

NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Selawik School
Selawik, Alaska
October 5, 2016
9:20 a.m

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Raymond Stoney, Chairman
Vern Cleveland
Michael Kramer
Hannah Loon
Enoch Mitchell
Calvin Moto
Enoch Shiedt

Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 (Selawik, Alaska - 10/5/2016)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Good morning.

8
9 MR. COGSWELL: Morning.

10
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It's sure nice to be
12 here at Selawik, you know, I've been here for quite
13 some time so I by way of introduction got to see all
14 those pictures in the wall. I hear that people that
15 was here hundred years ago and it's the various hunting
16 that all of will looking forward to do the same.

17
18 At this time, ladies and gentlemen,
19 I'll call the meeting to order. It's -- I don't have
20 the time now at.....

21
22 MR. SHIEDT: 9:20.

23
24 CHAIRMAN STONEY:9:20 a.m. And
25 thank you for -- the people of Selawik that invited us
26 here.

27
28 This morning we'll have Dan give us the
29 opening prayer before we begin, please.

30
31 MR. FOSTER: (Invocation)

32
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. (In
34 Native) So this morning there's some of our colleagues
35 are not here yet so we'll just go through the process
36 of the agenda and introduction of our Regional Advisory
37 Council and our staff here.

38
39 Hannah, would you give us a roll call,
40 please.

41
42 MS. LOON: Raymond Stoney.

43
44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Here.

45
46 MS. LOON: Austin Swan.

47
48 (No response)

49
50

1 MS. LOON: Hannah Loon, present.
2
3 Michael Kramer.
4
5 (No response)
6
7 MS. LOON: Percy Ballot.
8
9 (No response)
10
11 MS. LOON: Vern Cleveland, Sr.
12
13 (No response)
14
15 MS. LOON: Louie Commack, Jr.
16
17 (No response)
18
19 MS. LOON: Enoch Attamuk Shiedt, Sr.
20
21 MR. SHIEDT: Here. And I'll -- for the
22 ones that are already called I need a call made to see
23 if they're coming or not, that way they'll be on
24 record. So your -- like when I call Louie and the
25 other guys they -- we -- on the record need to file it
26 and make sure it's on file.
27
28 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. -- Attamuk, through
29 the Chair. Mr. Ballot has been excused, he had a death
30 in his family. Mike Kramer, Louie Commack, Vern
31 Cleveland and Calvin Moto are -- had some issues with
32 their flights, but are expected here this morning.
33
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.
35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
37
38 MS. LOON: Enoch Mitchell.
39
40 MR. MITCHELL: Here.
41
42 MS. LOON: Calvin Moto.
43
44 (No response)
45
46 MS. LOON: One, two, three, four
47 present.
48
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. So we will go
50

1 to the introduction of our staff here, begin from this
2 side right there. Lead off with introductions.

3

4 MS. HYER: Good morning, Council
5 members, I'm Karen Hyer with Office of Subsistence
6 Management and it's great to be with you again. And
7 I'm looking forward to a good discussion about
8 fisheries issues later on today.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. COGSWELL: (In Native). My name is
13 Stewart Cogswell and I'm from Wisconsin and that's the
14 Odawa (ph) language. I -- I'm a tribal member from
15 Wisconsin and I came up here in 2013 and worked at the
16 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and fell in love
17 with the people and the culture and Gene Peltola hired
18 me up here to be the Fisheries Division supervisor.
19 Right now I'm the acting -- his acting deputy, I've
20 been doing that since January. So I'm happy to be
21 here, I just wanted to say thanks to the city for
22 having us and especially the school for making these
23 accommodations. And the staff is ready, I know there's
24 some very -- a lot of issues that we need to talk about
25 during this meeting and I'm looking forward to coming
26 up with answers, if we don't have them we'll get them
27 for you.

28

29 So thanks.

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Eva Patton
34 with the Office of Subsistence Management and I am the
35 council coordinator for the North Slope Subsistence
36 Regional Advisory Council. I'm very pleased to be here
37 in Selawik. Thank you to the community for hosting
38 this meeting here and to the school also for assisting
39 all of us in hosting the meeting. It's been a lovely
40 evening so far and wonderful to see the Northwest
41 Arctic Council again.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

46

47 MS. KENNER: Hello, my name is Pippa
48 Kenner and I'm an anthropologist at the Office of
49 Subsistence Management in Anchorage. And I'm here to

50

1 talk to you today about fish and caribou. And also I'd
2 like to know if my co-worker, Lisa Maas, is on the
3 teleconference. She's attending the meeting by
4 teleconference from Anchorage today. Lisa, are you
5 there.

6
7 (No response)

8
9 MS. KENNER: Okay. She's not on yet,
10 but she'll be with us later.

11
12 MS. MAAS: Hey, Pippa. Yeah, I'm here
13 if the phone's working.

14
15 MS. KENNER: Lovely. Introduce
16 yourself, Lisa.

17
18 MS. MAAS: I'm Lisa Maas, wildlife
19 biologist in the Office of Subsistence Management.

20
21 MR. STEVENSON: (In Native), Mr. Chair.
22 My name is Zach Stevenson, I work with the U.S. Fish
23 and Wildlife Service in Anchorage, Office of
24 Subsistence Management. I serve as the council
25 coordinator for Northwest Arctic and Western Interior
26 Alaska. Thank you very much, Selawik, for your
27 hospitality in having us here this week. It's an honor
28 to be back here in Selawik and we look forward to a
29 productive meeting this week.

30
31 (In Native)

32
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

34
35 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Council members. My
36 name is Glenn Chen, I'm the Subsistence Branch chief
37 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Always wonderful to
38 see all of you folks and we really appreciate the
39 hospitality of the community.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Now how
44 about our guests, just say -- just say your names and
45 don't have to go to the mic. Right there. Just say
46 your name, ma'am.

47
48 MR. SHIEDT: Just say your name.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Don't have to go to
2 the mic.

3
4 MR. DOUGLAS: Conrad Douglas, recently
5 transferred from Ambler and I live here in Selawik and
6 I have grandparents here.

7
8 MR. CLEVELAND: Bud Cleveland.

9
10 MR. C. FOSTER: Calvin Foster, Selawik.
11 Welcome to Selawik.

12
13 MR. D. FOSTER: Hi, I'm Dan Foster here
14 from Selawik. Good morning and we welcome everyone.

15
16 MR. HARRIS: Albert Harris, Sr. from
17 Selawik.

18
19 MR. JONES: Cal Jones from Selawik.

20
21 MS. FOSTER: Joann Foster from Selawik.

22
23 MS. CRANE: My name's Penny Crane from
24 Anchorage.

25
26 MR. SCANLON: Brendan Scanlon from Fish
27 and Game in Fairbanks.

28
29 MS. GEORGETTE: Good morning. I'm
30 Susan Georgette, I'm the Refuge manager for Selawik
31 Refuge and it's always a pleasure to be in Selawik
32 again.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MR. MAGDANZ: Reid Magdanz from
37 Kotzebue.

38
39 MS. BALLOT: Welcome to Selawik. My
40 name is Normal Ballot. I'm originally from Selawik.

41
42 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Did we miss anybody?

45
46 MR. STEVENSON: I believe next we had
47 the review and adoption of the agenda.

48
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: And I believe that we
2 had a minor modification to the agenda.

3
4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

5
6 MR. STEVENSON: If I understand
7 correctly given that we are waiting on a few other
8 members to arrive I understand that we are going to
9 address priority information needs and this is for the
10 Fisheries Research -- Resource Monitoring Program.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

13
14 MR. STEVENSON:priority
15 information needs.

16
17 (In Native)

18
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. That's what we
20 do now.

21
22 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

25
26 MR. STEVENSON: Correction. I
27 understand that the priority information needs is an
28 action item so I've been asked to delay our discussion
29 of that until we have a quorum. And in the interim I
30 understand that we have approximately 10 people joining
31 this meeting this morning on the teleconference. I'm
32 wondering, Mr. Chair, if we might be able to provide
33 them introductions.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 For those that are on the
38 teleconference would you please introduce yourself.

39
40 MR. LIND: Good morning. My name is
41 Orville Lind, Native liaison for Office of Subsistence
42 Management. Good morning, everybody.

43
44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Good morning.

45
46 MS. DAGGETT: Good morning. This is
47 Carmen Daggett from Alaska Department of Fish and Game
48 in Kotzebue.

49
50

1 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with Bureau of
2 Land Management in Anchorage.

3
4 MR. REAM: Good morning. This is
5 Joshua Ream with the Office of Subsistence Management
6 in Anchorage.

7
8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good morning.
9 This is (Indiscernible), I'm acting superintendent for
10 Western Arctic in Kotzebue.

11
12
13 MS. JOHNSON: Marci Johnson, biologist
14 with the National Park Service in Kotzebue.

15
16 MS. SWEENEY: Good morning, Brittany
17 Sweeney with the Selawik National Wildlife, Kotzebue.

18
19 MS. KLEIN: Hi, this is Jill Klein.
20 I'm with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, I'm the
21 special assistant to Commissioner Cotten here in
22 Anchorage.

23
24 MR. ATKINSON: Good morning. This is
25 Ken Atkinson with the National Park Service, Western
26 Arctic National Parklands Subsistence Program based in
27 Nome.

28
29 MS. RATTENBURY: This is Kumi
30 Rattenbury also with the National Park Service in
31 Fairbanks.

32
33 MR. STEVENSON: Is there anyone else on
34 the teleconference?

35
36 (No response)

37
38 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. Hearing none,
39 Mr. Chair, would we like to follow with our RAC member,
40 Council member reports.

41
42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. For right
43 now we'll get the reports from the Regional Advisory
44 Council so we'll start with Hannah.

45
46 MS. LOON: (In Native) This fall I
47 think I will leave it to Daniel in respect for the
48 elder wisdom to give the report on behalf of Selawik on
49 only how our season was this summer from last year.

50

1 Caribou and berries and (in Native).

2
3 MR. FOSTER: (In Native) I'm Daniel,
4 my Eskimo name is (in Native). Our fishing and
5 subsistence is different this fall. This summer
6 Kotzebue got bad weather and too much of high water,
7 right. Yeah, and the fish -- our fish, I think they
8 followed the water going out early and us that used to
9 put net in later falltime, we missed part of that. On
10 berry picking it was a cold spring, the berries didn't
11 ripe too much, but there's other local peoples that
12 know where to go, where to find, they're the only ones
13 that pick. Same with blueberries, blueberries was
14 abundant though on mountainsides. And on those (in
15 Native) there's too much high water that's how come we
16 didn't get enough fish.

17
18 On caribou for a short time that
19 caribou passed through Selawik again. We've been
20 waiting for this past -- past week and a half or two.
21 Some young guys went way up there, up river to find
22 those caribous, but we've been in contact with
23 Shungnak, Ambler and Kobuk, once they start crossing
24 below Ambler they would call me and let me know so that
25 I could pass it on to our young peoples or local
26 people, announcing it on radio that caribous are on the
27 way. And I was so proud of that one young man, I
28 didn't get his name, I didn't recognize him, he get on
29 the air and start telling us let the caribous run,
30 leave the first bunch alone, let them go through. This
31 is our culture and he sure did tell us that and we're
32 so thankful about that. You know, while William
33 Sheldon and Elmron, those old folks while -- while
34 they're alive that's what they all tell us and we keep
35 it on down -- down like that. And we're thankful that
36 everybody's -- not everybody, but they're shared.

37
38 (In Native)

39
40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. We are
41 doing now with the Council members and we go to the
42 public very shortly.

43
44 Attamuk, you got.....

45
46 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Attamuk from
47 Kotzebue. (In Native) I'll start at springtime in
48 April. Caribou did migrate back north for their summer
49 and we were -- they were getting them right at Kotzebue

50

1 and they were hitting and all the way through Sisualik
2 and I heard they were up -- upper Selawik also, they
3 were crossing from Espenberg straight to Sealing Point
4 which they do. Because I got a call from Bering Air
5 telling me that they were crossing again. And they
6 gave me -- nice enough to give me a ride to see it when
7 they were going to Nome, I got a free ride to Nome and
8 return and we see it, just like a straight line from
9 Espenberg to Sealing Point and (in Native), they do
10 cross.

11
12 And we're abundant in sheefish again
13 and this year at Kotzebue they were so big that
14 sometimes our 10 inch auger was too small. They were
15 real big and fat and I tell you sheefish is going up
16 even up to hatchery now, up the Noatak. And they are
17 getting them and I'm getting them also, but I got a
18 camp at Aggie and I do get them. And that's
19 information I love to pass on. It's -- our times are
20 changing, our weather is changing and we need to learn
21 how to change with it. And we ask before now, we get
22 hardly any trout at Sisualik, not like we used to in
23 high numbers when it -- at breakup. When they are
24 going from Kivalina they went all the way to Doug's
25 camp, my cousins are there, they get trout there and
26 further toward Kotzebue. What they -- I think they're
27 heading out toward the ocean. That's what we can't
28 figure, we get hardly at Sisualik and we get hardly at
29 Sisualik roe and they are getting it and that's what
30 the thing that -- from people from Noatak and Kotzebue,
31 they call me and wanted me to say that. And we get
32 whitefish, but not as numbers we used to get. But I
33 think we're getting your guys' fish, they're really
34 fat, our fish used to be a little bit skinnier. And we
35 are getting some, but not like we used to before. Like
36 I say times are changing. And when we were trying to
37 fish for salmon we're getting them three weeks early.
38 And we were getting trout in July which we used to get
39 them in August and we hardly get any trout in August
40 and not in numbers we had before. Maybe Enoch could
41 tell us about the trout at Noatak. But the same thing
42 is happening in Kivalina when they -- I do get a lot of
43 calls through my past jobs in Kivalina with telling me
44 that they're getting trout early at the Wulik, but they
45 are hardly any see at the Kivalina River there at the
46 spawning grounds. But my grandma was raised at Point
47 Hope, she tell me that Kukpuk used to have a lot of
48 trout before and they decline and when I went to Point
49 Hope last year they were telling me that the trout is

50

1 now coming back to Kukpuk, they used to get lost.

2
3 These things need to be taken care of,
4 that's why I mention it. And we had so much salmon
5 that -- ask commercial fishermen, we could -- we get
6 our record catch in not even one month at few hours a
7 day. Before we used to fish 24 to 48 hours, last
8 summer we fish only four to six hours yet we had our
9 record catch. And the salmon was so big that we get
10 over 24 pounds some of our salmon. They were huge this
11 year. And they were high in numbers. But you know it
12 by now after that in few on the -- they're on four year
13 cycle, we will know the difference four years from now
14 for this year. And they might crash, we don't know
15 what mother nature's going to do to us, it's all mother
16 nature's, not us, that the good lord will take care of
17 us one way or the other. And like I said we hardly get
18 any trout in August at Noatak, at Am -- at the Sound,
19 at Kotzebue. And caribou was late and they were --
20 they cross Red Dog late again for some reason or the
21 other.

22
23 But for your information a guy that
24 transport hunters at Cutler and he called me up again,
25 he said, Attamuk, much as I hate to do this, but that's
26 my money, I'm going to take hunters up the Cutler
27 again. And he makes six trips and they go in a little
28 rubber boat with a 20 horse and he haul them gas and
29 everything, and these people got to be well off that
30 don't really need the meat. they even don't work on
31 the caribou, they shoot them, they have two guys
32 working on them. These are the kind of people that are
33 bothering us and I have to say this again we need to
34 change the Noatak no fly zone further up to above
35 Cutler because they're disturbing our caribou and when
36 they're migrating, they're changing the route that's
37 why we're getting them late, late. We, the Natives,
38 have to take care of it and you guys need to hear what
39 we're saying and don't make changes unless you talk to
40 one of us. I don't -- no changes from the Federal to
41 make changes of anything without contacting us because
42 this is our livelihood and we live on the food and we
43 live off the food. Without it we're nothing, it's our
44 culture, our resource is what we are today. And I hear
45 this and I hear this from Kotzebue, I do get a lot of
46 calls and I say this and I say this for us, we need the
47 resources, yet there's only limited resources we could
48 take. That's why the caribou is declining and that's
49 why we need to worry about it, we can't make it without

50

1 caribou. Sure we have other resources, but we are
2 caribou people, we have to have our caribou to survive.
3 We -- it's just in that. I started hunting like I said
4 before when I was nine, my dad had a stroke and I hunt,
5 but I never hunt at the time, all I did was take care
6 of the cabin, the tents, chop wood, feed the dogs, make
7 water and I get a share. And that's the way it is in
8 our culture and I want to keep it like that.

9
10 So my report is lengthy, but I want
11 everybody to hear it because first time I've been to
12 Selawik to testify, but I say this in all our villages,
13 I try to give my step by step because we need our
14 resources.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Attamuk.
19 I've got one question I'm going to ask you. As we all
20 know that as of July 1 all Federal land is closed for
21 -- you know, for caribou hunters. Now you said there
22 was some operation going on in Kotzebue that brings
23 them all the way to Cutler and where was the law
24 enforcement when that area was closed, you got any idea
25 why did he bring these people up to Cutler even though
26 it closed?

27
28 MR. SHIEDT: It's on State land, that's
29 where the State -- we have to work with the State to
30 change the boundaries. And the people need to
31 understand the boundaries so each village could set
32 further up to make it in their boundary, otherwise if
33 we stop them even on Federal land and in the State land
34 it could be a few miles from Selawik, they could still
35 bother the people from Selawik, Kiana or the place --
36 like in Kiana, it's just a little bit above Kiana.
37 Noatak it's the same way. We Natives need to change
38 our boundaries further out that way we won't be
39 disturbed and we could get our food because it costs a
40 lot. When people from Noatak have to go hunt to Kiana
41 how much gas does it cost. I saw how many boats from
42 Noatak at Kiana that go hunt from Noatak just to put
43 food on the table. Eskimos don't care how much it cost
44 to put food on the table as long as they eat because if
45 they get caribou now the caribou lasts most of the
46 winter and that's just the way we see it. The other
47 western world will worry about two cents, how much they
48 spend money just to put food on the table, we don't
49 care. It cost me a lot of money this year from

50

1 Kotzebue to go out and I hardly get any caribou. My
2 boy went back out. That's what I'm saying, but I got
3 food now to last me until May. Eskimos might not be
4 rich in money, but we will be rich in food.

5
6 That's all I could say.

7
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Attamuk.

9
10 Mr. Mitchell.

11
12 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Enoch Mitchell from Noatak. I'd like to thank Selawik
14 for hosting this meeting this year and thank Zach and
15 the staff for making it possible to have meetings.

16
17 And for my report, this year it was
18 pretty dry this summer and we had blueberries, but they
19 were growing where the water was and we have no
20 (indiscernible) at all. We had a good salmon run. We
21 need to look into our trout, where they're going now
22 after the beaver move in. And still going to -- we
23 still have to (in Native) yet this year, it's still a
24 little bit too early and we're start looking -- hunting
25 caribou at this moment. And first week of September
26 they got the Teshekpuk caribou herd up by Ed's camp,
27 but that lasted four or five days and nothing there, no
28 more caribou in sight after that until Northern Arctic
29 caribou herd come and they came September 26th and
30 people started harvesting the Northern Arctic caribou
31 herd. And they were very happy, they didn't get one or
32 two, they get boat loads, eight, nine, 10, they get
33 their quota. And they were happy about the closure
34 that they did on Federal lands and they're stating that
35 there's hardly any conflict this year and a lot of
36 caribou. And they were happy, there's any -- no
37 conflict whatsoever. Some say almost like long time
38 ago when caribou was lots and good camping days and the
39 children was happy and everybody working on caribou.
40 And you got -- we get lots of caribou and almost no
41 planes in sight. And I'd like to say that was a long
42 time coming, up to 10 plus years of talking and
43 fighting for our caribou we finally started getting
44 caribou and that was a long time coming. I believe
45 those people deserve it.

46
47 Today there was still hunt going out
48 hunting when I'm coming out here to meeting like now
49 they're still out until the river start to freeze.

50

1 Last thing we talk about in our meeting
2 was that we would like to see the right facts used for
3 each village and not as a whole, not like all the
4 villages put together. Like for instance when we
5 received the biologist report it said let -- it was 95
6 percent for village at the harvest rate and 5 percent
7 for non-rural harvest rate, success rate. And these
8 are percentages that their biologists use and they use
9 them. But like for Noatak we got zero percent hunter
10 success rate. So when I did the report on unit 23 they
11 use that against the people. And the troopers' report
12 say there's not much caribou anymore in Squirrel River,
13 trying to say that so that we won't have to try to
14 close this anymore, but that's not the case. The real
15 facts is there used to be lots of caribou there 10
16 years ago, but then they started bringing the
17 transporters in there, more and more there was like 500
18 in there, those caribou wouldn't go through there when
19 there's too many camps in there. We all know that,
20 we're all Eskimos, we know they won't go through there
21 when there's too many camps in that. And it's like a
22 corridor, that the caribou come from Kiana to Noatak
23 and when there's too many camps in there they won't go
24 in there and it -- then we're worried about it because
25 it's been going on too long that it might become
26 permanent.

27
28 Let me explain a little bit more
29 because when the caribou come from Kiana to Noatak,
30 through the flats and corridor, Squirrel River, Aggie
31 River, Eli River and they reach Noatak River, they
32 started crossing close to the village from across town
33 to Ricky's cabin. That's good, affordable price for
34 that. The gas is too expensive. Right now we're going
35 up to Sutlin Creek and we need a drum -- over a drum of
36 gas and \$10 a gallon we buy \$1,000 worth of gas. And
37 that's cost effective, very cost effective. Lot of --
38 unemployment rate is high in Noatak. So and that's why
39 we wanted this one to use correctly for people like
40 Noatak if we want to testify that they wouldn't use 95
41 percent of the whole villages, but the actual
42 percentage from each village. Like right now I can say
43 there was 500 people last year, sport hunters on the
44 Noatak River versus 30 plus local Noatak people hunting
45 on the Noatak River. That's not even, 500 plus sport
46 hunters on our traditional grounds hunting our caribou
47 giving us problems hunt -- getting our own quota, our
48 own caribou. See that's the problem, too much high
49 density of sport hunters in this area. And the success
50

1 rate was opposite, I mean, they had a high success
2 rate, 500 plus, non-sport had a high success rate and
3 Noatak had a low success rate. And that's not even
4 too. So that's what we want to use for next time they
5 want to use these biologist report or State troopers
6 report that they use the right percentage to speak on
7 each village, on for each village. Like if Selawik's
8 having problems getting their caribou, Selawik to
9 report their low percentage and the high percentage of
10 non-local or.....

11
12 So those are the real facts. The real
13 facts when they do that -- use 95 percent harvest rate
14 for non-locals and locals -- and 5 percent for non-
15 locals that's not right. So we're going to get the
16 right percentage that -- when we -- they do it in the
17 overall broad percentage rate I believe.

18
19 Another thing we talk about was our
20 health. A lot of us in Noatak are hardwired for
21 caribou meat and it causes too much problems with
22 health and finance. We depend a lot on the caribou and
23 Noatak is based for caribou, their location. And we
24 talk about our migration route, when the caribou is
25 diverted from normal migration route too long it may
26 become permanent. This is happening in the Squirrel
27 River and Aggie River and we've got two proposals and
28 one proposal is to try to adjust this base camp
29 support, but that should be considered to, the
30 migration don't go off it's normal migration route too
31 long or it'll become permanent and cause us a lot of
32 financial problem to get gas to go way up there.

33
34 So that's one thing we talked about is
35 the migration. And be able to see what we did for the
36 -- up to this conflicts, so that -- that's in the
37 process of the AC from our region. We got two
38 proposals, but if people really want this closure to
39 continue and it's really helping the Native Village of
40 Noatak and a lot of hunters that come in. So this
41 closure is favorable and I've got some letters too, but
42 it -- we'll talk about them later.

43
44 Okay. I think that's about all. The
45 one thing I want to do is for all of us to take a look
46 at what is the reason the State wants to stop the
47 closure that we did, I mean, what's the main reason
48 behind their actions. And what is the main reason
49 behind our actions, why we close it. We close it, we
50

1 put that closure in there for non-Federally-qualified
2 so Federally-qualified could eat, so we could put food
3 on our table. That's our reason, that's the main
4 reason we want it. So then I look at the State side
5 and say why did they want to stop us, why did they want
6 to go against us, why did they want to stop that
7 closure. It's way simple, money. They didn't want the
8 food, they don't want the -- we leave the meat, they
9 want money. So when we look at both sides of this
10 closure, one side wants it closed and one side wants
11 the money, so we got to look at the real reasons why
12 we're here, why -- who we're speaking for. I'm
13 speaking for the people, I'm speaking for Natives all
14 the time. And I'll stand up and speak every day if I
15 have to, for that food for our people.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 Another -- I got another thing I'll
20 mention. That they did the latest census count was
21 201,000 caribou for 2016. And they took the annual
22 harvest, estimated annual harvest count, it's 13,450
23 caribou. So when we -- when we run conservative it's
24 201,000 upwards and when we go into preservative it's
25 200,000 down. So from 201,000 we subtract 3,000 and --
26 13,450, that brings it back down to the 200,000 mark.
27 So when they say that we didn't do our math, we didn't --
28 we didn't put that closure there for nothing, these
29 numbers were not there before, but now they're here and
30 these are the facts. So we're pretty close to
31 preservative or we should be after this annual harvest.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Enoch.
36 I'll thank you for the report from our colleagues here.
37 Like in Kiana, you know, it's -- the caribou was about
38 a month late compared to last year. And for your
39 information to begin with first of all I certainly want
40 to thank the staff here and the school district to give
41 us an opportunity to come to Selawik and say a few
42 words to you guys, that's what -- you want that
43 information. Please don't hesitate to ask us. If we
44 can't answer we got staff here that will answer your
45 question about the size of the herd and the conditions
46 of the caribou. So apparent like and I'll say again,
47 compared to last year the caribou were one month late.
48 Last year we sight the caribou was August 12th last
49 year and this year it was about like September 20 --

50

1 well, September 25. And the herd that goes through
2 Kiana and Onion Portage and Ambler area and the Kobuk,
3 when we see at this, seemed like about like eight or
4 9,000 that the -- that's the size of the herd. But
5 reasonably a week ago at the huge hurry just coming
6 over in Wulik someplace heading south. So apparently
7 they'll be more caribou, the last group of this herd
8 that'll be going through Noorvik and Kiana. I imagine --
9 I imagine there's -- I talked to a few local people,
10 they're -- they're hunting caribou right here, they are
11 -- I was very honored that at least you got your
12 caribou. And conditions of this herd compared to last
13 year are almost identical, they're fat. But one thing
14 I say -- I say this and I'll say it again, a lot of
15 hunters, local hunters from Noatak, Kotzebue, Selawik
16 and everybody that goes to Kiana, it's a real honor to
17 them to get the caribou. But the caribou wasn't as
18 much larger as it was last year.

19
20 One thing that I was so pleased about,
21 the count of this herd. Because the caribou wasn't
22 counted three and a half years ago. When they counted
23 the caribou three and a half years ago the count was
24 325,000, that's how much caribou that they counted it.
25 So this last year they didn't count it because the
26 weather conditions was not favorable. So this year
27 they did count the caribou in last week of June and
28 latter part of July. When they count those caribou
29 they usually take pictures from -- you know, from very
30 high altitude and see the caribou and then start
31 counting. Sometimes oh, in July, August when they
32 count the caribou we always get the results in March,
33 eight month later after they do the counting. So I got
34 to thinking about that and there must be some way
35 because five different agencies with all kinds of
36 aircraft, why can't you just go up there and start
37 counting in June and part of July and give the
38 information one month later, why wait eight months the
39 size of this herd. They finally took our word and they
40 decided to count fast. They counted them. So when
41 they got done counting the report came to us was August
42 31 this year and I saw the numbers. Compared to last
43 year we were 13,000 less. This year the count -- the
44 counting was 213,000, that's Northwest Arctic caribou
45 herd, that's how much they counted, 231,000. Compared
46 to three years ago from 300,000, we're that much short
47 again. So for your information there will be some
48 reports from these agencies today or tomorrow will give
49 you an official report the size of this Northwest

50

1 Arctic caribou herd. We're very interesting.

2
3 And that's when you make some very
4 strong comments that the caribou system that we use is
5 ourselves food. For thousands of years we've lived on
6 caribou. However compared to the hunters of last year
7 like in Kiana, there's no aircrafts at all. Must be
8 one or two just flies over to the State land. All
9 Federal land everywhere was closed to all non-
10 residents. The bad part about this non-resident, even
11 our own kids that live in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau,
12 everywhere, they're not able to hunt at all, they can't
13 because they're not residents. They're residents of
14 Anchorage or Juneau. You know, that -- that's hurt us
15 so bad. I know -- I know they felt so bad that they
16 had to go through it, but if you see these hunters that
17 got to Kotzebue, they weren't told by some agencies,
18 but they usually go up like Kiana, but hundred easy to
19 200 hunters in Kiana area that fly with airplanes.
20 That many hunters. This year was a ghost town, no
21 hunters except few on the State land. So it was a big
22 help to all of us, but the one thing I felt so sorry
23 because those people that comes from California they
24 pay \$40,000 just to get a caribou. They pay for that,
25 yes, but when they get to Kotzebue, well, bring me out
26 there. No, you can't go, it's closed. All Federal
27 lands to non-resident is closed, you can't go. That
28 was a big help to us. But the conditions of this
29 caribou, I don't know, I'll probably -- we'll probably
30 see the result of the harvest in caribou after all
31 Federal land is closed that we might see a good report.
32 But however that the caribou condition this year is
33 good. I'm very pleased even previously to like in
34 Selawik we watch the herds up at Onion Portage. It
35 takes like eight days or less I seen them on upper
36 river in Selawik, I was real pleased.

37
38 So on the size of this herd, it's still
39 declining fast. We don't know what's going to happen.
40 Again we're going to have to request to all agencies
41 give us count again next year. If you recall correctly
42 about like eight years ago, nine years ago, the caribou
43 was closed. We didn't know that. That decision was
44 made in Anchorage and when the caribou finally showed
45 up we didn't know how many caribou we had. After it
46 was closed they went up to Kiana and told us there's
47 70,000 caribou left, you can't hunt, it's closed,
48 you're under arrest. Me. Yes, because you -- look at
49 your caribou. And I asked them why didn't you tell us
50

1 a month ago. We thought we did. If you did we'd have
2 seen you. Go on and arrest me. But they didn't. But
3 the come and told us two months later after it was
4 closed. We don't want that to happen again. These RAC
5 is -- that's why we're here, that's what we're here for
6 to get the information from our staff, they're all
7 right here. They got the information about the size of
8 this herd, if there's some changes that's being made it
9 should come from this group, the Regional Advisory
10 Councils. And we make the recommendation to our staff
11 here and they will come to the -- I hope they'd come
12 here to Selawik and go tell everyone because the
13 caribou's declining. We should know that. That is
14 what this advisory council is for, give the staff a
15 very strong recommendation, say this is -- this is what
16 we see and this is what we want. Don't give us the law
17 without letting us know first. And I certainly hope
18 that you guys will be listening to us in the next two
19 days so you'll have some comments to make. Please
20 don't hesitate to talk to us and our staff is right
21 here. We'll have more agencies that's coming in
22 probably today and tomorrow and give you real strong
23 reports. But the recommendations will have to come
24 from this group, with your recommendations what you
25 want us to do.

26
27 So any questions to -- about what I
28 just said before we turn it over to you guys because
29 you guys will have an opportunity to comment. But
30 that's my report, but we can go down to the items that --
31 if I had my glasses on, the public and tribal
32 comments, right?

33
34 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, that's correct,
35 Mr. Chair.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

40
41 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

44
45 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, and I forgot to add
46 on my report that when I was at Kiana a lot of caribou
47 could be seen ready to cross, yet hundreds would go
48 what they call that shortcut to Kiana. Wolves was
49 seen, a total of seven different boats, but three was

50

1 by me, that we saw 50 to 60 wolves chasing the caribou.
2 And the other one is bears also chasing them back. And
3 this is new and it's my fault yet it's not my fault, my
4 phone was in my boat when I saw eagles going after
5 fawns. They were dispersing them and they were running
6 because Western Arctic caribou herd don't know much
7 about eagles, they're pretty new to our area. We all
8 know that and we watch. When they're swimming across
9 the fawns were being chased by the eagles right in the
10 river and the mothers had to go back, to turn around to
11 protect them. They were flying within -- from here to
12 the wall they were crossing right by our boat, we were
13 watching them and none of us, we didn't want to bother
14 the caribou, didn't want to go to our boat to grab our
15 cameras and that was a big mistake. There was three of
16 us when we were watching, three different boats. It's
17 something unusual, eagles going after fawns. Maybe
18 that's why they're heading back at Kiana. And for your
19 information Enoch's report on that 200 and some
20 thousand, it's on the Western Arctic caribou herd
21 management plan. The numbers that was put together
22 from the migration run of the caribou all the way from
23 Barrow to Unalakleet. We had 19 sheets, I was part of
24 it at one time, just to cover for your information.
25 And the State troopers this summer since we closed it,
26 this one, I could not understand and I wanted to report
27 to the Federal that the State troopers went to my
28 house, they say they want trucks to be seen outside my
29 house. I don't know if there was a threat made, but
30 the State troopers at three different dates parked
31 their trucks outside my house and I never understand
32 why. They would not tell me why. I try to ask the
33 State troopers if they make threats to me because we
34 closed the transporters and outfitters to drop off
35 hunters only on State lands, not on Federal lands. I
36 got two calls from transporters saying, Attamuk,
37 because of you we're losing over \$300,000 a year. I
38 say that's how much we lost in food when we never get
39 our caribou. But I never understand and I still
40 question even yesterday when I was leaving, I called
41 the State troopers, they said we can't tell you why
42 they put trucks outside my house. I couldn't
43 understand that one. I told them I'm not scared, let
44 them come on over. Because I -- what we did was for us
45 and the Federal need to hear what we did to close
46 transporters and outfitters, us.

47
48 Thank you for I could speak again, Ray.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Attamuk.
2 And again we got the public and tribal comment. So
3 evidently the agenda said that the public and tribal
4 comments will be heard from the public every morning.
5 If you got something that you want to come out even
6 though it's not on the agenda.

7
8 Right, Zach?
9

10 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. This
11 is a chance for anyone in the public to share any
12 comments or remarks that are of interest or concern to
13 you with our Regional Advisory Council.

14
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Does the public have
16 any comments or even though it's non-agenda you may.
17 There's a microphone I think, that.....

18
19 MR. RAMOTH: (In Native) I can't speak
20 on the -- as a -- as a hunter, but I'm more of a
21 gatherer. I listened to a lot of our young and older
22 and respected hunters here locally for (in Native)
23 telling me and I just wanted to comment something about
24 the caribou or (in Native) which is very important to
25 us. And I respect all of you guys' knowledge, Enoch,
26 Attamuk, Raymond, Hannah and the others on the phone,
27 with what kind of policies and regulation changes that
28 we go through because you guys' comments about how we
29 change with the climate, we're all adaptable to
30 changes. A few years ago I was asked with the State
31 board, the Regional Council, to follow Enoch to Bethel
32 when I helped testify on the no-fly zone for that area.
33 And I could see his frustration because it's been
34 happening for a lot of years. But for this area I hear
35 from a lot of our hunters, I listen to them all the
36 time, but like the predatorial stuff, the black bears
37 up in the hills here, that's not only during the big
38 numbers of hunters in Onion Portage, I think it's Labor
39 Day, used to be but that's probably changed everyone.
40 But when you see our caribou migration change we try to
41 follow them. A lot of these young hunters like Josh
42 and others that save their hard earned gas money, shell
43 money, and when they (indiscernible) it gets -- it gets
44 frustrating, we all need our caribou. I think it was
45 last year we (in Native), very low numbers, but it can
46 be seen in abundance this year. There's two -- three
47 different areas, but I'm sure they got rerouted again
48 just listen to the locals.

49
50

1 And if someone could explain from staff
2 about -- to the locals here how we could help change
3 regulations or time dates, is it -- you know, to hear
4 reports from Raymond how they never get numbers until
5 eight months later is not acceptable, yeah. You guys
6 have a lot of responsibility to our people in the area
7 for any kind of -- whether it's bear, caribou, moose,
8 fish, that sort of stuff. So I just wanted to comment
9 that caribou's really important to us and if the
10 numbers continue to change we all know there's been
11 different situations, but it's good to hear good
12 reports.

13
14 (In Native)

15
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

17
18 Anybody else.

19
20 Yeah, absolutely.

21
22 MS. BALLOT: (In Native) Welcome to
23 Selawik. In the past few years we've observed more
24 coastal mammals inside our rivers. Not only that this
25 summer belugas were spotted upriver. Last summer they
26 got a baby beluga up river, but it looked like it was
27 just dropped by the mother. We're also seeing more
28 seals on the river. Selawik, we call it Fish River,
29 it's not too far from here, they're seeing sheefish and
30 salmon inside that river. You -- it's a river where --
31 a little slough where mostly just ciscos and whitefish
32 go in. We usually set our net late fall. Last fall we
33 didn't set our net because of the ice conditions, it
34 was too dangerous until late I believe or mid November.
35 But by then there were a lot of ducks in town and we
36 didn't have the chance to set our net. But I'm seeing
37 that we now can have our net out year round. Before we
38 could only have it falltime because of the thickness of
39 the ice. Last year (in Native), that river just across
40 from here, was only two and a half feet thick, before
41 it usually be more than five feet. Our spring weather
42 will get suddenly hot to where it'll almost be
43 overnight.

44
45 Our caribou, there was a herd of
46 caribou that was hanging out on the other side of
47 Buckland Hills during the wintertime. Selawik people
48 weren't able to go out and hunt for the caribous
49 because of lack of snow. We're noticing that caribous

50

1 are migrating later or more than three weeks late.
2 Before we used to have our cultural Inupiat weeks in
3 September, we now have it later.

4
5 I just needed to (in Native). Again
6 welcome. And oh, by the way I sure hope none of you
7 guys own a small red plane. Hunters have been
8 complaining lately that there's a small red plane out
9 there that's scaring the caribou.

10
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I've got a very short
12 question to you. As we all know that the Selawik
13 Wildlife Refuge has been experiencing a lot of non-
14 local hunters all these years here. Now compared to
15 other years are there any non-resident hunters this
16 year in the Selawik area?

17
18 MS. BALLOT: While we were waiting for
19 caribou to pass there was a group of hunters that came
20 from, I'm not sure, Texas or -- but they were up --
21 they were already up here while we were still waiting
22 for caribous for to pass and I'm not sure how far they
23 went upriver. But I'm not really seeing as much or
24 hear of any, but there's a plane out there that's
25 scaring caribou.

26
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you.

28
29 I think Enoch have a question.

30
31 MR. SHIEDT: I have a question for you,
32 since you mentioned belugas, were they high in numbers
33 or what, big -- the reason why I'm asking is because we
34 know they were going up the coast.

35
36 MS. BALLOT: We're not exactly sure how
37 many in numbers, but there was a couple of sightings
38 upriver, right by Frankie Starbuck's camp which is
39 about 24 miles from here. There was a boat that was
40 going near there and scared the belugas away from
41 there. There was also one, he's not here, Daniel
42 Foster, this summer observed -- at first he thought it
43 was white styrofoam floating right across from where he
44 lived and the white styrofoam turned out to be a
45 beluga. Just down here, down river. But that was one
46 early morning. We don't know how to hunt belugas so if
47 we happen to be passing right by we would think they
48 were just white styrofoam. So maybe there's more than
49 we think there are.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I don't want to ask
2 you a lot of questions, but.....

3
4 MS. BALLOT: That's okay.

5
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY:that's one thing
7 that's kind of interesting about your report. You
8 might talk to Susan Georgette, you know, the manager at
9 Selawik Wildlife Refuge. Maybe you'd give us a report
10 about those salmon, kind of interesting in Selawik
11 River because I know there has been transplanted king
12 salmon way up Selawik River and I think they're still
13 going back and forth or king salmon. So I think I --
14 we see Susan maybe we'll ask more questions about the
15 condition of the salmon and the population. They might
16 -- must be very healthy for Selawik River is all the
17 salmon from Kobuk to Selawik River. You think
18 just.....

19
20 MS. BALLOT: I know Alex that works for
21 -- the biologist at Kotzebue, he monitors or they have
22 like a little beeper that measures or counts the
23 migration of salmon. If they could put it right by I
24 think that they'd be able to monitor what goes into
25 Selawik Lake. I know I think they were at one time
26 putting satellite monitors on some of the belugas, if
27 they could somehow maybe monitor what's going into
28 Selawik Lake we'd have a better knowledge of what's
29 swimming in.

30
31 (In Native)

32
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you for that.
34 You know, it's good information.

35
36 (In Native)

37
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anybody else from the
39 public comment?

40
41 MR. DOUGLAS: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Sure. (In Native)

44
45 MR. DOUGLAS: Good morning, Council.
46 My name is Conrad Douglas and I'm originally from
47 Ambler and I live here in Selawik now. I'm up here to
48 pass on firsthand knowledge about caribou activity
49 around Red Dog Mine. I worked up at Red Dog Mine in

50

1 2012 for a trucking company and there is a caribou
2 policy on migration activity and it's strictly
3 followed, but not all the time. One time me and a co-
4 worker we responded to a crash site, a truck had rolled
5 over the road and I was responsible for getting the
6 equipment ready. We got the stuff ready and we went
7 down the Red Dog Haul Road. We went about 30 miles and
8 we were near the vicinity of Noatak, parallel. This
9 was during spring migration. And another time I watch
10 during fall migration. We responded to a road --
11 somebody ran off the road again and caribou were
12 migrating. And there is a policy where people have to
13 stop, drivers have to stop with 300 or so feet from
14 caribou when they're moving. I went with this guy and
15 we saw caribou crossing the Red Dog Road going toward
16 Noatak. And it seems like 30 minutes or so and we
17 waited and we crept along going down towards the port
18 site. Not too long later that bunch that crossed the
19 Red Dog Road, they came back for reasons unknown. They
20 could have continued on to Noatak, but something made
21 them turn back around, I don't know what it is. But
22 they came back across toward the north. And they went
23 over to the east around Red Dog. For some reason or
24 another caribou do not like that Haul Road and that's
25 probably one of the factors why Noatak hunters suffer
26 from lack of caribou. They have to travel a long ways.

27
28 I have hunted caribou over 50 years.
29 And over the year I noticed that caribou activity has
30 two factors. One is outside interference by other
31 hunters and another is mining activity. Mining
32 activity is not natural to the caribou and fish and
33 game. It's like a (in Native) to them.

34
35 That's all I want to say this morning.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

40
41 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.

44
45 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 I'd just like to remind our listeners who are on
47 teleconference please mute your phone when we have
48 people speaking because we get interrupted and we can't
49 hear them.

50

1 (In Native)

2
3 Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any.....

6
7 MR. STEVENSON: Star six will mute your
8 phone.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anybody else from the
14 public have comments?

15
16 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, for those callers
17 that are listening on the phone please mute your phone
18 by pressing star six so we don't get interruption.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 Yeah, we hear you -- we hear someone
23 typing in the background. Please hit star six to mute
24 your phone.

25
26 MR. B. CLEVELAND: Yeah, my name is
27 Buddy Cleveland, I'm a little over 50 years old, going
28 on 53. And when I first start under like a -- like
29 when I start knowing myself like from a baby to where I
30 could start thing -- things like how to be like a -- I
31 know what's going on in life. And when I -- maybe in
32 the springtime I start notice, my mind start working
33 like and our fish camp or our fish rack used to be
34 beside a caribou trail. I live on the island side and
35 it's pretty hard to walk around or we don't have no
36 boat or anything like that and our fish camp -- our
37 fish rack was right beside the caribou trail. And when
38 I was a little kid we were not supposed to touch that
39 caribou trail because the caribou trail, the caribous
40 could smell anybody real easily or any kind of animals
41 can smell anybody. But we're not supposed to touch.
42 That caribou trail was outside of our house and we -- I
43 used to jump over the caribou trail myself and after
44 the springtime was past we would move to -- our fish
45 rack to the river because it's more easier to catch
46 fish on the caribou trail -- on the river. But when we
47 touch a caribou trail the caribou seems like they don't
48 want to travel through there because that's something
49 new, something new smell. Maybe they could smell bear

50

1 too and things like that, but when the -- I keep
2 hearing -- let's say you were going to eat celery and
3 that celery is a -- when it's like bruised it turns to
4 what, like watery or you probably won't even eat that
5 celery because it's bruised. It's the same thing like
6 on the lichen, it's -- when something scare the caribou
7 and the caribou start running on the tundra it step on
8 the food. And seems like the caribous are changing
9 routes, they from last year. The caribou picked this
10 route and next year the caribous would pick another
11 route. I was just wondering if a diving plane would
12 scare the caribou and let the caribous run over the
13 food.

14
15 And but it's not really important for
16 me like that. The real important to me is that when I
17 was a little kid we used to go out hunting for rabbits
18 an ptarmigans, walk end of island from our -- soon as
19 we start walking from end of -- from our place to end
20 of island we would see lots of rabbits. And the
21 rabbits always eat the willow wood -- the willow bark
22 and the willow is still there, yet the dead willows
23 it's not going nowhere, it's still there yet ever since
24 I was a little kid and now there's no rabbits. And we
25 walk almost to (in Native), all the way to old dumps
26 and we would see a lot of rabbits. But now we're
27 seeing a lot of dead willows. I -- me I have my own
28 personal view. I know you guys have your own personal
29 view, but to me it's -- vegetation is -- when you eat
30 something it's -- the root are still there it never die
31 off or anything like that. It's -- I'm thinking maybe
32 it's -- it needs a -- what do you call it, what -- the
33 land needs to be -- nitrogen, it needs to be burnt.

34
35 That's what I want to say.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

40
41 Anyone from the public.

42
43 MR. HARRIS. My name is Albert Harris,
44 Sr. I live in Selawik, originally from Kotzebue. I
45 want to comment on what Raymond said about our kids
46 that live in urban areas, like in Anchorage, Fairbanks
47 and all that. That usually come up in hunt now that
48 they can't come up and hunt. I got a daughter living
49 in Anchorage and she used to come up every year, this

50

1 year she never came, to go hunt caribou. And she likes
2 to bring caribou back to Anchorage so she can give her
3 sister and other people that need caribou meat. And I
4 was thinking that if it's going to continue in the
5 future that Board should get applications or something
6 and fill out a permit and draw their names from the
7 permit so they can come up and hunt. But you'd have to
8 limit their caribou toward -- so they have to hunt, you
9 know, on a limit so they can be able to bring -- come
10 up and hunt. I know you fellows have kids living in
11 Anchorage, Fairbanks, and there's lots too in the
12 villages, other villages. No, limit that permit and
13 how many permits can -- you're going to draw from --
14 for -- pick their names with their -- with their
15 address, phone numbers and everything on the permit.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

20

21 Attamuk.

22

23 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, Albert and the
24 public, for your information. This closure is only for
25 one year unless like Enoch say the numbers are still
26 down and we will request it again in our next winter
27 meeting.

28

29 MR. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. SHIEDT: This is to preserve the
32 caribou for the future. But if this keep it up back of
33 my mind I got plans that if you're from Selawik, Kiana
34 or any other village through your IRA you could request
35 to go harvest resources that you want to take to
36 Anchorage. And there's no problem for you to ship them
37 and mail them.....

38

39 MR. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

40

41 MR. SHIEDT:caribou.....

42

43 MR. HARRIS: Yeah, that's why I ship
44 them.

45

46 MR. SHIEDT:and sharing. No
47 problem. But this is regulation that was already --
48 and the way it's set up it was already in place and we
49 did the closure to protect the people of Northwest

50

1 Alaska is for your information. It's on a one year
2 basis. And if caribou happen to rebound it'll be
3 lifted next year and they could come next year. But if
4 they keep crashing, we -- I'm -- we going to get lots
5 of pushes and we will get people that will fly the
6 same, we don't want it to stay closed, they going to
7 fight us. But we will try our best to work for the
8 people for Northwest Alaska.

9
10 MR. HARRIS: Yeah.

11
12 MR. SHIEDT: I'll try my darndest, and
13 that's for your information.

14
15 MR. HARRIS: Yeah, but I -- you know, I
16 hunt for him too and my boys -- one of my boys do hunt,
17 but sometimes we don't get too much in the way, I
18 started sending them just a little bit, you know, but
19 sometimes they like to come and go hunt themselves so
20 they can bring their own. So that -- I was just to say
21 if in the future, you know, might have to have them
22 have permits for them to go hunt.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's -- one more
27 comment on your comments. Very interesting what you
28 brought out. For your information I think Zach know
29 and we all know probably sometime today or this morning
30 there's going to be some very strong discussions about
31 the reopening for all non-residents.

32
33 MR. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

34
35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It's going to be
36 discussed this morning, I imagine, Zach. Let's wait.
37 Wait. Go ahead.

38
39 MR. STEVENSON: That's correct, Mr.
40 Chair, and I believe that we are -- we're still waiting
41 on RAC member Mike Kramer and Calvin Moto to arrive. I
42 understand that they are en route, they're in Deer --
43 Mike Kramer is in Deering and waiting to come to
44 Selawik and Calvin Moto should be here within about 10
45 minutes.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. You know,

50

1 it's like interesting for all of us when that -- there
2 can be strong discussions so whether there is --
3 somebody mention that we receive -- I did receive
4 yesterday from Arctic Slope, Bering Strait and
5 Northwest and all around the state, see if we could
6 discuss and reopen for all non-residents. So it's up
7 to the recommendations from Regional Advisory Council
8 what we will do. We will discuss it today. We need a
9 lot of comments, we need a lot of discussions from the
10 public because that's what we're here for. We don't
11 make decisions, you do, whether you want to open for
12 non-residents everywhere. So that's the information
13 that we've received yesterday and we'll discuss that
14 with -- I imagine with the agencies.

15
16 Mr. Cleveland, you've got.....

17
18 MR. CLEVELAND: To my understanding
19 just on Federal lands where you can't hunt. We've got
20 NANA lands, State lands, only one closed is the Federal
21 lands. I told my friends from Anchorage hey, we got
22 NANA lands so you guys can hunt because you're NANA's
23 shareholders. Just stay off the Federal lands, right,
24 you just closed the Federal lands, right. You guys got
25 NANA land, NANA shareholders can hunt on NANA land.
26 They didn't close out NANA lands, they just closed out
27 the Federal land, not to hunt from outsiders, that's
28 all it is, just NANA lands, it's State lands, they
29 never close it, that's what I'm saying.

30
31 Thank you. Thanks for bringing it up.

32
33 (In Native)

34
35 MR. HARRIS: Thank You.

36
37 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, the.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Any more
40 from the public comments, it's time to do that then.

41
42 (No response)

43
44 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

47
48 MR. MITCHELL: How about tribal
49 comments, I got these letters here from the RA Councils

50

1 and our administrator.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Oh, we'll.....

4

5 MR. MITCHELL: Hmmm?

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else from
8 the public for comments?

9

10 Hannah.

11

12 MS. LOON: Vern is here now.

13

14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

15

16 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Carmen
17 Daggett. I can give some comments that I had while
18 we're waiting for the other members to show up?

19

20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, go ahead.

21

22 MS. DAGGETT: (Indiscernible - away
23 from microphone) watching them fly. It helps if you
24 can take a picture of the plane or a video of the plane
25 who are creating the issue and that way the issue can
26 be addressed by the troopers if you can manage to do
27 something about it. So I'd encourage you to try to get
28 as much of that information as possible.

29

30 If you want me to say that again if you
31 want to write it down or something I can certainly
32 repeat myself.

33

34 MS. BALLOT: Got it written down.

35

36 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Great. And then
37 there were a couple of questions about how regulations
38 can be changed and it kind of sounds a little bit like
39 Clyde Ramoth that was asking that question. I could be
40 wrong, but that's what the voice sounded like to me.
41 And I wanted to make you guys aware that the seat for
42 Selawik on the Fish and Game Advisory Committee is
43 actually vacant right now. I've talked to you about
44 how elections happen in Selawik and there hasn't been
45 any interest in that seat. So I would really encourage
46 if there's members of the public that are in the room
47 right now that would be interested in participating in
48 that to contact me. My number here in the Fish and
49 Game office is 442-1717. And we're going to be having

50

1 a meeting probably in Noorvik for the Lower Kobuk
2 Advisory Committee meeting on November 10th. And so I
3 would hope that perhaps before that time frame that we
4 can maybe fill that seat and have Selawik participating
5 in the Advisory Committee again for the State
6 regulation side of things.

7
8 And I believe that same person that was
9 asking about what they could do about changing
10 regulations and things. Working through the Regional
11 Advisory Council, also working through the Fish and
12 Game Advisory Council are the way that you can help
13 change regulations. And the proposals that the Enoch
14 brought up, 44 and 45, are an excellent representation
15 of an Advisory Committee taking action to try to
16 address these issues. And so basically, folks, if you
17 want to change regulations you need to write a
18 proposal. And that's exactly what the Noatak and
19 Kivalina Advisory Committee did.

20
21 So those are just a few of my comments.
22 There was a couple of questions about how we get
23 caribou numbers and I'm going to let the rest of them,
24 Brendan, I don't know if they're there yet, cut if they
25 are I'm going to let them address those questions
26 because that's more appropriate for them to do so. But
27 those are comments for now.

28
29 There's one more thing. The monitoring
30 of belugas on Selawik Lake, Alex Whiting has been
31 working with an individual doing acoustic sounding and
32 I would encourage you to contact Alex Whiting here in
33 Kotzebue at the Kotzebue IRA if you want to learn more
34 about how that monitoring takes place and what could be
35 done as far as that goes.

36
37 So, yeah, that's it.

38
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any more comments
40 from the public?

41
42 MS. BALLOT: I got one more.

43
44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

45
46 MS. BALLOT: I forgot to mention
47 that.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go up to the mic,
50

1 please.

2

3 MS. BALLOT: Oh. Somebody mentioned
4 the wolf pack at Kiana. That wolf pack was spotted
5 upriver near Fish and Wildlife, they counted 90, 30 on
6 one side and 60 on the other side. That's the first
7 time ever I heard of a big wolf pack that big. That
8 same wolf pack I believe was spotted near Shishmaref.
9 So it's -- I'm sorry, not Shishmaref, Deering. So it --
10 that wolf pack might be covering a lot of land and so
11 it might even be affecting some of the migration route
12 or the late migration of the caribou.

13

14 I just thought I'd throw that in. So
15 we're not.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

18

19 MS. BALLOT:humans are not only
20 the predators for the caribou, there's wolves out there
21 too that (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any more comments
24 from the public?

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MR. STEVENSON: Any more comments from
29 the public?

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Hannah,
36 (indiscernible) we'll get Mr. Cleveland and Calvin. I
37 don't know what time they.....

38

39 MS. LOON: And Vern.

40

41 MR. SHIEDT: You need to recognize
42 Vernon.

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

45

46 MS. LOON: You need to recognize him on
47 the record.

48

49 MR. SHIEDT: For the record you need

50

1 to.....

2

3

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. (In Native)

4

5

MS. LOON: (In Native) For the record,

6

Mr. Chairman.

7

8

CHAIRMAN STONEY: For the record, you
9 know, we've got Calvin Moto and Mr. Cleveland. I don't
10 know exactly what time, but they're here for the
11 records.

12

13

Thank you.

14

15

MS. LOON: Yeah.

16

17

18

MR. RAMOTH: For the record Clyde
19 Ramoth again, resident of Selawik. I like to talk a
20 lot. I didn't have caribou tongue soup, but I like to
21 talk. Anyway that's a joke.

22

23

We're so regulated, you know, and all
24 of you guys know that, from the Federal and State side.
25 Welcome, Vern. Welcome, Calvin. I hope you guys enjoy
26 some Selawik fish or caribou. There's great abundance
27 this year.

28

29

The regulations change so much, I don't
30 know if a lot of you notice, even the residents here,
31 about how we're checkerboarded. There's NANA's land,
32 there's Federal land, there's State lands. For Selawik
33 area it's basically pretty much Federal. The Kobuk
34 River's very fortunate to have -- right, one side of
35 the river's State, one side of the -- other side of the
36 river is Federal. So is there more specific maps that
37 could show the NANA lands for the residents?

38

39

MR. CLEVELAND: I do have.....

40

41

MR. RAMOTH: Okay. I know Vern.....

42

43

MR. CLEVELAND: I do have one, I -- for
(in Native).

44

45

MR. RAMOTH: Okay. Thanks, Vern. I
46 know Vern's been very much involved with the Western
47 Arctic caribou herd for a long time and good for your
48 guys' knowledge with all that stuff. And something
49 Norma Ballot, our bilingual teacher mentioned about the

50

1 big wolves. I've heard from hunters upriver where they
2 saw this early fall five moose were in that Fish and
3 Wildlife cabin area and when the locals were (in
4 Native) or waiting and hunting, they saw five moose
5 being chased by the wolves and they disappeared into
6 the willows and only three came out. So it's part of
7 nature, you know, we're going to see all type of
8 different predatorial engagement with our subsistence
9 food, moose, caribou and other stuff, but we all know
10 predatorial animals need to be controlled too by
11 regulations. Seems like I know if there's less hunting
12 of wolves or trapping or the density of moose is
13 changing. Is there numbers we can look at on the State
14 or Federal side for the moose, I know we're -- we've
15 talked a lot about caribou, but when we can't -- some
16 of the villages don't get their caribou where could I
17 find the numbers of moose density populations?

18
19 MR. MITCHELL: Probably Susan
20 Georgette.

21
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Susan?

23
24 MR. MITCHELL: Susan Georgette.

25
26 MR. RAMOTH: And, Carmen from the
27 State, do you know?

28
29 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I can try to
30 address Clyde's question if you -- if you would like.

31
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead.

33
34 MS. DAGGETT: So, Clyde, I believe that
35 there was a moose survey done relatively recently and I
36 think that Brendan might talk a little bit about the
37 moose numbers, perhaps some of the agency reports. And
38 it's -- he doesn't do the early, perhaps that would be
39 the appropriate time to inquire about moose numbers and
40 get some good information regarding moose numbers in
41 your area.

42
43 MR. RAMOTH: Okay. And just one more
44 comment for the committee here. The (in Native) this
45 spring, summer and fall when the waters were high, but
46 from my family's side they've been saving for (in
47 Native) so our numbers have been high, relatively high,
48 but sometimes our spawning net gets stuck. But (in
49 Native) numbers have been pretty good.

50

1 (In Native)

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any more from the public.

7

8

MS. GEORGETTE: Mr. Chair.

9

10

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Susan.

11

12

13

14

15

16

MS. GEORGETTE: Good morning. My name is Susan Georgette with the Selawik Refuge and I just wanted to say a couple of things about Clyde's comments.

17

18

19

20

21

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33

First of all Clyde makes a great point about knowing where the Federal lands are because it's not easy to tell. This summer our office and the Park Service went to every village in our borough to talk about the caribou closure and we brought maps with us. So we brought a map to Selawik that shows Selawik area and a map to Buckland that showed Buckland area to help let people know where the Federal lands are. And we brought -- we usually brought one by the NANA Resource Office and by the Tribal Office. So those are available and we're more than happy to help if anyone has questions about it. We have an online mapping land status and we can print maps that -- you know, whether you want the whole Refuge or part of the Refuge, you know, where the Federal lands are because that is -- it's tough to know.

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

And then on the moose I have a little bit about it in my presentation, but there was a moose survey done on the Selawik River this spring. And the number of moose has declined by 45 percent over the last five years. So I think the number was 970 moose they estimated, by five years ago it was about 1,700 moose and five years before that it was about 2,300 moose. So the moose are definitely on the decline in the area.

43

44

Thank you.

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Hannah. For the record Mr. Kramer's here at 10:55 a.m.

Any more comments from the public.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. So there's no
4 public let's take a 10 or 15 minute break, please.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (On record)

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY:RAC right here
11 was very interesting what we heard from every Regional
12 Advisory Council and the public commentators.

13

14 Thank you so much.

15

16 So we're down to old business.

17

18 Zach.

19

20 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 I wanted to welcome the new guests that have arrived
22 since we were just underway. I believe we've had
23 several representatives arrive from Fish and Game,
24 several from the Park Service. If you could introduce
25 yourselves, those who have just arrived.

26

27 MR. SCANLON: Brendan Scanlon, Fish and
28 Game.

29

30 MS. ROBINSON: Hillary Robinson,
31 National Park Service.

32

33 MR. SEPPI: Bruce Seppi, BLM.

34

35 MR. BINTNER: Alvin Bintner, BLM.

36

37 MR. EWAKER: Brian Ewaker, BLM.

38

39 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. And we've
40 also had -- oops, go ahead, Hannah.

41

42 MS. ATKINSON: Hannah Atkinson from the
43 National park Service in Kotzebue.

44

45 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you to our new
46 guests. We've also had two additional RAC members
47 arrive, Calvin Moto, Sr. and Vern Cleveland.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MS. HYER: And Mike.

2
3 MR. STEVENSON: And Mike Kramer as well
4 from Kotzebue.

5
6 Thank you very much.

7
8 I also wanted to take a moment to thank
9 the city -- both the city and Tribal Council in Selawik
10 and the Selawik School for having us here. This has
11 been a very busy and tough week. Selawik recently lost
12 a loved one here and I wanted to thank everyone for
13 having us here at this tough time and also encourage
14 us, particularly our Federal employees, that are moved
15 to make a donation to the family, burial costs are a
16 burden that many families face in rural Alaska. So
17 anything that people can give is certainly appreciated.
18 I'll certainly be doing that myself this afternoon.

19
20 And, Mr. Chair, we have some minor
21 changes to the agenda and I just wanted to cover that.
22 Next on the agenda we're going to move to the review
23 and discussion on temporary special action 16-03. And
24 that item was something that we wanted to address.
25 This is a bit of an unusual thing in that we are at a
26 point now where we have been asked to gather comments
27 on special action 16-03 and that is the proposal to
28 reopen Federal public lands in the Northwest Arctic to
29 non-Federally-qualified users for caribou hunting. So
30 that'll be next on the agenda.

31
32 And, Mr. Chair, we had two other
33 additions I just wanted to make sure everyone was aware
34 of. Following that will be item 10 under new business,
35 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And added
36 to that agenda we have a short presentation from one --
37 a student who's been working on some genetics issues on
38 fisheries. And the last and third addition to the
39 agenda will be at lunchtime. We had some students that
40 have expressed an interest in speaking to you about
41 their work on caribou radio collaring and that was work
42 that was done jointly through the Selawik Refuge, U.S.
43 Fish and Wildlife Service Selawik Refuge and also the
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

45
46 So without hearing any further comments
47 we'll turn the floor over to the Board and to Pippa
48 who'll be speaking on special action 16-03.

49
50

1 MS. LOON: Where in our packages are
2 16-03?
3

4 MR. STEVENSON: So that -- the analysis
5 for 16-03 are in your packets. Thank you, Hannah,
6 through the Chair. There is an analysis that was just
7 performed, it's that blue book that Mike Kramer has
8 right there, that's in each of your packets.
9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11

12 MR. STEVENSON: Ready?
13

14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes, we're ready,
15 please.
16

17 MS. KENNER: Ready?
18

19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Ready.
20

21 MS. KENNER: Hi. Hello, Mr. Chair,
22 members of the Council. My name is Pippa Kenner and
23 I'm an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence
24 Management in Anchorage. And I'm going to summarize
25 the analysis for special action request WSA 16-3. Each
26 of you should have a copy in front of you and I'll
27 repeat there are extra copies on the table in the back
28 of the room.
29

30 I would also like to introduce Lisa
31 Maas who's a biologist at the Office of Subsistence
32 Management and she'll -- she is joining us by
33 teleconference.
34

35 Last April the Federal Subsistence
36 Board approved special action request WSA 16-01 and
37 closed Federal public lands in unit 23 to the harvest
38 of caribou except by Federally-qualified subsistence
39 users until June 30th, 2017. This is next June.
40 Federally-qualified subsistence users are residents of
41 communities listed on table one which is on page 7 of
42 the analysis. And it includes all of the residents of
43 unit 23 are considered Federally-qualified subsistence
44 users. So only the people in this table can hunt
45 caribou on Federal public lands.
46

47 However last June the State of Alaska
48 through the Department of Fish and Game submitted
49 special action request WSA 16-03 to the Federal
50

1 Subsistence Board asking that Federal public lands in
2 unit 23 be reopened to caribou hunting. The Board has
3 not acted on WSA 16-03 for several reasons, one being
4 that the Board did not have a Chair and could not take
5 action. The former Chair, Tim Towarak, left the Board
6 in September.

7
8 So we are asking you to take action on
9 the State's request, WSA 16-03. And that is to vote on
10 a motion recommending that the Federal Subsistence
11 Board approve, approve with modification or reject the
12 special action request. If you approve it it means
13 that Federal public lands will reopen to the hunting of
14 caribou for the rest of the year by -- to all. If you
15 approve with modification it means they'll open with
16 something that you add to it, either timing or area
17 maybe. And if you reject it means Federal public lands
18 will remain closed to non-Federally-qualified
19 subsistence users in unit 23.

20
21 Now before I go on and talk more about
22 the background of this I'd like to just stop right here
23 and ask if anybody has any questions?

24
25 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. I had a question.
26 This is for everyone here. Does anyone here have a
27 copy of the Caribou Management Plan that was sent --
28 submitted by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Management
29 Group? Before you go there I would like to have a copy
30 in front of me because I need to see the numbers that
31 was proposed by the Western Arctic caribou herd.

32
33 MS. KENNER: Attamuk, through the
34 Chair. We did provide the table, we have provided that
35 table in the analysis and it is on page 15. And it's
36 an important table and we're going to talk about it in
37 a minute so it's -- you might go ahead and get there.
38 So it's table two on page 15. These are the management
39 levels from the WACH Management Plan.

40
41 And if anybody has a question about the
42 table now would be a good time to take that up.

43
44 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. The latest 2016
45 census count was 201,000 caribou. And the annual
46 harvest according to biologist report is pretty much
47 13,450 caribou. So we're on conservative which is
48 above the 200,000 mark and preservative is below the
49 200,000 mark. So with this annual harvest we're going

50

1 to go right into preservative mode with this annual
2 harvest count. So you can -- 2016 census count was
3 2016 -- 201,000. So you minus the annual harvest of
4 13,450 caribou, that'll bring it down below -- just
5 above 180,000. So we will be going into preservative
6 mode. And so that should be taken into consideration.

7
8 I've got a question too. You know,
9 Title VIII of ANILCA is a tool for us subsistence
10 users, to protect our subsistence uses. And that's the
11 case in Noatak. So the State is coming up with this
12 WSA 16-03 which will go directly against ANILCA Title
13 VIII for the Village of Noatak. It'll go right back to
14 scrambling for caribou. I mean, 16-01 is a tool for us
15 while subsistence use. We the Village of Noatak is
16 located because of caribou so we depend on caribou.
17 And that 16-01 really helped us. But 16-03 will go
18 right against -- I mean, why does the State want to go
19 against ANILCA Title VIII, that's involving Noatak
20 people. And now the village might get a lot of caribou
21 that Noatak never get, we can't skip one village and
22 say everything's okay.

23
24 So the question is why does the State
25 want to go against ANILCA Title VIII on this.

26
27 MS. KENNER: Mr. Mitchell, through the
28 Chair. We're going to go into a lot more detail in the
29 next couple minutes. Unless there's another question
30 maybe I should move on and answer some of those
31 questions.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mike Kramer.

38
39 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, my name is Mike
40 Kramer. I'm -- you know, caribou is my thing and just
41 like it was Jim Dau's. Both me and my brother we watch
42 the caribou very carefully, populations, all the other
43 things. For the State to undermine the Federal
44 government and the Rural Advisory Council, we represent
45 the people. We represent the people. The State just
46 represents the mighty dollar bill. They don't care
47 about what's out there. You know, we've also had
48 problems with the Federal government also on our sheep.
49 We've lost our sheep. We'll never -- we won't get them

50

1 back for about 15, 20 years, maybe even longer. We are
2 learning from other people's mistakes, government
3 agencies' mistakes. We are not going to take a chance
4 again with our caribou. Caribou is one of our most
5 preferable and harvestable subsistence resource,
6 something we fight for very, very hard. And, you know,
7 from this day forward we will continue to. For the
8 State to undermine our choice, that is against section
9 VIII ANILCA. You know, that's just wrong. The State
10 needs to be shushed up, set in a corner and tell them
11 hey, you're even going to follow our rule or you're
12 going to be breaking the rule. For them to undermine
13 what we decide is absolutely wrong. You know, our
14 caribou is such a substantial resource to our everyday
15 life within this region and that's one thing that
16 pissed me off so bad when I saw that 16-03 come into
17 effect or come up -- was brought up, like I need to
18 find out who did that so I could go sit down with them
19 in a closed room and explain to them why we put that in
20 place.

21
22 16-03 should not even exist, they
23 shouldn't even have the opportunity to put something
24 like that up for -- you know, for us to decide on.
25 They're just counter -- undermining what we decided.
26 We're only making these choices for the people, what
27 benefits the people, what benefits their food on their
28 table. From here on out we're are going to make severe
29 and preventative decisions to protect our subsistence
30 resources. That whole thing with the dall sheet, that
31 was a learning curve right there. We had decided to
32 put our feet down, we are never going to let someone
33 tell us what to do again ever. From this day forward
34 we will make decisions to protect, to provide for our
35 local people for subsistence resources. We will not
36 listen to anybody else who will tell us otherwise. For
37 the State to try and tell us otherwise, no, there's the
38 door. But, you know, for the argument of them trying
39 to push this and trying to provide data that is
40 actually, you know, irrelevant to what we have done, we
41 have seen so many communities that are successful,
42 Noatak, Kivalina, Kotzebue, there's starting to be more
43 caribou near Kotzebue. That Red Dog road needs to be
44 shut down during hunting season from August 1st all the
45 way to October 15th. That needs to be done. In NANA
46 and Tech doesn't take that consideration then that only
47 thing -- that's the only thing that they depend on is
48 that mighty dollar. They don't care about the local
49 people, they don't care about the people's land that
50

1 they're on. If they decide to go ahead and shutdown
2 that road from August 1st all the way to October 15th
3 they are for the people. If they can't make that
4 decision then Red Dog needs to be severely and
5 tragically limited on their transport down to the port
6 site. I'd rather have a bowl of soup than a dividend
7 check from NANA, you know, I'd rather provide for my
8 family than have that dividend check from NANA which
9 NANA's probably not going to give us a check for a long
10 time. So it's just time for them to be proactive with
11 the local people and start helping us preserve our
12 resources. They need to step forward, they need to
13 start providing money for a caribou. Caribou is such a
14 severe substantial resource for our subsistence
15 lifestyle.

16
17 And that's all I have for right now.

18
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mike. Of
20 course, you know, we've been -- oh, go ahead. I'll be
21 after you.

22
23 Hannah.

24
25 MS. LOON: (In Native), Mr. Chair. My
26 name is Hannah Loon. In our last meeting in Kiana last
27 fall there was a lot of hunting. And when we heard the
28 numbers of the caribou from the biologist from 450,000
29 or so to 200,000, we took it upon ourself, us local
30 people, the RAC, to lower the catch of 15 per day to
31 five caribou per day because we were concerned about
32 conserving the numbers of the caribou. I just wanted
33 to address that, that we are doing our best too to not
34 get too much because we were concerned with the
35 numbers.

36
37 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Right now
40 before I go in I'll say this, these -- my colleagues
41 sees a RAC, they are the people that will make the
42 recommendations. I would like to hear from every RAC
43 member in the situation about reopening of the caribou
44 herd. I would like to hear from all of the RAC people.

45
46 You got that, Calvin?

47
48 MR. MOTO: Yes.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Just -- it's
2 something that they are going to try to get the
3 recommendation to reopen non-resident hunters in
4 Northwest Alaska and I'd like to hear every comment
5 from every RAC here and also the public because we
6 represent a lot of people, North Slope, Northwest and
7 Bering Strait and all our families that live in big
8 cities, we are representing them too. So we -- don't
9 feel bad, you know, about what we say, but we will
10 discuss this situation from every RAC member and make
11 recommendations. Anybody got comments?

12
13 Calvin.

14
15 MR. MOTO: Yes, Calvin Moto from
16 Deering, Alaska. I'm trying to figure out how the
17 decline they say is so bad, you know, because we have --
18 you try to tell me that the people harvested 255,000
19 caribou in that short a time. How much was the -- was
20 that caribou decimated by predators, climate change.
21 You know, last two or three years we had rain in
22 January and February where the ground froze and the
23 caribou were having a hard time trying to get something
24 to eat on the -- in the Seward Peninsula area. Did
25 they ever take into consideration how much of that
26 destroyed some of our caribou. You know, there are a
27 lot of predators now, you got wolf, we got bears
28 staying out later because of the warmer weather. I
29 know that we had some bear scares in Deering just
30 recent -- last couple days. They kill caribou and all
31 they do is take the hind legs. And this is something
32 that I can't -- I've been trying to figure out they say
33 that we harvest that many caribou, you know. Sure,
34 maybe we harvest some, but maybe a 100,000 or
35 something, but not 255,000 like they figure it, you
36 know. This is something -- I like to work with
37 numbers. I've been 20 years on the Northern Shores
38 Peninsula Federal Fish and Game Advisory. I've also
39 been on the Federal now for 15 years. I was chairman
40 of the Arctic Research Center, we could travel around,
41 find out what -- how the people say hey, what's
42 happening to our caribou. You know, at one time some
43 of our caribou went to Canada, they never took that
44 into consideration. And I remember when the numbers
45 were really down in the '80s, now all of a sudden a
46 couple years later it jumped to over 300,000. I asked
47 them, I said did the caribou have twins and triplets or
48 what, you know. And they never did tell us what
49 happened with the caribou at that time.

50

1 This is something that our people --
2 we're not -- we don't waste, we use the caribou. Some
3 of them use the fur for mukluks, some of them use -- we
4 even eat the marrow and everything. But when they tell
5 you that our people are wasting, I don't think so
6 because right now in my home there are older people,
7 the older hunters are teaching our young to hunt. In
8 fact I'm pretty proud of four of my grandkids, they got
9 four caribou. One 12 year old, he got two last week.
10 And these are -- and they distributed it to the elders
11 that can't hunt. And I'm always happy -- they always
12 ask me if I want caribou, I say sure. I know if I say
13 no they'll quit coming around, you know. But it took
14 us a while, you know, we used to rely on reindeer at
15 one time. And then when the reindeer took off then we
16 started relying on getting used to caribou. We always
17 happy to see caribou because we know the season is
18 changing and we're not going to go hungry. We call
19 that out there like our refrigerator, you know. We're
20 teaching -- in fact one of my granddaughters said she
21 wanted -- she start cutting salmon so I said she's only
22 nine, so I bought her a ulu and she's been cutting
23 salmon ever since. But we teach them and we tell them
24 not to waste. This is something that we brought up in
25 our joint meeting in Anchorage where they were trying
26 to tell us that we weren't teaching our young people
27 how to harvest, how to save food. We are. I asked --
28 I told you got to Inupiat country you'll see how the
29 people teach our young people. This is something I --
30 I just thought I'd bring that up because kind of
31 sometimes it's kind of hard for me to think now,
32 especially if I'm -- going on State business and
33 Federal Fish and Game and I have to think of the -- but
34 subsistence has always been my, ever since -- I used to
35 hunt when I was 12 years old. I had to hunt because my
36 dad was working and he -- I learned how to use a .22
37 and he -- so he bought me a shotgun so I could get
38 more. But these are something that we learn, you know.
39 We're -- if we didn't harvest.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Could we please.....

42
43 MR. MOTO:we wouldn't survive. I
44 would be here.

45
46 MR. SHIEDT: Excuse me, Calvin, could
47 we.....

48
49 MR. MOTO: Thank you very much. This
50

1 is something that I said I'd bring up about caribou and
2 I hope that the biologists will into and let us know,
3 not just give us a bunch of stuff about this is.....

4
5 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.

6
7 MR. MOTO:what the people are
8 doing.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. We need to keep it
13 in -- point of order. We need to talk about 16-03
14 right now. And I'm not trying to be pushy, but that's
15 the thing in order for time involvement and we're on
16 limited time. So under Raymond it'll be -- I'll give
17 it back to Raymond to decide.

18
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin.
20 Mr. Vern, you know, we are discussing the caribou
21 opening season again. You got any comment on that,
22 Vern, we'll give you about like 15 minutes or so.

23
24 Vern.

25
26 MR. CLEVELAND: Before I make any
27 comments I would like the State or Federal what the
28 count is on the caribou, I would like the actual count
29 before I make any statements.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
34 have -- one of the reasons why we write an analysis for
35 the Council is that we anticipate what your questions
36 are. And then when I -- what I'm doing right now is
37 I'm going to give an overview of the status of the herd
38 and some other information that's in the analysis
39 because it is rather long. I noticed that there's a
40 couple of questions that have come up that I could
41 answer in my presentation. And I was wondering if
42 you'd like me just to continue, it's not a very long
43 presentation.

44
45 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

46
47 MS. KENNER: Okay. Okay. I'll just
48 move on and I'm going to give you some background to
49 how we got here. So some background to this

50

1 discussions begins in the fall of 2015 when the
2 Northwest Arctic Council submitted WSA 16-01 requesting
3 that the Board close Federal public lands in unit 23 to
4 the harvest of caribou except by Federally-qualified
5 subsistence users. The Council approved the submission
6 of WSA 16-01 because of the uncertainty of how newly
7 approved regulations would impact the herd along with
8 the State's inability to produce accurate population
9 estimates for the year due to poor light conditions
10 encountered during aerial surveys and the degradation
11 of meaningful subsistence activities due to user
12 conflicts.

13
14 Council members acknowledged that the
15 special action was a tool provided to them by Title
16 VIII of ANILCA to protect subsistence uses and that it
17 would represent a one year trial after which the
18 action's effects would be evaluated. Then in March,
19 2016 all 10 Councils met in Anchorage. The Northwest
20 Arctic and North Slope Councils recommended the Board
21 approve WSA 16-01. The Seward Peninsula opposed the
22 action and the Western Interior Council abstained from
23 voting. There are people in each of those four regions
24 that are considered Federally-qualified subsistence
25 users of caribou in unit 23. So all those Councils
26 chimed in.

27
28 Then at its meeting in April, 2016 the
29 Board approved WSA 16-01, closing Federal public lands
30 in unit 23 to the harvest of caribou by non-Federally
31 qualified users. It was to start on July 1st and close
32 on the next June 30th, 2017. The Board determined that
33 there was sufficient evidence indicating that the
34 closure was necessary to allow for the continuation of
35 subsistence uses and for conservation of a healthy
36 caribou population as mandated under ANILCA. Evidence
37 indicated public testimony expressed by the -- to the
38 Board by residents of the area, the position of two
39 affected Councils, the Northwest Arctic and the North
40 Slope and the current status of the herd. The Board
41 concluded that a closure to all but Federally-qualified
42 subsistence users was consistent with providing a
43 subsistence priority and assurance that a rural
44 preference was being provided. The Board also
45 concluded that the closure recognized the cultural and
46 social aspects of subsistence activities which may be
47 hampered by direct interaction between local and non-
48 local users.

1 In the current request WSA 16-03, the
2 State said that caribou hunting should be reopened
3 because of new information. The new information
4 indicates that there have been improvements in the
5 Western Arctic caribou herd production, recruitment,
6 survival and weight. Adult females exhibited very good
7 body conditions and high pregnancy rates in 2015 and
8 2016 and the WACH population estimate for fall, 2015
9 was 206,000 caribou, falling within the WACH's
10 Management Plan's conservative harvest management
11 strategy. I will refer to the Western Arctic caribou
12 herd as the WACH from now on and the WACH Management
13 Plan's management strategies are illustrated in table
14 two on page 15 where we have already gone once this
15 afternoon.

16
17 So I'm going to continue real quickly
18 here. There's different sections of the analysis, I'm
19 going to take you through them rather quickly. The
20 proposed Federal regulation is on page 3 of the
21 analysis and you can see where the closures have been
22 crossed out. Federal public lands which are currently
23 closed comprise about 69 percent or a little over two-
24 thirds of unit 23. So we're talking about a lot of
25 land. Since 1988 the Alaska Department of Fish and
26 Game, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the National
27 Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
28 have discussed, researched and implemented regulations
29 to address user conflicts in unit 23. Two examples
30 shown on map two on page 6 are the Board of Game's
31 Noatak controlled use area and the Noatak National Park
32 and Preserve's special commercial use area. The Noatak
33 controlled use area is closed from August 15th to
34 September 30th to the use of aircraft to transport big
35 game hunters into the area. In the Noatak special
36 commercial use area commercial transporters can
37 transport caribou hunters only after September 15th in
38 order to allow a sufficient number of caribou to cross
39 the Noatak River to establish migration routes and to
40 allow local hunters the first opportunity to harvest
41 caribou in the area. However Federally-qualified
42 subsistence users have consistently reported conflicts
43 with non-local caribou hunters and observed aircraft
44 affecting the behavior of individual and groups of
45 caribou in areas of unit 23. This information is
46 summarized in the con -- the user conflict section of
47 the analysis which begins on 35. So you won't be able
48 to review that in the next couple of seconds, it's
49 rather long, but it might be interesting for you to
50

1 read when you do -- when you have time if you haven't
2 already.

3
4 So in terms of the biological
5 background it begins on page 12. We're kind of hopping
6 around here, and I'm going to give you a quick
7 overview. We'll be coming back to some of this
8 information in -- at the end of the presentation. So
9 the caribou population naturally fluctuates over time.
10 And since peaking at 490,000 animals in 2003 the WACH
11 population has declined by 55 percent or over half
12 today. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
13 completed a photo census of the herd in July which
14 yielded a population estimate of 200,928 caribou which
15 as you've heard is about a 201,000 caribou and there's
16 some uncertainty around that number, it could be up to
17 5,000 higher, up to 5,000 lower. That's our best
18 estimate right now. And the rate of decline has
19 decreased. So I'm going to talk about these harvest
20 numbers and just really quickly for you. The harvest
21 of caribou from the herd has been relatively stable
22 between 1990 and 2013 and this is shown on figure five
23 on page 22. On that page you can see a well designed
24 figure where you can see what the harvest has been.
25 This also -- this shows the harvest by what we call
26 local residents and the harvest by non-local residents.

27
28
29 From 1999 -- I'm going to describe this
30 more now. From 1999 to 2013 the average annual
31 estimated harvest was 12,000 caribou, ranging from
32 about 10,700, the low, to a high of 13,500 caribou per
33 year. Local hunters have taken 95 percent of the
34 harvest of WACH since the 1990s and based on harvest
35 reports to Fish and Game in 2012 and 2013 regulatory
36 years, the reported harvest from the WACH by non-local
37 hunters were 520 caribou and 397 caribou. We looked at
38 the number of non-Federally qualified subsistence users
39 hunting in different parts of unit 23 and this is on
40 map eight on page 31. The darker the area, the higher
41 the use. So you can see the area that is darker is
42 basically the lower Noatak River valley, Squirrel River
43 drainage and own through Selawik. There are -- this is
44 a 10 year average. There are -- or over 10 years.
45 There are other places where there are concentrated
46 non-local hunting and harvest also. And then finally
47 on map 10 on page 40 is a rough indication of land
48 status in unit 23. This is going to be difficult for
49 those that have a black and white copy. The crosshatch

50

1 areas are Federal public lands that are currently
2 closed to the harvest of caribou by non-Federally-
3 qualified users, State lands which have remained open
4 are indicated in pink or the darker shade of gray in
5 copies that are not in color. So if it's not Federal
6 managed and it's not State lands the majority of the
7 remaining lands are Native corporation lands, either
8 NANA or village corporations.
9

10 So I'm going to move on quickly now to
11 current events. The Office of Subsistence Management
12 held public meetings in Barrow, Kotzebue and Nome in
13 July and accepted comments to the Board concerning WSA
14 16-03. Consultation between Tribes and the Board was
15 held in August for WSA 16-03 at the U.S. Fish and
16 Wildlife Service's regional office in Anchorage in
17 person and by teleconference. An opportunity for ANCSA
18 to consult with the Board was held in August at the
19 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regional office in
20 Anchorage in person and by teleconference. And
21 comments from these meetings are described beginning on
22 page 44 of the analysis. So we've tried to condense
23 down the many comments that were received during those
24 meetings.
25

26 Currently pending are two proposals to
27 the Alaska Board of Game by the Noatak, Kivalina and
28 Kotzebue Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committees. And
29 the proposals are to be considered in January of 2017
30 and seek an extension to the boundaries of the Noatak
31 controlled used area. And I believe somebody this
32 morning was speaking to that, to extend it.
33

34 And now I'm going to talk about the
35 affects of the proposal and the affects section begins
36 on page 50 of the analysis and we're near the end. If
37 the Board approves WSA 16-03 Federal public lands in
38 unit 23 will reopen to caribou hunting by non-
39 Federally-qualified subsistence users. And its -- in
40 its request to the Board, WSA 16-03, the State said
41 that new information indicated improvements in caribou
42 calf production, but calf production has likely had
43 little influence on the WACH population decline.
44 Decreased calf survival through summer and fall and
45 decreased recruitment into the herd have likely
46 contributed to the population decline. And new
47 information provided by the State indicated
48 improvements in WACH caribou recruitment, survival and
49 weight. Research demonstrated that 2015 and 2016
50

1 cohorts make up a large proportion of the herd, but
2 because of their young age they remain somewhat
3 vulnerable to difficult winter conditions and
4 evaluating the overwinter survival rates of the large
5 cohort of 2016 will help to put demographic potential
6 of this cohort into context. Increased cow mortality
7 has likely affected the herd decline. New information
8 indicated that adult females exhibited very good body
9 condition and high pregnancy rates in 2015 and 2016 and
10 new data demonstrated decreasing annual cow mortality
11 rates in three of the past four years.

12
13 Results of the July 1st, 2016 photo
14 census survey results in a WACH population estimate of
15 200,928 caribou. Results of this census indicate an
16 average annual decline of 5 percent per year between
17 2013 and 2015 resulting in a lower rate than the 15
18 percent annual decline between 2011 and 2013. While
19 there is substantial uncertainty in the harvestable
20 surplus estimates, the overall trend is decreasing as
21 the overall population declines. And if the population
22 projections and harvest estimates are accurate, the
23 harvestable surplus is likely already being exceeded.

24
25 The OSM preliminary conclusion or --
26 yeah, preliminary conclusion is neutral at this time.
27 This analysis that I have just summarized has
28 demonstrated that there are many valid arguments for
29 both supporting and rejecting WSA 16-03. However data
30 gaps also exist that hinder complete understanding of
31 the complex biological and anthropological components
32 surrounding the issue. So I'm going to go back to what
33 I said in the beginning and that is that we -- this is
34 an action item and what we are asking you to do is to
35 take action on WSA 16-03 and that is to vote on a
36 motion recommending that the Federal Subsistence Board
37 approve, which keeps the -- which opens caribou hunting
38 to non-locals, approve with modification that opens
39 caribou hunting on Federal public land to non-locals
40 with some sort of maybe timing, gear or area
41 restriction or reject WSA 16-03 which would keep the
42 closure intact.

43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and members of
45 the Council. I will try to answer any questions you
46 may have and also Lisa Maas, the biologist that works
47 with me at the Office of Subsistence Management is on
48 the line and we can -- she'll help us with a lot of the
49 biological information. So we're available to answer
50

1 your questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. There's
4 still going to be a lot more discussion on the
5 situation. I know you guys want to take a lunch break,
6 I'm going to be studying for quite a while yet. I want
7 lunch now, right, and we'll come back and for
8 questions?

9

10 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. I want to do
13 that, have a lunch. How long do you guys want for
14 lunch?

15

16 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.

19

20 MR. STEVENSON: We had -- we have the
21 students coming at 0:45 too.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

24

25 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. You want to go to
26 lunch now, what's going on besides nodding heads?

27

28 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, lunch is
29 ready and waiting for us in the cafeteria. We can get
30 plates here in this room, there are plates waiting.
31 And at 12:45 we have students who have expressed an
32 interest.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

35

36 MR. STEVENSON:in speaking with
37 the RAC about their experience working on the caribou
38 radio collaring project.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

41

42 MR. STEVENSON:done through the
43 Selawik Refuge and also Alaska Department of Fish and
44 Game. And with the RAC's permission the thought was to
45 continue with deliberations on 16-03 immediately
46 following if that's the wish of the RAC.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

2
3 So you guys want lunch now.

4
5 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

6
7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Let's take a
8 lunch break. And be back here at.....

9
10 MR. SHIEDT: 12:00 -- 12:40.

11
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, 12:40. Lunch
13 break.

14
15 (Off record)

16
17 (On record)

18
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Can we find a seat,
20 please, get ready. Okay. Are we ready now? So at
21 this time we'll continue on with the RAC after we go
22 through with the students that radio collared the
23 caribou. We got somebody's presentation, Zach?

24
25 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Yes, this is our youth presentation on caribou radio
27 collaring. And then we'll continue with our
28 deliberations.

29
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

31
32 MS. HOWARTH: My name is Kali Howarth.

33
34 MR. BALLOT: My name is Kevin Ballot.

35
36 MR. JOHNSON: And my name is Brad
37 Johnson.

38
39 MS. HOWARTH: We comprised the Selawik
40 caribou collaring crew. On the collaring trip we
41 learned many things, but most importantly we
42 learned.....

43
44 MR. BALLOT: Biologists collar caribou
45 10 days out of the year. They do this so they can
46 learn about migration patterns of the caribou.
47 Migration patterns tell about health and age of the
48 caribou.

49
50

1 MS. HOWARTH: The biologists can also
2 learn about the affects of climate on the caribou. The
3 collaring also tells the population of the caribou so
4 that they can better manage them. There are so many
5 other things we learned and did and here is a
6 presentation of those things.

7
8 MR. JOHNSON: This is the Selawik
9 Wolves' caribou collaring presentation. Here's the
10 crew that went on the trip including those who could
11 not be with us today, they're just not at school,
12 not.....

13
14 We went to Onion Portage. Kevin, why
15 is it called Onion Portage?

16
17 MR. BALLOT: Because wild onions have
18 grown there for many years.

19
20 MR. JOHNSON: We got lots of
21 instruction from the biologists such as?

22
23 MS. HOWARTH: Learning how to collar
24 the caribou and make sure not to drop a collar because
25 they were very expensive. Even this nut was \$3,000.

26
27 MR. JOHNSON: And she's kept it this
28 whole time.

29
30 This is us following the caribou so we
31 could select the right ones.

32
33 MS. HOWARTH: We picked cows and calves
34 because they can't leave each other's sides. Charlie
35 is cutting some of the collar off to adjust the collar
36 to the cow's neck.

37
38 MR. BALLOT: We weighed calves to find
39 out how had summer went and to see how much food they
40 had to eat.

41
42 MS. HOWARTH: Here I'm am holding the
43 tail, getting wet and cold.

44
45 MR. JOHNSON: We collared bulls too.
46 Kevin, what was the purpose of collaring a bull or what
47 was hard about it?

48
49 MR. BALLOT: They are bigger and harder
50

1 to catch so we had to tie two boats together.

2
3 MR. JOHNSON: Kevin, why did we swab
4 their noses too?

5
6 MR. BALLOT: To check if they had any
7 diseases.

8
9 MR. JOHNSON: Give me a second here.
10 All right. These are some glamour shots of our
11 students on the trip. Kevin Ballot is here, Kali
12 Howarth with her delicious cooking, Frank Greist who is
13 absent from school today, Mya Henry also absent, and
14 Charlie Rather, III, also absent. This is everyone,
15 biologists included who was with us on the trip and
16 including Opti back here, where are you at, I know he's
17 in here.

18
19 Any questions?

20
21 MR. MITCHELL: And there's a whole
22 bunch of you on one side of the boat and the caribou, I
23 was wondering if you guys ever capsized the boat
24 or.....

25
26 MR. JOHNSON: Did they capsize the
27 boat?

28
29 MS. HOWARTH: Yeah.

30
31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
32 away from microphone).....

33
34 MS. HOWARTH: Unh-unh.

35
36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
37 away from microphone).....

38
39 MS. HOWARTH: We didn't because we had
40 a few people on the other side of the boat to hold it
41 equal.

42
43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
44 away from microphone).....

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MS. HOWARTH:

49
50

1 MR. BALLOT: I collared about maybe --
2 I collared about maybe four.

3
4 MR. GREIST: Is there any reindeer
5 collar or.....

6
7 MS. HOWARTH: No.

8
9 MR. GREIST:reindeer.....

10
11 MR. BALLOT: No. Just -- just caribou.

12
13 MS. HOWARTH: Just caribou.

14
15 MR. JOHNSON: Let me clarify, that was
16 four for each of them. So we had five students so
17 there was like 20, 30, 25, 30 for us probably.

18
19 MR. GREIST: I'd like to see that done
20 sometimes. Is it possible to reindeer some -- collar
21 some reindeer also that is resident in our Western
22 Arctic caribou herd. I've always heard from the
23 State's perspective that caribou and reindeer don't mix
24 well. We don't live together, but we know from --
25 since the '50s that reindeer really affect the number
26 of caribou that we have and also it's integrating. So
27 we think that they're called caredeer or reinbou or
28 there's a mix. But anyway that's what our thinking is.
29 I don't know if that's biologically possible or but to
30 us used to be, used to be. But it's like in some ways
31 I am -- I suggest we keep reindeer collared.

32
33 MR. COGSWELL: That's so cool you guys
34 are doing this. I'm in Anchorage and the same thing, I
35 got interested in this -- doing this in the last -- I
36 want to get paid to do some of that. So what was the
37 funnest thing you like about helping out the survey?

38
39 MS. HOWARTH: The funnest thing I liked
40 about it was I get to collar caribou while they were
41 alive and see how they work while we're trying to put a
42 collar on them.

43
44 MR. BALLOT: My favorite thing about
45 the trip was working closeup with biologists and the
46 caribou.

47
48 MR. COGSWELL: Cool.

49
50

1 MR. CLEVELAND: So during you guys
2 collar in Onion Portage was there a conflict with the
3 local hunter?

4
5 MS. HOWARTH: Yeah.

6
7 MR. BALLOT: They were -- after we put
8 collars on them some of them would just go and get the
9 one we just collared.

10
11 MR. CLEVELAND: Well, I heard the
12 collaring -- I talked to some hunters especially from
13 Ambler and they didn't like the way it was being run.
14 But I told them it was a study for our own good, for us
15 hunters, us local hunters to know what we got out there
16 and what's happening, that's what I explained to them.
17 And they said well, I was there and one of the hunters
18 there, I was watching you guys.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. CLEVELAND: So you guys did well.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MR. GREIST: The point is we don't know
27 what the total number of caribou is. I know since I
28 was young, 1955, my dad sold a cabin right in -- right
29 in the middle of their migratory route upriver, it's
30 five miles from here. After they got mingling with
31 reindeer from this area they changed their route,
32 that's what changed their route. Caribou have an
33 innate ability to go back wherever they're born or
34 reindeer, either one. So when they start mixing with a
35 herd from this area they change their route see. So we
36 don't know what the average seen is and you might want
37 to look -- think about that. We need to take a look at
38 the caribou itself. The average is too high and it's --
39 they're talking over 300, 400,000 range, you're
40 talking them going to eat out their lichen. And their
41 lichen is a 50 year cycle. Same thing, you know. So
42 what they're doing is they're overeating they're route
43 and that's one of the things that we need to focus on
44 at some point in time, take a look at their feeding
45 thing, you know.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

50

1 MR. MOTO: Calvin Moto from Deering.
2 We live most of our life around reindeer and we notice
3 that when the reindeer get -- go with the caribou, when
4 they come back you can tell, you can tell the
5 difference a little bit about the -- when you have half
6 caribou and half reindeer, that their ribcages are
7 bigger and there's more fat on them than most of your
8 caribou. You know, we used to have thousands of
9 reindeer and we have seven different herds of reindeer
10 in our village at one time. And we noticed that the
11 caribou and the reindeer, they're more tender than
12 regular caribou, you have to cook caribou a little
13 longer than you -- than the half reindeer and they're
14 fatter and we like the fatter ones because they make
15 good (in Native), you know.

16
17 MR. GREIST: Yeah. You can tell.....

18
19 MR. MOTO: We'll bring that up a little
20 bit because we used to harvest a lot of reindeer and we
21 started harvesting caribou and we notice the difference
22 you know.

23
24 MS. LOON: I'm really proud of you. As
25 a (in Native), I'm really surprised that you can do a
26 presentation and enjoy your being out there. When I
27 was your age I was too nervous to even say anything.
28 So I'm very proud of you speak real loud and
29 participate and I think you two will be presenters in
30 the future if you could go up to Ambler and show the
31 community what you did and why we're doing it with your
32 teacher it would be very good and real smart coming
33 from your own voice and your own perspective because
34 you're going to live here for a long time.

35
36 Thank you very much.

37
38 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, ma'am.

39
40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mike.

41
42 MR. KRAMER: Mike Kramer, Kotzebue. As
43 you guys know I've always promoted youth involvement in
44 all of our activities involving studies. You know, a
45 lot of our -- a lot of the studies, a lot of the other
46 things that we do out there that we, you know, perform
47 to in order to be able to make sure we have a
48 sustainable resource. You know, I'm -- I've always
49 promoted teenagers, young people to go out there and do
50

1 these kind of activities because, you know, as you can
2 see, as you look at the Board I'm still the youngest
3 one up here, they nickname me the kid. I'm still the
4 youngest one on the Board. One of these days one of
5 you guys will be up here on the Board and I'll be one
6 of the guys that's been here for a long time. You
7 know, I've also, you know, promoted that -- I've also
8 tried to push for our meetings to be put on KOTZ radio
9 to which I guess KOTZ radio doesn't much care because I
10 think that the region has the right to know what we're
11 making -- the decisions we're making. And I was the
12 one that made the motion to start involving us having
13 villages and other communities, that's why we're here
14 today in Selawik. We were there in Buckland and we
15 were there in Kiana. In order -- and that gives you
16 guys the opportunity to be able to do things that
17 involve studies and help -- that involve studies, this
18 way it has a lot of youth involvement. I've even tried
19 to push for us to even have a youth Board member, but
20 they don't see that.

21
22 So I'm very proud of you guys for, you
23 know, going out there and having fun and getting cold
24 and getting wet, that's part of being able to enjoy
25 what you guys do.

26
27 Thank you guys for participating and
28 helping it out.

29
30 MR. GREIST: The other thing is the
31 first bunch that's been coming over, most of these are
32 reindeer that crossed -- that crossed this year at
33 Kiana. I get lots of texts from Kiana saying man, lots
34 of reindeer by Dimond River, even around first light,
35 lots of reindeer. You can tell the reindeer hooves are
36 like that and the caribou is like that so you can tell
37 just from their tracks. Caribou like to go to this
38 area, like people.....

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 (Applause)

43
44 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Raymond's on a
45 short break. Anyone else have questions for the
46 students?

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MR. SHIEDT: If not, thanks. You've
2 done a good job at Onion Portage and I hope one day you
3 become a biologist.

4
5 Yeah, go ahead.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Hi. I just wanted to let
8 the two of you know and also other students that later
9 in our meeting we'll be having a presentation by a
10 student similar to yourselves who's been participating
11 in the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program
12 and she's going to give a report on the research that
13 she was doing in this region. And we've got some great
14 staff here who have good connections for the Alaska
15 Native Science and Engineering Program and the Bridging
16 Program and we have internship programs so if you're
17 interested in biology and getting out in the field for
18 summer opportunities we can keep you posted when that --
19 when that presentation is coming up. I know Clarissa
20 was spending some time in some of the other classrooms
21 today. So it would be great if you're interested to
22 hear her presentation, she's very inspiring too.
23 Similar to you she had some opportunities like this and
24 on track to do biology work and be a biologist and come
25 back to your community and work in that field too.

26
27 So thank you.

28
29 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Susan.

30
31 MS. GEORGETTE: I just wanted to thank
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I think they
33 deserve credit for having taken kids out there for
34 probably 30 years now. I think they've -- they came up
35 with the idea before it was even that popular to take
36 kids out and they do a great job. And, you know, it's
37 not easy to orchestrate that and kids involved with all
38 this work. And so thank you, Fish and Game, for.....

39
40 (Applause)

41
42 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. And
43 like they said I'd like to thank the State for making
44 it possible to have students from every village to be
45 involved with the caribou collaring.

46
47 Thank you and job well done.

48
49 (Applause)

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We're ready.
2 Back to our meeting. Those are you that are standing
3 up, we've got a lot of seats in front here.

4
5 Okay. Can I have your attention,
6 please. Back to our seats, we'll continue to
7 deliberate of the RAC and.....

8
9 MR. SHIEDT: The Chairman is asking to
10 reopen the meeting. Could you all -- if you need to
11 talk can you go out and do it in the hallway, please.
12 The Chairman is requesting we get back to the meeting.

13
14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes, you may
15 continue.

16
17 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Again I'm Pippa Kenner and I'm with the Office of
19 Subsistence Management in Anchorage, Alaska and we're
20 here today talking about special action request WSA 16-
21 03. My co-worker, Lisa Maas, a biologist at OSM is
22 also online to help answer questions and we also have
23 some people in the room who are very familiar with the
24 herd who we might tap to answer some questions too.

25
26 So I've gone over the summary of the
27 analysis, the analysis is in your book. In the book
28 what we try to do is anticipate your questions and
29 provide answers for you. And so what we're asking you
30 to do is to take action on this. The Board has not
31 acted on WSA 16-03 yet. It's a request from the State
32 to reopen Federal public lands in unit 23 to the
33 harvest caribou by all users including non-local users.
34 And so what we're asking you to do is to make a motion.
35 It's always much better if you can make a motion in the
36 positive and that would mean we would be looking for a
37 motion that says I move to adopt the request and if
38 you're not going to vote yes you would say and in a
39 minute I'm going to give my justification for opposing
40 my motion. But if it's in the positive then if you
41 vote yes Federal public lands will open and if you vote
42 no on the request Federal public lands will remain
43 closed. You also have an option of adopting with
44 modification which is adding some area or time
45 restriction or something like that.

46
47 And so at the point where we are in my
48 presentation right now is whatever the Council would
49 like to do. Oh, the other thing is is that when you're
50

1 -- when we go into deliberation after somebody has made
2 the motion it's usually an opportunity for Council
3 members to justify, to give us a justification for the
4 way they're going to vote. And I noticed that earlier
5 in this discussion many people were providing
6 justifications and if you'd like you can refer to your
7 earlier comments.

8
9 Now's the time for the Council to move
10 forward in the way it chooses, either asking questions
11 or making a motion.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

18
19 MR. MITCHELL: I got a question. On
20 page 1 on that draft analysis, temporary special
21 action. And it states that the newly derived Western
22 Arctic caribou herd population estimate for fall of
23 2015 is 206,000 caribou, falling within the lower end
24 of the WACH Management Plan conservative harvest
25 management strategy. The proponent states that this
26 new information is sufficient to rescind WSA 16-01 and
27 reopen public -- reopen Federal public lands in unit 23
28 to the harvest of caribou by all users. So my question
29 is there wasn't a census done in 2015, there was a
30 census done in 2016. So I don't know how you get this
31 206,000 caribou. So this is -- this states that this
32 new information is sufficient to rescind WSA 16-01.
33 But when you look back up it says this is -- this is a
34 Western Arctic caribou herd population estimate. So we
35 don't base our action on estimates because the State is
36 trying to put this number on us by estimates, by
37 guessing. So that's not good at all. The real fact,
38 2016 the caribou count is 201,000 and that's the 2016
39 census. And you got 2015 is 206,000, that's a guess.
40 So we don't take actions on guesses.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, may I?

45
46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead.

47
48 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Again this is Pippa Kenner. To Mr. Mitchell through
50

1 the Chair. When the State presented its special action
2 request the recent census had not been conducted and
3 you're right, the 206,000 -- roughly 206,000 estimate
4 was based on a model, not on observation from an aerial
5 photo census. And of course the WACH Management Plan
6 management level that the proponent -- in this case the
7 proponent is the State of Alaska, Alaska Department of
8 Fish and Game, is the table that's on page 15, table
9 two which shows the management levels that the
10 proponent's describing in its request.

11
12 MR. MITCHELL: I'm aware of the
13 management -- I said I'm not aware of these estimates
14 and we should weigh these estimates and be documented
15 on these. Using estimate and guessing on us that's
16 going to keep the 16-01 alive.

17
18 MR. SHIEDT: Enoch, I hate to interrupt
19 you, but what they're asking for is to make a proposal
20 should we vote on this or not. I'm just trying to keep
21 a point of order and we need to go the procedures we
22 usually go through on a proposal. And for now we will
23 -- and we will talk about it later, what you're saying
24 will come in next.

25
26 MR. MITCHELL: I under.....

27
28 MR. SHIEDT: I'm not trying to say
29 anything, but I'm just trying to keep it in -- the way
30 we do our business.

31
32 Go ahead.

33
34 MR. MITCHELL: Yes.

35
36 MS. KENNER: Thank you.

37
38 MR. MITCHELL: I understand that.

39
40 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr.....

41
42 MR. MITCHELL: I also understand these
43 are the facts right there that we are using. So you
44 got to be clarification on these facts.

45
46 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 Through the Chair, Mr. Shiedt. I also was going to go
48 the presentation procedure for proposals, but because
49 this is a special action request we've already had

50

1 numerous opportunities for the public and tribes and
2 others to chime in on their point of view. We are
3 actually looking only to the Council for their
4 discussion and actions. And again before you go into
5 deliberation and make the motion we're happy to answer
6 questions.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Sorry, I
11 misunderstand.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
14 ask for 15 minute deliberation between the Board
15 members alone.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, the
18 public process of the Regional Advisory Councils is so
19 that there is an opportunity for the public
20 deliberation and the Council's discussion on the
21 record, very much helps support the Council's
22 recommendation. And so there is opportunity here both
23 to ask questions and for the Council to have
24 deliberation, but it is part of the public process in
25 making your recommendations. But you're most welcome
26 to take that time as the Council to have those
27 discussions.

28

29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's the one
30 situation where I -- I'm not real happy about because
31 we were notified in just two days about the
32 deliberation, just two days. You know, but like I said
33 not only that we represent three different
34 organizations, Northwest, North Slope and Bering
35 Strait, I think that we should table this after we get
36 the deliberation from our local people in our villages.
37 That's why we just can't say yes or no because we're
38 notified in just two days, but we represent a lot of
39 people. Might have to table this thing.

40

41 Enoch then.....

42

43 MR. KRAMER: Okay. Since you guys are
44 asking for an answer right now I'm going to make this
45 motion for the people of NANA region, all the people
46 who subsist -- all the subsistence users that harvest
47 caribou and that use it as a sustainable resource, I
48 hereby make a motion to reject proposal 16-03.

49

50

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

2
3 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. So now what we --
4 what's the process we need to do, Zach, the fact that
5 we did that. We all know we going to deliberate on
6 this one here, we all -- like Enoch I got mine,
7 everybody got their, you know, mind on this one here,
8 how we should go. And is it open now for deliberation
9 or what's the process we need to -- that's something we
10 need to understand better as Board members, what's the
11 process, what step do we need to take next to --
12 everything to be legal right now?

13
14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
15 Raymond Stoney is also correct that if the Council
16 wishes to table this, you could table this until
17 tomorrow if you so wish to have an opportunity to
18 review the materials and time to speak with your
19 communities. The reason this is coming before the
20 Council now and on such short notice, typically when a
21 special action is enacted it -- it's a special action
22 because it comes outside of the regular regulatory
23 cycle. And so oftentimes that doesn't fall within the
24 Council's scheduled meetings. It was anticipated that
25 the Board would take action on this proposal prior to
26 the Council meeting process. With the retirement of
27 Chair Tim Towarak the Board was not able to take action
28 without a Chair in place. And so we -- we're in this
29 process now where the Councils are meeting so this did
30 come before you on very short notice. It wasn't
31 anticipated that this would be part of the Council
32 process, but there was this opportunity for the
33 Councils to weigh in now since the Board has not yet
34 taken action. So we apologize for the really short
35 notice. There is an opportunity if the Council wishes
36 to have a little more time and to table until tomorrow
37 as the Council wishes.

38
39 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

42
43 MR. MITCHELL: There's a motion on the
44 floor.

45
46 MR. SHIEDT: I understand that, but I
47 want to discuss this because this is such a touchy
48 issue for Northwest Alaska and I would like to have my --
49 like Enoch, Kramer, everybody on the table, I think

50

1 everybody want to take their two cents and I would say
2 try to make it short as possible. Me, I'll start
3 everybody off since I got the floor that we need to
4 have the photo census in front of us and hear how many
5 caribou is out there before I decide. Because last
6 year when we made this closure recommendation with the
7 numbers involved. We need to hear the numbers now to
8 see if they're still down because I hate to open
9 something that -- if it's still down.

10

11 MS. LOON: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Hannah.

14

15 MS. LOON: (In Native), Mr. Chairman.
16 We need to have public process so we need to hear from
17 local people what their feelings are. Do they even
18 know -- do they even know WSA 16-03, do they know and
19 we need to get their perspective and also -- we also
20 need to address when they -- that the obstacle about
21 not having a Chairman at the Federal Subsistence Board,
22 we can also recognize the Vice Chair to act on our
23 behalf if they're slowing getting a Chairman, that we
24 also recognize and hopefully that person will be able
25 to have our support, we support that Vice Chair, I'm
26 sure it's in their policies that he can act on behalf
27 of the absence of the Chairman. And we need to hear
28 local. And I also would like to hear the biology
29 report. We can act on it right now and determine not
30 to act right now until we hear from the Department of
31 Fish and Game report.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Well, we know that we
36 are in a situation of where it's a very critical
37 situation, but just, you know, right here our RAC it's
38 just sitting and representing a lot of people. But I'd
39 like to see someone the public and give it your opinion
40 about this deliberation. But that is one that is still
41 decide.

42

43 Yeah, go ahead.

44

45 MR. DAVIS: (In Native) Oh, my name is
46 Fred Davis and I'm from Selawik. And you look at --
47 pointed out how many caribous, they migrate and they
48 know, but we don't know. But I know one thing, they're
49 migrating routes are changed, they don't come by here

50

1 like long ago. First they came here when I -- about
2 1960, maybe '57. And that way when they're going back
3 and there's -- in the Selawik and are they feeling --
4 are they fooling the Natives, that's where we wonder,
5 some of us. And, you know, some of us are Geronimo
6 type of Inupiat, but I'm glad you are there for us.
7 We need to counter them, not only go along with them.
8 And one thing is we should know their routes -- new
9 routes not for only our benefit, but see how many are
10 going by. That way we will know if they're right or
11 wrong.

12
13 That's -- I will talk some more later
14 if something pops up.

15
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You go ahead, speak.

17
18 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
19 Council members. This is Pippa Kenner again from OSM.
20 I've heard a number -- a couple of you say that you
21 would really like to hear the presentation that's
22 coming later on the Western Arctic caribou herd and if
23 that's true maybe you could defer action on this until
24 you've heard that presentation. Just a suggestion.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You know, that's one
29 thing that I -- I've been dealing with for quite a long
30 time, the Caribou Working Group. I'll call them the
31 Working Group, has a plan that's writing about what
32 step to take if the caribou continues to decline. I
33 imagine that like I said either table it or get the
34 recommendation of the Northwest Arctic Caribou Working
35 Group. That's the one -- you know, they will decide
36 and then we'd make the recommendations.

37
38 Mr. Cleveland, you got anything on the
39 Caribou Working Group?

40
41 MR. CLEVELAND: Vern Cleveland. Last
42 count was 235,000, that was a few years ago. Now it's
43 206,000, 201,000. We've got to do something about it.
44 Just that it went down drastically by 30,000,
45 something's got to be done. I'm going with that motion
46 what Kramer did and I second the motion. Should I call
47 for question.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 MR. DAVIS: Yeah, I got a question.
2 What's the difference between our caribou herd and the
3 Porcupine herd? At one time there were a bunch of
4 caribou migrating down south and a bunch of them died,
5 they got stuck and they all died out or something,
6 maybe that could be a problem, I don't know.

7
8 MR. SHIEDT: Excuse me, but I think
9 someone need to answer from the State of Alaska about
10 the other caribou herd he mention because I'm just used
11 to caribou, Western Arctic caribou herd and the
12 Teshekpuk herd.

13
14 MR. PARRETT: Sorry, I'm.....

15
16 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, could you come up,
17 please. Maybe you could answer him and clarify and he
18 will feel better.

19
20 MR. PARRETT: The way that scientists
21 generally recognize the difference between those herds
22 is where they calve. So like the Western Arctic, most
23 of those animals calve in the upper Utukok, upper
24 Colville, that area, Kukpowruk. Teshekpuk calves right
25 around Teshekpuk Lake. Central Arctic calves between
26 the Colville and the Canning Rivers.

27
28 MR. DAVIS: Yeah, they migrate up that
29 way on that (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

30
31 MR. PARRETT: And then the
32 Porcupine.....

33
34 MR. DAVIS:the Northwest herd.

35
36 MR. PARRETT: Northwest Arctic, Arctic,
37 Western Arctic, people call it different things. And
38 then Porcupine calves the last couple years in Alaska
39 by Kaktovik.....

40
41 MR. DAVIS: Yeah.

42
43 MR. PARRETT:and then maybe 10
44 years before that they were in -- right on the other
45 side of the border in Canada.

46
47 MR. DAVIS: You know, this herd they --
48 they would come to the villages and they would -- we
49 would -- they would tell us, we wouldn't hear from you

50

1 guys.

2

3

MR. PARRETT: Yeah.

4

5

6

MR. DAVIS: And that's how it is and we
play it by ear. That's what I said.....

7

8

MR. PARRETT: Yeah.

9

10

11

12

13

14

MR. DAVIS:some of us are just
like Geronimo, you know, he's an outcast and I have a
pair of eyes that look like an eagle or a northern pike
and you wouldn't like it if I start arguing with you,
you know, and then I get into trouble.

15

16

MR. PARRETT: Maybe.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

MR. DAVIS: Yeah, it is. And they will
help because they know everybody in the villages and
the other villages, 11 villages here. We need to look
back at the old days and begin from there. They went
away back in when. I heard that two shamans bring them
up and they did not come this way. We left off fishing
ducks and what -- those small animals. I didn't much
like fish, but they start coming back in the '60s and I
started eating caribou. And I'm sure they like caribou
too. And but we don't want that all the time, we want
some fish too. And then I'm glad they come here once a
year. And the best time of the year is the falltime in
which they're fast and okay before they erupt.

32

33

MR. PARRETT: Anything else, guys.

34

35

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49

50

MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

MR. PARRETT: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Go.....

MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mike.

MR. KRAMER: Yeah. You know, my
decision for making this is the fact that the State of
Alaska decided to undermine the -- you know, our
decision in 16-01 all for the mighty dollar. I don't
know who -- they didn't say who put that, you know,
special action request in, I'd like to find out who did

1 it, whether it was the commissioner, governor, whoever,
2 you know, somebody filled his pockets with some money
3 because they don't necessarily care what the people up
4 here, you know, they don't necessarily care about what
5 we have here. You know, that's the reason why I made
6 this decision to reject it because of the fact that
7 they decided to undermine ANILCA section Title VIII.
8 We have the right to be able to make conservational
9 suggestions and proposals to be able to protect our
10 subsistence resources. You know, the State -- they're
11 their own wild child, they can do what they want, we'll
12 eventually get control of them some day.

13
14 I've been real blessed to hear that a
15 lot of villages were able to harvest caribou, you know,
16 without any problems. I've seen some park rangers out
17 on the Kobuk River, that was good to see. They didn't
18 stop, but they waved and they saw that we were
19 successful. I noticed a lot of people had problems
20 with bears taking caribou out of their boats, lots of
21 bear encounters. I heard of at least four or five
22 bears that just got shot and drug out in the river
23 because they're a nuisance. These bears need to get
24 taken care of, if we don't make a proposal to get rid
25 of these things they're going to start taking care of
26 matters in their own hands, we need to start doing
27 something.

28
29 But to hear a lot of these villages
30 start to be success and that the time of peace has
31 arrived and hopefully has stayed. You know, I've seen
32 so many people, local people, who harvested caribou are
33 so much at ease, comfort, to be able to fill their
34 freezers especially in Noatak, Kivalina. Kiana's now
35 starting to harvest a bunch of them, Noorvik, you know,
36 people from Kotzebue. It's the time of peace.

37
38 The problem that we have right now is
39 that Red Dog Mine. That needs to be shut down so that
40 these animals can be able to better cross that road to
41 be able to come to places where it hasn't gone to since
42 Red Dog Mine opened.

43
44 You know, I think that this decision
45 for 16-01 was for the people. I was the one that put
46 that in for the people and for what we subsist on and
47 our subsistence resources. That's why I made the
48 motion to reject it, 16-03 because I believe in the
49 people. People need to be able to subsistence -- you
50

1 know, subsist, to be able to fill their freezer with
2 whatever's necessary that they need to survive
3 throughout the winter. Caribou is such a huge resource
4 for us, huge resource, if it goes away we don't have
5 much else. The government doesn't much provide for us.
6 You know, that's why I wanted to be able to deliberate
7 with everybody else, but I guess they didn't want us to
8 be able to sit there and think about what kind of
9 decision we made so I made that decision.

10

11 That's all.

12

13 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

16

17 MR. MOTO: You know, a lot of times a
18 proposal is brought up to us and the people in the
19 villages where they have problem sometimes with the
20 language on some of the proposals. Once sentence will
21 say something and then the next paragraph will say
22 something else again. This is where the confusion is
23 on how to pass some of these regulations. We need to
24 have in plain English and real stats of what we are
25 voting for, not just something that somebody rig up,
26 say this is what's going to happen and then the next
27 sentence says you can't do this. This is where our
28 people -- I think when you go to some of the villages
29 you better -- you should have interpreters so that
30 people who don't understand English real well could
31 learn what they're trying to talk about. I've seen it
32 a lot of times where a proposal will be brought up and
33 there's some people that don't understand, but if they
34 were -- if there were translators into Inupiat I know
35 that a lot of people understand what you were trying to
36 do or what the biologists or the State is -- Feds are
37 trying to do. We have so many different kinds of rules
38 and regulations that are confusing to our people. They
39 say one thing in one paragraph, next paragraph
40 something else. This is something that I brought up
41 because I really think that I have a problem sometimes
42 with some of the proposals because of the way they're
43 written or the stats are not really there.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further
48 discussions.

49

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So there's a motion
4 made and second, right.

5

6 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

7

8 MR. GREIST: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Bert.

11

12 MR. GREIST: When the Lands Claim Act
13 passed in 71 -- I mean, yeah -- we start working around
14 D2. We start bringing the Federal land managers out to
15 the villages to talk about Parks, to talk about
16 Refuges, BLM lands, these kind of things. We really --
17 our way of life pretty much stopped. They cut out our
18 traditional hunting rights out to this land period.
19 And it took us I think -- I don't know. I know when I
20 counted my meetings I count 5,000 by the time we finish
21 land claims and the D2 land just to enact what you guys
22 are working on now.

23

24 For me on a personal basis, when I was
25 young my mom -- I remember standing right by my mom and
26 my dad were by the boat and Lottie Ballot was yelling
27 from across the river saying that fish -- game warden
28 is coming to town. The State people used to come to
29 town and terrorize this village. They would check our
30 cash. We -- this would be -- used to be pretty rough
31 living under those kind of things. So the State
32 deputized a biologist and he just walked around and
33 cash -- check our cash just to terrorize us. I made
34 sure that -- that's my life, trying to fix that.

35

36 So the system that we're working on
37 right now is working really good and the best so far
38 for the Native community to finally be able to have a
39 workable solution where you could hear the people and
40 you can respond to the needs. Just not too long ago
41 the State passed a regulation prohibiting us from
42 putting nets on creeks completely and give us a limit
43 of one net per family. This is not too long ago and
44 that's why I went to the State -- Federal Subsistence
45 Board to ask to change it here and we got it changed.
46 And this is 15 years ago, not very far, I mean.

47

48 When I did land claims there are 242
49 easement proposals put together by the sportsmen and

50

1 guides to all the lakes and creeks and just here in
2 Selawik I count them, 242 sites they want. They want
3 their way of life preserved and they pretty much have a
4 unholy alliance with the State of Alaska pretty much,
5 these guides and sportsmen pretty much dictate the game
6 as to how we harvest fish and game when I was growing
7 up. Today it's like night and day and I thank you. I
8 thank to see it, you know, our work, what -- what we
9 did. And it's sure change a lot for the better.
10 There's still quite a bit of work to do.

11
12 But I think one of the things that has
13 been bothering me is the number of caribou taken for
14 averages I think too high. Everybody's looking at
15 400,000, 499,000 caribou. And the other day I run into
16 a Fish and Wildlife worker and I ask him for
17 information on caribou numbers and they're saying man,
18 the caribou are still going down. And I was just
19 chuckling because in reality I don't think they're
20 going down, I think they're pretty much -- pretty close
21 to starting to eat their winter food away and that's
22 from a long term since. I'm asking you guys to take a
23 look at that number, pretty seriously what the average
24 is at some point in time.

25
26 The State system they want the most,
27 highest, and keep it that way pretty much. It's run
28 pretty much by guides and sportsmen. When we tell the
29 D2 proposals by Senator Frank Murkowski for instance,
30 he come back at the request -- he become governor,
31 become -- got elected, and then he wiped out the
32 revenue sharing for all our villages so that we can't
33 even -- they just wiped out total funding for our
34 village government, city period. All that Federal --
35 all that State agency, that's the kind of thing that
36 I've been working against, I've been trying to fix,
37 half trying to -- you know, make it work for our
38 people. But what I see today is like night and day and
39 I thank you from the bottom of my heart for coming to
40 the villages and doing what you're doing. I would
41 recommend that to some of the bigger villages and
42 smaller ones as well. So I think the number is
43 somewhere around 200,000, maybe less.

44
45 I know when I was growing up in the
46 '50s, I was born 1950, in 1955 we build a cabin 65
47 miles from here. There used to be -- Sheldon's herd
48 was around, reindeer herd, Gray's was there, the Skins
49 just got wiped out, the Smith's got wiped out, George
50

1 Geetz, his was -- reindeer got wiped out. And there's
2 several other reindeer herds that got wiped out as
3 well. So in the '50s and '60s what they were doing was
4 really mixing with our reindeer or with our caribou
5 herd. They really went up when NANA herd went big, we
6 lost 12,000 one year, one year alone 12,000 reindeer to
7 this herd and that's a big bump. This is in the '70s.
8 So what -- you know, what you're seeing is really
9 inflated numbers of what the average is I think. And
10 what we're doing in response to that is we're limiting
11 our take to five a day, caribou. That's too low. Gas
12 costs in Selawik \$7.50 a gallon. That's going to be
13 it. Upper Kobuk, over \$10.00. It's been that way over
14 \$10 in Upper Kobuk since 1980s. You're talking 20 plus
15 years at over \$10 a gallon. That costs too much. I
16 bought one orange, \$4.64, one orange from the store the
17 other day. The cost of living is probably one of the
18 highest in the United States here in this region.

19
20 And that's why I'm -- we put 15 caribou
21 a day as a limit to cover for -- there's people that
22 hunt from Kotzebue to Onion Portage, from Noatak to
23 upper Noatak. Sometimes even from here in Selawik,
24 when they don't come here we used to go way up. It was
25 not meant to enrich a hunter individually, it wasn't.
26 The State system can't work for us that hunt for two
27 families and that's the way I always hunt ever since I
28 was growing up, I never hunt just for myself. The
29 State system is based on individual. We tried to get
30 the State to adopt regulations so that a person can
31 hunt for two families, but, you know, it -- we keep
32 hitting a stone wall there. Finally we come up with a
33 way, we were even scared to do it for 15 a day, it
34 wasn't to enrich us, it was to allow a person to be
35 able to hunt for two families when, you know, your gas
36 costs even right now over \$10 a gallon in half the
37 villages. Last year the price of gas in this region
38 was over \$9 average region wide. So you're talking in
39 the high upper end it's \$15 a gallon. Right now it's
40 going to be something like that up there. So what I'm
41 saying is five a day is not too much, we'd like to see
42 it up farther to give us the ability, those of us that
43 hunt for other families, maybe 10 a day, that's what
44 I'm thinking. Just keep it five a day for everybody if
45 they want it that way, but if you're hunting for
46 another family because look Oscar came hunting from
47 Shungnak, my cousin, he come here and he go -- and he
48 still have to go 60 miles from here that way last year
49 and imagine how much it costs doing that. And then he
50

1 went back and you're talking, you know, \$15 a gallon up
2 there. That's where -- that's basically what I want
3 this somehow to where it's comfortable. I know even
4 for here six a day as long as I can get three for
5 another person and three for my buddy. Even at 7.50 a
6 gallon some of us are having a hard time doing that
7 because stove oil is -- it even costs more than gas.
8 Yeah. And stove oil is way up there, electricity is
9 way up there. Electricity is what, .57 cents a
10 kilowatt hour. So the cost of living in that place,
11 I'd like to see the caribou numbers back up. They were
12 not meant to enrich us, they were to allow us to be
13 able to hunt for somebody else.

14
15 Thank you for listening to us. There's
16 a State regulation on you can't give caribou to dogs.
17 That's kind of a slap in the face against our culture.
18 I mean, those of that grew up -- I grew up with hunting
19 dogs, hunting and trapping with dog team. We know it
20 spoil -- caribou gets spoiled and it's not edible
21 anymore and yet we want a good dog to help us. And
22 that's what we -- we need to be able to do that, to be
23 able to feed our dogs.

24 The other thing is I grew up not eating
25 mostly fresh caribou, we always age them, we always age
26 our caribou, tenderize them. In fact when I was
27 growing up most of the town was good in tenderizing.
28 Man, you never see people get fresh fish, you know,
29 they're aged, same thing. We know people who are not a
30 caribou -- aged caribou around mid winter, that's when
31 we start getting swans for the elders. And that's the
32 only time we get swans is when we hunt for an elder.
33 And right now it's against the regulations to get swan.
34 And I don't think the numbers would be up there if
35 elders are asking for them. But in the absence of
36 tenderized meat that's who we used to get it for in
37 fact.

38
39 Let's see, that's the other one I can
40 think of. Anyway that's what I'm asking for. And
41 that's the background I give you, it was not meant to --
42 it was not meant to enrich us individually 15 a day.
43 The State system just couldn't work, that's how come we
44 do it. In fact we were afraid of the political
45 backlash it would cause, we thought it would cause
46 problems for us. But we had to do it, we had to start
47 it up.

48
49 So thank you, thank you for your time.
50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Bert.

2
3 Any more discussions.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We've got a motion
8 and second. Any further discussions.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead, Hannah.

13
14 MS. LOON: Question.

15
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been
17 called for. All in favor signify by say aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It passed.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
24 just to clarify for the record. Eva Patton, Office of
25 Subsistence Management. Can you please restate the
26 motion to clarify for the record the motion?

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MR. KRAMER: The motion was to reject
31 16-03. It was seconded by Vern and it's unanimous --
32 unanimously passed, rejection.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Thank you. And does the
35 Council wish to make any further justifications for the
36 motion?

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead.

41
42 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, my justification is
43 if I hear the numbers from the State from this count
44 here on the calving grounds and if they do increase I
45 will gladly reverse my decision to support 16-03. Yet
46 I do not support it. But until I -- I don't want to
47 vote either way until I -- after I hear the numbers
48 count because we rely on caribou so heavy that we need
49 to conserve and -- for the future of the stock of the

50

1 caribou. We can't keep declining otherwise we'll have
2 nothing left.

3
4 So I am going to say it and thank you.

5
6 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead, Mike.

9
10 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, my justification for
11 rejecting this was, you know, the fact that the State
12 decided to undermine our decision in our special action
13 request. You know, they -- like Enoch to my right
14 said, you know, they just have estimates. You know,
15 hopefully around December we'll have the fall count
16 minus what we have harvested, you know, this fall. We
17 are taking conservative measures to limit us to what we
18 can take because we want to preserve what we have. You
19 know, I know and I feel good for the decision that I
20 have made to reject that proposal because I have seen
21 the Village of Noatak at peace, people at Kotzebue, the
22 surrounding camps, Kiana, Noorvik, Ambler, Shungnak,
23 Selawik, you know, we're at peace. I know that
24 transporters and guides have been really hammering them
25 up there on the Wulik, you know, east of Kivalina. But
26 without that actual justification as to what the herd
27 population is, yeah, that -- it's -- 16-03 is not going
28 to fly in my book, in our book because we want to
29 conserve what we have for the future and we want to be
30 able to see that this caribou herd will begin to start
31 prospering once again.

32
33 You know, our dall sheep, we know they
34 got hit pretty hard. They're still getting hit pretty
35 hard by wolves, bears. Bears are -- bears need to be
36 controlled. You know, they always say oh, we don't
37 have predator control. They could actually find a drug
38 that can go out there and dart them and, you know,
39 sterile -- make them sterile. We need to take some
40 kind of action before bears start getting even more
41 stupid and start killing people. You know, I've never
42 heard so many cases this fall alone where bears had
43 taken caribou out of boats. Out of boats. A friend of
44 mine said they were sleeping one night and all of a
45 sudden their -- the corner of their tent got grabbed
46 and it ripped their tent in half while they were in it
47 because bears are getting caribou out of their boats.
48 You know, people see them as a nuisance now if the gov --
49 if the agency doesn't want to take action then the
50

1 people will take their action into their own hands,
2 they'll start missing a lot of bears and never be
3 accounted for or heard of again. You know, that was
4 always back in the old days also, you know, I've heard
5 elders say oh, I used to just shoot them and go drag
6 them into the river at the deepest spot and cut them
7 loose, you know, because they're a nuisance, they
8 hinder people's lives, they threaten people's lives,
9 they threaten people's livelihood. If the agency
10 doesn't want to take action to prevent these kind of
11 problems and these kind of situations from occurring
12 then people will start taking action into their own
13 hands.

14
15 You know, our caribou herd's going to
16 hopefully continue to prosper and stay as balance. To
17 be able to see the people of our region be at peace and
18 not have to worry about transporters flying over
19 nonstop daily, this year I got a couple of complaints
20 about camps in the Noatak. I don't know if Mr.
21 Stevenson, he's not here, the law enforcement guy for
22 Park Service, I know that he was called a few times to
23 go up and go check camps. Whether he did or didn't
24 care, we never got any reports on that. So when I see
25 National Park Service reports coming up right here, I
26 expect to hear something on that. If I don't then the
27 Park Service is not doing their job and they need to be
28 disciplined accordingly. You know, we depend on you
29 guys to be able to, you know, patrol these areas to
30 ensure that people are following the law and the rules
31 and regulations that we as an entity, the Rural
32 Advisory Council, and the Federal government have made
33 it to be able to ensure that our subsistence quality of
34 life continue. You know, it's a very tough situation
35 and we're making a wise decision for the people.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. PARRETT: Lincoln Parrett, Fish and
40 Game. I just want to clarify a couple things just
41 because there seems like there's a little bit of
42 confusion. I think Vern understands and I'm pretty
43 sure Enoch understands because of the 205,000 versus
44 201,000 thing. But 205,000 was the modeled estimate
45 from 2015, 201,000 is the estimate from this July. So
46 that's the number, 201,000. That's -- and we can get
47 into more details later on in my presentation or
48 whenever we get to that, but that's the number that
49 we're working off of right now is 201,000. So you know

50

1 what context to put that in in terms of the working
2 group's plan and everything else like that I think.
3 But just a point of clarification there is an estimate
4 and it's 201,000.

5
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So that's your actual
7 count, 201?

8
9 MR. PARRETT: The actual count was like
10 190 -- 196,000. I can look it up, but.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: 196,000.

13
14 MR. PARRETT:and then what it --
15 what that does is it -- that model adds more caribou
16 for the ones that we don't take pictures of. And it
17 adds a small percentage -- if it's a high quality
18 estimate which this one was that adds a small
19 percentage.

20
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's not counting
22 that (indiscernible - away from microphone) area, huh?

23
24 MR. PARRETT: Which area?

25
26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You know, above
27 Barrow.....

28
29 MR. PARRETT: Yeah. No.

30
31 CHAIRMAN STONEY:that's not --
32 that's not in that count?

33
34 MR. PARRETT: No, we didn't count them
35 last summer, yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

38
39 MR. PARRETT: And that doesn't count --
40 that does count ones that were on the Seward Peninsula,
41 that spent the summer on the Seward Peninsula.

42
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So they are still
44 continuously declining.

45
46 MR. PARRETT: In addition -- 5 percent
47 per year like Pippa -- Pippa basically quoted our
48 memo.....

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

2

3 MR. PARRETT:you know, so since
4 2013 5 percent per year down still.

5

6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. So if they
7 continue to decline on the next count, when that'll be
8 that -- another June, another count?

9

10 MR. PARRETT: We're going to give it
11 another go next July.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

14

15 MR. PARRETT:late June, July.

16

17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So if they decline
18 down to less than 100,000 to 70,000 then it would be
19 big change for sure?

20

21 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, I mean, you know,
22 the plan -- 200,000 is not a magic number, it's not,
23 there's nothing magic about it. But it's a number
24 that's in the plan, it happens to actually coincide
25 with some harvest numbers, if you harvested 6 percent,
26 that's 12,000, that's what we've been doing for a
27 little while. So a lot of things happen at 200,000,
28 it's not magical or anything like that, but it's a
29 number that we take very seriously. It's also a number
30 that's for the State it's the intensive management
31 threshold, you know, so there's a bunch of reasons why
32 that number's important, but it's important to point
33 out that there's nothing super biologically significant
34 or magical about that number at all. It's just in a
35 bunch of plans basically.

36

37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Hannah, was your hand
38 up?

39

40 MS. LOON: No.

41

42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Who is it, Calvin?

43

44 MR. MOTO: Yeah.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

47

48 MR. MOTO: I think the biggest
49 difference between Federal and State Fish and Game is

50

1 the -- especially on the game department where there
2 are no true rural people on there so they don't really
3 get the rural -- what the rural people are up against,
4 you know. And they always choose somebody that used to
5 live in the rural community, but they haven't hunted up
6 here or they haven't harvest up here for years. And
7 they lose -- this is where we have conflicts with --
8 especially with game, no true rural people on there.
9 I'd like to see at least one rural person from some --
10 who was part of Alaska on the -- on the Game Board
11 because when it comes to caribou and all these
12 different things that we're up against they don't get
13 the rural vote, we don't get the vote in our favor a
14 lot of times because, you know, State abolished the
15 subsistence for rural people. I just thought I'd bring
16 that up.

17
18 I appreciate the time and effort you
19 biologists are bringing up, but when you bring it to
20 the Board a lot of times it get lost in the shuffle.
21 So I know how hard you biologists work and I appreciate
22 the work that you do.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.

27
28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead, Attamuk.

29
30 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I'd like to thank
31 you for giving us the honest, correct number, that what
32 you seen so far on our caribou this spring. And I hope
33 the agencies are not misunderstanding what we're trying
34 to do. We live on caribou, we are caribou people.
35 That's why we're real touchy on the caribou issue
36 because it's different than fish. Selawik have it's
37 own stock, Kiana have it's on stock on fish. Kotzebue
38 has Noatak's fish, yet our caribou is one stock among
39 all the villages from Barrow to Unalakleet. That's why
40 we're real touchy on it. I hope you guys and agencies
41 understand where we're trying to come from. We are
42 caribou people as far back as Bert said we could
43 remember. And we still going to fight for it whether
44 we're being liked or not. I'm not here to be liked,
45 I'm here to feed my -- this is my culture and my diet
46 and I'm pretty sure someone in the western world like a
47 different diet and they will be able to fight for it to
48 have it and that's what we're trying to do. We're not
49 trying to be hard on you guys, we're just trying to

50

1 preserve our culture. And like they say on trying to
2 preserve your culture, treasure that was -- that -- the
3 way we've been doing it. If we don't preserve for the
4 future we will have nothing left in the future. I will
5 use like Kramer said sheep for example when they did
6 crash. When we were trying to tell Park Service years
7 back they were going to -- they were crashing, we --
8 the never did anything and now it's too late and it
9 take them forever for them to come back. That's the
10 one -- that's where we don't want to go.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I know that you guys
17 also work for other people, you know, from our State
18 and this situation like this and like I said earlier we
19 represent a lot of people. If we come back with a
20 different answer to why did it happen how am I going to
21 answer it, how am I going to answer that, I don't know
22 how to answer it because we are here to make
23 recommendations to protect our resources, mainly
24 caribou. If we continue to let the -- other people
25 harvest caribou from -- not residents, we'll be out of
26 caribou. The predictions from way back 65 years ago I
27 heard from -- the picture on Alaska Airline tail Chuck
28 Seveck, he's a famous reindeer herder, also Paul Greens
29 that there'll be so much caribou you'll see them from
30 your front door. And they seen that in Kotzebue 60
31 years later. After that that herd would start
32 declining, continuously slowly and then disappear, they
33 won't come back. Hang on to your reindeers, it's the
34 only resource you'll have. That's what there were
35 predictions for and it's -- and it's coming.

36

37 So for in the Northwest Alaska I do not
38 know how many transporters are yearly, but I know
39 there's always over 200 at the Squirrel River
40 someplace. This year is just like the ghost town and
41 nobody haul up there, make big difference.

42

43 Go ahead.

44

45 MR. STEVENSON: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair.
46 Did you have -- was your hand raised?

47

48 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair, did you want
49 my justifications?

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead.

2
3 MR. MITCHELL: For this action 16-01 --
4 16-03, because of 16-01 being put on the -- one of the
5 reasons you have is divert the migration route because
6 of too high a density of non-rurals in the same
7 corridor. So when that happens too long, when we
8 divert the caribou too long it will become permanent
9 and that's going to hurt us a lot. So we want it back
10 and normal again which 16-01 actually did. And with
11 this 201,000 you take -- that's in conservative mode.
12 But with the next annual harvest which is 12,000
13 they're going to drop it down into preservative mode
14 after the 2017 census. Now we got a couple failures
15 too to add to that when they're using wrong
16 information, they're using estimates by biologists'
17 reports or troopers' reports, that have been used
18 against us. And those are the wrong type -- way to do
19 it and wrong estimate, that's a broad estimate, we need
20 to use the estimates per village.

21
22 Another thing is non-local versus the
23 local success rate in our village on our traditional
24 hunting grounds is that the local are the real low
25 hunter success rate and the non-rurals had a high
26 success rate and there are high numbers of hunters in
27 the village -- in the river of Noatak. And there are
28 also invading our traditional hunting grounds and there
29 are 10 times more non-rural hunters on our traditional
30 hunting grounds for the past number of years now.

31
32 So those are my justifications.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: (In Native), Mr. Chair.
41 Just a brief point of order. We've taken very detailed
42 notes about the conversation we've had on 16-03 and the
43 RAC has taken action and we've made note of that,
44 unanimously rejecting 16-03. Next step, OSM will be
45 meeting with the other two affected regions, both North
46 Slope Bureau and Seward Peninsula and that'll be
47 happening very soon and doing the same thing, inviting
48 the RACs in those other two regions to share their
49 perspectives, what they think about 16-03, do they --

50

1 what do they think about it. And that information from
2 Northwest Arctic RAC, from North Slope RAC and from
3 Seward Peninsula, those recommendations then go to the
4 Federal Subsistence Board who will then make their
5 decision.

6
7 So I wanted to make very clear that we
8 have heard the position of this RAC, we have made a
9 note of your action, we've made a very detailed note of
10 the rejection that you've made and the justification.
11 And thank you. Thank you, that's very clear. So I
12 just wanted to provide that picture of where things go
13 next so that it's very clear.

14
15 And I was going to suggest perhaps
16 taking a short, maybe five, 10 minute break so that we
17 could get some coffee, stretch our legs our legs a
18 little and get ready for Fisheries Resource Monitoring
19 Program update from Karen Hyer.

20
21 (In Native)

22
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

24
25 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, before you go there
26 I'm going to recommend to you when you go to Nome,
27 please explain to the advisory -- Federal Advisory
28 Board members at Nome to explain it better why we had
29 this proposal last year. I was set to go to Nome last
30 year, but I did not testify that they were misinformed,
31 that's why they never supported us, the other members,
32 they never get all the details why we closed this. So
33 the explanation need to -- for their coordinator
34 understand better, I mean, explain to the Board member
35 why and I did get a lot of calls on this here from Nome
36 because after they hear what we said in Anchorage they
37 were teed off a little bit because they were
38 misinformed, they didn't tell us about this conflict
39 issue we were having.

40
41 Okay. I'm going to recommend.

42
43 Now let's take a break.

44
45 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mike.

48
49 MR. KRAMER: One thing I was hoping is
50

1 that anytime we have a meeting regarding caribou we
2 need to involve the two regions that are -- that
3 harvest these caribou also, North Slope and Seward Pen.
4 I don't know if they're on the phone with us or, you
5 know, hopefully they're listening in, their Chairman or
6 Vice Chairman because, you know, we all harvest this
7 same group of caribou, there's no reason why they
8 shouldn't be listening in on our conversation or on our
9 decisions. If they aren't then they're totally left
10 out of the loop.

11
12 That's it.

13
14 (Off record)

15
16 (On record)

17
18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. So we'll go
19 back to our work again right now. You see the wall,
20 he's got some pictures and stuff we'll be watching so
21 find yourself a seat and enjoy the pictures.

22
23 You may start them.

24
25 MS. HYER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman
26 and Council members. We're going now switch to
27 fisheries. And for the record my name is Karen Hyer
28 and I'm a fisheries biologist with the Office of
29 Subsistence Management. And we're going to talk about
30 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And every
31 couple years -- this is odd because everyone's behind
32 me, but every other year we fund research projects
33 throughout Alaska. And we're entering into the season
34 where we're going to put out a notice of funding here
35 this fall. So a little bit later in this meeting we're
36 going to talk about our priorities for this region, but
37 before we do that I have a couple of investigators that
38 are going to talk about the research that has been
39 going on that has been funded through the Fisheries
40 Resource Monitoring Program. And so I think we'll
41 start with Susan Georgette and she's going to talk
42 about some of the work that's been done with sheefish.
43 And I'm going to put this mic to the other side.

44
45 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, thank you. My
46 name is Susan Georgette, I'm the Refuge manager for
47 Selawik Refuge and Karen asked me to talk for a few
48 minutes about this sheefish work that we've been doing
49 on the upper Selawik. The people who are actually

50

1 doing the work are out there right now so that's why
2 I'm the one talking. And I asked Brendan Scanlon with
3 Fish and Game to come up here with me because they have
4 a similar project on the Kobuk River.

5
6 So this is the I believe sixth year of
7 this research of the sheefish project we've been doing.
8 As most of you know I'm sure there's two areas that
9 sheefish spawn in our region. One is on the upper
10 Kobuk above Kobuk Village and one is on the upper
11 Selawik, quite a ways up above Tagagawik River. In the
12 winters they spend in Kobuk Lake, Hotham Inlet, Selawik
13 Lake. Sheefish live a long time, they don't spawn
14 until they're nine or 10 years old and I think the
15 oldest one they've aged is 41 years. So you think
16 about how -- that's a long life for a sheefish.

17
18 The reason we started this project was
19 because of that big mud slide that took place on the
20 upper Selawik in 2004. Scientists call it a thaw slump
21 and a whole lot of earth just gave way and put a lot of
22 silt into the river. And it was only a few miles above
23 the sheefish spawning grounds. And so the concern was
24 that all this silt in the river might impact the
25 sheefish spawning on the Selawik River. The Office of
26 Subsistence Management funded this research and it
27 started in 2011 I think. And so in 2011 that would
28 have been seven years after that slump in 2004. And so
29 fish that had hatched and grown since then wouldn't be
30 there yet so they wanted to start seeing how old the
31 different fish are on the upper Selawik to see if that
32 mud slide had an affect on them. And so what they've
33 been doing is catching 200 male sheefish every year and
34 taking out their ear bones that they then can age how
35 old the fish is. And then they cut and dry those fish
36 or half dry those fish and bring them back to the
37 village to give away.

38
39 So one of the things that's really cool
40 about this project is that there's a bunch of Selawik
41 folks that make it possible. It's like a six or seven
42 hour boat ride from Selawik to where the sheefish
43 spawning grounds are. And we have I think -- let's
44 see, Otto Mitchell and his wife, Ralph Raymond, Jr.,
45 Fred Davis, they take trips back and forth, these like,
46 you know, day long trips, hours on the river, to go get
47 the sheefish that have been caught and bring them back
48 to the village and give them away. We also have Frank
49 Berry, Jr., and Patrick Foster and Ingram Clark who are

50

1 from the village here who help on that project.
2 They're -- they catch them and cut them and it's this
3 really cool project and Fred's here, he could always
4 say more about it if he wants, but we had Calvin Jones
5 who was here earlier, he took an unexpected quick trip
6 bringing food up there, you know, spent 10 hours on the
7 river one day in the rain in an open boat. So it's --
8 I really -- I just -- I'm just really proud of
9 everyone's support in this community to get that work
10 done.

11
12 So the -- one of the things they've
13 found out is that a lot of the fish in the Selawik
14 spawning population are pretty old, they're 20 to 30
15 years old. And in the last couple years what they've
16 been looking for is to see if there's any of the
17 youngest ones, like the nine and 10 year old fish that
18 would have been hatched and reared after -- like right
19 during and after the slump to see if they are actually
20 in the population or not. And last year was the first
21 year they could have found this age class and they
22 didn't find any of those nine and 10 year olds yet.
23 But they only take 200 fish and there's 20,000 spawning
24 fish up there. So it may be that, you know, we just
25 didn't get any.

26
27 However on the Kobuk River project you
28 do a similar thing and you did have some nine and 10
29 year olds; is that right?

30
31 MR. SCANLON: That's right. Brendan
32 Scanlon with the Department of Fish and Game in
33 Fairbanks. So over on the Kobuk side we have two
34 projects, one is a -- one in Kiana, it's a test net
35 project principally for trying to get a handle on the
36 abundance of chum salmon and they catch a lot of
37 sheefish there and the sheefish die when they hit the
38 net. So we collect otoliths and measure gonads and
39 size and stomach contents of those fish. And we're
40 able to give all the fish away to the people in Kiana.
41 And so with those samples that acts as sort of a
42 control to the Selawik fish because there is no thaw
43 slump to spawning grounds, they're healthier up on the
44 Kobuk. And once sheefish become mature they do almost
45 all their feeding in Hotham Inlet. And abundance is in
46 normal years between the Selawik and Kobuk are pretty
47 similar so you would expect to see kind of the same
48 trend of recruits going through the fishery, through
49 the population. And we do see both young and old fish
50

1 on the Kobuk River, but like Susan said they haven't
2 seen any progeny that were born after the thaw slump on
3 the Selawik so we're a little nervous about that.

4
5 MS. GEORGETTE: And so anyways I guess
6 the point of this is that we're right at the edge of
7 being able to see if the slump had an affect on the
8 fish because it could just be that we didn't get any
9 nine or 10 year olds or there just aren't that many.
10 So the project's going this year right now and next
11 year and we'll have more results then to see if the
12 slump had an affect on those fish.

13
14 The second part of the project is that
15 we have a sonar counter set up on the upper Selawik
16 that is counting every spawning sheefish that comes
17 down. And we've been doing that for five -- let's see,
18 five years now. And the number of fish has ranged from
19 16,000 to 25,000 spawning sheefish in most years except
20 there was one year that they only counted 5,500, but
21 that was when they got frozen out really early so they
22 didn't get to count very many. So they're up there
23 right now counting sheefish coming down and this year
24 when you get a warm year like this it might be that you
25 -- I mean, you get to count longer and so maybe you'll
26 get more of the sheefish. The shee -- as traditional
27 knowledge says the sheefish travel at night and so
28 there's almost none that go by the sonar counter during
29 the daylight hours, but at night there's just hundreds
30 or some night thousands that go by. And they go down
31 really quickly, once either the temperature hits a
32 certain level in the water or the spawning's over, a
33 whole bunch of them go by. Like I think it's 65
34 percent go by in three days.

35
36 So that's what's going on with the
37 sheefish project. We really appreciate the support
38 that we've gotten from the Subsistence Management
39 Office and we'll know more in the next year or two
40 about the effect of the slump on it.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. SCANLON: So once again my name is
45 Brendan Scanlon, I work for the Department of Fish and
46 Game in Fairbanks, I'm a fish biologist. I'm an
47 actually an area manager for Northwest and North Slope.
48 So I don't get to the Kotzebue Sound region as much as
49 I'd like to, I also have Nome and Unalakleet in my

50

1 area, but the last few years we've been lucky enough to
2 get some funding through the FRMP to do some fish
3 research on the trout and sheefish and so today I'm
4 going to talk just a little bit about the project that
5 Susan mentioned that we're doing over on the Kobuk on
6 the sheefish. And after I'm done we'll have an ANSEP
7 student talk about the dolly varden project we're doing
8 on the Kobuk also funded by the FRMP.

9
10 So similar to the project that Susan
11 mentioned over on the Selawik we are running a Didson
12 sonar to count the out migration of sheefish from the
13 spawning grounds on the upper Kobuk. And they're up
14 there right now. I was hoping to get a text message
15 this morning with the latest count, but I didn't get
16 it, but it's still kind of early and still kind of
17 warm, they haven't seen very many fish yet, but they
18 will soon.

19
20 So I'll back up and just tell you a
21 little bit about what we think we know about Kobuk
22 sheefish. Periodically in the last 25 years or so Fish
23 and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service and the university
24 have conducted stock assessment projects on sheefish
25 populations in the Kobuk and the Selawik. So I'll
26 stick to the Kobuk right now, but we did a four year
27 mark recapture estimate of abundance of spawners back
28 in 2000 -- that's not 2018, 2008 through 2012 and those
29 estimates range from 29,000 to 45,000 fish. Now when
30 we say we don't know the total it's because that they
31 don't spawn every year and once they become sexually
32 mature, but unlike trout that follow a pretty strict
33 schedule of every other year spawning, sheefish up in
34 Northwest Alaska don't do that. So there are fish of
35 spawning age and size that don't go up the river every
36 year and those fish stay in Hotham Inlet so our
37 estimates are just germane to the fish that spawn that
38 year and not the total size of the spawning population.

39
40 There's also distinct differences
41 between Kobuk and Selawik River sheefish. Through all
42 our tagging in both rivers we've never seen a Kobuk
43 fish in the Selawik or vice versa. And genetics
44 studies of fish harvested through the ice in Hotham
45 Inlet several years ago showed that there were
46 detectable differences.

47
48 So I spoke just a little bit about
49 spawning frequency. Some years they spawn every year,
50

1 some years they don't, some years it's every three
2 years. On average males spawn about -- 75 percent of
3 males spawn every year and just about 30 percent of
4 females spawn every year and some females only spawn
5 every three years or so. And this kind of makes sense,
6 males are smaller, it takes less energy to make male
7 gonads than it does eggs so they get to spawning
8 condition probably more often than females do.

9
10 And several years ago the university
11 conduct a project looking at movements of sheefish
12 under the ice in Hotham Inlet and they found that when
13 they tagged fish on the Kobuk and Selawik Rivers they
14 found that during the winter they mix quite a bit with
15 each other and you can catch Kobuk and Selawik sheefish
16 essentially out of the same location.

17
18 We also have some idea on timing of the
19 upstream migration. This is in 2009 and most years of
20 the project we had a similar pattern. But this shows
21 that when they actually arrive on the spawning ground
22 they start coming up the Kobuk in early July and by
23 middle or end of July they're past the Village of Kobuk
24 and they get to the spawning grounds about the 1st of
25 August and they're all there by end of September.

26
27 We also know where they spawn. So this
28 part of the radio telemetry project we did during those
29 years and on the far left is the Village of Kobuk and
30 about 15 miles up from the village is where the
31 spawning area essentially begins. And Beaver Creek's
32 kind of the upper boundary and it's mostly focused
33 around the Pah and Maniilaq and Selby River areas.

34
35 And coming back down, we did two years
36 of sonar in 2008 and 2009. Very few fish move before
37 the 21st of September and it's -- they move at night
38 like Susan says and they -- it looks like they also cue
39 on temperature, when the water hits about 36 degrees
40 they start to go and they go pretty quickly once they
41 get moving.

42
43 So we know a little bit about size too
44 and most everybody knows this, that the females are
45 larger than the males and males mature sexually at a
46 smaller size. So the males mature at about 26 inches
47 and females about 33.

48
49 So for this project we have two Didson

50

1 sonar units up there, but we like to use just one and
2 that's -- how many we use is based on the location and
3 the water levels. These -- on high frequency these can
4 effectively sonify about 40 meters of river so we like
5 to find a spot that's kind of necked down and not too
6 deep. But if the water comes up or we need to move
7 camp for some reason we can actually use a second sonar
8 across the river and shoot them at each other and you
9 get full coverage. And so these things work 24/7 and
10 while the crew is there making sure everything's
11 working fine, they can also start going through files
12 to get the data quicker. And they're planned to stay
13 up to the 15th of October, but like Susan says ice can
14 often chase you out. And so that's something to think
15 about with these sonar counts is that a lot of times
16 they're probably minimum counts because there are fish
17 still moving once we have to leave and we're not able
18 to run the sonar so there's some proportion of fish
19 that probably move out after the sonar has been
20 removed. And like I said this year the water's still
21 pretty warm, fish are just starting to trickle now.
22 Two hundred fish was the count we had on Thursday so
23 hopefully they start to move by now. And when we're
24 done we're going to compare these counts with a similar
25 study done over on the Selawik River.

26
27 And that's all I've got so I'll take
28 any questions.

29
30 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

33
34 MR. MOTO: What's the greatest predator
35 to them besides humans?

36
37 MR. SCANLON: The greatest predator of
38 sheefish besides humans, I'm sure pike will eat
39 juveniles as much as they can. Pike can be
40 cannibalistic, but I don't know that sheefish are.
41 Pike and burbot I suppose, maybe some grayling on some
42 real small ones, but I don't really know.

43
44 MR. MOTO: I know pike is a great
45 predator, are there any pike around?

46
47 MR. SCANLON: Oh, yeah, there's lots of
48 pike around. Just -- I've never been to Selawik and I
49 flew in here yesterday, it just looked like hundreds of
50

1 miles of pike habitat to me. So.....

2

3 Yes, Hannah.

4

5 MS. LOON: Do you go take sheefish and
6 help our -- a way do they travel -- travel areas?

7

8 MR. SCANLON: The seem to be pretty
9 fenced in between the upper end of the spawning area
10 and Hotham Inlet just out in front of town. Enoch
11 Shiedt told me today that he's starting to see some up
12 by -- on the north end by the hatchery. I knew that
13 there were some juveniles up there that would go up and
14 feed some times, but I hadn't heard of any large
15 spawning size fish. No evidence that they go out
16 through full strength seawater up to Kivalina or down
17 towards Buckland. I think there are some in Buckland,
18 but they don't travel nearly as much as trout or salmon
19 do.

20

21 MR. STEVENSON: I'm sure it's probably
22 the (indiscernible - away from microphone) from the
23 sheefish that (indiscernible - away from microphone)
24 both in the Selawik and in the Kobuk compared to other
25 comparable locations?

26

27 MR. SCANLON: Well, we have -- I
28 haven't done, but Fish and Wildlife Service has done a
29 couple big projects on the Yukon River. The range of
30 the sheefish is -- it's really only four really large
31 drainages, it's the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Kobuk and
32 Selawik, and there's handfuls in Buckland and near
33 Kodiak, but those are really the four main populations.
34 And I think the latest information on the Yukon fish
35 was that things were good and that the size and health
36 of the -- the condition of the fish we see in the Kobuk
37 seems to be really good and harvest I believe at least
38 for Kobuk fish are sustainable, there's no concern
39 right now.

40

41 MR. CLEVELAND: I have a question.

42

43 MR. SCANLON: Yes.

44

45 MR. CLEVELAND: Any reports of dolphins
46 or sharks, you know, (indiscernible - away from
47 microphone) warmer climates or water that's warming up
48 in that area?

49

50

1 MR. SCANLON: I hadn't heard any, but
2 it's funny you mention sharks. We -- I was part of a
3 -- I wasn't part of it, but I worked with someone who
4 was using satellite tags on king salmon out in the
5 Bering Sea, he was tagging them in the wintertime, and
6 he only tagged maybe 24 king salmon, but he thinks
7 about half of them were eaten by salmon sharks like
8 right away because the tag that he put on those fish
9 measures temperature and so it was measuring the water
10 temperature until it got eaten by the shark and then
11 the temperature of the tag went up to like 78 degrees.
12 And then it spit the tag out and floated to the surface
13 and went back to, you know, 41 degrees.

14
15 And also I heard about -- there's a
16 biologist in Nome, Dave Sheffield, who has told me that
17 folks around Dimeter or -- think they're seeing great
18 white sharks kill sea lions. But I haven't -- there's
19 some sharks in the Chukchi Sea, I think sleeper sharks
20 and six gill, but these are typically really deep water
21 sharks and they occasionally wash ashore, but I haven't
22 heard of any in Hotham Inlet chasing sheefish around.

23
24 MR. CLEVELAND: And when was that
25 (indiscernible - away from microphone) washed up on the
26 shore, was that a (indiscernible - away from
27 microphone)?

28
29 MR. SCANLON: No, I think it was called
30 a six gill shark. I think I saw that picture. And
31 looked like it had been dead for a while, it might have
32 been floating in the sea for a while. But I don't know
33 exactly where that fish came from.

34
35 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

36
37 MR. SCANLON: You're welcome.

38
39 MR. DAVIS: One time my wife and her
40 mother, she was alive in -- about 1984 and we went down
41 the river into the lake and she has an allotment down
42 there. I don't know, I think she doesn't know where
43 (indiscernible - away from microphone) there's a little
44 grassy area and it's a highland and there's a little
45 creek behind. We were bring back -- we went in, but
46 before we went in there we saw a shark. I know whale
47 do like.....

48
49 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

50

1 MR. DAVIS:and breathe the air,
2 but this fish didn't come up. (Indiscernible -
3 background noise) and went up (indiscernible - away
4 from microphone) see what it is.

5
6 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. DAVIS: But same thing about those
9 old people, they say you never point your
10 (indiscernible - away from microphone) there was wild
11 animals and I wasn't sure if I could (indiscernible -
12 away from microphone). I don't know about maybe how
13 long ago and it was too far from me (indiscernible -
14 away from microphone) like around the mouth of the
15 creek and then went back across somewhere, down the
16 lake. And I told some Kotzebue guys and maybe you see
17 a salmon shark. I don't know about which kind of
18 shark.

19
20 MR. SCANLON: Wow, that's interesting.
21 I -- I'm not -- I haven't heard of any salmon sharks
22 north plus that's pretty freshwater that you're
23 speaking about and sharks generally don't like that.
24 Some species of sharks do, like Zambezi River shark and
25 the bull shark do, but those are pretty far away. I
26 hope they're not making their way up here. But, yeah,
27 if you ever catch one take a picture and send it to me
28 and I'd love to learn about it.

29
30 MR. DAVIS: (Indiscernible - away from
31 microphone) three foot shark, one of them that
32 (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

33
34 MS. LOON: Killer whitetail -- I mean,
35 killer whale, the black with the white.

36
37 MR. SCANLON: Interesting.

38
39 MR. CLEVELAND: (Indiscernible - away
40 from microphone) fishing for sheefish (indiscernible -
41 away from microphone).....

42
43 MR. SCANLON: There is a quota on the
44 books for I think 25,000 pounds or 15,000 pounds of
45 sheefish was -- that a fishery could open if there was
46 a buyer and infrastructure put in place. And there
47 hasn't been much interest. And 15,000 pounds is
48 probably not a lot of sheefish, it's probably a
49 thousand sheefish or less. But there hasn't been any

50

1 interest, but along those lines the interest in
2 whitefish in the Yukon River for commercial has gone
3 through the roof. And we're actually doing a project
4 right now on the Yukon to look at Bering cisco
5 abundance because in the lower river and actually in
6 the estuary of the Yukon there's a really popular
7 fishery for Bering cisco and I guess they all go to New
8 York for gefilteria fish. So there is more interest in
9 Alaska whitefish these days, but I haven't heard
10 anything new about commercial fishing for sheefish.

11
12 MR. CLEVELAND: For sheefish?

13
14 MR. SCANLON: Yeah, I have nothing I've
15 heard about any sheefish commercial fisheries.

16
17 MR. CLEVELAND: Can anybody answer that
18 question, is there any commercial fishing for sheefish
19 on the Kobuk?

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MR. SHIEDT: I could answer that. Yes,
24 there is a possible market might open next year for
25 sheefish at Kotzebue and they wanted only big ones.
26 But what I'm telling them is this, if they go after the
27 big ones with seven inch net they're going to go after
28 the spawners and what's -- where's our future on our
29 sheefish.....

30
31 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

32
33 MR. SHIEDT:because if they do
34 take a lot of spawners it's going to hurt upper Kobuk
35 and Selawik that depend on sheefish a lot.

36
37 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

38
39 MR. SHIEDT: And there -- yes, there's
40 a big market on whitefish. Right now they're demand to
41 take lots and Chulin and I did that book -- she did
42 that book and that the idea was to try to stop them
43 because we don't know where they really spawn and come --
44 how much could be taking without hurting the stock
45 here at Selawik.

46
47 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

48
49 MR. SHIEDT: And if they ever decide to

50

1 open for whitefish cisco, that's what I go to fight for
2 is can -- how much could we -- they sell before they
3 hurt from suppositions.

4
5 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

6
7 MR. SHIEDT: It's a big -- it -- I tell
8 you it's not going to be small and they're paying big
9 bucks, they're going to pay big bucks.

10
11 MR. SCANLON: I guess particularly with
12 the problem we're seeing on the Selawik now with the
13 potential recruitment failures for years as the affects
14 of the slump continue, that I'd be pretty nervous about
15 having a commercial fishery in Hotham Inlet right now.

16
17 MR. SHIEDT: Me too.

18
19 MR. SCANLON: It's not up to me.

20
21 MR. DAVIS: I -- me and my wife we go
22 out fishing and everything, we follow the lifecycles of
23 those animals whether in the water or in plants.
24 Lately there's hardly any dogs anymore and there's
25 nothing but snowmachines. And there are people that
26 went with him and he will pick these up later and they --
27 they leave them and they go home. And they'll go back
28 -- they didn't pick them up, they're -- I hate to say
29 that, but we need to start turning those (indiscernible
30 - away from microphone) to our (indiscernible - away
31 from microphone) people who are worried about those
32 sheefish.

33
34 MR. SCANLON: Thanks, I appreciate that
35 because that's something that's bothered me for a long
36 time. And I remember a few years -- it's been quite a
37 few years ago, but there was a derby through the ice
38 and in the spring there was a bunch of sheefish and
39 officers and troopers took pictures and they called me
40 and it's not illegal to waste non-salmon species. So
41 you -- it's illegal to waste, you know, chums and coho
42 and pick, but dolly varden, whitefish, grayling and
43 sheefish, it's -- unfortunately that's not illegal
44 right now. It's -- so if we could change some
45 attitudes because I've seen it in Noatak too, poking
46 through the ice. If they want -- if they don't want
47 whitefish or grayling they'll leave them there. It
48 would be nice to change attitudes on that.

49
50

1 Yes. Thanks.

2
3 MR. ROTHAN: Yes, are those
4 (indiscernible - away from microphone) we can eat fish
5 all year round, species of whitefish, pikes
6 (indiscernible - away from microphone). I know Alaska
7 fishery (indiscernible - away from microphone)
8 statewide studies (indiscernible - away from
9 microphone) some years back about the (indiscernible -
10 away from microphone) pike and she found out the high
11 level of mercury. But a lot of your (indiscernible -
12 away from microphone) and the larger pikes they are the
13 more mercury they have (indiscernible - away from
14 microphone). My question is there was a question
15 earlier that there's a lot of good studies
16 (indiscernible - away from microphone) or anything new
17 maybe Susan might know or someone here from the State
18 or anywhere in Alaska because (indiscernible - away
19 from microphone) and of course they eat other fish, are
20 they just eating only whitefish or other (indiscernible
21 - away from microphone), bottom fish (indiscernible)
22 and with the warmer temperatures I guess that's just
23 part of my concern (indiscernible - away from
24 microphone).....

25
26 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh.

27
28 MR. ROTHAM:are there any
29 contaminants in (indiscernible - away from
30 microphone).....

31
32 MR. SCANLON: Well, I am familiar with
33 that project that went on on the Kuskokwim a few years
34 ago to look at contaminants and large predatory fish
35 because it like bio accumulates so when a pike gets big
36 and it ingests its own mercury, it's also eating the
37 mercury that's in the whitefish. And that starts to
38 accumulate. And I think they found that in very large
39 pike they recommended pregnant women only eat like two
40 portions a month, it was -- I think it was DEC that
41 issued that and it was just for lower Kuskokwim. I'm
42 not sure what the source was. Closer to here though
43 over on the Wulik River as part of the contract Red Dog
44 has with the Department of Fish and Game to do their
45 bio monitoring program, we test the water throughout
46 the summer above and below the discharge pond, we also
47 collect 12 fish a year, we dissect their tissues, we
48 remove the organs and muscle and send them off to a lab
49 along with water samples to see if there's any

50

1 accumulation of -- I think it's 16 different elements
2 that they look for to see if there's any accumulation
3 of -- any that are unhealthy to people. They haven't
4 found any yet. But as far as I know -- I don't know
5 anything about sheefish particularly around here,
6 contaminant study-wise.

7
8 MS. PATTON: Brendan, if I may add that
9 Kuskokwim study was also Angela Matz and she did a
10 really great job of not only sharing the contaminants
11 level, but they also -- they dried whitefish, they
12 dried pike so that the testing levels were the
13 concentration that people eat in their traditional
14 subsistence foods. And so if you're interested in that
15 study, and again that was just specific to the
16 Kuskokwim River, but we can get that for you or if
17 you're interested to follow-up with Angela Matz and see
18 if something like that would be of interest for this
19 region as well we can make that connection.

20
21 MR. SCANLON: Thanks, Eva.

22
23 MR. STEVENSON: I believe in 2014 in
24 Anchorage there was a meeting that was called attended
25 by a physician and ANHC. They reported on
26 contaminants, mercury (indiscernible - away from
27 microphone) Bering Sea, but I'm not certain
28 (indiscernible - away from microphone) this is to look
29 at (indiscernible away from microphone) people picking
30 up contaminants, particularly mercury (indiscernible -
31 away from microphone). And that I think had not found
32 a significant (indiscernible away from microphone)
33 mothers and children, but (indiscernible - away from
34 microphone).....

35
36 MR. SCANLON: Yes, Mike.

37
38 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I'd like to see that
39 sheefish study continue at least 10 to 15 years beyond
40 the slump. And that way we have a significant amount
41 of evidence to be able to prove whether it has an
42 impact or it doesn't have an impact. Because, you
43 know, you did say our fish grew to a older age so we
44 need to monitor those fish within that -- within that --
45 those several years that that slump occurred and
46 whether it's steady or still, you know, providing silt
47 or whether it's steady and it's not providing silt.
48 And, you know, I think some of that money should be
49 shuffled on -- shuffled to monitoring that slump, you

50

1 know, silt management and monitoring within that area
2 downstream, especially where the spawning areas are.
3 You know, there shouldn't be too much contaminants, the
4 majority of these fish are within a specific area, you
5 know, there shouldn't -- there's not very much
6 contaminants up here. But occasionally they -- you
7 know, they do spend their winters down around Kotzebue,
8 you know, I mean, it's a -- I think specific water
9 samples within the areas of their habitat should be
10 monitored on a yearly basis.....

11
12 MR. SCANLON: Right.

13
14 MR. KRAMER:just for
15 contaminants. Fish should be monitored in specific
16 areas for contaminants also.

17
18 MR. SCANLON: Okay.

19
20 MR. KRAMER: But I'd like to see this
21 program continue for another 10 to 15 more years just
22 to make sure that that slump did not have an impact
23 because, you know, like Mr. Ramoth said, they do depend
24 on sheefish very, very, you know, significantly on a
25 yearly basis.

26
27 MR. SCANLON: Right.

28
29 MR. KRAMER: Same as Mr. Davis, but I
30 think it needs to continue. I know that on my flight
31 here we went to Deering and here in Selawik I noticed a
32 lot of the lagoons are open. Those are a lot of -- a
33 lot of whitefish spawn in those lagoons. I notice, you
34 know, Cape Blossom, the Cape Blossom Creek is slightly
35 open. I know Aniak is closed, that's Cape Krusenstern,
36 I seen a couple of them down towards (indiscernible -
37 away from microphone) that are open and a lot of those
38 sloughs and creeks are general places where a lot of
39 whitefish spawn and spend their winters. I'd like to
40 see a whitefish done -- whitefish study done in a bunch
41 of specific lagoons located within the game management
42 unit 23 to be able to better understand what our
43 population estimate is. I know they done one up here
44 in the Selawik I believe on whitefish. I've heard
45 Hannah speak about it several times, but I'd like to
46 see further studies throughout game management until on
47 whitefish's lagoon because the majority that's where
48 they spawn.

49
50

1 MR. SCANLON: Right.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: That's where they spend
4 their winters. Springtime the creek opens back up,
5 they all flush back out into the ocean again.

6

7 MR. SCANLON: Uh-huh. Okay. Thanks,
8 Mike. Selawik I believe is funded for three more years
9 and maybe after that they'll look for more. And the
10 evidence so far is bad in terms of the affects of the
11 slump, but it's early and they only have one year of
12 data. So like Susan mentioned just because they didn't
13 see any fish that came into spawn that were born after
14 the thaw slump happened, it's a small sample size of
15 200 fish out of 25,000 or so. So I guess the next two
16 years we'll know more and correct me if I'm wrong, but
17 I guess the slump really isn't putting much material
18 into the river anymore so maybe that'll cure itself.

19

20 MS. GEORGETTE: Yeah, that's right. I
21 have a picture of it in my presentation tomorrow
22 whenever, but it -- we were up there -- we were up
23 there last year and then there was a geologist up there
24 this year and it's really stabilized a lot so that's
25 the good news, it's kind of re-vegetated, it looks very
26 different than it used to. So that's the good news.

27

28 MR. SCANLON: Thanks. And being along
29 with fish that helps them out because maybe they can
30 ride this out. There may be a blip in abundance and
31 recruitment, but after the spawning grounds silt is
32 washed away they could come back.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. MOTO: We used to get whitefish and
37 we're wondering where they went to, you know. We used
38 to get thousands of them, now we put our net out and
39 the -- when the ice go out all we get is kelp and no --
40 other miscellaneous fish when we used to get a lot of
41 whitefish at one time and wonder where they went to,
42 you know. Is it because more traffic on the Bering and
43 Chukchi Sea or what because I -- what I understand
44 whitefish come from different areas and St. Matthew
45 Island.

46

47 MR. SCANLON: Yeah.

48

49 MR. MOTO: And I know our herring come

50

1 from different areas too. And so this is something
2 that we try to get whitefish from Wulik River, so we
3 always had to go to other villages that -- and buy
4 their quota of whitefish.

5
6 MR. SCANLON: Calvin, I'm sorry, do you
7 fish in the Buckland River or do you.....

8
9 MR. MOTO: Deering.

10
11 MR. SCANLON: In Deering. Okay. We --
12 you know, we don't know anything about fisheries in --
13 what fish population is doing in Deering or Buckland.
14 And I'd love to do something about it, it's real tricky
15 about where the Federal land is around there so it --
16 and Karen Hyer and I talked about this before is, you
17 know, someplace like the Selawik which, you know, is
18 wrapped in a Refuge and the Kobuk has got National Park
19 and Refuge, Noatak is a lot of Federal land, I think
20 we'd have to work to try to make it a project that can
21 be legitimately funded for something like this. But
22 I'd be happy to work on that. One of our satellite
23 tagged fish out of the Kivalina was caught in the
24 Buckland six days later. And we didn't really know
25 that there were trout there. So there's a lot of
26 things we don't about that area between Seward
27 Peninsula and here.

28
29 MR. MOTO: The reason I brought that up
30 I saw a buyer at Deering for whitefish, but, you know,
31 I just thought I'd bring it up because we don't
32 (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

33
34 MR. SCANLON: Thanks.

35
36 MR. RAMOTH: (Indiscernible - away from
37 microphone) not educated well enough (indiscernible -
38 away from microphone) folks about that. But another
39 thing I would encourage, I would encourage that you
40 kind (indiscernible - away from microphone) derby going
41 around, I know it's money making, but seems like it's
42 (indiscernible - away from microphone) it's a waste too
43 (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

44
45 MR. SCANLON: Well, it wasn't my idea,
46 but.....

47
48 MR. RAMOTH: (Indiscernible - away from
49 microphone).....

50

1 MR. SCANLON: Along those lines too rod
2 and reel is now legal subsistence gear in Northwest
3 Alaska in State waters. So you don't need any kind of
4 fishing license to subsistence fish up here. So in the
5 case you spoke of, if you just need six or seven fish
6 instead of 30 and don't want to put a net out, you can
7 just use your rod and reel now, that's legal.

8
9 MR. B. CLEVELAND: Yeah, you mentioned
10 about age (indiscernible - away from microphone) and
11 some people always say they can tell (indiscernible -
12 away from microphone).....

13
14 MR. SCANLON: Yeah, I think sheefish
15 have what's called indeterminate growth, they grow
16 their whole life, I mean, it starts to slow down as
17 they get older, but, you know, I think the really old
18 ones are females, I'm not positive. But, yeah, it's a
19 trend that fish in the north tend to get older,
20 grayling get older, lake trout on the North Slope could
21 be 50, 60 years old. You know, it's one thing they do
22 to compensate for living in such a harsh environment,
23 they live a long time.

24
25 MR. STEVENSON: Thanks, Brendan. I'm
26 wondering if we might be able to just transition
27 briefly. Some of our students need to head back to a
28 class momentarily, is that correct?

29
30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
31 away from microphone).....

32
33 MS. HYER: I just want to introduce
34 Clarissa and since we have students in the room I
35 wanted to tell them a little bit about the internships
36 we have. We work with Alaska Native Science and
37 Engineering Program and that's how we hired Clarissa.
38 But that program has positions for -- they have a
39 Bridging Program where they.....

40
41 (Pause for announcements)
42

43 MS. HYER: They have a Bridging Program
44 and we hired students out of there and they spend a
45 month with us and they go throughout Alaska and work on
46 our projects. And that is for the students that are
47 graduating from high school and entering college. And
48 then after that they have a university program and we
49 hire students out of that, we hire biologists inside of

50

1 that to come work for us for the summer. And that is
2 the program that Clarissa was in that we were able to
3 hire her and she's going to tell us a little bit about
4 the work she did with us this summer.

5
6 So without further conversation I'll
7 let Clarissa and Penny tell you about their work.

8
9 MS. CRANE: Hi, my name is Penny Crane
10 and I work for Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage
11 in the genetics lab. And this is Clarissa Zeller, she
12 is in her junior year at UAA.

13
14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Louder.

15
16 MS. CRANE: What, louder?

17
18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Can you speak up
19 louder, please?

20
21 MS. CRANE: Sorry about that. So this
22 Clarissa Zeller and she is in her junior year at UAA
23 and is part of the ANSEP program. And she worked in
24 our lab this summer and we're going to present the
25 results of this project to you today.

26
27 So this project was put together by
28 James Savereide and Brendan Scanlon from Alaska
29 Department of Fish and Game to look at genetic
30 diversity of dolly varden populations in the Kobuk
31 River. So dolly varden trout are an important
32 subsistence resource in the State of Alaska where tens
33 of thousands of pounds are harvested annually. And as
34 you know in the Noatak and Wulik Rivers here in
35 Northwest Alaska the fish that are harvested may be in
36 the river just to overwinter and not necessarily to
37 spawn. And so that means these fish can be originating
38 from any number of rivers around Kotzebue Sound or even
39 outside the region. And I think there's been interest
40 by the State of Alaska since probably the 1990s to look
41 at which dolly varden stocks are using these rivers for
42 overwintering not only to find out which stocks are
43 being harvested, but also to get an understanding of
44 the distances that dolly varden can migrate between
45 their spawning grounds and their overwintering areas.

46
47 So in order to address this the
48 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program has funded
49 several genetic studies in the past because we can use
50

1 genetic data to determine the origin of fish, if
2 there's significant genetic diversity among the
3 spawning stocks of fish that make up the mixture of
4 fish. And so what we've done is we've genetically
5 characterized spawning populations of dolly varden on --
6 in the North Slope and Kotzebue Sound, Norton Sound
7 and Southwest Alaska and then we've used these data to
8 estimate the stock composition of dolly varden sampled
9 from subsistence fisheries in the Wulik River. And
10 what we found is about 70 percent of the fish
11 originated from Kotzebue Sound rivers and about 20
12 percent of the fish originated from Norton Sound
13 rivers.

14
15 With that said we do have some holes in
16 our baseline data set which is what we term the genetic
17 data of the spawning populations and one of those holes
18 is the Kobuk River. And so what Brendan and James did
19 this summer was to go to the Kobuk River to collect
20 dolly varden and they took little samples of fin tissue
21 from the fish and they sent them to the lab for
22 Clarissa to analyze. And then with that genetic data
23 we hope to answer two questions, first are dolly varden
24 trout spawning in the Kobuk River different from each
25 other and are they also different enough from other
26 dolly varden in Northwest Alaska that we could see if
27 Kobuk River fish are using the Wulik and Noatak Rivers
28 for overwintering.

29
30 So now I'll let Clarissa take over and
31 she can tell you about what she did this summer.

32
33 MS. ZELLER: All right. On this map
34 you can see the blue dots represent where dolly varden
35 samples have been taken. And the Kobuk River is our
36 main focus where we did -- where the samples were taken
37 was on the Salmon River and the Tutsuksuk River. There
38 was interest in the Hunt River, but because of time
39 sake samples were not able to be taken there.

40
41 And this is where I come in, I was
42 working in the lab and I isolated the genetic DNA and
43 through inklets (ph). And I believe we'll be able to
44 see the data is through a DNA analyzer so we're able to
45 distinguish specific genes. And here is what the DNA
46 actually looks like when we're able to see it, these
47 rows. There's four of them and that means there's four
48 fish and right here's the genetic data. And this is
49 different from the other map as the different colors

50

1 distinguish different (indiscernible) groups.

2
3 And but the main focus for this project
4 is on the Northwest Alaska which is Norton and Kotzebue
5 Sound. And the blue is Norton Sound and Kotzebue is
6 the green. And with the blue you're able to -- it's a
7 lot more closer and that shows you that they are a lot
8 more related. And the way you could compare is that
9 they're siblings. And for the green, for the Kotzebue
10 Sound, they're a lot more spread out and that shows
11 that there's a lot more genetic diversity. And we can
12 think of them as like cousins. And for the Kobuk River
13 it's these two right here and you can see we're a lot
14 more spread out and farther away from the rest of the
15 Kotzebue Sound and show that they're a lot more
16 genetically diverse.

17
18 And as a conclusion spawning
19 populations of dolly varden in the Kobuk River are
20 genetically different, but as was said earlier there
21 are holes in the samples in the Kobuk River and because
22 of that we're not able to get -- tell them apart in
23 mixtures. And what we want to do is be able to get
24 more samples from the Hunt River and if time allows the
25 other rivers too.

26
27 Does anyone have any questions?

28
29 MR. DAVIS: Yeah, whitefish are -- I
30 don't know how the -- how (indiscernible - away from
31 microphone) we are with those from the Kobuk River, but
32 my sister lives up there and we get some (indiscernible
33 - away from microphone) and they're not the same as
34 ours. They're maybe different species, I don't know,
35 but they are whitefish like (indiscernible - away from
36 microphone) dolly varden from Noatak (indiscernible -
37 away from microphone).....

38
39 MS. ZELLER: Maybe the reason they
40 taste different is because they're genetically
41 different a little bit so they're going to be slightly
42 more different in physical and manners too.

43
44 Yes.

45
46 MS. HYER: So if they're genetically
47 different then are they actually in different locations
48 too for spawning or are they intermixed, is there
49 genetic spread is my question?

50

1 MS. ZELLER: In the Kobuk River they're
2 not that much farther away from each other so like I
3 said there's some holes and that's why we want to get
4 more samples to make sure what we're interpreting is
5 correct.

6
7 Yes.

8
9 MS. ROBINSON: I'm curious, how many
10 samples do you have from the Noatak River and from the
11 Kobuk River?

12
13 MS. CRANE: We have several hundred
14 from the Noatak River and then we just have like two or
15 300 total from the Kobuk. And in order to tell -- to
16 do the testing to see if we can tell them apart in
17 mixtures we need to have bigger sample sizes for the
18 Kobuk, probably closer to 600.

19
20 MS. ROBINSON: Okay.

21
22 MS. ZELLER: Yes.

23
24 MR. MOTO: We do get sometimes an
25 amount of dolly varden in the spring in the breakup
26 daily, mostly most with rod and reel or sometimes they
27 get 30 in 15 minutes. We were wondering if they were --
28 when you're doing study if there was study on herring,
29 you know. We also get burbot, grayling, but we do get
30 quite a few trout too (indiscernible - away from
31 microphone) that's the only time we (indiscernible -
32 away from microphone). But at freeze up there we also
33 go out there and get trout, we make a hole in the ice
34 and spear them is how we hunt them -- get them in the
35 fall or (indiscernible - away from microphone). So we
36 do that at nighttime with the lights, you know. Those --
37 I was wondering if they ever did a study on our trout,
38 we don't know for sure whether they're dolly varden or
39 rainbow, I think they're rainbow because they're more
40 colorful.

41
42 MS. CRANE: Oh, you can definitely the
43 species apart using genetics. Yeah, it's interesting
44 because (indiscernible - background noise).....

45
46 MR. KRAMER: How long do you guys plan
47 on continuing your guys' study and, you know, in the
48 Kobuk and in the Noatak and the Wulik, you know, is
49 there any other plans for checking other rivers such as
50

1 Buckland and Deering Rivers or are you just going to
2 stick with the same main rivers that these fish are
3 pretty much spawning?
4

5 MS. CRANE: You know, we'd like to
6 improve our sample size on the Kobuk next year and it
7 would be great to get some from the areas that you
8 suggested as well. And I think it would be great to
9 get additional overwintering samples from the Wulik and
10 Noatak to do mixed stock analysis and do that, you
11 know, periodically like maybe once every five years to
12 see if that stock composition is changing, you know,
13 because of climate change or what have you.
14

15 MR. KRAMER: Are you guys involving
16 youth in your guys' study?
17

18 MS. CRANE: We started to this year
19 with Clarissa and then when we sampled on the Wulik we
20 used the kids from the school to help us sample the
21 subsistence catches.
22

23 MR. MOTO: Also for the upper Deering
24 when I was there for a meeting I know last -- just this
25 past winter they had something wrong with their
26 (indiscernible - away from microphone). This is
27 something we really rely on in the winter months too is
28 (indiscernible - away from microphone). I know it's a
29 different species than trout, but this is something
30 they wanted me to bring up since we have some
31 (indiscernible - away from microphone) this year, but
32 did you ever point out (indiscernible - away from
33 microphone) at that time last year. They had some kind
34 of a sickness I guess or something. And we -- every
35 fall we go to a place called (indiscernible - away from
36 microphone) and see a lot of (in Native), not this
37 year, but this past winter is the first time I ever had
38 (in Native) in the winter.
39

40 MR. SCANLON: This is Brendan Scanlon
41 again, Fish and Game. Getting back up to Mike's
42 question just a minute ago. So this particular project
43 here was just a one year slug of money, it was really,
44 really expensive, it was about 20,000 bucks. So in
45 terms of fish projects it's -- you get a lot of bang
46 for your buck. And this was our first time doing this
47 in the Kobuk and we had a learning curve about where to
48 find these, these rivers are really small and so we had
49 to get pretty far up. And once we found them it went
50

1 pretty quickly. And so we'd like to do it again
2 because of the cost. And once we get enough samples we
3 won't ever need to do it again because we will have the
4 info from these particular tributaries.

5
6 And it's a -- a lot of time with ANSEP
7 students they just come out with us and camp and put
8 nets in the water. And that's -- and there's some
9 value in that for sure, but in this case it was really
10 a unique opportunity to work in a genetics lab. You
11 know, it's essentially like -- Penny calls it CSI for
12 fish. So it's -- you know, it's good hard science and
13 they get something more practical out of it than just
14 riding around in a boat with a bunch of old guys.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MR. SCANLON: So we'd like to get some
19 more money to continue this a couple more years and I
20 know there's some other tributaries in the Kobuk that
21 have dollys in them, so we'd like to finish doing this
22 and then with these results we could go back to the
23 Noatak or to the Kivalina and sample the subsistence
24 harvest and we'd be able to detect if there's any Kobuk
25 River fish in the sample. And I guess right now
26 there's some samples from the Squirrel River and that's
27 it for the Kobuk. So we're just adding to that data
28 base of knowledge.

29
30 MR. MOTO: We not only rely on the
31 tomcod, but the reason we rely on the -- more on the
32 tomcod is if -- the more tomcod there is the more
33 (indiscernible - background noise) in the winter. So
34 last -- this past winter we never harvest any of the
35 harvest here for lack of tomcod or grayling or
36 something wrong with the tomcod. This is something
37 that we really enjoy (indiscernible - away from
38 microphone) fresh seal. And this (indiscernible - away
39 from microphone) is what we raised up here because when
40 I met with them, with -- a couple of weeks ago before I
41 came up.

42
43 MR. SCANLON: Sir, I don't know
44 anything about tomcod. I know a few years ago with
45 Fish and Game in Nome, Commercial Fish Division, people
46 were bringing in tomcod with black spots, like big,
47 unhealthy looking black spots near their head. And
48 that was a fungus not like the white fuzzy stuff you
49 see on dollies and whitefish, it's another kind of -- I

50

1 believe it's related to water temperature. And they
2 got the few fish in and then it went away. But I know
3 right around in Norton Sound, Port Clarence, there
4 seems to be tons and tons of tomcod, I'm not sure why
5 there would be any change in abundance of tommies where
6 you live, but I got nothing to back that up. I'm
7 sorry.

8
9 MR. MOTO: Yeah. Usually they -- we
10 get ribbon seal and spotted seal which is used for
11 parkas and stuff, for fancy working.

12
13 MR. SCANLON: And they chase the tomcod
14 around I guess?

15
16 MR. MOTO: Yes.

17
18 MR. SCANLON: Oh.

19
20 MR. MOTO: If we had tomcods then we
21 would be able to get spotted seal or ribbon seal.
22 These two species we use for decoration or for mukluks.

23
24 MR. STEVENSON: A quick question,
25 Brendan, and also for Clarissa, kind of a two part
26 question. The first was can you direct me to what are
27 the measures of academic progress or math requirements
28 for a student that would be interested in getting
29 involved in the program? And perhaps for Clarissa,
30 what did you get out of this program, would you
31 recommend it to others?

32
33 Thanks.

34
35 MS. ZELLER: I had another internship
36 where I worked on microbiology and I worked with
37 stickleback fish. So this was more of a growing on the
38 genetic field for me in solely -- mainly relying on the
39 genetic data. And that's how I was able to -- so I did
40 learn a lot on that. And how you can read the data
41 translate it. And that's what I really learned from
42 this summer. And, yeah, I think this is a really
43 valuable summer, I learned a lot more than some other
44 internships I've had in the past and -- because I've
45 had other internships where I worked in the field which
46 was really cool to see how samples are taken, but this
47 one was a lot more on an intellectual level.

48
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Then in
2 terms of the requirements, do you have anything for the
3 students that might want to get involved?

4
5 MS. ZELLER: I'm pretty sure it's
6 calculus II, but from what I've heard we don't even use
7 calculus in the -- in the genetics lab.

8
9 MR. SCANLON: Zach, we -- I'm pretty
10 new to the ANSEP program, but we really kind of like
11 it. You know, a lot of times we have to rely on local
12 hires and it's often hard to get someone who has the
13 time to, you know, especially like in caribou season,
14 to come help us and fish for just a little bit of
15 money. And the ANSEP program has people that are in
16 college in some kind of science with a career that they
17 want to get into and they get some basic training like
18 first aid and they get a bunch of gear and they seem to
19 be able to hit the ground running a little bit better
20 than we've had success with local hires.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Maybe I'll just follow-up
23 too for the students and the teachers here. And we can
24 provide you specific information from the ANSEP
25 program, we can follow back up either tomorrow or after
26 the meeting. They do have a Bridging Program which
27 helps students coming from high school into college.
28 So it helps to gear up for some of the math and sciences
29 if there's additional work that's needed to get in the
30 ANSEP program. And then our program, so Karen Hyer
31 here works both with the ANSEP and the National Fish
32 and Wildlife Program Foundation. So if you're
33 interested at all we can start talking and see what
34 project opportunities there are, there's all kinds of
35 research going on in this region and internship
36 opportunities in conjunction with ANSEP. So we'll
37 follow-up to get you specifics. And really exciting
38 folks here, you know, many biologists that are in the
39 room now that have been there and we've got Lincoln
40 here and then some of our Refuge biologists. So feel
41 free to stop in anytime, you know, ask questions and
42 we'll follow back up with specifics for you too.

43
44 Thanks for coming.

45
46 MR. SHIEDT: I got in the late '70s and
47 '80s from the time the State had a lot of money, we did
48 tag some trout at Noatak when we're commercial fishing
49 and they did spawn at Noatak. They -- Wulik, Kivalina

50

1 River, Kobuk at Point Hope and yet we get them at
2 Russia, our trout, our dolly varden, was caught at
3 Russia. And the smaller ones were caught at Unalakleet
4 because Unalakleet because Unalakleet have only small
5 trout, they never get big or grow. And we -- you know,
6 we never did find out why. But when they did the --
7 the fins, when they cut them that time, they were
8 getting them at Salmon River also, when they had a lot
9 of -- when they had that hatchery at Noatak. And they
10 did that for years. Maybe -- what I'm saying is maybe
11 that -- you're looking to research for the State of
12 Alaska, maybe that would help you.

13
14 MR. SCANLON: Okay.

15
16 MR. SHIEDT: Help you in your -- make
17 it a lot easier.

18
19 MR. SCANLON: Okay. Thanks.

20
21 MR. SHIEDT: If we can get them in
22 Russia and Unalakleet and all the rivers I.....

23
24 MR. SCANLON: Yeah, I think I know the
25 project. Thanks.

26
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: What next?

28
29 MS. PATTON: We're going to gather back
30 up at the Council table here and Karen's going to go
31 over priority information needs and what research
32 priorities are.

33
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 We are on agenda item 10B at the bottom of page 1 on
42 our agenda. And this was the Fisheries Resource
43 Monitoring Program, FRMP priority information needs.
44 And I just want to mention briefly that prior to this
45 discussion, Karen and her team had helped to have a
46 conversation with different RAC members about what was
47 some thoughts about what was important in Northwest
48 Arctic for subsistence fisheries research. Subsistence
49 fisheries research and some of what Karen will be

50

1 sharing comes out of that conversation this afternoon.

2

3 I also wanted to mention that Hannah
4 had to leave a moment ago, she wasn't feeling well. So
5 I just wanted to mention that she had -- she had
6 requested she be excused.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
11 members. We're going to start on page 31 of your
12 books. And I'm just going to briefly go over the
13 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and then we'll
14 talk about the priority information needs. So I'll
15 give you a minute to turn to that page.

16

17 MR. SHIEDT: This one here?

18

19 MS. HYER: No, in your Council book,
20 page 31. And then the other thing as you go through
21 your thing, your papers, you'll find a paper titled
22 draft priority information needs for Northwest and it's
23 -- and then we'll talk about this. So if you could
24 locate both of those, that's what we'll be discussing.

25

26 So the Office of Subsistence Management
27 funds research and monitoring projects throughout
28 Alaska. And what you saw briefly here this afternoon
29 was three projects that we have funded in this region
30 through this program. And it's a biannual program so
31 although the projects are funded for four years we only
32 have a notice of funding opportunity which is where we
33 let people know that they can submit proposals for
34 review and it's a competitive process so they have to
35 compete with other proposals in the region. And that
36 happens every other year. And before we actually post
37 that and let investigators know they can submit
38 proposals we come to the RACs and we ask them what they
39 see happening and what they think some of the
40 priorities for research should be. And in the past
41 we've heard about sheefish and about the Selawik and
42 about the Kobuk and that is -- you know, you saw two
43 projects here that were started because of that. And
44 then of course we've heard about trout and that's why
45 we've been up on the Kobuk looking at genetics. And so
46 we're going to -- we're going to talk about that in a
47 little bit, but I just wanted to go over the program
48 again with you so you kind of understand the whole
49 process. And the write-up in your book is about the

50

1 process.

2
3 And so we will -- this November we will
4 put out a call for proposals and people will submit
5 those proposals. But if you turn to page 32 in the
6 book, I just wanted to briefly let you know that we
7 have both projects -- we have -- some of our projects
8 are what we call stock status and trend and they're
9 about numbers and how many fish in the river and how
10 healthy the stocks are. And then we have -- we also
11 have harvest monitoring and traditional knowledge
12 projects. And these projects evaluate the subsistence
13 fisheries with harvest and effort and things like that.
14 And so we fund both kinds of projects.

15
16 And what we do is -- the very first
17 thing we do is we establish what the priorities are and
18 we'll do that today and then I'll go back and I'll talk
19 to some managers. And we had our RAC meeting, the all
20 RAC meeting, we established a working group so that
21 gives us an opportunity to be able to have discussions
22 that are outside of our formal meeting and they're just
23 discussions. And then we come back and we make our
24 formal -- we'll make our formal decision today, but I
25 had input from several RAC members and we'll talk about
26 that in a minute. And then we put that out there and
27 investigators look at that and if they think they can
28 do the research they'll submit proposals to us.

29
30 And then we evaluate those proposals on
31 first strategic priority. So they have to help our
32 Federal subsistence managers manage the fisheries. So
33 that's the very first criteria that we look at. And
34 then we look at how technically sound a proposal might
35 be and can they actually execute the research and come
36 up with legitimate results. And then we look at the
37 investigators and their ability and they have the
38 ability and -- to actually do the research. And then
39 we have component -- a partnership in capacity building
40 and that's where we bring in the ANSEP students and
41 local hire and the communities. And our process is
42 unique in that we actually require that in our
43 projects. And then the final criteria that we look at
44 is cost/benefit because we think we're going to have
45 between 1.5 and \$2 million for the whole state. And so
46 it's -- as funding gets tighter things get more
47 competitive and so we want to make sure we're getting
48 the best bang for our buck so to speak. So we look at
49 the projects to evaluate that too. But if you turn to

50

1 page 33 you'll see all the projects that have happened
2 in this region since the inception of the program. And
3 to date we've spent about \$6 million in this region
4 doing fisheries research. And there's a list of what's
5 going on. And the projects at the very are the 16
6 projects, 16-103, 104 and 105, are the projects we just
7 started this summer. So this table dates back to the
8 inception of the program.

9
10 And so we go through our process where
11 our -- we have a technical review committee, they'll
12 evaluate the proposals and then we'll bring them out to
13 the RACs and many of you have sat on the Council for a
14 long time so you've seen proposals brought back too and
15 we'll ask for your input on the proposals. And that's
16 how we start to put together what we'll fund in the --
17 we'll fund. And then of course the Federal Subsistence
18 Board then is the final approval of this process. But
19 we're now just beginning the process so that won't be
20 for another two years. It's a very long process.

21
22 Pippa, is there anything else you
23 wanted to add?

24
25 MS. KENNER: No.

26
27 MS. HYER: Okay.

28
29 MS. KENNER: That was wonderful.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. HYER: All right. So now what we
34 need to do today is -- or what I need to do today is
35 collect your input for where you think the research
36 should go. And like I mentioned a little bit ago, we
37 formed a working group and so we had a teleconference,
38 we had actually two teleconferences and we got some
39 input from Ms. Loom, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Stoney. And
40 then I took that information and I talked to some of
41 the land managers and some of the fisheries managers
42 and what we developed was this draft priority
43 information needs document, so if you can find this,
44 this is what we'll go over.

45
46 And so this will be for the 2018
47 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. So we're
48 starting now in 2016 to -- we're starting the process
49 that will result in funding projects in 2018. So like

50

1 I said it's a long process. But as we develop these
2 priority information needs that's what shaped the
3 research that we do. So it's really important that we
4 receive your input into it. So if you see things
5 happening in the region that we hear about them and we
6 can help direct the research. And the first thing I
7 wanted to mention is we've heard a lot about sheefish
8 and sheefish comes up quite a bit and we recognize it's
9 a very important resource. We have two projects now
10 that involve sheefish and they both have a few more
11 years before they'll be completed. And so talking to
12 the managers, one thing that came up again and again
13 depending on, you know, the different managers is while
14 sheefish is really important they felt that maybe we
15 should wait and finish the research we have going now
16 before we launch into new -- new sheefish research. So
17 on this list you won't see sheefish, it's not because
18 we don't recognize it as very important, it's just that
19 we have projects in the water right now with sheefish.
20 And so I'm just going to kind of go down the list and
21 talk about what we heard on our teleconference and
22 where it's on the list and then if you have any other
23 input or any discussions we'll take it from there.

24
25 But the first bullet is understanding
26 the differences in cultural knowledge, beliefs and
27 perceptions of subsistence resources between fishing
28 managers and subsistence users in Northwest Alaska such
29 as rural residents' beliefs, attitudes and knowledge
30 about beaver and their perception of changes in fish
31 habitat related to beavers. And this was on the
32 priority information needs list two years ago. And we
33 actually received a proposal on this particular issue,
34 but unfortunately it was from a consulting firm that
35 pulled out of Alaska. So while we felt it was a good
36 proposal, we felt that they couldn't execute it because
37 they had actually closed their doors here in Alaska.
38 So we've left that on the list, that's something that
39 comes from the 2016 priority information needs.

40
41 The next is traditional local knowledge
42 of subsistence fish including application to Federal
43 subsistence management such as identifying critical
44 habitat, refining range maps and shedding light on
45 ecological relationships of dolly varden or trout in
46 the communities of Noatak, Kivalina and the Kobuk
47 River. And trout is something that came up when we
48 talked to Mr. Mitchell and he was very concerned about
49 the trout on the Noatak. And so that bullet helps to

50

1 address that issue.

2

3 The next bullet is identify genetic
4 diversity of dolly varden trout stocks harvested for
5 subsistence use in Northwest Alaska. And that bullet
6 relates to what we heard a discussion about earlier and
7 again it relates back to the Noatak, but like you heard
8 earlier there's a lot we don't know about the fish --
9 those fish and that they move quite a bit. So we left
10 it as Northwest Alaska because that gives investigators
11 an opportunity to expand what they're looking at.

12

13 And then the next is dispersal patterns
14 and summer distribution of adult dolly varden or trout
15 in Northwest Alaska. And again we have limited
16 information about what they're doing and that was
17 discussed earlier also in the presentations.

18

19 And then the last bullet we had is
20 collecting baseline information on humpback, broad and
21 least cisco whitefish as it related to spawning areas
22 especially in Selawik Lake. And that's something that
23 was generated by a conversation with Hannah Loon, she
24 was very concerned in some of the areas she used to
25 fish that she sees changes in the whitefish population.
26 And then I actually talked to Randy Brown and Susan
27 Georgette too about kind of what they're seeing and
28 what we know and we don't know about whitefish. And so
29 there's a lot of room for a better understanding of
30 those fish.

31

32 And then finally we talked in one of
33 our conversations with Mr. Raymond about climate change
34 and how that's affecting the fisheries here and that's
35 a very important issue throughout all of Alaska. And
36 one thing that came up was the change in water
37 temperature and we've seen some things happen because
38 of water temperature. And so we have a project
39 currently with OSM where we monitor temperatures, but
40 we don't do a lot of here. And so -- and Brendan and I
41 have talked about this and I'm going to go back and
42 explore some options for just simply being more
43 proactive about monitoring water temperatures on the
44 projects we do have going on with the hopes that we can
45 understand a little bit better about what's happening
46 in these rivers as we experience climate change.

47

48 So this is an action item so I need a
49 motion to support whatever priority information we

50

1 decide on. But before we make a motion I just want to
2 hear from the Council if they disagree with anything on
3 the list, if they'd like to add anything on the list or
4 if they have any comments about anything on the list.

5
6 And with that I will take your comments
7 and questions. If you don't have any questions or
8 comments then you can make a motion to support this or
9 not, but I do need a motion.

10
11 MR. CLEVELAND: I so make a motion to
12 approve.

13
14 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

15
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second. Any further
17 discussion?

18
19 MR. CLEVELAND: I got a question of
20 beavers on the Kobuk concerning some of these fish.
21 They're blocking off some of the lakes and rivers and
22 there's no -- I know on top of Kobuk when I was a child
23 there was a bunch of whitefish. And now there's beaver
24 dams and there's no longer no fish going out and -- or
25 in or out. What do we do about that and what do we do
26 about beavers. That's going to be the biggest concern
27 right there. If you're talking about whitefish and
28 dolly varden and most concern right now is beavers.
29 Seems like the beavers are migrating down this way.
30 Now they're sea mammals, beavers, they used to be
31 freshwater and now they're in the ocean. What the
32 heck's going on, I don't know. But I will support this
33 dolly varden. Can you find me a fishing hole on the
34 Kobuk because I went to Salmon River last week and
35 fished for about two hours and I didn't get anything.
36 And I said that there was a hotspot, but I didn't get
37 nothing. But I would like to learn more about this.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. That's a
42 question?

43
44 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.

45
46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. All those in
47 favor signify by saying aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It passes.

2

3 MS. HYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
4 Council members.

5

6 MR. SHIEDT: Zach, I got a question for
7 you. Are we going to go to -- are we ever going to
8 review and approve our previous minutes, we never did
9 that yet. And we're down to 10C and it is on six.

10

11 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Attamuk.
12 Through the Chair, Mr. Chair. We had waited to address
13 that this morning because we had some flights that had
14 arrived late. So we are now at item 10C at the bottom
15 of page 1 of the agenda. And if you would like we
16 could take a moment to review and adopt the previous
17 meeting minutes which is item six which we skipped this
18 morning on page 4 of your books.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: How long?

23

24 MR. STEVENSON: Not long. The question
25 before the Council would be whether or not to review
26 and approve those minutes and if any changes were
27 necessary.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 I should point out, Mr. Chair, if I
32 may, I had prepared these minutes and there was one
33 minor error which was on the bottom of page 5 under
34 other members of the -- pardon me, at the bottom of
35 page 5 under private sector we had listed NANA and that
36 should be listed as a member of the -- they are public --
37 they are a member of the public. So I just want to
38 make that clarification.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MR. CLEVELAND: I make a motion to pass
43 the meeting minutes of March 10th.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion and.....

46

47 MR. CLEVELAND:2015.

48

49 MR. KRAMER: Second.

50

1 MR. MOTO: Question.

2
3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been
4 called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The minutes pass.

9
10 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.

13
14 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you for that and
15 that action's been noted. That takes us to the bottom
16 of page 1 on the agenda, item 10C. And there we have
17 revisions to the memorandum of understanding, the MOU
18 with the State of Alaska. And with -- without further
19 ado we have Stewart Cogswell on the OSM leadership team
20 to address that.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, members of
25 the Council, my name is Stewart Cogswell, I'm the
26 acting deputy assistant regional director for Office of
27 Subsistence Management. And I'm going to talk to you
28 at about the -- where we're at with the MOU between the
29 Federal Board and the State of Alaska and it's going to
30 be found on page 35 of your booklet.

31
32 So I'm just -- I'm going to read you
33 just a prepared kind of statement that I have, I'll
34 just you through it real quick just so everyone knows
35 what's going on with it. And then if you have any
36 questions or recommendations we can take those and pass
37 this forward. I believe this is an action item. Yes,
38 so we'll need a motion to move forward. So -- all
39 right. I will start.

40
41 This document builds upon the July
42 18th, 2012 draft MOU which is memorandum of
43 understanding, which incorporated recommended changes
44 from the Regional Advisory Councils, Subsistence
45 Resource Commissions and the Advisory Committees. The
46 subcommittee working on this MOU is made up of
47 representatives from the Office of Subsistence
48 Management, the Bureau of Land Management and the
49 United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

50

1 and the State of Alaska. The intent of this MOU is to
2 provide a foundation to build on with the State to
3 coordinate the management of fish and wildlife
4 resources for subsistence uses on Federal public lands
5 in Alaska.

6
7 And please know this, it is not
8 expected to address the variety of issues between the
9 Federal program and the State, but to provide a
10 framework so that the specific issues may be worked out
11 in the future. What that means is nothing in here is
12 specific like caribou or salmon, it's just -- it
13 provides a framework to work out those things in the
14 future so there's nothing specific in here.

15
16 We'd like for you to review this
17 document and provide your comments and recommendations
18 both for the subcommittee and to be presented to the
19 Board.

20
21 So I'm just going to walk you through
22 this on page 35 just so everyone's aware of it, I'll
23 just hit the highlights, we'll just take a few minutes.
24 I just want everyone to be aware of what's in there.
25 So again on page 35, I'm not going to read everything,
26 I'm just going to do a brief overview for you.

27
28 The preamble, this is an agreement
29 between the Federal Subsistence Board which is all the
30 Federal agencies and the State of Alaska. And page 35,
31 the whereas just basically states the authorities that
32 they each -- you know, the Federal agencies have and
33 the State agencies have.

34
35 So if you turn to page 36, it talks
36 about the authority of ANILCA. I want to call your
37 attention to on the top of page 36, therefore that,
38 that third paragraph, the last sentence, I want to read
39 that. It says this MOU forms a basis for such
40 cooperation and coordination among the parties with
41 regard to subsistence management of fish and wildlife
42 resources on Federal public lands. That is the exact
43 purpose of it, it just builds the basis for that
44 cooperation and coordination. Doesn't solve anything,
45 doesn't have a plan for individual projects, but it
46 just -- it's the basis, we're going to work together on
47 these things like this.

48
49 Number 2, the purpose. I'll read part
50

1 of that. The purpose of this MOU is to provide a
2 foundation and direction for coordinated interagency
3 fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on
4 Federal public lands consistent with specific Federal
5 and State authorities as stated above that will protect
6 and promote the sustained health of fish and wildlife
7 populations, ensure conservation of health populations
8 and stability in fish and wildlife management and
9 include meaningful public involvement.

10

11 So some of the guiding principles,
12 number 3, again I'm just going to -- I'm not going to
13 read the whole thing I'm just going to kind brush
14 through them just so everyone's aware of what's in this
15 thing. Number 1, is ensure conservation while
16 providing for continued use. That's kind of a standard
17 point. Number 2, they want to recognize that wildlife
18 management activities on Federal public lands other
19 than subsistence take, remains with the land
20 management, the authority remains with the land
21 manager. Number 3, they agree to use the best
22 available information, the best science, the best
23 customary and traditional knowledge, they agree to use
24 both those. I think it's really neat. Number 4, they
25 want to avoid duplication, you know, on research, you
26 know, they want to try whenever possible to not be
27 doing the same thing because that's just -- the money
28 could be better spent if they, you know, would do
29 something else. Number 5, they want involved
30 subsistence and other users. I think that's great.
31 We're on page -- at the top of page 37 now. Number 6,
32 they want to promote stability in fish and wildlife
33 management and to minimize disruption, changing things
34 all the time. And they want to promote clear and
35 enforceable regulations.

36

37 So that's sort of the guiding
38 principles. I think they're pretty sound and I think
39 most people would agree with those.

40

41 Number 4 is the Federal Subsistence
42 Board and State of Alaska mutually agree, this is what
43 they agree to do together, is to coordinate and
44 cooperate their respective research, again they don't
45 want to duplicate anything. Number 2, to recognize
46 that fish and wildlife population data information
47 including local knowledge is an important component of
48 a successful implementation of Federal responsibilities
49 under ANILCA. Number 3 is to recognize a Federal

50

1 priority for rural residents on Federal public lands.
2 Number 4, to recognize that cooperative funding
3 agreements implementing the provisions of this MOU may
4 be negotiated under ANILCA section 809. Number 5, to
5 recognize that Federal and State scientific standards
6 for conservation of fish and wildlife populations are
7 generally compatible. Again they want to use the best
8 science. And there's always going to be a little
9 disagreement, but they want to strive to use the best
10 science for the decisions they make. Number 6 is to
11 cooperatively pursue and clarify Federal and State
12 regulations for the public. They want to make sure
13 it's clear and concise and as easy as possible to
14 understand. Number 7 is to recognize that the
15 signatories establish protocols or other procedures
16 that address data collection and information
17 management. There are certain standards for data
18 collection. Some data if it's not collected properly
19 might not be as useful. They want to have really
20 consistent data collection management strategies.

21
22 Okay. If you turn to page 38, we're
23 almost done. To have Federal and State staff work
24 cooperatively with the Regional Advisory Councils.
25 That's very important. To designate liaisons for
26 policy and program communications between the Federal
27 and State programs. OSM's liaison, his name is George
28 Pappas, he works directly with the State. Number 10,
29 to provide adequate opportunity for the appropriate
30 Federal and State agencies to review analysis.
31 Whenever possible we try to give a lot of time,
32 sometimes it's not possible, but we want to strive to
33 let people have enough time to have a thorough review --
34 a review of documents, I think that's a good practice.
35 Number 11 is to cooperatively review, to review them
36 together. Number 12 is to use the State's harvest
37 reporting and assessment systems supplemented by
38 information from other sources to monitor subsistence
39 uses of fish and wildlife resources on public lands.
40 That's already in place. Thirteen, to ensure that
41 local residents, tribes and other users will have
42 meaningful involvement. I think that's very important.

43
44
45 And then there's some general
46 provisions, I'm not going to go through -- read through
47 those.

48
49 So that's the gist of what's in the
50

1 MOU. And on page 40 there's a signatory page. And I
2 think page 41 is just some -- some other guidelines.
3 So that's the -- kind of the gist of the MOU. And I
4 think that it's ongoing, it's close to being done. So
5 I know that the -- our subcommittee has been at our
6 office working on it. So I guess the -- we're -- this
7 is an action item, we're asking for a motion to
8 recommend this to move forward or you approve of it.

9
10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Can I get a motion to
11 approve?

12
13 MR. MITCHELL: So.....

14
15 MR. SHIEDT: So move to approve this.

16
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion by Enoch.

18
19 MR. MITCHELL: No, I got a question. I
20 never seconded this one.

21
22 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

23
24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second. Any further
25 discussions?

26
27 MR. SHIEDT: I -- he.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been
30 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, quick
35 question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.

38
39 MR. STEVENSON: Enoch, did you have a
40 question that you.....

41
42 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, that's because
43 he.....

44
45 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. Thank you.

46
47 MR. SHIEDT:he got a question.

48
49 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, who's the liaison

50

1 right now between the Federal and State program?

2

3 MR. COGSWELL: Can you repeat that
4 question, please.

5

6 MR. MITCHELL: Who is the -- number 9
7 on 38, to designate liaison for policy and program
8 communication and coordination between Federal and
9 State program. Who is the liaison right now?

10

11 MR. COGSWELL: Right now for the Fish
12 and Wildlife Service, his name is George Pappas and for
13 the State is Jill Klein. Those are the two liaisons.

14

15 MR. MITCHELL: Is that on 39, number 5,
16 upon signing the parties shall designate an individual,
17 is that the same one or -- the next page, number 5,
18 upon signing the parties shall each designate an
19 individual and an alternate to serve as principal
20 contact or liaison for implementation of this MOU.
21 Does it say liaisons or.....

22

23 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair, Mr.
24 Mitchell. I -- I'm not sure who that will be, if it'll
25 be the same people and who the alternates are. I don't
26 think those have been selected yet.

27

28 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Question.

31

32 MR. SHIEDT: Mr. Raymond, I have a
33 question to our coordinator here. If we -- could we
34 tonight -- about what time we will finish tomorrow with
35 the rest of the agenda, we don't have too much left?
36 That's what I'm asking.

37

38 MR. STEVENSON: Attamuk, through the
39 Chair. We could be done early if we were to stop now
40 and continue tomorrow. We're at the bottom -- we're at
41 the top of page 2 on the agenda. And if we were to end
42 now I would just ask that tonight or over dinner that
43 RAC members consider if there are any issues that the
44 RAC would like to address for their annual report.
45 Last year the Northwest Arctic RAC did not submit an
46 annual report and that's okay. The report again is an
47 opportunity for the RAC to directly address the Federal
48 Subsistence Board. So if there are any issues that are
49 important to the RAC that may not have been covered in

50

1 our meetings or that would be interest in coming across
2 as a message to the Board, this is an opportunity to do
3 that. So that will be one of the things we'll discuss
4 tomorrow, but tonight could be an opportunity to think
5 if there are any issues that you would like to have
6 reflected in that report to the Board.

7

8 (In Native)

9

10 Pardon me, Mr. Chair. We would likely
11 be done before noon tomorrow if we were to wrap up now
12 and continue in the morning at 9:00.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 We have a -- we do have.....

17

18 MR. SHIEDT: We need to.....

19

20 MR. STEVENSON: It may take a little
21 bit longer, I'm hearing some people say it may take a
22 little bit longer than noon. We have some agency
23 reports, but.....

24

25 MR. SHIEDT: Then -- through the Chair,
26 maybe we could go and see -- how long will D take or C,
27 we could address one of them that'll take less time.
28 We're all getting tired, but we want to go home too.
29 No more.....

30

31 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, E will not take
32 very long. E will not take long.

33

34 MR. KRAMER: I would like to see that,
35 you know, these agency reports be lengthened a little
36 longer. I would like to get into more detail on their
37 reports, especially with guide and transporter status.
38 You know, their reports on their wildlife studies. You
39 know, 15 minutes, that's not long enough, that's just
40 kind of rushing it because I'm pretty sure we're going
41 to have a lot of questions. So I'd like to see those
42 agency reports get lengthened a little longer, half
43 hour or more. That way we could get a better
44 understanding of, you know, what kind of commercial
45 activity they have, what was harvested on Federal and
46 State lands. I know that right now there's still a
47 transporter out on the field, out on State land, who
48 would be get information as to how many caribou, moose,
49 bear was taken on these -- on agencies' lands.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

2
3 MR. MITCHELL: I'd like to continue
4 having the meeting right now while they're looking into
5 it and tomorrow maybe we can quit early.

6
7 MR. SHIEDT: Enoch, I didn't
8 understand. You said you want to continue?

9
10 MR. MITCHELL: Yes.

11
12 MR. SHIEDT: I will go until 5:00
13 o'clock. What time is supposed to be our dinner
14 tonight, let's put it that way.

15
16 MR. STEVENSON: What would you like --
17 I'm sorry, what is the -- what would you like to do?

18
19 MR. SHIEDT: Continue.

20
21 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, we -- Mr. Chair,
22 we have two agenda items that we could cover very
23 quickly that shouldn't take very long if you'd like
24 that. One was the draft non-rural policy and the other
25 was the submerged lands on the Tongass. Those are two
26 quick presentations, we'd be happy to do that if the
27 RAC would like that.

28
29 MR. SHIEDT: Okay.

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

32
33 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, members of
34 the Council. What Eva's handing out right now, we'll
35 go through this kind of the same way we went through
36 the MOU. Was -- again this is an action item so we'll
37 need a motion to approve or opposed.

38
39 So I'm just going to go right to the
40 second page. The draft non-rural policy, we are almost
41 to the finish line of the rural, non-rural process. In
42 November, 2015 the final rule changing the rural
43 determination process was published. The changes being
44 the Board -- these are the red dots or red squares, the
45 Board determines which areas or communities in Alaska
46 are non-rural and the second one is all other
47 communities and areas are therefore rural which is a
48 change, there used to be a formula for figuring things
49 out. Now it's a -- there's some different guidelines.

50

1 So the second page, in January of 2016
2 the Board directed staff to create a non-rural policy
3 that outlines the administrative process for future
4 non-rural determinations. In July, 2016 the Board
5 approved a draft non-rural policy to be presented to
6 the Regional Advisory Councils for their feedback. And
7 today we are presenting the draft non-rural policy to
8 you. That's on page 13 of your book. The big thing
9 about -- one of the big things is that the -- we -- you
10 can focus on the process section and the process
11 timeline. And the process section is I believe on page
12 16. And then the process timeline is on page 19.

13
14 So what -- the question we have are
15 there any holes in this process that we need to
16 address, anything you see that's not there. We want
17 your feedback, any questions or comments you have will
18 be reviewed and considered for the final version of the
19 policy. The few folks involved really want to thank
20 you for your time and assistance with this effort and
21 the Board will decide whether or not to adopt this
22 policy at the January meeting, January 17 Board
23 meeting.

24
25 MR. SHIEDT: I just got a quick
26 question. Just for my reminder for me, it's just on
27 the population level for non -- the rural is how many
28 people, was it 10,000 or what was it?

29
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Pardon.

31
32 MR. SHIEDT: That's what I'm.....

33
34 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. That
35 was the old -- that was an old threshold. That is not
36 the new threshold. If you look on page 16 -- the top
37 of page 16, that's the -- those three bullet points are
38 the new threshold requirements. So gone are those
39 population ones and, you know, road system, all that.
40 It's going to be sort of considered on a case by case
41 basis by the Board. So based on those criteria. So
42 and proposals are submitted through the RAC for any
43 changes. So it's kind of a big shift. So how that
44 would affect a difference in this RAC, it would be down
45 the road if something were to happen it would have to
46 come to the RAC so it would be a lot different process
47 than what was -- you know, population would be.
48 Anybody can submit a request to the Board, but it has
49 to meet these threshold requirements. So it would be --

50

1 if it comes up down the -- in the future this would be
2 the process that would happen.

3
4 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.

5
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

7
8 MR. SHIEDT: Could I follow up? The
9 reason why I asked that question, what I'm scared of is
10 for the Federal side, when they make a regulation in
11 place they say this is for the whole state. That's
12 what I'm scared of, I don't have -- but this isn't made
13 for Kotzebue area, for Northwest Alaska and it say this
14 is what we did and it's cover the whole state. That's
15 where I was trying to lead to, that's what I'm scared
16 of because I don't want to be in a level of within
17 because our population at Kotzebue just about double in
18 falltime when the (In Native) everything is done it
19 drop back down see.

20
21 MR. COGSWELL: Right. The population
22 isn't -- is maybe one factor, but it's -- those three
23 considerations are. So there isn't a strict population
24 threshold, you know, where you get above this
25 population then you automatically become non-rural.
26 That's no more. It's a case by case basis based on
27 those three things and it'll be considered by the
28 Board.

29
30 MR. SHIEDT: It's just a report, we
31 don't have to work on this one or anything.

32
33 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. It
34 is an action item so they want your approval or
35 opposition to this, the draft non-rural policy.

36
37 MR. CLEVELAND: So just non-rural and
38 rural, it don't affect anything about roads to
39 somewhere or anything?

40
41 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. The
42 -- that road requirement, used to be if you're
43 connected to the road system, that's no more, that's
44 not a strict requirement, you know, population, road
45 system, that is no more. It is based on individual
46 communities on those thresholds. The Board will take
47 all that into consideration, but there is not -- you
48 know, just because you double your population you're
49 not going to be oh, you're automatically there or you --

50

1 a road is built, no, that doesn't -- it's not part of
2 this policy anymore.

3
4 MR. CLEVELAND: So what you're saying
5 is if I -- I live in Noorvik, if they want to be non-
6 rural they'll be non-rural even though it's rural,
7 right, is that what you're saying?

8
9 MR. COGSWELL: If someone puts in a
10 proposal through the RAC to say Noorvik is non-rural
11 the Board will consider that proposal and, you know, if
12 there's evidence to say that Noorvik is now non-rural
13 then it'll be non-rural. But there would have to be
14 major evidence to show that it's non-rural. So.....

15
16 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

17
18 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mike.

21
22 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, my question is, you
23 know, let's just say Ambler gets a road project in and
24 Ambler's population like quadruples. Is it going to
25 affect the rest of the region or is it just going to
26 affect Ambler. I don't want to affect the rest of the
27 region because we shouldn't have to be limited when,
28 you know, one other community rises in population
29 because of a road system placed in. I don't want the
30 rest of us to, you know, suffer from a place becoming
31 non-rural and the rest of us are really rural. But,
32 you know, I just want to make sure that there's a
33 clarification there to where if a community rises
34 significantly beyond that rural number or status it
35 won't affect the rest of the region and/or game
36 management unit.

37
38 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.

39
40 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair.
41 Sure, the way I read this and I can get clarification
42 on it too, is it's based on community. So if one
43 community rise -- it's individual communities. And
44 that can be a clarification you -- in your -- you know,
45 your motion, that you make sure that that comment is
46 forwarded. But I could probably call tonight and make
47 sure on that. I think I will try to get clarification
48 by tomorrow that it is just per community.

49
50

1 MR. KRAMER: Then should we table that
2 until tomorrow?

3
4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

5
6 MR. MITCHELL: Could this team, this
7 RAC team make changes down the future?

8
9 MR. COGSWELL: What page are you
10 looking at or.....

11
12 MR. MITCHELL: I'm looking at the whole
13 thing, could we change anything in there down the
14 future?

15
16 MR. COGSWELL: Can the -- your question
17 is can the RAC change something in here?

18
19 MR. MITCHELL: Like for instance here
20 you're talking about cities, rural becoming cities,
21 down the future could we change that is my question.

22
23 MR. COGSWELL: I definitely think this
24 could be -- I mean, it's being reviewed right now and
25 it can be reviewed in the future. I don't know if
26 there's a -- if anybody in the audience knows if
27 there's a mechanism to do that automatically like every
28 five years or whenever you visit, but I think this is
29 going to be the policy moving forward.

30
31 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

34
35 MR. MOTO: I without understanding one
36 time that rural city or village or community was --
37 they were not -- they were rural if they were under
38 7,000, that's not the region, it's a city or a village
39 that has less than 7,000 people. So even if we take
40 the whole NANA region there's only six -- only 6,000
41 people in the whole region. So we could still be --
42 you know, we could still fall under that rural.
43 Because I remember one time on one of the Boards when
44 we -- when it was brought up to us and I know I was
45 Chair of that place then, we determined at that time
46 that a community or a city or a village would be 7,000
47 people then they would be rural, anything above that
48 would be non-rural. So I just thought I'd bring that
49 up because it's not the region, it's a village or a

50

1 city.

2

3

MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.

4

5

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead.

6

7

MS. KENNER: Thank you. For the record I'm Pippa Kenner. And, yeah, the way the rural, non-rural, whichever you want to call them, regulations are in a part of our regulations that the Federal Subsistence Board doesn't have authority to change on its own based on the recommendations of Councils. It actually goes to the Secretary. So with the Councils we've been working on a proposed rule for the Secretaries to consider. And we had a -- you might remember over the last couple years we've had a really big public process, we had meetings in different communities, you're all -- you're all right. What you're remembering is that the way the process was set up is that communities that were above 7,000 in population were considered non-rural and communities that were less than 2,000 were considered rural and then communities that fell in between we did an analysis on. And we could look -- we didn't have to look at any factor, we could look at all factors to do that analysis. In addition to that the Board allowed every -- and we did this review every 10 years, it was on a 10 year cycle. In addition to that there was a proposal period where people could put in proposals to nominate any community as being rural or non-rural and the Board took that up.

32

33

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A lot of complaints about that process so what we did, we started from scratch. Now there is not a 10 year cycle, now there are no set criteria in regulations, we'll accept proposals to the Councils, we'll accept proposals to change rural or -- rural or non-rural status based on a threshold that is in your documents. It says that if there's been significant changes in that community that could potentially have changed the rural or non-rural carrier -- character of the community the Board will take it up. It'll go through the Council in the region that that community or area is in and that recommendation will go to the Board and the Board will make a recommendation to the Secretaries.

So we used to be on a 10 year cycle, we used to have a few little criteria, we have no set

1 criteria anymore, we're not on a 10 year cycle. The
2 proposals can come in, but they have to meet a
3 threshold saying that there's been some change in that
4 community or area. The idea was that it was going to
5 make it -- the process would recognize the differences
6 in the State, that some places have roads, some don't,
7 that doesn't necessarily mean one community is rural or
8 not rural based on the road system, that there was a
9 lot of differences in the State and that it -- the
10 Councils now are asked to take a much more active role
11 in the rural, non-rural determination process by
12 advising the Board on the situation in their particular
13 communities and area.

14
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You know, there was a
16 lot of question about that rural and non-rural before
17 for NANA region unlike that -- pretty much like 200,000
18 square miles so does that not deal with rural or non-
19 rural, that 200,000 square miles of NANA, entire NANA
20 region so it don't have to be considered as a rural?

21
22 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question
23 and this is Pippa Kenner again through the Chair. I
24 think it might be helpful if we recognize the areas
25 right now that are considered non-rural and maybe that
26 will reveal some of these qualities that.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

29
30 MS. KENNER:people appear to
31 think make a community non-rural.

32
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

34
35 MS. KENNER: So there are Valdez which
36 has a -- which is basically a community that developed
37 around the pipeline, it's a lot of workers who come in
38 two weeks and leave for two weeks. We have the
39 Anchorage area, large parts of the Kenai, the Mat-Su
40 Borough, Fairbanks Northstar Borough, many of these
41 areas are -- do happen to have a road system.

42
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you.

44
45 MR. SHIEDT: I think the reason why --
46 Enoch here. I think the reason why we had a lot of
47 questions on -- I mean, some questions on this one here
48 because we weren't informed when they make, you know,
49 changes to -- not the numbers -- the last time I hear
50

1 it was the numbers, that's why I brought it up. And we
2 weren't informed and so we didn't know about it because
3 somewhere the decision was made and we didn't know
4 about it and now we're hearing about it. That's why we
5 -- and sometime we get blank, we're trying to figure it
6 out that we could understand it.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. COGSWELL: Are there any other
11 questions? I think Pippa did a great job of explaining
12 some of those loose ends in an overview of the draft
13 non-rural process. But are there any other questions
14 for us?

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: No. That your
17 motion?

18

19 MR. SHIEDT: My motion is to approve
20 this draft non-rural policy as presented by Stewart.

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is there a second?

23

24 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

25

26 MR. SHIEDT: Question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been
29 called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So that passes.

34

35 MR. COGSWELL: All right. If -- Mr.
36 Chair, I have another one that shouldn't take very
37 long, if you want me to continue on that I will do
38 that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead.

41

42 MR. COGSWELL: All right. This is an
43 update and I see it's an agenda item so this is on --
44 it's the Tongass submerged lands proposed rule and it's
45 on page 44 of your manual. So this is a proposed rule
46 at the Secretarial level so it does not affect this
47 region, but it -- since it's at the Secretarial level
48 we are by regulation supposed to inform all the
49 Regional Advisory Councils when these type of things

50

1 happen. So I'm just going to read this and if you have
2 any questions or comments we'll be sure -- and this is
3 another action item so it's a -- we'll have to make a
4 motion at the end. So I'm going to read this summary
5 and this is on page 44. There's a lot of legal jargon
6 in here so I'm going to do my best.

7
8 The U.S. District Court for Alaska, and
9 it's October 17th, 2011 order in Peratrovich, et al.
10 versus United States and the State of Alaska. Enjoined
11 the United States to promptly initiate regulatory
12 proceedings for the purpose of implementing the
13 subsistence provision in Title VIII of ANILCA with
14 respect to submerged public lands within Tongass
15 National Forest and directly enter -- and directed
16 entry of judgment. To comply with the order the
17 Federal Subsistence Board must initiate a regulatory
18 proceeding to identify those submerged lands within the
19 Tongass National Forest that did not pass to the State
20 of Alaska at statehood and therefore remain Federal
21 public lands subject to the subsistence provisions of
22 ANILCA.

23
24 Following the court's decision the
25 Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service
26 started a review of hundreds of potential pre-
27 statehood, prior to January 3rd, 1959, withdrawals in
28 the marine waters of the Tongass National Forest. In
29 April and October of 2015 BLM submitted an initial list
30 of submerged public lands to the Board. This proposed
31 rule would add those submerged parcels to the
32 subsistence regulations to ensure compliance with the
33 court order. Additional listings will be published as
34 BLM and the Forest Service continue their review of
35 pre-statehood withdrawals.

36
37 So this is in regards to -- there's a
38 lot of land down there, it could be -- I think the
39 largest section of land is 200 acres, most of them are
40 much smaller, some of them are only accessible during
41 low tide. A lot of them are -- I went down there a
42 couple -- in 2014 or 2015, last year and looked at some
43 of them, a lot of them are landings used to haul logs
44 and stuff so they're -- you're not -- they're just
45 minimal holdings of land, but there are quite a few of
46 them. So again this is happening in the Southeast and
47 it's going to be a Secretarial order to -- that is
48 going on so we have to let all the RACs know.

1 And I see a question from Zach.

2

3 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair and
4 correct me if I'm wrong, Stewart. My understanding is
5 that this issue though it is focused on Southeast could
6 have -- could have impacts on other regions of the
7 State if this were to be approved and that it may help
8 to provide for submerged lands designations in the
9 future in other regions, is that correct?

10

11 MR. COGSWELL: That is correct. So
12 this is an update and it's a -- we need to a motion to
13 acknowledge that you've heard it or accept it. So just
14 an update, I don't have -- I'm not -- haven't been
15 involved specifically in this. If you have specific
16 questions I can definitely get back with you, but it's
17 -- that's what I know about it, it's a lot of small
18 parcels of land, most of it -- some of them are only
19 accessible during low water. So.....

20

21 MR. STEVENSON: One other question if I
22 may, Mr. Chair, and correct me if I'm wrong, Stewart.
23 This process applies to lands that were not included
24 under ANILCA originally, is that correct?

25

26 MR. COGSWELL: I believe so. I think
27 that's in that summary, it talks about -- that were --
28 identify those lands that were -- did not pass to the
29 State of Alaska at statehood.

30

31 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

32

33 MR. COGSWELL: That's my part. I told
34 you I'd be quick.

35

36 MR. SHIEDT: So you need approval on
37 this and we need to vote on it, right?

38

39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Right.

40

41 MR. SHIEDT: Move to approve as
42 written, as he read it by Stewart.

43

44 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Second --
47 anymore discussions on it?

48

49 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anymore discussions
2 on it?

3
4 MR. CLEVELAND: As long as you guys
5 don't cut no more trees here in Selawik that's fine.

6
7 MR. SHIEDT: Question.

8
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been
10 called. Those in favor signify by saying aye.

11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13
14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That passes.

15
16 MR. COGSWELL: Thank you. That's all I
17 have. So I can't guarantee the length of any of these
18 other people that are going to go.

19
20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You can just take
21 that copy, there's extra copies. You can just have it,
22 there's extra copies.

23
24 MR. SHIEDT: We're done.

25
26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We're done until
27 tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

28
29 (Off record)

30
31 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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 2 through 131 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 5th day of October 2016 at Selawik, 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 7th
day of November 2016.

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