield principle included, you  
36 know, we need to act on sustained yield principle, not  
37 there's 900 more extra and if we kill those off in  
38 about two years we got to come back to the same  
39 situation.

40

41 We need to do it better.

42

43 We need to manage it in a way that  
44 we're not going to cause food security concerns. We're  
45 not going to cause communities to starve.

46

47 Let me just give you a little example.

48

49 Just last year and this year, before  
50 the caribou came, Anaktuvuk Pass received an entire

1 chartered airplane full of fish. Somebody from Kenai  
2 in listening to social media about the hardships of  
3 Anaktuvuk Pass, because the caribou have not come in so  
4 long, landed an airplane full of salmon and people  
5 trying to help our community. Nuiqsut, with their  
6 hunters, brought like six sled loads of caribou. A few  
7 years ago, Wainwright chartered airplanes and brought  
8 carcasses of caribou over to Anaktuvuk. Because we  
9 love our communities, we don't want them to starve and  
10 we're wondering, what's going on with the caribou, why  
11 is it -- Anaktuvuk is known for caribou, known, even  
12 the name of it, Anaktuvuk, it's -- I could.....

13

14 MR. NAGEAK: (Indiscernible - away from  
15 mic)

16

17 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I could --  
18 it's a place -- it stinks because there's so much  
19 caribou crap, there's millions of them going through.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And that's the  
24 name of it, Anaktuvuk, because it's known that this  
25 area has so much caribou and so much poop from movement  
26 of caribou, it's the name of it.

27

28 Why is it that caribou never come for  
29 five, six years, what's the problem.

30

31 So there's many different reasons why  
32 we should rise in opposition, and I would hope that one  
33 of our Board members here makes a motion to oppose 16-  
34 03 and have a roll call vote, you know, I mean that's  
35 my take on this.

36

37 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

38

39 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead.

42

43 MR. OOMITUK: Bob made a motion.....

44

45 MR. SHEARS: I still have the Chair.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MR. OOMITUK: .....and I would second  
50 Bob's motion.

1 MR. SHEARS: No, like I said, I went on  
2 the record, I'm not going to make a motion unless it's  
3 to table this subject. But Gordon, as a Council  
4 member, you're welcome to make a motion, if you want.

5  
6 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, I'm  
7 going to yield the mic over unless Steve or Lee or  
8 Rosemary want to make it because I'm Acting Chair and  
9 I'm going to yield over, Bob, are you going to take the  
10 Chairmanship.

11  
12 MR. SHEARS: I am -- I had the Chair  
13 still.

14  
15 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. Mr.  
16 Chair.

17  
18 MR. SHEARS: Go ahead.

19  
20 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I'd like to  
21 make a motion. I rise in opposition of 16-03.

22  
23 MR. SHEARS: There is a motion on the  
24 floor by Gordon opposing WSA 16-03.

25  
26 MR. OOMITUK: I second that motion.

27  
28 MR. SHEARS: Seconded by Steve.  
29  
30 Discussion.

31  
32 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Mr. Chair, I  
33 would call for a roll call vote.

34  
35 MR. SHEARS: No further discussion.  
36 Lee, could you provide us a roll call vote on the  
37 subject to oppose Wildlife Special Action Proposal 16-  
38 03.

39  
40 MR. KAYOTUK: Good afternoon, thank  
41 you, Mr. Chair and Council members.

42  
43 I'd like to do a roll call October  
44 31st, 2016.

45  
46 Seat 1, 2011-2017 - Gordon Brower,  
47 Barrow.

48  
49 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yes, and  
50 that's saying, yes, that we oppose that.

1 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Seat 2 - 2011-2016  
2 Robert Shears - Barrow/Wainwright.  
3  
4 MR. SHEARS: No.  
5  
6 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 3 - 2016 Vacant.  
7  
8 Seat 4 - 2015-2016 - Steve Oomituk -  
9 Point Hope.  
10  
11 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.  
12  
13 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 5 2017 - Vacant.  
14  
15 Seat 6 2014-2017 - Sam Kunaknana -  
16 Nuiqsut.  
17  
18 (No comments)  
19  
20 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 7 -2017 - Vacant.  
21  
22 Seat 8 2018 - Vacant.  
23  
24 Seat 9 - 2006-2018 - Lee Kayotuk,  
25 Kaktovik -- yes.  
26  
27 Seat 10 - 2009-2018 - Rosemary  
28 Ahtuanguaruak - Barrow.  
29  
30 (No comments)  
31  
32 MR. SHEARS: Did we lose Rosemary.  
33  
34 (No comments)  
35  
36 MR. SHEARS: Okay, Mr. Secretary, that  
37 concludes the vote. We have three in favor of opposing  
38 Special Action 16-03, one opposed, it passes in  
39 opposition to the proposal.  
40  
41 I pass the Chair back to the Chair.  
42  
43 Gordon.  
44  
45 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, thank  
46 you.  
47  
48 And I would hope that opposition was  
49 supplemented with some of the dialogue that ensued, I  
50 guess, and we're -- I was just a little bit concerned

1 that we lost Rosemary during the vote.

2

3 So our next agenda item, where are we.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We  
6 are down to our next action item, which is the  
7 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Priority  
8 Information Needs, and we have Karen Hyer who will be  
9 presenting on that.

10

11 The Council had already started some of  
12 the deliberations. If you'll recall the Council formed  
13 a working group at the last meeting to discuss some of  
14 the priority research needs and your observations of  
15 changes to subsistence fisheries and so this will be a  
16 follow up to that and an action item to make  
17 recommendations where those research priorities should  
18 be and to help guide that process.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
23 Eva. And, Karen, you have the floor.

24

25 Was there somebody on line.

26

27 MR. KAYOTUK: Hello. Sorry, Mr. Chair,  
28 and Council. On this fisheries proposal, how long will  
29 this be, like an hour or so, or.....

30

31 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I  
32 guess it varies on the length of deliberation. So  
33 Karen has an overview to provide which will maybe be 15  
34 minutes, 10 minutes.

35

36 MS. HYER: Five minutes.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Five minute overview. And  
39 then the discussion is really back and forth with the  
40 Council and several of the Council members, through  
41 that working group, had provided some insight into what  
42 those priorities should be so we want to revisit that  
43 and have an opportunity for Steve, who has joined us  
44 here, to weigh in. So it might be maybe a 30 minute  
45 discussion.

46

47 And to revisit, too, that we had talked  
48 about earlier, is we have dinner here to make for the  
49 Council and could plan to break for dinner after this  
50 if the Council had wanted to continue working a little

1 later on some of the other action items.

2

3                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, what's  
4 the wish of the Commission [sic], Lee, are you  
5 concerned that we're past 5:00 o'clock, and we had  
6 slated to do all of the asterisks, to try to get as  
7 much of those that have asterisks beside them, knowing  
8 that a few of us have meetings tomorrow. I think Steve  
9 is on the Assembly and has to go to a workshop in the  
10 morning, I probably have to attend the workshop at the  
11 Assembly as well.

12

13                   MR. SHEARS: Me too.

14

15                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And Bob as  
16 well, and may not be able to establish a quorum  
17 tomorrow until maybe later in the afternoon. And then  
18 the public hearing items at 7:00 p.m., with the North  
19 Slope Borough Assembly will start to take over our  
20 schedule at that point. So I think there's a need to  
21 try to accommodate and try and do some of the action  
22 items first.

23

24                   Lee.

25

26                   MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, you know, in the  
27 past before, two days is not enough, I know we went  
28 forward in three days or something like that, you know,  
29 I think it's best to request a third day meeting in the  
30 future, you know, there's a lot of stuff that is so  
31 long in the packet that, you know, it's just further  
32 discussing would be better to be acquainted, if it's  
33 possible for a third day meeting.

34

35                   Thank you.

36

37                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, so  
38 noted, there, Lee.

39

40                   I know I think we selected this time,  
41 and on top of that we selected right over an Assembly  
42 meeting date as well, which is an important meeting and  
43 that has hampered this, but I really hear you that the  
44 amount of meeting days that occur should correspond to  
45 the amount of material we have to go through and the  
46 expected deliberation over that timeframe. But we have  
47 a double-whammy because a lot of us sitting here got to  
48 go to the Assembly meeting. You know, Steve is an  
49 Assemblyman and there's important stuff for us to be at  
50 the workshop. I think the Nuiqsut gas line project is



1 on the workshop agenda.

2

3                   So with that I'm going to have Karen go  
4 ahead and start her presentation. It seems like it's  
5 not going to be that long and then we'll have a  
6 discussion about fisheries research.

7

8                   Karen.

9

10                   MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
11 members. For the record my name is Karen Hyer, and  
12 Josh and I have been working on the Fisheries Resource  
13 Monitoring Plan and Program together. It starts in  
14 your book on Page 44 and I'm just going to give you a  
15 brief overview and then we'll go into the discussion.

16

17                   But the Office of Subsistence  
18 Management funds fisheries research throughout Alaska  
19 and it's an every other year cycle, so we are heading  
20 into a funding cycle and we're going to start the  
21 process, which will result in funds being given out in  
22 2018, so it's a long process. But we start that  
23 process by going to the RACs and asking them for input  
24 as to what is important in their region and we've  
25 already started that discussion because a working group  
26 was formed at our last meeting and so I've already  
27 received input from members and we'll go back and we'll  
28 visit that input. But before we do, I just wanted to  
29 quickly go over the timeline.

30

31                   So we'll meet here, we'll discuss  
32 priority information needs, we'll go back to the office  
33 and a call for proposals will come out in November.  
34 And then researchers will submit proposals to the  
35 Program, and then those proposals will be evaluated on  
36 the criteria, which starts on Page 45 and continues  
37 over to 46. So we look at strategic priority, it has  
38 to be related to Federal subsistence management. The  
39 goal is to provide information for better management of  
40 fisheries. It has to be technically and scientifically  
41 sound. The investigators have to have the ability to  
42 do the research. It has to have a partnership and  
43 capacity building component. And there's a cost  
44 benefit. It has to be a reasonable cost for what it  
45 benefits, for what the benefit is. And we'll look at  
46 those proposals, and evaluate them and then they'll go  
47 to a Technical Review Committee, and the Technical  
48 Review Committee will evaluate them for technical  
49 soundness. And then we will come back with the  
50 proposals that were submitted to the Council and we

1 will get your input on those proposals. And then we  
2 take all of that back and it goes back and through our  
3 InterAgency Staff Committee, and then to our Federal  
4 Subsistence Board. So in January of 2018 the Federal  
5 Subsistence Board will make an action on those research  
6 projects.

7

8                   So it's a long process.

9

10                   But, today, what I need from you is  
11 input as to what you think are the priorities in this  
12 region to guide that research.

13

14                   Now, before we launch into that, I just  
15 want to briefly go over that packet I gave you. The  
16 pages after the first page are the current research  
17 going on in that region.

18

19                   And the first one is a project that has  
20 to do with Dolly Varden and that project was started in  
21 2014. And we fund up to four years. So you can see  
22 that that project went through 2016. And that is  
23 basically a project where they're looking at dispersal  
24 patterns during the summer of Dolly Varden. And they  
25 know that Dolly Varden travel, and they travel  
26 extensively and the researcher is interested in exactly  
27 where they go and so they use satellite tags to tag  
28 those fish. And that researcher is planning on coming  
29 up to your next meeting to report the results of that  
30 research to you. He was going to be here but then when  
31 we realized it was going to be -- a conflict in the  
32 meeting we asked him to wait, to come when there was  
33 more time to talk to you.

34

35                   The second one in that list, 16-101 was  
36 started this summer. And that is a radiotelemetry  
37 project looking at overwintering habitat in the Canning  
38 River. And they are tracking Dolly Varden again. And  
39 they're interested in where the fish are overwintering  
40 and then they're trying to estimate the overwintering  
41 survival. And one of the goals is to understand the  
42 changes that are happening in this region, because  
43 things are changing so quickly. So the investigator  
44 feels it's important to know where these Dolly Varden  
45 are wintering so we can start paying attention to  
46 what's happening on those wintering grounds. And so  
47 that's being funded right now in your region.

48

49                   The next one, 16-106 is aerial  
50 monitoring of Dolly Varden and overwintering abundance

1 in Anaktuvuk, Ivishak, and I know I mispronounced that,  
2 the Canning, the HuluHulu and the Kongakut Rivers. And  
3 the investigators here are flying aerial surveys and  
4 estimating the population. And those are the rivers  
5 that have -- in the North of Alaska have the big  
6 spawning populations. And this is a repeat. They had  
7 flown those surveys from about 2009 to 2012 and got an  
8 estimate of the population and now they just want to  
9 come back and revisit to make sure that those  
10 populations are stable. And so that's currently being  
11 funded and the first summer they were flying was this  
12 -- or the first year they were flying was 2016.

13

14                   And then the next one in the packet is  
15 16-017 and that is an estimation of yield potential,  
16 identification and sampling of lake trout spawning  
17 aggregates in Chandler Lake and this is directly  
18 related to Anaktuvuk Pass. That is a lake that they  
19 use for subsistence resources and the last time they  
20 looked at the population in that lake was in 1987 to  
21 1989, and so they're going back -- the investigator is  
22 going back to see how that population is doing because  
23 of its importance to Anaktuvuk Pass.

24

25                   And then the last one is the Meade  
26 River subsistence fisheries evaluation, changes in  
27 harvest and abundance of broad whitefish and other non-  
28 salmon species. And Nikki -- this is Nikki's project  
29 and she'll be speaking to it tomorrow. But they're  
30 just starting to do work on this project and it is  
31 going to document changes in harvest of broad whitefish  
32 and other fish important to subsistence users in the  
33 Meade River. And she's focusing on Atqasuk and then  
34 also a subset of Barrow households. So that is just  
35 beginning in your region.

36

37                   So that's kind of an overview of what  
38 is happening currently in your region.

39

40                   So, now, from there, I'd like to go to  
41 what was on the top of that package I gave you and talk  
42 about some of the priority information needs.

43

44                   So this is a list both of new  
45 information needs that we've gathered from the working  
46 group and some old information needs, and I just wanted  
47 to check in with you and see if some of these are still  
48 important to you or if there are other things you want  
49 on the list, or are there things you want to take off  
50 the list.

1                   So I'm just going to go down the  
2 bullets, in the order they occur on the page.

3  
4                   So the first bullet is baseline harvest  
5 assessment and monitoring of subsistence fisheries in  
6 the North Slope region including historic trends and  
7 variability in harvest locations, harvest and uses of  
8 non-salmon species. And this was a bullet that has  
9 been on the list before. It was probably the catalyst  
10 for the research that is going now. So I guess my  
11 question to you is, do you still think this is  
12 important or should this be removed from the list.

13  
14                   The next one is baseline information,  
15 including abundance distribution and movement of Arctic  
16 Grayling in the Colville River. And this is something  
17 that Sam brought up probably a year ago at one of our  
18 meetings and then we also, through the working group,  
19 we talked to Rosemary about it and she confirmed that  
20 that was indeed an important issue to the people of  
21 Nuiqsut and she had some specific rivers, but because  
22 grayling move I generalized it to the Colville River.  
23 But that is a new one this year through the working  
24 group.

25  
26                   The next one is changes in broad and  
27 humpback fish, health associated with climate change in  
28 Northern Alaska. Of special interest is the Colville  
29 and the Ikpikpuk Rivers. And, again, this is a new one  
30 that has come up through discussion with the working  
31 group.

32  
33                   And then the last one on the list is an  
34 old one that has to do with Dolly Varden and  
35 overwintering identification in Alaska's Northern  
36 rivers. And, again, I think that this bullet was the  
37 catalyst for some of the work you're seeing currently  
38 now. So, again, I'd ask the Council if this is  
39 something you want to continue having on the list or if  
40 it's something you maybe want to remove until the  
41 studies we have going on are completed, and then see  
42 where we stand before we ask for more Dolly Varden  
43 work.

44  
45                   And, with that, I will listen to what  
46 you have to say and then when I've gathered all the  
47 information I'll repeat back to you, generally, where I  
48 think you want to head with your priority information  
49 needs and you can use that as the basis to make your  
50 motion. But this is an action item and we need a

1 motion as to what the Council feels are the important  
2 priorities regarding the research.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council  
5 members.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
8 guys, well, this is the time to prioritize some  
9 important needs on the North Slope in terms of  
10 fisheries monitoring projects. And I'm going to ask  
11 one question real quick, can we introduce new  
12 categories and rank those as well, even though these  
13 are all kind of ranked here, but if a new one comes up  
14 and can we put it as a number 1 priority potentially;  
15 is that also -- are we capable of doing that with these  
16 bulleted items?

17

18 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
19 members. You're welcome to add a new item. Because  
20 this goes out as a list and we ask investigators to  
21 tailor their research to the list, we can't really rank  
22 them or there's no point in ranking them, because we  
23 can't -- we have no control over the investigators. We  
24 just use this as guidance to tell them that it is  
25 important.

26

27 So it's importance, on the list, and if  
28 you feel I haven't worded the list quite properly, it's  
29 also important that I hear from you about my wording so  
30 that -- because it's used as a guide for investigators,  
31 so my recommendation to you would be, because funding,  
32 of course, is always tight, that you make sure these  
33 are your priorities and if some of these things on the  
34 list aren't priorities, let's remove them, and, please,  
35 if there are other things let's add them.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
38 sounds good. Well, we got a little task here guys. If  
39 there's some important monitoring or studies that we  
40 need to consider and it seems like we don't need to  
41 rank them, they'll just be important once they're on  
42 this list.

43

44 So with that, I'll yield to the  
45 Council.

46

47 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Bob from  
50 Wainwright/Barrow.

1 MR. SHEARS: I guess I'll take the mic  
2 first.

3  
4 I'm not going to add anything to this  
5 list, I just want to clarify some of the information,  
6 just to suggest how I would personally would support  
7 these four bullet items.

8  
9 The first bullet, the baseline harvest  
10 assessment and monitoring of subsistence fisheries in  
11 the North Slope regions, including the historic trends  
12 and variability in harvest locations, harvest and use  
13 of non-salmon species. I remember that one, Karen, you  
14 know, us discussing that a few years ago. However, in  
15 the way we currently have it defined it's a little too  
16 broad and we're not giving it much of an opportunity  
17 for success to move forward unless we can focus and we  
18 can develop more of a focal point to it.

19  
20 Therefore, and I'd like the other  
21 Council members to weigh in on this subject, where  
22 should the focal point be on -- to allow this project  
23 to succeed in funding. Baseline harvest assessment and  
24 monitoring of subsistence fisheries in the North Slope  
25 regions, right now, the biggest concern is those  
26 tributaries that feed Smith Bay. I suggest it's  
27 probably one of the least studied areas and probably  
28 one of the greatest importance right now because that  
29 is on the horizon for industrial development as well as  
30 discussions with the Department of Interior about the  
31 future of NPR-A.

32  
33 Second bullet item, you're right, I  
34 recall Sam and Rosemary discussing the subject about  
35 why it's necessary to develop baseline information on  
36 the abundance distribution and movement of Arctic  
37 Grayling in the region, around the Nuiqsut region.  
38 This came out of discussions during strategies for  
39 mitigation impacts. And I recall that the discussion  
40 was not just the Coville River but it was in discussion  
41 of how grayling will migrate from tributary to  
42 tributary system and they wanted to find out what the  
43 relationship was between -- you know, the transport  
44 relationship of grayling between Fish Creek, Colville,  
45 the Anaktuvuk River and the other tributaries in that  
46 local region, how does the grayling move around and  
47 that may be a multi-year study requiring tagging.

48  
49 Number 3, the third bullet, changes in  
50 the broad and humpback fish health associated with

1 climate change in Northern Alaska, of special interest  
2 is the Colville and Ikpikpuk Rivers, correct. And it  
3 has recently come to our attention with emphasis that  
4 the mold that has been growing on the broad whitefish  
5 in the Colville area has come back and come back with a  
6 vengeance. The Wildlife Department of the North Slope  
7 Borough was on that, jumped all over it and we got a  
8 lot of study effort put into that, even identifying the  
9 sources, the inland water sources where that mold is  
10 likely developing and why. But what we don't know is  
11 what can we do about it. You know we just said, okay,  
12 it's a natural event, it's -- are we just going to  
13 throw our hands up now and say, okay, must be God's  
14 will, or are we going to continue -- so right now  
15 there's no further study going on and we're just  
16 acknowledging that the fish have it and I wanted to  
17 know why we're not taking it to the next level, why  
18 we're not looking for mitigation, why we're not  
19 researching mitigation opportunities.

20

21                   Number 4, the final bullet,  
22 identification of overwintering areas for Dolly Varden  
23 in Northern Alaska Rivers, identification and  
24 demographic qualities of overwintering fish and  
25 estimating overwintering fidelity of fish, right, that  
26 is like phase two of what's currently funded. You know  
27 I think we're doing a lot of Dolly Varden satellite  
28 telemetry and stuff like that, probably trying to  
29 identify -- right now we're just trying to identify  
30 where they overwinter and then the next step would be  
31 to get in there and actually research these  
32 overwintering areas and find out what are the unique  
33 characteristics about them and perhaps why they should  
34 be protected for conservation sake.

35

36                   Yeah, that's a good one. I just wish  
37 it wasn't only Dolly Varden. But, I'd hate to drop the  
38 ball on the research that we've already invested so  
39 much funds into and not take it to the final step.

40

41                   So Council members, I support the four  
42 bullet items.

43

44                   I don't have anything to add to is.

45

46                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
47 Bob.

48

49                   Any other.....

50

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He, excuse me, I  
2 don't mean to interrupt.....  
3  
4 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, go ahead  
5 and state your name.  
6  
7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Lee Kayotuk had to  
8 step out, he's got a search and rescue call.  
9  
10 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Is that for  
11 Lee?  
12  
13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.  
14  
15 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right. If  
16 he has an opportunity to come back let us know because  
17 that would mean that.....  
18  
19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay.  
20  
21 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....we'd lose  
22 our quorum or no.  
23  
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Thank you very  
25 much for sharing that with us. Thank you, Lee. And if  
26 Lee has an opportunity to join us again on his return,  
27 Council had planned to meet for awhile this evening  
28 yet, if we have quorum.  
29  
30 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Uh-huh.  
31  
32 MS. PATTON: Thank you.  
33  
34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay.  
35  
36 MR. SHEARS: A prayer for his success.  
37  
38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yep.  
39  
40 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
41 thanks, Lee.  
42  
43 Rosemary, are you on, just going to  
44 doublecheck to see if Rosemary's back on yet.  
45  
46  
47 (No comments)  
48  
49 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Apparently  
50 Rosemary is not there.



1 Karen, have you got something.  
2  
3 MS. HYER: I do. First off, regardless  
4 of a quorum or not, I'm very interested in your input  
5 because this is an ongoing dialogue and that's partly  
6 why we formed the working group, so I don't want to  
7 stop this process. But before we go on to the next  
8 input, I need to clarify with Bob, because this happens  
9 every time. So I'd just like to stop and go back over  
10 what he said and make sure I have it correctly.  
11  
12 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead,  
13 Karen.  
14  
15 MS. HYER: So, Bob, you talked about,  
16 on the second bullet, the Nuiqsut region, and you'd be  
17 more comfortable with me expanding it a little bit  
18 instead of just having the Colville River, but  
19 expanding it to the areas that support the Nuiqsut  
20 region, the community of Nuiqsut or something along  
21 those lines.  
22  
23 MR. SHEARS: Or the Lower Colville  
24 River tributaries.  
25  
26 MS. HYER: Okay. Lower Colville River  
27 tributaries.  
28  
29 Okay.  
30  
31 And then the other question I had --  
32 okay, so on the third bullet then you talked about the  
33 next step and we could word it with something like, in  
34 relation to -- or how it would be applicable to Federal  
35 subsistence management because there might be some  
36 management actions and also, while we don't support  
37 mitigation, maybe some recommendations that some of the  
38 land agencies might pursue for mitigation, or a little  
39 bit more emphasis than just the change, but how -- what  
40 actions need to come from the changes that are  
41 happening. Does that -- and I'll wordsmith that a  
42 little bit, but does that capture the idea? Because  
43 you talked about knowing a lot, but you wanted to know  
44 kind of what our next step was, what are we going to do  
45 with the information.  
46  
47 MR. SHEARS: Yes, exactly.  
48  
49 MS. HYER: Okay.  
50

1 MR. SHEARS: Kind of what you just  
2 said, thank you.

3  
4 MS. HYER: Okay, that's all I had.

5  
6 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Steve, Point  
7 Hope.

8  
9 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Yeah, I  
10 would support these four bullets. So do you utilize  
11 local hire when you come to those villages.

12  
13 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
14 members. We utilize a lot of things. A very important  
15 part of our program is capacity building. And we let  
16 the investigators define what capacity building looks  
17 like and one of the methods that they use is local  
18 hire. They also have -- sportfish, especially, has  
19 worked with the ANSEP program trying to get students in  
20 because they would like to see more professional  
21 biologists and that's one method they've used. And  
22 there's some other methods they've used for local hire,  
23 some have reached out to the schools and done more  
24 education. So it really depends on the investigator.  
25 But that is one of the criteria for our -- funding for  
26 our program and if there's not some sort of capacity  
27 building component in it it will not be funded through  
28 our program.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 MR. OOMITUK: Thank you. And, you  
33 know, Point Hope, does get a lot of Dolly Varden and,  
34 you know, this year was a real abundance in the rivers  
35 of grayling. I never seen so many in years. And they  
36 were catching so many with rods, rather than nets, you  
37 know, because it didn't freeze up with -- we still have  
38 no snow over there so -- but it's freezing up now but  
39 we have an abundance of grayling that they've never  
40 seen in so many years. But the Dolly Varden is vital  
41 to the people of Point Hope and I've always wondered  
42 where they winter at and where they stayed.

43  
44 I would support all these.

45  
46 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you,  
47 Steve.

48  
49 And is that something that could morph  
50 into a Dolly Varden study for the next stage, is to,

1 see on the western side, because most of the Dolly  
2 Varden studies are way on the eastern side of the North  
3 Slope, for Anaktuvuk and Kaktovik, and it seems to me  
4 that it might be a vital subsistence resource around  
5 Point Hope and that area. They want to learn more  
6 about life cycle and overwintering habitat and where do  
7 they go, to figure these things out.

8

9 So is that something that is of  
10 interest to Point Hope, or are things good enough that  
11 you don't need to study them now over there?

12

13 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, I would agree, you  
14 know, Dolly Varden is real vital for the people of  
15 Point Hope and, you know, some years we get a lot, some  
16 years we don't. You know you got to hit them right,  
17 sometimes the water's too rough to fish, you know, we  
18 don't know if -- we get them when they're coming back.  
19 With the weather these days, you know, you never know,  
20 change in migration of the fish, you know, they -- do  
21 they go with the weather, you know, we've always hunted  
22 them at a certain time, fished for them. We know when  
23 they're usually coming but with the climate change it  
24 seems like everything's always a month early or a month  
25 late.

26

27 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

28

29 MR. OOMITUK: So it would be good to  
30 know and have studies in that area also in Point Hope.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead,  
33 Karen.

34

35 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
36 members. One of the challenges, I just turned to the  
37 map at Point Hope, is because this is tied to Federal  
38 subsistence management, I'm just glancing at the map  
39 and I would imagine the reason why a lot of the studies  
40 are done in the east is because of the Refuge there and  
41 the Federal land. But I will -- I've made a note,  
42 unfortunately if Brendon was here he could speak to  
43 this, but I will follow up with him and I will get back  
44 to you because that's one of the beauties of the  
45 working group, is the ongoing discussion, and so I've  
46 got it annotated and I'm going to do a little bit of  
47 research and talk to a few people and I will circle  
48 around and get back to you about that. Okay.

49

50 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Sounds very

1 good.

2

3 Well, I'd like to say something about  
4 the resources and stuff.

5

6

MR. SHEARS: Got it.

7

8

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah. I think  
9 I'm pretty supportive of some of these but I think  
10 there needs to be more emphasis on some changes and  
11 reflecting some concerns of the communities that it  
12 could be ingrained in some of these bullets.

13

14

The Cape Simpson area was mentioned,  
15 you know, there's a find right there near shore in  
16 shallow waters about one foot, an oil discovery of six  
17 billion barrels and I think that's -- you're going to  
18 see potentially this sector get industrialized in an  
19 area where the largest, I think, and I might be wrong,  
20 but the largest overwintering and spawning area of  
21 broad whitefish, which is a very substantial  
22 subsistence resource up in the Arctic, in the Ikpikpuk  
23 and Chipp River. There's been some studies around  
24 that. But here is one thing that's -- about the  
25 Colville and Ikpikpuk, and there's already some  
26 language on here on bullet three of interest, special  
27 interest in the Colville and the Ikpikpuk. This is the  
28 second -- not the second year, but additional year that  
29 mold in broad whitefish is being encountered. It  
30 sounds like it's worse than the previous year now. And  
31 it might be affecting reproductive capabilities. I  
32 don't know if Colville is a spawning area for broad  
33 whitefish, I'm not familiar with that, but the local  
34 people certainly know over there in that area.

35

36

But one of the things that's different,  
37 because I fish on the Ikpikpuk River, all my life, 40  
38 years, I've been fishing, I'm the poster child of  
39 Ikpikpuk River on your catalog here.

40

41

(Laughter)

42

43

ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: And there's me  
44 right there fishing.

45

46

And I worry, are my fish going to start  
47 to receive the same kind of ills that the Colville  
48 River Delta is going through. We're so close to each  
49 other, it's not even maybe 50 miles just to come over  
50 and you're in the Ikpikpuk Delta versus the Colville

1 Delta. Is there something different in the Colville  
2 Delta that has changed. Only -- I think since 1998  
3 extensive drilling in the Colville Delta has started, I  
4 think there's probably a thousand wells producing in  
5 the Coville Delta now and you've got the Alpine CD1,  
6 CD3, CD2, CD4, each one with probably 50 to 100 wells  
7 on each pad and guess what, that oil comes out at about  
8 145 degrees. It's hot. It's coming from within the  
9 earth. If you look at the trajectory of all of these  
10 wells where they come down and -- and then they target  
11 and go horizontal and then come back down, you can see  
12 all of this maze of wells in the Coville Delta. Is  
13 there -- some biologist said it's climate change, the  
14 Delta's just warming up naturally, or are we -- do we  
15 have a bunsen burner effect underneath of a thousand  
16 well heads producing 145 degree oil coming out in the  
17 thaw stable section of the thaw bulb and cooking that  
18 Delta. Could it be conceived to think about these  
19 things in that manner and is it now time to compare  
20 that environment would have been exactly the same as  
21 the Ikpikpuk River Delta. I mean you could think about  
22 this with a six billion barrel find and two billion  
23 technically recoverable in the Smith Bay, that Delta in  
24 Smith Bay I think is going to get the same intensive  
25 development pressure as the Colville Delta.

26  
27 Not too long ago, about 20 years ago,  
28 we were tackling complete subsidence problems in  
29 Prudhoe Bay. Well heads were teetering and the well  
30 houses were tipping over to their sides. What it is  
31 was all that hot oil coming out through a well head was  
32 compromising the integrity of the ground that the well  
33 housings were placed on. The permafrost was subsiding  
34 to where the well heads were tipping to their sides and  
35 there had to be an extensive mitigation measure to use  
36 thermal syphons to bring that permafrost up to maintain  
37 that temperature to minimize the subsidence issues  
38 encountering in the KRU Prudhoe Bay of all these four  
39 or 5,000 well heads that are producing.

40  
41 Now, I'm just theorizing all of this  
42 stuff because I've seen the initiatives for addressing  
43 subsidence in Prudhoe Bay, in the Kuparak area to  
44 mitigate that. Right now it's a mystery of why the  
45 Colville River and the broad whitefish are experiencing  
46 fish with this mold in it, which is fairly new, you  
47 know, you're not going to see this, I would see this  
48 subsidence issue in the Delta because it's a huge, huge  
49 thaw bulb, whereas Prudhoe Bay was permafrost  
50 immediately under it so you saw the subsidence was

1 visible. But in a thaw bulb, where it might be 70, 80  
2 feet down on the thaw bulb, where they call it thaw  
3 stable and you can drill through it, but isn't that an  
4 ideal incubator for 500 well heads going down and  
5 getting 145 degree oil coming up in the return -- sound  
6 like this is the Colville Delta thaw bulb and you got a  
7 bunsen burner slowly changing the temperature, just a  
8 theory.

9

10 But I think it's an ideal time to get  
11 baseline information on the Ikpikpuk River Delta where  
12 you potentially might have the same development over  
13 time. And where it's impacting community of four or  
14 500 people, you could be impacting a community of  
15 people that depend and fish and subsist of three or  
16 4,000 people in a much more populated area.

17

18 Seems to me there needs to be some  
19 effort to study that. I'm not trying to minimize  
20 anything about the Colville Delta concerns over there,  
21 but I would think there's a study in the making if you  
22 look at all of these things.

23

24 I wouldn't know exactly how to phrase  
25 it but baseline information between and comparison  
26 between the Colville Delta should be absolutely in the  
27 beginning similar to the Ikpikpuk River Delta. They're  
28 just neighbors.

29

30 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh, yeah.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Anyway, I  
33 think that's something I would ask to make sure that  
34 some level of capturing that kind of study to occur.

35

36 It's all hypothetical but somebody's  
37 got to think about it.

38

39 MR. SHEARS: Karen, does that satisfy  
40 your objective for this discussion topic. I can turn  
41 the floor back over to the -- or the gavel back to the  
42 Chair?

43

44 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, go  
45 ahead. Bob.

46

47 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, it sounds like  
48 Gordon and Steve and I are quite supportive of each  
49 other on what you've got here. It sounds like you've  
50 got a lot more information clarifying what you've got

1 in front of you, are you satisfied with what you have  
2 now, and are we done with this subject?

3

4 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
5 members. Yes, thank you very much. That has given  
6 Josh and I a lot to work with.

7

8 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Gordon.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay, what's  
11 the wish of the Commission, we've.....

12

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

14

15 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....lost  
16 quorum.....

17

18 MS. PATTON: .....and Council.....

19

20 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....we can't  
21 make any decisions, I think.

22

23 Eva.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Yeah, if I could make a  
26 recommendation. Because we're making dinner for you  
27 guys anyway, and that's coming soon and I don't want to  
28 put Gilbert Casteilanos on the spot here but he's a  
29 really dynamic speaker and very engaging.....

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MS. PATTON: .....and -- and I'd also  
34 might follow up a little bit, because he's going to be  
35 presenting on the Council of Arctic Flora and Fauna and  
36 we're in a phase here where there's an opportunity with  
37 the US Chairmanship for much more engagement and  
38 feedback and he's seeking feedback from the region, and  
39 it might be nice, we could end on that today, it's not  
40 an action item in the form of a motion but seeking  
41 feedback and maybe food for thought tonight and when  
42 you're talking with folks, you know, in your workshop  
43 at the Assembly tomorrow, an opportunity to share some  
44 of that information, if the -- if the Council was  
45 willing and Gilbert was willing, that might be a nice  
46 way to close.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Yeah, Eva, I  
49 think that sounds wonderful as long as -- so how long  
50 until we eat then.

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I don't know  
4 what your.....  
5  
6 MS. PATTON: Karen's gone to the  
7 kitchen and I know Jennifer had started cooking while  
8 we were working on the FRMP, so.....  
9  
10 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very good.  
11  
12 MS. PATTON: .....it might be -- and  
13 maybe we got like 15 or 20 minutes, you think of  
14 discussion here, and then we'll be.....  
15  
16 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay.  
17  
18 MS. PATTON: .....soup's on, should be  
19 ready to eat by -- by then.  
20  
21 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay. Did you  
22 want to take a five minute break and.....  
23  
24 MR. SHEARS: Body life functions break.  
25  
26 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: .....maybe a  
27 body, life and whatever.  
28  
29 MS. PATTON: Okay.  
30  
31 MR. SHEARS: Yes.  
32  
33 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Take just a  
34 five minute break bio break and maybe go steal a (In  
35 Inupiat) from Bob.  
36  
37 MS. PATTON: All right, thank you.  
38  
39 And if there's anyone still with us on  
40 line we're just going to take a five minute break and  
41 we'll be back shortly.  
42  
43 (Off record)  
44  
45 (On record)  
46  
47 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right,  
48 Gilbert, right.  
49  
50 MR. CASTEILANOS: Yes, sir.



1                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right, so,  
2 the Arctic Council Alaska and International Cooperation  
3 on Flora and Fauna.

4  
5                   MR. CASTEILANOS: Yes, sir.

6  
7                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: All right, you  
8 got the floor.

9  
10                  MR. CASTEILANOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11 Thank you, Council members. I really sincerely  
12 appreciate the opportunity to come before you tonight.  
13 It's a little late, I know we're waiting for some  
14 dinner here and I hope that I won't make any waste of  
15 your time, that you'll have a chance to take a look at  
16 my presentation and enjoy it. I've had the honor to  
17 speak before the Council before, about a year ago, and  
18 so this is another chance. I won't go too in-depth  
19 into my past and who I am and my history, but I will  
20 tell you for the record my name is Gilbert Casteilanos,  
21 I serve as the International Affairs Specialist for the  
22 Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage, Alaska. I've  
23 lived in Anchorage for about six years now and my son  
24 and my daughter were both born in Alaska. My son is  
25 Nicholas Casteilanos and he's two years old and my  
26 daughter's five months old and her name is Victoria,  
27 and my wife's name is Theresa. I am the son of  
28 (indiscernible) both from Mexico and I have, well, I  
29 think the obligation but also the honor to be  
30 representing Alaska, the United States and all those  
31 interested in Arctic conservation of flora and fauna  
32 issues. With that, I'd like to introduce my partner in  
33 crime at this presentation, and, well, maybe you could  
34 introduce yourself Sarah.

35  
36                  MS. CREACHBAUM: Okay.

37  
38                  MR. CASTEILANOS: Great.

39  
40                  MS. CREACHBAUM: Good evening Council  
41 members. My name is Sarah Creachbaum, and I'm here  
42 just on a temporary assignment from the beautiful state  
43 of Washington and I've been very fortunate to work with  
44 Gilbert on International Arctic issues. And I don't  
45 know anything about Alaska, I've only been around for  
46 four months and I'm incredibly honored to be here.  
47 And, thank you, for allowing me to learn.

48  
49                  MR. CASTEILANOS: With that we'll go  
50 right into the presentation.

1                   My first slide is going to just tell  
2 you a little bit about what I plan to talk with you  
3 about. It's, you know, what is the Arctic Council,  
4 what is this CAFF Conservation of Arctic Flora and  
5 Fauna Working Group. Why do we engage in this  
6 international work, why is it important, and hopefully  
7 you'll get a little bit about why I think it might be  
8 relevant to you all. The Arctic Council and some of  
9 the work that they do on subsistence issues and how  
10 their programs are guided with respect to those issues.  
11 And then what's coming up and how you may wish to  
12 engage.

13  
14                   So I mentioned before and I'll mention  
15 again, the Arctic Council is, well, sort of like the  
16 equivalent of, I guess something like the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board with respect to this Council, that is  
18 they meet and they discuss what are the issues that are  
19 important with respect to Arctic Cooperation and then  
20 the work is done by six working ground of the Arctic  
21 Council. I'll give you just a little bit of background  
22 on the Arctic Council, and just say the Arctic Council  
23 is specifically made up of eight Arctic countries and  
24 the Foreign Ministers of those countries, so like for  
25 the United States right now, that's Secretary of State  
26 John Kerry, and his equivalence around the Arctic, they  
27 get together once every two years, they talk about  
28 Arctic issues and say, hey, where are places that we  
29 can cooperate, what are things that we should be  
30 working together on. As I said there are six working  
31 groups, you'll see that red arrow there points to the  
32 conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, o CAFF working  
33 group. I mentioned I have the distinct honor to serve  
34 as the United States representative or the United  
35 States head of delegation to that working group. And  
36 in that role, it's my honor and obligation to represent  
37 the interests of United States citizens as well as, I  
38 think, particularly Alaskans, and even more  
39 specifically the people of the Arctic region, which  
40 include the Inupiaq people, the Yup'ik, the St.  
41 Lawrence Island Yup'ik, the Chup'ik, all the way down  
42 into the Aleut, Aleutians, the Gwich'in and the  
43 Athabascan.

44  
45                   That's a really important point that I  
46 want to make here. And that is that the one thing that  
47 separates the Arctic Council from all the other  
48 international meetings and forums that you'll hear  
49 about, things like the United Nations or the Economic  
50 Cooperation Partnership, or any of the different

1 international organizations, is that, with the foreign  
2 ministers of the eight Arctic nations are also six  
3 senior people who represent the Arctic indigenous  
4 communities. We call these folks the permanent  
5 participants. Nice thing about this, too, is that  
6 there are six permanent participant groups and they sit  
7 right there with the foreign ministers to talk about  
8 what issues should we concentrate on. And of those  
9 six, four of them are Alaskans. I mentioned the  
10 Athabascans, the Gwich'in, the Aleut, and the Inuit, or  
11 for our region here, Inupiaq.

12

13                   Next slide please.

14

15                   I have my little arrow there. This is  
16 another really important thing that I want to mention  
17 here and that is, for the purposes of the Conservation  
18 of Arctic Flora and Fauna, or CAFF working group, you  
19 can see that red line outlines the boundary and it's  
20 kind of a zig-zaggy, maybe doesn't make a lot of sense  
21 if you're just looking at it, for what is,  
22 quote/unquote, the Arctic region, that we're interested  
23 in. But as you think about some of the flora and  
24 fauna, and the animals and plants and ecosystems that  
25 depend on this area, and the people that depend on  
26 those, this actually makes a lot more sense and I'll  
27 talk a little bit about that in my next slide.

28

29                   So why do we engage internationally.  
30 Why do we care from the perspective of this board, this  
31 Council, and from the perspective of the United States  
32 as a country who has interest.

33

34                   Well, many of the species that we're  
35 all very familiar with and that are incredibly  
36 important to subsistence uses are located around the  
37 Circumpolar Arctic. Things like caribou and reindeer,  
38 polar bear, walrus, the birds that migrate in and out  
39 of this area, and some of them migrate in a Circumpolar  
40 way. So if we want to -- I mentioned before at another  
41 RAC meeting, if you have an Inupiaq person and you were  
42 to grab them and take them down to, I don't know,  
43 Michigan, or Florida, and you were to put them there,  
44 because they're very capable Alaskans and very capable  
45 hunters, they'd be able to make their way and survive  
46 and they'd sort of have a lot to learn, you know, about  
47 the plants, the animals, the ecosystems that are there.  
48 But if we grab this same Inupiaq person and we put them  
49 in the north of Norway or in the north of Russia or the  
50 north of Canada, heck, they might even speak the same

1 language or pretty close and they'd certainly look  
2 around and see the trees and the plants and the animals  
3 and say, this looks pretty familiar to me. And so we  
4 have a lot to learn and a lot to think about. If we  
5 look at issues like salmon, or we look at issues like  
6 Arctic Char which are also a Circumpolar distributed  
7 species, we're not the only ones facing some of the  
8 issues that we're facing.

9

10                   Sometimes, if you were to go to, as I  
11 said, Florida or another part of the United States,  
12 there's fisheries issues everywhere, there's climate  
13 change issues, but when you're dealing with salmon  
14 issues in the north of Norway, if you translated the  
15 local newspaper about the issues they're having, you  
16 might as well be reading an article in the Anchorage  
17 Daily News or in some of the local websites here in  
18 Barrow. It's a lot of the very, very similar issues,  
19 and so we have a lot to gain and a lot to learn from  
20 talking to each other and saying, hey, what are you  
21 guys doing, what's going on with your Arctic Char  
22 populations, what's going on with your plant  
23 communities, where are trees growing, where are birds  
24 going that they didn't go before, or showing up earlier  
25 than they used to.

26

27                   So it's just to make a point that I  
28 think we have a lot to learn from cooperating,  
29 listening to each other and hopefully protecting and  
30 sustaining these important critical resources.

31

32                   So what is the CAFF working group.

33

34                   I've talked about the Arctic Council.  
35 You have the ministers, you have the representatives,  
36 the permanent participants. They meet once every two  
37 years. And currently you might know that the United  
38 States is Chairing the Arctic Council from 2015 to  
39 2017, we're really excited about that and have been  
40 working hard on a number of different issues, including  
41 issues important to traditional local knowledge and  
42 subsistence issues.

43

44                   At the end of the day the CAFF working  
45 group is just people and we get together, you see the  
46 folks there, it's representatives from each of the  
47 eight Arctic countries. It's representatives of Arctic  
48 indigenous communities. And it's other observers to  
49 the Arctic Council, which includes countries like China  
50 and Korea and Japan and a number of international

1 organizations as well. We get together twice a year  
2 and we work to implement the declarations and the  
3 orders that we get from the ministers and the  
4 representatives, the permanent participants. We find  
5 areas to work together and cooperate on issues related  
6 to conservation of Arctic flora and fauna.

7  
8                 So talking a little bit about some of  
9 the subsistence issues, in particular, that might be,  
10 you know, relevant to this group, in 2007 or so, we  
11 began a process to try to say, what do we know, what do  
12 we not know and what do we need to know about the life  
13 in the Arctic. The wildlife, the plants, the  
14 ecosystems of the Arctic. It took about seven years  
15 and probably 300 of the world's leading experts  
16 including a lot of traditional knowledge holders and  
17 Arctic indigenous people who were engaged and  
18 essentially looking at everything from bacteria in the  
19 ocean all the way up to bowhead whales and everything  
20 in between and saying what do we know about these  
21 populations, what do we know about Arctic Char, what  
22 do we know about spectacled eiders, what do we know  
23 about every species and plant and ecosystem there, what  
24 do we not know and what do we need to know. After  
25 seven years of thinking about this, and millions of  
26 dollars invested in trying to figure out what we know,  
27 what we need to know and what we need to do about it,  
28 they agreed -- we agreed -- the Arctic Council agreed  
29 to 17 recommendations. Those 17 recommendations are  
30 included in the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, which  
31 was adopted by the Ministers of the Arctic in 2013 in  
32 Sweden.

33  
34                 Next slide please.

35  
36                 I want to draw your attention, in  
37 particular, to recommendation 14, which I'll read here  
38 in a moment, but I also want to say that I believe  
39 every one of the 17 recommendations in one way or  
40 another apply explicitly to subsistence issues and, in  
41 particular, to the people of this region.

42  
43                 ABA recommendation 14 specifically  
44 says, recognizing the value of traditional ecological  
45 knowledge, we should work to further integrate it into  
46 assessments, planning and management of Arctic  
47 biodiversity, this includes involving Arctic peoples  
48 and their knowledge in the survey, monitoring and  
49 analysis of Arctic biodiversity.

50

1                   I want you to understand why I think  
2 this is important.

3  
4                   It's important because the foreign  
5 ministers have agreed that this is something we need to  
6 do and they've said we need to start doing it through  
7 the Arctic Council and beyond. The United States has  
8 sought to be a leading sort of power in trying to make  
9 this happen and we're working to deliver on the  
10 commitments to achieve real results, which I'll talk a  
11 little bit more about in the next slide.

12  
13                   Here are a couple of examples of some  
14 of the work that we've been doing.

15  
16                   Through something called the  
17 Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, or the  
18 CBMP, which is the central program of the CAFF working  
19 group. We're in the process of developing a plan for  
20 monitoring biodiversity in the coastal areas. As you  
21 all well know the coastal area is sot of where the  
22 rubber meets the road when it comes to just about  
23 everything, it's where a majority of the people live,  
24 it's where climate change is having the greatest  
25 impacts, it's a very important dynamic area in terms of  
26 biodiversity.

27  
28                   So what we've done for the first time  
29 ever, is from the very, very beginning, before we had  
30 even began to discuss the plan, we brought together  
31 Arctic indigenous representatives from across Canada  
32 and Russia and Alaska in one place, along with Western  
33 scientists sitting in one table and saying, from the  
34 very beginning, what should we think about, what should  
35 we do, and monitoring and assessing plants, animals and  
36 ecosystems of the coast. This is an effort that the  
37 United States Geological Survey along with Polar  
38 Knowledge Canada, is co-leading for the conservation of  
39 Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group and we're in the  
40 middle of trying to put together this plan that's going  
41 to say how do we develop and plan for, what are we  
42 going to monitor, how are we going to monitor it, it's  
43 kind of along the lines of the discussion that you were  
44 having a moment ago with my colleague about how do we  
45 prioritize fisheries research and this kind of stuff,  
46 and so this is going to look at the entire coastal  
47 region and we're trying very, very hard to make sure  
48 that our traditional and ecological holders and  
49 indigenous knowledge holders are sitting right side by  
50 side with the Western scientists to figure out and

1 cooperate and agree on what are the most important  
2 things we need to know about biodiversity and what's  
3 the new information we need to see.

4

5                   So what's coming up next, and why  
6 should this matter to you.

7

8                   As I mentioned, the United States  
9 currently has the obligation to serve as the Chair of  
10 the entire Arctic Council. There's an important  
11 meeting coming up in May of 2017 where whoever our  
12 Secretary of State is at that point will be in  
13 Fairbanks and we'll be hosting the foreign ministers  
14 and dignitaries from around the world in Fairbanks to  
15 talk about what are the most important issues in the  
16 Arctic to us, where are places that we should be  
17 cooperating on. In Juneau, in March of next year,  
18 there'll be a sort of lead up meeting to that  
19 Chairmanship, a meeting of the senior Arctic officials  
20 and that should be -- it'll be an interesting one where  
21 we kind of decide on what have we managed to accomplish  
22 over the course of the last year and a half, almost two  
23 years, and what are going to be the most important  
24 things that we're going to want to highlight at our  
25 Chairmanship's event in May of 2017.

26

27                   And if you'll switch back one more --  
28 sorry.

29

30                   The reason I'm here and the big sort  
31 of, not an action item, but a request that I have for  
32 the Council, is that beginning in May, with the end of  
33 the US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, the United  
34 States will take the Chairmanship of the CAFF working  
35 group. So from May 2017 to May 2019 we are going to be  
36 Chairing the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna  
37 working group of the Arctic Council. Fish and Wildlife  
38 Service working with a number of different other  
39 Federal agencies and partners as well as State  
40 government and ideally with communities and folks like  
41 yourselves engaged. We hope to put together a -- I  
42 don't know how to phrase it, an awesome, a kick butt, a  
43 really cool program, we're going to have people from  
44 around the Arctic, we're going to have our Russian  
45 indigenous associations, people of the North, a number  
46 of different people meeting in places around Alaska and  
47 talking about what are the most important issues facing  
48 the plants, the animals, the ecosystems, the  
49 traditional knowledge holders, and all of the citizens  
50 that live in this great state. And so we're trying to

1 work with you all to try to help us prepare to make  
2 sure that that is a cool program.

3  
4 I was here a year ago talking about  
5 this, and I want you to know that we've been working  
6 hard for the last year to try to make sure we're  
7 getting input, to try to make sure that we're going to  
8 have a relevant program but there's still quite a lot  
9 of time and at any time that folks want to get engaged  
10 or are interested in learning or doing more, we would  
11 absolutely welcome you.

12  
13 What's my big summary here.

14  
15 Well, the Arctic Council and the CAFF  
16 working group, I think, provide a unique and pretty  
17 powerful instrument at times for talking about what are  
18 the issues that are important to you, what are the  
19 issues that are important to the United States, the  
20 people who live here in our Arctic region. We'd like  
21 for you to help us make an impact across the Arctic, in  
22 particular, on subsistence and food security issues,  
23 but on all the issues that matter to the people of this  
24 region and to Alaska, and, in general, Americans.

25  
26 The strategy, I think, is only going to  
27 work and be as good as it can be if we have your  
28 involvement and the involvement of the folks that live  
29 up here and subsist up here.

30  
31 So here's my little diagram for sort of  
32 next steps.

33  
34 The question, I guess, is, you know, do  
35 you want to know more, and, if, yes, well, then you can  
36 contact me or you can contact your representatives  
37 through one of those permanent participant groups. For  
38 this region that would be the Inuit Circumpolar  
39 Council, ICC, Jimmy Stotts down in Anchorage is your  
40 able representative, you can always talk to him. You  
41 can talk to me. You can talk to Sarah. You can talk  
42 to Eva. Just let us know if you're interested, what  
43 you'd like to do and I'm at your service for anything  
44 that you'd like to make sure is important.

45  
46 And, then, of course, if you don't want  
47 to hear anymore, I just thank you for your time.

48  
49 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Bob, go ahead.

50



1 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Gilbert. Thank  
2 you both for the efforts that you are making in  
3 participating and to communicate and coordinate for us  
4 with this group of people. I think it's absolutely  
5 important. I'm very concerned, however, and I want to  
6 quiz you and get your feedback, if you share my  
7 feelings or share the information that I am absorbing  
8 in recent months in regards to our country's  
9 relationship with Russia.

10  
11 I'm hearing from multiple news sources  
12 that coordination and cooperation, inter-government  
13 cooperation and coordination between the United States  
14 and Russia is at its worst state since it's been since  
15 the early 1960s and that we've even seen with  
16 cooperations on subjects of polar bear, and other  
17 activities, walrus, we're seeing that the cooperation  
18 between our subsistence users and just across the  
19 Bering Straits with Russia are being -- there's  
20 obstacles now to those communities. Are you  
21 encountering any issues similar to what I've been  
22 hearing?

23  
24 MR. CASTEILANOS: Through the Chair. I  
25 thank Council member Shears for his question.  
26 Certainly international relations are the purview of  
27 the US Department of State and others, it's outside of  
28 my scope but I will say that our policy and the policy  
29 of the United States with respect to the Arctic Council  
30 is that the overarching US strategic priorities laid  
31 out in the national strategy for the Arctic region as  
32 well as in our Chairmanship Program for the Arctic  
33 Council is that the Arctic Council is a forum of peace  
34 and cooperation and it should remain so now and forever  
35 moving forward.

36  
37 The Arctic Council does not engage in  
38 issues dealing with defense and it also doesn't do a  
39 few other things, like areas where the competence in  
40 engaging and agreeing on issues lies elsewhere. What  
41 does that mean. Well, for example, polar bears, we  
42 don't really do a lot of polar bear in the Arctic  
43 Council because there's the range states, which is  
44 where polar bears exist and those are the people that  
45 should be talking about what to do, what not to do.

46  
47 Another area is in fisheries, where  
48 there are other competent organizations whether the  
49 International Maritime Organization, United Nations,  
50 and other venues, where fisheries issues are dealt

1 with. Whales are another issue where we talk about the  
2 International Whaling Commissions.

3  
4 So there are certain things that we  
5 don't do.

6  
7 One thing that we absolutely want to  
8 emphasize from the perspective of the United States, is  
9 that, the Arctic Council is a place for peace and  
10 cooperation.

11  
12 With respect specifically to your  
13 question, because I don't want to appear to be dodging  
14 it.

15  
16 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

17  
18 MR. CASTEILANOS: The Russian  
19 Federation is an important ally in issues related to  
20 conservation of Arctic flora and fauna. I mentioned  
21 they sit, for example, on the discussions of the  
22 coastal monitoring plan that's currently in  
23 development.

24  
25 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

26  
27 MR. CASTEILANOS: We reach out to them  
28 and attempt to work with them very closely on things  
29 like mapping tundra and other kinds of areas like that  
30 where -- especially Arctic scientists in Russia are  
31 some of the best in the world. And so our efforts  
32 remain that areas that we were engaged in in the past  
33 we should continue to engage the Russian Federation on  
34 and they remain, I think, a critical compliment just by  
35 shear area. I was mentioning to my colleague that I  
36 think that the Tiga or the Boreal Forest of Russia just  
37 the forest, the wild forest is bigger than the entire  
38 state of Alaska and so they.....

39  
40 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

41  
42 MR. CASTEILANOS: .....take up quite a  
43 lot of territory and I think they can be really  
44 important allies on questions of conservation of Arctic  
45 flora and fauna. I think that's probably where I can  
46 leave it from my perspective and my sort of engagement  
47 on those issues.

48  
49 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Gilbert. Good.  
50 So now I can address my question then, it sounds like

1 we do have working relationships. Has there been any  
2 subject of discussion on walrus ivory and cooperation  
3 with the international community on differentiating it  
4 from elephant ivory and preserving the circumpolar  
5 Native's right to use walrus ivory for arts and crafts  
6 and for traditional tools.

7

8 MR. CASTEILANOS: Through the Chair.  
9 Council member Shears. You're asking questions that  
10 are a little bit out of my purview once again. I hate  
11 to continue to be dodging those critically important  
12 issues.....

13

14 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

15

16 MR. CASTEILANOS: .....obviously for  
17 Alaskans. Those tend to be issues that are dealt with  
18 through other bodies, like CITES and these kinds of  
19 things and those are issues that, once, again, the  
20 Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna working group,  
21 or the Arctic Council tends not to engage in.

22

23 MR. SHEARS: Focus on terrestrial then  
24 and I'd be more on base.

25

26 MR. CASTEILANOS: No, sir.

27

28 MR. SHEARS: Oh, okay.

29

30 MR. CASTEILANOS: We most absolutely  
31 focus on issues like walrus and whales and these kind  
32 of things, but our angle tends to be -- for example, we  
33 were in discussions and continue to talk with our  
34 friends in the Inuit Circumpolar Council about doing a  
35 joint project, the United States.....

36

37 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

38

39 MR. CASTEILANOS: .....potentially with  
40 Canada and Russia looking at walrus through a food  
41 security lens. How important -- what's going on with  
42 walrus, are they going up or are they going down, these  
43 mass haul-outs, how are they impacting and what's the  
44 potential future for walrus from the perspective of  
45 food security so the questions that we approach and the  
46 sort of projects that we tend to lead are projects  
47 where there's not another competent body already  
48 talking about it.

49

50 So issues like ivory, you might well

1 know, are currently, as I understand it, under  
2 discussion at CITES, that's something that, again, I'm  
3 not an expert on, not an area that I sort of focus on  
4 but the issues that are not already being dealt with  
5 somewhere else, are issues that we look at and say,  
6 okay, nobody's working on this but it's really, really  
7 important so maybe we should and those are things that  
8 I've already mentioned and quite a lot of other  
9 stuff.....

10

11 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

12

13 MR. CASTEILANOS: .....but ivory, in  
14 particular, is not an issue that we delve into too  
15 much.

16

17 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Second subject then  
18 -- different subject is in regards to environmental  
19 protection and public concern.

20

21 Would you be involved in coordinating  
22 concerns in other circumpolar regions, and, most  
23 specifically it came to my attention that Russia has  
24 gone through a public process of environmental analysis  
25 on building, constructing off shore nuclear powerplants  
26 which are floating nuclear powerplants that were  
27 approved, gone through design and construction and are  
28 now in installation on their coastline on the Bering  
29 Strait, on the Kamchatka Peninsula. There's one going  
30 in installation, and going into operation in 2018 with  
31 two more coming on line by 2022. Now, does Alaska have  
32 any voice in that subject through the CAFF?

33

34 MR. CASTEILANOS: Thank you. To answer  
35 that question I would say that through the CAFF most  
36 likely not, but the Arctic Council, through many of its  
37 working groups would. And, in fact, among, the US  
38 Chairmanship priorities there were three, one of them  
39 was oceans, Arctic Oceans, the other one was generally  
40 climate change, and climate resilience and adaptation  
41 in particular, and the third one was sort of looking at  
42 human well-being in the Arctic. And among those  
43 priorities you might know we've had a number of  
44 discussions about telecommunications and improving  
45 internet access.....

46

47 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

48

49 MR. CASTEILANOS: .....and other kinds  
50 of remote access.

1 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

2

3 MR. CASTEILANOS: We've had quite a  
4 number of meetings, including some here in Barrow.  
5 Another focus was on energy, and alternative energy  
6 sources, not focusing exclusively on sort of renewable  
7 energy sources, but also asking questions about nuclear  
8 power and these kinds of things. So those have been an  
9 important focus about generally what's the well-being  
10 of Arctic communities. How do we make sure that people  
11 have jobs, have energy that's affordable, these kinds  
12 of things are important priorities for the United  
13 States, at large, it's not part of the CAFF portfolio  
14 but it is something that the United States, through  
15 some of the other working groups is thinking about, is  
16 considering. I'd be happy to put you in touch with  
17 some of those folks. But those are probably issues  
18 that are sort of not directly relevant to subsistence  
19 and to this Council, but, of course, critically  
20 important to people that call this place home.

21

22 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. So final question,  
23 would the deposition of industrial atmospheric dust  
24 created by industrial development, coal fire  
25 powerplants, forest fires, there's been a number of  
26 field studies in Northern Alaska to see how, you know,  
27 how that's contributing to ice thaw, contamination of  
28 lichen and stuff like that, but no real source  
29 exploration to identify the source or the extent  
30 circumpolar that atmospheric contamination falling into  
31 the Earth, how extensive it is. Is that a subject that  
32 you've seen or been aware of, studying atmospheric  
33 contamination?

34

35 MR. CASTEILANOS: Thank you, Council  
36 member Shears. Through the Chair. I'd say there's one  
37 more relevant potentially and one that's less relevant.  
38 Black carbon, methane and other of these sort of short-  
39 lived climate pollutants or some climate pollutants  
40 that are just much more significant than things like  
41 carbon dioxide are a priority issue for the Arctic  
42 Council, for the CAFF. There's another working group  
43 called the Arctic Contaminants Action Program which  
44 tends to focus on issues like that but there's one  
45 place where it has been particularly relevant to Barrow  
46 and to subsistence and a place where the CAFF working  
47 group is doing some work, that's called the Arctic  
48 Migratory Birds Initiative. And we've done some very,  
49 very minimal studies that looks at taking blood samples  
50 from birds and say what kind of contaminants are we

1 facing inside some of the migratory birds, some of  
2 which, either through direct hunting and take or  
3 through the eggs are important subsistence resources,  
4 we found very concerning levels of some heavy metals or  
5 other products, but the studies have been sort of  
6 sporadic and not necessarily covered all of the species  
7 that are important to subsistence.

8

9 I'll mention that Russia actually --  
10 the Russian Federation was a significant contributor,  
11 and one of the leading, sort of forces in the Arctic  
12 Council to develop something called the Project Support  
13 Instrument, or the PSI, that currently holds on the  
14 order of 10 or 11 million euros of just cash sitting in  
15 a place in Stockholm and ready to support projects that  
16 are looking at pollution, atmospheric or otherwise,  
17 chemical contaminants and others that are impacting the  
18 Arctic and they're just looking for proposals and we  
19 put one forward, the Conservation of Arctic Flora and  
20 Fauna working group a few months ago and it was  
21 approved by the Project Support Instrument Board and  
22 this project is specifically looking at Arctic  
23 migratory birds. So we're going to meet in Singapore  
24 in January to discuss, how do we use this money. I  
25 think it was something like \$150,000, to look at what  
26 are the important contaminant pollutant issues in  
27 Arctic migratory birds. And so that's something that's  
28 just in discussions now, we're really excited about the  
29 mon -- the funding that we received, and there is this  
30 giant pot of money that's just sitting there and those  
31 guys are like begging for proposals. The proposals  
32 come through the Arctic countries, they go to a board  
33 that's separate from the Arctic Council, although the  
34 few projects that have been funded have all been  
35 projects proposed by the Arctic Council working groups,  
36 in particular, this Arctic Contaminants Action Program.

37

38 But it is an important issue.

39

40 I think one of the priority areas of  
41 focus, one of the themes that we really wanted to  
42 emphasize during our Chairmanship of the Arctic  
43 Council, the United States, is that, what happens in  
44 the Arctic doesn't stay in the Arctic and the reverse  
45 is also true. Coal burning, long range transport of  
46 air pollutants, chemicals in other parts of the world  
47 can sometimes find their way up here and in sometimes  
48 concentrate up here.....

49

50 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

1 MR. CASTEILANOS: .....and that can be  
2 a very significant concern for subsistence resources  
3 and for the people that sort of, you know, rely on  
4 these foods.

5  
6 And so these are things that I think  
7 perhaps there are still quite a lot of questions to ask  
8 that need some answering and so, at least, with respect  
9 to migratory birds, we're looking forward to -- over  
10 the course of the next year or two, making some kinds  
11 of findings or coming up with some kinds of better  
12 clarity on what might be happening in that regard.

13  
14 MR. SHEARS: Absolutely. Absolutely.  
15 Good. Excellent.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any questions  
20 from Point Hope.

21  
22 MR. OOMITUK: Yes, Mr. Chair.

23  
24 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead  
25 there, Steve.

26  
27 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, for the record,  
28 Steve Oomituk from Point Hope.

29  
30 Are you familiar with Project Chariot,  
31 you know, when they were doing all these nuclear  
32 testings, you know, in the '50s and early '60s, Edward  
33 Teller, who, you know, their plan was to build a deep  
34 water harbor right there at Cape Thompson, right next  
35 to Point Hope, you know, and he got stopped. But they  
36 buried a bunch of nuclear waste over there that was,  
37 you know, testings from Nevada, you know, and they did  
38 some testing over there. They recently cleaned it up  
39 but there's a lot of documents that are top secret that  
40 we've been wanting to get them declassified so we can  
41 know exactly what else they did in that.

42  
43 You know, Point Hope has a high rate of  
44 cancer, you know, we depend on the animals and the  
45 animals has always been there, you know, migrate right  
46 in that area, the birds, the seals, walrus, you know,  
47 whales.

48  
49 You know, Chernobyl, you know, did you  
50 guys do any studies at Chernobyl or anything like that,

1 nuclear, in Russia, you know, what's the habitat like  
2 over there, have you guys -- you know, the Russian  
3 side, have you done anything at Chernobyl or testing or  
4 anything like that?

5

6 MR. CASTEILANOS: Thank you Council  
7 member. Through the Chair. I'd say no we've not.  
8 That's not an issue that the Conservation of Arctic  
9 Flora and Fauna working group has worked a lot on. The  
10 Arctic Contaminants Action Program, which, as I said,  
11 is a different working group of the Arctic Council, has  
12 worked very closely with the Russian Federation on  
13 cleaning up contaminated sites. Nuclear waste has been  
14 a focus. Frans (Indiscernible) a number of different  
15 places in sort of -- well, the north and eastern side  
16 of Russian Federation have quite a lot -- there's quite  
17 a lot of legacy there. I don't know particularly --  
18 personally the Chariot Program, only what I've listened  
19 to on the radio, like NPR and some of the stories on  
20 Alaska Public Radio that have come out about it. It's  
21 not something that we've worked on directly, though, in  
22 the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna working  
23 group. But certainly through something like the  
24 Project Support Instrument, which provides this funding  
25 I was talking about, if it were an issue that might be  
26 important to subsistence or to the plants and animals  
27 of the region, that there might be a thought about,  
28 hey, we could look at this, this is something that  
29 concerns us, that's exactly the kind of feedback that  
30 we might want to take back and say, hey, as part of our  
31 Chairmanship of CAFF here are some important studies  
32 that we'd like to fund, or things that we'd like to  
33 look into that are important to Alaskans and to the  
34 folks that live there.

35

36 MR. OOMITUK: I have one more.

37

38 You mentioned that there was a lot of  
39 money or a lot of funding available waiting on  
40 proposals. Who -- where do you get all your funding  
41 from?

42

43 MR. CASTEILANOS: Thank you. Through  
44 the Chair. I'll say there's one unique thing about the  
45 CAFF working group and each of the working groups of  
46 the Arctic Council are a little bit different. The  
47 CAFF working group is the only working group that has a  
48 board in which all eight Arctic countries sit there  
49 including the Russian Federation and all eight Arctic  
50 countries put money into a pot every year that's used



1 to fund a secretariat, so we have like four people that  
2 sit at an office in Iceland and they serve as kind of  
3 the secretariat or the coordinators for the Arctic  
4 countries to implement their projects. Funding comes  
5 from a whole bunch of different places.

6  
7 A lot of funding comes directly from  
8 the Arctic States, so the United States, Canada, the  
9 Russian Federation and others will provide funding. Or  
10 in other cases we might provide seed funding, where we  
11 put together a concept, things that are important and  
12 put it into a plan that the countries agree to and then  
13 we shop it around. So, for example, it might end up  
14 with the Nordic Council of Ministers, it might end up  
15 in the Project Support Instrument. There's a lot of  
16 these different kinds of pots of money that are out  
17 there that are looking for good ideas and good  
18 projects. So the funding comes from quite a lot of  
19 different places.

20  
21 And so the pot of money that's  
22 dedicated to work of the CAFF is pretty small, it's the  
23 sort of funding that we put together every year, but  
24 then the amount of money and the work that we're able  
25 to leverage through others is quite -- can be quite  
26 significant.

27  
28 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead,  
29 Steve.

30  
31 MR. OOMITUK: You know, we've always  
32 lived by the ocean, you know, the ocean is like our  
33 garden, it's fed us, clothed us, sheltered us since  
34 time immemorial. We've been there for thousands of  
35 years, you know, hunting and gathering. The migration  
36 routes, all the animals, you know, they always said  
37 that the Inupiaq people were nomads and they followed  
38 the animals. You know, in Point Hope we have a lot of  
39 history there where we've been right in that spot for  
40 thousands of years because the animals come to us, they  
41 give themselves -- we believe the animals give  
42 themselves to us. They've fed us, clothed us,  
43 sheltered us, gave us that spirituality, we have a  
44 connection with the animals, that's why we're so  
45 protective of our way of life, our ocean, it provides  
46 for us. You know, without the animals we wouldn't be  
47 here, you know, since time immemorial. That's -- you  
48 know the ocean, the land, it's vital to the people of  
49 the north. It would be good to know, you know, are  
50 they getting contaminated, you know, all these nuclear

1 powerplants that they're building -- we get a lot of  
2 debris from Japan, you know. Japan stuff washes up on  
3 our beach. Russian stuff washes up on our beach, you  
4 know.

5  
6                   You know, with all those accidents  
7 they've been having with nuclear powerplants, you know,  
8 those currents come up north and, you know, we depend  
9 on the ocean. The ocean is real crucial for our  
10 people.

11  
12                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Well, I'm  
13 going to hand the Chair over a little bit.

14  
15                   MR. SHEARS: I got it, Gordon.

16  
17                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

18  
19                   MR. SHEARS: Go ahead, Gordon.

20  
21                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Gordon Brower,  
22 Barrow.

23  
24                   Yeah, it's important to know -- it  
25 seems like it's hard to decipher what actually you do  
26 with the Arctic Council, the CAFF. I always like to --  
27 you know, if I'm going to talk about something, be as  
28 knowledgeable and gather as much information as  
29 possible to be effective and to be a participant with  
30 some value. You know there's a lot of different things  
31 that we need to be understanding, especially if you're  
32 talking about multiple countries that work together and  
33 talk about issues that are facing Arctic and continue  
34 to fund for a variety of reasons, for a variety of  
35 things.

36  
37                   I can think of a lot of different  
38 things that I have concerns about.

39  
40                   Not too long ago, before the ice  
41 changed and we were whaling out there, we were going to  
42 go after this bowhead whale and we turned around and  
43 said, no, we better not go after this one. It had a  
44 rope about this thick and about a mile long stuck in  
45 its mouth and towing it, and this is an animal we eat  
46 and I -- it had to be in its environment, and the  
47 bowhead whale, it's been probably the most studied  
48 whale on the face of the planet, we know where it goes,  
49 we know where it goes to feed and all that so one of  
50 these destinations is a problem for it. And things

1 like that where environmental degradation, because I  
2 think it's a food security issue, it's a concern.  
3 These fisheries that off shore intercepts these big  
4 trawlers and that's the type of equipment they would be  
5 using and there needs to be ways to recognize how you  
6 clean up areas where an actual bowhead whale habitat  
7 is. And I've seen this one time and then heard another  
8 report of it before. And that's one thing.

9

10                   You know then you see it on TV, these  
11 Deadliest Catch shows, some of them sinking and who  
12 does what to clean up some of these messes that go off  
13 in these exclusive economic zones. These are some of  
14 the things that go to my mind.

15

16                   Another concern is these free radical  
17 plastics that, I've heard that accumulate now in the  
18 Arctic and when the ice starts to freeze up it gets --  
19 because they're floating, they get stuck in the ice,  
20 and is that a study in itself to somehow a mechanism in  
21 play there to clean that up because it's already being  
22 captured by when it's freezing up.

23

24                   I don't know.

25

26                   I mean these are some things that  
27 people say are going to start affect reproductive  
28 capabilities of marine resources in some time to come.

29

30                   The other thing is the Arctic is so  
31 rich with oil and gas. All you hear is this big giant  
32 vacuum of all of these resources going to Japan, going  
33 to China, going to the mom and pop stores to the Lower  
34 48 because that's where the majority of the consumption  
35 is. But we're relegated here to find ways to solve our  
36 energy problems when the energy is here and by the way  
37 it's being depleted at a rate that may be too late.  
38 But when you're looking at the Arctic where it is the  
39 most inhospitable, the most extreme climate, where  
40 there are people that have lived here for thousands of  
41 years, wouldn't you want to use some of those resources  
42 and find a mechanism, a funding mechanism that  
43 recognizes that we live in the most inhospitable  
44 environment, where it has the most resources. At one  
45 point the North Slope right here was 20 percent of the  
46 US domestic oil supply. 20 percent. And maybe it's  
47 going to go back to 20 percent with Cape Simpson.

48

49                   But all I see is a giant vacuum, all of  
50 these resources and how do we let the world know that

1 we got to get our diesel, we got to get our gas from  
2 Louisiana or from Seattle, where the refineries are,  
3 ship it all the way back up and then charge \$12 a  
4 gallon in a lot of our communities where there's no  
5 jobs. Basically nobody can ever retire. Nobody can  
6 ever retire, when in the past nothing cost --  
7 everything cost nothing. Our transportation was dog  
8 team, we knew the lakes, where to get the type of fish  
9 that we could sacrifice for dog food. We hunted and we  
10 didn't depend on fossil fuels back then. But do we  
11 want to go back that way, and go backwards, no way. We  
12 depend and live in the 21st Century. We depend on oil  
13 and gas like everybody else. There needs to be  
14 recognition that we live in the most extreme  
15 environment on Earth and that it should be the Arctic  
16 first. Develop these resources in a way that we can  
17 use them so that our gas can be \$1 a gallon in  
18 perpetuity here. Every one of our communities should  
19 be natural gas. You know, when you spill natural gas  
20 it just evaporates into thin air. When you spill  
21 diesel it's an environmental situation where you got to  
22 put millions and millions of dollars to clean up a  
23 diesel spill. And should you try to barge it around,  
24 encounter ice or a ship hull is compromised and you  
25 spill all of that resources, and, by the way, most  
26 likely came from Prudhoe Bay and went down the  
27 TransAlaska Pipeline, shipped to some refinery and came  
28 back around, only -- ironically it's our own fuel and  
29 we had to go fetch it from Louisiana.

30  
31                   So I think there is a moral question.

32  
33                   I think it's a moral and a justice to  
34 think about some of these things in a way that puts the  
35 Arctic first.

36  
37                   When you have major shipping lanes that  
38 are opening, the biggest short cut on Earth is over the  
39 top, the economic value to the rest of the world is  
40 immeasurable, you can't measure that because it's --  
41 you're -- probably the transit in ocean time is cut  
42 more than half, just about, you know, instead of coming  
43 down through the Panama Canal and doing things that  
44 way, you just go right over the top. We had a cruise  
45 ship out here and it's like the fourth or fifth year  
46 that the Northwest Passage is open enough to allow  
47 cruise ships up in the Arctic up here.

48  
49                   Not too long ago I saw on Discovery  
50 Channel, a cruise ship in Antarctica sinking, sinking

1 with probably a thousand people on it, now who's going  
2 to respond to that kind of event up here. When Kodiak,  
3 is over a thousand miles to the south of us and around  
4 on the other side.

5  
6                   These are some of the exposures we're  
7 seeing.

8  
9                   Wouldn't it be critical to work with  
10 Russia, Canada, Greenland, and say, hey, let's have a  
11 world class response system that we shake hands  
12 together and say when there's an event up here we all  
13 respond together because our people depend on walruses,  
14 our people depend on whales and seals. You know, what  
15 would happen if a major oil spill were to occur and the  
16 International Whaling community decided, oh, you  
17 Inupiaqs, we're going to take your quota away, that is  
18 the only way we can protect the bowhead whale in the  
19 event of a catastrophic release of crude oil into your  
20 environment up there. That's a food security concern.

21  
22                   I mean another thing, making  
23 dispersants as the first priority tool in the Arctic  
24 because mechanical cleanup is barely proven up here.  
25 And what does that do when you entrain these  
26 dispersants, and entraining the water column to filter  
27 feeders and bottom dwellers of the ocean. Those are  
28 some other lingering concerns. Are we thinking about  
29 those things as countering some of those things that we  
30 can do better.

31  
32                   You know, it's always minimized that we  
33 develop to prevent and redundancy and all of this kind  
34 of stuff, but that mere chance of 1.1 -- .999 percent  
35 chance that something catastrophic will happen, but you  
36 still better be prepared for that 1.999 percent of  
37 that even to unfold on you.

38  
39                   Those are some of the limited things  
40 that I could try to think of.

41  
42                   One of, and I think we both are -- you  
43 have it on here and I think the subsistence management  
44 of Federal public lands and other public lands about  
45 food security. I don't know where your food security  
46 issues are tied to, if it's -- but the availability of  
47 resources for me is a big issue to where the timing of  
48 these resources and such is critical. I mean we're not  
49 going to be hunting caribou that's already in rut, and  
50 some communities are encountering that. And what is

1 deflecting them.

2

3

4                   And today we heard about Anaktuvuk  
5 getting some caribou, some of the AFN people that talk  
6 about going to AFN in Fairbanks, in some communities,  
7 man, we got caribou, like it was 20 years ago, first  
8 time in a long time. Now, is that some of these  
9 management's little tiny shifts by saying, well -- and  
10 it had to be only based on the resources were starting  
11 to be at a conservative management level bordering on  
12 preservation. Preservation management to enact  
13 something that may be had been warranted for years and  
14 years. The peaceful traditional subsistence experience  
15 we've had for time immemorial but to put competing  
16 users in the same traditional lands where communities  
17 need to be successful and is that an area where you can  
18 help and going to OSM and BLM and these others and say,  
19 food security is a major concern, we need every tool in  
20 the box to develop a way for our communities to have  
21 absolute food security for in perpetuity.

21

22                   Does that mean that we need to say non-  
23 residents of these communities can't hunt in these  
24 traditional areas. Yes.

25

26                   And does that mean we should identify a  
27 location where they can hunt but not impact the  
28 community and have a competing use and an argument  
29 between sport hunters, non-residents and the rural  
30 communities that have been going on and being impacted  
31 and plaguing the communities for over 20-some years,  
32 20, 30 years at this point now.

33

34                   I think the decline of the caribou is a  
35 godsend to start these dialogues in real -- in real.

36

37                   The decline of the caribou spurred the  
38 dialogue about what is really the problem here. I've  
39 heard for a long time, you know, Noatak -- people in  
40 Noatak, people in Squirrel River area, that it's an all  
41 out shooting spree and fighting for the same caribou as  
42 the ones that the villages are going, it's like a first  
43 come, first serve, at the detriment to cultural and  
44 traditional values and cultural activities.

45

46                   And, you know, so these are some of the  
47 things that are issues.

48

49                   Does industrial activity have to be  
50 curtailed to some extent if we're looking at -- I don't

1 think fish mold has never been an issue for 10,000  
2 years in the Arctic until the last five years and the  
3 full scale development of the Colville Delta.

4

5 I don't know what the problem is.

6

7 Maybe it is global climate.

8

9 Maybe there's a big volcano erupting  
10 under the Arctic Ocean and warming it up.

11

12 Who knows.

13

14 But there are things that are going on  
15 that are kind of suspect. If you look at Prudhoe Bay,  
16 and it took 25 years later they started developing in  
17 the '70s and by the time it was 1989 some of these well  
18 houses in permafrost are shifting and turning sideways.  
19 I think that's a major issue of subsidence caused by  
20 warming up permafrost areas with this hot oil coming  
21 out. And you can only theorize because there are  
22 certain places on the North Slope that have thaw bulbs.  
23 They're a scientific fact. They're known to exist.  
24 They're big bowls, and they call it thaw stable  
25 sections because they're thaw bulbs and you can put  
26 things in it and it's going to maintain and it's not  
27 going to twist and turn on you on these thaw bulbs but  
28 when you drill through them, and then start to produce,  
29 is there a corresponding effect of what some of the  
30 biologists I've heard, mold is spurred on by  
31 temperature. Changes in temperature.

32

33 And there's two culprits, potentially.

34

35 One is global climate change and one is  
36 development. But I don't see that happening on the  
37 Ikpikpuk right now. If it was global climate change  
38 the Ikpikpuk should have the most mold because that has  
39 the most broad whitefish. It has the most broad  
40 whitefish. I haven't seen one moldy fish in the  
41 Ikpikpuk.

42

43 But everytime you're fishing in the  
44 Colville, broad whitefish, it's a disturbed species.

45

46 There's some correlations to be had on  
47 what we should be focusing on.

48

49 And to me, the Ikpikpuk River, and by  
50 far it is probably the most centralized area of broad

1 whitefish spawning on the North Slope and the  
2 dependence of that resource is widespread on the North  
3 Slope, the impact could be catastrophic if that were  
4 the issue.

5  
6                   So I think there's a study right there  
7 in itself emphasizing these things.

8  
9                   But anyway, I can talk on with some of  
10 these concerns, food security issues, and that's  
11 another food security concern. I would hate for mold  
12 to start going in the Ikpikpuk area and we haven't seen  
13 it yet. We have only seen it -- other areas of the  
14 state has seen it. I think they've seen it in the  
15 warmer areas like in the Yukon River on salmon, but the  
16 Arctic is the Arctic.

17  
18                   So those are the comparisons I would  
19 make and some of the concerns I would raise.

20  
21                   I would think if Jimmy Stotts is our  
22 contact that he is fully aware of these concerns, I  
23 don't know if he is, through ICC. But just from the  
24 local subsistence user, people that depend on resources  
25 and hearing our neighbors talk about their concerns/  
26

27                   And also I've been reviewing and  
28 working with the North Slope Borough the last 25 year  
29 in planning and watching the industrial development and  
30 reviewing that and getting it in front of the Assembly  
31 for the change to occur, and that's been my job. And I  
32 watched it and I've seen some of these things  
33 personally as, you know, the 100 or so permits that  
34 come in to work on subsidence issues. That's a real  
35 thing. And that's a permafrost impact caused by hot  
36 oil coming from 10, 8,000 feet into the Earth's crust.

37  
38  
39                   So anyway I sure with there were  
40 mechanisms to recognize we live in the extreme climate,  
41 it should be the Arctic first with some of these  
42 resources, we should have natural gas in all of our  
43 communities because there is a 10,000 year supply up  
44 here and we shouldn't have to subsidize all of that. We  
45 could use that money for better thing. The Borough  
46 subsidized to it's own detriment because we cannot  
47 maintain barely the infrastructure we have with water,  
48 sewer projects because we can't do better things  
49 because a lot of our communities are heavily subsidized  
50 because it's too expensive to bring it from Louisiana



1 and bring it all the way around. It's far too  
2 expensive. One day we're not going to -- somebody else  
3 has to help out up here, the Federal government, other  
4 counties, say let's make the Arctic first, let the  
5 people be able to achieve retirement.

6  
7                   You know, people need to be able to  
8 rest too up here.

9  
10                   So, anyway, that's all I think I should  
11 say or we're going to be here until midnight if I keep  
12 going.

13  
14                   (Laughter)

15  
16                   MR. CASTEILANOS: Through the Chair. I  
17 thank Council member Brower for the wisdom and the  
18 traditional local knowledge you've been willing to  
19 share with us here tonight. I think you bring a number  
20 of critically important issues and it's clear that the  
21 wisdom that you've got is perhaps much, much deeper  
22 than you might have let on earlier about what the  
23 Arctic Council seeks to do and what issues are  
24 important.

25  
26                   I'll address just a few of the points  
27 that you've raised to respond to some of the questions,  
28 in particular, you mentioned micro-plastics. This is a  
29 critically important issues. The United States Senior  
30 Arctic official at our Anchorage meeting in October of  
31 last year specifically mentioned the question about  
32 micro-plastics and how significant a threat that might  
33 be to the Arctic Ocean. Secretary of State John Kerry  
34 had a meeting in Washington, D.C., where ministers and  
35 other senior officials from around the country came to  
36 discuss all of the issues facing the Arctic Ocean and,  
37 in particular, micro-plastics was an important area of  
38 emerging concern. Something that people have not  
39 looked at. One of the Arctic Council observers, the  
40 International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the  
41 IUCN, they actually met with me separately in a meeting  
42 in Norway, handed me a report that they had put  
43 together and said we want to start looking at micro-  
44 plastics and what are the threats to biodiversity to  
45 plants and animals, to subsistence resources in the  
46 Arctic. So you're right on the cutting edge of knowing  
47 exactly what are those issues that are out there.

48  
49                   You talked about search and rescue.  
50 The Arctic Council itself is not an organization, a

1 treaty organization, so they don't negotiate treaties  
2 directly but they have developed a number of treaties.  
3 One of them is a search and rescue agreement so the  
4 eight Arctic countries have established internationally  
5 binding agreement if something goes down in the -- I  
6 should say, when something goes down in the Arctic,  
7 who's going to respond, we all have a responsibility to  
8 each other as Arctic neighbors so that whoever is the  
9 closest responds first to try to help people out and so  
10 it's taking this community perspective. I think it was  
11 a good agreement.

12  
13                   We have an agreement on emergency  
14 response and oil pollution prevention in the Arctic.  
15 We are currently in the process of negotiating a  
16 science cooperation agreement. So that we can go to  
17 Russia and take samples and study resources and bring  
18 them back to the United States and to other of the  
19 world's leading labs to get cutting edge science and  
20 not get caught up in visas and other kinds of  
21 international transport issues. That agreement should  
22 be signed in Fairbanks, if we're fortunate. It'll be  
23 an internationally binding agreement that says, that  
24 when we're talking about people and we're talking about  
25 science and research we should have a priority to move  
26 equipment and move people back and forth.

27  
28                   I'll also say that looking specifically  
29 at the Arctic, I won't go over the many issues that  
30 you've raised which are critically important, but I  
31 will say just a couple of things about the things  
32 you're talking about.

33  
34                   No. 1. The Arctic is changing faster  
35 than any other place on Earth. You know this in Barrow  
36 perhaps better than anyone. The rates of natural,  
37 quota/unquote, erosion, in this region are among the  
38 most significant in the world. And, in fact, they are  
39 the highest in the world if you don't take into account  
40 development and other sort of habitat destruction  
41 that's happened in places like Louisiana and other  
42 deltas. The rate is tremendous. And there is a big  
43 concern. In places like Point Hope and Little Diomedea  
44 and some of the places that -- I've heard this place  
45 described as the wildlife super highway of the world,  
46 you're talking about the entire population of Pacific  
47 Walrus, Pacific bowhead whales, of grey whales,  
48 belugas, I mean hundreds of thousands, going through an  
49 area that's this big. and if you understand that the  
50 Arctic is changing faster than any place on Earth and

1 you understand that the Northwest Passage is opening,  
2 if you have a hundred thousand walrus, you know,  
3 whatever thousands and thousands of bowheads, of  
4 belugas and other critically important subsistence and  
5 other biodiversity resources going right through that  
6 small path and you start piling cruise boats and oil  
7 transport rigs and everything else that's going to  
8 happen, these things are happening, the Arctic is  
9 opening, and so the way that the United States has  
10 looked at it, the way that I look at my role in the  
11 Conservation of Flora and Fauna working group is not to  
12 pass judgment, the CAFF working group and sort of my  
13 prerogative as I represent this country on those issues  
14 and represent the folks in this room and others, is, to  
15 say, not to pass judgment and say oil is bad, oil is  
16 good, this is bad, or this is good, that's not our  
17 role. Our role is instead of a wiseman once said; this  
18 is not the time to throw our hands up in the air, it's  
19 time to roll up our sleeves and get to work. And I  
20 think that that's what we're trying to do in the CAFF  
21 working group. We're trying to say what are the most  
22 important issues facing the Arctic and Arctic  
23 biodiversity and then to say we're not going to pass  
24 judgment, what we're going to do is find out what do we  
25 know, what do we not know and what do we need to know  
26 to make good and effective decisions that help us  
27 achieve whatever it is we want to achieve.

28  
29                   Do we want to achieve food security.  
30 Okay. What do we need to know in order to do it. Do  
31 we already know enough or do we not know enough. And  
32 the truth is that when it comes to the Arctic we don't  
33 know very much. Never, in the history of the Arctic  
34 has there been a study of (indiscernible) and belugas,  
35 a circumpolar study that says how is the whole  
36 population doing, where do they go, which ones are  
37 going up, which ones are going -- it's never been done.  
38 We're currently in the process of doing that first ever  
39 study.

40  
41                   There's -- I can go on and on about  
42 these kinds of projects that are happening for the  
43 first time. Bearded seals, I'll kill the  
44 pronunciation, oogruk.

45  
46                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Oogruk.

47  
48                   MR. CASTEILANOS: Oogruk.

49  
50                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: My neighbor's

1 food.

2

3

MR. CASTEILANOS: Yes, sir, and many  
4 others. In fact, not just in this country and not just  
5 in this region. And so they've never been looked at in  
6 a circumpolar way. Some of the world's leading  
7 scientist in Russia have studied them. Some really  
8 smart people in Norway have studied their bearded  
9 seals. Many people, including many in this community  
10 have studied bearded seals, either through their  
11 traditional local knowledge, or through Western science  
12 and universities. No one's ever sat down and said,  
13 hey, what's happening to the Russian population, what's  
14 happening to the Nor -- how do we look at this  
15 circumpolar distributed species, we're doing that for  
16 the first time over the next two years or so.

17

18 So there's a lot of information that we  
19 need to gather.

20

21 We can either go into the Arctic and go  
22 into a future of an Arctic that's changing faster than  
23 any other place on Earth and we can throw our hands up,  
24 or we can roll up our sleeves and say what do we know,  
25 what do we not know and what do we need to know in  
26 order for decisionmakers everywhere to be able to make  
27 informed decisions. So we're not seeking to say, this  
28 is how it should be done, this is good and this is bad,  
29 we're looking to see what do we know, what do we not  
30 know and what do we need to know. And that's what  
31 we're trying to do.

32

33 And as many have mentioned and as  
34 everyone is fully aware there's never enough money,  
35 enough people to do it and so we have to prioritize and  
36 I've taken my role in this to say, we need to talk to  
37 as many people as possible, we need to listen, we need  
38 to engage and we need to say what are those most  
39 important issues. We can't do it all so we have to  
40 prioritize which ones are important and I hope that  
41 with your cooperation, with your help, we'll be able to  
42 do that as well as possible.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Any other  
45 questions for, Gilbert, right.

46

47 MR. CASTEILANOS: Yes, sir.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Very  
50 interesting topic. It can spawn a lot of conversation.

1 And I think there's some spillover to OSM, Office of  
2 Subsistence Management, but it needs to spill over in a  
3 way that says, hey, let's work on this together. And  
4 if we're going to open Unit 23, I think Unit 26 should  
5 be closed, because all of those non-residents and the  
6 guides, I have a feeling, we don't even know it, but  
7 they've been camping out on the north side of the  
8 Brooks Range this year, and maybe disturbing them in a  
9 way that allowing the caribou to disperse the way  
10 they're supposed to.

11

12                   There needs to be a way to work  
13 together and provide the authority and change the  
14 management schemes that look -- that makes the OSM's or  
15 the Federal Subsistence Board or the State Board of  
16 Game, say, you're mandated to address food security in  
17 your management of these resources for communities and  
18 then, secondarily, you can manage for the non-resident  
19 use and nonrural residents in a more effective and  
20 holistic way that provides meaningful traditional  
21 subsistence experiences again.

22

23                   Thank you.

24

25                   (Pause)

26

27                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Thank you.

28 Any other questions to Gilbert.

29

30                   MR. SHEARS: Thank you.

31

32                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay, you're  
33 excused.

34

35                   MR. CASTEILANOS: Thank you, Chair. I

36 just would like to repeat I am at your service. I am

37 your representative and I carry that responsibility

38 very, very seriously. You can speak to Jimmy Stotts,

39 you can speak to me directly by whatever means you

40 think. I'm here to try to listen and try to do what I

41 can to represent you all in the best way I can.

42

43                   Thank you.

44

45                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Maybe just one  
46 last thing.

47

48                   (Laughter)

49

50                   ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: I work very

1 hard. I have a normal day job that consumes my time. I  
2 would hope that when you need something from people  
3 that can provide knowledgeable feedback, people that  
4 are willing to express in detail, that you seek those  
5 people out. I think we would be welcome. We'll be  
6 welcoming to help you. But a lot of people are so  
7 tasked in their normal day-to-day lives that I cannot  
8 just uproot myself and go help you and I hope you seek  
9 out those people that you need to help you succeed.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 Yeah, I think we're at a stage where we  
14 need a motion to adjourn for today. We've been doing  
15 this for quite some time, it's almost 8:00 p.m. We  
16 lost our quorum about three hours ago.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: So we couldn't  
21 make any decisions anyway except do the gab, and that's  
22 just about all we could do.

23

24 MR. SHEARS: Okay, we got to do one  
25 more item then.....

26

27 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. OOMITUK: Make a motion to adjourn  
32 until tomorrow at 1:00 p.m., and hopefully we'll have a  
33 quorum to conduct business and finish what we started.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Motion on the  
36 floor to adjourn there, Bob.

37

38 MR. SHEARS: Second.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MS. PATTON: Just -- just to clarify,  
43 we're actually just recessing until tomorrow.....

44

45 MR. SHEARS: Okay, recess then.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Oh, no, let's  
48 make that much more clear that we're going to recess,  
49 maybe you could modify your adjournment statement.

50

1 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
2 rescind my motion and modify it to recess until 1:00  
3 p.m., tomorrow afternoon.  
4  
5 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Motion on the  
6 floor to recess until 1:00 p.m., tomorrow. Bob.  
7  
8 MR. SHEARS: Recess until 1:00, second.  
9  
10 (Laughter)  
11  
12 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: It's been  
13 seconded, all those in favor of recessing, signify by  
14 saying aye.  
15  
16 IN UNISON: Aye.  
17  
18 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you,  
19 Council. And thank you for all the input and, yes,  
20 hopefully.....  
21  
22 MR. OOMITUK: Can we leave these here.  
23  
24 MS. PATTON: Yep, you can leave all  
25 your stuff here, we've got soup on and I'll let both  
26 Lee and Rosemary know that we're planning to reconvene  
27 tomorrow at 1:00 p.m., and we've got some good subjects  
28 on the agenda for tomorrow, so I'll let the agency  
29 Staff folks know too.  
30  
31 And in the meantime we've got some good  
32 fish chowder for dinner and, so, please, please get  
33 some good dinner.  
34  
35 ACTING CHAIR G. BROWER: Okay, tomorrow  
36 then.  
37  
38 (Off record)  
39  
40 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 160 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 31st day of October at Barrow, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 25th day of November 2016.

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