

# NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes

Nullagvik Hotel Conference Room

Kotzebue

October 31-November 1, 2022

### Invocation:

Chair Thomas Baker called a moment of silence for those that have recently passed.

### Call to Order, Roll Call, and Quorum Establishment:

The meeting was called to order Monday October 31, 2022, at 8:37 am. Council Chair Thomas Baker, and Council members Elmer Armstrong, Wilbur Howarth, and Enoch Shiedt were present in person and Council Vice Chair Michael Kramer and Council member Vern Cleveland called in for the meeting. Calvin Moto called in for part of the meeting on October 31 but had poor phone connection. Council member Schaeffer was not able to attend due to being at remote camp without phone service and inability to travel to meet in person. With six out of eight seated Council members present (Council has two vacant seats) **the quorum was established.**

### Attendees:

#### *In person:*

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G): **Alex Hansen, Christie Osburn** (Kotzebue); **Morgan Urquia, Joe Spencer** (Fairbanks)
- National Park Service (NPS), Western Arctic National Parklands: **Ray McPadden, Joe Dallemolle, Raime Fronstin, Justin Junge** (Kotzebue); **Victoria Florey** (Anchorage)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service: **Brian Brettschneider** (Anchorage)
- U.S. Forest Service: **DeAnna Perry** (Juneau)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Selawik NWR: **Bill Carter, Melissa Brown, Christina Nelson, Brittany Sweeney, and Will Wiese** (Kotzebue)
- NANA Regional Corporation: **Rob Kirk** (Kotzebue)
- Office of Subsistence Management (OSM): **Jessica Gill, Karen Hyer, Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough, Tom Kron, Tom Plank, and Dr. Hannah Voorhees** (Anchorage)
- Wildlife Conservation Society: **Dr. Kevin Fraley** (Fairbanks)
- Public: **Susan Georgette, Seth Kantner, Lance Kramer, Hannah Loon, Walter Sampson, and Willie Towksjhea** (Kotzebue)
- Court Recorder: **Nathan Hile** (Anchorage)

***Via teleconference:***

- Interagency Staff Committee (ISC): ***Eva Patton*** (NPS) **and** ***Jill Klein*** (FWS) (Anchorage)
- OOSM: ***Kevin Foley, Robbin La Vine, and Liz Williams*** (Anchorage)
- USFWS: ***Ray Hander*** (Fairbanks)
- NPS, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve: ***Nicki Braem*** (Nome)
- NPS, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve: ***Mark Dowdle, Kyle Joly, Marcy Okada, Ken Adkisson, Jeff Rasic, and Martha Fronstin*** (Fairbanks)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM): ***Walter Gussey and Tom Spark*** (Nome)
- ADF&G: ***Mark Burch*** (Palmer); ***Helen Cold, Brendan Scanlon, Hannah Bolt, Brent Cameron,*** (Fairbanks)

**Review and Adopt Agenda:**

Motion by Council member Howarth, seconded by Council member Shiedt, to approve the agenda.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Council member Armstrong, seconded by Council member Howarth, to approve their winter 2022 meeting minutes.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**Council Member and Chair Reports:**

Enoch Attamuk Shiedt of Kotzebue reported that the *oogruk* (bearded seals) season wasn't good. Blueberries were scarce, but there were lots of salmon berries. He said that we need to look for ways to protect caribou and moose. There has been lots of wind due to global warming. There have been high numbers of bears. He didn't see sheep from his camp up the Aggie River. Trout came in large numbers earlier than the salmon, which were late but strong. Subsistence hunters got some belugas this year. Caribou have been scarce. He urges attendees from corresponding organizations to worry about the number of caribou just before the migration and during calving. If it is too warm, they won't come. Global warming has clearly had an effect on hunting and harvesting. The land can only support so much, as the human population increases. He is worried about the resources. Fires affect caribou habitat and so does lichen growth, which is slow. He reports a lot of bears, which are destroying camps and resources. There are also lots of wolves and beavers. There is need to respect predators when they are young. He is worried about the caribou; caribou numbers are low. Hunters that went up to Onion Portage for two weeks were able to get caribou, but this is a long time to have to hunt.

Elmer Armstrong of Noorvik reported that he set salmon nets in early July and put salmon in the freezer. Bears were getting into fish and moose meat racks on both sides of the river near Noorvik. He worked the night shift all summer, which made it hard to get out for subsistence. He was glad that some people could

get caribou just before freeze up. Some hunters got beluga and moose too. He caught Sheefish and one Dolly Varden in his salmon net.

Wilbur Howarth of Noorvik reported that he had a good subsistence season. He got whitefish in the spring. The Northern Pike came late, and he didn't catch this species. Their salmon season was good. The fish looked healthy. He worries about the water coming out of the Salmon River; it is colored like he hasn't ever seen before. There haven't been caribou much in the Noorvik area. There were several sick caribou this year. One had pus near the back of its tongue, and another had pus and was discolored under its skin. He has instructed other hunters in the area to report and send picture to him if they see that again. The past two years, moose have been plentiful. He has been seeing cow moose with two calves. There are lots of bears. Aggressive bears have been going after fish in their nets and charging berry pickers. He mentioned that the bears have been so bad that they watched your camp and your nets constantly. He noted that 4 caribou are enough for his family. He stops hunting when his family has enough.

Vern Cleveland of Noorvik reported that caribou numbers are down again this year and asked what we should do for our hunters. He said that we need to start reporting what the subsistence caribou harvests are for each village, and that we need accurate counts. He noted that the Northwest Arctic Caribou Herd had declined from 188,000 to 164,000 animals. He said that he didn't hunt caribou this fall but his son had.

Mike Kramer of Kotzebue, Council Vice Chair, reported that the caribou herd has been hit hard and it has been difficult for a lot of people living on the Noatak River to get caribou. He has not heard from Kiana. He has been hearing numerous complaints from non-local and local hunters that they have been harassed by bears and wolves while hunting. He said that everybody had a good *oogruk* spring season and that some people in Kotzebue got some beluga and moose. The caribou herd is migrating farther to the east due to calving, but he has not heard from others of any other changes to the current migration. He also reports a high level of community concern about the caribou herd. He heard that it was a very good year for harvesting berries and other plant life and that many people got salmon.

Tom Baker of Kotzebue, Council Chair, reported that ice conditions were challenging for *oogruk* hunting and that the *oogruk* hunt was successful for Kotzebue people. As for the salmon season, he noticed a trend of commercial fishermen catching enough salmon to share some with the people of Kotzebue. Ice fishing for Sheefish was okay. Some people went up to Onion Portage for caribou. A lot of people got moose to offset the poor caribou harvests. Outside sport hunters were going to the Point Hope area. There was an instance that a group of hunters had to be rescued due to the danger of hypothermia after it snowed two feet in the mountains. He noticed that fewer hunters have been coming due to the Federal closures and an early snow season.

**Service Awards:** Council Coordinator Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough introduced the OSM service awards. OSM's Statewide Support Supervisor Tom Kron presented a 10-year service award to Council Vice Chair Mike Kramer and a 20-year service award to Council member Enoch Shiedt. Chair Baker and other

Council members remarked and thanked Mr. Kramer and Mr. Shiedt for their years of service and commitment to serving on the Council and representing people in the region.

**Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

Melissa Brown introduced herself as the Selawik NWR Refuge Information Technician and noted that she is distributing Council application/recruitment forms in Selawik. She encouraged the spread of this information to other villages in the area as well as getting input from other villages. She mentioned that some sort of animal has been bothering Selawik, it had broken into a home last year.

Hannah Loon of Kotzebue talked about the need to get more Council applications out and have representation from additional communities such as Kivalina, Noatak, Ambler, and Kobuk. She added that she is concerned for increased bear populations and safety concerns particularly for children in Kotzebue and other communities. Council Vice Chair Mike Kramer responded that he knew some people interested in serving on the Council in Noatak and Ambler, and that representation on the Council from Shungnak, Kiana, Buckland, and Deering is wanted.

Mr. Walter Sampson introduced himself in Inupiaq. He noted the people sometimes don't understand when we talk in English and understandable information should reach the village level. This is a serious matter. Rural Alaskans are having a real struggle meeting their subsistence needs.

Mr. Willie Towksjhea expressed concern about fishing trawlers and bycatch. He expressed concern about the effect on salmon returns to Western and Northwestern Alaska.

Mr. Lance Kramer and Mr. Seth Kantner each spoke on their views and concerns for the caribou decline.

**Old Business:**

The Council received presentations on the following topics:

- **805(c) Report summary** – Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough, Council Coordinator, provided the Council with a summary of the 805(c) Report from the Federal Subsistence Board's (Board) actions on proposals affecting residents in the Northwest Arctic Region.
- **Federal Subsistence Board FY-2021 Annual Report Replies summary** – Ms. Hutchinson-Scarborough provided the Council with a summary of the Board's reply to the Council's items identified in their FY-2021 annual report. There was specific mention of the need for Council members to attend the Ambler Road meetings and suggestions to input regulations now (e.g., controlled use area, similar to the Noatak Controlled Use Area) in the event that the road is approved. There were comments regarding what was viewed as a loophole in the regulations where Federal jurisdiction ends at the high-water line and clarification that the closure was only for Federal lands.
- Special Actions updates

- **WSA21-01:** Units 23 and 26A caribou and moose closure – Dr. Hannah Voorhees, OSM Anthropologist, provided a summary of WSA21-01: Unit 23 caribou and moose closure. There was concern about hunters coming into the area due to inconsistency between State regulations and the Federal closure. Joe Dallemolle with NPS gave a brief overview of information required from transporters in regard to moving hunters and meat in and out of that area. The public shared concern for local people being misinformed about the details of this closure.
- **WSA22-01:** Muskox Units 22 and 23 – Tom Plank, OSM Wildlife Biologist, provided a summary of WSA22-01: Muskox Units 22 and 23.

## **New Business:**

### ***Fisheries Proposals and Closure Reviews***

There were no Fishery Proposals or Closure Reviews for the Council to address at this meeting.

### ***2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP)***

Ms. Karen Hyer, OSM Fisheries Biologist, and Dr. Voorhees provided a summary of the 2024 FRMP program and introduced presenters of some currently funded FRMP projects being conducted in the Northwest and Arctic regions.

### ***FRMP Research Reports***

Mr. Joe Spencer, Fishery Biologist for ADF&G Division of Sportfish and Graduate Student in the Fisheries Department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), provided a project report on Dolly Varden and Whitefish Mixed Stock Analysis in Northwest Arctic. This project addressed the priority information need to identify changes in species compositions, abundance, and migration timing, especially of Dolly Varden and whitefish species in the Northwest Arctic area, to address changing availability of subsistence fishery resources. Mr. Spencer explained it is a joint project with FWS, ADF&G, and UAF. The project looks at the life history, migrations, and stock mixing habits of Dolly Varden populations in Northwestern Alaska. More specifically objectives are to characterize the age at length at seaward migrations, frequency of seaward migrations, overwintering location and fidelity focusing on Dolly Varden that spawned in the Noatak, Wulik, and Kivalina drainages. To date they have collected otolith samples for genetic testing taken from subsistence ice fishing catches in Kivalina and Noatak. Mr. Spencer also provided an update on Dolly Varden counts in Wulik River, Kotzebue Sound, and announced the commercial Chum Salmon projections for 2023.

Ms. Morgan Urquia, Subsistence Resource Specialist with ADF&G, Division of Subsistence, provided an update on two ongoing FRMP funded projects for the region. The Traditional and Ecological Knowledge of Dolly Varden and Whitefish Species Behavior, Health, and Abundance in the communities of Deering, Kotzebue, and Noatak; and Traditional and Ecological Knowledge of Salmon in River Drainages of Kotzebue Sound in communities of Deering, Kotzebue, and Noatak.

Dr. Kevin Fraley with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) gave his project update on Kotzebue Sound Sheefish and Coastal Movement study. Mr. Fraley said that the WCS has been doing studies in the Sound to monitor fish abundance and diversity of Sheefish. This study is looking at changing distributions in Sheefish movements along the coast and new habitats, and by seasons, by tagging fish, literature review and conducting traditional and ecological interviews with subsistence users. Mr. Fraley asked the Council and other participants to inform him if there was anyone knowledgeable about Sheefish he could interview. Mr. Shiedt pointed out a whitefish and Sheefish study conducted by Susan Georgette and himself years prior that would be helpful to the study and pointed out that every village in Northwest Arctic except for Deering get whitefish.

### ***Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program***

Ms. Hyer provided a brief overview of the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring (Partners) Program and the upcoming notice for funding opportunity for the next Partners Program cycle.

### ***Priority Information Needs***

Dr. Voorhees and Ms. Hyer presented the FRMP overview and worked through the priority information needs process for the 2024-2027 FRMP Notice of Funding Opportunity. The Council reviewed the draft list provided to them by staff developed from consulting with some Council members. This list included the seven, priority information needs with additional recommendations and noted that all Northwest Arctic priority information needs should be accomplished working with local traditional knowledge. The priority information needs and additional Council comments and recommendations are as follows:

- Inventory and baseline data of fish assemblages in major rivers tied to subsistence use in Northwest Alaska. When possible, applicants are encouraged to include fisheries proximal to the communities of Shishmaref, Buckland, Deering, Kivalina, Point Hope and villages along Kobuk and Noatak rivers. The Council felt that the Village of Selawik should be added.
- Evaluate changes in water temperature and resulting low oxygen in major river systems associated with subsistence fishery resources in the Northwest Arctic Region, and how these changes will affect salmon, whitefish, Northern Pike, and other fish vital for subsistence. The Council wants wording added about the change in watercolor from melt/mineral deposits as a result of climate change
- The effects of expanding beaver populations and range on subsistence fisheries, including whitefish, in the Northwest Arctic Region. Include effects of dams on fish migration and effects of changes to water quality on fish health. The Council asked that this be done working with local traditional knowledge, to document effects on subsistence users.
- Document herring abundance, seasonal movements, and health and investigate causes of large herring mortality events in the Northwest Arctic. The Council commented that the marine portion of herring life history cycle would be outside the Federal Subsistence Management Program's jurisdiction.

- Document the effects of changing river and tributary conditions on salmon spawning in the Noatak and Kobuk River drainages, with focus on the potential effects of increased precipitation on spawning viability. The Council asked for documentation of changing water levels and the effects of climate change including increased precipitation, temperature change, on water levels and erosion.
- Changes in species compositions, abundance, and migration timing, especially of Dolly Varden, Lake Trout, and whitefish species in the Northwest Arctic, to address changing availability of subsistence fishery resources. The Council felt that this is okay as written.
- Identify the spawning areas, critical habitat and range expansion in major rivers tied to subsistence for Broad Whitefish, Least Cisco, Northern Pike, salmon, Grayling, and Dolly Varden in the Northwest Alaska Region. The Council also said the list should include Lake Trout and also Dolly Varden abundance in the Noatak River.

Motion by Council member Shiedt, seconded by Council member Cleveland, to approve the updated PINs.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **Agency Reports**

### ***Identify Issues for FY-2022 Annual Report:***

Ms. Hutchinson-Scarborough provided information regarding development of the FY-2022 Annual Report and asked the Council to provide to the Board any local issues or concerns. The Council discussed a wide range of concerns. and requested the following topics to be included in their FY-2022 Annual Report to the Board.

- Understandable information reaching to and from the village level
- Federal, State, cross regional coordination of caribou management that engages Tribes and communities
- Diseases of caribou and other causes of mortality
- Climate change effects on local resources and access for subsistence
- Full Council membership including alternates with better geographic distribution
- Predator concerns, interfering with subsistence activities, and safety of communities

Motion by Council member Armstrong, seconded by Council member Shiedt, to move ahead with the above list for the FY-2022 Annual Report.

The motion passed unanimously.

## ***Western Arctic Caribou Herd and Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group Updates***

Alex Hansen, Caribou Biologist with ADF&G, gave a comprehensive update of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH). His report included abundance, biological data, management, and harvest reporting. He noted that the WACH numbered about 70,000 animals in the 1970s and that the population had increased to about a half million caribou in the late 1990s. The past 20 years the Western Arctic Caribou population has been declining and is currently in a “preservative/declining” management mode. The 2022 count was finalized at 164,000, which is down from last year’s estimate of 188,000. The calving rate was estimated at 64% of adult females based on female counted with a calf, which is close to the long-term average of 70%, not alarming but something ADF&G is keeping their eye on. The spring aerial surveys estimate the recruitment. The WACH long-term average is about 17 short yearlings per 100 adults, and this average has been maintained the last four years. Adult survival is also critical, and the estimated female adult survival needs to be at least 80 percent for the herd grow; but in 2022 the female survival rate was estimated at 72 percent. Last spring 36 collars were deployed on adult females, and survival rates will be modeled after a year or in April-May 2023. Estimating bull to cow ratios is more difficult to measure as these surveys need to be done in the fall and often when caribou are scattered, and weather conditions are not ideal. Last year ADF&G estimated 47 bulls to 100 cows, which, Mr. Hansen said, is good as the management goal is 30 bulls to 100 cows. Mortality is more difficult to measure, and data only comes from collared animals primarily. If a collared animal stops moving, they try to get out as soon as possible to determine the cause of death.

Mr. Hansen also reported on some of the recommendations by the WACH Working Group (WG) at their last meeting. . The WACH WG recommended the management level move into the preservative, declining category and to maintain the harvest range of 6,000-10,000 animals within a population of 130,000 – 200,000 animals. He reported that non-local non-resident hunters harvest mostly bulls and before the recent closure that harvest was about 350 bulls and since the closure the number of hunters was cut by 2/3 with an estimated 80-100 bulls harvested. The Alaska Board of Game has made a positive customary and traditional (C&T) finding for subsistence harvests of caribou from the WACH and Teshekpuk Herds combined, with an amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 8,000-12,000 animals. Mr. Hansen thought these levels were still being met by subsistence users and said ADF&G estimated that subsistence hunters are taking 6,000-10,000 caribou each year based on permit returns and subsistence surveys.

Mr. Hansen answered multiple questions from Council members following his report. The Council expressed great concern over the declining herd numbers and provided reports of caribou migrations, harvests, sick animals, and the voluntarily reduction of caribou typically harvested for subsistence as hunters try their part to help maintain sustainability of the herd for future generations. Many concerns of fear were expressed as the caribou herd is a major part of the diet of most of the people in the region. Predator issues were discussed extensively, and some Council members thought that there has been an increase in bear and wolf populations that are also contributing to the decline of caribou and more should



be done, such as increased hunting or trapping or other control of these predators. One Council member also felt that there should be limits to guides and transporters, which needs to be considered further if the herd continues to drop. There was also some discussion for the need to find supplemental food sources such as moose to fill people's freezers or increase food distribution programs, particularly for elders.

***Joint meeting: North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference in May 2023***

Dr. Voorhees announced the Joint Meeting North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference in May 2023. She noted that OSM would support travel for one NWA Council member to attend and requested that the Council nominate one person and an alternate.

Motion by Council member Shiedt, seconded by member Howarth, to nominate Chair Baker to attend the North American Caribou Conference.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Council member Howarth, seconded by member Shiedt, to nominate member Armstrong as their alternate to attend the North American Caribou Conference.

Motion passed unanimously.

***Harvest of Wildlife for Sport Purposes in National Preserves***

Ray McPadden, Superintendent for Western Arctic National Parklands presented a summary.

***Council Appointments to Kobuk Valley and Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC)***

Mr. Justin Junge with NPS gave a summary. Council member Shiedt made a motion, seconded by Council member Howarth, which was approved unanimously to keep Merle Custer (ADF&G, Upper Kobuk Advisory Council member), who has been a member of the Kobuk Valley SRC. The Council opted to wait until the winter Council appointments are finalized before filling the other vacant SRC seat.

***Council Member reimbursement for telephonic/internet expenses related to Council teleconference meetings***

Ms. Jessica Gill with OSM read to the Council information for past or future reimbursement for telephonic/internet expenses related to Council teleconference meeting.

***Fall 2022 Council application/nomination open season:***

Ms. DeAnna Perry announced that membership applications or nominations for seats on the 10 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils are being accepted through February 21, 2023; and encouraged the Council and public to get the word out to Northwest Arctic communities to recruit new applicants. She also reminded members that have terms expiring next year to reapply. The Council had a brief discussion about the need by Council Members and OSM to increase outreach in unrepresented communities.

## **Reports:**

- **Tribal Governments.** There were no Tribal reports presented.
- **National Weather Service, NOAA.** Dr. Brian Brettschneider, Physical Scientist and Climate Scientist for the Alaska Region gave a winter outlook report for the region. The arctic is warming faster than expected, massive increase in nearshore sea surface temperatures over the last 25 years and sea ice near Kotzebue will still be prevalent but 15% less ice in the year, but computer models predict the ice retention in the Kotzebue region in the winter indefinitely.
- **FWS, Selawik NWR.** The Refuge report was presented by Will Wiese, Assistant Refuge Manager, who introduced staff, provided management updates such as installation of communication towers for broadband capability, and provided summary of hunting guides and transporters on the Refuge and the Refuge's involvement with the WACH WG. The Refuge is really interested in working with NPS, the State, and the working group members to address the caribou issues. Mr. Wiese and Mr. Hanson with ADF&G traveled to Selawik, Ambler, Shungnak, and Kobuk in fall to do hunter information meetings. Fishery Biologist Bill Carter has been doing a lot of work measuring water temperatures and stream flow in the Refuge to better understand how much water is needed for fish to spawn.
- **FWS, Selawik NWR.** Brittany Sweeney, Outreach Specialist, gave a summary of the ongoing waterfowl monitoring conducted by the Migratory Birds Division and Refuge's support and partnership with the Northwest Arctic Regional Migratory Bird Council.
- **NPS, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.** New Superintendent Mark Dowdle introduced himself and Marcy Okada, Outreach Specialist, provided a Park activities summary and a summary of the recent Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission's meeting that included Ambler Road Project and WACH discussions. Kyle Joly, Wildlife Biologist, provided reports on the WACH and moose surveys in the park.
- **NPS, Western Arctic National Parklands.** Ray McPadden, Superintendent, provided a few park updates including new hire Anthropologist Emily Creek that will facilitate the Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) meetings and assist with Council meetings. He also talked about a multi-year reclamation project of old quarry and gravel pit in Cape Krusenstern and implementation and enforcing Wildlife Special Action 21-01 (a). Joe Dallemolle, Wildlife Protection, provided brief report on big game guides that operated within the Park and reported he

didn't see any violations to the Special Action WSA21-01: Unit 23 caribou and moose closures last fall and answered questions from the Council.

- **NPS, Western Arctic National Parklands and ADF&G, Division of Wildlife.** Raime Fronstin, Wildlife Biologist, and Christie Osburn, Unit 23 Area Biologist with ADF&G, provided wildlife reports for moose, Dall sheep, muskoxen, bear, and wolf and answered several questions from the Council.
- **NPS Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Commission (KVSRC).** Justin Junge mentioned a project conducted by NPS and U.S. Geological Survey researchers who did multi-year beaver range expansion project and looking at the browning of rivers and methane released in melting permafrost that was presented to the Kobuk Valley SRC and suggested the Council might also be interested in a report on this project at their next meeting. He responded to questions from the Council.
- **BLM.** Tom Sparks, Associate Manager for Anchorage Field Office based in Nome, provided short overview of statewide field office project updates of subsistence and wildlife and other projects. He also announced that BLM is looking for public comments due before November 4<sup>th</sup> on the Ambler Road Supplemental Review.
- **ADF&G, Division of Subsistence.** Project updates presented by Morgan Urquia. Ms. Urquia provided brief summaries of several projects being conducted in the region, including: The Arctic Beaver Observation Network in communities of Shungnak, Kotzebue, and Noatak; Bering Land Bridge Ethnographic Overview in eight Northwest and Arctic communities; Kiana Subsistence Harvest Assessment; and Traditional Ecological Knowledge of salmon in river drainages in Kotzebue Sound.
- **OSM.** Tom Kron, Statewide Support Division Manager, gave the OSM statewide summary.

### **Future Meeting Dates:**

After some discussion, a motion was made by Council member Cleveland, seconded by Council Vice Chair Kramer, to having their winter 2023 meeting in Kotzebue on March 6 & 7.

Motion passed unanimously.

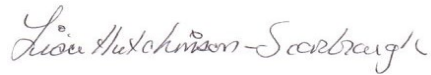
There was a wish to have the pre-meeting, Sunday evening "meet and greet" again.

A motion by Council member Cleveland, seconded by Council member Shiedt, to have their fall 2023 meeting in Kotzebue on October 16 & 17.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **Closing Comments:**

Council members thanked Council Coordinator Hutchinson-Scarborough and staff. The Council felt that they got a lot done. Council members said that they received a lot of good information. Council members are hoping that we will be able to turn around the caribou decline.



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Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough, DFO  
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management



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Mr. Thomas Baker, Chair  
Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its March 7-8, 2023, meeting in Kotzebue, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

For a more detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcript and meeting handouts are available upon request. Call Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough at: 1-800-478-1456 or 907-310-4097, email: [lisa\\_hutchinson@fws.gov](mailto:lisa_hutchinson@fws.gov).