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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

DR. TOM ALBERT CONFERENCE HALL
Utqiagvik, Alaska
August 19, 2024
9:00 am

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brower Frantz, Chair
Wanda Kippi
Esther Hugo
Quincy Adams
Peter Williams
Steve Oomituk

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Utqiagvik, Alaska - 8/19/2024)

(On record)

MS. CHAPA: All right. Good morning, everyone. This is the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. We'll go ahead and get started. For those joining on the phone, you can find the agenda and meeting materials online on the Federal Subsistence Program website. The web address is ww.doi.gov/subsistence. Under the regions tab, choose North Slope and then meeting materials. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Good morning, everybody. Brower Frantz. I'm the Chair for the North Slope Regional Advisory Council. Before we get started on anything, I would like to request Mr. Adams over here to provide us an invocation, if he could.

MR. ADAMS: All right. Thank you. Thank you. I like to watch encouraging shows in the morning, especially words that come into my mind and shows that are filled with spiritual things and religion. I was watching Doctor Jeremiah this morning, and you know we; he talked about Abraham Lincoln when he got shot and the word encouragement means a lot by saying that and, in his pocket that, after he was shot, they found a pocket knife and maybe reading glasses, and he had a newspaper clipping inside his pocket that -- it was to remind himself that he was one of the greatest statesmen in the United States at that time. Because we all get down and we all fall down sometimes and we struggle, those kind of things and -- he had carried that little clipping he cut out himself and to remind himself that he was a great statesman. And, you know God; I was reminded to have those things in our minds, our spirit and to renew things that sometimes renew our energy. That, to remind us that who we are in our hearts and that really touched me this morning. But, you know, forgiving one another is something special and you know it's good to see people here.

I was out of town for about a month and a half, and I'm so glad to be back home. There's no place like home and no place like United States of America. For real I mean, when we landed in Seattle, it

1 seemed like I knew everybody in the Seattle airport. I
2 was that humbled, you know, that humbling feeling,
3 especially when you're back home at your work and doing
4 the things you all do to protect our way of life and to
5 keep it going. Where a new generation from the; our
6 great leaders have passed on, and our people that had
7 envisioned things and education and those kind of things
8 that we see -- new leaders, young people leading our
9 communities. And it means a lot. And I thank you guys
10 for giving me the opportunity to pray for you all and
11 ourselves and let us remind that, I had a little
12 scripture In Second Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is all
13 you need, for my power is the greatest when you are
14 weak." You know those things are really close to a lot
15 of people and let us give thanks to our wonderful
16 creator. Heavenly father, we thank you for this day.
17 Thank you for all your promises. Thank you for the many
18 things that you give us and we are blessed by you, Lord
19 God. Thank you for your grace which are renewed every
20 morning that we wake up. Bless each and everyone here.
21 Protect their families from evil. We pray that they will
22 go with their meetings today. Guide them with their minds
23 and their spirit, Lord God. Lord, we ask them to have a
24 safe journey back home. Bless each and everyone again.
25 Thank you for all your blessings. In your mighty son's
26 name, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

27
28 UNIDENTIFIED: Amen.

29
30 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you so much.

31
32 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you there, Billy.
33 All right. It is 9:15 am. Calling the official meeting
34 to order. Can I get a roll call to establish quorum,
35 please?

36
37 MS. CHAPA: Yes, absolutely. Okay. Wanda
38 Kippi.

39
40 MS. KIPPI: Here.

41
42 MS. CHAPPA: Steve Oomittuk and Mr. Oomittuk, is, has an
43 excused absence. Quincy Adams.

44
45 MR. ADAMS: Here.

46
47 MS. CHAPA: Martha Itta, also excused
48 absence. Esther Hugo.
49 I heard. I heard Ms. Hugo on the phone earlier today.
50 We'll go back to her in a minute. Brower Frantz.

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CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Here.

MS. CHAPA: Peter William, and Mr. Williams is delayed due to weather. Esther, are you still on the line?

MS. HUGO: Yes, I am.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Ms. Hugo. Okay. Mr. Chair, we have four members present. We have quorum.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Thank you. Now we can proceed without delay. All right. Next on our agenda, we've got meeting announcements. Go ahead with your meeting announcements.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, Gisela Chapa, for the record. Welcome, everyone, for the fall meeting of the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. I am the Council coordinator for this Council and the designated federal officer. I have a few announcements before we get started. We have sign-in sheets for those who are attending our meeting in person. If you could please make sure to sign the sign-in sheet at the entrance table behind you. There's going to be a sign-in sheet for each day of the meeting, and we'd appreciate it if you could sign in each day that you're here. This is a regulatory meeting, and the Council will be discussing and deliberating fish proposals and closures. There will be an opportunity for public comment during that proposal period. And you can see the steps of the proposal presentation procedure on page 25 on the meeting book and, also for the public we have extra copies of the public meeting book and -- at the back table for reference.

For -- if you would like to address the Council during the meeting. For everybody in the room, we have some blue testifier forms in the back of the room and this also helps us keep track of everyone who would like to speak regarding a specific agenda item. If you can, please fill the paper and hand it to me. That will help me keep track of the people that we need to give an opportunity to speak. For those online, on Teams, I ask that you please raise your hand to get a turn to speak. For those on the phone, please press star five to raise your hand and star six to unmute yourself. Also, in the back of the room we have a table with the meeting booklets as well as supplemental materials, and

1 that will be the packet with staple documents. Again,
2 for those who are attending the meeting online, you can
3 also find the materials on our website and I will post
4 a link on the chat shortly.

5
6 Our meetings are conducted by Robert's
7 Rules. We expect everyone to be courteous and respectful
8 in all interactions as a matter of meeting etiquette.
9 Please silence your phones for those in the room. We ask
10 to keep them on mute to minimize disruption. Another
11 reminder for those joining over Teams or over the phone,
12 the lines will be automatically muted and you will have
13 to unmute yourself to speak. Again, to raise your hand
14 if you're on Teams, please use the buttons at the top
15 of your screen. If you're on the phone and would like a
16 turn to speak, star five to raise your hand and star six
17 to unmute yourself. Last reminder, there will be time
18 for tribal and public comment on non-agenda items. The
19 Chair will announce this each morning, and that will be
20 an opportunity for those present, as well as those
21 participating on the phone, to speak on non-agenda
22 items. We would ask you to hold any comments on proposals
23 or agenda items until such time as they come up before
24 the Council, so that the Council will hear all pertinent
25 information at the time they're working on that item.
26 And actually, another reminder for those attending our
27 meeting I just wanted to let everybody know that there
28 is coffee available in the lobby. We also have some tea
29 available here in the room and some refreshments.
30 Restrooms are going to be down the hall. The men's
31 restroom is the second or third door down the hall. The
32 women's restroom is going to be across the lobby, and
33 it'll be the, the third door to your left. Thank you for
34 allowing me the time to share this information, Mr.
35 Chair.

36
37 CHARIMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for that,
38 Gisela. All right, so up next we have item five, welcome
39 and introductions. I guess we'll go around the table
40 before we go around the room and after we go around the
41 room, we'll go online. So, let's start from around the
42 table, maybe we'll start back here.

43
44 MS. MORROW: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
45 members of the Council. My name is Kristen Morrow. I'm
46 an anthropology pathways intern with the Office of
47 Subsistence Management.

48

1 MS. CHAPA: Good morning, everyone again.
2 Gisela Chapa Subsistence Council Coordinator for the
3 North Slope RAC.

4
5 MR. ADAMS: Good morning, everyone,
6 Quincy Adams. North Slope RAC.

7
8 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Good morning,
9 everybody. Brower Frantz. North Slope RAC Chair.

10
11 MS. KIPPI: Good morning, everybody.
12 Wanda Kippi from Atqasuk North Slope RAC.

13
14 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, everyone.
15 Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division Supervisor
16 with OSM. Thank you.

17
18 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and
19 Council members. My name is Karen Hyer and whitefish
20 Biologist with Office of Subsistence Management.

21
22 MS. DAGGETT: (In Native) My name is
23 Carmen Daggett. I'm the area biologist for the State of
24 Alaska Fish and Game here in Utqiagvik. Good morning.

25
26 MR. ADAMS: Good morning. My name is
27 Sheldon Adams the 3rd and I work with the ICAS Hunting
28 Program.

29
30 MR. NINGEOK: Good morning. My name is
31 Alfred Ningeok and I'm with ICAS Hunting Program.

32
33 MR. PEARSON: Good morning. My name is
34 Brian Pearson. I'm a wildlife biologist with the North
35 Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management. Welcome
36 to Barrow.

37
38 MR. SFORMO: Todd Sformo, also a wildlife
39 biologist, North Slope Borough.

40
41 MS. RODDY: Good morning, Qinugan Roddy,
42 with North Slope Borough planning.

43
44 MR. NAGEAK (In Native) Good morning. My
45 name is Ernest Nageak. I'm Iñupiat, born and raised in
46 Utqiagvik. I'm the Alaska Native Affairs Specialist for
47 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

48
49 MS. OLEMAUN: (In Native) I'm the

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1 director of Planning and Community services for the
2 North Slope Borough.

3

4 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Oh, yeah. Yep.

5

6 MS. CHAPPA: Okay, we'll go to the people
7 online. If you can, please introduce yourself.

8

9 MS. COLD: Good morning. This is Helen
10 Cold, Subsistence Resource Specialist with ADF&G
11 Subsistence in the Fairbanks office.

12

13 MR. GRAHAM: Good morning. This is Corey
14 Graham, Fisheries Biologist with OSM.

15

16 MR. Merrill: Good morning. This is
17 Clayton Merrill, Subsistence Coordinator with Artic,
18 Kanuti and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges.

19

20 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, this is Lisa
21 Grediagin. (Pause) Wildlife division supervisor with
22 OSM.

23

24 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. Kendra Holman,
25 Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

26

27 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning. This is Jason
28 Roberts, Anthropologist with OSM.

29

30 MS. MCKEE: Good morning, Chris Mckee,
31 Subsistence Coordinator for the Bureau of Land
32 Management.

33

34 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning, Kim Jochum,
35 Regional Subsistence Program for the National Park
36 Service at Anchorage.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Eva Patton
39 with the National Park Service Subsistence Program.
40 Wonderful to hear you all this morning.

41

42 UNIDENTIFIED: Good morning
43 (simultaneous spech).

44

45 MR. JOLY: This is Kyle Joly with the
46 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. I'm a
47 Wildlife Biologist.

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1 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
2 Klein. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator with
3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based out of Anchorage.

4
5 MS. MALLORY: Good morning. This is
6 Mariana Mallory. I'm based out of the Fairbanks Office
7 with Fish and Game Subsistence. I'm a Subsistence
8 Resource Specialist One.

9
10 MS. GREEN: (In Native) My name is Marie
11 Green, and I'm currently the President of ICC Alaska.
12 Thank you.

13
14 MS. HUGO: Good morning. Esther Hugo,
15 North Slope Bo. RAC.

16
17 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Good
18 morning, everybody. If that's everybody unless we miss
19 somebody, I'll give you another minute or so to make
20 yourself known here. If not, we can move forward. But
21 that's a pretty complete list so far. I mean, we've got
22 the Gates, US Fish and Wildlife, ADF&G, NPS, BLM, OSM,
23 among others. So, we've got a pretty complete roster
24 here to start off with. But if we missed anybody now's
25 your chance.

26
27 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair. This
28 is Glen Chen from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

29
30 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Good morning.

31
32 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is Marcy
33 Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic
34 National Park and Preserve.

35
36 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Good
37 morning, everybody. If anybody else calls in, we can
38 address it at another time. But for now, we'll move on
39 to item six, review and adopt agenda. So, we'll go
40 through our agenda and what is the wish of the, the
41 Council here as far as the agenda?

42
43 MR. ADAMS: Move to approve.

44
45 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

46
47 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. We've got a
48 motion from Quincy. Make sure you state your name,
49 please. So, motion from Quincy and seconded by Wanda.
50 Any -- looking for maybe a question.

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MS. HUGO: Question.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Question called for.
Any discussion on the matter?

Hearing none. Question has been called
for. All those in favor of approving the agenda, adopting
the agenda? Say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Those who don't, say
no. Hearing none, motion passes. So, it looks like we
have an approved agenda. We will move forward to item
seven, review and approve previous meeting minutes. So,
what's, what's the wish of the Council on the meeting
minutes?

MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead Wanda
(simultaneous speech).

MRS KIPPI: I would like to approve the
meeting minutes as presented; with the changes, if there
were changes.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Were there any previous
changes that we need to talk about on this?

MS. CHAPA: No, Mr. Chair. All of the
meeting minutes are in your booklet, and you have three
meeting minutes to review because we had an All Council
meeting in Anchorage in March. And the Council had three
meetings that attended, the All Council meeting, a Four
Council meeting on a specific matter on Wildlife
Proposal 24, 2829; and then the actual meeting minutes
from, from our winter meeting on March 8th.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for that. We
do have a motion on the floor to approve as presented
by Wanda.

MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead. Quincy.

MR. ADAMS: Second and second to approve
the previous meeting minutes.

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CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Seconded by Quincy.
Looking for a question.

MRS HUGO: Question.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Question. Question has
been called for. And if no discussion on this. Well, we
don't have anything pending there. So, all those in favor
of approving as presented say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Those opposed, say no.
Hearing none, we have approved meeting minutes, previous
meeting minutes. (Pause) All right. So, on this we do
have A, B, and C I guess I should have clarified that.
So, are we going to go through these individually. So,
or was that a consolidated effort.

MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead.

MS. WESSELS: For the record, Katya
Wessels. That motion that you made is fine. If there's
no changes to any of these minutes, that one motion that
you made to approve all of the minutes is fine.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. All right. That's
good to know. Well, we did clarify there were three to
approve, so okay, good enough clarification for me.
Moving on. We've got item eight in the agenda, reports.
We'll move on to Council member reports and things that
we, we have everybody here. Well, at least for a quorum.
While we've got Esther still here on the phone, maybe
we'll start with Esther, Anaktuvuk Pass.

MS. HUGO: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Thank
you. Can you hear me?

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes, we can. Loud and
clear.

MS. HUGO: Okay. I keep hearing my, my
own voice in the background, that's how come I'm asking.
Good morning to all Council and members that are with
us this morning. It's been a really bad summer. So much
wind and rain since June, and it's still, it's so windy.

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1 Every day from the south. This is the first year in the
2 summer, in my life, that we have so much south wind just
3 daily and stragglers are out there. Nobody really got
4 anything, no caribou. I can't say that because last
5 weekend we got two when we went camping for the weekend.
6 We saw some stragglers and we picked berries, salmon
7 berries, and we saw two of (indiscernible) and boy was
8 it good to eat that tuttu. I mean, aliaq, you know, the
9 ribs and liver and whatnot. And went home, shared some
10 with the elder here cause she really been asking for
11 tuttu and she happened to be my auntie, so I had to make
12 sure that I bring her at least a little bit of my share,
13 and I felt good after that. Like I said, it rained and
14 rained all summer. It snowed twice in July. So, all the
15 berries are delayed. I just got back from weekend trip
16 from and the mountains there where we usually pick
17 aqqiks. They're all white, they all turn color and I
18 didn't even pick up a gallon. So, all the aqqik are done
19 for the season, but I was happy I was able to camp the
20 last time before next year.

21
22 We didn't see any stragglers. We looked
23 and looked, hoping to see before we headed home around
24 7 because we knew it will be dark after 11 or 10:30. No
25 stragglers. We did carry fishing poles, but we weren't
26 heading for fishing, we were going to go there for aqqik
27 and the stragglers. It's been a long, cold summer. People
28 are going out there picking blueberries right now, as I
29 speak, and the cranberries and blackberries are coming
30 along. Hopefully by the end of the month or September,
31 we'll be able to pick the black and the cranberries up
32 in the foothills where our usual spots are out there.
33 We usually take long day trips at this time of the year.
34 And we hardly see any bears. Maybe they're on the other
35 valleys, I don't know.

36
37 My grandson got a couple of sheep in
38 July after the sheep season opened. It was really good
39 to eat sheep. (In Native). That was good. I felt better,
40 too, after eating sheep. A lot of people went; ice fish
41 fishing. Summer fishing. Even Arctic Char are not as
42 abundant and not as many just graylings, but they weren't
43 as much either; maybe (indiscernible). Late spring break
44 when the rivers start flowing ice, so that was unusual.
45 Maybe it all happened because of the snow we had in
46 July, two days. It's been dark, rainy clouds, south wind
47 for so long, and it's, I mean. Oh, yeah. I'm so happy
48 for the south wind because, and the strong winds cause
49 we hardly even (indiscernible) bothered by the
50 mosquitoes. This is the first summer in my life and I

1 wasn't bothered by the mosquitoes around you, and that
2 was unusual for all of us here at home. You know, it was
3 better, but I'm glad the mosquitoes weren't there. And
4 let's see, we're getting ready for the fall caribou. I
5 just wanted to mention that I called Brian this weekend,
6 before the weekend, asking for maps. I guess he, they
7 no longer can assist us with maps and talked about some
8 upset people up here. Why are why can't we get access
9 to them things? I mean, it's not hurting anybody. We're
10 just trying to see where the caribou are since they've
11 been delayed for so many years. But we've got some upset
12 people because, you know he uses technology. We can't
13 get access to the maps on the herds. Whether they're
14 staying up north like they did till loving time. I mean,
15 who thinks of these things? Who makes the rules? I mean,
16 we, we're here to survive. We want to know, something's
17 got to happen about that. Because I don't know what
18 North Slope Borough is thinking. The Wildlife or
19 whomever put that. That's not good for our community. I
20 want to voice that out real clear. Why? Why? I mean,
21 we're just asking for some pictures or does it cost
22 thousands of dollars for that? We're trying to survive
23 up here. We're waiting for tuttu. I didn't know the
24 sport hunters, I already know are at the Dalton, Super
25 Cups are flying past here. Life here is really busy,
26 probably stemming all their sport hunters up to Umiak.
27 We need those maps, regardless of... If we can't, how can
28 we get access? Do we go to our lawyer and say, hey, this
29 is really wrong? Maybe if we turn to a lawyer and get
30 access to them things, we'll be happy. But this is not
31 good. I really want to voice that out because we live
32 so many miles away from you all. And if we had our own
33 type of cup or a plane, man, we'd be up there looking,
34 checking, and it's just on a piece of paper and it's a
35 photograph as to where the caribou are. That's just
36 simple but no, this is so wrong. Everybody is okay, I'll
37 just stop there. Just so angry about that. But thank you
38 so much. Everything's been slow, cold and windy, but
39 we're still out there looking for stragglers and sheep
40 if we can. Hopefully. Another long -- I don't know what
41 to say any more about our tuttu. I know they got four
42 legs like my father-in-law always told us, and they ain't
43 going to wait for us but they've been diverted. We know
44 there's sports hunters up there doing their activity,
45 or at the five-mile corridor where they shoot bow and
46 arrow. This is absurd. This is not good. We'll see, but
47 we got faith. We pray, God we do, we pray, everybody in
48 the community waiting for something that will survive
49 for so many years. Tuttu. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
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CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther, for your thorough report there. I guess before we move on to the next one, I'll hand off an opportunity for either NSB or State to provide comment for her map concerns or clarification. While you're here, please.

MR. PEARSON: Good morning, everybody. For the record, my name is Brian Pearson. I'm a Senior Wildlife Biologist with North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management. Yeah, good morning, Esther. Great to hear your voice. Sorry it's been a cold, rainy summer. Glad the bugs weren't too bad, though. Regarding the maps you know, under the agreement that I have with the State and the BLM, I'm not allowed to send those maps out for at least 30 days. I gave a couple of good oral descriptions of where the caribou were as of last week. I intend to do that again today or tomorrow when I duck out of this meeting. But yeah, I'm not allowed to give those maps. My hand got spanked pretty heavily for doing it in the past, and that is the fact. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Sounds good. I guess another follow up to that, just for maybe historic or trends over the last five years, maybe. And where that might sit on top of maybe giving your oral description.

MR. PEARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, Brian Pearson, for the record. I haven't looked at a map this morning or this weekend. So, the description I would give is about a week old, but you know, frankly, the migration is for the last five, ten, twenty years. You know, the migration hasn't really come through Anaktuvuk Pass until September into October, unfortunately. And I know that's frustrating because the bulls are in rut when they do come through and you end up taking cows, which, you know, I understand you have to feed your families, but it's not good for the herd, the population. So, everything is kind of normal. It's when you talk about caribou. Right now the Teshekpuk herd is still north of the Colville River. Distributed, you know, as of last week; distributed really between Wainwright, Atqasuk and approaching Umiat and they have moved south and they moved back north a little bit. So, they're kind of milling around in that huge chunk of real estate. When I asked about the Western Arctic Herd, they had moved. They did make it all the way to Chandler, about two weeks ago. But then they moved back west towards Point Hope, but they're still really at least

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1 forty; the majority of animals are at least forty plus
2 miles from any of the nearest North Slope communities.
3 The Central Arctic Herd were moving south along the
4 Dalton Highway corridor along both sides of the
5 corridor. I'm hoping that they might loop around to the
6 west and come through Anaktuvuk and the Porcupine Herd,
7 I don't know. Thanks.

8
9 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you. All right.
10 Up next we'll go with Quincy (indiscernible).

11
12 MR. ADAMS: Good morning, everybody.
13 Quincy Adams for the record. North Slope Borough our
14 North Slope Subsistence RAC. Also working with the
15 Department of Wildlife Management as a Subsistence
16 Research Coordinator, but this this summer has been very
17 blessed and bountiful season. There's multiple houses,
18 multiple families that are hanging up or that got bearded
19 seal. So, there's a lot of people making the making the
20 (In Native) for their families. The dried meat and the
21 seal oil. And there's these three workers with the ICAS
22 have done a wonderful job as well. So, providing for
23 houses, providing for elders and widows. Walrus season
24 was pretty good as well. There's quite a few families
25 and quite a few boats that have stocked up on walrus for
26 the winter because we all know as soon as the as a
27 migration, as if the as soon as the bearded seals and
28 the Walrus come around and once they leave, they're gone
29 for the year. So, a lot of people were blessed to get
30 walrus and bearded seals up here. As for the as for the
31 tuttu, the caribou, we've been having a bountiful
32 season. They've been even in July. They've already had
33 quite a bit of fat, at least over an inch or two inches
34 of fat on some of them. So we've been blessed with
35 blessed with tuttu, and they've kind of been hanging
36 around not too far on this side of Echo Bay and on the
37 other side of Echo Bay, between here and Christy Point.
38 They've been hanging around quite a bit. We're just
39 waiting on this fall time, fall time season coming up
40 here pretty soon, is maybe a couple weeks. A lot of
41 people going to be going out camping for fishing and
42 tuttu, and hopefully we get a good bountiful season.
43 Spring whaling was a really good season as well too. I
44 think there was 12 whales that were landed, and we had
45 a big community feast in late June. Fishing, there's
46 quite a few fish nets out here, more than I've ever seen
47 growing up. But, you know, a lot of a lot of quite a few
48 people have been catching salmon. A lot of humpback
49 salmon, some pinks, some silvers, arctic chars and, you
50 know, it was a little bit darker days are coming. There's

1 going to be more fish coming around as well too. This
2 is mainly an oral report but, I didn't have anything
3 written down. This concludes my report. If there's any
4 questions from the Chair or other Council members or
5 anybody else.

6

7 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Any questions for Mr.
8 Adams before we move on to the next? No. Hearing none.
9 All right. We'll go with Atqasuk, Wanda Kippi.

10

11 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. Thank you, Mr.
12 Chair. Wanda Kippi from Atqasuk. Our spring was fine.
13 Melted as usual. The geese hunting was good. By the
14 summer, we had some hot days, but there were still some
15 quite a bit of cold days and rain. Town's been soaking
16 wet and they've been, they were seeing some aamok tracks
17 just a mile up river at (In Native) around that area and
18 the guys that have been, the fishermen have been putting
19 nets out there. They were catching some manaklaq and
20 ikuktuks and they were catching a few pink salmon and,
21 I got the one pike in our river. That's what, two years
22 ago, they caught one pike too and they had given it to
23 me to they didn't know what to do with it. And the
24 caribou have been coming through. Last month, my son saw
25 it around our camping grounds and just this weekend he
26 saw some more caribou around our camping grounds, which
27 is good to see, but I think we're gonna -- it's going
28 to change. When the fall hunting starts. They start going
29 farther and farther away to try and find the caribou,
30 because there's so many people, hunters that are going
31 out to try and provide for their families. So, they
32 start going farther and farther and in -- long ago, I
33 used to just wait at camp and they would just come. The
34 herd would just come. Nowadays, it's not like that. You
35 see a few of them coming through, but not as a big herd
36 anymore. So, they're there, but they're just farther
37 out. And the winter freeze up was slow again, last freeze
38 up I went home a little early because the freeze up took
39 so long, I never even go ice fishing but after I went
40 home, the river froze a couple of days later after I go
41 home. So, but I never I never go Niksikquq last year.
42 Hopefully it'll change this year, but that and that's
43 about it, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for your
46 report there, Wanda. Maybe we should have moved this
47 meeting to Atqasuk for some salmonberries. It looks like
48 salmonberries were ripening.

49

50

1 MS. KIPPI: Oh, I could add to that.
2 Yeah, there's some people are picking already, but the
3 ones that I see, they were still closed. That's around
4 town, but I haven't driven out outside of town. But do
5 you see pictures of the ones that are going with boat
6 or going out (In Native), and some are still trying to
7 get ripe, so they are they're picking the ripe ones. And
8 I haven't gotten to see the blueberries, which (In
9 Native) take all those blueberries when I go pick
10 blueberries, which I want to start putting them down I,
11 they let me they let me only pick two quarts only that
12 a couple of years ago last year, there wasn't even any
13 more where they ate up all the blueberries. So,
14 springtime I go look for their eggs. I took their eggs.
15 I got back at them. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Thank you.
18 All right, so I don't think we have anybody else online,
19 did we? So, we've got. No, I think we had four for the
20 quorum. So that would include mine as the Chair's report.
21 So, just to confirm.

22
23 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Mr. Chair, I don't know
24 if maybe you can. We can see if Mr. Oomittuk has joined.
25 He texted a few minutes ago saying that he would call
26 in shortly.

27
28 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay, sure. Is anybody
29 else online? As part of the Council? Other than people
30 we've already got the reports from. Steve, are you
31 online?

32
33 (No response)

34
35 MS. CHAPA: Oh, Steve, if you're online,
36 please remember to press star six to unmute yourself.
37 or he might not be ready to call in yet.

38
39 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. Thank you for
40 that. We'll move on to Chair's report and if we get
41 anybody else that calls in we can have them discuss
42 their reports at a later time. All right, for my report
43 it reflects a lot, the same as Mr. Adams. For mine I
44 would add, beluga was plentiful this year as well in
45 Barrow. So, there were some harvested beluga around
46 town. I haven't heard a terrible amount of muskox this
47 year so far, but we haven't gone to the usual locations
48 yet due to the weather, but we're definitely going to
49 keep our eyes out on that and last year was a pretty
50 large presence of muskox. So, this year we'll be looking

1 for the same. Just have not reported that yet. Haven't
2 heard of any moose take at least up north around Barrow
3 yet, yet. So that that should be hopefully coming up.
4 The, the pink salmon have been plentiful for the last
5 couple of months, at least. I have been seeing char as
6 well. A good amount of whitefish. I haven't seen any
7 that had any mold or were reported with mold on them,
8 at least for Barrow and, but I did see a good amount of
9 pretty heavily infested meat in the pink salmon with
10 tapeworm. So, it seemed like maybe one every twenty would
11 have a pretty large infestation to where we would not
12 even think about keeping the meat. So, tapeworm is pretty
13 prevalent in that pink salmon around this year. What
14 else -- the caribou have been great, the whaling's been
15 great. Walrus, bearded Seal have been great. A lot of
16 folks have gone out picked conaliqs. I haven't heard any
17 issues of any plants or vegetation here. It's been kind
18 of a colder, later summer than usual. So, berries are
19 not really there yet. And yeah, that should be about it
20 for now. Lots of ducks being harvested right now, that's
21 for sure. So, the ducks are definitely flying through
22 the Eiders. With that, that's my report. Other than
23 please get accurate muskox counts for us, please; and
24 maybe moose if you got that too, but yeah, that's it for
25 my report.

26

27

MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Wanda.

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MS. KIPPI: I would like to add to my
report, I forgot to mention the Aqluks. There was an
Aqluk seen west from Atqasuk; maybe a five or less miles,
probably less, maybe a couple of miles within I guess
the nearest (In Native) area and I haven't heard of
anything around my camping grounds because I haven't
been able to go there yet, which I hope I do when I get
back home. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for that. I
haven't heard bears lately, and it's probably because
Well, what I've seen, at least around Ikpikpuk, is the
large caribou amounts have moved the bears away from the
river. At least where we were, there was ten in one
location in a previous year, but once the caribou were
in the area, there was no bears to be seen that at least
for that season. Thank you for that. All right. Now that
we don't have any more reports available at this time,
we can move over to item nine and open up the floor for
public and tribal comment and non-agenda items, if

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1 that's okay with you guys, unless you guys want to take
2 a break. Guys, ready for a break before we do this?

3

4 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay.

5

6 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Yeah, I'd
7 say let's take a 15-minute break before we get started
8 on the, on the public comments. Tribal and public
9 comments. All right.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning, Steve here.

16

17 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Good morning, Steve.
18 Welcome.

19

20 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. I'm sorry for
21 the delay there.

22

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right, Steve. So,
24 before we move on to our public and tribal comments, I'd
25 like to see if you have a report for Point Hope there,
26 Mr. Oomittuk.

27

28 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you, Steve
29 here. Sure. It's been kind of a wet season this year.
30 You know, the weather. Didn't have much of a summer, but
31 you know, there was a lot of (indiscernible) there was
32 some caribou, you know, not as many as the year before,
33 but they're catching caribou. They, you know, they saw
34 the limit and trying to understand it. You know, it's
35 kind of hard, you know, when there were some upset people
36 that they wished, you know, they stopped the, you know,
37 the proposals that were put by the North Slope
38 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and Northwest
39 Arctic Borough and that was supported by the Western
40 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group on, you know, the
41 stopping the hunting from the non-residential and sport
42 hunters, you know, especially on federal lands which was
43 shut down by the Federal Subsistence Board. You know,
44 we've been very concerned about the population
45 themselves, and they felt that the people that live with
46 the animals should be, you know, are the ones to be, to
47 have a quota on how many they can get. You know, they
48 say that there's a, you know, we don't know the actual
49 numbers of what, you know, permits or licenses that the
50 state gives to these non-residential and out-of-state

1 hunters, you know, and it's something that we asked
2 before that the residents want to know. Exactly how many
3 people are coming within the Unit 23 that are, you know,
4 non-residents and out-of-state hunters coming in. You
5 know, they want to actually see the number of how many
6 licenses or permits are given to them. You know, the
7 state should have that number. I don't know if they gave
8 that. And it's something, you know, that, you know, the
9 actual population or is it estimated population of
10 160,000. I don't know if they have a new estimate amount
11 for this year. You know, it's August right now, so I
12 know the last few years they had trouble, you know, we
13 didn't have an actual population of the Western Arctic
14 Caribou Herd Working Group. Caribou. Because of the
15 weather and, you know, taking pictures and, you know,
16 trying to get a number of them. And, you know, the radio
17 collars or the transmitters, whatever they call those
18 things. You know, how far some of the herd goes or some
19 of the main leaders, you know? I remember they put them
20 on mostly bulls or some females. And, you know, the
21 leaders. And that's something that, you know, the route
22 and, you know, we noticed that the other herds'
23 populations that are growing more, you know, they have
24 a higher population value than at the Porcupine River,
25 you know, they're very concerned about the caribou
26 because, you know, a lot of people that are inland that's
27 what they depend on, you know, Point Hope, you know,
28 like I said in the past, we're very fortunate that we
29 live in an area that we have an abundance of food source
30 other than caribou. But, you know, caribou has always
31 been a main diet also along with the whale, you know,
32 back in the old days, you know, the caribou played a big
33 part of our lives, especially for our clothing and
34 staying warm. And, you know, the meat that it provides,
35 it's -- it just feels, they just feel bad that it always
36 comes to the local people that live in an area where
37 it's a high cost of living, high cost of transportation.
38 And, you know, and a lot of them depend on the food
39 source (pause).

40
41 You had provided for us for thousands
42 of years. So, you know, it was an angry people. But
43 there were some people that understood that, you know,
44 they are concerned about the population and, you know,
45 some are willing to cut down their harvest. And, but you
46 know, until the population grows to a stable and it's
47 something, you know, we we've seen an abundance of
48 predators too, you know, this year is -- this summer all
49 time. It's a lot of rain, and we've been getting a lot
50 of rain, and it's raining out there right now. So, a lot

1 of fog and rain. Cold weather. We haven't seen any
2 berries. The berries are trying to come out, but there's
3 just too much rain. We need some sunshine. Other than
4 that, the fish, you know, they're catching fish, but not
5 as much like as the year before. The Arctic char is
6 starting to come through, but the waters are rough, so
7 we have to wait for calm waters to fish, especially in
8 the ocean. You know, we're right on the beach shoreline.
9 Arctic char, Arctic char. And I'm coming back south, and
10 it's the weather. You know, the weather is making it
11 rough seas or a lot of south wind or, you know, normally
12 at this time of the year, we have a lot of northwest
13 wind which does a lot of erosion on the north side. But
14 this year it's a south wind or southeast wind. Not too
15 much north wind. You know, north wind. You know, we can
16 fish on the south side. But it's been kind of a tough
17 year for everybody, you know, and especially, you know,
18 a lot of them like to pick the berries, which they
19 haven't been able to do so yet, you know, like I said,
20 they're coming out, but they're not ripe. Just a lot of
21 rain. makes it hard. The trails are hard. I'm going up
22 inland yet to go 40 or 50 miles to, you know, a lot of
23 wetlands. You know, people getting stuck. The rivers are
24 full. You know, you could go up with a boat, but you
25 know, a lot of people travel by starting to go towards
26 the north side on the mountain side. And, you know,
27 they're getting a few here and there, but not in
28 abundance like they used to. So, they are staying within
29 their limits.

30 I know they had a meeting here not too
31 long ago, you know, but I was out of town, so but other
32 than that, you know, the waterfowl. You know, the ducks,
33 the geese, you know, still in abundance and getting ready
34 for winter. When everything starts freezing in October
35 or November to go upriver and fish for the grayling and
36 the trout. The river trout and grayling. So, you know,
37 the ice (indiscernible) are -- there's been so much rain.
38 It's real hard on a lot of people, you know, it's but
39 other than that, you know, the other thing that they
40 were concerned about is permits for muskox, you know.
41 And why do we have to, when there's only so many permits
42 given to the, you know, handed out to hunt muskox
43 locally, and we have to compete with the non-residents
44 and out-of-state just for a few permits. And that's one
45 thing that they were upset about. You know, we should
46 be a priority, you know. Especially when we're not
47 allowed to hunt any muskox, you know, and that's
48 something that the state, you know, the wildlife
49 department has to look at that. You know, they have to
50 understand, you know, the local people's side, the story

1 that, you know, we're not here to hunt, you know, for,
2 you know, we were there to put food on the table. You
3 know the hardships that villages have within the
4 northwest and in some of the North Slope villages where
5 you know, very low-income communities. There's hardly
6 any jobs. You know, so subsistence is a way of life for
7 a majority of the people, especially when they, you know,
8 pay a lot for whether it's electric bill or fuel bill.
9 You know, I know the Northwest Arctic Unit 23 area, they
10 pay a lot for it. So, we're very fortunate on the North
11 Slope that were subsidized by the - for, for heating,
12 but it's still, you know, food security, putting food
13 on the table for our needs, you know, especially for the
14 cold nights and winter. This last winter, we had a very
15 cold winter and long, you know, and everybody was
16 fortunate that they caught a lot of caribou and a lot
17 of whales and seals and oogrük that were stored away.
18 And, you know, it's about the food security. And I think
19 that's something that the Fish and Game, you know, needs
20 to understand more of the importance of subsistence to
21 the local people, especially the residents. You know,
22 we should be that priority, and be taken seriously.
23 Especially when it's, you know, supported, you know, by
24 the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory or the
25 Northwest Arctic Barrow Advisory, you know, and
26 supported by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and not be
27 shot down every time we put these proposals. But thank
28 you. And I think that's all I have to say. Good morning.
29 Good morning. Can you hear me? Okay.

30
31 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes, we can. We heard
32 you just fine. Thank you, Steve, for your report there.
33 And I share the same sentiments that -- for what you
34 were talking about on the caribou. They were not
35 following any of the ANILCA and Title 8 stuff. As far
36 as reflecting their actions and versus what actions were
37 taken against our take for the year, you're right. We
38 did we did accept it was 15 per year for that -- for
39 those locations around it was like the 26A remainder or
40 something. I forgot what it was deemed, but it was around
41 Wainwright towards Point Hope there. And I don't think
42 we should have accepted that, but that was what was put
43 in front of us to take. And here, you know, over the
44 last week, we're still rescuing folks from areas on the
45 Colville River that this location for the Western Arctic
46 Caribou Herd is talking about and being impacted. So, I
47 think what we're working with, you know, if we're
48 hunting, we're not going to be hunting more than 30 or
49 so miles from each of our locations. But here we've got
50 folks still flying in from Unit 23, flying into 26A with

1 aircraft and people taking the same resources that were
2 regulated on.

3
4 So, and there I don't think there's any
5 accountability there for them. So, it's kind of an issue.
6 And it's year after year, it's the same song that's
7 being sung. It's still going on, but here we're the only
8 ones that are taking any responsibility and taking a
9 lesser number. But, you know, anybody else can just fly
10 in and still take the same amount they were taking. So,
11 I share your sentiments there. Hopefully, they get it
12 fixed and reflect it to where it makes sense that it's
13 written in law for subsistence because, right now, it's
14 backwards. It's completely backwards to where they're
15 taking subsistence numbers and local numbers and
16 lessening them. But yet anybody else that's been flying
17 in there can just fly in and still take the same amount.
18 It doesn't make sense. Anyways, thank you for your
19 report. We have taken notes on it, and it sounds
20 consistent with what we've been fighting for over the
21 last couple of years. Here. There, Steve, thank you for
22 that. With that.

23

24 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Oh. Go ahead.

27

28 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. I just wanted to say
29 thanks for that response. And, you know, it's, you know,
30 I think the state, the wildlife and the fishing game
31 need to see it from the local side, you know, and
32 especially the Federal Subsistence Board, you know, of
33 how it impacts us, you know, especially residents, local
34 residents that, that's their food source, that's, you
35 know, especially in a high cost of living and low income
36 and the long, cold winter nights, you know, and trying
37 to keep that supply going and the hardships that some
38 of the communities have, especially when migration
39 routes are changing due to, you know, airplanes, guides
40 that are put in front of the leads when, you know, I was
41 told in our younger years that we always let the first
42 herd come through so that the rest will follow behind
43 it, you know. And it's changed in the last 20 years, you
44 know, they're not coming through their normal migration
45 routes like they used to. They are more spread out and
46 the population has depleted by more than half. And it
47 creates a hardship for a lot of the local communities,
48 especially within Unit 23, where they're all spread out
49 not just the North Slope Borough, but the Northwest
50 Arctic Borough and the Norton Sound. All the way down

1 past that way. You know, they don't go very south
2 anymore, like they used to. Is what they're saying. But
3 it just creates a hardship for a lot of the local
4 communities, you know. But thank you and good morning.
5 And I'm going to have to cut off this afternoon. I got
6 a funeral that I have to be at. So, I won't be calling
7 in this afternoon, but I understand you do have a quorum.
8 So. But, thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you, Steve. Yes,
11 we still do have a quorum as long as we still have, I
12 think, Esther. But thank you for that. And well,
13 everything is noted.

14
15 All right, moving on. We've got item
16 nine. We'll move over to public and tribal comment on
17 non-agenda items. And this, we're providing each
18 morning, today and tomorrow. So tomorrow, I think once
19 we get started, we'll provide a little sooner than we
20 did today. But public and tribal comment. We do have one
21 blue card here in front of us. Billy Adams. He stepped
22 out.

23
24 MS. DAGGETT: He had to step out.

25
26 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay.

27
28 MS DAGGETT: He'd like to see something
29 later.

30
31 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. We'll save this
32 for later. Anybody else on the floor here have any public
33 comment before we move to online? Carmen. Go ahead.

34
35 MS. DAGGETT: There were a lot of
36 questions and statements in Mr. Oomittuk's report. I'm
37 happy to answer questions if we want to entertain those.
38 I can also wait until my report and talk about a lot of
39 that stuff in more detail and save some time on the
40 front end. It is up to you guys how you want to have
41 that handled. But I just want to throw that out there.

42
43 CHAIRMEN FRANTZ: Maybe we'll save it for
44 when you're going to have your report. That way we can
45 consolidate and hopefully save some time. Thank you
46 though.

47 (pause)
48

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Anybody else online
2 with any public comments? Any tribal comments on non-
3 agenda items?

4

5 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. This is Steve here
6 for tribal comment. The native village of Point Hope.

7

8 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Steve.

9

10 MR. OOMITTUK: You know. Yeah. You know,
11 we know that the, you know, our jurisdiction doesn't go
12 out in the ocean very far. But we, you know, we know the
13 fishing. And, you know, we know we have a Beluga
14 Commission, we have a Walrus Commission, and we have a
15 Polar Bear Commission. And AWC and the tribes have
16 jurisdiction, especially on subsistence, you know,
17 whether on land or in the ocean, you know, goes a lot
18 further than what the state is. You know, the
19 governments, you know, there's a three-mile
20 jurisdiction, but the tribal government, you know, goes
21 up to about 60 miles. And that's something, you know,
22 that, you know, it's called the North Slope Subsistence
23 Advisory Council. And when you think about subsistence,
24 but you know, some of the tribal organizations want to
25 speak about, you know, the walrus and the polar bear and
26 the belugas and the whales, which they have these other
27 commissions, but they very rarely meet other than maybe
28 once a year. You know, I sit on the Beluga Commission
29 and Walrus Commission and it's once a year and a lot of
30 times, you know, it's never in the communities. I was
31 out somewhere else. And, you know, that's something that
32 they feel, you know, we're the North Slope Subsistence
33 Regional Advisory Council, you know, we do advise, you
34 know, and I think that, you know, hearing some of these
35 comments, (indiscernible) advisory is that talking of
36 all animals. And you know whether it's on the ocean or
37 land. But, you know, we're limited to, you know, where
38 we can, you know, talk about the fish that come up the
39 river, you know, in the ocean. You know, the seals, the
40 bearded seals. But it's kind of hard for some of the
41 tribal members to understand that about the North Slope
42 Subsistence Advisory Council and why they don't have
43 more jurisdiction than what they have. I know it's, you
44 know, we're (indiscernible). And so that is something
45 that they've always asked, you know, and I always tell
46 them, well, there's a Walrus Commission, the Beluga
47 Commission, there's a Polar Bear Commission that deals
48 with all those and AWC, you know. So. But thank you.

49

1 CHAIRMEN FRANTZ: Thank you for those,
2 Steve, there's kind of a short answer for this. The
3 North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee
4 would handle the majority of those directly. They do
5 work directly with the Ice Seal Committee, the Beluga
6 Commission, the Polar Bear, the Migratory Birds. So,
7 they're kind of a one stop shop for all of those that
8 you have discussed there. So, the North Slope Borough
9 Fish and Game Management Committee. Also, the AC but,
10 AC is moreover stuff that is not marine mammal based.
11 So, I would push you over in that direction, at least
12 for a few of those items. And they would have a broader
13 spectrum of discussion and, you know, more in-depth
14 detail for some of the concerns that you have. And they
15 do work directly with AEWG as well. So, there's a little
16 difference. We are subsistence here, but we're based
17 more over with just the federal and state lands for the
18 RAC here. It seems like that's where our focus is. And
19 we did have a discussion about this yesterday. A short
20 discussion that some of the whaling items that were
21 discussed we would end up having to pull AWC and NOAA
22 and if we were to start discussing those, but those
23 items are addressed by a different body than the Regional
24 Advisory Council. Hope that answers your question.

25
26 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Thank you for
27 that.

28
29 CHAIRMEN FRANTZ: Yeah. Quincy actually
30 went to go talk with some of the folks here a second ago
31 just to help address those concerns. So, they should be
32 getting back to you... And actually, Wanda brought up a
33 good point that Steve won't be here to address any of
34 your comments there, Carmen. Maybe we'll let you answer
35 some of his concerns while he's here. So, moving out of
36 the public and tribal comment for now. And Carmen Daggett
37 will address some of the concerns that Steve had on his
38 Council report.

39
40 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
41 Council. My name is Carmen Daggett with Alaska
42 Department of Fish and game area biologist for the
43 record. So, there was quite a bit of discussion about
44 questions regarding the Western Arctic Herd. The current
45 estimates for the Western Arctic Herd are 152,300. That
46 was the 2023 estimate to start with for Mr. Oomittuk
47 questions. About 350 non-resident -- about 350 caribou
48 a year are harvested by non-residents within the entire
49 RC 907 area. I have a flyer that Fish and Game has put
50 together that summarizes the current hunting regulations

1 and the changes that have occurred as a result of both
2 the federal and state board meetings that occurred this
3 last year. And so, those flyers are available on the
4 table over here for anyone that would like to take one.
5 And Steve, I can send you one. I think I have your email
6 address. So, for Unit 23, federal lands did close for
7 caribou hunting for non-federally qualified users from
8 August 1st through October 31st. So, that was definitely
9 one change that occurred from the Federal Subsistence
10 Board. And the federal regulations did not change for a
11 portion of 26A, but the regulations did occur to --
12 regulation changes did occur for the Wainwright, Point
13 Lay and Point Hope areas. And, so, under both the state
14 and federal regs harvest up to 15 caribou per regulatory
15 year. Only one of which can be a cow, is the new
16 regulations there. Again, these are all summarized in
17 the flyer that's handed out here. And I -- the whole
18 reason behind changing those regulations was to target
19 the Western Arctic Herd and to protect the Western Arctic
20 Herd that has been in decline for quite some time. And
21 to protect specifically the cows in that herd. So,
22 there's -- we can talk about these things in more detail
23 on the side if people want to. But I don't want to get
24 into any more detail than that right now. Steve, you
25 asked about collars, male to female ratios, there -- the
26 vast majority of collars that we have in the herd are
27 female collars. Collared females, there are a handful
28 of males that are collared in both the Western Arctic
29 and Teshekpuk and Central Arctic Herds. And
30 proportionately, it's something like, I don't know,
31 maybe ten, ten male collars at most to around 90 to 100
32 female collared animals for each herd, roughly. So, he
33 also talked about muskox permits. There are no non-
34 resident muskox permits available for your area. And
35 there are no non-resident muskox permits available for
36 26A. They're all -- they all go through the tier two
37 process for the state side of things. There's, several
38 permits that are available on the state side and several
39 that are available on the federal side for 26A but they
40 are all for residents only. So that's what I have for
41 Steve's questions. And if he has anything else, I'm happy
42 to try to answer those, but that's what I gleaned as I
43 was listening to him and his questions. And so. Thank
44 you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
47 Steve, while you're here, any other questions for
48 Carmen? While you're available?
49

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. Yes, I do. Did I get
2 it all? Okay. You know, I know they had reported how
3 many they, last year they had, they stated there were
4 two illegal hunters, guides that were brought into Unit
5 23, I think, or within the Borough you know, and I just
6 wanted to, you know, the fish and game or, you know, how
7 do they monitor that? You know, how did you know the
8 borough was 90,000 mi²? You know, and you know, how many
9 game wardens or state officials that are flying around
10 and actually looking at permits, if they actually have
11 permits to hunt or licenses? You know, within these
12 jurisdictions, whether it's 23 or 26 or on the East
13 Coast. And, you know, when we heard a report last year
14 that they only cut, there were only two that were illegal
15 hunting without state licenses. And, you know I'm
16 wondering, you know, here it is August and September and
17 coming up (indiscernible) until, like, October or so.
18 So, you know, I wonder if they're doing anything more
19 to monitor, whether it's out of state or non-residential
20 or local, you know. How do they, you know, how do they
21 monitor all these areas? You know, how many? How many?
22 Game, you know, back in the old days, they called them
23 game wardens. You know, you're flying around out there.
24 You know, we see a lot of increase in smaller planes
25 nowadays with the satellite images. You could see planes
26 that are flying around, you know I'm just wondering if
27 they are monitoring more and more. And how effective is
28 it?

29
30 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
31 member-

32 (Simultaneous speech)

33
34 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, go ahead.
35 Carmen, through the.

36
37 MS. DAGGETT: Chair to member Oommittuk.
38 Thank you, Steve, for your comments. So, there's a
39 trooper based in Kotzebue. Trooper Canteen, who covers
40 most of the area that you're in and he helps cover some
41 of 26 A as well. And then we also have trooper LeMay
42 based out of Cold foot. Those are Alaska State Troopers
43 who help enforce things on the state side. And I believe
44 BLM also has their own law enforcement agents as well.
45 I'm not sure how many they have assigned for our total
46 region, but I, I know, for sure, that we have at least
47 two wildlife troopers that are assigned to cover your
48 area and 26A. So that answers that question and as far
49 as I can tell, Mr. Chair?

50

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for that. Any
2 other questions for Carmen?

3
4
5 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, I, you know, I didn't
6 quite hear exactly the numbers of non-resident licenses
7 or, and the number of out of state licenses that were
8 given out for 2023. I think I heard some numbers that
9 you said, but can you repeat that number? And if you
10 have that, you know, and how many do you actually have
11 a number for local people that purchased licenses to
12 hunt within Unit 23 or 26a. Do you have those numbers?
13 You know, because I know, you know, for them to hunt
14 within those areas, they have to get a hunting license.
15 And what exactly is the state giving out? And, you know,
16 and you mentioned three state troopers that covers all
17 these areas. And you know, do they actually check, you
18 know, I know the main area is Kotzebue, where they're
19 coming in or going out and there's a lot of guides that
20 come from whether it's from Fairbanks or from the South
21 or even in Kotzebue area that, you know, I'm just
22 wondering, do the guides have to have a permit to fly
23 into some of these areas? You know, do they actually
24 have a permit or a...

25
26 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to member
27 Oomittuk again. Carmen Daggett for the record. So,
28 guides and transporters are two different permits.
29 However, I believe that both types of -- whether you're
30 a guide or transporter, you have to have some kind of
31 permit for operating in particular areas. So, the answer
32 is yes to your question for that, Steve. As far as the
33 non-resident harvest, the average annual non-resident
34 harvest is about 350 caribou are taken by non-resident
35 hunters, and that means that they are not from the state
36 of Alaska. They come from other states throughout the
37 country. So about 350 total for the entire RC 907 permit
38 area. You asked about what you would need, what they
39 would need. Both residents and non-residents need both
40 a hunting license and an RC 907 permit. And non-residents
41 need to get a metal locking tag. Local residents do not
42 need to get that metal locking tag. So, there's certainly
43 requirements for people who are harvesting, whether
44 you're a resident or non-resident, hunting for caribou
45 in these areas. You asked about total resident harvest.
46 I think the average harvest, throughout time, is between
47 8 and 12,000 caribou that are harvested annually by
48 residents between Unit 23 and 26a, the extent of the
49 West Artic Herd. So, and that includes some harvest from
50 Teshekpuk I believe too. So, there's -- that's a caveat

1 that needs to be made. But I think that that should
2 generally answer most of your questions. Steve, did I
3 miss any?

4
5 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Steve,
6 for the record again, I'm just wondering, out of those
7 350 licenses or permits that are given, how many actually
8 have guides that come in with airplanes into these,
9 whether it's Unit 23 or 26A? Do you have that number of
10 how many are flying in with their own guide service? Do
11 you have that number? Does it, like you mentioned, did
12 the state troopers that have to have that? I would think
13 that the state, you know, or, you know, having permits
14 coming in, whether it's within the Borough or Northwest
15 Arctic Borough you know, and how would you know for
16 catching, whether they're guided hunters with their
17 planes of catching illegal, you know, without a license
18 or, you know, I know we heard that they got two last
19 year and, you know, out of 350, you know, two is a very
20 low percentage of, you know. Especially when they don't
21 have very many troopers that are monitoring all these
22 non-residential hunters coming in, you know, how
23 effective is that, mainly?

24
25 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to member
26 Oomittuk. I heard you ask about the number of guides and
27 what percentage of the 350 caribou that are harvested
28 are using a guide? I don't know that number off the top
29 of my head, I can get that number. But I don't have that
30 number at my fingertips right now. But I can, I can look
31 it up and try to get back to you, Steve.

32
33 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. Thank you.
34 (Pause) Mr. Chair. That's all I had now. Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you, Steve. Thank
37 you, Carmen. All right, so we got out of public and
38 tribal earlier. We got the Council reports clarified,
39 and now we are moving to item ten: Council training. And
40 that's this Chair. Well, delegation of authority,
41 Kristin Morrow.

42
43 MS. MORROW: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
44 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
45 Kristen Morrow. I'm an Anthropology Pathways intern with
46 OSM. Today we're going to be doing a brief overview
47 training on delegation of authority within the federal
48 program. But just to start with, there are copies of the
49 training materials in your supplemental packet on page
50 seven. And those materials include a copy of the slides

1 and then also copies of two delegation of authority
2 letters that are applicable to your region, including
3 the delegation of authority letter for Unit 26C muskox
4 and the fisheries delegation of authority letter for the
5 Western Arctic Parklands. And it looks like we've got
6 the slides up on Teams ready to go. Is that correct? Are
7 we good to go with the slides? Okay, great. Okay. So,
8 just to start with, like I mentioned, we're going to do
9 sort of a brief training on delegation of authority.
10 Moving forward, OSM plans to do one training session at
11 each Council meeting. Just to help new Council members
12 become more familiar with the -Oh, Thank you. With the
13 federal subsistence program, and to serve as a refresher
14 on any particular topics for members who have been on
15 the Council for a bit longer. So, this training is meant
16 to be informational and is not an action item. You can
17 go to the next slide, please. Thanks. So, the objectives
18 of this training are to provide information about
19 delegated authority. To make sure that Councils are
20 familiar with where to find information about delegated
21 authority for their region and to discuss the Council's
22 role in delegation of authority. It's meant to be a
23 really broad overview of delegation of authority. There
24 will be some time for Q&A at the end of the training to
25 get into any more specifics, and I will do my best to
26 help with questions, but we also have staff online who
27 may be better able to answer specific questions that you
28 might have.

29 Let me go to the next slide, please.
30 Thanks. Okay, so to get into the sort of regulations
31 about delegation of authority, just to start, section
32 110-D within the federal Subsistence Regulations are
33 where you could find the details on the regulation that
34 allows the Board to delegate their authority to agency
35 field officials. And this delegate or this regulation
36 describes what sort of actions can be delegated to local
37 managers. So, for example, setting harvest limits and
38 possession limits, opening or closing seasons and things
39 like that. So, we'll try to just use plain language
40 throughout the rest of the presentation, just to sort
41 of give an overview of how delegation of authority works.
42 But for your reference, this is the specific regulation
43 that grants that authority to the Board. Next slide,
44 please. So, to start with, what is delegation of
45 authority in the broadest sense possible? Delegation of
46 authority is the transfer of limited decision-making
47 power from the Board to federal managers. And this
48 delegation of authority is what gives local federal
49 managers the legal authority to make in-season decisions
50 to help manage fish and wildlife populations. Next

1 slide, please. So as mentioned in the previous slide,
2 the Board will transfer this decision-making power to
3 federal managers and this could be National Park Service
4 superintendents, U.S. Forest Service district rangers,
5 or Fish and Wildlife Service refuge managers. And these
6 local managers often have a greater connection to and
7 understanding of the resource than anyone in Anchorage,
8 which is why it may be beneficial to delegate some of
9 that authority. Next slide, please. So, delegation of
10 authority is important for multiple reasons. It can
11 allow the federal managers to make quicker management
12 decisions as data and local knowledge become available
13 in season. So for example, sometimes the pre-season
14 forecast may show that a fish population will be strong.
15 But in-season data and local observations find that the
16 run is actually quite weak and will not meet escapement
17 goals. So, if the federal manager has been delegated
18 authority, they can quickly take action to close that
19 fishery to some or all users and try to optimize
20 subsistence opportunities. But if that authority hasn't
21 been delegated, those actions might not be able to happen
22 as quickly. Delegation of authority also allows for
23 people on the ground to provide local input to the
24 federal managers, and if that relationship is present
25 and open to that sort of back and forth. Next slide,
26 please.

27 So, delegation of authority can occur in
28 sort of two different ways. The first way is through
29 unit-specific regulations. Currently, only wildlife
30 regulations have delegated authority in these unit
31 specific regulations. And this is mainly because the
32 wildlife management has a lot of routine actions that
33 are taken every year, and it can make a little bit more
34 sense to have those annual actions in unit specific
35 regulations rather than in a letter. The second way
36 authority can be delegated is through delegation of
37 authority letters. And these letters allow federal
38 managers to issue special actions, which we'll get into
39 in a little bit. So, one example would be the federal
40 manager could have the authority to announce harvest
41 quota for a moose hunt each year before the season opens,
42 which can help optimize harvest opportunity and
43 conservation since the quota can be adjusted each year
44 based on the most recent moose population data. Next
45 slide, please. So, the way in which the Board delegates
46 authority depends on if it's delegated in unit specific
47 regulations, or if it's delegated in a letter. For the
48 delegation of authority letters, the Board can delegate
49 authority at any time. This is done through an
50 administrative action, which requires the Board to vote

1 either by email or at a Board meeting. But these
2 administrative actions to create new delegation of
3 authority letters don't go through the same regulatory
4 process as our fisheries and wildlife proposals. So, the
5 ability to issue a new delegation of authority letter
6 allows for quick action by the Board and for the Board
7 to be responsive to changing conditions. This method
8 does not require public input, but the Board does
9 understand the value of public feedback and may ask for
10 feedback from the Councils before creating or modifying
11 authority letters.

12
13 Sort of, in contrast to that, the
14 delegation of authority that you'll see in unit specific
15 regulations only can happen through the public
16 regulatory process. So essentially, it requires someone
17 to submit a proposal to change existing fish or wildlife
18 regulations during the regulatory cycle. So, in this
19 particular case, when public input is at the Board's
20 discretion for the letters, when it is pertaining to
21 unit specific regulations, both public and Council input
22 is required in order to establish that delegation of
23 authority. So, for example, to maybe help make this a
24 little bit more clear, this example that - oh, sorry.
25 Next slide, please. Thank you. So, this is an example
26 of a delegation of authority that's within unit-specific
27 regulations. So, you would see something like this in
28 the Harvest Regulations Handbook. And these only occur
29 in wildlife regulations and are for routine annual
30 management decisions. And this sort of authority is more
31 limited in scope than what we would see in the delegation
32 of authority letters. So, for this particular example,
33 the authority pertains to setting permit conditions and
34 announcing closures for a winter hunt. And if anyone,
35 including the Councils or the public, wanted to change
36 or modify the way this authority has been delegated,
37 they would need to submit a proposal through the
38 regulatory cycle. Next slide, please.

39 So, in contrast to those sort of unit
40 specific regulations, the delegation of authority
41 letters work a little bit differently in that when
42 authority is delegated through one of these letters, it
43 gives the managers authority to issue special actions
44 and special actions issued by federal managers are still
45 subject to regulatory requirements. So, for instance,
46 if it's a temporary special action that will last for
47 more than 60 days, a public hearing is required. If it's
48 an emergency special action that would not last more
49 than 60 days, a public hearing is encouraged if it's
50 practical, and the managers must also seek Council

1 recommendations, when the timing of Council meetings
2 allow. These delegation of authority letters can be
3 issued or rescinded by the Board at any time, and that
4 does not need to take place at a Board meeting or during
5 the regulatory cycle. And having it structured in this
6 way allows the Board to have a lot of flexibility and
7 adapting to changing conditions, and to make sure that
8 managers have the tools they need to manage and protect
9 populations and optimize subsistence opportunities.
10 Changes to the delegation of authority letters can be
11 requested by Councils or by the public, by sending a
12 letter to the Board, or by giving public testimony at a
13 Board meeting. The delegation of authority letters are
14 not currently published online, but if the Council or
15 members of the public would ever like a copy of the
16 delegation of authority letter, they can contact OSM or
17 your local in-season manager. Next slide, please. Thank
18 you. So, while the letters issued to managers are
19 specific to certain areas and species covered, the
20 general language and requirements are the same across
21 all letters. So, for example, all letters require
22 communication with affected parties such as the Council
23 Chairs and ADF&G, and tribal consultations must be
24 conducted, if practical. Federal managers may also defer
25 decisions on special actions to the Board if the issue
26 is very controversial and if time allows. Next slide,
27 please. Okay. So, we're going to very briefly go over
28 the differences between the fisheries delegation of
29 authority letters and the wildlife delegation of
30 authority letters. For fisheries, the scope of the
31 letters is broad and consistent across all letters. And
32 that is because each fisheries delegation of authority
33 letter covers all fish species in that particular area.
34 In the Federal Regulations Handbook. You'll see in the,
35 sorry, in the Fisheries Federal Regulations Handbook,
36 you can see the delegated officials noted through, if
37 you can see the slides, that box that gives sort of an
38 image of what it looks like in the handbook. And there's
39 also a full list on page 98 of the Fisheries Regulation
40 Handbook. In contrast, the wildlife delegations are more
41 numerous because each delegation of authority letter
42 covers specific hunts, species and management actions.
43 And most of these wildlife actions are routine and occur
44 each year. So, in the unit-specific regulations of the
45 Federal Wildlife Harvest Regulations book, that little
46 red triangle with a white exclamation mark will note
47 when a particular hunt is subject to potential in-season
48 management decisions through authority that's been
49 delegated. So that icon in the handbook is a good
50 indicator for local users to be aware of in-season

1 management actions that might be taken that could differ
2 or change the details of those hunt conditions that are
3 listed in the handbook. The full list of wildlife
4 delegated authority letters are on page 152 of the
5 Regulations Handbook and they're organized by federal
6 manager. And it lists the area, the species and the
7 specific authority that is delegated. So, the entire
8 letters themselves are not in the handbook, but the
9 details on what authority has been delegated and what
10 actions might be taken are completely listed in the
11 handbook, and the information on which local land
12 managers have been delegated authority, so that people
13 know who to contact if they have questions. So, for
14 example, on page 154, the Izembek National Wildlife
15 Refuge Manager has the authority to close moose season
16 in Unit 9D once bulls have been harvested. Another
17 example would be the Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park
18 and Preserve Superintendent has authority to change or
19 to manage the caribou hunt in a portion of Unit 12, and
20 they can open and close that season, announce the harvest
21 quota and determine the number of permits to be issued.
22 So those are just some examples of the ways these
23 wildlife delegation of authority letters work. Next
24 slide, please. So, in summary, we have delegation of
25 authority which means the Board transfers limited
26 decision making ability to federal managers. And this
27 authority can be delegated through unit-specific
28 regulations or through delegation of authority letters
29 for the unit-specific regulations Delegated authority
30 can only be added to or modified during the public
31 regulatory process, and this delegation needs to be for
32 routine and annual management actions. They are
33 currently only in wildlife regulations because wildlife
34 has more of these routine management actions, such as
35 closing seasons once a harvest quota has been met. Next
36 slide, please. Thank you.

37
38 For the unit-specific regulations, the
39 Council's role in the delegation of authority through
40 that process is by submitting proposals to change the
41 authority that's been delegated, or to make
42 recommendations to the Board on the associated
43 regulatory process uh -- associated regulatory
44 proposals, and to consult with local managers before
45 they make any special actions. Next slide, please. The
46 delegation of authority letters, in contrast, are a bit
47 easier for the Board to change or rescind, and it gives
48 the Board more flexibility to act quickly and respond
49 to changing conditions. Changes to these letters can
50 only happen or can happen outside the regulatory cycle,

1 and these delegation of authority letters give federal
2 managers the ability to issue special actions. The
3 letters are generally broader in scope, but subject to
4 more requirements, such as requiring public hearings.
5 And both the Fisheries and Wildlife regulations have
6 these delegation of authority letters. Next slide,
7 please. So, the Council also has a role in the delegation
8 of authority letters. Councils may request to add or
9 modify these letters by sending a letter to the Board,
10 or by giving input and testimony at Board meetings. The
11 Board may ask Councils for feedback on proposed changes
12 to a delegation of authority letter when time allows,
13 and the letter also requires that the local managers
14 consult with Council Chairs before issuing any special
15 actions. The Chair is encouraged to seek feedback from
16 other Council members when possible. Next slide, please.
17 So, some of the takeaways for this overview is that the
18 delegation of authority allows for quick in-season
19 management actions, which allows federal managers to
20 protect fish and wildlife populations and ensure
21 subsistence opportunities. Managers are required to
22 consult with affected parties before taking action,
23 which commonly includes Councils, ADF&G and OSM. The
24 Council Chairs are encouraged to bring in other Council
25 members when they're consulting with managers, and if
26 anyone has any questions, we can have sort of a
27 discussion or Q&A now, but you can also at any time
28 contact OSM or your local in-season manager if you have
29 questions about the delegation of authority in your
30 area. So, next slide, please. Thank you. So with that,
31 thank you. I will be happy to try to answer any questions
32 if you guys have any. But we also have staff ready online
33 to help answer any questions. Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for your
36 presentation. I'm sure Brian really likes this
37 information for proposals. So. All right. Any questions
38 from anybody online or on the floor?

39
40 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

41
42 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, Steve for the
43 record. Oh, yeah. Go ahead. I'll wait till she's done.

44
45 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead. Esther.

46
47 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
48 kind of imagine when she kept saying, next slide, because
49 I don't have nothing in front of me. So, my question is,
50 we just had our Yukon, we finally got seven members and

1 our second meeting sometime this week, and I'm sure we're
2 going to be writing proposals and stuff to get on the
3 meeting for our meetings for the Yukon. So, I'm trying
4 to see if we can, I don't know, maybe get a hold of
5 somebody because, like, me and the members, we're not
6 professionals on proposal writing. Just want to know if
7 we can get hold of the list that was just talking. It's
8 something new. And we're going to get started here with
9 the United Caribou Association of the Nunamiut. Thank
10 you.

11
12
13 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for your
14 concern there, Esther. Is there some way we can get a
15 packet with her and maybe go through it? At some point
16 after this meeting. And so, it sounds like we'll set up
17 getting you the packet and some clarification for you
18 after the meeting.

19
20 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you. Esther. Mr.
23 Oomittuk, did you have a question or comment?

24
25 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah.

26
27 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Go ahead.

28
29 MR. OOMITTUK: I kind of. Yeah. Just for
30 the record, Steve Oomittuk. I kind of missed the first
31 portion of this, and it's a proposal that is going to
32 be submitted to the North Slope Subsistence Advisory
33 Council to -- for delegation of authority for federal
34 managers like National Park Service US Fish and Wildlife
35 Services, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land
36 Management, and in your services. Are you asking
37 Regional Advisory Councils to support and give you some
38 of our powers to delegate certain services that are under
39 the umbrella of the National Subsistence Advisory
40 Council? Is that something that -- I think I don't
41 understand?

42 You know, because, you know, under the
43 umbrella of the North Slope Borough, you know and we
44 have a Home Rule government, you know, as a North Slope
45 Subsistence Advisory Council, you know, allocate some
46 autonomy to local government, the local government
47 accepts certain conditions. You know, as a Home Rule
48 government, you know, the North Slope Borough has the
49 power to decide which services they provide, the
50 policies they implement, the ways we solve problems

1 locally. You know, this North Slope Subsistence Advisory
2 Council is under that umbrella, and it feels like we,
3 even though, you know, (indiscernible - distortion). No
4 one has home rule states. The state constitution grants
5 municipalities the ability to have various types of laws
6 to govern themselves. We have that power. I don't feel
7 that we should give that power to these agencies when
8 we are under the umbrella of the Home Rule government.
9 We, you know, we have concerns. We have that power to
10 govern ourselves, you know, as, as the North Slope
11 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council of how we, you
12 know, how we feel. You know, we're concerned about our
13 food service, our you know, we want it to be stable. You
14 know, we -- here we are being asked to give a delegation
15 of authority to give these other agencies powers. It
16 just doesn't sound right to me. You know, we don't want
17 to diminish our powers as a North Slope Subsistence
18 Assistance Advisory Council as a Home Rule government,
19 we can govern ourselves. We have that. We're under the
20 umbrella of North Slope Borough as a Home Rule
21 government, and we shouldn't give that delegation of
22 authority to the state. You know, when we can govern
23 ourselves. That's -- that's I just wanted to put that
24 out. Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you, Steve, for
27 your comments. And yeah, it's kind of a difficult one
28 up north because it is the Borough. A lot of it is
29 federal land. There are portions of state land, but it's
30 a pretty common understanding right now, as far as I see
31 it, that the Borough does overlook a lot of the stuff.
32 There are different areas where the state, you know, has
33 more to do with their lands there. The federal side has
34 a little bit to do with the federal lands. But the
35 Borough is in pretty common understanding right now with
36 how things are working up here. And we do have a lot to
37 say in it. But once again, we have the Fish and Game
38 Management Committee, the North Slope AC, us, the North
39 Slope RAC, along with various other entities that are
40 different animals, marine mammals also the waterfowl.
41 So, I mean, we have a pretty common understanding to
42 where we have a good feel for what's going on, but we're
43 just one moving part out of maybe fifteen. And we're
44 doing what we can, and we're making sure our voice is
45 heard in the whole process of everything. So, it's a lot
46 to comprehend. I wish it was, you know, we could do it
47 one way and that's it. But we do understand your concern,
48 though. I do anyways, and yeah, we're definitely trying
49 to move forward with our benefit in mind for subsistence.

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1 Thank you, though. And did you have any clarification
2 for him, Kristen?

3

4 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes.
5 Just to clarify quickly, thank you for all of those
6 questions and that feedback. I just wanted to make sure
7 it was clear. That this is not a proposal currently
8 coming to the Council. This was a broad overview training
9 of how delegation of authority is currently structured
10 in the federal subsistence management program. So, the
11 presentation we just provided was an overview of the
12 existing structure, and not a request to the Council to
13 make decisions about changing how delegation of
14 authority works in the federal program. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you. Kristen. And
17 we do work with the Borough pretty often for
18 recommendations and proposals and input. They're pretty
19 well versed in it. Sometimes we lean on them a little
20 too much for the completion of the whole proposal. But
21 we do have a pretty good understanding with the Borough
22 and how these proposals work through different sections
23 of fish and game management issues. So, but this is a
24 great resource. If you would like more information on
25 it, maybe we can set you up along the same time with
26 Esther and the, and the packet. If you haven't received
27 it yet for the supplemental there, Mr. Oomittuk.

28

29 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, sir. For the record,
30 Steve, thank you for the clarification. I know I missed
31 a portion of it and I found it on my email. So, and
32 thank you for clarifying that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. So, with the
35 completion of the delegation of authority --

36

37 (Simultaneous speech)

38

39 MR. OOMITTUK: To get a better
40 understanding. Thank you. Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you. Up next, we
43 have item 11. Do we know how long this one's going to
44 be?

45

46 MS. CHAPPA: Mr. Chair, this is Gisela
47 Chapa for the record. And it is basically a briefing on
48 some proposed changes. We have Ms. Kendra Holman on the
49 line to give the Council updates and information about
50 this item. And I don't believe it's going to take a long
time. I just got a message that perhaps five minutes.

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CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. Yeah, we'll move on with item 11, then. Kendra.

MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council, can you hear me alright?

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes, we can hear you really well.

MS. HOLMAN: Perfect. So, my name is Kendra Holman, and I'm a wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. This morning, I'm going to provide a brief overview of the proposed changes coming to the wildlife delegation of authority. If we can have the slide, is it -- okay, it is moved forward. So, this is just meant to be a brief introduction for the Councils and to provide additional opportunity at further meetings in the future to kind of review and comment on this. So, the Office of Subsistence Management is proposing to move the delegation of authority that is existing in the letters that Kristen just talked about into the unit specific regulations. So, while staff have not thoroughly reviewed every single delegation of authority letter for the wildlife side, a vast majority of them are very routine actions that happen every year, such as things like announcing harvest quotas. So, with that -- putting those into routine decisions, into the unit specific regulations is more appropriate. And issuing -- then issuing special actions every year. So, this provides a clear public process for changing the delegation of authority letters through the regulatory proposals. It will decrease the administrative burden on the federal managers by eliminating the regulatory requirements associated with the special action when they're done under the delegation of authority. So, the timeline for these proposed changes will be next March. So, March of 2025 will be the approximate time frame for the next opening to submit wildlife regulatory proposals. And at that point in time, OSM will submit a proposal to move wildlife delegation of authority into unit specific regulations and rescind many of the existing letters. So again, this -- we haven't gone through all of them. We're still working through that to determine which ones this will be happening to. And then in the fall of 2025, So, next year, your fall meeting, the Councils will be able to consider and make recommendations at that time on this proposal. And then April of 2026, at the regular wildlife regulatory meeting, the Board will take final

1 action on this proposal to rescind the delegation of
2 authority letters and put it into unit specific
3 regulations. So, thank you, Mr. Chair. That's my kind
4 of brief overview for the proposed changes to the
5 wildlife delegation of authority. If you have any
6 questions or concerns feedback, anything? Again, this
7 is just a kind of a heads up for the Councils. Kind of
8 introducing the idea and what's potentially going to
9 happen. And for the future, so you guys all know about
10 it when it comes back before you next fall. So. That's
11 all I have. If you have any questions or answers --
12 things I can answer.

13
14 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you very much for
15 the update. And yeah, looking forward to what's going
16 on in the next season with it. All right. Looks like
17 after the briefing we have action items. Is this
18 something we want to take on after lunch? Yeah. So,
19 what's the wish of the Council here is, we break until
20 one? What do you what do you think? All right. Well,
21 looks like we're going to take lunch and reconvene at 1
22 pm.

23
24 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, that sounds good.
25 And just for the record, this is Steve, and I should be
26 able to call in at one, but I am going to be signing off
27 about 1:45 to go to a funeral. So, but I should be there
28 for some other action items. Hopefully you'll get them.
29 So, one o' clock?

30
31 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yep, 1:00. And if you
32 need to be away, I believe we will have a quorum still
33 after lunch. Anyways. So, thanks for letting us know.

34
35 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Thanks. All
38 right, we'll meet back at 1:00 pm.

39
40 MS. HUGO: Okay. Mr. Chair. Bye.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (On record)

45
46 MS. CHAPA: Good afternoon, everyone.
47 Again, Gisela Chapa for the record. And we're going to
48 go ahead and get started in a couple of sec -- not
49 seconds, minutes.

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1 MS. HUGO: Hello.

2

3 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Good afternoon. We're
4 just about to get started back up here in about a minute
5 or so.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 All right, everybody, it's 1:10 pm in the afternoon.
10 Looks like we'll get back on track here. We got some
11 action items coming up here. Up next. So, it looks like
12 we need to push through some action items on number 12,
13 agenda item number 12. Action items. Go ahead and read
14 them out to me maybe? Or any suggestion?

15

16 MS. CHAPA: Gisela Chapa, for the record,
17 and, Mr. Chair, I just wanted to also let it be known
18 for those that are calling in that Mr. Peter Earl
19 Williams is in the meeting as well.

20

21 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: (Pause) Welcome aboard
22 there, Peter.

23

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. So, I guess
27 maybe we'll just do a quick roll call just to see if
28 somebody is online here. But we do have four here. But
29 yeah, we should check to see if our other members are
30 on.

31

32 MS. CHAPA: Sounds good. We'll start with
33 Ms. Wanda Kippi.

34

35 MS. KIPPI: Present.

36

37 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Oomittuk.

38

39 (No response)

40

41 MS. CHAPA: Ms. Esther Hugo.

42

43 MS. HUGO: Here

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45 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Esther. Brower
46 Frantz.

47

48 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: I'm here.

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50 MS. CHAPA: Peter Williams.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Here.

MS. CHAPA: Your mic.

MR. WILLIAMS: Here.

MS. CHAPA: And Quincy Adams.

MR. ADAMS: Here.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you there. So, we do have a quorum. Action items, looks like we have a quite a few coming up here. And there was something you guys had mentioned about the process behind, like if we're going to accept one, it affects a different one. Is that what you had mentioned yesterday. Maybe if we can get some clarification on it here before we make some motions.

MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council members. We're going to be going -- we're going to be covering the fisheries regulatory proposals in the next few minutes. And the proposals, the reason we're bringing the proposals before you, is -- you have C&T for these proposals, but they're in the Yukon area. And The proposal you're talking about that's connected is we have two fish proposals which were submitted to the Office of Subsistence Management, and we have two closure reviews. And the closure reviews are reviewed every four years. And there when the Federal Subsistence Board closes a fishery, then they have requested staff to go back and review that closure to make sure it still should be in place and there are some closures that we have that were brought over when we first took the regulations and created them from the state. So, they were they were actually closures we carried forward from the beginning of the program. And some of those have been reviewed now. And so, we're going to start off and we're going to have two fisheries proposals. And then the second proposal is directly tied to a closure review. And so, we'll go over we'll go over the proposal. And then I'll bring up the closure review second and explain that to you. So, I've got I've got some just some brief notes because they're cross over. And then we'll just walk through them. And then the Council can decide if they want to make a motion or if they want to defer to

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1 the home region or what exactly the Council would like
2 to do. Does that sound good, Mr. Chair?

3

4 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: That sounds good to me.
5 So, what is the wish of our Council on these? Do we want
6 to defer these to their home region for them to make,
7 make changes to? Additionally, she mentioned that we
8 only have C&T, customary and traditional use, so we only
9 cross over to them every now and then. And for me, I
10 think it would make sense to defer to their home region
11 so that they can make their own recommendation. But
12 what's the wish of the Council?

13

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Mr. Williams.

17

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Something that we should
19 consider, too, is supporting one another in a tribe so
20 that, you know, we have better understanding. No, we
21 just support them --.

22

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay, well, I think
24 that's the same thing as deferring it to their home
25 region.

26

27 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council members
28 currently the -- these proposals were submitted, a
29 couple of them were submitted by individuals and a couple
30 of them were submitted by RACs. But because this is the
31 first meeting of our season, you'll be seeing the
32 proposals before the people who submitted them will be
33 seeing them to comment on them. I just wanted to make
34 that clear. Oftentimes, this meeting is one of the last
35 ones we have, and then we know what the home region
36 wants to do with the proposals. But right now, I have
37 no information about what the home region wants to do.
38 So, while I appreciate Mr. Williams' comment, I can't
39 tell you what kind of action would support them because
40 they haven't made a decision yet.

41

42 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Any other discussion on
45 these? So Kanuti River and Bonanza Creek. Those are --
46 sorry. That's -- one second.

47

48 (Pause)

49

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Sorry about
2 that. Uhm, where was I? Okay. Kanuti River and Bonanza
3 Creek. These locations are pretty far south, even from
4 AKP. And we -- the impact on us regardless of what the
5 change is going to be. It's going to be really minimal.
6 So, as far as what I'm seeing here, I think deferring
7 to their home region is probably the, the most
8 streamlined way for us to do this. Other than, you know,
9 us being that we only have C&T making a change before
10 them, even seeing it wouldn't make sense to me. So at
11 least that's for my discussion. Part of it, anyways,
12 would be, is that it would make sense just to defer
13 these to their home region. These are fairly limited
14 access locations. And I mean, most of us are only going
15 to be traversing through here if we're driving to and
16 from Prudhoe and are probably not going to be fishing.
17 But, I mean, we do travel through these locations
18 occasionally. But, yeah, what's the wish of the Council?

19
20 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead Quincy.

23
24 MR. ADAMS: I'd like to go for unanimous
25 consent to defer this proposal for the Kanuti River and
26 Bonanza Creek. To defer to the, to their homelands of
27 the western interior people.

28
29 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead.

32
33 MS. KIPPI: I second the motion.

34
35 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Seconded. Any further
36 discussion on this?

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

39
40 MS HYER: Mr. Chairman. Yes. Just to make
41 it clean, if you'd allow me, I'd just like to read the
42 number, the name of the proposal and the OSM -- the
43 OSM's conclusion. Just so we have it on the record and
44 then you can vote on your motion.

45
46 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay, do you recommend
47 we do all four of these?

48
49 MS. HYER: Just the name? Okay. I'm just
50 going to read the name for the record and then you can

1 vote on your motion. Just so we know what the what the
2 proposals are. Okay. Okay.

3
4 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Are we doing these
5 individually or is there?
6

7 MS. HYER: Yeah. There's just four and
8 I'm going to just read the number and the name, so we
9 know what you're voting on. Okay. And then you.

10
11
12 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay one at a time.
13 Okay.

14
15 MS. HYER: So, we have Fisheries proposal
16 25-16 Kanuti Bonanza. Then we have Fisheries proposal
17 25-17 Delta River. And then we have Fisheries Closure
18 Review 2305 Delta River. And then we have Fisheries
19 Closure Review 2502 Nome creek. Okay. That's all I
20 needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Council members.

21
22 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you. We were on
23 second and discussion, so I guess we'll do these
24 individually. So, we have a second for FP 25-16 to defer
25 to their home region.

26
27 MR. ADAMS: Question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Question's been called
30 for. All those in favor of deferring FP 25-16 Kanuti
31 River and Bonanza Creek year types and harvest limit.
32 Say aye.

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 Those opposed? Same sign.

36
37 (No comment)

38
39 Hearing none, motion passes to defer FP
40 25-16. All right. The next one that we have is just like
41 the one we just did. Just different location. Well, to
42 rescind FP 25-17 Delta River Rescind closure and add rod
43 and reel with limits matching state. What is the wish
44 of the Council on FP 25-17?

45
46 MR. WILLIAMS: I shall move. Chair.

47
48 MS. HUGO: Chair.
49

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1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: We've got a motion, I
2 guess. Clarification on the motion. What are you moving
3 for? To defer?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. Motion to defer.
7 Was that Esther?

8
9 MS. HUGO: Yes.

10
11 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead. Esther.

12
13 MS. HUGO: I was going to make that
14 motion, but I'll second it.

15
16 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. Seconded by
17 Esther.

18
19 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

20
21 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Questions been called
22 for, all those in favor of deferring FP 2517 to their
23 home region say aye.

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Those opposed? Same
28 sign.

29
30 (No response)

31
32 Hearing none. Motion passes to defer
33 Delta River rescind closure and add rod and reel with
34 limits matching state which was FP 25-17. All right. The
35 next one looks like it was deferred before. Is that
36 correct? It says. So, is this the second time we're
37 seeing this?

38
39 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council members.
40 Yeah, that is a closure review. And it was it was brought
41 out and then they wanted to get more comment from the
42 home region before they passed it, so it was deferred
43 by the Board. Federal Subsistence Board.

44
45 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. All right. Is
46 there any recommendation that, that is being brought
47 forth before we make a motion on this? By anybody? OSM
48 maybe. No recommendation? Thank you. All right. So,
49 what's the, what's the wish of the Council for the
50 closure review for the Delta River, all fish?

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MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead. Quincy.

MR. ADAMS: Make a motion to defer.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Motion on the floor to defer to their home region FCR 23-05.

MS. KIPPI: Second, the motion.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Seconded by Wanda. Any discussion on the matter?

MR. ADAMS: Question.

MS. HUGO: Question.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Question has been called for. All those in favor of deferring FCR 20 305 to their home region, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign.

(No response)

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Hearing none FCR 23-05 has been deferred. All right. So, the next one is another closure review FCR 25-02 Nome Creek Arctic grayling. What's the wish of the Council?

MS. HUGO: (Indiscernible) Mr. Chair. I make a motion to defer to home region. FCR 25-02.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. Motion on the floor by Esther. To defer FCR 25-02.

MR. ADAMS: Second.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Seconded by Quincy. Any discussion on the matter?

MS. KIPPI: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Question has been
2 called for. All those in favor of deferring FCR 25-02
3 to their home region say aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
8 sign. Hearing none, FCR 25-02 is deferred. All right.
9 We've got item C on this. This one's a 2026 Fisheries
10 Resource Monitoring Program. Let's see. So, PINs
11 development and partners for Fisheries monitoring. Karen
12 Hyer and Kristin Morrow.

13
14
15 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council members,
16 I passed out a draft document to you that has the
17 priority information needs for the Fisheries Resource
18 Monitoring Program. And I just wanted to quickly review
19 that the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is a
20 funding program through the Office of Subsistence
21 Management. It's a competitive grant process where
22 investigators apply to get funding. And the funding is
23 -- is given out every other year. So, we're on a two-
24 year cycle and unfortunately, the last cycle because of
25 our move to DOI and some other budgetary issues we had,
26 we didn't have money to support any fisheries resource
27 monitoring projects. So, that list looks very similar
28 to the list you saw two years ago. And we started with
29 that list in identifying the PINs and the PINs drive the
30 research. So, the investigators will look at those PINs
31 and then decide what research projects to put in. So,
32 it's really important that that list is complete with
33 everything that you feel is important in this region.
34 And we started -- we started with that draft list, and
35 we met with Mr. Oomittuk and Ms. Itta, and they gave us
36 some feedback on the list. And so, they helped us draft
37 the -- they helped us with the draft list, which we're
38 now bringing before you. So, do you need a minute to
39 read through the list? Because I know that a couple of
40 you have seen it before, and it's new to two of you. Do
41 you want a minute to read through it? And then we can,
42 I'll go item by item to discuss it? Let me just give you
43 a minute to look at it.

44
45 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I don't have a
46 list, so I'll just play it by ear. Thank you.

47
48 MS. HYER: Yeah. We're going to go
49 through that list item by item here in just a minute.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: It is pretty short as
2 well. Can we just read through the whole thing?

3
4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

5
6 MS. HYER: So, Mr. Council, Mr. Chairman,
7 Council members, do you want me to read through the
8 whole thing? Or do you want to read it one by one? And
9 you can -- I can get your input as we go through because
10 we're going to have to -- I'm going to need your input
11 on each bullet. So should we just start, and I'll read
12 bullet by bullet?

13
14
15 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Oh yeah. Yeah. We'll
16 go through it individually.

17
18 MS. HYER: All right. So, before we
19 start, I just want to remind you that the program doesn't
20 fund habitat protection or mitigation, restoration or
21 enhancement. It doesn't fund happy hatchery propagation
22 and contaminant assessment. The Federal Subsistence
23 Board has decided that those issues are better addressed
24 by land managers. So, oftentimes if something if there's
25 a need that affects -- that they want some contaminant
26 work on, we'll ask them to go get that portion of the
27 funding from a different funding source. Okay. So, I'm
28 going to just start with the first one. And then you can
29 tell me if you think this is still appropriate, if you
30 think we should remove it from the list, if you think
31 it should be modified. Using traditional ecological
32 knowledge and or harvest monitoring, document new fish
33 species and changes in abundance, size, timing and
34 distribution of existing fish species.

35
36 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Sounds pretty
37 important to me.

38
39 MS. HYER: All right. Number two, using
40 traditional ecological knowledge and or harvest
41 monitoring, document the impacts of new or expanding
42 species or other fish that are important to subsistence
43 in the North Slope region.

44
45 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes. If we don't have
46 any previous documentation or study on it, then, you
47 know, it's always good to implement it.

48
49 MS. HYER: Okay. Any other comments?
50 Okay. The third one on the list, document the effects

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1 of climate change, including late freeze up on
2 subsistence fishing access, harvest and preservation,
3 and the impact of these changes on community wide harvest
4 levels and food security on the North Slope. Research
5 could investigate adaptations for continuing community
6 wide harvest levels where traditional preservation
7 methods are impacted.

8
9 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes, that would pertain
10 to the ice cellars and such. It's important.

11
12 MS. HYER: Yes. Okay. Number four
13 baseline fish habitat and water quality monitoring,
14 especially temperature, dissolved oxygen and silt on the
15 rivers and tributaries important to subsistence fishing
16 for communities of the North Slope region. Investigators
17 are encouraged to include overwintering areas.

18
19 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes, if that was
20 anything, it would be important, especially for the fish
21 mold issue. Yes, I think that's important. Thank you.

22
23 MS. HYER: Okay. And then number five,
24 distribution abundance and health of stocks of broad
25 whitefish on the Sag River. So I guess is the issue
26 still important on that river or should more rivers be
27 added to the list? I'd be interested in the Council's
28 thoughts.

29
30 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: So, the Sag River is
31 not heavily fished, but I would imagine, you know, they
32 do go back and forth between there and maybe the Colville
33 or close to the area. But a lot of folks I wouldn't say
34 directly hunt or fish on the SAG River. That's an
35 industrial location. So, the only folks that would fish
36 there are industry related individuals or somebody just
37 passing through every once in a while. So, I guess if
38 it was correlated or migrated from there to another
39 community, then I could see it. But I could also see
40 that this location is being selected because it has
41 access. And it's, I mean, you have a location there, but
42 the relevance of it to us, is pretty low.

43
44 MS. HYER: Okay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: But, you know, it's I
47 don't know. Maybe we can talk to our NSB folks over here
48 that can maybe pitch us a recommendation.

49

1 MS. HYER: Okay. That's great. Come on
2 up. No. Don't stop. I do have I do have. So, we can --
3 we could -- we could generalize it, and we could say
4 broad whitefish on important subsistence rivers. Or we
5 could be specific. It's just whatever the Council wants.

6

7 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

10

11 MR. ADAMS: For this distribution,
12 abundance and health of stocks on the broad whitefish.
13 I know there's Ikpikpuk river where a lot of where a lot
14 of people go for their fish to pollock River, as
15
16 well as Meade River and Atqasuk area where they heavily
17 depend on them.

18

19 Okay. And also, the Inaru as well too.
20 It would be good to get those rivers as well to where
21 there is not so much industrial activity.

22

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Sounds good. You had
24 the same idea that, that we did. So, I do want some
25 information from you guys that you might have a little
26 more than I do on that.

27

28 MS. HYER: Okay, hang on just a second.
29 Mr. Adams and Mr. Turk, could you I got it Ikpikpuk,
30 Meade, Inaru and I thought there was a fourth one in
31 there.

32

33 MR. ADAMS: Tupaagruk

34

35 MS. HYER: Tupaagruk

36

37 MR. ADAMS: T U P A A G R U K

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS: T U?

40

41 MR. ADAMS: T U P A A G R U K.

42

43 MS. HYER: Thank you, Mr. Adams.

44

45 MR. SFORMO: Hi, this is Todd Sformo,
46 North Slope Borough Wildlife Department. Yeah. I think
47 the idea of listing or just using the word subsistence
48 rivers would be really important, because there are
49 other rivers, such as Fish Creek and things like that,
50 where broad whitefish are taken. So maybe subsistence

1 rivers is broad enough to encompass whatever you know
2 you need for these rivers. The other thing is that broad
3 whitefish definitely move a lot. Move, can move a lot.
4 So, there's been some fish tags of fish tagged at Prudhoe
5 Bay that made it all the way down to Ocean Point, and
6 that's a long distance. So, they have to go through the
7 ocean part and then all the way down to, you know,
8 freshwater. So, it might be even though the Sag River
9 is more of an industrial access the movement of these
10 fish might just overlap with that industrial river as
11 well as more subsistence rivers. So that is something
12 to consider.

13
14 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. So, beings that
15 you had said something that the same fish that were
16 there went over to Ocean Point would warrant not removing
17 that then from because, you know, that could be a suspect
18 of the mold that they're having. So, but yes, we do have
19 a pretty large list of rivers to be added subsistence-
20 wise, though. Thanks though, I mean, that gave us enough
21 info to at least keep it on the list and not remove it,
22 because it could be a portion of why there's mold there.
23 Maybe. Theoretically. Thank you.

24
25 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council members.
26 So, if I understand you right, I'm going to leave the
27 Sag on. I'm going to have the list that Mr. Adams gave
28 us. And then I'm going to say and other rivers important
29 to subsistence. So that doesn't -- that directs them to
30 look at the rivers that you recognize is important, but
31 it doesn't exclude them from going elsewhere if there's
32 a reason.

33
34 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. Yes. Thank you.

35
36 MS. HYER: Okay. Number six, seasonal
37 movement in overwintering habitat of whitefish on the
38 Colville Delta.

39
40 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes. That's really the
41 only source of an abundance of mold on whitefish. So
42 that's we're definitely keeping that one in.

43
44 MS. HYER: Okay. (Pause) All right.
45 Number seven is document population structure of
46 abundance and health of lake trout in Peters, Schrader,
47 Chandler and Shayn- Sha-

48
49 MS. HUGO: Shainin lakes.

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1 MS. HYER: Chandler, and how do you say
2 it?

3
4 MS. HUGO: Shainin lakes.

5
6 MS. HYER: Shainin lakes and these are.
7 These are lakes important to the area of Anaktuvuk Pass.
8 So, I'd be very interested in what those RAC members had
9 to say about it.

10
11 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Those are really
12 important. Especially like for Kaktovik around Schrader
13 Chandler. They're in between both of them. So those are
14 pretty important species for -- and they, they're known
15 for catching them. Yes.

16
17 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead.

20
21 MR. WILLIAMS: Last meeting we had, we
22 said something about studying fish on our home to tack
23 them upon.

24
25 MS. HYER: What was the name of that
26 again?

27
28 MR. WILLIAMS: The last meeting we had,
29 I think, yesterday spoke about studying our fish, you
30 know.

31
32 MS. HYER: Yeah, we did have that. And
33 the refuge, the Arctic refuge had had spoken about it,
34 and it was of interest to them also, and there was
35 interest in that. But again, we didn't, we weren't able
36 to fund any projects. So, there are investigators that
37 are interested in studying those lakes. And so, we're
38 going to put it back in the call when we ask for
39 proposals this year again, because we weren't able to
40 fund any of those studies last time. So, you are correct.
41 We did discuss it. And we're going to we're going to put
42 it back in again. Does this list look pretty complete?
43 Should I put like something else like other lakes, or
44 is there something you'd like to add?

45
46 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter. I
47 would definitely if you're if you have interest of
48 something similar to this for your location, I know you
49 have more than a few lakes, so go ahead. List them.

50

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, there's a few lakes
2 there, but you know, mostly Chandler and Shannon Lake
3 that's where they mostly fish. And in summertime they
4 fish on Anaktuvuk River. But they just want to study on
5 those because, you know, if you, if you fish a
6 (indiscernible) or is uneatable, 'cus some time that sun
7 (indiscernible), sun (indiscernible) it just get the
8 fish mushy in the back. So that's something to be
9 considered. But thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Which lakes were those
12 again.

13
14 MR. WILLIAMS: That was not on lake, but it was on a
15 (indiscernible). Something the young boy said.

16
17
18 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay.

19
20 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

21
22 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council members
23 I just wanted to point out, too, that this pin is
24 specific to lake trout. Are there any other species you
25 feel like should be on the list?

26
27 MR. WILLIAMS: No.

28
29 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead. Esther.

32
33 MS. HUGO: Studies (indiscernible)
34 Grayling. Also, I know they did studies back early in
35 2000. I can't remember the year, but I know they did
36 studies at that time around fish and they did give us a
37 presentation, but it would be great if this continues.
38 We've got more lakes like Jack (indiscernible), I mean,
39 Barrow. That we do go fishing at summertime. Most of the
40 time it's rod and reel due to lack of fish netting,
41 which hopefully comes back one day, but that would be
42 great. We got more lakes here like Tulugak
43 Lake, Natvakruak Lake (in Native lake)(2:53), Banana
44 Lake. We've also got a Banana Lake south of us, and
45 anywhere our people go fishing in the summer. The
46 locations. Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. It looks like we
49 might have to do some -- maybe get a complete list from
50 you of locations.

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MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council members I'm happy to follow up via email with her to get that list. We have it on the record. Because it's just a little bit hard for me to hear, so I will do that with her.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you.

MR. HYER: I'll have her help me clarify my notes. Okay. Number eight, health and abundance of Arctic grayling populations in Anaktuvuk Pass area. And I just heard her speak a little bit about that. And again, I can follow up too. And if --

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: That's a yes.

MS. HYER: Yeah. If Mr. Williams has anything to add.

MR. WILLIAMS: No, I just I'm following. Okay. Thank you.

MS. HYER: Okay. Super, all right.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Todd.

MR. SFORMO: Thank you. Todd Sformo, North Slope Borough. The other location where grayling is an important subsistence fish is Point Hope. And there have been a lot of discussions recently of -- kind of declining ability to catch some of these graylings. And so that's come up a number of times. So, I just thought I'd bring that out in case this is so specific. And it's an important place to, but it might be helpful to add one other location, at least. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you, Todd.

MS. HYER: All right, moving on, number nine. Evaluate changes in water level discolorization and mineral deposits, water temperature and reduced oxygen in major river systems associated with subsistence fishing resources in the North Slope region. And how these changes will affect fish vital for subsistence.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes. If I recall, just a few years ago, there was a pretty massive die off around the Dead Horse location or Sag River, or I forgot

1 which river it was, but it was around their lack of
2 oxygen and overwintered. And I guess there was wolverine
3 digging up the dead fish that were underneath. So, yeah,
4 I would say that's important enough to keep an eye on.
5

6 MS. HYER: Okay. And then the final one
7 document and investigate the possible causes of mold
8 disease and discoloration on broad whitefish in the
9 Colville River in the vicinity of Nuiqsut. Compare
10 environmental conditions to the Colville River,
11 including temperature with those at the Ikpikpuk River,
12 where whitefish are healthy, and mold has not been
13 observed to date. The investigators are encouraged to
14 draw on both stock status and trends and traditional
15 ecological knowledge research methods. And I did have a
16 very specific question here about the rivers, and if we
17 wanted to make it more general and talk about rivers
18 that had the mold versus general rivers that don't, or
19 if you want to keep it specific to the Ikpikpuk or and
20 we could also say that river or another river that was
21 not showing signs of mold.
22

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: So, I would think
24 that's the closest river other than the Sag river size-
25 wise, and maybe volume of fish. So, it would make more
26 sense. Some of the other locations that we had listed
27 are more tidal influenced locations. Salinity would be
28 different. And so, I think the Ikpikpuk would be one of
29 the most closely related locations to the Colville
30 versus, you know, the Sag. So, the Sag and Ikpikpuk
31 would probably be the best two comparisons to the
32 Colville.
33

34 MS. HYER: Okay and then the Ikpikpuk,
35 as I've heard here today, is -- sustains a more
36 substantial subsistence harvest.
37

38 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes. You would have a
39 lot of samples if needed. A lot.
40

41 MS. HYER: Okay Thank you.
42

43 MR. SFORMO: Mr. Chair.
44

45 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Todd.
46

47 MR. SFORMO: I was just going to mention
48 one other thing. So, it's a documented investigation uh
49 -- an investigation on broad whitefish in the Colville
50 there in 2022, I believe I could be -- or 2021. There

1 were three fish. So, it's very small, but there was we
2 documented mold on a leaf cisco on an arctic cisco and
3 a humpback whitefish. So, the numbers are very, very
4 small. But it isn't necessarily just broad whitefish.
5 So, I just wanted to bring that up in case you wanted
6 to make it more broad rather than just broad whitefish.
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. So, if you have,
10 I guess, documented instances of it, maybe if they don't
11 have the -- the information, maybe share that and I
12 would think the next highly harvested one is the Arctic
13 Cisco. But we definitely hear about that from Nuiqsut
14 pretty frequent -- I mean, not frequently, but we would
15 hear about it. So. Sure.

16
17 MS. HYER: So, then I'd put broad
18 whitefish and other species. Other subsistence species.

19
20 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay, yes.

21
22 MS. HYER: And that makes it general.
23 Okay. So that is the list that I had that I had developed
24 with the in draft form with the Council members. So now
25 is the opportunity for you to -- So, we've gone through
26 the list and everything on here is important. Is there
27 anything else that needs to be added? Now is the
28 opportunity to add anything else that you think needs
29 to be on this list?

30
31 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: No. In the draft phase,
32 I think we're pretty complete-ish for what it is. And
33 as you move along, I'm sure we'll figure out more along
34 the way.

35
36 MS. HYER: Absolutely. And again, this
37 is a, every two-year cycle. So, we'll be revisiting this
38 again in a couple of years. And hopefully in between
39 we'll be funding some projects. Mr. Chairman and Council
40 members, thank you so much for your time. This is super
41 helpful. And that is all I had.

42
43 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you.

44
45 MS. HYER: So, I do have one other very
46 small -- the partners program, one more very small agenda
47 item here and I will bring that up and then -- Oh, this
48 is a motion. This. Yeah. It's a - So, I need a motion
49 that this list is complete and represents what you are

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1 interested in putting into the PINs. So, I'd need a
2 motion for that.

3

4 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

7

8 MR. ADAMS: Motion to adopt the PINs for
9 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

10

11 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: And is that as modified
12 by our, our meeting today?

13

14 MR. ADAMS: Yes. As modified.

15

16 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Does that work for you
17 guys? As far as the motion? Okay. All right. Motion to
18 accept the PINs draft as modified by this meeting.

19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

21

22

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Seconded by
24 Peter. Any discussion?

25

26 MS. KIPPI: Question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Question's been called
29 for all those in favor of adopting the draft North Slope
30 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program PINs Priority
31 Information Needs, as modified by this meeting. Say aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
36 sign.

37

38 (No comment)

39

40 Hearing none. Pins has passed.

41

42 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council members,
43 I have just one more item. That's an informational only
44 item. But we have another program. We have a program
45 called the partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program.
46 And in that program, we -- It's a, it's a grant program.
47 It's a competitive grant program. And the intent of the
48 program is to strengthen Alaska Native and rural
49 involvement in the Federal Subsistence Management
50 Program by providing salaries to organizations so they

1 can hire a professional biologist, social science, or
2 educator within their organization. And currently, we
3 have seven partners working throughout Alaska, and we
4 have never had a partner in the Arctic. So, we'd be
5 really interested in any proposals that might come in.
6 We will be having a call for proposals either later this
7 year or early next year, and it will go through the same
8 process all our calls do, where we'll be notifying our
9 users via email. It will be posted on our website, and
10 then there will be a formal posting and grant solutions
11 telling them how to submit a proposal. But if you are
12 aware of any rural nonprofit organization that might be
13 interested in housing a biologist, an anthropologist,
14 or an educator or an outreach individual, please send
15 them my way. I'd love to talk to them, especially anybody
16 in this region, since we've never had somebody apply for
17 it successfully in this region. So that would be great.
18 And that's all I have. If there are any questions, I'll
19 take them. If not, please pass the word on and you can
20 pass my contact information on to anybody.

21

22

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. The closest folks
24 are probably some of the ones in this room. But I don't
25 know as far as the nonprofit, but any -- most of it is
26 for profit here. So, I don't know. I guess we can keep
27 an eye out.

28

29 MS. HYER: Yes, but they might have
30 friends. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all I had.

31

32 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you. So that
33 concludes item C. Moving on to item D. Dall Sheep
34 Management Strategy guidelines. Go ahead, Gisela.

35

36 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
37 Chapa for the record. And I'll just be sharing some
38 information on this item. The Western Interior Alaska
39 Regional Advisory Council wanted to share the document
40 they have drafted entitled Dall Sheep Management
41 Strategy guidelines. You're going to find it on page 121
42 of your meeting book. So, it's the book that is bound.
43 Management strategies such as this one are authorized
44 in ANILCA as part of an annual report and are limited
45 to within the Council's home region. The Western
46 Interior Council drafted this document after becoming
47 increasingly concerned with the decline of sheep in
48 their region and the lack of any action taken to attempt
49 to reverse this trend. They request that your Council
50 review this document and consider using it as a template

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1 to fit the North Slope region's needs for sheep
2 conservation and management. The Western Interior
3 Council has taken steps to help sheep in their region
4 by requesting a closure along the Dalton Highway in the
5 Brooks Range to all hunting for sheep on federal land,
6 forgoing the opportunity to be able to harvest sheep
7 themselves so that the sheep population has a chance at
8 rebounding. They suggest all regions look into this
9 option. If the downward trend across the state
10 continues, formal action would not be needed at this
11 time. If your Council wishes to review - sorry, if this
12 Council wishes to review and tailor the guidelines to
13 your region but may be needed in the future depending
14 on what your intentions with future sheep harvest
15 management strategies in the region might be. Thank you,
16 Mr. Chair.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: So, this is not an
21 action item?

22

23 MS. CHAPA: Not unless the Council wishes
24 to discuss how to tailor and or adopt the management
25 strategies provided.

26

27 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: I don't think I would
28 make them -- make a solid decision on this without maybe
29 referring to maybe our fishing game management committee
30 guys. And get some more information on this. That way,
31 if it needs to be tailored that we are better informed
32 on this. So, I think I would leave that until we get
33 further information and go through it with our other
34 constituents.

35

36 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead. Esther.

39

40 MS. HUGO: I agree, but then just west
41 of, east of us is Wiseman and Coldfoot and the areas
42 down north toward our Galbraith and Tulik. That a lot
43 of sheep, especially the rams, have not -- have been
44 declining and we will for the closure because we do live
45 on the site, and we depend on the sheep if we don't have
46 any caribou. And as far as the meetings on sheep. Our
47 sheep is pretty healthy within the gates going east and
48 west. But I'm very concerned and I'm glad for the closure
49 over here, east of us. And it was documented and I'm
50 just happy that it's a closure for them to get the rams

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1 and whatnot back up. It was a concern for us. So, I was
2 part of that, where we agreed on the closure. Thank you,
3 Mr. Chair.

4
5 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: So, the other thing.
6 Maybe I was thinking about this one as a different area.
7 Is this the one to where we were talking with Mr.
8 Reakoff? And if this, I mean, regardless if this goes
9 through, it will not affect any of the AKP hunts. Is
10 this the same one? Don't know?

11
12 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I believe it's
13 (indiscernible).

14
15 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: So. Yeah. I would look
16 into this a little more and not make any decisions at
17 this meeting.

18
19 MR. WILLIAMS: Here.

20
21 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

22
23 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter. Anyway, Jack
24 Reakoff been really bugging us about these action items
25 that's going on, and. And he brought a lot of attention
26 up about the highway. And he's on all kinds of different
27 groups, and I'm just kind of curious about that. He
28 wanted a corridor or something. He wanted something
29 going on. But some people were saying that do they got
30 a -- do they have a council on this kind of meetings?

31
32 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Williams. I
33 think If -- are you asking if there's, like, a council
34 that is interested in these strategies?

35
36 MR. WILLIAMS: No, I'm saying it's Jack
37 Reakoff. He's been representing this Western Ontario
38 migratory or something. How much, how much is on their
39 Council meeting members?

40
41 MS. CHAPA: How many Council members are
42 in that Council? I believe that's a ten council -- Ten-
43 member council. And Mr. Jack Reakoff is the Chair of the
44 Western Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council.

45
46 MR. WILLIAMS: The reason why I ask is
47 because he's been writing letters to a lot of these
48 council people. I don't know what he's got going, but
49 you know, we're very close to them, right close to him.
50 And we're just trying to find out, you know what these

1 procedures are? You know, he's been writing us a lot of
2 letters past years trying to get us to talk or something
3 that, you know, that's not in our district. Thank you.

4

5 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead.

8

9 MS. HYER: Yeah, we have Lisa Grediagin
10 with OSM online, and she has something to add to what
11 you asked earlier. She has an answer to your question,
12 earlier question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Go ahead.

15

16 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, this is Lisa
17 Grediagin. Can you guys hear me okay?

18

19 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes.

20

21 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. So just to answer
22 your earlier question about the Anaktuvuk Pass sheep
23 hunts and yeah, that's correct. The Western Interior
24 Council submitted a special action request to close
25 sheep hunting to all users in Units 2A and 25B west of
26 the Sag River. But yeah, that does not affect any of the
27 Anaktuvuk Pass sheep hunts. And then they submitted a
28 similar proposal that the Board adopted at their April
29 24th meeting to extend that closure for two more years.
30 And so that's, you know, kind of one separate regulatory
31 issue that -- the issue that the Eastern Interior
32 Council wanted to bring to your attention was these sheep
33 management strategy guidelines that they included in
34 your meeting book and just encouraging other regions,
35 including North Slope, to consider drafting a similar
36 guidelines for sheep harvest and management in your
37 region that then the Board would use when making
38 decisions on sheep harvests proposals in your region,
39 thanks.

40

41 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for that
42 clarification. That helps a lot. So yes, I think that's
43 what I would do is, is we would go through these
44 guidelines, take a look at them and go through with,
45 like I said, the rest of our other management committees
46 that are within our region to make sure we're all on the
47 same page before moving forward with this. Thank you.

48

49 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Do you need that in the
2 form of a motion? Or is that - No? Okay. Yeah, You guys
3 okay with that? Yes. You okay with that online there,
4 Esther?

5
6 MS. HUGO: Yes, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. All right. Looks
9 like we're done with Dall Sheep Management Strategy.
10 Guidelines will push it back and push it forward to our
11 other folks here. Let's see. Item e, annual report.

12
13 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
14 Chapa. For the record, I'm going to provide a brief
15 overview of the Board's FY 2023 annual report replies
16 to the Council. The materials for this agenda item can
17 be found in your supplemental packet on page 27. And
18 this is not an action item. In the supplemental packet
19 it's the one that is stapled, not bound.

20
21 MS. CHAPA: Okay, the Board -- The
22 Federal Subsistence Board met on August 7th and 8th,
23 2024, and appreciates your effort to communicate through
24 your annual report to the Board; issues outside of the
25 regulatory process that affects subsistence uses in your
26 region. In fiscal year 23, there were five topics of
27 concern on the Council's annual report. The first topic
28 was in reference to increasing incidents with guided
29 sport hunters for the North Slope region. And, while the
30 Board recognizes that these issues impact your Council
31 and communities and appreciates the Council for bringing
32 awareness to the Board, unfortunately, the Board has
33 little to no jurisdiction over the activities described
34 here because they do not directly impact subsistence in
35 terms of taking a fish and wildlife resources. Moving
36 forward, Board members, especially those who have
37 oversight of management activities outside of the
38 Federal Subsistence Management Program, will keep these
39 issues in mind and how they impact your region.

40
41 The second topic was in reference to
42 Cross Island Bowhead Whale concerns. The Board shared
43 this topic with the US Fish and Wildlife Service Marine
44 Mammal -- Marine Mammals Management Office, and they
45 responded that your Council's concerns about impacts of
46 climate change and erosion is also of importance to the
47 US Fish and Wildlife Service. As to the issue you raised
48 over whaling, the Board wanted to note for your Council
49 that under federal law, all whales, including bowhead
50 whales, are managed by the Department of Commerce, NOAA

1 fisheries, and they, as well as the Alaska Eskimo Whaling
2 Commission, would be best placed to address your
3 concerns over challenges associated with subsistence
4 harvest of whales, potentially novel diseases in Wales
5 and other questions pertaining to the subsistence
6 harvest of Wales. If the Council is interested in
7 reaching out to NOAA fisheries for more information. The
8 US Fish and Wildlife -- the US Fish and Wildlife Service
9 is happy to provide your Council -- provide me with a
10 name and contact information for additional follow up
11 on the topic. Topic three was regarding aircraft
12 affecting caribou migration and harvest. And the Board
13 recognizes that instances of wildlife harassment and
14 user conflict continue across Alaska and commend the
15 Council members for documenting these activities. The
16 Board suggests that when caribou are being prevented
17 from crossing the highway due to increased road and air
18 traffic, the incident be documented and reported to an
19 appropriate agency or company. Additionally, the Council
20 might want to consider working with the federal agencies
21 and oil companies to institute a hunter education and
22 outreach program for the North Slope North Slope region
23 to provide information to support hunters and oil field
24 workers. Topic four was regarding sport hunting effects
25 on caribou migration near Anaktuvuk Pass, and the Board
26 does not have jurisdiction over state lands and advises
27 the Council to send requests regarding analyzing color
28 data, caribou migration and fly-in hunters travel
29 activities directly to the Alaska Department of Fish and
30 Game and copy this Board in their request. Additionally,
31 as the Board coordinates and collaborates with the
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game on various
33 Subsistence use issues that do fall under federal
34 jurisdiction, we share your concerns and support -- They
35 share your concerns and support efforts by the state to
36 mitigate effects to subsistence harvesters. The last
37 topic in the Council's annual report was climate
38 concerns. And during the work session, the Board wanted
39 to add a little bit more comment on a response to this
40 concern. And Katya, I don't know if you have anything
41 else to add as of now, because this is still a draft
42 reply.

43

44 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yeah. Go ahead.

47

48 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Katya
49 Wessels for the record. Yes. So, the Board had a very
50 in-depth discussion this year in regards to the annual

1 reports that the Council submitted and replies, and they
2 wanted to add a little bit more to the replies, but
3 because the Board meeting just happened on the 7th of
4 August. There was not enough of time to prepare that
5 additional language to include in the replies. That's
6 why you have the draft replies in front of you. But we
7 will be finalizing the reply soon and you'll get copies.
8 And the Board had also wanted to add that the Board had
9 a very productive discussion, and the Board is striving
10 towards scheduling a regular meeting with the Secretary
11 of the interior, face to face or via Teams or Zoom or
12 something like that, so they can share the most important
13 Council's concerns with the Secretary directly and ask
14 for the directions or ask what can be done. Because a
15 lot of the times when the Council submit their concerns
16 in the annual reports, the Board doesn't have authority
17 over the topics that are presented to them, so they
18 really cannot do anything. They can sympathize. And they
19 -- It provides them with an overall picture of what's
20 happening in the region, but they can't actually do
21 something. So, that's what they're hoping to talk about
22 with the Secretary directly. So, what can they do if
23 anything? Because they the current composition of the
24 Board, the current members of the Board, they truly want
25 to help the Councils. So, they they're going to try to
26 establish this kind of connection with the Secretary.
27 So that's what I wanted to add about this year's replies
28 from the Board. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you. That's the
31 same thing I got. I mean -- to be honest, this was a
32 huge waste of time. This whole thing, like I got nothing
33 but, "Sorry, we can't help you." That's literally all
34 this says to us. So maybe we need to revamp what we
35 should be saying to them versus you know, should we have
36 even attempted this? This this whole thing took months,
37 months for us to receive a sorry. We can't help you.
38 That's all it said to us. So, and, yeah, we can discuss
39 with NOAA, but there was not even worth forwarding it
40 to the NOAA or NMFS, NMFS, or whoever it needed to go
41 through. It was just the, sorry, we can't help you.
42 Thank you. So it didn't even get forwarded. And I know
43 they have these contacts. So, I wish it was more helpful,
44 but at the same time, I can see why it isn't. And this
45 made it very clear. Thank you for that, though. Now we
46 know. All right. Was that it for the annual?

47
48 MS. CHAPA: Yes, Mr. Chair. Again, Gisela
49 Chapa and that was just information on the reply from
50 the Board on the FY2023 annual report and the next issue

1 or the next topic is for the Council to discuss issues
2 or topics to identify for the fiscal year 2024. And that
3 one is a motion -- requires action from the Council. And
4 if the Council is ready, I can give a little bit more
5 information about that.

6
7

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay.

8
9

10 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. So, it is time
11 once again for the Council to decide what issues to
12 include in its annual report. The annual report provides
13 a Council the opportunity to communicate information,
14 concerns or requests to the Federal Subsistence Board
15 and to address the directors of each of the four
16 Department of the interior Agencies and the Department
17 of Agriculture, Forest Service in their capacity, as
18 members of the Federal Subsistence Board, both title
19 eight, section 805 and 50 CFR part 100, section 11
20 describe the specific matters not generally addressed
21 through the normal regulatory process that may be
22 contained in an annual report from the Councils. OSM has
23 updated its guidance on annual reports, and it has, and
24 I'm going to provide it for your reference. If you give
25 me a second, I'll pass it around (pause).

26
27

28 So, as the Council discusses the issues
29 to include in the report, I may follow up with some
30 questions more specifically to ask if the Council wishes
31 the Board to take action or if a topic in the report is
32 shared to maintain the Board informed of regional
33 concerns. And this will help me draft the topics of your
34 annual report based on the information provided in the
35 discussion today. And, of course, the Council will be
36 able to review the draft report at the Winter 2025
37 meeting and provide edits and additional information to
38 the report.

39
40

41 MS. WESSELS: I want to wait for Chair
42 Brower to return to the room (pause).

43
44

45 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Sorry I missed all of
46 that. I had to answer that call.

47
48

49 MS. CHAPA: No problem. Gisela Chapa, I
50 can give you a very abbreviated version of what I just
read. I just put on your seat the updated guidance from
OSM on the annual reports. So, it is basically time for
the Council to discuss the topics to include in the FY24
annual report to the Board. And as the Council is
discussing these topics, I may have some follow up

1 questions for the Council to ensure that whenever I'm
2 drafting the report, I have accurate information at the
3 same time. Know the purpose of the of the item to the
4 Board. Like if it's strictly to keep them updated with
5 information or topics of regional concern, or if the
6 Council requires the Board to take more specific action,
7 like forwarding a letter to the appropriate agencies or
8 getting contacts so that the Council might be able to
9 get more information on a specific topic, just things
10 of that nature.

11
12 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: (Pause) Yeah. Sounds
13 good. Filter our annual reports to where they can do
14 something about it. All right. Very good.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair. You can share
17 other concerns just if you indicate that it's
18 informational for the Board. So, this way, they don't
19 say sorry, we cannot help you, but at least they will
20 be informed that it's an issue in the region. But if you
21 want the Board to do something concrete that, you know,
22 just kind of give it a little bit more thought.

23
24 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Sounds good. Thank you
25 for the update and the information. Go ahead, Peter. Oh,
26 okay. Looks like you're raising your hand. Yeah. All
27 right. Future meeting dates.

28
29 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. So, this is the -
30 - the time for the Council to discuss those topics that
31 would be included in the annual report. This annual
32 report. This is an action item.

33
34 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Oh, sorry. Yeah, I
35 skipped that last part. Okay. And sorry. Can you say
36 that again? Just so we can get a better idea of what
37 we're going for here.

38
39 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Gisela Chapa again, for
40 the record, and yeah, these are basic discussion among
41 Council members between the Council to identify the
42 topics of most importance to the Council to share with
43 the Federal Subsistence Board. And we had a short pre
44 meeting yesterday to go over the agenda. And at that
45 time both you and Ms. Kippi had spoken about muskox and
46 caribou. So, if there's a specific topic that the Council
47 would like to discuss and see what would be the most
48 important information to convey to the Board in this
49 report. That's what you'd be discussing now.

50

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. So, identify
2 issues for 2024. One of the issues was something that's
3 currently being worked on, but I haven't seen a
4 conclusion or heard of one yet other than they're working
5 on it, was the count for the muskox. Both on the federal
6 and the state side or even the Borough side, if it's
7 available. Or a conjunction of all of them having an --
8 a more accurate count for openings and also I guess
9 clarifying or fixing some of the areas if it hasn't been
10 fixed yet, because I know there was an area I was hunting
11 and muskox were in it, but that area was in a gray area.
12 So, it was basically in like a one mile section, but
13 they were all in there. And the boundary for the state
14 side was on this side. The boundary for the federal side
15 was on this side. So, if I ended up getting one there,
16 even if I had a license or a permit. Somebody actually
17 got one and it was in there, but they had a permit. And
18 that, just clarification and making sure things are
19 jiving between the two. So, work, I guess, on both sides
20 of that. But I haven't looked at it in a year. Maybe it
21 is fixed by now. We did talk about this, I think, last
22 year. Yeah. So, the count, though, is the biggest one.
23 Not so much the fixing of the maps. We can always work
24 through that. But making sure that we have adequate
25 counts for things that we're opening up and they're
26 really dialed in to caribou, but you know, almost no
27 information on muskox, but yet they're opening on both
28 sides. So, a clear and concise count for the entire
29 North Slope I think is due. And it will help streamline
30 and maintain your, your efforts to open these animals
31 for us to be utilizing as resource. So, I think that
32 that should be done on a larger scale. The other one,
33 caribou, we do -- uh, go ahead.

34
35 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
36 while we're on the topic of muskox I just wanted to be
37 sure that I identify the ask to the Board if this is
38 going to be an informational topic to share with them,
39 or if there's specific actions that the Council would
40 like to request.

41
42 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Carmen.

43
44 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
45 members. This is Frances Carmen Daggett with Alaska
46 Department of Fish and Game. I had planned to talk about
47 muskox in some level of detail during my presentation,
48 where we will talk about plans for doing survey work.
49 We'll talk about the map issues that you're talking
50 about. I actually have a map as part of my presentation

1 that talks, addresses your boundary issues that you were
2 talking about. So, that it's kind of my wheelhouse and
3 I'm happy to talk about that stuff. I'm not sure it
4 necessarily needs to go through this. You can do whatever
5 you want in that department. But I'm just telling you,
6 like, there's -- we're going to talk about that stuff.
7 It's coming. Mr. Chair.

8
9

10 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you. Anything
11 else that we need to add for the annual report? caribou,
12 Fish, moose muskox anything concerns from any of the
13 other locations or recommendations? Go ahead, Brian.

14

15 MR. PEARSON: Brian Pearson, for the
16 record. Wildlife Biologist for the North Slope Borough.
17 Mr. Chair, we've heard a number of concerns about non-
18 residents and resident harvest of caribou on the North
19 Slope. This body could put a request for that information
20 to get harvest numbers from each of those resident
21 harvests from outside the region. I think that, that
22 information is there. It just needs to be compiled. As
23 well as number of caribou harvested. I know Carmen
24 mentioned it's right around 350 for non-resident
25 harvest, but there were some other questions about how
26 are they accessing that? Or is that 350 individual
27 flights to, you know, harvest one? Or, you know, I think
28 I think the state has some of that information. That
29 might be something valuable that I've heard repeatedly
30 in a number of meetings, that request for information.
31 Just a thought. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you. So, it looks
34 like we're adding that. Requesting information of
35 resident and non-resident hunters for Unit 26A and
36 specifically to fly-ins or chartered, well, fly-ins or
37 guided hunters in the location.

38

39 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

42

43 MS. HUGO: I don't know if this could be
44 on the topic, but we would like, I mean, my understanding
45 is, Brian, and nobody at North Slope Borough had
46 (indiscernible) where the caribou is at. And if it was
47 an issue for our community, for some of our members
48 posting them on Facebook, which, you guys should have
49 told us, the whole community, the first time. We need
50 those maps, unless we charter a plane and see how far

1 they are. This is not fair. This is, this should not be
2 happening. But that's what I needed to say.

3
4 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you. It looks
5 like we got Brian here for maybe a little more
6 information on the maps. I believe we will be providing
7 or getting maps provided. Just that it was just a time
8 constraint that he cannot send immediate data from these
9 locations of, you know, where they are right now. That's,
10 you know, the -- it's not even legal to fly in and hunt
11 them the same day. But they, it sounds like we are
12 getting maps provided, but, Brian. Go ahead.

13
14 MR. PEARSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Esther, this is Brian, for the record. Yeah, I, you
16 know, I, I'm not able to send those maps. It doesn't.
17 You know, it's unfortunate that you're upset about that,
18 but those maps haven't done you any good in the past. I
19 give you a very good description of where the caribou
20 are, and I'm diligent in that. So, you know, yeah. If
21 caribou. You know, and I know there have been times
22 where caribou have been close to the community, and the
23 community has not let hunters go out. So, I let you know
24 where the caribou are. I just can't send the maps. Thank
25 you.

26
27 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair. Thank you. I
28 understand clearly. I mean. It's just so confusing and
29 frustrating. Because I'm wondering how the cops can go
30 flying and land somewhere in the river - riverbed, why
31 can't we access that part of the North Slope Borough?
32 This is, this is our food. Something we care about and
33 for the rest of our lives. And if you guys told us.
34 Okay. Community of Anaktuvuk Pass don't post this. I
35 mean, it's already posted a lot of stuff just right back
36 in the, in the foothills. It's just the same. I don't
37 know what's the reason. I need a reason. We need a reason
38 for that.

39
40 (Pause)

41
42 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther, for
43 those concerns. So, maybe in the future we should include
44 a proposal of maybe evaluating the amount of fly-in
45 hunters that are, you know, leaving from Happy Valley,
46 that are leaving from the Floatplane lakes, that are
47 leaving from any of those locations or Umiat and the
48 quantity of them. And how much is too much? And where
49 they're going, because I know the state has, they're
50 supposed to be provided their locations for all of their

1 drops, but maybe an evaluation of how many flights that
2 are being allowed by any of the permits, even the NSP
3 permits. I know they have some of them have NSP permits.
4 All of them are supposed to, but that's not the case.
5 So, maybe at some point we should put a proposal in for
6 that to be evaluating the amount of fly-in hunters that
7 they're allowing to these locations. And if a
8 disturbance of that many aircraft and drops is a real
9 issue. So maybe that will narrow it down instead of
10 doing something with the caribou, maybe we'll do
11 something with the, with the guide, the guides and the
12 transporters themselves and do an evaluation on that.
13 So, if we can't do it one way, maybe we'll do it the
14 other. So, it didn't work. It hasn't worked for the last
15 ten years asking for help on one side. So, you know, we
16 might have to start looking the other way. Kind of like
17 we're doing with the draft here. So, if it's not working
18 by asking this way, we need to try a different strategy.
19 And this, I think, makes sense. So yeah. And it does
20 pertain to what we're discussing as well. So fly-in
21 hunters, maybe not even just for that location, for the
22 location that we're currently having issues with is
23 further to the west as well. Any thoughts on that? I'd
24 appreciate it. And maybe we can put that down as
25 something to identify for the annual report.

26
27 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr.
28 Chair. I feel like that we're always put down. I mean,
29 this is our survival, way of life. Thank you. That is
30 it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Understood. Thank you.
33 Esther. Go ahead. Gisela.

34
35 MS. CHAPA: Okay. I just wanted to follow
36 up and make sure that I am keeping track of all the
37 items to include in the report. At the beginning of the
38 discussion -- Oh, and I should also add that if the
39 Council needs a little bit more time to think about
40 potential items, we can maybe move this to later in the
41 day or maybe tomorrow so that we'll have more time to
42 discuss and go over the briefing, the annual report
43 briefing that I just shared with you. But if the Council
44 wants to go ahead and include the topics that you've
45 just discussed, I want to make sure that I have the
46 right information, if I can just confirm.

47
48 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Sure. Yeah, I guess
49 we'll go through it now. That way. I don't want to push
50 anything back to the end. To where we would be extending

1 the meeting. This, if we don't identify anything further
2 than muskox, caribou, flying guided hunters are, I think
3 are the big ones. And transporters have been maybe some
4 of the largest concerns we've had over the last couple
5 of years. So, that one, I think we need to get hashed
6 out. But I really think we should finalize this before
7 we move on to anything else. This is one that might
8 stick around if we if we put it on the back burner.

9
10 MS. CHAPA: Okay. And I'm also getting
11 some information from my colleagues that perhaps the
12 Council could also get more information during agency
13 reports. And also get more ideas for topics to include
14 within the annual report as well. That's an option.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Sure. Go ahead.

19
20 MS. WESSELS: Katya Wessels. In other
21 words, what he is saying is that the discussion can
22 happen on this now, but you don't need to make a vote
23 to include these topics on the annual report until the
24 end of the meeting in case something else comes up and
25 you want to add it to the annual report. It's not like
26 we're trying to prolong the meeting, but if people will
27 think of something else later, we don't want them not
28 to be able to include their topic.

29
30 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Sure, you guys want to
31 push this back to the end of the meeting and finalize
32 this before we adjourn tomorrow, maybe? Think about it,
33 how we might word it, or even just put it in a draft
34 form to where at least we know what's going to be in it.
35 I mean, do we have to finalize this, ready to go. before
36 the meeting is over?

37
38 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead.

41
42 MR. ADAMS: I think, Quincy Adams, for the record, I
43 think it'd be a good idea to wait till the end of the
44 meeting because some topics might come up now and before
45 now and to the end of the meeting by tomorrow, there
46 might be some specific related issues that might come
47 up that can be added on.

48
49 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Everybody
50 okay with pushing this back to the end of the agenda?

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MS. KIPPI: I agree.

MR. WILLIAMS: I agree, but can I say something before we move on?

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yeah. Go ahead, Peter.

MR. WILLIAMS: When I was coming back from Anaktuvuk yesterday, there were about 30 hunters that -- right there. And there are a lot of people that are trying to go home they're backed up because all these hunters took over unto Coldfoot, five planes into Coldfoot with hunters. And now when I went to the international airport, there were 50 more hunters there. They're all going different ways, but they're mostly going up toward, where they're -- I was talking to said to Happy Valley or somewhere, he said. And that's (indiscernible). And, you know, what they're doing is they're just blocking off the caribou that are coming through migration. And when I was down to Anchorage this morning, 40 more people came in from states, caribou hunters. And I was sitting by a couple of these guys. They're talking about \$9,000 just for sport hunting. And that's a lot of money for state, and state has been pushing us aside for the last 20-30 years. They are about 90 miles from Anaktuvuk. And we cut them off and landing and landing in Anaktuvuk. And then we then they could stop going to Bettles because we talked to the Bettles people about it. What's going on? And now Coldfoot is coming, sneaking in on planes with little planes. And people see it from the village, but we can't get the license on the plane because it's too far. They're flying too low. So that's kind of disturbing the caribou. When they're flying low flying. It scatters them out, just like what the helicopter does. And I see it in. The sports hunters is getting pretty bad. They said down around Kuskokwim River. So, there's something we got to, you know, say something about this because, you know, this thing is getting pretty serious. Thank you. Chair.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for that, Peter. Yeah, we're pretty aware of it. We know the numbers are a lot higher than what they're providing. Because the majority of some of the other folks are not even registered. They'll just fly up here and go where they want and fly straight back. So, we know they're out there in high numbers. The Haul Road is just inundated with hunters driving in, boating in, going out on

1 hovercrafts, you name it. They've got chartered flights,
2 multiple flights a day. And we've been -- we've flown
3 out to multiple of their locations on gun site. And
4 barricaded the whole gun site on both sides, and we see
5 it. So, we know they're there. But, you know, they're
6 all, it's a yearly thing for them. But thanks for the
7 information there. And it extends a lot further west to
8 and even out of Kotzebue. So, it's, we know it's there.
9 It's all the way across the Brooks Range. They'll fly
10 in from Arctic Village and some other places, too. So,
11 we know they're there. It's just a matter of like, these
12 things that we're saying, all the guided hunters coming
13 in, and, you know, we've been complaining about it for
14 over a decade that I've been listening to meetings and
15 -- but it's -- yeah, it's something that we, we
16 definitely need to work with.

17

(Simultaneous speech)

18

19

MR. PEARSON: Those are hunters.

20

21

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right.

22

23

MS. KIPPI: So, you want to testify?

24

25

MR. PEARSON: I was going to ask if I
26 should state my name. But I didn't think I-

27

28

MS. KIPPI: You ought to write in, write
29 it in first, and they'll call you.

30

31

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: So, it was brought to
32 my attention that we should probably take a ten-minute
33 break. So, we can discuss our, one of these items. So,
34 let's take a ten-minute break.

35

36

(Off record)

37

38

(On record)

39

40

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Identify issues for FY
41 2024 annual report will be ongoing until we finalize the
42 meeting. So, well push this back. Do we need to put that
43 in a motion to move it or just move it? Okay, so we'll
44 push this back till the end of the meeting.

45

46

MS. CHAPA: But Mr. Chair can I just
47 briefly summarize two topics I think the Council just
48 discussed?

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes.

2

3 MS. CHAPA: Would that be, okay? Okay.
4 Let me see, okay. Gisela Chapa for the record. And so,
5 I believe so far, I've heard two topics. The first one
6 I was the need have a count for muskox and the second
7 one is related to caribou to potentially request harvest
8 numbers for caribou. Is that correct?

9

10 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes. That's correct.
11 And also, maybe putting in for potential funding sources
12 requests for -- how did we word this? funding sources
13 for identifying maybe -- Or monitoring and identifying
14 guided and transportation resources. And also, for maybe
15 a separate one for -- What was it? For muskox. Yes. So,
16 in the event that we don't get an accurate count, that
17 we might be able to get provided funding to do something
18 like that.

19

20 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
21 again, just to clarify. As of right now, the Council is
22 discussing potentially requesting the Board for funding
23 to do research to monitor guided hunts for caribou and
24 or potentially request for funding to have more accurate
25 counts for muskox.

26

27 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes. Guided or transportation? That
28 being -- well, I guess we don't have to be real specific
29 on it. And not so much for like being surveillance but
30 the impacts that it would have on the subsistence for
31 the area. So, it's, you know, it's just not that they're
32 looking at it as like, "hey, we're trying to see who's
33 coming in" No, we want to see how you're impacting our
34 subsistence. And are you diverting you know; do you have
35 enough flying - fly-in hunters that you're diverting as
36 the migration is happening in high volumes and
37 frequencies? Because that's what I think is happening
38 is its very high volume not only just the guided stuff,
39 but also the, like the air boats, the boats around up
40 and down the Sag River and multiple locations, even the
41 state was putting in for a new parking spot for their
42 float plane landing location. So, there have been a lot
43 of infrastructure being put in. But if they're not being
44 on the other end of it to where they're monitoring what's
45 going on once they leave that location. And somebody
46 needs to be.

47

48 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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50 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. When I spoke with some people, they asked me about -- reason why, they asked me is, how come we can't make a caribou commission? Just like a working group. Because they asked me that you guys deal with caribou a lot in Anaktuvuk. And, you know, I brought this attention up before, but we're trying to run a committee to Anaktuvuk. But we never know where, nowhere equals no funding. So, we're just trying to come up with some kind of conclusion so we could get something going. But caribou migration hurt. We're having a problem with that hunting guidance.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for that. So, I guess. Yeah, I mean, if you want to write down something to where you would like something like that in the report, you know, you are definitely welcome to do so.

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. When I get home, I'll speak with my coworkers, and I'll bring up something. And if it's okay with Esther. Esther's listening. You're around?

MS. HUGO: I'm on, I hear you.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. We'll, I guess, have that discussion before the end of the meeting, if you'd like to put it on or not. So, sounds good. If that's all the updates we have for the annual report right now, we can move on to item F and continue with annual report modifications as we go.

MS. CHAPA: Sounds good. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, Gisela Chapa, for the record. And the next item is to confirm the Winter 2025 meeting date and location. And the calendar is found on page 128 of your meeting book. And that is the book that is bound. As of right now, the dates are set for Monday, February 24th to Tuesday, February 25th, 2025, in Utqiagvik and I just wanted to share that hosting our meetings on a Monday can present some logistical challenges with Council member travel and also with meeting logistics. So, I wanted to ask if the Council could consider perhaps moving the dates later in the week so that we could allow for easier travel from our Council members?

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. What's the
2 wish of the Council? Is there a motion to move it to the
3 20th and 21st?

4
5 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, it's Esther. Is
6 that for the next meeting? The meeting?

7
8 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Oh, sorry. I was
9 looking at it wrong. I meant 27, 28, not 2021. Yeah. So,
10 we're open to a motion.

11
12 MS. CHAPA: If I may, Mr. Chair, just to
13 clarify, I think what I heard is that potentially moving
14 our meeting date from the 24th and 25th to the 27th and
15 28th of February, that would be a Thursday and a Friday.

16
17 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: That's correct.

18
19 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, I so move to
20 change the dates for February 27th through 28th for the
21 NSRAC change of date. If everybody else approves.

22
23
24
25 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: We have a motion on
26 the floor from Wanda to move it to February 27th and
27 February 28th of 2025.

28
29 MR. ADAMS: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Seconded by Quincy.

32
33 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

34
35 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: question has been
36 called for all those in favor of moving the dates to
37 February 27th and 28th of 2025. Say aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
42 sign.

43
44 (No comment)

45
46 Hearing none, the February dates have
47 been moved.

48
49 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
50 again, this is Gisela Chapa. So, now we need to confirm

1 the fall 2025 meeting date and location. And that
2 calendar is found on page 129 of your meeting book. The
3 meeting dates are set for Tuesday, September 16th to
4 Wednesday, September 17th of 2025, in Utqiagvik.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Or you can propose to move
7 the dates too.

8

9 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. So, what's
10 the wish of the Council?

11

12 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: There's a -- the dates
13 are September 16th and 17th of 2025 or 202 -- yeah,
14 2025. And now would be the time to either accept these
15 dates or move it. Would require a motion in order for
16 this to get pushed through. If we'd like it to stay, we
17 can do that. If we need to move it, we can do that as
18 well.

19

20 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

23

24 MR. ADAMS: What's your guy's August
25 schedule look like? Like these two days, 19 and 20 will
26 be on a Tuesday and Wednesday of 2025. Oh, the window
27 opens. Thats okay. All right. So, it'd have to be in
28 September, October.

29

30 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: So, later in September
31 and early October is definitely the whaling season. But,
32 it would also entertain, you know, possibly going out
33 to see the whales. If that was something you'd like to
34 do.

35

36 MS. WESSELS: That's why I wasn't going
37 to say anything.

38

39 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: We might even have
40 enough for a quorum for you to be out whaling.

41

42 MS. KIPPI: I mean, that is a
43 possibility. That week of October 20th we only have one
44 Council meeting that week. Schedule currently.

45

46 MS. CHAPA: And if I can follow up on
47 that. So, we normally don't want to schedule more than
48 two RAC meetings in a week because we have staff that
49 participates in the meetings, provide additional

1 information or present information to the Councils. And
2 so that's what Ms. Wessels was talking about.

3

4 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead.

7

8 MR. ADAMS: We'll see if they got that
9 whole week of September 22 to 26 open.

10

11 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: It is open.

12

13 MR. ADAMS: Would that work for you guys
14 coming up in September 22nd to 26th or somewhere within
15 that timeframe? I know not on a Monday would be
16 Logistically not be good for you guys. Who knows, maybe
17 September 23, 24th if at all possible.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: It works for all of them.

20

21 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair. Yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead.

24

25 MS. KIPPI: Are we changing the dates due
26 to this other meeting above?

27

28 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: We don't have to change
29 them. But like they were saying, it might be conflicting
30 because the two RACS submitted for the same week there.
31 Do we have conflicting dates for your staff members for
32 this group? So, it would be okay to leave it? So, we
33 could do September 16th-17th or 23rd-24th. Up to you
34 guys. So, if you have dates that work better for you,
35 we can do that. If not, we can leave it how it is.
36 (silence) Yep. Like you were saying, we can change it
37 at the next meeting as well, if we need to. So, what's
38 your wishes?

39

40 MS. KIPPI: Just leave it as is. Unless
41 we change it for the next following week. I make a
42 motion.

43

44 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Motion has been made
45 to leave the dates. And if we need to, we can change it
46 to the next meeting schedule by Wanda.

47

48 MR. ADAMS: Second.

49

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Seconded by Quincy. Any
2 discussion?

3
4 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Question's been called
7 for all those in favor of leaving the dates of September
8 16th and 17, 2025 the same say aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Those opposed? Same
13 sign.

14
15 (No comment)

16
17 Hearing none. Motion to leave the dates
18 as they were. Passes. And if we need to, we'll move it
19 on the next meeting date. All right. What do we have
20 next? Do we have any tribal government reports? Anyone
21 online? Tribal government reports.

22
23 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: What about native
24 organizations? Anybody? Any native organization reports?
25 Other organizations. ADF&G, do you have any reports? Go
26 ahead, Carmen.

27
28 MS. DAGGETT: So, Mr. Chair, this is
29 Carmen with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for
30 the record. I'm going to hand out these flyers that
31 discuss the changes in caribou hunting regulations. And
32 I would also like to direct you to page 32 of your
33 supplemental materials. I'm just going to grab something
34 quick here. Give me -- Okay. So, you know, we're going
35 to start with the page 32 of your supplemental materials.
36 Again, my name is Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department
37 of Fish and Game, for the record. And I help conduct
38 research on the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd specifically. So,
39 the most recent photo census estimate was done in 2022,
40 and not without effort for trying to do one in 2023 or
41 this year for that matter. But the most recent estimate
42 is 61,600 caribou and there were short yearling spring
43 surveys that happened in April of this year. About 3,600
44 caribou were looked at during that time period. We keep
45 track of short yearling counts, mostly to keep track of
46 the proportion of adults to caribou that are that made
47 it through the winter and are being recruited into the
48 caribou herd for the next year. And that gives us some
49 idea of overwinter survival. And, and then how they can
50 be contributing to the growth of the herd. It's a trend

1 sort of metric. So, this year we saw about 20% were
2 short yearlings which is higher than average. The
3 average is or -- the ten-year average is about 15%. One
4 caveat with this year's survey is because I was out
5 having my yearling, my little one, as you saw earlier,
6 I had some help with other fish and game staff. And so,
7 it was conducted out of the fish and game office in
8 Kotzebue and was focused in the more southern part of
9 the Teshekpuk Caribou Range. And oftentimes, in my
10 experience, the caribou that are further south in that
11 range often have higher short yearling survival through
12 the winter than the ones that are further north on the
13 North Slope, so that number might be a little bit higher
14 for that reason. We also conducted a summer calving
15 surveys this summer. Again, I did not do this. My
16 colleague did it for me. And when she looked at it, she
17 found that about 45% of the females had signs of being
18 pregnant or had a calf with them, which is relatively
19 low in comparison to the ten-year average of 68%. So
20 that's certainly something that is a little bit of
21 concern for sure. And we're going to continue to monitor
22 that. And couple that with the future photosynthesis
23 estimates and keep our eyes on that number for sure and
24 continue monitoring that. We also keep track of adult
25 female mortality throughout the year. And we do this by
26 looking at how many of our collared caribou have died
27 throughout the year. I gave you the 2022 - 2023 estimate
28 for adult female mortality. That was about 10%. We just
29 finished the 2023-2024 adult female mortality estimate,
30 and that one was about 24%. So, in the time period that
31 we've been keeping track of adult female mortality
32 that's one of the, in the top five for highest percent
33 mortality for the 2023, 20, 24 collar year. The long-
34 time average is 15% for reference. So, I'm going to stop
35 here for a second and see if you guys have any questions
36 regarding those metrics. I know there might be some
37 questions about that. So go ahead and if you have any
38 questions. Otherwise, I can continue on.

39
40 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: What was the previous
41 year 2021 or 2020 photo census estimate before 6160 or
42 61,600.

43
44 MS. DAGGETT: So usually, we try to do
45 the photo census about every three years. So, the 20 --
46 there wouldn't necessarily be one for 2021 or 2020.

47
48 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: What was the one before
49 61,600?

50

1 MS. DAGGETT: I think it was around
2 56,000, if I remember right. I can double check myself
3 on that. But I think that's the number that I remember
4 off the top of my head.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Are there any leading
7 causes? Of mortality? Sorry.

8
9 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
10 I think there's certainly lots of reasons why these
11 caribou die. You know, I, I'm not sure exactly which --
12 are you are you talking about adult female mortality in
13 general?

14
15 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: What the numbers are
16 based off of. Yes.

17
18 MS. DAGGETT: So, we just went out and
19 collected a bunch of callers to try to get at the
20 specific causes. So, we do kind of a caribou crime scene
21 investigation sort of deal. When we go out and look at
22 collars, and one of my colleagues just got back from
23 doing that, and I haven't seen the final numbers for
24 this last year for what she estimated each one was caused
25 by. I will say that there were several caribou that were
26 found dead around the, the Barrow area this last spring.
27 I'm sure you're aware of that. I know Wanda and I had
28 been talking about that some. There was certainly
29 several of those animals appeared to have bone marrow
30 that was consistent with malnutrition. So that -- But
31 why they were malnourished is still something we're
32 looking into. There's also the potential that some of
33 them died from predation and some of them died from
34 hunting. And, you know, there's a list of things that
35 are potential causes. However, I think to really
36 understand that more detail, I would want to look at the
37 results of the collar pickup information to have a more
38 educated answer for you in that department. And I haven't
39 gotten that information from my colleague yet because
40 she got back two days ago, so.

41
42 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you.

43
44 MS. DAGGETT: Any other questions?
45 Otherwise, I'll continue on.

46
47 (No comment)

48
49 Okay. Hearing none. We are doing a
50 caribou health assessment. It's a three-year study that

1 began last year. Shauna Karpovich and some of my other
2 colleagues have been working on this. While we're doing
3 our caribou captures and collaring project, it's an in-
4 depth research project that we began in 2022 and
5 continues each summer for three years to look more
6 closely at the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd health, including
7 measurements of body condition, internal and external
8 parasites, trace minerals, stress related hormones, and
9 a wide range of possible diseases. So, our work on that
10 is certainly aimed at trying to understand more of what's
11 mostly impacting female yearling caribou, but also
12 female adults as well. Are there any questions about
13 that? Okay.

14
15 Again, I touched on this earlier, but
16 there was several recent caribou mortalities on the
17 North Slope this spring. And they seem to be specifically
18 more so the younger animals that were -- that succumbed.
19 I was made aware of these mortalities by some local
20 hunters who contacted me. And I went out with them while
21 I was probably far too pregnant to be driving a snow
22 machine, but we collected about eleven -- well, seven
23 caribou in the springtime. And I worked with Rafaela,
24 and Brian can expound upon some of these results if he'd
25 like to. You're more than welcome to do that, Brian. And
26 then I went out and collected 11 more this summer as
27 well to get more information about these mortalities.
28 So, in total, there was a minimum of 18, 1- to 2-year-
29 old caribou that were collected, investigated between
30 the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department and myself,
31 In both March and in June. A lot of these samples are
32 waiting to be analyzed. We're still waiting on getting
33 more information back, particularly related to disease
34 and other potential environmental conditions that might
35 have affected some of these things. And we're still
36 trying to investigate those and get more detail on that
37 information. So, if people have -- if you start to see
38 a lot of dead caribou around, it's always good to collect
39 samples. Contact us. We're willing to work with you on
40 those. And I'm grateful to specifically Asa for helping
41 me out with that here in Barrow. So. And Raphael and
42 Brian as well. Do you have anything to add to that,
43 Brian?

44
45 MR. PEARSON: No.

46
47 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. All right. So, there
48 was some questions earlier, while I'm still in the
49 caribou topic about guiding -- guiding and transporting
50 of caribou hunters, and I thought I would take this

1 opportunity to answer some of those questions. I
2 messaged Alex Hanson, who is the Western Arctic Caribou
3 Herd Biologist. And he looked up some information,
4 specifically in relation to the Unit 26A and 23
5 transported and guided hunters for me. So, within Unit
6 26A, say over the last five years, there was about --
7 there was an average of like 73 transported and 29 guided
8 hunters in 26A and then in 23 there was 266 transported
9 hunters and 17 that were guided. So just so that you
10 guys have that information, I did ask about that while
11 we were talking about it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Do we know where those
14 were out of, and was it a complete list, or is it just
15 areas that they know? I guess -- well, there are quite
16 a few places to leave out of that. Go into Unit 26 all
17 over from Arctic Village all the way to Kotzebue. Do we
18 know if that was a like a definitive complete list or?

19
20 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair. So,
21 these are reported numbers from RC 907 permits. So, the
22 hunters provided this information for what commercial
23 services they used. They told us whether they flew or
24 if they used other guide services etc. They don't
25 necessarily report where they leave from. They report
26 where they get their animals. So, and for me to break
27 it down, any more than what I've given to you right now
28 would take a fair amount of processing. So, I, I'm happy
29 to work on that information a little bit more. It sounds
30 like you guys are really interested in knowing that
31 information in more detail. And I hear you there. But
32 this is what I can give you right now.

33
34 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: No, thanks. Just having
35 the -- that was just the ones that were provided. I know
36 there's got to be an algorithm to where that is like a
37 certain percentage of however many were out there and
38 only the ones that were legal. Okay. Thank you.

39
40 MS. DAGGETT: Any other questions about
41 that information? Okay. So, I wanted to go through this
42 flyer with all of you. Do you have it in front of you
43 now? Okay. And I'm sorry, Esther, I know you would love
44 to have these materials in front of you. And I apologize
45 that you're not here and can't see them yourself. I
46 acknowledge that that's not very great for you. And I
47 can try to send them to Susan for you if you would like,
48 for these regulations. I think I already mailed some to
49 Anaktuvuk Pass recently to drop them in the mail last
50 week. So, you should be able to pick one up from her

1 soon. All right, so this flyer, the whole point of it,
2 is to just summarize the current hunting regulations in
3 Unit 23 and 26A and specifically highlight the ones the
4 areas where the hunting regulations changed within these
5 two game management units. So, the cross-hatched areas
6 in Unit 23 and 26A are where the hunting regulations
7 change to 15 per year, one of which can be a cow. And
8 as I said before, the point of this was to protect
9 Western Arctic Herd cows in particular. And try to
10 encourage the growth of the Western Arctic heard because
11 it is in -- has been in decline for a while. There's
12 some more details on this flyer. I don't want to get
13 into it too much more because I already talked about it
14 once, but I wanted to reiterate that and make sure you
15 guys got a copy of the flyers so that you could reference
16 it if you needed to. Are there any questions about that?
17

18 (No comment)

19
20 Okay. In addition to this regulatory
21 change, there was also a change in the Anaktuvuk Pass
22 controlled use area. The controlled use area was changed
23 by the Board of Game and increased in size further west.
24 I believe, to the Killik River drainage. So, if you were
25 interested in knowing the details of that change and
26 wanted to see what that map looked like, I can certainly
27 get that for you, but I don't have that with me right
28 now. But I did want to mention that that controlled use
29 area has increased in size.

30
31 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. Pictures of that
32 would be great. Just for reference of the change.

33
34 MS. DAGGET: Roger that.

35
36 MR. PEARSON: You might want to mention
37 that doesn't go into effect until next year.

38
39 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah so, it -- Brian's
40 right, but also it includes more species, too. So, it
41 includes you cannot use aircraft for brown bears, sheep
42 and I'm -- moose is already on the list. So, there's a
43 few more species that got added to the regulation, too.
44 So, people couldn't use aircraft to access those within
45 that controlled use area and within the time frame
46 suggested. That time frame did not change. So, see, you
47 reference that time frame from August 15th to October
48 15th is that time frame. And that update is actually in
49 the current regulations. So, it is in effect.

50

1 (Indiscernible speech)

2

3 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. So, moving on from
4 caribou things. If there's any other questions. Peter,
5 do you have a question?

6

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair. Peter Williams.

8

9 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

10

11 I know some of my representatives from
12 Village in Anaktuvuk went to Kotzebue for Board to
13 discuss their matters. But -- how we survive on it, and
14 a lot of people point at us. Anaktuvuk about caribou
15 because we mostly talk about caribou. Okay. And they
16 brought this address to Board, but I just want to see
17 what kind of notion they had on that meeting, because,
18 you know, a lot of them spoke up at that meeting, and I
19 just like to hear something back or feedback or something
20 from the Board about that. They never heard nothing about
21 that. So, we need to we need to talk with them or, you
22 know, listen to them because, you know, the village
23 people are concerned about that too. That's why they
24 went to Kotzebue for that Board meeting. It's very
25 important to us. And the way Esther spoke to you about
26 it, too. And, you know, we addressed that, just plainly
27 because it stated on here that, you know, under CT, you
28 know, so we should use it as a guide. Thank you.

29

30 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to Member
31 Williams. Thank you for your comments. I don't want to
32 speak for the Board about exactly what they thought about
33 comments. However, I think, you know, they certainly
34 modified the controlled use area because of the comments
35 from Anaktuvuk Pass. I'm sure that definitely played a
36 major role in their decisions. And Anaktuvuk Pass
37 certainly did bring a lot of people to testify. And I
38 think the bird [sic] -- the Board heard what they said
39 loud and clear. And there was a lot of positive
40 interactions between Anaktuvuk Pass residents and the
41 Board of Game, and I think it was a really good thing
42 that they went there.

43

44 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair, When I went to
45 Point Hope for meeting, when we came back to Kotzebue
46 meeting, they spoke a lot about Anaktuvuk people
47 speaking about caribou, that's why I brought this
48 attention up. Thank you.

49

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for your
2 clarification there. Was that it for this presentation?
3 Just not the muskox part?

4
5 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, if you turn the
6 page over, there's a whole section on muskox.

7
8 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: I was waiting.

9
10 MS. DAGGETT: So, I'm going to continue
11 on with that portion now, if you don't mind. So, the
12 last time we did a survey was in 2022, and there were
13 421 muskox that were observed in Western 26A. As you
14 pointed out, we're due for another survey to happen, for
15 sure. And that is planned for the spring of 2025. And
16 in fact, we're looking at surveying as much of the hunt
17 areas as we can. As you pointed out earlier, the -- that
18 we've opened up several hunts throughout 26A now. And
19 so, we really need to have a survey that covers a larger
20 portion of 26A. And I 100% agree with you on that. And
21 that's what we're going to strive to do. So that is
22 planned for the spring of 2025. So, if you see a lot of
23 airplanes flying around in the spring of 2025, we're
24 probably surveying muskox. So that's, coming down the
25 pike. And I was directed to not do my moose surveys next
26 spring because they wanted me to focus my efforts on the
27 muskox survey. So, there will not be a moose survey next
28 spring. There was one this spring. And before I jump to
29 the results of that, I wanted to address your question
30 about the boundary. So, during the 2023 Board of Game
31 meeting the boundary was aligned with the federal
32 boundary. So now we have one muskox hunt boundary that
33 splits 26A in half. And it's at the 155-west longitude
34 line, but also follows the natural features that are
35 basically the eastern side of Admiralty Bay and the
36 Lakutaq River down until it hits the 155-west longitude
37 to the southern border. So that map is included for you
38 so that you can have it for your reference and know
39 which permits you might want to apply for when you are
40 doing the state draw. And then there's the federal
41 permits that are available to -- for the TX-109 area.
42 All right. Are there any questions about-- Yep.

43
44 MS. KIPPI: Wanda for the record. For the
45 -- for the both of the two different boundaries, can
46 they apply for the TX-109 or the TX-108 just in case
47 they're either on both sides or one side?

48
49 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to member
50 Kippi. Yes. You can apply for both. And as long as you're

1 a State of Alaska resident and it might be advisable to
2 apply for both. And I think if you wanted to really
3 increase your chances, you would also apply for the
4 federal permit. Because there's six permits available
5 total for the TX-109 hunt. So, there's three on the
6 federal side and three on the state side available in
7 that hunt area. After this survey, we might think about
8 changing those numbers, but for right now, that's what
9 it's set at. So, you need to apply a year in advance for
10 those permits if you want to try to get them. So, you
11 would want to apply in November for the following year
12 for the state permits.

13

14 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

15

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: We had a joke about units
21 there in Anaktuvuk. We got three units on us. We said,
22 why don't we just shoot one here and then the other unit
23 and shoot that one there? But we got three units on us.
24 So, you know, we're having a lot of conflicts in that
25 too. So, we need to get better address on that. Thank
26 you.

27

28

29

30 MS. DAGGETT: Maybe we can talk about
31 that a little bit more on the side. And what you'd like
32 to see with that, Peter.

33

34 MS. DAGGETT: All right. Last but not --

35

36 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

39

40 MS. HUGO: Yeah. Carmen, have you ever
41 monitored and to see whether the caribou -- This was
42 passed down from my father-in-law and his brothers, his
43 relatives, hunters, they heard about muskox being
44 delivered up north. That was before my time. And the
45 reaction and the feeling of one being that, I mean, this
46 wasn't even talked about, decided. And then it was all
47 up to the state to bring all these muskox to our area,
48 because my father-in-law was the Muskeg. Caribou was
49 always afraid of the muskox, no matter what he sees in
50 that site, probably wandering with dog teams and stuff.

1 Do you ever noticed that or seen that? It scares off
2 caribou? Because tuttu don't like that muskox, far as I
3 heard it from my in-law.

4

5 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for that
6 observation, Esther. That's not the first time I've
7 heard local observations and that concern over muskox
8 and caribou interactions. There's certainly room for
9 understanding that better. And doing some research on
10 that. I don't -- I am unaware of any specific research
11 that currently has strove to understand that, but I think
12 that that there's room for that for sure. So, thank you
13 for those observations.

14

15 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I guess I would
16 like to just finish off talking about moose, and then I
17 can get out of your hair. So, the last, but not least,
18 as you're aware, there's moose on the Colville River,
19 and they tend to migrate out this way every once in a
20 while, in small numbers. The most recent minimum count
21 survey was conducted in 2021. And when I say the minimum
22 count area, I mean the entirety of the Colville River
23 drainage and the majority of the tributaries on it.
24 During that last count, there were 427 moose, and 20%
25 of these were short yearlings and there were 18 sets of
26 twins. We do an annual survey on moose as well. And that
27 annual survey is done for a much smaller portion of the
28 Colville River drainage and usually just covers a small
29 chunk of the Colville, the Anaktuvuk, the Chandler. The
30 Anaktuvuk and the Chandler Rivers. So, in that count, I
31 believe there was something like 100 -- and I'll have
32 to double check. I can't remember off the top of my head
33 right now. Forgive me, but I can definitely get that
34 most recent trend count area that's smaller abbreviated
35 area for this year. The population seems to be relatively
36 stable at low numbers. And the next minimum count, where
37 we look at the whole drainage again will happen in the
38 spring of 2026 due to our extensive efforts for muskox
39 surveys that are going to happen this next spring. We
40 also had a change in the muskox -- or in the moose hunt
41 boundary. So, it was moved to the 155-west longitude
42 line to again align with the federal boundary and also
43 the muskox boundary. But it excludes the Colville River
44 drainage. So, it would be the same north-south line, but
45 it would be cut short at the Colville River drainage for
46 the Antlerless moose hunt. Do you have any questions?
47 That's all I've got.

48

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1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for your
2 presentations. They're pretty thorough. And I'm glad you
3 included the moose count for this year.

4
5 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

10
11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I was gonna tell you
12 something about moose. First time I came down to Kobuk,
13 they shot a moose. They all came and got me. It's the
14 same thing as cutting caribou. But I told him, you know,
15 but they say, oh, we don't use our hands, though. So,
16 thank you for the information.

17
18 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right, up next
19 we've got item K. Well, should we take a break? Yeah.
20 Yeah. Let's take a break. We'll take a 15-minute break.
21 Yeah. 4:00. All right. Break it is.

22
23 (Off record)

24
25 (On record)

26
27 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Welcome back
28 everybody. So, we'll continue on with our --

29
30 UNIDENTIFIED: Point of order.

31
32 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Item K. US Fish and
33 Wildlife Service Northern Alaska. Well, it says may
34 attend and provide a report. Do we have anybody that has
35 a report?

36
37 MS. CHAPA: Just to clarify this is for
38 the Northern Alaska Fish and Wildlife Field Office.

39
40 MR. NAGEAK: (In Native) So, just wanted
41 to share my lineage. I have Elders all the way from
42 Kaktovik to AKP, the whole North Slope. So, you might
43 be my uncle over there, but I'm Ernest Nageak, born and
44 raised in Barrow. Inupiaq. Hunter here and on the North
45 Slope. But also, the Alaska Native affairs specialist
46 for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They opened the
47 office in 2010 after an incident with the migratory
48 birds. And that's when we got the gist of all the, how
49 the government is coming in, telling us what we can do
50 and cannot do, at what time and where and when and how.

1 All that jazz. So, I've been working for -- with them
2 the past, going on 13 years. So, I've been at many of
3 these meetings, and I just want to give an office update.
4 We usually have our spring gathering before the birds
5 come, but our office is pretty -- getting old. But last
6 year they had a shorebird festival. But this year, this
7 summer, it was a migratory bird festival with -- second
8 week of June. When the birds were here, we had a three-
9 day gathering at the elementary school. It was mostly
10 run by the shorebird crew. Fish and wildlife has dozens
11 of people that come for the shorebird crew, but I mostly
12 work with the Steller's eider crew. We had a dozen
13 volunteers and people that come up for the summer to
14 walk the Tundra. And this summer they said it was fairly
15 good. I, they had a late thaw out season, which took
16 them a while to get out to look for nests. And they had
17 found ten or so Steller's eider nests, and they said
18 about two hatched out of those ten, and they found 35
19 spectacle nests. And overall, they said it was a good
20 season for their numbers. The last few years, they were
21 little to none. And, we mostly get our birds in the
22 springtime. So, with that late thaw out, we had a late
23 nesting season. So, with the subsistence, when they come
24 up with their regulations every year on June 6th, that's
25 when we stop hunting ducks. You know, the seabirds, the
26 auks, the commons, the auks, the (In Native), the king
27 eider and usually they have to have a 30-day closure,
28 so that's usually good. And when they come back at
29 Bukanuk on July 7 or 8, that's when people could go to
30 Bukanuk and hunt them, hunt ducks. So being it that we
31 hunt the other birds like the geese and gather their
32 eggs, that closure date for the subsistence season is
33 June 15th, and that comes fast when there's still snow,
34 and people haven't gotten their eggs. So, the North
35 Slope, you know, we're -- me being a hunter on the North
36 Slope, we typically just hunt seabirds in the fall time,
37 the king and common eiders. And usually right now some
38 people get a few other birds, they're considered other
39 birds. So Thankful, with the help of Todd and North
40 Slope Borough Wildlife and our biologists, we were able
41 to go back to the Fish and Wildlife and the Migratory
42 Bird Community -- Committee to extend the other bird
43 closure. 30-day closure date in extra almost two weeks
44 so people could get their significant amount of eggs.
45 And that worked out. It's, you know, it's with our late
46 thaws the last few years that that usually means that
47 other birds, like we can't hunt (In Native) until July
48 25th or whenever the date opens. So that was just what
49 was going on this summer. And we had our office also
50 tags polar bears and walrus. We had maybe two during the

1 last year of polar bears and a handful of walrus tusks
2 so far. Sometimes they prefer to go to Billy in the
3 local entity, I should say. But after September 1st, we
4 have signs up where subsistence season until September
5 1st, and they -- we could hunt. We could still continue
6 to hunt eiders after that, but sometimes the game wardens
7 or they come up in September and tell us, remind us,
8 it's sport hunting season. And sometimes we have to put
9 our choke back in and just shoot two, two shots. But
10 never know when they're here. They were here beginning,
11 the beginning of the month, you know, doing some of
12 their house stuff, but that -- What else for Barrow? We
13 do a calendar contest for students in the -- before the
14 New Year's. They have calendar contests. In the
15 wintertime, me and a fellow of my colleague, native
16 colleagues, we host a native relations training for new
17 federal employees that go in rural towns to, you know,
18 do outreach and stuff like that so. Any question for
19 Barrow Field Office or anything on the North slope
20 relating to walrus, polar bears -- I haven't heard
21 anything. If there's a Hollow Point (indiscernible) yet
22 or haven't seen anything about that one, but --

23

24 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: No, no questions. Just
25 good to see that. The 30-day closure still adjustable
26 and now they're moving it in, you know, whether it be
27 earlier or later. So, I was around for wildlife when
28 that first started. So that was a pretty fun first couple
29 of years to deal with. So, thank you for your
30 information, your presentation, and we'll be around.
31 Good to see you.

32

33 MR. NAGEAK: Yep, and with those three
34 muskox that's hard to apply through BLM. They had their
35 own phone number and website, and they were airing it
36 on the KBRW. I caught it the last few, you know, before
37 the deadline, and it was like June 12th this year for
38 the -- to get your application in and in order for them
39 to pick the three people. So, keep that in mind for next
40 summer. But the state -- there's, it's just different -
41 - You have to apply earlier or something. But the federal
42 permit is good from beginning of August until March 15th
43 or so. And I heard they -- when I was applying, they had
44 aligned, the state and the federal with Aluktak West, I
45 guess, like you said, one of them was -- but I think
46 they're all kind of lined up now. So that's what I heard
47 the latest.

48

1 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yeah, the map looked
2 good, but if you happen to get one, I'm going to go stop
3 by at, and peak over there.

4
5 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. Well. Good, you're
6 going to need help. I heard there has to do Kwethluk.
7 You know, you can't just put your hand in. You gotta --
8 So I'm going to bring my sharpest ulus. Anyone else?

9
10 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

13
14 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. It was the summer
15 before this guy sent me a message from Canada. There was
16 a bird flu going around in there. You hear anything
17 about that in Alaska?

18
19 MR. NAGEAK: There were some cases of
20 bird flu here last summer, and I don't know how many,
21 but we usually just call the veterinarian and them,
22 because the first one I seen, I didn't know I was in the
23 ocean springtime, and we seen a duck just spinning in
24 circles and he said, oh, I thought I had a good meal.
25 But after they mentioned bird flu, he just put it aside
26 and yeah, I don't know how many cases, but I hear that
27 it goes into foxes. Or they even said it got into a
28 human somewhere down south in the farms.

29
30 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair, the reason why I
31 brought this attention up is because it brought up the
32 attention about fox looking into the birds. You know,
33 they got sick like a foam out of their mouth and stuff.
34 And I don't know if it's considered to that one, but I
35 know fox always go hunting for birds in the tundra.

36
37 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. But They weren't doing
38 any swabbing. This -- none of our people were. Because
39 maybe over ten years ago, when the first came around,
40 they would have people at duck camp. You know, if you
41 catch a duck, they would be there with their Q-tips,
42 swabbing the ducks during that time when we first came
43 about bird flu. But I haven't seen anybody doing that
44 you know, field kind of testing, but only if they see
45 anything of unusual they try to send them out to.

46
47 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Thank you,
48 guys. Thank you. Yeah, I think, we're turning it into a
49 bird flu discussion. All right. So, anybody else from

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1 US Fish and Wildlife have a presentation or was that it?
2 Northern Alaska

3
4 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Go ahead.

7
8 MS. CHAPA: I believe we have staff from
9 the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

10
11 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. Is that Clayton
12 Merrill?

13
14 MR. MERRILL: Yes, that's -- All right.
15 Can you hear me?

16
17 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes, we can hear you.

18
19 MR. MERRILL: Yeah. I don't have a
20 presentation from Yukon Flats. But I just wanted to
21 introduce myself. I'm the new or relatively new
22 subsistence coordinator for Arctic Kanuti and Yukon
23 Flats national Wildlife refuges. Taking Vince Matthews
24 former position here.

25
26 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Welcome (silence).

27
28 All right. So, moving forward. Welcome,
29 Clayton. So, one it says National Park Service. Is there
30 somebody that was going to be doing supplemental
31 material?

32
33 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Gisela for
34 the record, and I believe, in your supplemental packet
35 which is the packet that is stapled. We have some
36 reports. The first one on page 35 of your packet is a
37 news release. And I believe there's going to be an update
38 presented by the National Park Service's regional
39 office. And the news release is on the National Park
40 Service -- National Park Service's amended Alaska sport
41 hunting and trapping regulation to protect visitor
42 safety and wildlife.

43
44 MS. JOCHUM: Yeah. Hello, Mr. Chair. I'm
45 available when you're ready.

46
47 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: You have the floor. Go
48 ahead.

49 MS. JOCHUM: Great, thanks so much. For
50 the record, my name is Kim Jochum, and I work with the

1 regional subsistence program at the National Park
2 Service. I want to provide a really short update to you
3 regarding the National Park Service Wildlife Rule that
4 just became effective on August 2nd of this year. So,
5 the National Park Service amended its regulation for
6 sport hunting and trapping and national preserves in
7 Alaska, and the harvest practices at issue in this final
8 rule are specific to harvest on national preserve lands
9 only, and to harvest under the authorization for sport
10 Hunting and Trapping in ANILCA. So, none of these rules
11 -- rule changes, address subsistence harvest by rural
12 residents under title eight of ANILCA. It's just for the
13 sport, hunting, and trapping. And I just want to provide
14 a short overview of the two main points that this rule
15 addressed. So, the public, you know, previously was
16 invited also to comment on the draft environmental
17 assessment and on the proposed rule that published in
18 January of 29th of 2023. Over those, and over those past
19 two years, the National Park Service presented on the
20 wildlife rule, you know, to the, to the Subsistence
21 Resource Commission as well as Federal Subsistence
22 Regional Advisory Council like you that have a nexus to
23 preserve land. And we solicited your feedback for that.
24 So, all comments were reviewed and informed the final
25 decision that was made. So, the two main points this
26 rule addresses now the 2024 wildlife rule, how we call
27 it to a topic on and so it prohibits bear baiting for
28 sport hunters on national preserve lands in Alaska. And
29 it clarifies the language and how firearms can be used
30 in conjunction with trapping. I have a couple more points
31 to that to try to explain what changed. So, bear baiting
32 is prohibited for public safety reasons.

33
34 Now, and the concerns are both
35 immediately relative to bears defending a bait station
36 and more long term than relative to food conditioning.
37 So, bait that hunters typically use to attract bears
38 includes processed foods like bread, pastries, dog food,
39 and bacon grease, and this rule will lower the
40 probability of people encountering a bait station where
41 bears may attack to defend a food source. Further, this
42 rule will lower the risk of bears that will associate
43 food with bait stations with, you know, the food in bait
44 stations with humans and become conditioned to eating
45 human produced foods thereby creating public safety
46 concern. So, the second part that, was, what clarifies
47 the existing language in or the language in regulation
48 regarding firearm use. So, trapping -- the trapping
49 portion of this. Yeah, that's what it was. Sorry. Thank
50 you. That in - so, individuals may only harvest

1 furbearers with a firearm under a trapping license if
2 the furbearer is ensnared in an intact trap, is ensnared
3 in a trap that is no longer anchored. For example, the
4 animals dragging a trap that has become unanchored, or
5 if the animal is mortally wounded by a trap but has
6 broken free of the trap. So overall, it the clarifies
7 the language that free ranging furbearers may not be
8 harvested with a firearm under a state trapping license
9 on National Park Service managed lands. So, rather for
10 that an open hunting, you know, an open hunting season
11 license would be required. So those are the two main
12 things that were addressed in this 2024 Wildlife
13 Proposal from the National Park Service that was just
14 enacted. Enacted on August 2nd. Thank you for your time.
15 That's what I have. And if you have questions, please.
16 Yeah, I'm available for questions if you have any.

17
18 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you very much.
19 And that's just NPS lands there, right?

20
21 MS. JOCHUM: Correct. Yeah. And just, for
22 preserve lands on the Park Service. So, not the parks
23 themselves, just the preserve portions.

24
25 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for your
26 presentation.

27
28 MS. JOCHUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right now we move
31 into BLM. Is anybody here from BLM?

32
33
34 MS. CHAPA: Sorry, Mr. Chair I believe
35 we also have a representative from Gates of the Arctic
36 National Park and Preserve. Marcy Okada to give her
37 report.

38
39 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. Sorry I missed
40 that.

41
42 MS. CHAPA: And her report can be found
43 in the supplemental materials on page 36.

44
45 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. All right. Page
46 36. NPS, you have the floor.

47
48 MS. OKADA: Hello?

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50 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Yes. Go ahead.

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MS. OKADA: Okay. Hi, Mr. Chair, Council members, my name is Marcy Okada. I work for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve as the subsistence coordinator. And I'd like to refer you to your supplemental meeting packet. Although I'm not quite sure which page number our park update is on.

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Its page 36. We're on it.

MS. OKADA: Page 36. Okay. So, I just have a quick update for Gates of the Arctic. For the park, we have a Subsistence Resource Commission, which met April 24th to 25th and Anaktuvuk Pass, and we had discussions on the Board of game proposals that were recently passed at the Kotzebue meeting in January 2024. And we also discussed the proposals for the Interior and Eastern Arctic region for the Board of Game of Meeting that was held in Fairbanks in March. We continue to have discussions on the Ambler access road project, and our park service staff also provide updates on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd as well as commercial use operations within the park and preserves. Due to a lack of quorum, there was no action taken on specific meeting items. And our next Subsistence Resource Commission meeting is scheduled for November 13th to 14th in Fairbanks. Also would like to share that Esther S. Hugo is appointed by this North Slope RAC Fire Council to our Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic. And then also while we had our spring meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass, Peter Earl Williams was also in attendance at that meeting. And if folks don't have any questions, I can continue with the update. Okay. For our western caribou-

CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: One second, Peter, it looks like Peter's got a question here.

MR. WILLIAMS: There was a good turnout at the meeting, but a lot of people had concerns about the caribou. That's all I want to say, and that's a very important issue. We brought it up at the meeting, so we need to keep that on the table. Thank you.

MS. OKADA: Thank you. Earl. Yeah. There was a lot of testimony from community members at our commission meeting. And as Earl had mentioned, it's mainly focused around the caribou late migrations not coming through the Pass as anticipated in the fall time.

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1 As mentioned earlier in the meeting, migrations are
2 coming later when the bulls are already in rut and
3 community members are then taking cow caribou.

4
5 Okay. I'll move to our Western Arctic
6 Caribou Herd update, and I think we might still have
7 Kyle Joly on the call as well. So, the Western Arctic
8 Caribou Herd moved to a lot of different places this
9 past winter. They moved more south than normal. Than
10 compared -- in comparison to previous years. Quite a
11 number of them went to the Nulato Hills, which is in the
12 Koyukuk region. Some caribou were still up on the north
13 slope between Atqasuk and Nuiqsut, and some were within
14 the western part of Gates of the Arctic. None of the
15 collared caribou were shown to be seen in the Anaktuvuk
16 Pass area this past winter for the Western Arctic Herd.
17 It was a fairly hard winter. And so, there were a number
18 of mortalities. But it wasn't that -- as bad as in
19 comparison to the previous winter. In partnership with
20 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 50 satellite
21 collars were deployed on caribou this past spring based
22 out of the Kotzebue area. Out of those 50, 46 were
23 females and four were male caribou. And I'm not sure if
24 Kyle wanted to add anything else, but if there aren't
25 any questions, I can move to a Dall Sheep survey update.

26
27 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Doesn't look like we
28 have any questions here now.

29
30 MS. OKADA: Okay. And then, lastly, as
31 in previous years, Dall sheep survey is conducted mainly
32 in the Ayakulik preserve area, which is the northeast
33 portion of Gates of the Arctic. And then in the areas
34 around Anaktuvuk Pass. Surveys were conducted around
35 June 28th to July 8th this past summer. It's a
36 partnership with the BLM and also, surveys are conducted
37 on state managed lands along the Dalton Highway
38 management corridor. As of yet, survey estimates haven't
39 been completed yet, so they should be generated and
40 available at your next RAC meeting. And then, also we
41 do have a Dall Sheep, a new Dall Sheep ecologist named
42 Zack Delisle. And he started earlier this year in March.
43 So, that's pretty much our update. If folks don't have
44 any other questions.

45
46 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for your
47 update. I don't see any questions here.

48
49 MS. OKADA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you
50 very much.

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CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. Moving forward to item M BLM. Does anyone have any -- anything from BLM? Hearing none for BLM. Moving to item N as in Nancy. Offices of -- Office of Subsistence Management. Katya.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, members of the Council, first right off the bat, I would like to thank you all for your service on the Council. And we really, really appreciate all you do for the Federal Subsistence Management Program. Without you, we would not be able to do the work that we're mandated to do by the title eight of ANILCA. We appreciate the time, your expertise, your traditional ecological knowledge, and sacrifice that you're making by, you know, coming to these council meetings. It's very important part of the public service. Like we know that some of the members need to travel almost all the way around the state to come to the meeting. They have to travel from Point Hope to Anchorage to Barrow, or from Anaktuvuk Pass to Anchorage to Barrow in order to come to the meetings. And you take time out of your lives, out of your subsistence activities, from your jobs to, to come here. We're very thankful for that. So as a part of this report, a very short update, first on the administrative move of OSM, and I'll just give a little bit of prehistory to start with. In 2022, the Department of Interior and Agriculture conducted series of tribal consultations with federally recognized tribes in Alaska and Native corporations. And then there was also a number of talking circles with various tribes. And among other things were, the tribes were asking the department to move OSM from under the US Fish and Wildlife Service. That's where we were residing before, directly into the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. So, these voices were heard and in this year well, first, of course, that we can -- after the Congress approve the budget for 2024, for fiscal year 2024, and subsequently the Secretary passed the order that we administratively transferred OSM from U.S. Fish and Wildlife directly to the Office of Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget. So, this move became effective on July 15th, 2024. So, it's very recent news. It's just been slightly over a month after we've been moved. We were instructed to conduct our regulatory business uninterrupted, seamlessly, which we are doing with kicking off this first meeting with your Council's meeting. Meeting cycle four, meeting cycle with your guys' meeting. So, it's been that we had some challenges because we had to learn

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1 the new computer environments, new file structures,
2 there were some technical difficulties, but we're
3 getting through it. So, this move is in response to many
4 requests that the department is hoping that there will
5 be better stakeholders' engagement and that OSM
6 responsibilities and functions are not going to change
7 through this move. They will remain the same. And the
8 Federal Subsistence management operations will continue
9 going forward seamlessly. So, if you need to reach out
10 to us, our emails changed, but they're on our website,
11 the new emails. Our main email is still subsistence,
12 though it used to be subsistence@fws.gov. Now it's
13 subsistence@ios.doi.gov. IOS stands for office of the
14 Secretary of the interior, but the main phone number is
15 the same 7863888. And, you know, you can always find us
16 on our website or on our Facebook if you'd rather, you
17 know, find us there. We always post all our updates on
18 our Facebook as well. So that's all I have about the
19 move. Are there any questions about the move, the
20 administrative move of OSM? Any thoughts?

21
22 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: You guys did make a
23 pretty smooth transition. I didn't see any difference
24 between our last meeting and this one. So, it was a
25 smooth transition. It must have been, because it didn't
26 seem like there were any hiccups in the road.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Well, thank you. Appreciate
29 that comment. So, the other topic of my report is the
30 update on the regulations regarding the Federal
31 Subsistence Board composition. So, also, that came from
32 the joint tribal consultations of the two departments.
33 And (pause) so, these -- the departments, they were
34 working on the proposed rule and now it's in the -- and
35 there was an opportunity to comment during the last
36 meeting cycle, I think some Councils commented. I think
37 your Council had an opportunity to comment. I don't
38 recall if -- Okay, Gisela is indicating that your Council
39 did not comment, but it was a proposed rule during the
40 winter meeting cycle and as a part of this proposed
41 rule, there is -- there was a proposal to add three
42 public members that were nominated or recommended by
43 federal recognized tribal governments to the Federal
44 Subsistence Board. And there is also a requirement for
45 those nominees to have certain knowledge and experience.
46 Define that also, the proposed rule define requirements
47 used to select the Board Chair, The Federal Subsistence
48 Board Chair and affirm the Secretary's authority to
49 replace Board members and the Secretary's responsibility
50 in oversight regarding Board decisions. So that was when

1 I was in the proposed rule stage. Now it's in the final
2 rule stage. They considered all the comments that came
3 in there an expectation that the final rule will be
4 published by the end of this fiscal year, and then it
5 will become effective 30 days after it's been published.
6 So, after the proposed rule is published, then the tribes
7 will be able to nominate the members of the Federal
8 Subsistence Board. This is just something for your
9 tribes to consider because there will be this
10 opportunity of somebody, maybe even from your region,
11 coming and becoming the member of the Federal
12 Subsistence Board. Of course, you know, the secretary
13 is going to be deciding who is going to be appointed,
14 but the tribes can move forward their proposals after
15 the final rule is published to nominate members of their
16 tribes to become the Federal Subsistence Board members.
17 And that will provide a better balance between the
18 federal agencies and the representatives from the
19 tribes, because currently, you know, the Board
20 composition is five federal agencies and the two public
21 members, and the Chair is also public member who is
22 appointed by the Secretary. Are there any questions in
23 regard to that or any comments?

24
25 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: I think that's great
26 news. A lot to look forward to and I don't know, kind
27 of interested to see who they would be.

28
29 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Okay, so the
30 next part of the report is OSM staffing updates. Of
31 course we are having some changes on the OSM staff. Our
32 former director of the program, she retired at the end
33 of last calendar year, Sue Detwiler. So, since the old
34 Council meeting that was held in March of this year the
35 OSM welcomed new Acting Director, Crystal Ciisquq
36 Leonetti. She will be in this acting role until the end
37 of September. And in her permanent position, she works
38 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and she is
39 Alaskan Native Affairs Specialist. Some of you might
40 know her through her work for US Fish and Wildlife
41 Service. So, among regular OSM director responsibilities
42 Crystal has been leading OSM through this transition
43 from US Fish and Wildlife to the Office of the Secretary.
44 And she's done a tremendously wonderful job by stepping
45 in this position and able to help us to carry our
46 operations seamlessly. So, OSM director's position will
47 be advertised in the near future. It's also something
48 to keep your eyes open for, you know, case people want
49 to apply for this position to serve as a director and
50 help OSM to become a better place than we already are.

1 So, and we also had some staff departures. Steve
2 Matuzkowitz He was the supervisor of the regulatory
3 division and he worked for OSM for more than 20 years,
4 which is a pretty lengthy time to work for OSM. So, he
5 retired just recently and we'll miss him and his
6 knowledge of regulations and his kind advice and keeping
7 us out of trouble. And he also had a wonderful sense of
8 humor. So, and one of OSM current staff, he's regular
9 fisheries biologist, Justin Kohler. He stepped in to be
10 acting as a supervisory regulatory specialist. And so,
11 he's been doing that now for a couple of months, and he
12 been able to carry on the duties of this position very
13 well. And again, this position will be advertised really
14 soon. Then we also had our outreach specialist, Kayla
15 McKinney, who departed due to a move to the other state,
16 and we had two OSM staff, Leigh Honig, who is the also
17 Council coordinator for Bristol Bay area, and our
18 administrative assistant, Sherri Golfers. They've been
19 carrying the duties of that position and doing really a
20 superb job trying to keep everybody updated on what's
21 happening in the program. So, this position also will
22 be advertised in the near future. And we encourage all
23 individuals who have diverse outreach skills and
24 interest in working on subsistence issues and rural
25 communities to apply. And the last update on the staffing
26 changes, and we just learned recently that OSM Deputy
27 Director Amy Howard will be departing soon. She got hired
28 for a new job, actually, with her native Aleut
29 Corporation as a director of Lands and Natural
30 Resources, and her last day with OSM will be August
31 30th. So, we, of course, congratulate her on her new
32 position, but she will be sorely missed for -- because
33 she had a great inclusive management style. And she was
34 a great support to OSM team and was wonderful to work
35 with. So, are there any questions regarding the OSM
36 staffing updates?

37
38 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: No questions. Just
39 well, hopefully, everything moves as it should. And
40 well, you guys are still here, so I'm happy for that.

41
42 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Yeah, we hope
43 so, too. We are always looking for anyone who is
44 interested in applying for jobs with OSM. Seems like we
45 quite often have vacant positions, but all our staff is
46 wonderful and we're able to cover for others in the
47 meantime. So, the only other update that I have is the
48 litigation update, and I'm going to read this one since
49 I'm not a subject matter expert on that. So, the
50 Solicitor's Office provided a written, detailed

1 litigation update during the old Council meeting in
2 March. So, the only update since then is that in the
3 Kake emergency hunt matter that's between Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game and Federal Subsistence
5 Board. Briefing is now in progress before the Ninth
6 Circuit Court. And the other matter is the Kuskokwim
7 matter. Also, United States versus ADF&G. And the
8 district court found in favor of the US on all claims
9 and enjoined the state from taking any further actions
10 in violation of Title eight on the Kuskokwim River. The
11 state had appealed. And the briefing has just been
12 recently commenced before the Ninth Circuit Court so
13 those two matters are moving through the court system,
14 basically. And that concludes my OSM report.

15

16 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Thank you for your
17 detailed report there.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: You're welcome.

20

21 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: All right. What time
22 is it? 4:46. So, looking at the remainder. We want to
23 move forward with any of this, the other items or do we
24 want to divert them to tomorrow at nine or whenever you
25 recommend starting in the morning. So, we have other
26 business left: Council nominations, application
27 nomination, open seasons, correspondence updates on the
28 Council letters, more Council correspondence from the
29 letters. So, it's just the letters and special actions,
30 and the DOI, the balance card stuff that we discussed.
31 I think we can cover that all pretty quick tomorrow.
32 Yeah. And the -- what we diverted to the deferred to the
33 end for the annual report, which is an action item. I
34 need you three here tomorrow. So, is that what you want
35 to do? You guys want to move to recess until tomorrow.
36 Yeah. Is that okay with you guys?

37

38 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I agree.

39

40 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Sorry. What's that
41 Esther?

42

43 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I agree that we
44 reconvene tomorrow morning at nine.

45

46 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Okay. We don't need a
47 motion. It's just recess until tomorrow. Okay. All
48 right. We will see you guys tomorrow at 9am, 9am again.
49 Thank you, guys.

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(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Rafael Morel, for Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 103 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 19th day of August;

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 Isabela, Puerto Rico this 6th day of Sept 2024.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager - Transcriptions