

0001

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE
November 3, 2021
9:20 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Gordon Brower, Chair
- William Hopson
- Martha Itta
- Wanda Kippi
- Steve Oomittuk
- Edward Rexford

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
329 F Street, Suite 222
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-227-5312/sahile@gci.net

0002

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 11/3/2021)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe we'll go ahead and start off with an invocation. I can give that if there's no objections, I can provide the invocation.

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that I'm going to call the meeting to order and maybe we can do a roll call and I'm not sure if we'll establish a quorum right now. But, Madame Coordinator, if you can provide the roll call. I'm not sure if Wanda has -- is in attendance right now because she may be attending to community needs right now.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council members. I'll go through the roster for roll call here. Gordon Brower, Utqiagvik.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, I'm here.

MS. PATTON: Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk.

(No comments)

MS. PATTON: And, again, Mr. Chair, and Council members she may be calling in a little later this morning as she attends to a community emergency there. And hopefully we'll hear from Wanda in the next hour or so.

Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope.

(No comments)

MS. PATTON: And I just talked with Steve again last night so, you know, he'll be calling in and hopefully able to connect here this morning.

And we have our new Council member from Wainwright. Billy Patkotak, Jr., are you able to connect with us this morning on teleconference.

0003

1 (No comments)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. PATTON: I did just leave a message trying to get through and hopefully he's able to connect on the teleconference this morning and join us a little later, I'll try to touch base again and see if he's able to connect.

Edward Rexford, Sr., Kaktovik.

MR. REXFORD: Yes, I'm here, good morning.

MS. PATTON: Good morning, Eddie, thank you.

Martha Itta, Nuiqsut.

MS. ITTA: Good morning, Eva. Good morning everyone.

MS. PATTON: Good morning, Martha.

Earl Williams, Anaktuvuk Pass. Peter Earl Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

MS. PATTON: Good morning, Peter. All right, thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. Well, at this time we have -- currently we have seven seated Council members and three vacant seats and we only have four out of our seven Council members present. So we don't yet have quorum but we can begin the meeting with informational.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: That sounds like a good plan.

MS. PATTON: Hopefully we will have our other Council members joining us shortly.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you, Eva, for providing the roll call and we'll acknowledge the other Council members when they join and hopefully by that time we would reach some of the action items. So this morning I'm going to do welcome and introductions

0004

1 maybe just starting from Kaktovik. Eddie.

2

3 MR. REXFORD: Yes, good morning
4 everybody. I'm on and willing to sit in in the meeting
5 all day. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. I
8 think I heard Martha, maybe I'll go to Nuiqsut. Good
9 morning, Martha. Good to hear you.

10

11 MS. ITTA: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
12 Good to hear you all too. Martha Itta from Nuiqsut.
13 I've been on since, I believe, 2018. Long life
14 resident of Nuiqsut hunter, fisherman, all year-round.
15 Good morning.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's good to hear
18 you. Earl.

19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Thank you
21 very much. Thankful for our caribou herd. Good
22 morning to everybody.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. And
25 let's start with those online, maybe we'll start with
26 OSM Staff, and then just chime in after that, those
27 that are online.

28

29 **Transcriber Note**

30

31 Hannah Voorhees contacted Computer Matrix Court
32 Reporters requesting she be titled as Dr. Voorhees in
33 transcripts and not Ms. Voorhees

34

35 **End Transcriber Note**

36

37 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning, this is
38 Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist with OSM.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

41

42 MS. HYER: Good morning. This is Karen
43 Hyer, Fish Biologist with OSM.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Karen.

46

47 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. This is
48 Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

49

50

0005

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

2

3 MR. VICKERS: Good morning. This is
4 Brent Vickers, Cultural Anthropologist with OSM. And I
5 will also be representing the leadership team for OSM
6 today. Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

9

10 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
11 This is Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator
12 with OSM.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

15

16 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. This is
17 George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, OSM.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that sounds like
24 that concludes OSM so I'll just ask those others that
25 are online to just go ahead and introduce yourself.
26 I'm not exactly sure who's on.

27

28 MS. LEAVITT: Good morning. This is
29 Doreen Leavitt with Inupiat Community of the Arctic
30 Slope, ICAS. I am the Acting Natural Resource
31 Director. So this is my first time calling in, thank
32 you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Welcome and.....

35

36 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Mr. Chair
37 and.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER:good morning
40 Doreen.

41

42 MR. RISDAHL:Council members.
43 This is Greg Risdahl, the Forest Service InterAgency
44 Staff Committee member. Nice to be here.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

47

48 MR. BERENDZEN: Good morning, Mr.
49 Chair. This is Steve Berendzen, Arctic National
50

0006

1 Wildlife Refuge.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Steve.

4

5 MS. DAGGETT: Good morning. This is
6 Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department of Fish and Game
7 up in Barrow.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Carmen.

10

11 MS. MIKOW: Good morning. This is Beth
12 Mikow. I'm the Anthropologist with the Arctic District
13 Office with BLM.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

16

17 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. This is
18 Chris McKee, Subsistence Coordinator with BLM and ISC
19 member.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

22

23 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
24 Klein. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator and
25 InterAgency Staff Committee member for the U.S. Fish
26 and Wildlife Service.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good.....

29

30 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

31 This is.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER:morning.

34

35 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning. This is Kim
36 Jochum, I'm the Acting Subsistence Program Manager for
37 the National Park Service Regional Office and ISC
38 member.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

41

42 MS. NIGRO: Good morning. This is
43 Debbie Nigro. I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Arctic
44 District of BLM.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Debbie.

47

48 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
49 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game in the

50

0007

1 Palmer office.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Mark.

4

5 MR. HANSON: Good morning. Alex
6 Hanson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kotzebue
7 office.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

10

11 MR. PHILLIPS: Good morning. This is
12 Georgianna Phillips with Alaska Fish and Game, Board
13 support in the Kotzebue office.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hi, Geogeann.

16

17 MS. PHILLIPS: Good morning.

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning. This is
20 Brooke McDavid with the Division of Subsistence, Fish
21 and Game in Fairbanks.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

24

25 MR. NAGEAK: Good morning. Ernest
26 Nageak, Barrow Fish and Wildlife Service, Barrow Field
27 office.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Ernest.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MS. LENART: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
34 This is Beth Lenart from ADF&G in Fairbanks.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Beth.

37

38 MS. LENART: Hi.

39

40 MS. OKADA: Hi, good morning. This is
41 Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the
42 Arctic National Park and Preserve.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning Marcy.

45

46 MS. BROWN: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is
47 Caroline Brown, the Subsistence Statewide Research
48 Director for Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

49

50

0008

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

2

3 MR. JOLY: Good morning. This is Kyle
4 Joly, I'm a Wildlife Biologist with Gates of the
5 Arctic.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who was that, I'm
8 sorry.

9

10 MR. JOLY: No problem. Good morning.
11 This is Kyle Joly, I'm a Wildlife Biologist with Gates
12 of the Arctic National Park.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, all right, Kyle.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, giving a little
19 bit more than time to pause because I keep overtalking
20 and somebody keeps introducing themselves. Hopefully
21 everybody's introduced themselves that are online and
22 we are able to get underway. So one last call for
23 someone that hasn't been acknowledged and introduced
24 themselves, time to do that now.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. I'm
29 going to go to Item 5, review and adoption of the
30 agenda. What's the wish of the Council.

31

32 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll make a motion to
33 adopt the agenda.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
36 the floor to accept the agenda.

37

38 REPORTER: Hey, Gordon, this is Tina,
39 your reporter.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

42

43 REPORTER: Could I just have when
44 people make a motion or a second, can I get their name.
45 Was that Eddie?

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who made the motion
48 to adopt the agenda, was that Eddie or Earl?

49

50

0009

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Earl.

2

3 REPORTER: Okay, excuse me. I'm sorry,
4 Earl -- okay, thank you Earl.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Anaktuvuk Pass
7 made the motion.

8

9 REPORTER: Thank you, Gordon.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Is there
12 a second.

13

14 MS. ITTA: I second it, this is Martha.

15

16 REPORTER: Thanks, Martha.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. The
19 motion has been seconded. Discussion. Any amendments
20 to the agenda by Staff or any of the Council members
21 who wish to make any changes, or any proposed
22 realignment in the agenda anywhere.

23

24 Eva.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair,
27 and Council members. If I may make a recommendation to
28 adopt the agenda as a guide so that we can be flexible
29 if we need to shift the order of the agenda around in
30 order to have quorum for taking action on the wildlife
31 proposals, in particular, so we can take care of all
32 the other business that doesn't require full quorum and
33 is informational and be sure to take up the action
34 items when we do have our quorum of Council members.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
39 Coordinator. So that's the advice to the Council, that
40 we be flexible and take up those nonaction [sic] items
41 that we need for a quorum and work on the agenda that
42 are informational and that don't need a full quorum to
43 adopt those action items. So that's the recommendation
44 and we'll go with that. If there are no other
45 recommendations or changes to the adoption of the
46 agenda with those recommendations, so what's the wish
47 of the Council. Maybe call for the question.

48

49 MR. WILLIAMS: It's so moved, Earl -- I

50

0010

1 call for it, Earl.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I think Earl,
4 you're moving that we take those recommendations and be
5 flexible so we've been -- we've already got a motion on
6 the floor to adopt the agenda, it was seconded,
7 discussion's happened, and there's a motion to take
8 those recommendations from Eva, is there a second.

9

10 MS. ITTA: I second it.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those in favor of
13 amending the agenda by making it flexible enough so
14 that we are addressing informational items until we get
15 a full quorum. All those approve of that motion
16 signify by saying aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
21 same sign.

22

23 (No opposing votes)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, all
26 right, the agenda is flexible and we're back to the
27 main motion. Maybe if we could call for the question
28 at this point, maybe.

29

30 (Teleconference interference -
31 participants not muted)

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we could end
34 the discussion by calling for the question.

35

36 MR. WILLIAMS: Question. Earl.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been
39 called for, all those in favor of adopting the agenda
40 as amended by making it flexible for the Council to
41 take up -- just to be flexible so that when we get a
42 quorum, all those in favor of adopting the amending
43 agenda signify by saying aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
48 same sign.

49

50

0011

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have an agenda.

So we will acknowledge those Council members that have yet to dial in when they are here. So Item 6, review and approve previous minutes. What's the wish of the Council.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. So this is an action item.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, okay.

MS. PATTON: So one of the ways it's easy to look at the action items, there's a little asterisk in your agenda where formal action is requested from the Council. So you're welcome to take a minute to look at your previous meeting minutes and then when Wanda and Steve are able to join us to get their input as well to take formal action on the meeting minutes. But if the Council would like to take a look at it so you're aware of there's any corrections that are needed then we can address that.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, we're welcome to look at the minutes but we can't act on them. So if you find a typo we can point it out though.

REPORTER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, with that we will continue to digest the minutes as we go. I think we can move on to reports, which are nonaction items. Normally this part we'll go by village to have a report from Council members about their village concerns and subsistence and how things are going in that area. So maybe we will start with Anaktuvuk. We'll start from the mountains and then we'll come down. Earl.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Council.

(Indiscernible - muffled - cuts out)
had some caribou come through, migration but we caught their subsistence needs. There was a lot of bears around but they all disappeared. There's still wolves around. They're around the dump site and much around

0012

1 town there. Pretty quiet since it's been hunkered
2 down, a lot of deaths going on and losing our loved
3 ones, it's pretty hard but we got to accept that.

4
5 The weather comes and goes and main
6 issue is climate change. That's what we got here,
7 rain, snowing, wind blowing, cold, warm, we think that
8 sickness with it, and everything comes with it, but I
9 just pray to the Lord that everybody will be okay and
10 all the village people have their share of the quota.
11 Thanks for the muqtuk, appreciate it and no matter how
12 we see each other we just got to move along, like our
13 elders said, that, you know, if give up we're not going
14 to get nowhere so just keep us going.

15
16 I really appreciate you people that are
17 giving information on your village talk, we could learn
18 more from one another, and that's an important of the
19 traditional custom style that we live in so we got to
20 live with it.

21
22 So that's my part. I just wanted to
23 thank you all for having me at your meetings and I
24 appreciate the people, families, thank you very much.
25 Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Earl.
28 It sounds -- you know, we all pray for our communities.
29 Is there any questions to Earl for his report on the
30 village and subsistence in that area. I'm really glad
31 to hear that the fall tutu went through and came in and
32 blessed the community. I saw that happen and a lot of
33 smiling faces for the community. We are sad about the
34 loss of the loved ones and so many community members
35 leaving us with the pandemic and other things like
36 that.

37
38 Quyanaqpak, Earl.

39
40 Any questions for Earl.

41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: You're welcome. I just
43 want to add one more thing to that there, Chairman. I
44 have to thank the young ones and the people that share
45 their kill with the elders and the people that can't
46 hunt and stuff. I really appreciate for city and
47 tribal to stick up for their -- with fuel and animals
48 and the things that they got, thanks a lot for
49 everything that you've done for us and that's really
50

0013

1 important for our issues.

2

3

Thank you, very much.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you, Earl. You know I often think about the issues facing when tutu are not coming around and there's so much different variables involved when that happens and it's a very big heartache but somehow I think there needs to be efforts to do something about addressing subsistence, when a community is without those resources. I mean I like to think about some of the mitigation efforts that go into like a community like Nuiqsut and sometimes I pray that all of our communities are blessed with those types of mitigation measures that when the resources are scarce and not coming by, what do we do for our communities to assist them and sometimes I think Nuiqsut invites Anaktuvuk hunters to come to Nuiqsut to hunt and I think those are very important things to recognize about our dependence, sometimes, on another village. Anyway I just thought I wanted to add that. I'm just so happy this time the caribou come around.

24

25

26

With that, if there are no further questions for Anaktuvuk, maybe I'll go down to Nuiqsut.

27

28

Martha.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Fishing this year is really slow. We started fishing -- we usually start fishing soon as freeze-up starts in October but the weather has been really warm lately. Freeze-up is really slow. Fishing is slow. Some are barely getting caught up here right down at the river where they usually catch a lot. They're getting some there at the (Indiscernible), maybe at least a hundred every two days but it's slower than usual. More sick fish. We've already had one fisherman fall through the ice. There's a lot of open

0014

1 spots so, you know, our fishermen are being really
2 careful at this time because of the warm weather and
3 open holes on the river.

4

5 Some concerns on caribou this year. I
6 know there's an abundance of caribou but this year they

7

8 have been scattered. We didn't see as many as we did
9 last year and concerns by hunters is that the traffic,
10 them going to the west side, they watch them and they
11 try to watch for the first herd to pass through. That
12 didn't really happen. Their migration was diverted due
13 to the heavy traffic of vehicles, heavy equipment going
14 to the west side, like Fish Creek area, so they had
15 turned toward the south side and I think that's when
16 they went toward Anaktuvuk Pass. People were catching
17 them, a couple of sick caribou that had to be thrown
18 away.

19

20 A lot of muskox. There's more muskox
21 around here. I heard one hunter say, you know, we need
22 to see if we can start hunting those because they're
23 messing with our caribou and other animals. Just
24 recently, a few days ago, there was about 40 muskox,
25 maybe more, right across the Killuk River, right on
26 Killuk River.

27

28 Other than that, that's all I've seen
29 and heard hunting and fishing in our area.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.
34 It's always to hear each community and hearing their
35 concerns and what's been happening. So any of those
36 couple of caribous that were deemed sick, were there
37 any specimens or parts that may have been maybe
38 provided to the Wildlife Department to see what was
39 wrong with them.

40

41 MS. ITTA: Yes. As far as I know they
42 have sent samples of them but they haven't gotten
43 reports back.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And maybe a question
46 for ADF&G or to OSM, I know our resources, the North
47 Slope Borough, the people are pretty much know that the
48 Borough will do a necropsy and try to take a look at
49 what ails the animals and try to figure it out if it's

50

0015

1 a widespread problem or an isolated incident or
2 something like that. Is there additional outlets for
3 communities that might report these so that, you know,
4 the finding that maybe the North Slope Borough can be
5 corroborated by another entity. Just putting that out
6 other. Because it seems like we're always wanting to
7 know where to send some things and sometimes it's
8 always the same place. I'm not saying we don't trust
9 the Borough, but it seems to me that we should have, if
10 there are other places to send it to just to check on
11 the health of what the state of the meat is or
12 something like that. Any feedback on that.

13

14 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair. This is
15 Carmen Daggett with Fish and Game. I can answer your
16 question if you'd like.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
19 Carmen, and thank you.

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, so thank you for
22 this comment, Mr. Chair. We encourage people from any
23 North Slope community to contact the North Slope Fish
24 and Game office here in Barrow and last winter we
25 actually did send in several samples to have them
26 analyzed from some caribou here in Barrow but if people
27 from villages have -- or surrounding communities have
28 samples they can certainly send them to us and then we
29 can get them processed. Doesthat answer your question?

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think that's
32 very helpful and important to try to make sure there's,
33 you know, responses and things like that. Any other
34 questions for Nuiqsut's representative, Martha, from
35 anybody.

36

37 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Chair,
38 this is Earl from Anaktuvuk.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Earl.

41

42 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, good morning.
43 Anyway when I was growing up, when I was a kid, I also
44 remembered when we used to check fishnets and
45 fishwheels, we used to do it early morning, the reason
46 why is when the sun sits on the fish they start getting
47 mushy. Even in a fishnet that's why we always check
48 morning, early morning around 7:00 or 6:00 in the
49 morning before the sun comes out and when the sun goes
50

0016

1 down we check the wheel too. And our old people used
2 to say that when it really warms up the fish got kind
3 of mushy. I don't know if that has to do with the sun
4 heat to the water or, I don't know I just heard a story
5 about those around the coastal area, around Yup'ik
6 country that, you know, fishis getting kind of fishy --
7 I mean mushy, I don't know, I just kind of read it on
8 Facebook and I was just concerned about those, are they
9 studying on that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl.
12 Those are good observations because those are old time
13 observations and, you know, what we grew up with too.
14 Yeah, that's a point of interest about the sick fish
15 and I'm thinking, Martha, that you're talking about
16 more moldy white broad -- broad whitefish, (In Native)
17 type, and it seems to me there's been very limited
18 exposure to the (In Native) and we know the (In Native)
19 comes in and they come in from different parts, I think
20 from McKenzie they migrate and then they come into the
21 Colville and it gets pretty abundant. But it seems to
22 me many of the reports have been related to the broad
23 whitefish that are caught.

24

25 MS. ITTA: Yes, Mr. Chair, that's
26 correct. I didn't know whether -- when to bring this
27 up but I saw that ADF&G and the anthropologist is on
28 the agenda, but I did bring up in the past about trying
29 to change the wording about the studies that they do on
30 our fish to expand to contaminants so another thing
31 that I wanted to mention to help try to get answers on
32 these fish and what we're facing right now. Because I
33 don't believe that they're doing any studies on the
34 contaminants on our animals. I think that that is
35 excluded, to my understanding, in the wordings and I
36 was going to bring that up to BLM and to the fishery
37 people when they're on the agenda.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, thank you,
40 Martha. I think that this is something that Karen Hyer
41 has -- I know she brings up the fish proposals, I think
42 every two years, I think, for the studies and I'm
43 pretty sure we're going to get to their report and be
44 able to add those types of concerns and see where we
45 could find common ground in terms of the type of study.
46 But it might be wordsmithing, too, how we say things.
47 It could lead them to do something and maybe that's
48 more dialogue with -- am I right, that that person is
49 Karen Hyer with Fish and Wildlife.

50

0017

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
2 Council. Yes, Karen Hyer will be on and reporting to
3 the Council on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
4 Program. So an opportunity there to discuss the
5 fisheries research and then as noted, too, we do have
6 BLM Staff on as well to -- and others from other
7 agencies that may be able to address some avenues and
8 components of particular research that Nuiqsut is
9 looking for. But Karen is on the agenda a little later
10 in the meeting under the FRMP reports and, yeah, we can
11 definitely have full conversation on that at that time.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And,
16 Martha, seems like there's going to be some opportunity
17 to express those type of concerns.

18
19 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
20 you, Eva.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

23
24 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Martha.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are no
27 further questions for Nuiqsut I'm going to go to
28 Kaktovik.

29
30 MR. REXFORD: Yes, good morning, thank
31 you, Mr. Chair. Council members. Federal agencies.
32 We've been catching caribous. There's caribou around
33 and I haven't heard of any sick animals being harvested.

34
35 The past moose season I don't think
36 anybody harvested any moose. And polar bears, we have
37 hardly any polar bears coming into our community or
38 into the bone pile for that matter. Because this past
39 summer there was a killer whales roaming around our
40 area and also in the Barrow area I hear that our
41 harvesting bowhead whales also so we have three dead
42 bowhead whales, I believe washed ashore the east of our
43 community, not too far and that's why we don't have any
44 problem bear problems this year, hardly any coming into
45 the village or the community for that matter.

46
47 And the other ongoing problem we have
48 is, although it's not wildlife matters, it's
49 trespassing in our Native allotments, it's still an
50

0018

1 ongoing issue. Although we've been reporting this to
2 the Refuge manager nothing is being done about that. I
3 don't know, maybe we need to have a pow-wow with all
4 the powers that be, maybe ICAS realty, BIA realty,
5 Refuge manager, Refuge enforcement officials, Alaska
6 State Troopers maybe, because, you know, they break
7 into our cabins, use our fuel, eat our food, break in
8 the cabins, vandalize equipment. Just recently we had
9 hunters coming back from the HulaHula second fish hole
10 and a hunting cabin there had been vandalized again.
11 They cut up all the mantles in the lanterns, even the
12 mantels that are not being used, brand new ones, are
13 cut in half, all the fuel's been used and our community
14 is pretty frustrated about this ongoing trespassing
15 issue by White folks using the Refuge. I don't know if
16 it's sportfishermen, sporthunters, sheep hunters, you
17 name it. This has got to stop. And I think we need
18 to, as a community, put our foot down and demand that
19 action be taken, maybe have the Refuge folks or the
20 Federal government make signs for us stating these are
21 private properties and should not be trespassed on.

22

23 That's all I have for now and if I
24 think of anything else I'll surely chime in.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eddie.
29 Any questions to Eddie from any other Council.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions
34 for.....

35

36 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, Earl.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Earl.

39

40 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I fully support you
41 there Ed. And, you know, it's an ongoing thing about
42 sportshunters, we're having the same problem here,
43 especially when the caribous are coming through there's
44 a little white plane flowing over it, they see it, it
45 just scatters the caribous and they migrate to one
46 location and that's where they go when the aircraft is
47 disturbing them, they just scatter and then they get
48 all confused as we get too when we get all rounded up.
49 Well, anyways I just fully support you and I hope you
50

0019

1 get your resolutions on your muskox too. If you got
2 any questions we're here for you bro' thank you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl.

5

6 MR. REXFORD: Thank you, Earl.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And any questions
9 for.....

10

11 MR. REXFORD: And I forgot one thing.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eddie.

14

15 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair, this is Eddie.
16 Yeah, we also have sheep hunters trying to harvest
17 sheep for communities, upcoming feast, and they just
18 reported a couple days ago that a float plane just
19 landed at Schrader Lake, I don't know what they're
20 doing there but that might be the folks that's been
21 trespassing every year. I can't believe it was a float
22 plane because they said the lake is not even frozen yet
23 which is strange, but maybe it's been warm up in the
24 mountains there. So it's a continual problem, even to
25 this day, and I don't know if -- who they report to
26 when they land in Refuge property like that next to our
27 allotments, do they report to Anchorage air tower or
28 Deadhorse tower before they land or they don't report
29 anywhere before they land. That would be interesting
30 to find out so we could contact these air control
31 towers to find out who's doing the flying. Maybe that
32 would help us. Just a thought.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
35 Eddie. Just as a, you know, I think it's important if
36 there was any ways that anyone, you know, had tail
37 numbers or description of that aircraft. As an
38 example, our inspectors inspecting guides and
39 operations on the Haul Road, were on inspection and
40 came across a downed aircraft and we had pictures of it
41 and the tail numbers and we did our own investigation
42 on it and it was a guided operator that had no permits
43 from the North Slope Borough and we're continuing to
44 investigate whether they had BLM permits or Federal
45 permits or State permits, so we're investigating that.
46 And we know who the outfit is and so it's important
47 that, you know, when we get information, to be able to --
48 who that plane is registered to and things like that.

49

50

0020

1 Maybe, Steve Berendzen, if you could
2 maybe respond to a little bit because I believe this is
3 in your neck of the woods for Wildlife Refuge and maybe
4 talk about how many permits are issued or it doesn't
5 require a permit to get in ANWR because it's a Wildlife
6 Refuge. It seems to me you would be the point of
7 contact for the entire world to want to visit ANWR and
8 maybe there are informations there and how that place
9 functions that we need to identify greater.

10

11 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair
12 and Council. Yes, I'll do my best to answer that
13 question. We do have several permitted operators. At
14 this time I'm not aware of anybody who's permitted to
15 use float plane -- or permitted to do air taxi
16 operations, for example, with a float plane that would
17 be using the North Slope like that. But there are
18 other private operators who have their own aircraft who
19 could use that. There's no restriction on private
20 operators landing on lakes or on whatever runways on
21 the Refuge. So my guess would be that it's a private
22 owner, a private aircraft owner. But we'd be happy to
23 work with Kaktovik and learn more about this and do
24 what we can to pursue that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. I
27 think it's important -- you know, I think this might be
28 the second time that I've heard about vandalism, you
29 know, we see it on TV about the Last Alaskans in the
30 Wildlife Refuge. And I think there's some sentiments
31 that grow about, you know, from others that any use of
32 the Refuge, that they try -- you know, they should try
33 to understand that, you know, there's Native allotments
34 in there, there's prior use and for subsistence much
35 longer than the Refuge being in existence that the -- I
36 just think there's some negative sentiments about why
37 people do that. And I wouldn't think it would be local
38 folks doing that, I -- it's such a publicized area in
39 the United States about the Wildlife Refuge and all
40 that stuff that goes on. But I think it's important
41 for us, you know, if we were finding out -- you know,
42 my other hat that I carry is the land management
43 administrator for the North Slope Borough and
44 responsibility to look at complaints like this as well
45 and try to investigate them and if it's a commercial
46 operations then we -- that are not permitted and
47 they're not seeking approvals to do some of these. But
48 we also recognize the private user that might have
49 their own airplane and it's just generally allowed and,
50

0021

1 you know, I've used an air taxi before to go to my
2 cabin and it's generally allowed, activities to do
3 that.

4

5 But, anyway, very heart wrenching to
6 hear that. We feel for you, Eddie, and your community.
7 I think it's unacceptable and it's important that we
8 get to hear from communities like this.

9

10 Any other questions for Kaktovik.

11

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Chairman, this is Earl.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Earl.

15

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, you know, as I
17 recall they used to have a lot of those homesteaders
18 moving into their country there for awhile. That's
19 what I heard anyway, some people around the Gwich'in
20 country was kind of upset about that because they're
21 trapline country and there were people living around
22 there and they had some concerns about that. But then
23 they all passed them on, so their 100 years is up, I
24 guess, I don't know. But I've been hearing a lot of
25 stuff about these people moving up that way, does that
26 really bother them people or what (indiscernible - cuts
27 off)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I'm not exactly
30 sure if you're referencing some of those that are
31 highly publicized, you know, like the Last Alaskans
32 show or something like that.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, yeah, that's what
35 I was talking about, yes.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it's.....

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS: The Gwich'in people are
40 kind of upset about that because they're just using the
41 background for an excuse or something, I don't know.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it's very hard
44 to, you know, as interesting as it is I think they
45 completely diminish the long, long standing time
46 immemorial use by the indigenous people that subsist on
47 these lands today, for a thousand years back or not
48 that the -- you know, they're Alaskans too, but they're
49 not the last ones and will never be the last ones.

50

0022

1 But, anyway, just my sentiment. If I could talk to
2 Discovery Channel and talk about the kind of sentiment
3 that it brings, maybe Steve Berendzen and I can go talk
4 to Discovery Channel and help them modify their show a
5 little bit.

6
7 But pretty interesting, I like to watch
8 that though.

9
10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, pretty
11 interesting. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And good
14 comments there, Earl, I think those are pretty good
15 comments. Any other questions from any other agency,
16 Federal agency, State agency, tribal entity, any
17 questions for the report from Kaktovik.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that, thank you,
22 Eddie, for your report. Let's see if maybe go to
23 Atqasuk and see if Wanda's chimed in yet. Wanda, are
24 you on for Atqasuk.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And hearing none from
29 Wanda. Billy Blare Patkotak, Jr., in Wainwright, our
30 newest Council member. I wonder if he's chimed in.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I'm going to have
35 to encourage and get more contact information from the
36 Council members and remind them of their important role
37 in representing their communities. So let's try and go
38 to Point Hope, Steve Oomittuk, are you on.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And Steve's been a
43 member and articulating all the concerns from Point
44 Hope and I'm sure if he could make it he would be here
45 right now and eager to represent his community. So I
46 feel maybe he's caught up in some business or some
47 other things that are important to the community as I
48 love to listen to Steve and his words. So we'll
49 recognize them and give them the opportunity when
50

0023

1 they're present. So with that, I'm going to say a few
2 things in my own personal report.

3

4 Well, you know, I think subsistence
5 here around the Barrow area has been pretty good from
6 goose hunting to (In Native) to spring whaling, to fall
7 whaling and the catch and to -- and by the way there
8 was an announcement, I think it was in August by the
9 Assembly, that 2022 would be Kivgiq, that they're going
10 to have the Messenger Feast probably February 2022, is
11 my best guess. So we're hoping that by that time Covid
12 and that kind of stuff is starting to subside and then
13 we've taken all precautions. But I think it might be
14 contingent on that because I know a lot of events get
15 cancelled because of that sickness going around and
16 when it starts to surge. But in any event that was an
17 announcement made by the Mayor that there would be
18 Kivgiq for 2022. It sounds exciting and it's going to
19 be fun if it does happen.

20

21 So in terms of subsistence, me and my
22 boys were up at the cabin up there and it was pretty
23 good and got some caribou and got some really fat ones.
24 And many, many community members were expressing the
25 same that they got good fat caribou, and just some
26 cases right outside of town, five or 10 miles out. And
27 of course caribou move around. I didn't hear of any
28 sick caribou being caught. But a few years ago when my
29 nephews brought me caribou that was caught and I was
30 eager to cook it up but inside the muscles in the meat
31 were actual worms moving around. And I said how can a
32 caribou be alive like that where the muscles in the
33 tendons and the (In Native) and the muscles themselves
34 were live worms moving around in the meat. So we got
35 to be careful and be observant now days of our food
36 resources, you know, we didn't see that this year.

37

38 We did some good fishing and freeze-up
39 was -- it froze up a little -- almost like it did in
40 the '70s for a little bit to where I was feeling good
41 that we were going to be able to put nets under the ice
42 in mid-September and something I need to talk to -- if
43 we had a hunters or trappers association or something,
44 is what not to do up there, especially on the Ikpikpuk
45 River. If you all didn't know Ikpikpuk River has been
46 used as a mecca for fishing. There's an old village
47 down from Chipp2, near Chippl area, it used to be
48 called (In Native) and lots of stories about that in
49 the 1920, 1930s and '40s and was a community of about
50

0024

1 50 to 60 people there, a lot of sod house rooms in that
2 (In Native) area and old cellars and stuff, but it was
3 a mecca for fishing and, in particular for broad
4 whitefish as the spawning season occurs and we continue
5 to use those areas to fish. But one thing is the
6 spawning is right at the point of freeze-up on the
7 Ikpikpuk. The minute it freezes and people will take
8 care not to break up the ice. Now days we have a lot
9 of young hunters that really don't recognize that and
10 they go up and down the river and I happen to be up
11 there and watching and this ice that froze up good,
12 people like me would use shovels and anything to put
13 water on top of frozen ice to make it thicker, like
14 making an ice road so I can get on top and make it
15 thick. And sure enough, you know, boats coming down
16 the road would bust that up and it never really got
17 cold enough to freeze it across the river again so I
18 had to go down to like about two miles down river to
19 another small river that was connected where it froze
20 all the way across and I put water on top, used a sump
21 pump and pumped it and two days I was walking on top of
22 it and put nets under the ice, September 23 I had nets
23 under the ice under that little river and fishing was
24 really good. But the main fishing would have been on
25 the Ikpikpuk River and I couldn't do that. Maybe my
26 fishing would have been like 10 times more catch rate
27 than on a small tributaries and those boats were not
28 able to go in or didn't even know where that was.
29 Anyway, just saying there should be more talk to young
30 people about this expectation.

31
32 My folks used to tell me, never forget
33 about this kind of fishing. In times when people are
34 hungry, in sickness, back in the '20s and even before
35 that, these places were known to be able to provide
36 community-wide food, enough -- that fishery is so
37 abundant there and then it only lasts for about -- mid-
38 September to about October 10 and I kid you not, they
39 stop. You might be getting 200 a day on October 5 and
40 when it comes October 10 you're going to go down to
41 three a day because the spawning is over. The old
42 timers (In Native), that's what they call it, (In
43 Native). That the spawning is over and the fish --
44 your river's course and get out of the river right
45 after that spawn. But it's prime fish when it's that
46 time.

47
48 So I managed to make about 20 sacks.
49 In times past, in the '60s and '70s and '80s we made 90
50

1 sacks and it would be important. A lot of times we'd
2 trade those with other whaling captains for oogruk
3 skins to skin our boats, and they were used for
4 trading. I mean it was a very important fishery. That
5 should be important. And I always want to make sure
6 young people when they're up there and say, hey, before
7 it freezes you got to head down river, don't try to
8 head down river when the river is starting to freeze
9 and bust it all up, I may not be able to fish and it
10 may not freeze up that cold for a long period of time
11 and I could miss out on that catch.

12

13 Anyway, that's just my rant. I think
14 I'm ranting because that's what happened this year,
15 that they busted up the ice with boats and we could
16 have had a lot more so we had to find another place to
17 put the net.

18

19 In any event, I think subsistence was
20 fantastic, it was good. And I encourage that, you
21 know, we share, as we always do with people that need
22 the food and things like that.

23

24 So I will stop there and I see a lot of
25 other people had subsistence going on. There's people
26 putting nets at (In Native) and Inaru and those areas
27 and I see snowmachines going up and down and I keep
28 telling my son, hey, let's go put a net, I'll show you
29 how to put it under the ice and important thing -- I
30 always think sometimes there should be some sort of
31 school on traditional school, how to live and do these
32 kind of things so that -- what my folks said, don't
33 forget these things, they will be useful again, they're
34 useful now. It's important that we recognize areas that
35 can provide food for a lot of people, like catching a
36 whale, like the (In Native) where you can feed
37 communities and trade. I love trading with Nuiqsut and
38 get those (In Native). And same thing for Ikpikpuk
39 it's that way, all of these fisheries and things that
40 are important. I haven't seen any sick fish. I caught
41 a lot of fish and on the broad whitefish, that's the
42 primary fish on Ikpikpuk and I mean we can get (In
43 Native) but you have to go down near the mouth of the
44 Ikpikpuk and there's places where in November we put
45 (In Native) nets there and we'll get the Arctic cisco
46 there too. Important fish. But it's so far away and
47 not close to a community, the mouth of that -- of those
48 areas are 40 miles from Barrow.

49

50

0026

1 In any event that's my report and if
2 there's any questions I'd be happy to take any
3 questions.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER:

6
7 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Carmen
8 with Fish and Game, if I may.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
11 Carmen.

12
13 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, it was really
14 fascinating listening to your account of fishing on the
15 Ikpikpuk and I'm kind of excited to hear you say that
16 you wanted to have a school of some sort for these
17 sorts of things. I've been recently discussing a
18 similar sort of idea with Elle Savigik and the North
19 Slope Wildlife Department to invite local subsistence
20 hunters to give little workshops on these sorts of
21 items and if you or anyone else is interested in
22 sharing their knowledge to the people of the North
23 Slope through these sorts of workshops. I really
24 encourage you to contact me and we can work something
25 out. It stems from some suggestions that William
26 Hopson has had at previous meetings and so we've been
27 working on putting together like maybe a winter session
28 sort of thing, although I recognize that some of these
29 practices might be seasonal and -- and likely are
30 seasonal and would be best taught at particular times
31 but if you would like to participate in that, please
32 let us know and I will be happy to work with you to try
33 to get something put together.

34
35 Very interesting talk, thank you,
36 Gordon.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, thank you,
39 Carmen. And, yeah, I think these are important. I
40 think the last time I ever saw anybody put effort to
41 that was when Luther*Leavitt, Sr., was alive and they
42 would take some students but, you know, his place was
43 super isolated like 100 miles southeast of Barrow at
44 (In Native), in what they call (In Native) that way.
45 And he had the opportunity, you know, teach some young
46 folks to be -- to learn proficiently and timing-wise
47 about when to go, when to expect these resources to be
48 there and other things and not to mention the ability
49 to be able to survive out there.

50

1 You know I could remember being on
2 rescue missions and, you know, when we find a person
3 and they're not adequately sheltering themselves out
4 there, when there are resources all around like a
5 snowbank and things like that so that you're not so
6 exposed to the elements, things like that, that are
7 part of subsistence to be having passed on to young
8 people. Because a lot of the young people depend on,
9 what I like to say, is an elder in a box, a GPS and
10 other things like that and those are fantastic because
11 you can get help fast but there may be circumstances
12 where you're going to need to shelter right there and
13 use the natural environment to shelter yourself from
14 freezing your feet and things like that.

15
16 Anyway, a very important area, I would
17 welcome the opportunity to participate.

18
19 Anyway, thank you, Carmen.

20
21 So if there aren't any other questions
22 in this area, we'll continue to acknowledge tribal, the
23 representatives, the Council members as they chime in
24 and hopefully we're continuing to try to send messages
25 for them for their participation.

26
27 So with that I would -- Eva, does that
28 seem like we've concluded Item 7.

29
30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
31 Council. Excellent report from the Council members and
32 we can revisit the Council member reports when our
33 other Council members are able to join us so hopefully
34 we're able to hear from them later as well.

35
36 And we do have a service award for
37 Wanda Kippi as well so when she's able to join us we'll
38 circle back a round and recognize her for her service
39 on the Council.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So being that we
44 adopted a flexible agenda we'll table the service award
45 until Wanda is present and I'm glad she made it through
46 five years of service with the Regional Advisory
47 Council. So we'll do a big hooray when she comes in.
48 And we'll go to Item 9 public and tribal comments on
49 non-agenda items. And this is available each morning
50

0028

1 so if there are any public comments, we encourage you
2 to address the Council on those public comments and be
3 recognized, and any tribal comments from any tribal
4 entity that wish to be recognized and say a few things.
5 It's your time right now.

6
7 MS. LEAVITT: Mr. Chairman.

8
9 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we got two.

12
13 MR. WILLIAMS: Go ahead, I'll wait.

14
15 MS. LEAVITT: Thank you, this is Doreen
16 Leavitt with ICAS. And I just wanted to comment on
17 Eddie's concerns with Kaktovik on the trespassing.
18 ICAS recently, before we had another big outbreak of
19 Covid, were able to travel to Kaktovik with our
20 Executive Director, Mory Leman, and do a meet and greet
21 with ICAS because we haven't been out to the villages
22 in quite some time and that was a concern that we had
23 heard also when we were there from the community. We
24 also heard the same concerns from AKP about tribal
25 members not being able to access their allotments
26 because of, you know, whatever reasons, not being able
27 to get into ANWR or in AKP also. So we just wanted to
28 say, you know, we're here to support and anything we
29 can do to assist we're here to help.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Doreen.
34 And were you the Natural Resource Director now?

35
36 MS. LEAVITT: Right now. Yes, I'm
37 Acting -- Ray Atos retired so we still have not quite
38 filled the position yet but I am acting in capacity for
39 right now and hopefully to be the permanent Natural
40 Resource Director.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, that's awesome.
43 And thank you, it's always good to hear from the tribal
44 entities and often we'll hear from Point Hope, they
45 always try to make their comments and things like that.
46 It's always important to be listening on this Council
47 because sometimes it's a little more than the
48 regulatory
49 stuff but in the Council's own reports, you know,
50

0029

1 there's a lot of important stuff that should probably
2 be heard by the tribes that could help.

3

4 MS. LEAVITT: Yes, thank you very much
5 for having me join.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So Item
8 10. If there aren't any other.....

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, before you
11 move on.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Earl.

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I just wanted to
16 say something before you move on with the tribal like
17 all the Advisory Councils and stuff, like fishery
18 advisories, one time in '89 when we had a meeting in
19 Barrow, there was a little issue going on there for
20 awhile and Harry Brower brought up this issue that --
21 he said the tribe has more power than the ASRC
22 Corporation and North Slope Borough, and I was just
23 wondering why the tribal is not involved in these kind
24 of issues because I know they have a lot of land and
25 I'm just kind of curious about this.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, Earl, maybe I
30 need to hear a little bit better, there was just some
31 areas I didn't quite understand your position on that.

32

33 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm just asking a
34 question is there a way we could get tribal involved
35 for this kind of matters because the way Eddie is
36 speaking up, on his behalf, we need the tribal to be
37 involved because they got tribal power on lands.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you. I
42 think that's a great comment, and because, you know,
43 there is a fiduciary responsibility by the tribes --
44 it's like a trust responsibility for some of these
45 types of issues especially when we're dealing with
46 trespass, vandalism that might be on Native allotments
47 for one thing. And I would think they would be the
48 jurisdiction along with BIA to sit down with Steve
49 Berendzen and find the -- how these could be more

50

0030

1 remedied. If it's a guest list on the Refuge and I
2 don't know exactly how the Refuge monitors its guests,
3 whether they're commercial or private. It sounds like
4 they don't monitor the private but they might be
5 monitoring the commercial, like river guiders or if
6 there is actual hunting guides for different species in
7 those areas. I mean a lot of animals are off limits
8 for guides right now and I don't think there's anything
9 for moose, there's nothing for muskox.but I think
10 caribou might be the target, I'm not too sure.

11

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Earl, and I'm
15 glad, you know, ICAS is here and I'm pretty sure
16 they're taking notes. And I think from our standpoint,
17 you know, I represent North Slope Borough as well and
18 land management issues, you know, we don't regulate
19 subsistence and personal use but when it comes to
20 commercial, recreation, guiding, those kind of things,
21 air tax permits and those kind of things like that,
22 then those are the types of things that we would need
23 to regulate so there brings some concern there. So it
24 seems to me there needs to be some thoughtful
25 investigation what's going on there.

26

27 Any other public or tribal comments on
28 non-agenda items.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, hearing
33 none, we'll go to Item 10, old business. And I guess
34 maybe I'm going to go to Eva, our Madame Coordinator,
35 and help us field through old business.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
38 Council. On Page 14 of your meeting books you'll find
39 the .805(c) report. And this is a report from the
40 Federal Subsistence Board to the Council to report on
41 the Board's actions on any regulatory proposals.

42

43 So under Section .805 of the Alaska
44 National Interests Lands Conservation Act, ANILCA,
45 provides that the Board will accept the recommendations
46 of a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council regarding
47 take unless the recommendation is not supported by
48 substantial evidence, or the recommendation violates
49 recognized principles of fish and wildlife management,
50

0031

1 or adopting the recommendation would be the detrimental
2 to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. So if or when
3 a Council's recommendation is not adopted by the Board,
4 the Board is required by Secretarial regulations to set
5 forth a factual basis and reasons for their decision.

6
7 And so that's essentially what the
8 .805(c) report is. And if you'll recall last year was
9 a fisheries regulatory cycle and often times there
10 aren't any fishery regulation proposals for the North
11 Slope or Northwest Arctic region. There are few
12 subsistence regulations in place for fisheries. And
13 the Board did take action at their January 26th through
14 29th, 2021 meeting. Fisheries proposals, there were 14
15 submitted throughout the state, but for the North Slope
16 region there were only two, what we call crossover
17 fishery proposals, areas that North Slope communities
18 have customary and traditional use to fish in but often
19 times don't frequent that area and often the Council
20 will defer recommendations on those proposals outside
21 of the region to kind of the home Council or home
22 region. And there were two proposals similar to that.

23
24 So the North Slope does have customary
25 and traditional use determination for the Yukon River
26 drainage and there were a couple proposals. One for
27 Jim Creek for all fish, and these were actually closure
28 reviews, so not proposals specifically, but reviewing
29 closures that are currently in place and whether to
30 maintain those closures or lift those closures. So
31 there was one on Jim River which is a tributary into
32 the Yukon drainage and that was for all fish and it was
33 a closure to Federally-qualified subsistence users.
34 And then there was one on Nome Creek on the Yukon
35 drainage, specifically a closure for Arctic grayling on
36 that tributary. And this North Slope Council voted to
37 defer these proposals to the home region Councils,
38 Eastern Interior and Western Interior Subsistence
39 Regional Advisory Councils, and then you'll see on Page
40 16 and 17 of your meeting books, those Council's
41 recommendations and the action that the Board took.

42
43 And I'm happy to answer any questions
44 for the Council, Mr. Chair.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. Any
49 questions to Eva on that report.

50

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have one. And I'm not sure if it was reflected on this one from the letter from Anthony Christianson, the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board or if it was on a response to the Chair's report for this, and my -- one of the concerns that, you know, we had raised was about the food security surrounding -- it's that example of fishing a lot and how traditionally the fish are stored -- the fish are stored. For many, or even hundreds of years and there's lots of stories and evidence and old documentaries, traditional land use inventory, about the fisheries and in September and October, a lot of people, back then, would make warehouses out of ice and filled them with fish and they would be frozen solid and they'd be able to haul them by dog team and other means back to communities from (In Native) area, and we basically did the same thing in the '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s but today you can't depend on the weather to store the fish. For example, half of -- more than half of my catch a couple years ago stunk up and it's been routine that way so I try to limit now what I catch because I can't depend on the weather to stay cold. And when the fish are harvested and -- and don't get me wrong, you know, a lot of the old people they all just like to have some of that stinkfish, we call it (In Native) and -- but it's not widely consumed, you know, by younger generations and things like that. And when the fish is -- and I thought the response from Chairman Christianson, from the Federal Subsistence Board, well, we can extend -- resolve that by extending the period. Well, there's no period extension to be had here, I don't think, but the fish run is such that it's a very defined period in time from about mid-September to about -- just about mid-October and that's what I was thinking about, sometimes those boaters got to recognize, hey, the fish aren't coming back until next year so quit messing around and quit breaking up the ice, I got to put these nets under and -- but same goes with being -- the ability to harvest community level and store them is very challenging now. In fact you could waste a lot of food now and it can't be resolved by extending your time out there because the fish, they come and go, just like the whales will pass by, only a certain period of time, at least for the spawning fish.

So that was my concern about that one letter that was the response from the Chairman and had

0033

1 me -- I think he didn't understand the gravity, in like
2 order to fix it I need to be able to keep that fish
3 fresh. That means, you know, we've tried to do that
4 with ice cellars and those ice cellars are struggling
5 and the temperature is not such that you could store
6 fish -- in fact, folks down river where I'm from said
7 their ice cellar almost turned to poison it was so
8 rancid in there by the time they went up there to go
9 haul it, it was gaseous and the fish got very ripe in
10 there because the temperature of the permafrost is not
11 the same. We normally use the temperature outside to
12 flash-freeze our fish up there and you can barely do
13 that now days. But -- and I got a lot of pictures of
14 what I'm talking about. It might be that subsistence
15 OSM, or somebody, start to help and maybe we need a
16 windmill with a freezer, a walk-in freezer in certain
17 locations where these types of fisheries are still able
18 to provide that type of delicacy for the community,
19 which is pretty much highly prized, (In Native) fish
20 and things like that, they're fantastic when they're
21 yellow and they're super fresh versus when they turn
22 orange, pinkish where they've been subjected to thaw
23 and freeze and thaw and freeze.

24

25

26 Anyway, I'll stop there so -- besides I
27 talk too much.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
32 to Eva on the .805(c) report.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, is there
37 anything more you needed to add.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
40 Council. And, yes, thank you, Gordon, you are on to
41 the next topic on the agenda which we do want to have a
42 full discussion with the Council and that is the
43 Board's reply to the Council's 2020 annual report and
44 you'll find that on Page 19 of your meeting books. And
45 so that was the response from the Board that you were
46 referring to, Gordon, this is the Council's report to
47 the Board from last year and the Board does reply to
48 respond to Council's questions, requests for
49 information, you know, requests for changes to
50

0034

1 regulatory processes.

2

3

4 So as you'll see on Page 19 of your
5 meeting books, that was the first topic that the
6 Council had identified of concern for the Board to be
7 aware of, the environmental change impacts to healthy
8 subsistence resources and management strategies to
9 address subsistence food security. And so you'll see
10 in italics is the Council's request to the Board and
11 then the reply, the response then follows. And so we
12 do want to make sure, for the Council to review this,
13 if the Board has adequately addressed the concerns or
14 the questions or the requests for information or if
15 there's anything further to bring to the Board's
16 attention. As Gordon has articulated, there's, you
17 know, greater detail to bring to their awareness of how
18 the fisheries work in the North Slope region, important
19 for subsistence and challenges faced with the changing
20 environment.

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So please do take a look at that reply
and let us know. We can have a discussion with the
Council here if there's any further details or
information you would like or if you would like to add
more detail and awareness in this year's annual report.
So we'll be taking up that annual report, identifying
issues for this year to bring to the Board's attention
after review of this reply.

The topics where that environmental
change to impacts to healthy subsistence resources and
the second item identified by the Council was the
challenges of multi.....

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted - on hold)

MS. PATTON:management and
effective means for addressing subsistence information
and concerns.

And then the third in this report from
last year was the Board -- the Council asking about the
Board's' decisionmaking process and how it was -- in
terms to deference to the Council's recommendations.
And the Council had also asked for information on who
the current Federal Subsistence Board members are, and
you'll find that on Page 26.

0035

1 And so please do take a look if there's
2 any further issues or questions or clarifications to
3 bring to the Board's attention and we can add that to
4 this year's annual report.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
9 it's important to look at the response from Chairman
10 Christianson from the Federal Subsistence Board on the
11 questions that we posed in our Council's report and
12 this is the response back. And I think that's where I
13 read about the concerns about -- you know, it's a food
14 security concern. If we're -- if we can't harv -- if
15 climate is impacting our ability to store safely and
16 our ability to keep the food fresh and the location is
17 70 miles from the village and that's part of my
18 concern. IS this fishing mecca that provides these
19 types of fishing resources on the Slope here, some
20 places like Ikpikpuk are -- you take -- sometimes it
21 takes me a full day to get to my cabin if I am in a
22 boat because I got to -- you know it's 40 miles to the
23 mouth of the river and then you have to rest up
24 somewhere along the river and then go up another 20, or
25 30 miles up the river to get to you cabin and you're 75
26 miles from town at that point and what food resources
27 you can bring back knowing all the while that the
28 fishing mecca period is coming and it's during the
29 onset of winter, it's just that part of it where I had
30 concern -- well, I'll just extend your fishing period
31 -- no, I can't just extend my fishing period, I have to
32 harvest when they're spawning in order to get that type
33 of quality of food with the eggs and freeze them. So
34 my question would have been how can we get assistance
35 during this period of time to keep the food fresh.
36 And, you know, if I'm fishing, I fish traditionally for
37 community-wide level harvest where my catch is
38 distributed -- when I catch a whale I'll distribute
39 that during that time, during (In Native) including all
40 my fish, and then make it available for trading and
41 other things and we're getting close to where that
42 might be a thing of the past in our past history, based
43 on climate if we can't find alternative means to
44 preserve those types of foods. And I -- you know, I
45 think it's important to say that back to the Federal
46 Subsistence Board themselves, is I think you're missing
47 the boat here, we just can't extend the season. We
48 will fish other fish throughout the season, you know,
49 we'll go into (In Native) in October and November,
50

0036

1 we'll go to lakes for lake fish which is a different
2 flavor and they really don't have the eggs during that
3 time but we supplement all of these food resources with
4 what we can do.

5
6 Anyway, that would have been just my
7 critique of that response from Chairman -- so maybe
8 it's the responsibility of OSM, maybe with the tribes,
9 how can we, you know, Office of Subsistence work with
10 the tribes to address these kind of concerns because I
11 think they're real. I mean we just -- you know the
12 ability to make sure these types of harvest, we
13 maintain the quality of the food before they rotten up,
14 or else we're just not going to do that anymore, is
15 what I'm getting at.

16
17 Any other comments on the Board's
18 FY2020 annual reply.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is the Federal
23 Subsistence Board's response to our concerns and
24 they're important for us to see. Are they thinking
25 we're nuts and crazy or what does the Board think about
26 us. I often wanted to -- you know, I read about the
27 deference, we had been given more guidance for the
28 Federal Subsistence Board about deference, giving
29 deference to the Regional Advisory Councils but they
30 put all this other lingo, that you got to meet this,
31 this and that, and by the way if OSM or some fish and
32 wildlife biologist differs with you, it seems to defray
33 from the deference that they're giving more weight to
34 your concerns because they got this other threshold
35 that diminishes the deference issue of moving that type
36 of concern.

37
38 Anyway it seems complicated because we
39 will have to work with Eva, you know, if we're trying
40 to get deference on an issue and we don't quite
41 understand the thresholds that Anthony Christianson has
42 laid out and say, oh, we're going to give you deference
43 on your concern but it has to meet these one, two,
44 three on maybe science -- do I have to hire my own
45 scientific group to side with me or is there a
46 compromise in there. I mean that's some level of
47 understanding on the feedback in terms of when the
48 Secretary of Interior modified, I think, to include
49 that deference in giving more weight to the Council on
50

0037

1 the concerns.

2

3 Anyway, Eva, what did you get out --
4 your take on that area?

5

6 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
7 Council. And as you'll see on Page 24 for that
8 particular question regarding deference, that there are
9 criteria that the Board has to consider. And one of
10 the things the Board does consider and take greatly
11 into consideration is that substantial evidence and
12 information which includes traditional ecological
13 knowledge, so the Council's feedback to the Board and
14 recommendations and the justification and discussion
15 based on your local and traditional knowledge is a very
16 important part of what is considered by the Board as
17 well.

18

19 The Board does have to consider
20 conservation concerns and so that does factor into
21 their final decisionmaking.

22

23 And they do have to consider if an
24 action would harm subsistence users. So in some cases
25 there might be one region where a particular action
26 would benefit subsistence users but may have a
27 detrimental effect on others so they do weigh feedback
28 from across a broad region in many cases to try to best
29 understand. You know, for example for the Western
30 Arctic Caribou Herd, when the management is across
31 multiple Regional Advisory Council regions and many,
32 many communities so they try and take a look and
33 understand the whole process and each region's
34 recommendation but local and traditional knowledge is a
35 very important part of their consideration as well
36 along with biological information.

37

38 And I do have our anthropologist has
39 provided some information here, where the word
40 deference comes from and in ANILCA, there is -- the
41 Secretary, in performing his monitoring responsibility
42 pursuant to Section .806 of ANILCA and in the existence
43 of disclosure and other administrative authority over
44 public land, shall consider the report and
45 recommendations of Regional Advisory Councils
46 concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on public
47 lands within their respective regions for subsistence
48 uses. The Secretary may choose not to follow any
49 recommendation, which she determines is not supported
50

0038

1 by substantial evidence, violates the recognized
2 principles of fish and wildlife conservation or would
3 be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence
4 needs. And those are the three criteria that we did
5 just note there.

6
7 And then as we just covered, if the
8 recommendation of the Council is not adopted by the
9 Board then that's where the .805(c) report comes in,
10 where the Board does have to explain or justify their
11 reasons for not concluding with the Council's
12 recommendation. So there will always be a -- again, a
13 justification explaining why the Board did not concur
14 with the Council's actions.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I would think, you
17 know, crossover proposal on limiting moose and caribou
18 to Federally-qualified users in 23 and 26A, that seems
19 like is going to expand into additional public hearings
20 November 18th and that the inability for the Federal
21 Subsistence Board to adopt that special action is based
22 on those criteria, that would be -- that you pointed
23 out one that -- not supported by substantial evidence,
24 violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife
25 conservation or would be detrimental to the
26 satisfaction of subsistence needs. And I don't know if
27 that has anything to do with that particular wildlife
28 special action proposal to -- based on last year's
29 events around the Kobuk area, the Noatak areas, the
30 NANA region and why caribou didn't come around and was
31 so far late into the season where they mostly had to
32 hunt the females into the rut -- and there was not
33 adequate food in the freezers at that point. And their
34 proposal was to -- see, we don't know the reason why
35 the caribou didn't come last year. But the Federally-
36 qualified users were up in arms and concerned to bring
37 up that. It was a crossover because it affected --
38 their proposal crossed a boundary into Region 10 up
39 into the Slope and we deliberated on that and
40 recommended on the side of the proponent. So I'm just
41 saying, you know, and I think there's action to be had
42 on that because it was merely extended for continued
43 public hearing. And meanwhile we should find out, you
44 know, if those caribous went through but we will not
45 probably know what happened last year. I mean you
46 would have had to figure out why that much caribou
47 didn't go through there as expected. It's been, you
48 know, we know they're migratory and they don't always
49 follow the same path but, anyway, I'll leave it at
50

0039

1 that.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

And those are probably some of the heart of, you know, what kind of deference do we have in these things. And it sounded like we followed all the right protocols in trying to make sure established processes are in place and not showing any detriment to the satisfaction of subsistence needs, that would have been for the subsistence user, the Federally-qualified user put in that proposal for that special action.

Anyway, I will leave it at that, I tend to try to analyze some of these things far too deep sometimes but it's important to find out how the Federal Subsistence Board reads us because a lot of those are agency folks on there. Anyway.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. And I do want to bring to the Council's attention that as you noted there will be further upcoming public hearing and there is one scheduled now for the WSA21-01 for November 17th and then we do have on the Council's agenda a discussion -- a guided discussion on that wildlife special action 21-01 for Unit 23 and Unit 26A caribou and moose and that will be coming up on the agenda after the wildlife proposals. It's not an action item at this meeting but as you noted the Board is seeking further information from the Regional Advisory Councils and through the public process to better understand the dynamics of the caribou and subsistence access to caribou. And so we will have an in-depth discussion later on on the agenda on that special action request, specifically at the Board's request to get more information from the Regional Advisory Councils, local subsistence hunters and communities. So that will come up again.

And as you note, we'll also want to confirm -- we had discussed this with the Council prior to the meeting, is, setting a good public hearing date for the North Slope region. There will be three public hearings scheduled in follow-up to receive further information and detailed feedback on that proposal. So I know the Council had discussed maybe that first week of December so we had hoped to set that second public hearing date at a time that would work good for the North Slope. So, again, we'll have a full discussion on that coming up later on the agenda.

1 But as you note, Gordon, that
2 traditional knowledge, that detailed information from
3 the Council and local subsistence hunters and fishers
4 is very important and that is identified by the Council
5 in the subject No. 2 of your annual report and reply on
6 Page 21. And the Council tried to articulate to the
7 Board just the many ways that local subsistence
8 communities have to be engaged in subsistence issues
9 and to bring attention and awareness to the concerns
10 and those could include a consideration and
11 understanding of local culture and communications norms
12 and support for the Council and the public. The
13 consideration and inclusion of local and traditional
14 knowledge in subsistence management. Understanding and
15 support for community, regional sharing and trade of
16 subsistence foods. And subsistence management
17 approaches that support and uphold these traditional
18 sharing practices essential to the well-being of
19 community. And understanding and awareness of the
20 interaction of all subsistence foods and activities,
21 for example, when important subsistence food such as
22 walrus or whale are not harvested that there's a
23 greater need for other food, such as caribou and fish
24 to sustain communities for the year. And then also
25 understanding and awareness of the interaction of
26 industrial development with subsistence activities, and
27 while the Council recognizes the Federal Subsistence
28 Management Program does not have direct jurisdiction
29 over development activities in the North Slope,
30 recognizing the impact to subsistence foods is a direct
31 concern to the program and this might impacts to
32 migratory routes, disturbances that deflect or stress
33 animals or contaminants that may impact subsistence
34 foods and engagement through Title VIII of ANILCA,
35 Section .810 which requires an analysis of impacts to
36 subsistence uses through activities on Federal land.

37
38 And then lastly the Council had wanted
39 to bring awareness of monitoring of climate change
40 impacts to subsistence and these annual reports from
41 the Council in their discussion in Council member
42 reports and throughout the meeting are a really
43 important part of documenting your observations and
44 changes that are occurring that may impact subsistence.

45
46 And the Board does respond reconfirming
47 the importance of recognition of traditional ecological
48 knowledge informing the Federal Subsistence Management
49 Program. And they do strive to include all relevant
50

0041

1 traditional knowledge in all aspects of the analysis
2 and rely on you, the Regional Advisory Councils, to
3 help inform the program of local conditions and
4 knowledge on the subject matter. You can see the full
5 Board reply there but I did want to point out that they
6 do knowledge the importance of your knowledge and
7 observations and your engagement with the communities
8 which you serve for subsistence.

9
10 And, again, please do, if there's any
11 further information or questions that you don't feel
12 were answered by the Board that we can bring forward in
13 your annual report for this year in follow-up.

14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So
18 any other questions on the FY2020 annual report reply
19 from the Federal Subsistence Board.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we'll
24 go to Item C, annual report reply process review
25 briefing. Eva.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
28 Council. There was a request by the Federal
29 Subsistence Board at their summer work session to get
30 some feedbacks from the Council on what we discussed
31 here, whether the annual report and Board's reply
32 process is working for the Council, and any suggestions
33 for improvement. And we do have our Anthropologist LT
34 lead Brent Vickers who was going to provide an overview
35 of that request from the Board and discussion. It's
36 not a formal recommendation action item but any
37 discussion the Council would like to have on feedback
38 for that so I'll turn it over to Brent Vickers.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. VICKERS: Hello, Mr. Chair.
43 Members of the Council. For the record my name is
44 Brent Vickers and I am the Supervisor Cultural
45 Anthropologist for OSM. You can download the meeting
46 material for this agenda item from our website. The
47 document is entitled annual report briefing or the
48 meeting materials for this agenda item begins on Page
49 29 of your Council book. This is not an action item.

50

1 While we recognize that this item that
2 this item is new business for the Council, we chose to
3 address it here in old business following your review
4 of the annual report replies from the Board. This way
5 the annual report reply process is fresh in your mind
6 as I present the briefing.

7
8 During the Federal Subsistence Board's
9 August 2021 work session the InterAgency Staff
10 Committee briefed the Board on the annual report reply
11 process and possible revisions to improve workload
12 efficiency and response to Regional Advisory Council
13 concerns. The Board reviewed and discussed the report
14 reply process and agreed to forward this topic to the
15 Councils for your input on the suggested revisions,
16 including possible ideas of your own.

17
18 As you are aware, ANILCA, Section .805
19 authorizes the Councils to prepare an annual report
20 containing information related to important subsistence
21 resource issues within their region. These reports are
22 invaluable as they provide the Board with a broad
23 holistic picture of local resource conditions and the
24 subsistence issues facing communities across rural
25 Alaska. With this knowledge the Board can make
26 informed decisions.

27
28 Historically the Board has strived to
29 provide responses to every topic listed in the annual
30 reports regardless of its ability to address the issues
31 raised. And it is unclear if the Board responses on
32 all annual report topics are helpful to the Councils,
33 while taking considerable Staff time to complete. The
34 ISC, or InterAgency Staff Committee has suggested
35 process revisions to consider annual reports serve
36 solely as a mechanism for informing the Board of local
37 conditions as needs and proposed writing letters as a
38 means of requesting Board responses to topics of
39 concern. Under this scenario, Councils could ask their
40 coordinator to write a letter to the Board if there are
41 annual report topics to which they're specifically
42 requesting a response.

43
44 Those suggested revisions are not
45 intended to diminish the ability of the Councils to
46 report to the Board and Councils will still receive
47 responses from the Board when requested, and these are
48 only suggestions. You, the Council, may have other
49 ideas about a more efficient and responsive annual
50

0043

1 report and reply process.

2

3 To that end, we are asking you to think
4 about what you want from the Board in terms of replies
5 as you develop and confirm your fiscal year 2021 annual
6 report between the fall and winter meetings.

7

8 We will take this up again when we meet
9 in 2022. Once again this is not an action item, not
10 until your winter meeting.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 I, and the other OSM Staff are ready
15 for your questions.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, sorry, I was on
18 mute. And, thank you, I was reading, you know, you
19 were paraphrasing some of these annual report reply
20 process review, and very informative and I feel good
21 that this is going on so that how better to respond to
22 the Regional Councils and, yeah, it was just
23 informative.

24

25 Any questions for this one from the
26 Board -- from the Council.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So in terms of the
31 guidance and strategies and I would hope, you know,
32 once there are changes and hopefully maybe we've
33 drafted our own suggested language too, how we might be
34 addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board, that there
35 be examples or training, not just say this is changed,
36 you can do this, and you can do that. All right, I'll
37 give you an example, what can I say now to be more
38 effective for the Federal Subsistence Board to hear our
39 concerns in a way that reply that gives deference to
40 the Regional Council and not just say, well, you know,
41 you guys don't have substantial evidence and things
42 like that and it's detrimental to subsistence and
43 guiding and stuff and just say no. So I'm eager to see
44 how that language would be developed on the reply
45 process review.

46

47 Is that kind of like the heart of what
48 we're talking about here?

49

50

0044

1 MR. VICKERS: Mr. Chair, this is Brent
2 Vickers. I hear what you're saying and I think that's
3 an excellent idea. As far as getting to the heart of
4 the process, I know one thing is that a lot of what is
5 said in the annual reports, while very important, you
6 know, very important matters, climate change, things
7 that have huge impacts, the Board, in itself can't make
8 very strategic recommendations and I think that's one
9 of the things that they're really trying to address and
10 so having a report process that when there is a
11 response, something strategic and perhaps exactly what
12 you're talking about -- Eva, do you have any other
13 suggestions or something you can say about this or
14 anyone else from OSM.

15
16 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. Thank
17 you, Brent. Yes, indeed, and the Council does
18 understand that, you know, in the Council's own report
19 often, you know, starts with the understanding that the
20 Federal Subsistence Board may not have direct
21 jurisdiction over these issues, however the inter-
22 relationship of all of these issues affecting
23 subsistence and ways that the Program can, either
24 flexibly through flexible regulations, you know, which
25 works in some cases, you know, with timing, access to
26 resources and timing to be able to subsistence hunt or
27 fish. As Chairman Brower noted, in some cases, you
28 know, there is no ability to respond by changes to
29 regulations or timing or access but the time is when
30 the resource is available. And so I know the Board has
31 endeavored over the years to network with other
32 agencies, other Federal agencies or get information
33 that would be helpful in responding to the broader
34 concerns of the Council that the Board doesn't have
35 jurisdiction over. I guess I'll note just from the
36 years of working with the Regional Advisory Council
37 that those efforts are very much appreciated so even if
38 it doesn't fall within the Board's direct jurisdiction,
39 that the networking and efforts of the OSM Staff and
40 Program to be able to collaborate with others on
41 finding ways to come up with solutions or avenues to
42 address these concerns.

43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And maybe
47 sometime we should have a workshop in this area just --
48 you know, it's kind of hard when you're on
49 teleconference and you're thumbing through stuff and
50

0045

1 it's good to have animation and examples and talk and
2 be present in person but we all know what we're
3 challenged with nowadays but it's certainly interesting
4 enough to, you know, try to understand a little bit and
5 provide some feedback on it and it seems like it's a
6 work in progress.

7

8 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other
11 questions.....

12

13 MS. PATTON:and Council -- go
14 ahead.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Eva.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
19 Council. And as Brent noted that this will come back
20 before the Council at your winter meeting so, you know,
21 any thoughts on this as we're working through our
22 annual report process for this year, too, and please do
23 keep me posted as well as, you know, ways that we might
24 be able to engage and better respond to the Council's
25 annual report and request for information and support
26 for the Council.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Just an FYI,
31 Steve did respond back to my text from Point Hope and
32 he promised to chime in after lunch.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
35 Council. Yes, I just heard back from Steve as well.
36 He had been very sick for some time and was doing
37 better and I know when I talked to him last night he
38 was not feeling so well again so we want to support
39 Steve in all his efforts to join us, he does wear many
40 hats for his community as you noted, serving both on
41 the tribal council and the corporation board and
42 responding to the community's needs and urgencies right
43 now with Covid. So we'll let Steve hopefully have a
44 good lunch and join us this afternoon for the wildlife
45 proposals.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, we got about 20
48 minutes if we.....

49

50

0046

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER:want to take an
4 early lunch and then we'll be able to act on the
5 asterisks portions or is there something else we could
6 take up and be very flexible with.....

7

8 MS. PATTON: Actually.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Yes, actually, Mr. Chair
13 and Council, I do have a recommendation but the annual
14 report reply and the annual report process actually got
15 separated in the agenda because one is old business and
16 one is new business but they really should come
17 together. Since we're having this discussion on the
18 reply and any follow-up to the Council's request to the
19 Board and that reply, if we may, Council to address the
20 annual report so that the Council has the time to think
21 about topics for the annual report here for this year
22 throughout the meeting. If that would be okay with the
23 Council we could cover that at this time.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
26 the Council.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You guys want to let
31 Eva continue and do that and take her recommendation or
32 do you want to take a lunch and come back at 1:00.

33

34 MS. PATTON: And this.....

35

36 MR. WILLIAMS: Break.

37

38 MS. PATTON:would be just a brief
39 overview of the annual report and the topics that we're
40 seeking from the Council for the meeting.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you want to take a
45 brief update on that as suggested by Eva and then go to
46 lunch.

47

48 MR. WILLIAMS: Let's go to lunch.

49

50

0047

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Is that one
2 vote for going to lunch.

3
4 MS. ITTA: I move to go to lunch.
5 Second, I mean.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. My
8 stomach's growling so that's going to override you
9 there, Eva, and.....

10
11 MS. PATTON: No worries.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER:we will take
14 that up right after lunch, I suppose.

15
16 MS. PATTON: Sure, absolutely. We can
17 just have that brief update on the annual report so
18 that the Council is thinking about those topics that
19 you'd like to add to this year's report through the
20 meeting and then we will have Steve on and hopefully
21 Wanda as well after lunch to take up the wildlife
22 proposals.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We'll
27 recess until 1:00 o'clock.

28
29 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I'm
32 signing off, I'll dial back in at 1:00 o'clock.

33
34 MS. ITTA: Thank you.

35
36 MS. PATTON: Thank you everyone. We'll
37 resume at 1:00 p.m.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, we're going to
44 hand you the mic so you can do your Councilman's
45 report. Everybody, AKP gave their report, Nuiqsut gave
46 their report, Kaktovik gave their report and we were
47 going to revisit the reports when you and Wanda were
48 available. So I'm going to give the mic to you and
49 report from your village.

50

0048

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. It's been a
2 good year. Just for the record this is Steve Oomittuk
3 from Point Hope located on the west coast.

4
5 This year has been a pretty good year
6 for caribou. You know the caribou seem to stick around
7 pretty much all year. And, you know, the numbers --
8 when you look at the report the numbers show low but
9 the caribou have been staying within the area of Point
10 Hope, the hunters haven't had to go very far, the
11 majority of them. The fall time, you know, they're
12 still catching caribou right now, which is good.
13 There's a lot of snow on the ground. You know they're
14 seeing other animals, they're catching sea otters in
15 the river. We never seen sea otters in years.

16
17 But, you know, not much grayling.
18 There's some trout. And people are up the river trying
19 to get the fish. You know the grayling was in
20 abundance last year and so was the trout. The hunters
21 right now are saying, you know, they're having a hard
22 time getting the fish, the river seems kind of shallow
23 and kind of muddy and their nets are coming out empty
24 handed.

25
26 It's been kind of warm. It's been
27 warming up and cooling off. We still have no ice. Here
28 it is in November again, we didn't -- last year we
29 didn't get -- you know the river freezes and thaws out
30 but it's getting frozen now. But, you know, the ocean,
31 you know, when we celebrate the Born of the Ice when
32 it's (In Native) when we bring out the whale's tail,
33 usually in October, you know, in years past -- years
34 ago it used to be late September, early October and
35 then it moved to mid-October and then October -- now
36 the last couple years it's been in November and you're
37 talking late November, you know, right before
38 Thanksgiving, towards the end, you know, that's very
39 late for our -- you know because we celebrate the Born
40 of the Ice and we have, you know, we've got 10 whales
41 and, you know, we pull out the whale's tail from the
42 ice, those that are covered with whale blubber and, you
43 know, if you haven't gotten five whales and you pulled
44 your whale's tail out, you know, when the ice is formed
45 and we celebrate the Born of the Ice -- you know the
46 old days they said is it -- if it's (In Native) on the
47 south side of Point Hope it'll be a good year -- a good
48 hunting year with the ice and everything, if it's (In
49 Native) on the north side it's going to be a tough year
50

0049

1 for us. Yeah, there's a lot of water out there so no
2 sign of any ice at all.

3
4 You know the fish, we didn't get much
5 fish this year, the ocean's been pretty rough during
6 the fishing time when they're getting the char and
7 they're coming back in late August, early September.

8
9 It seems like things are changing, you
10 know, you never know when they're going to come, the
11 current, the fish, the migrations, yeah, it's been
12 changing for quite some time, you know, when you live
13 in a place the majority of all your life you're so used
14 to, you know, the food chain and the timeline of when
15 everything comes and goes, you know, the migration of
16 the animals, not just in the sea, but the sky, the
17 land, the river and if you -- you know, so used to be a
18 way of life, the subsistence way of life, you notice
19 the changes and there's been a big change in the last
20 10 years even with the weather and the size of the
21 snowflake and the wind direction and temperature.

22
23 But for the caribou it's been a good
24 year, even though I see the numbers are low, and we see
25 the abundance of sports hunters coming into Kotzebue,
26 you know, by the hundreds, you know, the airlines are
27 full and they're still coming up even though we wanted
28 to close it down because the population of -- I still
29 we still have an estimated number of 244 but that's
30 from 2019, we don't have the 2020 census. I don't know
31 about the 2021. I just saw in the meeting packet and it
32 shows the numbers and it's still in the low -- and the
33 Federal Subsistence Advisory, even though we suggested
34 that they shut down hunting on Federal lands to non-
35 residents and sportshunters, and we had that, you know,
36 the meeting on that and also on the radio what you guys
37 have -- my mind is going in circles right now. I was
38 in a meeting until 1:00 this morning so I'm still
39 trying to -- you know, past 1:00, but, you know, I just
40 feel that the different entities and, you know, that
41 here we are the North Slope Borough Subsistence
42 Regional Advisory Council it seems like it goes in one
43 ear and out the other ear. You know we're concerned of
44 -- you know it's our food source. You know we're a
45 very low income communities and high cost of living and
46 the subsistence way of life is our main food source and
47 we want to ensure that we continue to put food on the
48 table, you know, all our families depend on the
49 animals, whether it's in the sea or the land, the
50

0050

1 rivers. But it seems like, you know, when you deal
2 with Fish and Game, or Wildlife, you know, it's -- you
3 know we're being overridden by a way of life when we
4 know that there's something wrong and, still, you have
5 people testifying that are from out of state that don't
6 even live in the area calling in and voicing their
7 opinion when we're concerned about the survival about
8 the animals that we depend on, and the people that
9 depend on the food source, it just -- it just wasn't
10 right.

11

12 Thank you. And, you know, that's all I
13 have. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Quyanaqpak, Steve.
16 Always interesting to hear your report from your neck
17 of (In Native). Just a -- I mean any questions for
18 Steve on Council member's reports for Point Hope, from
19 any of the Council members.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
24 And just wondering about your river and, you know, here
25 our concern -- my concern has been about the freeze-up
26 and then warming up and fishing and being able to, you
27 know, we always depend on the weather sometimes --
28 quite a bit here, to freeze your catch so it won't get
29 stinkfish so it can be fresh. Just wondering about,
30 you know, it seems like it would be more of an issue
31 over that way around Point Hope. You know we're
32 starting to develop (In Native) here, we've got some
33 ice floating around, you could see some ice developing,
34 lakes are frozen. Right now the rivers are frozen now.
35 But in the beginning, you know, it froze real good up
36 there in Ikpikpuk but it kind of warmed up again and
37 very difficult to fish in that kind of condition. Just
38 my observation and just see if there were those kind of
39 issues that you guys might have with freeze and thaw.

40

41 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. You know last year
42 January and February, you know, usually the coldest
43 times of the year and, yet, it was raining and we were
44 kind of worried about the caribou because here it was
45 cold and then it started raining and then it got cold
46 again and we were worried about the caribou getting to
47 their food source, you know, especially with the rain
48 and freezing up the ground, you know, it makes it
49 harder for -- but it seemed like, you know, the weather

50

0051

1 didn't get as cold, you know, as it normally gets in
2 January and February and that's supposed to be the
3 coldest time of the year, you know, in the 30 belows,
4 40s, windchills, higher, and yet we still had open
5 water in February, you know, the ocean and that was
6 kind of a concern, you know, that -- you know they were
7 seeing whales, you know, in late February, March, you
8 know, when we don't -- in the past we don't normally
9 see them until April, middle part of April, when they
10 start coming through. Now we see them towards the end
11 of March, first part of April. Once in a while we see
12 them in February but you could really tell the ocean is
13 not as thick as it used to be and then when it freezes
14 -- and the currents -- and you also see different types
15 of species of birds that normally weren't around in the
16 older days, we just seen -- you know there were people
17 concerned about all the murrens -- the dead birds
18 towards Thompson that washed up, you know, the puffins
19 and the murrens and on Cape Thompson side and also
20 towards Cape Lisburne. So -- but we are concerned.

21
22 They increased traffic through
23 International waters through the Northwest Passage.
24 When you see the traffic that comes through because of
25 the Northwest Passage is open now and a shortcut, not
26 just for tourism but for industry, you know, and it's a
27 shortcut for, you know, to get to the other side of the
28 world instead of going through the Panama Canal. I was
29 surprised to see the numbers of ships and boats that
30 come and goes through Federal waters up on the Arctic
31 Ocean. You know our Arctic Ocean isn't very deep and
32 any kind of major spill will be easily be an impact on
33 our food source because the majority of our food source
34 is from the ocean and they're depleting the animal's
35 food source that they depend on, you know. And that's
36 something that, you know, we wanted to know about, the
37 Native Village of Point Hope. You know back in the
38 days when they had off shore they were doing all that
39 seismic and then they had these contacts (ph) that was
40 looking at the traffic and keeping in contact with
41 ships and barges and personal, you know, explorers or
42 cruise ships that were coming through, you know, we saw
43 a few numbers, you know, you're talking 10 years ago
44 but when I saw recently of how many ships are going
45 through now that, you know, we don't even know about
46 but you're talking hundreds, you know, out in
47 International waters where we have no jurisdiction or
48 anything and, you know, I would think as the North
49 Slope Subsistence Advisory Council that, you know, we
50

0052

1 would have some sort of say-so on, you know, the Coast
2 Guard could do more monitoring on -- you know,
3 especially within the -- you know it's Federal waters,
4 I guess, but we don't have no jurisdiction but ensuring
5 that they're not putting waste into our ocean which is
6 so delicate, you know, the smallest food source feeds
7 the largest. You know the whale eating on the plankton
8 and, you know, and the depth of the Arctic Ocean isn't
9 very deep so there's a lot of concerns on that. And
10 then -- and then it's something that we have no
11 jurisdiction over. We have the Beluga Whale
12 Commission, the AWC, although we are considered the
13 North Slope Subsistence Advisory Council where we can
14 give advice but we are limited -- there is a Walrus
15 Commission, there's a Polar Bear Commission, like I
16 said, you know, we have these lengthy meetings with a
17 lot of people but yet, you know, when we give advice it
18 gets overridden but -- you know, by the Federal
19 Subsistence Advisory Council [sic].

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
24 We're going to move on to Wanda, if Wanda has joined
25 us. Wanda, are you on from Atqasuk.

26

27 MS. KIPPI: Yes, Sir, Mr. Chair. Good
28 afternoon. Good afternoon, everybody.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon, long
31 time no hear.

32

33 MS. KIPPI: Eee (In Native)

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Give you the
36 opportunity to provide your report as Council member
37 from Atqasuk.

38

39 MS. KIPPI: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We've heard from
42 Anaktuvuk.....

43

44 MS. KIPPI: Wanda Kippi from.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Wanda.

47

48 MS. KIPPI:Atqasuk -- alrighy
49 thank you. Wanda Kippi from Atqasuk.

50

0053

1 Our weather for the springtime, I think
2 it was pretty good. It usually thaws out too early
3 during the springtime. The geese hunting was good.
4 The (In Native) was good. What you normally see out
5 there during springtime. It's usually about -- it was
6 usually good -- it was good.

7
8 And then for the summer, there was no
9 caribou for awhile until -- until -- well, there was
10 some caribou around but not as much as you would see in
11 July and then near the middle or ending of July you
12 started finally seeing some and then August -- August
13 was a time that we started seeing more -- more caribou
14 but they were -- they were small -- small herds here
15 and there, a few big ones. And then near the ending of
16 August we started finally -- and September, we finally
17 started seeing some caribou and there was finally a big
18 herd by the thousands around (In Native), which we
19 haven't seen for a long time. I didn't get to see it, I
20 didn't get to go because my Honda was down. I had to
21 order so many parts for my Honda this year so I missed
22 out camping and hunting this year. I'm not going to
23 miss next year. Nobody's going to stop me this time,
24 my Honda's going to be running.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MS. KIPPI: But, anyhow, that caribou,
29 it was probably by the thousands, my son said, it was
30 black from all the caribou lined up for miles and miles
31 from one end to the other end on the direction they
32 were going, he said it was awesome to see. I missed
33 that. I haven't seen that for a long time, that was --
34 that was a good report from my son when he went out
35 that day.

36
37 Lately -- and the freeze-up was slow as
38 usual, a late freeze-up. And some places where it's
39 deep or where there's a concentration of gases, like
40 farther up, like (In Native) and somewhere down that
41 way there's some gases in the water that never lets it
42 freeze and it never freeze over in September so we
43 couldn't go -- or a family member couldn't go up there
44 and go fish end of September oreven and it was still --
45 still not frozen from those gases that they usually
46 have on that part of the river. But other than that,
47 after it freeze up they were catching some good (In
48 Native) and then when it freeze up some people put net
49 out they were catching some (In Native) some good
50

0054

1 catches I guess, they did pretty good catching with
2 net. There was one -- one fish that has abscess in the
3 liver, that was just recently, last week, they must
4 have found it when they were cutting it up. It might
5 have been a (In Native) I think, or (In Native), they
6 didn't say which one.

7
8 And the wolves were around here. Not
9 too long ago they were fresh tracks to spot (In Native)
10 somebody had caught it and they had seen some more
11 tracks nearby which is unusual. I mean you don't
12 really see the tracks up this close around our area,
13 they're usually like 13 miles or around that far, they
14 don't usually come this close to town. I guess what
15 happened is that there was a big herd across -- across
16 the river, somewhere back there and they must have
17 scared them over here and those caribou stayed across
18 the river for a few days. But after that, even after
19 the caribou left, there was (In Native) tracks around
20 there so somebody went to go fishing over there and
21 they took picture of the tracks. So one (In Native)
22 was caught already from seeing those tracks near,
23 around our community, that close, what, only a mile.

24
25 And everything was okay, I guess, but
26 the -- the freeze-up is getting later and later and
27 then after even though it froze up there was some soft
28 spots after it warmed up on top of the ice so that was
29 just end of October or first -- yeah, end of October --
30 last week of October it warmed up and there was some
31 slush on top of the ice so people had to be careful.

32
33 There was sometimes -- sometimes there
34 was no caribou around the area, still people had to go
35 far -- far away during the caribou hunting season until
36 -- until they started coming finally. A lot of young
37 -- a lot of young bucks, a lot of females with their
38 young ones, we seen small herds of them all around.
39 But, yeah, they finally started seeing some caribou
40 after -- before -- before it was getting too late. I'm
41 thinking some of them never catch enough for their
42 families, but I guess it'll work -- it works out --
43 everything will be okay, I guess.

44
45 But, yeah, it's getting -- the
46 groceries are getting more expensive here in our
47 community, yeah, it's just getting more expensive for
48 our community even to get -- even to get some groceries
49 up here, it's getting expensive, very expensive so our
50

0055

1 main sources around here is going to be our subsistence
2 life which has been for many, many years and I hope we
3 can keep our hunting and fishing and bird hunting going
4 for as long as we can because that's what we subsist
5 on, that's what we live on because the (In Native) is
6 not going to keep us full all the time, it's not going
7 to be available all the time due to -- due to have the
8 expenses of getting them up here and just the pricing
9 of the meats are high, even just dry goods are
10 expensive now, that I've noticed when I go to the
11 store. I just buy a bag and it cost me \$99, almost 100
12 bucks, so, yep, it's getting too expensive to live on
13 (In Native).

14

15 (In Native) Taikuu. Any questions.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.
18 It's good to listen to you and how the village is doing
19 and about subsistence. Any questions for Wanda from
20 any of the other Council members or OSM or Fish and
21 Game or those that have a question.

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: I just want to say
24 congratulation on your five year award Wanda. Keep it
25 up, I'm proud of you, representing for your people and
26 tradition. Thank you, very much, Ma'am. Earl, for the
27 record.

28

29 REPORTER: Thank you, Earl.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Earl.

32

33 MS. KIPPI: Was that Kaktovik.

34

35 MR. WILLIAMS: Anaktuvuk.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anaktuvuk Pass.

38

39 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other.....

42

43 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER:questions for
46 Wanda.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0056

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, very good.
2 Good report. It's always good to hear what's going on
3 with the village. And we will be planning from the
4 Borough side of things, putting the CWAT trail to
5 Atqasuk and Wainwright and we've also been approved to
6 make the trail all the way to Point Lay this year. So
7 as we get funded we start these processes. So maybe
8 that might help with food and ability to get things
9 into Atqasuk.

10

11 With that.....

12

13 MS. KIPPI: All right, thank you for
14 that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Do we
17 have member from Wainwright, Billy Blare Patkotak, Jr.,
18 have you joined us this afternoon.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madame
23 Coordinator, it might be important to continue to try
24 to send him a message, maybe through the city office or
25 the North Slope Borough Liaison's office. Sometimes
26 they're very helpful and will call them right up, or
27 they'll knock on their door to remind them or something
28 like that.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 And I had spoke with the tribal administrator again
32 this morning and she did say she would call and relay a
33 message to him, I haven't heard back. I'll try to
34 leave a message for them, again, and see if Billy could
35 join us this afternoon, still.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's good. At
40 least we try, it's important we try to get all the new
41 Council members acquainted and encourage them. So with
42 that, we'll go to Item 8, which we passed earlier and
43 we were going to wait for Wanda, is the service awards.
44 Wanda, you've served in your capacity now as a
45 representing Atqasuk in the Subsistence Regional
46 Advisory Council for five years and we'd like to thank
47 you very much and the passion you have for the
48 subsistence arena, and the knowledge you hold and the
49 way you represent the community of Atqasuk and the
50

0057

1 people as a whole.

2

3

(In Native)

4

5

Quyanagpak.

6

7

8

Madame Coordinator, was there something that you wanted to say or provide.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And big thanks to Wanda Kippi for your wonderful service to the Council and the community, are just wealth of observations and traditional knowledge that you share and the joy of living subsistence way of life and the time you spend out on the land that you share with everyone. And you being young, but an elder in your own right, the gift that you provide sharing your knowledge and traditional skills with not only your children and grandchildren but with others in the community and all of us. It's a pleasure and joy to know you and work with you. So thank you so much Wanda.

And we do have a service award for you, we had hoped, of course, to be able to meet in person and have a celebratory potluck and we have a plaque for you that we will be.....

29

MS. KIPPI: Wow.

30

31

32

33

34

35

MS. PATTON:sending in the mail. So, yeah, so that will get shipped after the meeting, we'll have to pack it up good. So thank you for everything, Wanda.

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, well deserved Wanda. We hope you can continue and be an advocate for subsistence. I always like to encourage young people and, you know, I always find it important so that our young people are knowing of the regulations too and it's important, too, to help this Council be successful so thank you very much.

And if we were here in person and Covid wasn't bothering us I'm pretty sure, along with Wanda and the rest of the Council members and Eva we'd have a group picture and hand you your award personally with your plaque. But it is what it is, we're in difficult times, and historical times these days, living in a

0058

1 pandemic era.

2

3

MS. JONES: Mr. Chair, this is Shelly.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Shelly.

6

7

MS. JONES: Thanks, Gordon. And I just wanted to really lend my appreciation and thanks to Wanda as well. I really admire everyone that goes out of their way to help us in these public processes and, yeah, just really happy. I've learned a lot from Wanda already and really glad my path has crossed with hers and looking forward to a lot of future years. So if we were in person I would be hoping to have a little bit of cake but I would either be applauding or a thumb's up if we had a video so I just wanted to lend my voice in congratulating Wanda.

18

19

20

MS. KIPPI: Thank you. I'm honored to be in this Advisory Council. Quyanaqpak, thank you.

21

22

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

23

24

25

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve for the record.

26

27

28

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, go ahead, Steve, we'll give you the mic.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I also wanted to thank Wanda for her five years of service and thank you very much. It's always good to see you and, you know, five years, you know, we thank you. We know it's tough times and, you know, it's not always easy sometimes. You know it takes a lot of time, we volunteer our time, we thank everybody that comes and volunteers their time for this North Slope Subsistence Advisory Council. And keeping us updated with all our different villages and, you know, keep our way of life and the concerns that we have, especially on the land and the different issues that we deal with in different places.

43

44

But thank you very much, and for your report. Keep up the good work.

45

46

47

Thank you.

48

49

MS. KIPPI: Taikuu, Steve. Quyanaqpak.
(In Native)

50

0059

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Any other
2 comments in recognition for the service award for Wanda
3 for her five years.

4
5 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Carmen
6 Daggett, I'd like to say something.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Carmen.

9
10 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you. I just wanted
11 to give my sincere thank you to Wanda. Not only has she
12 served in this body but in other bodies as well and
13 provided a lot of really cheerful, wonderful comments,
14 she's always got a smile on her face even if she's
15 talking about something that's difficult. And I really
16 treasure getting to know her, not just in public but
17 she also messages me on Facebook every once in awhile
18 and we try to help her out as much as we can from this
19 office. So thank you very much, Wanda, I appreciate
20 all your time and efforts.

21
22 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Carmen. It
23 means a lot to me, thank you. I'm honored to help --
24 be on this Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
25 Thank you.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you
28 again, Wanda. I'll make sure to contact you when your
29 award is coming in the mail to you and you'll know to
30 look for it and we'll all have to celebrate when we can
31 meet in person again. We'll have some virtual cake
32 today. And thanks to everybody for your feedback also.

33
34 Quyanaqpak, Wanda.

35
36 MS. KIPPI: Taikuu. Taikuu, Eva.

37
38 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and
39 Council. We did have an opportunity for the Council to
40 review the previous meeting minutes this morning but we
41 were waiting for additional Council members to make a
42 vote on that so if we may, go back to Item No. 6 on
43 your agenda, for your meeting minutes, on Page 5 in the
44 meeting book.

45
46 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Steve and Wanda if you
49 want to take a look and see if there's any edits there.
50

0060

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh, yes, go ahead.

4

5 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
6 for the record.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
9 Steve.

10

11 MR. OOMITTUK: I'd like to entertain a
12 motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 22,
13 23, 2021 as presented.

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Second. Second from
16 Earl.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. There's a
19 motion on the floor to accept the minutes from February
20 22, 23, 2021 and a motion on the floor by Steve
21 Oomittuk from Point Hope.

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Second by Earl.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded by
26 Earl. Any discussion.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MS. KIPPI: Question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been
33 called for. All those in favor of approving the
34 February 22, 23, 2021 minutes signify by saying aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 MS. KIPPI: Okay, Mr. Chair, I'm going
39 to try and put this back on speaker so I don't have to
40 hold my phone. I accidentally lifted up the phone cord
41 one and I'm going to try to put it on speaker and if it
42 hangs up I'll call right back.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. All those
45 opposed, signify.....

46

47 MS. KIPPI: Okay, thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER:by saying no.

50

0061

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
4 minutes are approved.

5

6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we got that out of
10 the way so Item 5 is complete. And I'm going to go
11 back to Item 8 real quick, service awards, anything
12 else have anything to add about Wanda's service award
13 before we go on to the next agenda item.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we'll
18 go to -- I'm not sure if we finished old business under
19 the annual report reply process. Did we complete that,
20 did we finish old business Eva.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 We completed old business. And then as noted, the
24 identifying issues for the FY 2021 annual report does
25 come up later on the agenda after the wildlife
26 proposals. So we will revisit the annual report at
27 that time.

28

29 And then first under new business is
30 the wild proposals and closure reviews. And these are
31 action items and we'll just walk through the process
32 that we'll use for reviewing each of the wildlife proposals.

33

34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36

37 MS. PATTON: And we had planned also
38 for the Council to receive all relevant wildlife
39 reports from both the Federal and State biologists that
40 have joined us on the teleconference so that you have
41 the latest information available for that particular
42 wildlife or proposal. So we'll take up each proposal
43 one at a time, but we'll hear the latest data that the
44 wildlife biologists have to share before we get into
45 the proposal. Then we have our wildlife biologists and
46 anthropologists online to provide the overview of the
47 analysis that's in your meeting books.

48

49 For each of the proposals, I'd like to

50

0062

1 direct you to Page 30 in your meeting books.

2

3

4 For each proposal we'll walk through a
5 presentation process. Again, we'll hear any current
6 relevant data reports on wildlife affecting that
7 particular proposal before we get into it. And then
8 we'll have a presentation of the Staff analysis. We
9 have Kendra Holman on, OSM Wildlife Biologist and
10 Hannah Voorhees as the OSM Anthropologist, we also have
11 Pippa Kenner on who will be addressing the community
12 harvest proposals under the statewide proposals. So
13 we'll have a review of the -- overview of the analysis
14 and then a report to the Council on the Federal
15 Subsistence Board's tribal consultation and ANCSA
16 consultation on each proposal and then we'll walk you
17 through.....

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

20

21 MS. PATTON:agency -- ADF&G,
22 Federal agencies, any tribal entities that have joined
23 us on the teleconference that would like to comment on
24 the proposal and then we walk through the advisory
25 group comments. So we hear from other Regional
26 Advisory Councils, especially for those proposals that
27 are crossover proposals with another region.

28

29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted)

31

32 MS. PATTON: And then.....

33

34 REPORTER: Okay, hey, hey, hold up Eva.
35 This is Tina, the court reporter. So I have a few
36 lines that are unmuted because we're getting background
37 conversations and I'm not picking Eva up on the
38 recording so if we could all take a second, look at
39 your device, star, six to mute, or use the mute button
40 and that way we will be able to hear the presentations.
41 So I'm sorry to interrupt but everybody please check
42 and see if you're on mute.

43

44 Go ahead, Eva.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Tina.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, this is Gordon.

49

50

0063

1 MS. PATTON: Yeah, go ahead, Gordon.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, the
5 presentation procedures and proposals and closure
6 reviews, it's pretty much standard on the -- I think
7 we've done this many times on the process there and I
8 appreciate going through all of the gamut of going
9 through these for each proposal, and to hear
10 everybody's comments and things like that, and agency
11 comments. So I think we will be able to maneuver
12 through that and it looks like we have a whole bunch of
13 them so it might be prudent to get underway.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

MS. PATTON: Sure, you bet, thank you,
Mr. Chair. Yeah, and for other Councils we've had
almost entirely new Council membership so I've been
walking through the process.....

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

MS. PATTON:a bunch of times for
all our new Council members.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

MS. PATTON: So just a -- just a
friendly reminder, though, when we are -- when the
Council is taking action on the proposals, that full
discussion from the Council, you know, why you're
voting the way you are, the background information,
your traditional knowledge, knowledge of subsistence to
provide that full discussion and justification to help
the Federal Subsistence Board understand the Council's
recommendation. So that's the main thing and a motion
in the positive is helpful as well so when you're
voting yes we know you're supporting it and, a, no,
that you're opposing it.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

So thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

And with that I will -- we have our
first proposal on the agenda is WP22-54. And wanted to
-- and that's requesting a modification of the hunt
area boundary for moose in Unit 26A, and this was
submitted by the North Slope Subsistence Regional
Advisory Council. And before we turn it over to Kendra
to provide the analysis overview, I'd like to check in
with our State and Federal Staff to see if there's any
moose reports or updates that our regional biologists

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

0064

1 would like to share with the Council at this time.

2

3 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I want to make
4 sure that this is asking for my information versus
5 information that would be provided by OSM, or maybe
6 this is an Eva question.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Hi, thank you, Carmen.
9 Yes, this is the opportunity for you and other regional
10 biologists to provide those updates. Thank you, very
11 much Carmen.

12

13 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
14 Eva. So I have a report that I submitted under the
15 supplemental materials to give you the most recent
16 minimum count numbers for the moose population in 26A.
17 The most recent count was done this spring and we
18 counted the larger minimum count area instead of just
19 doing the trend count area, which we do every year, we
20 do the minimum count every three years. And so our
21 most recent count was 438 moose. There were 350 adults
22 and 88 short-yearlings. This is in comparison to the
23 minimum count in 2017 where there were 339 moose
24 counted, 281 adults and 58 short-yearlings. So we've
25 seen an increase in this moose population from just
26 about 100 increase since we've done this minimum count.

27

28 So it's good to see it growing. It's
29 still a modest size moose population. But that is the
30 most recent information that we have for you and I'm
31 happy to entertain any questions that people have
32 regarding this population.

33

34 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, Steve for the
35 record. When you talk about 26A, I don't have a map in
36 front of me but a lot of that area is also on the
37 Northwest, the NANA area, 26A.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's Page 35 is the
40 map for the moose that we're talking about on Unit 26A.

41

42 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And it looks like
45 NPR-A.

46

47 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. So I was trying
48 to -- I'm getting a little mixed up because I don't
49 have a map in front of me and it seems like we had

50

0065

1 (indiscernible - background noise) you know on the
2 moose and the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and I thought
3 26A was on there, it might have been a different -- you
4 know this was on a public testimony on the moose and,
5 you know, having the non-residents and sporthunters
6 coming in and hunting on Federal lands, a few months
7 back, about five or six months ago -- but maybe it
8 wasn't 26A, maybe that was a different number, I'm
9 trying to -- and that's why -- and, you know, I'm on
10 Page 31, I don't see a map of where 26A is. You know
11 we cover such a broad area and looking for the
12 jurisdiction area.

13
14

Thank you.

15
16

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I might stand
17 to be corrected but maybe Carmen or the area biologist,
18 that map on Page 35 in our books Unit 26 and it has
19 Unit 26A stamped on it and it kind of highlights a
20 majority, if not all of NPR-A.

21
22

MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I can just
23 give a description of the Game Management Unit
24 boundaries if that would be helpful to Steve if he
25 can't locate the map in his materials, if that would be
26 helpful.

27
28

MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, thank you, yeah, I
29 see that now.

30
31

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

32
33

MR. OOMITTUK: You know because 26A
34 covers a wide area in the North Slope but also in the
35 NANA area and their Subsistence Advisory Council, I was
36 just wondering if they -- what kind of concerns the
37 Northwest Subsistence Advisory Council had on this
38 proposal, if -- if you had public testimony on that.

39
40

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva, I
41 can.....

42
43

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

44
45

MS. PATTON:address that question
46 for Steve. Yeah, thank you, Steve. This actually was
47 not a crossover proposal with the Northwest Arctic
48 Council since this is a hunt for residents in Unit 26A.
49 So this proposal is coming just before North Slope

50

0066

1 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

9

10 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, thank you for
11 clarifying that. I just wanted -- I just wanted to
12 better understand it because, you know, like I stated
13 recently we just had a public testimony on the Western
14 Arctic Caribou Herd hunting on Federal lands also with
15 moose in 2 -- I think it was in 26A and it was on the
16 public testimony -- public testimony on the radio with
17 the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Advisory Council also
18 that had to -- with their moose population and non-
19 resident hunting and sporthunting coming into the
20 territory.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. PATTON: Yeah, thank you, Steve.
25 And through the Chair. We will be having a
26 conversation -- you missed it this morning, that that
27 Wildlife Special Action Request that was submitted by
28 the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory
29 Council regarding Unit 23 and Unit 26A caribou and
30 moose, that was deferred -- action was deferred on that
31 by the Federal Subsistence Board in order to get more
32 information, in particular, from local residents and so
33 that was on the agenda for the Northwest Arctic Council
34 to discuss and it'll be coming up on the agenda later
35 in the meeting for the North Slope Subsistence Regional
36 Advisory Council to discuss as well. So we'll have a
37 full discussion on that particular special action
38 request later in the meeting. But this particular
39 proposal doesn't affect that special action request.

40

41 MR. OOMITTUK: All right, thank you.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Carmen, this is
46 Gordon, and maybe you can define the areas that this is
47 -- because this is a Council sponsored proposal, this
48 is a proposal from the Regional Advisory Council,
49 Region 10, and it's for Unit 26A on Federal public
50

0067

1 lands and I would think that any public lands within
2 Unit 26A would be incorporated into that.

3

4 (Phone ringing)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to take a
7 call real quick, but, Carmen, if you can describe that.

8

9 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, thank you. So
10 the area that will be covered by this proposal isn't
11 the entirety of 26A, it is largely the western portion
12 of 26A so the proposal is to move the current line from
13 56 west longitude -- 156 west longitude to 155 west
14 longitude, which means that it would go from -- it
15 would include the (Indiscernible), I'm pretty sure I'm
16 butchering the name of that, I apologize that, down to
17 and kind of following the Ikpikpuk down to the boundary
18 of 26A and for your reference, Steve -- well, actually
19 it's to the Colville River drainage. So it would be
20 north of the Colville River drainage and westward to
21 the coast. So just so that you're kind of aware of
22 where that boundary is. I know it's sort of hard to
23 visualize. There is a map that describes that and I
24 believe that you should be able to reference that in
25 the materials from what OSM provided. And hopefully
26 that helps show you the area that would be included.
27 So basically you're just adding on a sliver of area to
28 the preexisting hunt area that already exists in 26A.
29 We're just moving that boundary eastward from 156 west
30 longitude to 155 west longitude. So hopefully that
31 helps a little bit.

32

33 I know it would be best if you could
34 see that on a map, I hope that map's in front of
35 everyone so that they can kind of understand the area
36 that we're talking about. But that's the best
37 description I can give.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Carmen. And,
40 Mr. Chair and Council, maybe just to guide the Council
41 again to Page 35 of your meeting book. So Steve that's
42 the big meeting book that you got with the muskox on
43 the front, the bound meeting book. And on Page 35 is
44 the map of Unit 26 and you can see the grey lines that
45 run north and south that delineates the current
46 boundaries and then there's a white line that is
47 following roughly along the Alaktak River drainage and
48 that's the proposed boundary that the North Slope
49 Council had submitted. So it would move that boundary

50

0068

1 a little further to the east. Hopefully Council
2 members were able to find that in their meeting books
3 on Page 35.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So on Page 35 that
6 map that shows a white sort of like a hook shape
7 towards the ocean and a straight line and kind of
8 describes the meander around the Alaktak River and then
9 155 west to its -- to the border of the Colville River,
10 I believe, is that the proposed delineation of the
11 change?

12
13 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct, so if you're
14 looking on Page 35 there and that white line, yeah,
15 that runs north/south is the specific area that the
16 Council had recommended to shift the boundary to that
17 area and the -- a landmark that was familiar for local
18 residents.

19
20 And we will have also.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, and.....

23
24 MS. PATTON:so we're getting just
25 a moose update right now and then Kendra, who is the
26 Wildlife Biologist for OSM for the North Slope region
27 will walk through the proposal and analysis, to kind of
28 walk through the request and information in more detail
29 as well.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Maybe that's
32 what we should do is get Kendra on and start going
33 through this thing. Kendra.

34
35 MS. KENNER: Madame -- Mr. Chair,
36 Kendra is saying that she is having hard time calling
37 back in.

38
39 This is Pippa Kenner.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, so.....

42
43 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra.
44 I apologize, I haven't been able to get my phone off of
45 mute. If I can help explain the map I kind of missed
46 the last minute or two but if you have a specific
47 question I can try and answer it now.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It was more or less,
50

0069

1 I think we're ready to go ahead and go through the
2 proposal and do the introduction and presentation of
3 Staff draft analysis for.....

4
5 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. I.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER:WP22-54.

8
9 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. I apologize
10 for.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that's where we
13 are.

14
15 MS. HOLMAN:that -- I'm -- I'm
16 not really sure what happened. But for the record my
17 name is Kendra Holman and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with
18 the Office of Subsistence Management. The following is
19 a summary of Wildlife Proposal WP22-54 which was
20 submitted by this Council and can be found on Page 31
21 of your meeting book.

22
23 This proposal requests modification of
24 the hunt area boundary for the moose in Unit 26A
25 identified in Map 1 on Page 35 of your meeting book.

26
27 The proponent states that the moose
28 hunt opportunity is particularly beneficial to the
29 communities Atqasuk -- my apologies if I'm -- if I
30 pronounced that wrong, and Utqiagvik that have the
31 closest access to the hunt area. The current boundary
32 of 156 west longitude is the 70 mile round-trip by boat
33 up the Ikpikpuk River for the residents of Utqiagvik
34 and.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can I make one
37 correction.

38
39 MS. HOLMAN: Oh, yes, please.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's 75 miles one
42 way, and it's.....

43
44 MS. HOLMAN: Okay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER:about 140 miles
47 round-trip.

48
49 MS. HOLMAN: Okay, so 70 miles,
50

0070

1 not.....

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's not even reaching to the upper reaches of Ikpikpuk which is about 120 miles one way and 220 miles round-trip, which we do those things.

MS. HOLMAN: Okay. Okay.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just for.....

MS. HOLMAN: I wrote that down.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER:clarity.

MS. HOLMAN:thank you, Mr. Chair. So an expanded hunt area would allow moose harvest west of the Alaktak River and would be beneficial to the local community hunters that have to travel so far. The Council recommends establishing this new boundary to follow the natural landscape feature of the Alaktak River which is a tributary to the Ikpikpuk River and runs north/south to Admiralty Bay. The Alaktak River is well known by local communities and will provide a natural hunt area boundary that is easy to identify rather than the current abstract the 156 west longitude, which is very difficult to locate on the ground.

Establishing the hunt area west of the Alaktak River would help communities and families that hunt and have cabins on the Chipp River and have access to the moose hunt area. Council members relayed their experiences that encountering a moose in the area are opportunistic and, therefore, harvest is anticipated to still be low.

The regulatory history of this area. From 1991 to 1996 there was a 75 percent decline in moose population prompting stricter State regulations and the Federal Subsistence Board in 1996 closed moose hunting to -- on all Federal public in Unit 26A except in the portion of the Colville River drainage down stream from the mouth of Anaktuvuk River. The area did remain open to Federally-qualified subsistence users. In 2002 regulations were liberalized and moose hunting population has been increasing since 1998, specifically in the core areas of the Colville River drainage. State and Federal regulations were aligned at this time

1 as well. In 2005 the closure for non-Fed -- for non-
2 Federally-qualified subsistence users was reviewed and
3 maintained. At the review ADF&G suggested that the
4 closure may no longer be necessary since the moose
5 population at that time had reached at least 1000
6 animals. In 2006 the reopened Colville River drainage,
7 down stream from and including the Chandler River to
8 hunting areas by Alaskan residents. This was followed
9 by the Board of Game opening a non-resident draw hunt
10 for moose in Unit 26A in 2007. The resident bull moose
11 season in Unit 26A was extended in 2014 with the
12 shifting of moose season, two hunt areas were created.
13 The Colville River drainage above and including the
14 Anaktuvuk River drainage and the Unit 26 remainder.
15 Later in 2014 the season was reduced in length and the
16 non-resident draw hunt closed due to the moose
17 population decline. In 2021 the Board deferred
18 Wildlife Special Action Request 21-01 which requested
19 closing Federally-public -- Federal public lands in
20 Unit 23 and 26A to caribou and moose hunting to non-
21 Federally-qualified users.

22
23 Prior to the 1940s moose were scarce
24 along the North Slope, subsequently populations
25 expanded along the limited riparian habitat of the
26 major drainages and have become well established in the
27 southeast portion of 26A. The northern extent of the
28 moose population on the North Slope is thought to be
29 limited by habitat availability. The recommended State
30 management objectives for the state for moose in Unit
31 26A are a population of six to 800, a fall bull/cow
32 ratio that is greater than or equal to 30 to 100 and a
33 fall calf/cow ratio that is greater than or equal to 30
34 to 100 and to manage for greater than 20 percent
35 yearlings in spring.

36
37 Since the late 1970s ADF&G has
38 conducted spring aerial surveys in the major drainages
39 of Unit 26A to assess population status and recruitment
40 of short-yearlings. Between 1970 and 2001 the Unit 26A
41 moose population fluctuated ranging from 294 animals to
42 1,535 animals -- 1,535 moose. Those numbers can be
43 seen on Table 1 which is on Page 39 of your meeting
44 book.

45
46 And the percent -- the period of
47 population declines resulted from poor calf/cow
48 survival and high adult mortality. Moose mortality was
49 likely due to malnourishment, bacterial diseases,
50

1 mineral deficiencies, predations from wolves and bears,
2 weather factors and competition with snowshoe hares for
3 browse. In 2008 weights from short-yearlings average
4 322 pounds, which is the lightest record in Alaska and
5 is an indicator of malnourishment.

6
7 Moose harvest levels have responded to
8 population levels and regulations.

9
10 The pure estimate abundance of moose --
11 the upper estimate abundance of moose was in 1991, and
12 average harvest level was 57 moose per year. In 1995
13 restrictive regulations implemented and harvest dropped
14 to 14 moose. In 1996 the use of aircraft in the area
15 was banned and moose harvest dropped to an average of
16 four moose per year until 2004. In 2006 regulations
17 began to be liberalized including a State draw permit
18 and the use of aircraft to hunt moose. This lasted
19 until 2015. Non-resident moose hunting in Unit 26A has
20 been closed since 2014 and from 2009 to 2019 the
21 average reported moose harvest was 3.73 per year. This
22 can be found on Table 3, which is on Page 41 of your
23 meeting book.

24
25 The proposed change will have little
26 effect in the moose population in 26A. Regulations in
27 the affected area would change from one bull during a
28 season of August 1st through September 1st to one moose
29 during a season of July 1st to September 14th. This
30 proposal would provide for more opportunity with a
31 longer season and available to harvest -- the
32 availability to harvest a cow. The change is not
33 expected to impact the moose population or harvesting
34 levels. The prohibition of harvesting a calf or cow
35 accompanied by a calf would be applicable and help to
36 mitigate the conserv -- some of the conservation
37 concerns.

38
39 While the moose population in Unit 26A
40 is below State management objectives, adaptation of
41 this proposal is not expected to affect the population
42 due to very low harvest. Adoption of this proposal
43 also increases hunting opportunity for Federally-
44 qualified subsistence users by providing for a longer
45 season, a more liberal harvest limit within the
46 affected area and makes it more feasible for Federally-
47 qualified subsistence users to reach the hunt area.
48 Currently the number of animals reported harvested in
49 Unit 26A is less than one percent of the population.
50

0073

1 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
2 support Proposal WP22-54 with the modification to
3 revise the hunt area descriptor to Unit 26A, that
4 portion west of Admiralty Bay and the Alaktak River to
5 155 west longitude excluding the Colville River
6 drainage, one moose, however you may not take a calf or
7 a cow accompanied by a calf.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
10 Council. I'll be happy to field any questions.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions -- what
13 was your name again and your affiliation?

14

15 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra
16 Holman. I'm a Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kendra.
19 Any questions for Kendra on WP22- -- was that the
20 executive summary?

21

22 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, that was the summary
23 of the analysis, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

26

27 MS. KIPPI: I have a question, Mr.
28 Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
31 Wanda.

32

33 MS. KIPPI: Okay, thank you. On the
34 proposed line, the white line and the grey line, is
35 that including all of that area within those
36 boundaries?

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That white line
39 that's bordering the.....

40

41 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER:Alaktak River
44 and then going up to the Colville River with a straight
45 line on 155 west and then that rule would apply to the
46 west of that, going west on Unit 26A. Kendra, does
47 that sum it up?

48

49 MS. KIPPI: So that's -- is this for
50

0074

1 everyone that are able to hunt within these boundaries,
2 like Atqasuk, Wainwright, Utqiagvik, AKP, whoever's in
3 these boundaries?

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

6

7 MS. HOLMAN: This proposal.....

8

9 MS. KIPPI: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it's a --
12 there's an existing regulation that allow for this --
13 this is just the modification to go a little bit more
14 to the east, it's not changing the regulation that
15 already exists for -- that's already on the books.
16 It's only changing that 156 west where we always argue
17 about that for, I don't know how long, we've always
18 argued about why the heck 156 west anyway, you know.
19 So this is.....

20

21 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER:more like
24 looking at the boundary of that existing regulation and
25 moving it a little bit more to the east, you know, (In
26 Native).

27

28 (In Native)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It should be access
31 for Federally-qualified subsistence users and not --
32 and sometimes I put this as frank as I can be, is, that
33 156 west to me has always constituted some arbitrary
34 line but, you know, we will have that argument on
35 what's arbitrary and what's not with biologists, but to
36 allow for Federally-qualified subsistence users in that
37 area. And we might need to, you know, it's important
38 to look at this regulation because there are some
39 languages, whether it's Federal land or State land
40 about residents because there's always been some
41 willingness for the State regulators, for them to want
42 us to align regulations and sometimes we got to be
43 careful about aligning regulation and making sure that
44 rural priorities are still being implemented because
45 these population estimates are not very much. The
46 minute they get to a little bit high numbers they start
47 saying, oh, we're going to allocate this much for the
48 resident and they -- you got to be careful about how we
49 understand what resident means, means resident of the
50

0075

1 State or resident in a rural community, which is on
2 Federal public lands, especially when it is a closure
3 bordering on conservative management, opening,
4 declining and those kind of things.

5

6 So the State really needs to think
7 about when they do those kind of things to look at Tier
8 hunts in State land to be very conservative in the
9 approach when -- you know Tier hunts are almost
10 analogous to starting to look at it as who needs it the
11 most type thing, almost a rural resident and I never,
12 ever see a Tier hunt until it's time to close for
13 everybody. And, to me, that's not sustained yield
14 management.

15

16 Anyway, I always get to start thinking
17 about what all of these things mean and how they're
18 wordsmithed, sometimes it's dangerous and we need to be
19 very careful. Anyway.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
26 Council. Just wanted to respond to Wanda's question to
27 clarify. So this is a Federal subsistence proposal and
28 so this proposal change, if adopted, would apply to
29 only Federally-qualified subsistence users in the
30 region and that includes for all the Federal lands that
31 make up 26A are primarily the National Petroleum
32 Reserve, BLM lands, and this proposal is -- current
33 regulations and this proposal applies to residents of
34 Unit 26, rural residents of Unit 26 and also Point
35 Hope and Anaktuvuk Pass have customary and traditional
36 use determination for Unit 26A. So you're correct,
37 Wanda, that all the communities in the North Slope
38 region would have access to hunt under these
39 regulations on Federal land.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Eva.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. (In
46 Native)

47

48 MS. KIPPI: (In Native)

49

50

0076

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Introduction
2 and presentation of Staff analysis, okay, report on the
3 Board consultations, A, tribes.

4
5 MR. LIND: Camai, Gordon. This is
6 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for Office of Subsistence
7 Management. During the consultation session held in
8 August we did not have any questions or comments on
9 WP22-54.

10
11 Qu yana, thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's good to hear you
14 Orville.

15
16 MR. LIND: Good to hear you, too, Sir.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And then that leads
19 me to go down to report on Board and consultation from
20 ANCSA Corporations.

21
22 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, so is
23 this.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It looks like we
26 don't have any representation or comments.....

27
28 MR. OOMITTUK:an.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER:created by the
31 ANCSA Corporations, village corporations or regional
32 corporations and it's pretty silent.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Did
35 we lose Orville.

36
37 MR. LIND: Sorry, I was on mute.
38 Again, Orville Lind, Native Liaison, OSM. We did not
39 have any questions or comments from ANCSA Corporations.

40
41 Qu yana, thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Item 2,
44 agency comments ADF&G.

45
46 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Alaska
47 Department of Fish and Game, Carmen Daggett, for the
48 record. Alaska Department of Fish and Game opposes
49 changing the border for any moose hunt in GMU26A, Game
50

0077

1 Management Unit 26A because it will result in
2 misalignment in of Federal and State regulations.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.
7 Agency comments, B, Federal.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any Federal comments.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe you're on mute
16 or maybe there aren't any Federal folks.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll go to Item C,
21 tribal, any tribal comments.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know I'm not sure
26 if ICAS is still on, it's your opportunity to make a
27 comment on this proposal now exists, or any Native
28 village official.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll move down the
33 line, Item 4 is advisory group comments, A, other
34 Regional Advisory Councils.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair
37 and.....

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

40

41 MS. PATTON:Council. Because
42 this proposal only affects the North Slope region no
43 other Councils have made any recommendations on this.
44 And I haven't heard back from any Fish and Game
45 Advisory Committees, if anyone had a comment on this,
46 if there's anybody online with us today from a local
47 Fish and Game AC.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

50

0078

1 MS. PATTON: And then the.....

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

4

5 MS. PATTON:SRC.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did somebody call for
8 the Chair -- yeah, go ahead, is that Earl.

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I was off mute
11 and I was trying to get back on about the tribes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, okay.....

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Anyway, I want to say
16 something about moose -- earlier, about the tribes, I
17 know when I went to their meeting they spoke up about
18 moose, not much -- the moose around here -- the young
19 boys they get moose here, but it's quite a ways out,
20 they say, so the moose population is you know up and
21 down but I just wanted to speak for the tribe and we're
22 still -- we are still hunkered down and they say
23 there's moose up further north, that's about it. I just
24 wanted to -- sorry, I was on mute.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Earl.
29 Quyanaq, and that would be tribal comments under C.
30 And I'm going to 4C, Subsistence Resource Commissions.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
33 Council. Because Anaktuvuk Pass does hunt -- does have
34 C&T to hunt for moose in Unit 26A, and the SRC, the
35 National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission
36 does encompass Anaktuvuk Pass, however, their meeting
37 is coming up in a couple weeks here so they have not
38 met yet.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. F,
43 summary of written public comments.

44

45 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra
46 Holman. There were no written public comments received
47 for this proposal.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I'm going

50

0079

1 to open the floor to public testimony, is there any
2 member of the public wishing to provide public comment
3 on this proposed change to the regulation.

4

5 MR. DEWITT: This is Neil DeWitt, I
6 would like to make a comment if I could, please.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Neil.

9

10 MR. DEWITT: All right. I sit on the
11 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. I also sit
12 on the Anchorage AC. My comment that I would like to
13 make is kind of the same for both caribou and for
14 moose. By limiting or closing the lands for non-
15 Federally-qualified subsistence users you're causing
16 the transporters and the other people that come up
17 there hunting to get put into an area and as we heard
18 in the last two days in the Northwest ARC meeting, the
19 corridor that's along the Noatak, which I know is not
20 you guys' area, but the same thing is actually
21 happening. These people are getting lined up and
22 they're keeping your animals from getting to you in
23 your areas so if you got rid of your non-qualified
24 subsistence user in the areas, your population is not
25 being hurt any, from what we've heard testimony on, and
26 it's allowing those people, the non-Federally folks to
27 spread out more instead of being in one area and
28 stopping migrations.

29

30 We also heard something that, you know,
31 I'm not sure, well, we're on the moose but I'm not
32 going to be able to be here probably when you do the
33 caribou, I'd like to say, if I could -- I know it's out
34 of point right now, but it kind of ties into it, is
35 earlier in the meeting we heard.....

36

37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may
38 interject.

39

40 MR. DEWITT:earlier in.....

41

42 MS. PATTON: We are on Proposal WP22-54
43 and it is addressing only moose for Unit 26A so we're
44 not addressing the Wildlife Special Action Request at
45 this time and the Council procedures are, at this time
46 we can only comment on the proposal before the Council.
47 So apologies, this is not the Wildlife Special Action
48 request but a proposal specific only to the Federal
49 subsistence moose boundaries in Unit 26A.

50

0080

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 MS. DEWITT: I can go along with that.
4 I was asking for latitude, I'm sorry.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I think some
7 proposals will come up where, I think, those comments
8 will be useful.

9

10 MR. DEWITT: You're correct, but I don't
11 know if I'll be able to attend the meeting because I
12 have another meeting that I have to get on here pretty
13 quick, so that's the only reason I was asking for the
14 latitude to make that comment on the record at this
15 point. But go ahead, I'll refer back to you, thank you
16 for your time.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you and,
19 you know, trying not to mix up the type of comments
20 that we're trying to generate from the general public
21 on this particular proposal and I understand your time
22 constraints and I think the proposal that you're going
23 to -- that you're wanting to comment on will come up on
24 the agenda and I apologize if you might not be able to
25 make that. I hope you provide written comments and I
26 think this process will go on into 2022 and eventually
27 when the Federal Board of Game takes this up somewhere
28 in 2022.

29

30 MR. DEWITT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 appreciate you guys' time. I did not and I cannot, for
32 some reason, download your material and that's why I
33 was kind of uncertain when it was going to come up or
34 when in your meeting you were going to be -- but as I
35 said I have another meeting I have to get to so I'll
36 probably be cutting off here soon again.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you for
41 participating. Any other.....

42

43 MR. DEWITT: You're welcome.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER:public testimony
46 on this proposed change to an existing regulation to
47 move the boundary.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0081

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's just open to
2 public testimony.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So we'll
7 keep the public testimony open until we go through this
8 and make sure we acknowledge those that may want to
9 provide public testimony on this. No. 7 Regional
10 Council recommendations and having heard the advisory
11 group comments, agency comments and from OSM's Staff
12 analysis report on Board's consultations with the
13 tribes and ANCSA Corporations and now leads me to
14 what's the wish of the Council for WP22-54. What's the
15 wish of the Council.

16
17 MR. OOMITTUK: This action item, make
18 amotion to approve WP22-54 moose Unit 26A revise hunt
19 area.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
22 the floor from Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope, to approve
23 WP22-54.

24
25 MR. REXFORD: Second. This is Eddie.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded, is that
28 Eddie.

29
30 MR. REXFORD: Roger.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And seconded from
33 Kaktovik, Eddie Rexford.

34
35 MR. REXFORD: Yes, it is.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any discussions.

38
39 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been
42 called for, all those in favor of WP22-54 signify by
43 saying aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
48 same sign.

49
50

0082

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
4 aye's have it. Eva, does that.....

5

6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER:conclude WP22-54
9 for it's action item purposes.

10

11 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
12 we could, just get a few words from the Council, your
13 justification for supporting this proposal. That helps
14 to clarify the Council's intent for the Board. Thank
15 you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In terms of that
18 discussion period, I know we went through extensive
19 dialogue earlier about, through the executive summary
20 and the presentation in -- but we did provide some
21 justification there. The long distance between these
22 areas and the villages, in particular to Alaktak,
23 Chipp, and Ikpikpuk, by moving it over to -- the
24 meanders on Alaktak River and then following 155 allows
25 those subsistence qualified users that make that trek
26 to these areas at extreme burden to them to get to
27 these areas to conduct subsistence activities. The
28 very high cost in doing that, I often, myself, access
29 these areas and, you know, I'm buying \$700 worth of
30 fuel to get this far and I want to be successful to the
31 maximum extent possible to provide food on the table on
32 these subsistence resources. The population itself, we
33 heard from the biologist, it's trying to rebound and
34 getting this far in these areas, I think it's important
35 to recognize that it's just an opportunity. We don't
36 hunt moose all the time and we might be in an area
37 where one moose might come down the river and it's not
38 a normal habitat for it to be in, they're way up in the
39 140 mile range in the upper Ikpikpuk Valley of the
40 Willows, Key Creek, Maybe Creek, all of those that are
41 in excess of 130 miles from Barrow, one way, and once
42 in awhile we might see one and we're about 75 miles one
43 way in these Chipp River areas and I think that's
44 important to recognize these food resources and that
45 there is a customary and traditional determination made
46 for us on these.

47

48 And for many, many, many years, maybe
49 it seems like over decades, we've seen this line 156

50

0083

1 west that's just -- it kind of puts us out of reach,
2 for some of us that are in these areas, it excludes
3 some subsistence qualified users while including the
4 majority of subsistence users going west. And it's
5 important to recognize that a few of us on that border,
6 you know, that border -- I don't even know, you know,
7 was it just primarily to exclude Federally-qualified
8 subsistence users along the Ikpikpuk and Chipp River,
9 it seems that way. We know that moose go up and down
10 and drastically decline through health and sickness and
11 things like that but it's important to recognize that.

12

13 I offer that as some justification and
14 offer my support in this area so.

15

16 There's already existing regulations
17 that allow for the hunt of moose for Federally-
18 qualified users but you are discriminating an area for
19 no other reason in my view, other than to disqualify
20 them by using 156 west.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 Any other testimony on justification.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I hope that is
29 helpful, Eva, in providing some discussion and
30 justification on this.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Yes, great, thank you, Mr.
33 Chair. Good discussion with the Council and your
34 detailed feedback there will help the Board understand
35 the Council's recommendation.

36

37 I did want to ask one point of
38 clarification for the Council. As we discussed in our
39 pre-meeting and I think it got lost at the tail and
40 here and exchange, if the Council was interested in the
41 OSM recommended modification. And that was simply to
42 add to the hunt descriptor, to add, Admiralty Bay, into
43 the description. And the Council has passed the
44 proposal but if you were interested into adding that
45 detail into the hunt description.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I would offer
48 that the OSM, that added Admiralty Bay, describe that
49 boundary and -- of Admiralty Bay because Admiralty Bay

50

0084

1 is a huge, huge bay, and so if that requested
2 modification -- if you want to entertain that, please
3 describe the Admiralty Bay portion because we're
4 understanding the meander from the mouth of Alaktak and
5 its meander and then where it connects to the Ikpikpuk,
6 that then 155 -- I think it's 155 or 154 to the --
7 following up to the Colville River.

8

9

OSM.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra Holman. I think this will answer your question. We added in the Admiralty Bay as part of the descriptor as to where the Alaktak River goes in so it would be the portion of Admiralty Bay west of where the two come together.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean that's still kind of confusing to me. You would need to draw a line to show, because I see where that little hook goes in -- it doesn't actually go to Admiralty Bay, that's (In Native), it's a small bay where the Alaktak River begins. And then there's a mouth of the (In Native) that goes into Admiralty Bay. And I'm thinking that you're saying that the Admiralty Bay west, meaning on the eastern portion of all of the land mass within Admiralty Bay up to Tangent Bay west, would that describe that, or are you saying from the mouth of (In Native) where it encounters Admiralty Bay and then go west from there.

Because Admiralty Bay.....

MS. HOLMAN: So.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER:is a pretty huge area and I would think that it would apply to following the shoreline up to Tangent Point near the -- where the beginning of the islands and that's west, going west of Admiralty Bay.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is Lisa Grediagin and I can help answer your question. So you're looking at the map on Page 35 of your meeting book and so you can see that white line goes to the mouth of the river emptying into Admiralty Bay but there's still a distance between that white line and the edge of, you know, the Unit 26A hunt -- or unit. And so OSM's just trying to complete the hunt area

0085

1 descriptor to make it, you know, a full description.
2 So I can see what you're getting at and OSM was hoping
3 to make another map that included this description but
4 it might be more clear if we say west of and including
5 Admiralty Bay, but basically the idea is if you just
6 continue that white line you see on Page 35 of your map
7 along the eastern edge of Admiralty Bay all the way up
8 to the Unit 26 border.

9
10 So I think it might be a little more
11 clear to say west of and including Admiralty Bay.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right, that's what
14 I'm getting at, what you just said, now, I understand
15 it, on the eastern shore up to the border which is near
16 Tangent Point, is pretty close to the border there.

17
18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yep.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't think the
21 moose are going to go way out there into the tussocks
22 and things like that but they could, who knows. So if
23 that is the descriptor that you're saying, then I think
24 we can support that as a modification to the motion
25 that was just adopted. So maybe -- I'll say it again,
26 to entertain a motion to amend the main motion to
27 include the descriptor from the Alaktak River bordering
28 the east boundary of Admiralty Bay up to the Unit 26A
29 border, which would take it up to Tangent Point, and
30 then is included from there, west.

31
32 Anybody want to entertain that motion.

33
34 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion by
37 Steve Oomittuk to amend the.....

38
39 MR. WILLIAMS: Second by Earl.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER:to include the
42 eastern shoreline of Admiralty Bay to the Unit 26A
43 border that includes all of Adm.....

44
45 MR. WILLIAMS: Second by Earl.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that a second
48 Earl?

49
50

0086

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right,
4 discussion. We're under.....

5

6 MS. KIPPI: Question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER:discussion now,
9 there's been a motion and seconded -- go ahead.

10

11 MS. KIPPI: Question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been
14 called for. All those in favor of amending the main
15 motion to include that portion of Admiralty Bay from
16 Alaktak to Admiralty Bay bordering the eastern boundary
17 of Admiralty Bay to the Unit 26A border signify by
18 saying yes.

19

20 IN UNISON: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
23 say no.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The aye's have it.
28 The motion is included to amend that. Thank you.
29 Thank you, Eva.

30

31 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair
32 and Council. Excellent discussion and clarification of
33 the boundaries there. And just very quickly, before we
34 get on to the next proposal before the Council, just
35 wanted to note, again, appreciate public participation
36 in the Council's meeting and, apologies, once we get
37 into proposals we have to focus exclusively on the
38 proposal for the Council process. But did want to note
39 that as we announced this morning, there will be public
40 hearings for the WSA21-01. There is a news release out
41 now for one public hearing on November 17th and then
42 the North Slope Council will also confirm a good date
43 for the North Slope region so there will be multiple
44 public hearings coming up, the first of which is
45 November 17th so there'll be additional opportunity for
46 comment on that Special Action Request at that time as
47 well.

48

49 So thank you, Mr. Chair, just wanted to

50

0087

1 acknowledge public.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

6 And.....

7

8 MS. PATTON: And.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER:keep us on
11 track, too, if we're missing any portion of the need
12 for discussion and justification and deliberation just
13 correct us as we need to provide that.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you, Mr.
16 Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The next proposal is
19 WP22-55, muskox, Unit 26A, establishing a hunt. You'll
20 find that on Page 44.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
23 Council. And, again, I believe we may have some
24 current updates if we have any of our State or Federal
25 biologists that want to provide the Council with the
26 latest data on muskox for Unit 26A at this time before
27 we get into the analysis.

28

29 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair and Council,
30 I'm happy to.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

33

34 MS. DAGGETT:provide the most
35 current information for the western portion of 26A
36 muskox population. This is Carmen, again.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Carmen.

39

40 MS. DAGGETT: Can you hear me?

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, we're
43 listening, it's going to be interesting probably.

44

45 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. So, thank you, Mr.
46 Chair and Council. Carmen Daggett with Alaska
47 Department of Fish and Game, for the record.

48

49 In 2020 we did a survey of the Cape

50

0088

1 Thompson muskox population and we included the expanded
2 area in that survey. The population in Game Management
3 Unit 26A for that western portion was 455 muskox with a
4 95 percent confidence interval between 350 and 631.
5 And that survey was conducted in the spring of 2020.
6 That number can be compared against the 2016 survey
7 where we found 253 muskox in the same area.

8

9 As a result of this increase, the
10 proposal was submitted to the Board of Game and is in
11 process through the Board of Game. And just a
12 descriptor here, this is the western portion of 26A.
13 There's two populations in 26A and this one -- this
14 hunt only pertains to the western portion.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair. If there's any
17 questions.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Questions to Carmen
20 on the muskox population for Unit 26A, and where is the
21 divide between the two populations. Is there a defined
22 area?

23

24 MS. DAGGETT: So currently the divider
25 for this area would be largely west of the Ikpikpuk
26 area, so it would be west of that boundary that you
27 hate. I think in the proposal there is a reference to
28 the Topagoruk River as a dividing line down to the
29 Colville. So that's kind of the area we're talking
30 about, the western -- the west of the Ikpikpuk, west of
31 that western 156 longitude sort of reference area that
32 we were just talking about in the moose proposal, but
33 west of that, yep.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. And then we
36 had the same deliberation about west 156, I don't hate
37 the number, I just have some disdain to it probably but
38 -- because I use 156 for some other stuff so I like it
39 for that. But it is important to recognize, you know,
40 there are muskox in our area in that the -- that
41 boundary's seldom reached by the other sub-population
42 that is primarily in Unit 26C and B. And it's
43 important -- and you might have information on the
44 frequency of that other population reaching 156 west
45 and why 156 west is that defined right there. I mean
46 it's important to think about the availability of
47 subsistence resources and not make outlaws out of a few
48 people because of a number and, you know, we're pretty
49 much law abiding citizens and, you know, I could recall
50

0089

1 when my old man was alive and he would call and I was
2 working with Geoff Carroll at the time, there was about
3 10 muskox that refused to leave the camp and sometimes
4 they would bluff the old man and they were almost
5 belligerent type of animal and would also prevent him
6 from harvesting the caribou and we were feverishly
7 trying to work to get the authorization to shoot one
8 because it was going on a month, and he had continued
9 through radio and VHF and see what can be done about
10 this and Geoff authorized a one-time special action to
11 go ahead and shoot it, and shoot one of those that was
12 hanging around the cabin. And then we finally said to
13 him, yeah, ADF&G said go ahead you can do that, and
14 then he said, oh, it's okay, it took off last night,
15 after one month of harassing him.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So it was heart
20 wrenching to hear those kind of things. Anyway, I'll
21 leave it at that.

22

23 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, may I make a
24 brief correction here.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

27

28 MS. DAGGETT: So the proposal suggests
29 the same line as you're requesting for the moose
30 proposal, I was mistaken when I said that. So I just
31 want to clarify that the boundary is west of the
32 Alaktak River following the 155 south to the 26A
33 border. I just want to make sure we're on the same
34 page on that before we get into anything else.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

37

38 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's -- yeah, go
41 ahead.

42

43 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is
44 Steve. Out of curiosity what's the population of that
45 area, if you want to open that for one muskox, what is
46 the population within that area.

47

48 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
49 Steve Oomittuk.

50

0090

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Isn't it -- go ahead,
4 Carmen.

5

6 MS. DAGGETT: So the current population
7 in that region is 455 muskox in 26A and then there's
8 also some that are in Unit 23 but they would not be
9 necessarily included in this hunt, they would be
10 included in the Unit 23 hunts. So they would be
11 separate from each other. The only reason why I say
12 that.....

13

14 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

15

16 MS. DAGGETT:Steve is because I
17 know you guys are 23 there -- or you're actually in 23
18 in Point Hope so this would be a bit north of you,
19 Steve. But 455 is the number.

20

21 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, thank you. And
22 what is the population in 23, Unit 23 area, muskox,
23 does that include Krusenstern and Kivalina and Noatak
24 area, Point Hope, is that about 700, is that what I
25 heard the last time.

26

27 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
28 Member Oomittuk. I believe it's more like 900-and
29 some. I can get you the exact number in a minute here
30 but it's a bit more than 700, a fair amount more than
31 700.....

32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay.

34

35 MS. DAGGETT:for the total area.

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. You
38 know.....

39

40 MS. DAGGETT: But give me a minute and
41 we'll get you the.....

42

43 MR. OOMITTUK:you know and.....

44

45 MS. DAGGETT:exact number.

46

47 MR. OOMITTUK: You know we had the same
48 concerns, you know, we're opening it for Unit 26A for
49 one muskox and, you know, muskox was introduced back
50

0091

1 into our area in the '70s and it has grown in numbers
2 and how it's always been a nuisance whether they come
3 into our communities or keep the caribou away and --
4 and, you know, we wanted to open the season up for 23,
5 Unit 23 also because of the abundance of muskox and yet
6 they won't allow that. But here we're going to open it
7 up for population area with -- of 400 and, yet, they
8 don't want us to open up the -- you know, muskox
9 hunting to 26 with a population of over 900. And, you
10 know, I know we talked about it last time in our last
11 meeting and, you know, it's -- you know, muskox was
12 introduced back into our area in the '70s and the
13 numbers have climbed up and now we see our caribou
14 population dropping down and their migration routes,
15 where we see different sorts of animals coming in, you
16 know, caribou has always been one of our top priorities
17 in a lot of our Unit 23 area, especially the further
18 inland communities living on the coast. And sometimes
19 the muskox can be a big nuisance and yet we don't have
20 a hunting season in Unit 23 for muskox because they say
21 the numbers are low and here we're going through a
22 population of 400, it's only one muskox, but, you know,
23 as subsistence hunters, you know, muskox is good eating
24 and the priority should be the residents.

25

26 You know we see a lot of muskox in our
27 area and we're very fortunate that the caribou are
28 finally coming back more and spending more time because
29 the muskox is moving further to the east.

30

31 But, thank you, I just wanted to hear
32 those numbers.

33

34 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, may I please
35 address Steve Oomittuk's question here.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Please do so, Carmen,
38 thank you, and thank you, Steve.

39

40 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Steve for your
41 comment. I just want to clarify there are two muskox
42 hunts, they're Tier II muskox hunts in Unit 23.
43 There's a TX107, which is actually that portion north
44 and west of the Kobuk River drainage, and I believe it
45 includes the area relatively close to Point Hope and
46 it's August 1 through March 15th. The Tier II permits
47 have to be drawn for -- applied for, sorry, in the
48 falltime and once they're applied for a drawing permit
49 is pulled for just residents that apply for that. So
50

0092

1 there is a hunt available to you guys relative close
2 for muskox in Unit 23 and then there's also the TX107
3 hunt that is done on the Seward Peninsula area, too,
4 with the same hunt dates. So just so you're aware
5 there is some opportunity for Unit 23 residents to hunt
6 muskox, and there has been for awhile. This proposal
7 would seek to open it up into 26A as well.

8
9 Let me know if you.....

10
11 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, thank you. And
12 I.....

13
14 MS. DAGGETT:have any other
15 questions and.....

16
17 MR. OOMITTUK:and I do -- yeah,
18 I.....

19
20 MS. DAGGETT:thanks for your
21 comments.

22
23 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I have a question
24 on that and, you know, it's by permit so it can be
25 whether you're a resident or a non-resident or, you
26 know, I would think if there's going to be one muskox,
27 I would think that residents or subsistence hunters
28 would have top priority and not putting it up for a
29 permit type thing, like a lottery, or how are you going
30 to do that. You know you're talking one muskox and no
31 open season up in our area and they want to do it by
32 permit and by lottery when that just doesn't sound
33 right, you know, our subsistence hunters love to eat
34 muskox also and residents should have top priority
35 especially if you're only going to allow one.

36
37 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair.....

38
39 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair, this is Eddie.

40
41 MS. DAGGETT:to.....

42
43 MR. REXFORD: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
44 Eddie.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead. Go ahead,
47 Eddie.

48
49 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, I probably need a
50

0093

1 little clarification. On the 26A, is there a limit to
2 just one hunt like Steve is alluding to or is that a
3 mis-quote. What's the actual limit on 26A for muskox
4 hunt there. I'm surprised it's only one but that might
5 be a miss-communication there.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank.....

8
9 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER:you Eddie.....

12
13 MS. DAGGETT:Mr. Oomittuk and
14 Eddie.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER:for a
17 clarification, that would go to Carmen.

18
19 REPORTER: Okay, I'm need one person to
20 talk at a time, please, for the recording. Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tina. Was
23 that you Carmen.

24
25 MS. DAGGETT: Yes, Sir.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
28 Carmen, if you can.....

29
30 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER:provide the
33 explanation.

34
35 MS. DAGGETT: Sure. To address Steve's
36 question first and then I'll answer Eddie's question as
37 well. So the Tier II hunt is for residents only. Non-
38 residents are not included in a Tier II hunt. And Tier
39 II hunt is what is currently in Unit 23 for muskox.
40 And because of the -- it depends on what they establish
41 for amount necessary for subsistence for 26A, that's
42 kind of to be determined by the Board, but if the
43 amount necessary for subsistence is -- if there doesn't
44 seem to be enough to go around for everybody that would
45 need it, for amount necessary for subsistence, then a
46 Tier II hunt is likely to be considered and is likely
47 to be what is implemented in this area. That decision
48 is made by the Board of Game, that is not a decision
49 that I can make. However, for this proposal, and in
50

0094

1 this context with the low number of animals available,
2 it is very possible that a Tier II hunt is what's going
3 to be implemented and that would be for residents only.
4 And they would go through an application process, the
5 people who are interested, the residents that are
6 interested in applying for those permits would go
7 through that application process and have to fill out a
8 questionnaire about how much they spend on fuel, and
9 how often they use the resources, and how often they
10 use resources in that area besides muskox, and all
11 those sorts of things and then they're given points and
12 then there's a drawing based off of those number of
13 points from the people who apply.

14
15 So that's kind of a general summary of
16 how the Tier II process works for muskox and that's how
17 it's been used in Unit 23.

18
19 Eddie's question. So per hunter, per
20 year, the bag limit would be one. That's not to say
21 that everybody -- that there would only be one allowed
22 to be for everybody. The difference between bag
23 limit.....

24
25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27
28 MS. DAGGETT:and how many would
29 be able to be taken so -- just so you're kind of aware
30 of the difference between the bag limit per hunter per
31 year is one. And I believe the quota, or.....

32
33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35
36 MS. DAGGETT:how many that would
37 be taken overall is -- I think it was like six to (ph)
38 (indiscernible - background noise).....

39
40 (Teleconference interference -
41 participants not muted)

42
43 MS. DAGGETT:that would be --
44 just so you're aware. If there's any further questions
45 (indiscernible - breaking up)

46
47 REPORTER: Hold on. Hold on.

48
49 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'm
50

0095

1 getting a lot of static in the background, it's kind of
2 hard to hear.

3

4 REPORTER: So, please.....

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: I didn't hear her
7 numbers, what the bag limit and the actual quota.....

8

9 REPORTER: Okay, Steve, I didn't hear
10 her either, so Steve -- Steve, I can't hear you either
11 right now. Steve, I'm sorry to interrupt, but I can't
12 hear you either right now. So this is Tina, the court
13 reporter. If people could take a minute and look at
14 their phone, put yourself on mute because -- so I can
15 hear Carmen and I can hear Steve, because right now I'm
16 not picking them up on the recording. I'd appreciate
17 that, it's star, six, or mute.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 Go ahead, please, Steve.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, thank you, Tina.

24

25 REPORTER: Okay, thank you. So if
26 Steve wanted to continue, or Carmen.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 REPORTER: Carmen, did you want to go.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve are you on,
35 this is Gordon.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We may have lost
40 Steve.

41

42 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, I'm sorry about
43 that.....

44

45 MS. ITTA: Well, Mr. Chair, Martha.

46

47 MR. OOMITTUK:I couldn't get it
48 out of mute. I had to find the mute button on the
49 phone, it's a digital thing, it went back to -- but
50

0096

1 when I looked at the draft Staff analysis of WP22-55
2 and the issues and it goes to in Federal regulations
3 Unit 26A muskox, proposed Federal regulations, 26A
4 border, one muskox, August 1 to March 15th, no Federal
5 open season. As just a reminder, that's what I'm
6 reading on that.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.....

9

10 MS. HOLMAN: This is Kendra.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER:Steve. And then
13 we'll go.....

14

15 MS. HOLMAN:Mr. Chair.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, is
18 that Carmen.

19

20 MS. HOLMAN: This is Kendra with OSM.
21 So what was being read about Unit 26A and no Federal
22 open season is the existing -- is the existing Federal
23 regulation, the proposed Federal regulation when I do
24 the rest of the analysis, I'll be able to -- that'll
25 kind of explain this second portion, this 26A, west of
26 the Alaktak River following west 155 south to the Unit
27 26A border, one muskox. That'll be explained a little
28 bit more with the analysis. And so if it needs more
29 clarifying after that, go ahead and ask.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

32

33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted - typing)

35

36 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Carmen
37 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I just
38 wanted to reiterate the point to answer Steve and
39 Eddie's question about bag limit versus quota.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

42

43 MS. DAGGETT: So there's a bag limit of
44 one muskox per hunter, that's what's suggested in this
45 proposal. However, there would be a limit of six
46 muskox being able to take in this hunt quota, a quota
47 of six muskox to be taken. And it's likely that we
48 would issue more permits than that to guarantee that
49 six muskox would be taken. Just so that you're aware
50

0097

1 that there's a bag limit, how much a hunter is able to
2 take per year versus how many animals can be taken out
3 of the population in a year by everybody in that area.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, thank you for
8 clarifying that. I have a better understanding about
9 it now. When you say -- yeah, thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I know
12 this has been a very controversial and.....

13

14 MR. REXFORD: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER:we haven't seen
17 a muskox hunt in a small window of opportunity that we
18 keep hearing and I'm pretty sure it's going to be
19 highly regulated even for the Federally-qualified
20 users.

21

22 Martha.

23

24 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
25 just wanted to -- I'm trying to understand what you
26 guys are talking about. As for Nuiqsut -- I'm sorry I
27 didn't get my meeting materials, you guys are on the
28 muskox Unit for 26A, to establish a hunt, right; am I
29 correct, on the agenda?

30

31 REPORTER: Yes.

32

33 MS. DAGGETT: Yes, you're correct.

34

35 MS. ITTA: Okay. Thank you for
36 clarifying that on what it means to bag -- be able to
37 bag one muskox but then able to get at least six of
38 them throughout the whole time it's open. For Nuiqsut,
39 you know, it's kind of a problem with our caribou and
40 all that and the population is really growing. We used
41 to have only maybe three to five around our area and
42 now there is over 40, maybe 50 and they're in various
43 places and the numbers are just growing and we're
44 seeing -- you know the reports that I get talking to
45 hunters, you know, they're -- they're kind of a problem
46 and, you know, it would be nice for our community to be
47 able to get more than one because our community do eat
48 muskox. And as far as I know hunting muskox, we're
49 being told that we're not able to hunt them and I'm

50

0098

1 really hoping that this can go forward for Nuiqsut to
2 be able to hunt those because they do eat them and we
3 do need to alleviate the caribou issue.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.
8 And I think those are important comments. Because I
9 think ADF&G makes distinctions on several population
10 areas, that's why we argue over 156 west because that
11 constituents the eastern population boundary, I
12 suppose, versus the western population existence, and
13 then the others that are over there by Point Hope and
14 Unit 23 on the other side of the Brooks Range, some
15 population over there too. It might be important to
16 talk with Carmen, because I think this was something,
17 quite frankly, maybe a conversation between Wanda and
18 Carmen about exactly the same thing that you're talking
19 about, the proximity of muskox in caribou areas and
20 their increasing numbers and things like that. They
21 might be able to make a game plan to introduce a
22 proposal. Because these are by proposal, and I don't
23 think this proposal affects, and I might have to be
24 corrected, the eastern population which is your neck of
25 the woods and Kaktovik, unless there's a mid-population
26 and the far east population over there in Kaktovik, but
27 I think you guys are on the same population. And that
28 same population boundary, the western boundary of it
29 where they're categorized as the eastern population of
30 muskox starts at 156 and we're trying to look at how we
31 could just move that a little bit so that we could have
32 an opportunity. At least for those that are around the
33 156 boundary. That it just seems that it -- it
34 discriminates against the western populated areas with
35 its people.

36

37 That's my own thoughts. Because we see
38 the muskox too. We see them. I hope that helps,
39 Martha, and if I'm wrong, Carmen, you can correct me
40 too.

41

42 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
43 just have a little bit more information to add to that
44 but you did a pretty good job of summarizing it. But
45 there's one more bit of information I think Martha will
46 be really interested in knowing, can I add that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Have at it.

49

50

0099

1 MS. DAGGETT: So thank you for your
2 interest, Martha. And the North Slope Borough Wildlife
3 Department just recently submitted a proposal as an
4 agenda change request to the Board of Game to open the
5 hunt in your area for muskox. Gordon is 100 percent
6 correct that this proposal does not cover that area.
7 There are two different populations and are going to
8 probably end up being under slightly different
9 regulations just because of the survey area boundaries
10 and because of the way the population of muskox are not
11 really related to each other. So just so that you're
12 aware, there is a proposal already in to the Board of
13 Game. I believe they're going to talk about it in the
14 next couple of weeks to see if they're going to
15 consider it under the agenda change request process.

16
17 So just so you kind of have an idea of
18 -- that that's already been submitted and hopefully it
19 will be taken up but that's in process already. So
20 thank you very much for your interest and you might
21 want to follow that Board of Game work session meeting
22 discussion if you want to figure out how that turns
23 out. And I can give you that information later Martha.

24
25 Thanks.

26
27 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Carmen. And
28 thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I'd really appreciate that
29 information. Thank you.

30
31 MS. KIPPI: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Yeah, go
34 ahead there Wanda.

35
36 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. I have a
37 concern about the Point Lay area. They've been seeing
38 quite a bit of muskox too, and I don't -- it doesn't --
39 the boundaries don't even go near Point Lay. How many
40 miles is that from Point Lay to the boundary. Because
41 Point Lay has been seeing more muskox like Point Hope,
42 they're seeing a lot of muskox. There was about 10
43 four miles east of town that got hunted down by wolves.
44 That's from Point Lay, a Point Lay resident. And maybe
45 17 or so eight miles out from (Indiscernible) (ph)
46 River. I just wanted to -- why didn't you include the
47 rest of the -- is that the 23 boundary or what.

48
49 Thank you.

50

0100

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We will -- I'll try
6 to respond and then I'll ask for some help from Carmen
7 from that. The Unit 26A comprises of some Federal
8 land and some State lands, too, and you'll see that in
9 the map. And there is a corresponding for the Board of
10 Game to take up that muskox hunt that you had
11 communicated with Carmen, which I would think would
12 include -- that community in Point Lay, that might be
13 bordered by State lands but within Unit 26. So -- and
14 this particular proposal is completely just on Federal
15 public land in Unit 26A with a defined boundary that
16 already had existed at 156 west for other animals, and
17 now we're talking about muskox and I just think we need
18 to do away with that 156 and quit discriminating
19 against the hunters that are in an area and can have
20 that opportunity to subsist, by changing that boundary
21 to meander on the Alaktak River until it reaches
22 Ikpikpuk and then 155 west up to the Colville going
23 westward on Federal public lands.

24

25 So, Carmen, if you need to correct me
26 and need to add clarifying language about Point Lay,
27 please do so.

28

29 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair and Council.
30 This is Carmen for the record. I just want to make
31 sure that you guys realize that this will go all the
32 way to the coast and Gordon is 100 percent correct that
33 it would include just Federal public lands, there's
34 quite a bit of State land around Point Lay. And he is
35 also correct in the sense that there is a Board of Game
36 proposal that has been submitted as an agenda change
37 request and will be taken up in March to try to open up
38 the hunt on the State lands in that area, so Point Lay
39 would be included, Wanda, and hopefully we can get it
40 so that they're consistent between them.

41

42 And I also, just for clarification
43 sake, for Gordon, we're using the same boundary for
44 this hunt in the Federal and I think if this passes
45 through the Federal Subsistence Board that it would be
46 wise for the State to use the same boundary that you're
47 suggesting that's already in this proposal. So, you
48 know, the west 156 boundary is not what we're talking
49 about here, Gordon, we're using the boundary that
50

50

0101

1 you're talking about in this proposal, so we don't need
2 to keep going on that. So just an FYI.

3

4 All right, that's all, thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.

7

8 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Carmen.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I hope that helps
11 Wanda.

12

13 MS. KIPPI:for the
14 clarifications.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So
17 we.....

18

19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
20 Council. It may be helpful -- so we haven't heard the
21 analysis yet so it might be helpful at this time for
22 Kendra to be able to provide the analysis and overview
23 and it will clarify what this particular proposal would
24 cover.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
29 Kendra, go ahead and do the presentation and draft
30 analysis.

31

32 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
33 the record this is Kendra Holman and I'm a Wildlife
34 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.
35 Right now I'll be addressing Wildlife Proposal WP22-55,
36 which was submitted by this Council. It can be found
37 on Page 44 of your meeting books.

38

39 This proposal is to establish a hunt
40 for muskox within the western portion of Unit 26A. The
41 map for this boundary, as you've been discussing, can
42 be found on Page 47 of your meeting book.

43

44 So the eastern boundary line would
45 follow a very similar one to the previous proposal.
46 It'll start at that Admiralty Bay and come down through
47 the Alaktak, the Ik -- I apologize.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ikpikpuk.

50

0102

1 MS. HOLMAN:the Ikpik River [sic]
2 down the 155 west longitude all the way to the Unit 26A
3 southern boundary. So this line comes all the way
4 through that Unit 26A. That would be that eastern
5 boundary, so everything to the west all the way to the
6 Chukchi Sea would be included in this area, in this
7 proposal.

8
9 So the muskox hunt has never occurred
10 in this eastern portion of Unit 26A under Federal or
11 State regulations. There were proposals in 1998 and
12 1999 which the Federal Subsistence Board -- which were
13 both deferred and no subsequent actions were taken on
14 those. In 1995 a customary and traditional use
15 determination was determined for residents of Nuiqsut,
16 Utqiagvik, Atqasuk, Wainwright, Point Lay, Point Hope,
17 Anaktuvuk Pass in Unit -- for Unit 26A.

18
19 Currently the Alaska Department of Fish
20 and Game is reviewing Proposal 193 as an agenda change
21 request consideration to the Board of Game's statewide
22 regulations meeting in March of 2022. The State
23 proposal requests establishing a muskox hunt in the
24 western portion of 26A with the allowing of a harvest
25 of up to six muskox. This proposal currently has a
26 different boundary.

27
28 So muskox population have grown subtly
29 in the region since the AGF -- since they trans located
30 36 muskox to Cape Thompson in 1970 and then an
31 additional 34 more in 1977. Muskox in the Cape
32 Thompson area appeared to occupy relative discreet core
33 areas. Between 2001 and 2020 the population of that
34 core count area remained relatively stable averaging
35 234 moose. Population wide survey estimates to be --
36 there to be 576 muskox in 2011, 556 muskox in 2006, and
37 911 muskox in 2020, these -- these are for the entire
38 area and they do include some of the population that's
39 in Unit 23. Figure 1 which can be found on Page 50 of
40 your meeting book includes all of this population
41 information. This indicates that the population has
42 increased for movement into other areas including Unit
43 26A. Muskox are more sensitive to selected harvest of
44 mature males, mature bulls are important for predator
45 defense, foraging and group cohesion in addition to
46 breeding. Legal harvesting of the muskox in the
47 eastern portion of 26A has not taken place under State
48 or Federal regulation since the introduction in 1970.

49
50

1 So we have an alternative that was
2 considered and that was to establish a Federal
3 registration permit with a harvest quota of six muskox
4 just -- just for the Council's information, the muskox
5 population within the core count area of Unit 23 has
6 declined and the muskox has dispersed into other areas
7 including Unit 26A. A limit of six muskox would be
8 less than one percent of the current population outside
9 the core count area. A fixed harvest quota does not
10 provide for management flexibility in response to
11 changing populations and hunt conditions so this area --
12 so this option was not selected.

13
14 The effects and justification of this
15 proposal would establish a Federal subsistence season
16 and a harvest limit for muskox in portions of Unit 26A
17 west of the Alaktak River following the west 155
18 longitude south to the Unit 27A [sic] border. The
19 proposed change would allow Federally-qualified
20 subsistence users to harvest one muskox within the new
21 hunt area of Unit 26A, the modified hunt area
22 descriptor completes the hunt area without leaving any
23 gaps or ambiguous areas. Harvest pressure from
24 Federally-qualified subsistence users on muskox in 26A
25 is unknown since this will be a new hunt, however, the
26 hunt limit of one muskox by each Federally-qualified
27 subsistence users has the potential to result in an
28 overharvest of muskox -- muskox and can cause
29 conservation concerns. The proposal as submitted would
30 only require a registration permit, which would likely
31 result in poor harvest reporting and that an unknown --
32 an unknown number of muskox harvested. This proposal
33 will allow a limited harvest where none currently
34 exists. Adaptation of this -- adoption of this
35 proposal also increases the harvest opportunity for
36 Federally-qualified subsistence users providing for
37 subsistence use of additional wildlife resources --
38 with modification the requirement -- with the
39 modification to require a Federal registration permit
40 will help to ensure sustainable harvest, timely harvest
41 reporting and effective hunt management.

42
43 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
44 support WP22-55 with modification to revise the hunt
45 area descriptor, require a Federal registration permit
46 and delegate authority to the BLM Arctic District
47 Office Manager to close the season and to announce the
48 harvest quota and the number of permits to be issued
49 via delegation of authority letter which can be found
50

0104

1 as Appendix 1 on Page 55 of your meeting books.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
4 Council. I'd be happy to address any questions.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kendra.
7 So any questions on the analysis for WP.....

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, I just got
10 back on.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER:22.....

13

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, I.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Earl.

17

18 MR. WILLIAMS:just got back on so
19 -- I was cut off for awhile. This is Earl, AKP.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Earl, I'm
22 glad you were able to get back on.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. So any
25 questions to the draft analysis for WP22-55.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, with that
30 I'm going to go down the list. Maybe report on Board
31 consultations, we'll go to A, tribes on the
32 consultation.

33

34 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
35 Council members. Orville, Lind, Native Liaison, Office
36 of Subsistence Management. And during the consultation
37 session we did not have any questions or comments on
38 WP22-55.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Orville.
41 Item B, ANCSA Corporations.

42

43 MR. LIND: And the same, we did not
44 have any questions or comments on that proposal either.
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Item 3,
48 agency comments, ADF&G.

49

50

0105

1 MS. DAGGETT: Sorry, I managed to get
2 myself on mute there. Fish and Game supports this
3 proposal.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wow, very good.
6 Agency comments, B, Federal comments.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe just as
11 curiosity.....

12
13 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, sorry, there's
14 a little bit more.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER:on -- yeah, go
17 ahead.

18
19 MS. DAGGETT: Sorry, Mr. Chair, this is
20 Carmen again with Fish and Game. I just want to add a
21 little bit more to that statement. Fish and Game
22 supports this proposal in allowing the taking of muskox
23 in the western portion of 26A and requests that the
24 Federal Subsistence Board align the boundaries and
25 season dates with the State proposal. However, yeah,
26 that portion of 26A west of the Topagoruk following 156
27 south to the 26A border, the season dates would be
28 August 1 to March 15. So that's the State's position.

29
30 Thank you, Sir.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Carmen.
33 Is your subsistence board proposal have the same
34 boundary as -- so the alignment is not conflicting with
35 these requests?

36
37 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, when I
38 originally submitted the proposal to the Board of Game
39 it did not have -- we didn't have the specifics for
40 what you guys were requesting so they're not consistent
41 with each other currently. But it could be requested
42 to be adjusted the other way too eventually. So I
43 guess I would just say you guys have the opportunity to
44 change the regulation first because of timing so, yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. It's
47 important.....

48
49 MS. DAGGETT: Currently they're out
50

0106

1 of.....

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER:because I want
4 to hear from you -- yeah, it's important, we want to
5 hear from you and you support this but with a caveat in
6 there so that -- and the Board of Game proposal is the
7 proposal, without this modification in boundary, that's
8 the current proposal and you're suggesting to -- we can
9 modify that but at what point because it's a submitted
10 proposal and I would think it's -- by mere supporting
11 this as it is, I think is important, I think, to the
12 Board, because I would think that we're going to have
13 to go in front of the Federal Subsistence Board and
14 argue boundaries and that seems like that's going to be
15 end up being set up that way with that additional
16 language. It's just my concern but thank you for your
17 comments, ADF&G.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It
is -- this is currently what we gave for our
recommendations just based on what was submitted to the
Board of Game. However, the RAC could also suggest
that the boundaries be what you guys had written, too.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Pretty good. So
they're pretty flexible as I hear it. Eva, just a
point of clarification when we go down to agency
comments like, and it just says, Federal, is that the
President of the United States or who's making comments
on behalf of Federal?

(Laughter)

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council. Unfortunately we don't have the President
participating in the RAC meeting today, that's
generally the local area Federal land managers so
whichever Federal land management agency would be
involved with management under these particular
proposals. So in this case these proposals are dealing
with Unit 26A which is predominately BLM Federal lands
and so that who we're reaching out to on this proposal
here, if they have any comments to add.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

0107

1 That's what I kind of thought. It's just so broad when
2 you just say Federal, it could be Fish and Wildlife
3 Service, BLM, NASA or something.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, any agency
8 comments from Federal, BLM.

9

10 MS. JONES: Mr. Chair, this is Shelly
11 Jones with BLM. And I'm wondering if Chris McKee might
12 be on the line for BLM, he think he prepared the
13 statements mostly in concurrence with the OSM, as I
14 recall. But I'm sorry I haven't had as much of a
15 chance to get briefed up on them so I'm hoping that
16 Chris is on the line.

17

18 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair, this is Chris
19 McKee.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Shelly.
22 Go ahead, Chris, you have the floor.

23

24 MR. MCKEE: Yes, just as a kind of
25 general guideline, generally at this point BLM, at
26 least -- we're not going to be commenting on positions
27 on proposals at this stage, they generally are
28 preliminary in nature at this point and kind of these
29 proposals will come back to the InterAgency Staff
30 Committee in January to start working up formal
31 comments on and then, obviously the BLM position will
32 be discussed at the actual Federal Subsistence Board
33 meeting in April. So usually we don't comment on
34 proposals at the RAC portion of the meeting.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So does that mean I
37 should erase Federal and you will erase yourself from
38 commenting and the opportunity for all the villages
39 combined to hear the land manager's comments?

40

41 MR. MCKEE: Well, Mr. Chair, it really
42 depends on the agency. Usually at this stage -- it's
43 not always consistent, but usually at this stage there
44 generally isn't comments because the Federal agencies
45 might not necessarily want to take a position until
46 they've gotten all of the information, and one of the
47 most important things, obviously, is the Regional
48 Advisory Council's positions and recommendations on
49 proposals. So usually it's just a little bit too

50

0108

1 preliminary for Federal agencies to take positions on
2 the proposals at this stage.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just find that
5 problematic to be able to do that when there is an
6 opportunity here, even at the preliminary stage.
7 Because it is something that's been debated, talked
8 about and conceived and then you're going to go back to
9 the InterAgency Staff Committee and deliberate amongst
10 yourself and then able to be swayed out of your opinion
11 probably at that point.

12

13 So at this point, any other Federal
14 comments.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is
17 Pippa Kenner. I just wanted to make a clarification
18 here.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

21

22 MS. KENNER: Yeah, hi, yeah, I'll be
23 presenting to you later. But I just kind of wanted to
24 reiterate what Chris McKee was saying. There's always
25 an option on the agenda for Federal agencies to speak
26 but the Office of Subsistence Management represents the
27 five big Federal agencies in Alaska and we generally
28 provide deference to the Councils so it's very
29 difficult for the agencies to come up with a conclusion
30 until they hear what the Council does.

31

32 Thank you. Bye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, and I
35 thought this was the opportunity to do that, the
36 Council. You might be talking about the Federal
37 Subsistence Board maybe.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this
40 is Pippa.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
43 Pippa.

44

45 MS. KENNER: I am, yeah -- well, the
46 five -- these five large Federal agencies are the
47 Federal Subsistence Board, it's the leadership of those
48 agencies along with three public members.

49

50

0109

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's right because you mentioned until we get in front of the Council, but I think you're referring to the Federal Subsistence Board.

MS. KENNER: Yes, I am. But that's why it's difficult for the Federal agencies to have a comment or a recommendation on the proposal because there's a -- they almost always defer to the Council's recommendation, so without having the Council's recommendation, without knowing what you're doing they can't comment because they want to know what the Council's doing first.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's -- anyways, sounds like a Catch-22.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I have a comment.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, is this Steve.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve. You know just in the past when we make proposals and then it goes to the Federal Subsistence Board, you know, who is the make up of -- you know I think the only one that sits on there is Gordon is Chairman of the North Slope Subsistence Advisory Council and if we do make a proposal, like what we did in the past, it seems like we're always overridden by the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council [sic] even though it deals with our neck of the woods and that's, you know, something -- I wish they were here to listen in to our meetings and take comments, you know, because we are -- you know there's proposals in front of us and we're approving them and then our -- then are some of these same proposals are going to go -- that we approved, are they going to go in front of the Federal Subsistence Board and are they going to override us, or what, like they did in the past, or what we -- what we propose and what we pass here and now.....

MR. WILLIAMS: Hello.

MR. OOMITTUK:is it going to be

0110

1 in black and white and law.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Hey, this is Pippa Kenner
4 again. I don't want to go -- I'm sorry, I don't want
5 to detract too much from the important business that
6 the Council is doing now, but especially because we
7 have new Council members. The Federal Staff that are
8 present at this meeting, the majority of them at this
9 moment are acting as your Staff. We are -- right now
10 we are assigned as Staff to the Council and we are here
11 to answer your questions and to listen to what you're
12 saying, we're not here to tell you what to do right
13 now, so that is the purpose of the Council meeting is
14 for us to hear what local people, the Council members
15 are, what their point of view is, what they want to
16 happen. So we're Staff to you right now and that's why
17 you will rarely hear Federal agencies have comments but
18 we're here in case you have questions.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
23 Pippa. And is that you Earl.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I thought I heard
28 Earl chiming in or something. And, thank you, Pippa.
29 You know I think we understand our role and we're
30 working on a proposal right here and debating on it to
31 try to see whether or not we should move it on up the
32 chain and that's important and maybe there's a
33 situation here that needs to be fixed, agency comments
34 and when it says Federal comments and, you know, it
35 could be as easy as we reserve our time to provide
36 comments to the Federal Subsistence Board on the
37 matter, or something, you know, that -- it just seems
38 like it's a -- like Steve said, we go -- we get these
39 proposals and we voted on them and we should get
40 deference in these proposals and as they get up toward
41 the Federal Subsistence Board you have leadership of
42 various agencies, you might even have the Wood Company,
43 the Forest Service on there or some other agencies on
44 there that make up the Federal Subsistence Board, of
45 various land managers. In any event, yeah, we
46 shouldn't be hung up on this at this point but it's
47 important.

48

49 I'm going to move directly on to tribal

50

0111

1 comments. Any tribal comments, ICAS, Native villages,
2 your opportunity to provide comments.

3

4 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Point Hope,
5 Native Village of Point Hope. As President of the
6 Tribe. You know if we're going to open up muskox in
7 different areas it also needs to be looked at 23, Unit
8 23 also, because the population in the western area --
9 and like you said -- I don't know who stated it but the
10 population, you know, it's all in the western area and
11 the population is about 900 but then they mention that,
12 you know, Point Hope area is a smaller number but the
13 number is still over 900 and we don't have a muskox
14 hunting season at all. And, you know, if we're going
15 to open it up in one area, and it's for six that I
16 understand for, in 26A and the population in that area
17 is 470, and you're talking -- and the western area is
18 over 900 and, yet, when they do have muskox seasons and
19 they want to do them by lottery, by permits is my
20 understanding when -- if -- I would think that
21 subsistence hunters and residents would have top
22 priority especially if the numbers are going to be low
23 and not have a permit style or lottery style where
24 anybody can, you know, can submit a permit, you know,
25 we're talking, you know, subsistence hunting, a way of
26 life, you know, to put food on the table, muskox is
27 good eating. But the numbers are getting too high and
28 it is causing a nuisance and we need to keep that
29 number low.

30

31 So that's just my testimony there.

32

33 A lot of our tribal members and local
34 hunters do complain about muskox keeping the caribou
35 away in certain areas. So -- and especially where, you
36 know, when the women go out berry picking, they're
37 always in a certain areas where the salmonberries and
38 they beat up the ground and tear up the berries, where
39 the berries are usually abundant and then, you know, it
40 can be very dangerous to the women and children that
41 pick berries in that area especially if they don't have
42 a husband or a boyfriend or somebody with a rifle with
43 them as they berry pick or something. Because the
44 numbers are, you know, getting pretty high.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
47 And I think those are very good comments from the
48 Native Village of Point Hope. It sounds like a
49 dialogue between Native Village and ADF&G needs to
50

50

0112

1 occur to look at the possibility of that population of
2 900 in that area to be visited for developing a local
3 hunt in that area.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 Any other tribal comments. Any tribal
8 entities.

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Earl from
11 Anaktuvuk. A few of us were talking about muskox
12 around here and they were around here about five years
13 ago, four years ago, basically a lot of them around
14 here, they're a nuisance but some people said they seen
15 them further up north so they don't bother around here
16 very much and they're pretty good -- I never tried it
17 before but sure wouldn't mind tasting it. Eddie, you
18 hear that, we need to kill one.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good to eat I'll
21 tell you that much. I'm not saying where I got it but
22 it was pretty good.

23

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Yeah, all
25 right, the meat smells good in the fall.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
28 Earl. From time to time, you know, it's important to
29 reflect on this particular animal and its finally on
30 the table, I think, to be discussed. Thank you. Any
31 additional tribal comments from Native villages,
32 regional tribal councils. I did get a message from
33 Doreen Leavitt from ICAS that she had to drop off for
34 another teleconference from 2:00 to 4:00, I don't know
35 if she'll rejoin us this afternoon but she inquired
36 that she will rejoin us tomorrow if she wasn't able to
37 rejoin us. So I did get that message from the ICAS
38 representative.

39

40 Any other tribal comments.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to go to
45 Item 4, advisory group comments, other Regional
46 Advisory Council's, Eva.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
49 Council. And, again, because this encompasses just 26A

50

0113

1 relevant to the North Slope communities, no other
2 Regional Advisory Councils are taking this proposal up.
3 I have not heard from any local Fish and Game Advisory
4 Committees. And the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
5 Resource Commission, which does include Anaktuvuk Pass,
6 which this proposal is relevant to, they can hunt
7 muskox in 26A, if adopted, and that meeting, again,
8 will be coming up in a couple weeks here. So no
9 comments from other advisory groups at this time.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
14 Summary of written public comments.

15

16 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra
17 Holman. There were no written comments received on
18 this proposal.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to open the
21 floor to public testimony. Anyone out there want to
22 provide public testimony on this proposal for muskox in
23 Unit 26A, which is WP22-55. Open to public testimony.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll keep that
28 open if somebody wants to provide public testimony. So
29 what's the wish of the Council on WP22-55, and keeping
30 in mind there is some suggested language revision, we
31 could avoid making amending motions if we kind of -- if
32 someone were to propose a motion, under discussion, we
33 could talk about the OSM proposed modification.

34

35 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair. I
36 make a motion to adopt WP22-55 for discussion purposes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
39 the floor from Point Hope to adopt.....

40

41 MS. KIPPI: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER:WP22-55.

44

45 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that seconded by
48 Wanda from Atqasuk.

49

50

0114

1 MS. KIPPI: Yes, Sir. Yes.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Let's go into discussion. I mean there's some other language here that I think OSM has proposed to make some slight modifications to the boundary to where it includes the portion of Admiralty Bay on the eastern bank to the border of Unit 26A from there, going west, and I think that's a friendly motion -- or a friendly addition to the language, in my view, it kind of describes the area to hunt.

MR. OOMITTUK: Do we need that in a motion to amend.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, let's go ahead and.....

MR. OOMITTUK:to WP22-55.

CHAIRMAN BROWER:if we want to add that I would say, because our proposal doesn't say that and so we could amend it right now.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, so moved, Mr. Chair. The amendment to the main motion for WP22-55.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion -- and I'm going to make sure if we get some legal help if we need to because we haven't formally closed the original motion but we are under discussing and amending the original motion to include that portion of Admiralty Bay on the east bank to the border of Unit 26A, and that's an amending motion to include that in the main body of the motion by Point Hope. Motion on the floor.

MS. ITTA: I second it.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's been seconded, is that Nuiqsut, Martha.

MS. ITTA: Yes.

MR. WILLIAMS: Question, Earl.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any discussion on the amendment.

0115

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
2 Council. If I may quickly ask a clarification. So
3 just wanted to clarify if the Council was supporting
4 the complete modification recommended by OSM, which was
5 that additional boundary language and it also had
6 included a requirement for a Federal registration
7 permit and delegated authority to the BLM Arctic
8 District Office Manager to close and announce the
9 season and harvest quota through that delegation of
10 authority letter. Did the Council want to add that as
11 well, or were you just amending for the boundary information.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva, for
16 the clarifying. And I think it would be important that
17 the Arctic District Office be the responsible party for
18 regulating that as suggested by OSM and it just --
19 maybe a little bit more discussion on that. What is
20 the wish of the Council on that portion of it, and I
21 apologize I didn't read that out.

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: Sorry, Mr. Chair, I got
24 sidetracked so I missed that portion of what Eva was
25 talking about, there was more to the amendment of the
26 motion, is that what she meant?

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. From the
29 boundary -- this is what was added to revise the hunt
30 area descriptor, that's what we did -- we (In Native)
31 that part. Require a Federal registration permit and
32 delegate authority to BLM Arctic District Office
33 Manager to close the season and to announce the harvest
34 quota on the number of permits to be issued via
35 delegation of authority letter. We've done that
36 before, I think to Steve Berendzen, when there was some
37 development of issues between Fish and Wildlife Service
38 and maybe Eddie Rexford from Kaktovik can remember
39 that, that there was a delegation to the ANWR Manager
40 by delegation of authority letter to carry out, I think,
41 the moose hunt and be regulated by the ANWR Refuge
42 Manager. It's the same thing. And I think that's good
43 because it puts the regulation in the hands of Federal
44 agency.

45

46 MS. JONES: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

49

50

0116

1 MS. JONES: Mr. Chair, this is Shelly
2 Jones, and I just wanted to mention that that sounds
3 consistent with the way it is handled in other BLM
4 areas as well, they usually look to either the majority
5 Federal land owner, or all the Federal land owners but
6 I'm really only familiar with it in the Central Yukon
7 area where we were issuing, you know, special openings
8 for Federal hunts. I'm not as -- I'll have to study up
9 more on how this works with a special closure and learn
10 more about the analysis and stuff but the process seems
11 right.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Shelly.
14 And that's the Arctic District Office talking. Was
15 that you, Eddie from Kaktovik.

16
17 MR. REXFORD: No, it was somebody else.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. (In Native)
20
21 So that's the additional language and I
22 would tend to support that as part of the boundary
23 descriptor, to include all that language and I
24 apologize for not reading it all out.

25
26 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, with that
27 said I call for question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Question
30 has been called for. All those modifying the main
31 motion to include the descriptor language as suggested
32 by OSM, signify by saying aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
37 say no.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And the.....

42
43 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I call.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER:amendment to the
46 motion.....

47
48 MR. OOMITTUK:for the question on
49 the main motion.

50

0117

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: passes. As we
2 go into motion to support and I think it's important
3 during the discussion and to talk a little bit about
4 the justification as suggested on the earlier motion
5 and that -- prior to final vote -- I think this
6 proposal is important. It provides an opportunity
7 where it hasn't existed. And the establishment of a
8 muskox hunt in Unit 26A from this boundary, the Alaktak
9 River and the additional descriptors that are added
10 because of the presence of muskox and that this area
11 would be more beneficial because it includes the areas
12 accessible by residents of Unit 26A and that boundary
13 of 156 west is a boundary designated to distinguish
14 herd differences and not to separate people. It is to
15 distinguish the eastern population of the muskox and
16 the western population of the muskox in Unit 26. And
17 there isn't that much substantial evidence that 156 is
18 even closely meandering back and forth in this area
19 from the eastern population. I think by moving the
20 boundary would allow Federally-qualified users that
21 normally access these areas to have that opportunity
22 for subsistence harvest of muskox should they secure a
23 permit, a Federal registration permit, or something
24 like that.

25
26 So I think those are important.
27 Equally, these areas are so remote, even to get to
28 these areas one way is -- you know just to the mouth of
29 the river is about 45 miles and to go up into that
30 river to these areas to have that opportunity, you
31 know, you're talking about 75 to 100 miles one way, an
32 extreme hardship exists, already exists, round-trip is
33 easily 120 miles to access these areas. So that would
34 be, in my view, that when we're talking about the
35 opening of a hunt that hasn't existed to do it in the
36 right way where it's inclusive to those that access
37 these areas. And we recognize that, you know, this is
38 a request that is going before the Board of Game and we
39 hope that this language and the border itself is the
40 reflective boundary that the Board of Game align to.

41
42 So with that I would call for the
43 question.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anybody want to call
48 for the question.

49
50

0118

1 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair, I
2 call for question with all that said.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. The
5 question's been called on the main motion all those in
6 favor of adopting WP22-55 as amended with the language
7 from OSM signify by saying aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
12 say nay.

13
14 (No opposing votes)

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
17 ayes have it. This proposal shall go to the Federal
18 Board of Game -- Federal Subsistence Board, I mean --
19 my bad. It's now 4:30 and we'll -- does anybody need
20 to take a biological break.

21
22 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, are we talking
23 about to reconvene tomorrow morning or.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, like five
26 minutes.

27
28 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, I do need to.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I seem to need to
31 take a few minute.....

32
33 MR. OOMITTUK:take a 10 minute
34 break, a five.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER:break here.

37
38 MR. OOMITTUK:or 10 minute break,
39 I do need to use the restroom.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

42
43 MR. OOMITTUK: I will call back in.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, let's take
46 a little bio break and then get back here. Yeah, we
47 got way too.....

48
49 MS. PATTON: Yeah, everybody could just
50

0119

1 stay.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER:much work to
4 just quit right now.

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: All right.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Just stay connected on
9 teleconference. There have been some reconnection
10 issues for folks so, yeah, if you just want to just put
11 your phone on mute and take a break, that would be
12 great, but I think it would be helpful for everybody to
13 stay connected so we don't lose folks.

14

15 Qu yana.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, I know
22 we're getting close to 5:00 o'clock but I think we
23 might have time to punch out one or two of these.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr.
26 Chair. Yes, there's just two more specific to the
27 North Slope region, which would be great if we could
28 cover those before concluding this evening.

29

30 MR. WILLIAMS: 340 pages is a lot.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, there's a lot
33 of stuff that's for sure. All right, let's go to --
34 who was the lady who was doing the analysis, the
35 executive summary.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Kendra Holman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Is the OSM Biologist for
42 the North Slope region.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Kendra,
45 you have.....

46

47 MS. PATTON: And.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER:the floor for

50

0120

1 WP22-56.

2

3 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Eva, do we need to make sure we have a quorum before I
5 start.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I'll just
8 doublecheck and do a quick roll call. We have Gordon
9 on. Did we get Wanda Kippi back on.

10

11 MS. KIPPI: Yes, I'm still on.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you,
14 Wanda.

15

16 And Steve Oomittuk.

17

18 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, I'm on.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Steve.

21

22 Eddie Rexford, Sr.

23

24 MR. REXFORD: I'm on.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you, Eddie.

27

28 And Martha Itta.

29

30 MS. ITTA: Here.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you, Martha.

33

34 And, Earl Williams, AKP.

35

36 MR. WILLIAMS: Here.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you,
39 Earl. We have all six of our seven Council members are
40 back online. Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Kendra,
43 you have the floor.

44

45 MS. HOLMAN: All right, good afternoon,
46 or evening now, Mr. Chair. Members of the Board. For
47 the record this is Kendra Holman, and I'm a Wildlife
48 Biologist for the Office of Subsistence Management. I
49 will be presenting a summary of the analysis for
50

0121

1 Wildlife Proposal WP22-56 submitted by the Gates of the
2 Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
3 requesting the brown bear harvest limit for that
4 portion of Unit 26A within Gates of the Arctic National
5 Park be increased from one bear to two bears. The
6 proposal starts on Page 58 of your meeting books.

7
8 The proponent submitted this proposal
9 because residents of Anaktuvuk Pass have observed brown
10 bear populations growing and believe that the harvest
11 to be far below the sustainable yield. The Commission
12 states that this proposal would afford Anaktuvuk Pass
13 residents hunting brown bears additional harvest
14 opportunity.

15
16 The regulatory history.

17
18 At the January 2020 the Alaska Board of
19 Game adopted Proposal 29 to increase the resident State
20 brown bear harvest limit in Unit 26A from one bear per
21 year to two brown bears. The Board of Game concluded
22 that there were no biological concerns, furthermore,
23 they concluded that resident harvest was low and
24 comparing data from eight other units that a two bear
25 harvest limit -- the change in the harvest limit is not
26 likely to increase the bear harvest significantly.

27
28 The densities of brown bear vary widely
29 within Unit 26A with densities highest in the foothills
30 of the Brooks Range and lows in the northern portions
31 of the unit. The current population estimates for
32 brown bear within Unit 26A is 900 to 1,120 bears.
33 Brown bear densities and reproductive output within
34 Gates of the Arctic National Park are some of the
35 lowest in Alaska. Limited food resource and short
36 growing seasons are likely major factors in
37 contributing to this demographic pattern.

38
39 The harvest numbers can be found in
40 Table 1 which is on Page 63 of your meeting book.

41
42 The ADF&G management goal is to keep
43 the harvest at or below an average of five percent of
44 the bear population during any two year period. Under
45 these guidelines the maximum allowable harvest would be
46 approximately 51 bears per year. Between 2008 and 2018
47 total reported harvest in Unit 26A ranged from 10 to 31
48 bears and averaged 21 bears -- 20 bears per year. With
49 the resident reported harvest on average accounting for
50

0122

1 eight bears per year. A significant management problem
2 in Unit 26A continues to be unreported harvest and
3 noncompliance with bear hunting regulations. However,
4 community-based harvest assessment studies indicate a
5 potential of three to four harvested brown bears per
6 year are not reported but does not appear to be at a
7 level that creates a biological problem.

8

9 Current harvest rates are below the
10 State recommended sustainability harvest -- sustainable
11 harvest rate for 26A. This proposal may result in an
12 increase in harvest but is not expected to increase the
13 total harvest rates above the minimal sustainable yield
14 but will increase the harvest opportunity for
15 Federally-qualified subsistence users specifically
16 within Unit 26, that portion within Gates of the Arctic
17 National Park.

18

19 Adoption of this proposal, as submitted
20 would retain more restrictive harvest limit of one bear
21 per year on other Federal public lands within Unit 26A,
22 although under State regulations, Federally-qualified
23 subsistence users can already harvest two bears on
24 these Federal lands but not within Gates of the Arctic
25 National Park.

26

27 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
28 support WP22-56.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
31 Board. I'd be happy to address any questions.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was on mute, sorry.
34 Any questions to Kendra.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not I'm going to
39 go down the list.

40

41 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

44

45 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I was just going
46 to say that it says, you know, we estimated -- they
47 said we killed between two and 10 brown bears between
48 '94 to 2011, to my understanding around here, they
49 don't hardly shoot bears, they're -- maybe one that
50

0123

1 bothers us, but the last three years I know they shot
2 only about three bears as far as I know last fall --
3 another one was bothering the village and they shot
4 that one too. So I don't know what they're counting --
5 unless they're counting another village besides
6 Anaktuvuk, I'm just curious about that.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl. And
11 we recognize that this portion of the regulation is
12 limited to Gates of the Arctic within Unit 26A and it's
13 probably all that land within the purple, National Park
14 Service lands, and this was recommended by their
15 Subsistence Resource Commission over at the Gates of
16 the Arctic, in your neck of the woods there. And
17 maybe.....

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
20 Chair, I just wanted to clarify.

21

22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it would change
26 it from one to two bears.

27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, I just wanted
29 to clarify that. Thank you, very much.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If I make any
32 mistakes here, Kendra, please correct me, but I think
33 that that particular proposal is within the Gates of
34 the Arctic, those portions that are in Unit 26A.

35

36 MS. HOLMAN: You are correct, Mr.
37 Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

40

41 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, so report
44 on Board consultations, A, to tribes.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
47 Council. I believe Orville Lind needed to step out this
48 evening. There -- the Board did conduct tribal
49 consultation and we had representatives from the
50

0124

1 Anaktuvuk Pass Tribal Council participating. No formal
2 recommendations at that time but they did participate
3 to ask questions and provide some more information for
4 the Board.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
9 Item B, ANCSA Corporation consultations.

10

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
12 Council. We did not have any ANCSA Corporation
13 comments on this proposal. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Agency comments,
16 ADF&G.

17

18 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Carmen
19 Daggett with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Carmen.

22

23 MS. DAGGETT: ADF&G supports this
24 proposal as it will align -- ADF&G supports this
25 proposal as it aligns the State and Federal bag limits.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.
28 Item B, any Federal comments.

29

30 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair, this is Chris
31 McKee for BLM and BLM has no comments on this proposal
32 at this time.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Chris.
35 Any other Federal comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Going down, any
40 tribal comments. Any tribal, village, ICAS, Native
41 villages, your opportunity to comment on this proposal.

42

43 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Point Hope, just
44 out of curiosity, you know, I, for the Native Village
45 of Point Hope, you know, I know in the past we used to
46 have to take home some meat from the brown bear, I
47 don't see that happening anymore, you know, whether
48 they're Native or non-Native that it's open to that
49 area. You know years ago, in our younger years we ate
50

0125

1 the brown bear meat, mainly the hindquarters. Now you
2 don't see that. Now my understanding is you don't have
3 to take any of the meat, is that my understanding of
4 brown bears, whether it's Native or non-Native hunters?

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carmen.

7

8 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
9 Steve Oomittuk. So Steve there's kind of two different
10 ways that you can harvest brown bears, two different
11 permits. There's a subsistence harvest permit where
12 the idea is that you would harvest the meat and as long
13 as you don't remove the hide and skull from the area,
14 that you don't have to harvest those, the goal would be
15 to harvest the meat. And then there is kind of the
16 general season hunt on the harvest ticket for brown
17 bears and that method would focus on taking the hide
18 and skull and you would need to seal the bear if that
19 was the case. And you could choose to harvest the meat
20 or not, but it's not required.

21

22 I hope that answers your question.

23

24 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. Now, do you
25 consider, you know, brown bear and grizzly bear, do you
26 consider them the same species because some people do
27 get the grizzly bear and brown bear -- are there
28 different hunting for grizzly bears and brown bears
29 when you categorize them, you know, because we do have
30 an abundance of grizzly bears and they're smaller than
31 the brown bears. And it seems like the brown bears are
32 coming more and more but, you know, when you say brown
33 bear harvest does that include grizzly bear.

34

35 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
36 Steve Oomittuk. Yes, they would be considered the same
37 in this proposal and in regulations.

38

39 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, thank you. That
40 answers my question.

41

42 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is Lisa
43 Grediagin. And just to clarify under Federal
44 regulations, the meat of brown bears must be salvaged.
45 Thanks.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And who
48 was that again.

49

50

0126

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: That was Lisa
2 Grediagin.

3
4 MR. OOMITTUK: You know you said.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lisa.

7
8 MR. OOMITTUK:the -- this is
9 Steve again. And lately, you know, here in Point Hope
10 it seems like the brown bears are coming closer and
11 closer to town and -- and, you know, for, you know,
12 safety purposes if a brown bear was killed, you know,
13 for safety purposes, you're talking about increase --
14 is there a limit on how many you can catch per year, in
15 that area, 26, they're putting two more or what's the
16 total. I mean they reach that limit and then, you
17 know, we're seeing an abundance of brown bears and
18 grizzly bears and coming closer and closer to town, and
19 if they reached the limit, if for safety purposes if we
20 had to kill a brown bear or a grizzly bear, we wouldn't
21 get in trouble by the State, would we.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, Steve, I'm
24 looking up for Unit 23 real quick. I know this
25 particular regulation proposal is in the Gates of the
26 Arctic -- limited to the Gates of the Arctic in Unit
27 26.

28
29 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, through the Chair,
30 this is Lisa Grediagin. The harvest limit for brown
31 bears in Unit 23 under both State and Federal
32 regulations is two brown bears. And, Steve, if you're
33 referring to defense of life and property kills, you
34 know, if a brown bear is threatening your property, you
35 know, your pet, your life, that's a different set of
36 regulations if you take a brown bear because you feel
37 threatened by them. But, yeah, again for Unit 23 it's
38 two brown bears per person but, yeah as the Chair
39 mentioned the proposal before the Council right now is
40 focused on Gates of the Arctic National Park within
41 Unit 26A.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. I just was
46 throwing out some questions on tribal and -- but, yeah,
47 the Gates of the Arctic and so the two per person is
48 also in Unit 23 also.

49
50

0127

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's right. And
2 you're primarily on State lands surrounding you guys
3 with some limited Federal lands I could see. I hope
4 that helps, Steve.....

5
6 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. That's
7 helpful.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: for the tribe in
10 Point Hope.

11
12 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other tribal
15 comments on the proposal.

16
17 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, this is Earl.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Earl.

20
21 MR. WILLIAMS: I had the comment that
22 Steve said, we've got the same problems here with bears
23 but they don't hardly bother the -- even if they're
24 kind of on the outskirts, let them be, but when they
25 come into town that's when they threaten people and
26 that's -- that's when everybody pull out their -- their
27 (indiscernible) but I just want to thank Steve for
28 bringing this issue up. Thank you, very much.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl. You
31 know I'm a tribal member too but I'm not the President
32 or I don't assume to comment on behalf of Native
33 Village of Barrow but -- but I'm a tribal person and I
34 would just say about these bears, I've seen those brown
35 bears come inside my cabin and even sleep on my bedding
36 in my cabin and then lock themselves in and come out
37 through the wall. And these guys are sometimes pretty
38 outrageous, these bears, and I put a whole bed of nails
39 around my entrance, even at night when I'm there, and
40 once in a while I'll hear them step on it while I'm
41 sleeping and they scream really loud that I put these
42 20-penny spike nails because they will try to go in
43 where human scent goes in and out and they know the
44 door where people goes in and they know you're in
45 there. So, yeah, you know, it's important to reflect
46 on some of these bears that are very aggressive, you
47 know, kind of stuff.

48
49 In any event, that's just my own
50

0128

1 comment there.

2

3

4 So with that I'm going to go to
5 advisory group comments, any other Regional Advisory
6 Council comments on this.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
9 Council. Yes, we covered that already, so no other
10 Councils are taking up this proposal, it's outside of
11 their region. The Subsistence Resource Commission will
12 be meeting in a couple weeks, again, they are the ones
13 that submitted this proposal but they will be meeting
14 to discuss it themselves again in a couple weeks.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So I take
19 it the Fish and Game Advisory Committee is along the
20 same boat with no comment.

21

22 MS. PATTON: I have not heard any
23 feedback from the local Fish and Game ACs. Thank you,
24 Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Thank
27 you. Summary of written public comments.

28

29 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra
30 Holman again with OSM. So we had two written public
31 comments received prior to the deadline. One from the
32 Chair of Alaskans for Wildlife and one from Bill
33 Sherwonit, if I pronounced that correctly. Both of
34 them opposing the proposal. The comments oppose the
35 proposal due to documented low reproductive rates,
36 evidence of overharvest and low densities of brown bear
37 within Gates of the Arctic. The comments recommended a
38 measure of stewardship and conservation management
39 approach to be used instead.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And so we
42 have two written comments that were in opposition to
43 this proposal. Any public testimony. Do we have any
44 public willing to provide public testimony at this
45 time.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing no public
50 testimony. Candidates to provide -- I'll keep that

0129

1 open. So Regional Council recommendation. What's the
2 wish of the Council WP22-56.

3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: So moved.

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: Motion to approve.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion to
9 approve by -- was that Earl.

10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
14 the floor.....

15

16 MS. ITTA: I second it.

17

18 MR. OOMITTUK: That was.....

19

20 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER:to approve WP22-
23 56, seconded by Wanda from Atqasuk. Discussion.
24 Justifications.

25

26 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

27

28 MS. ITTA: Call for question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it -- yeah, I
31 think it's important to just recognize that this is a
32 proposal from a Subsistence Resource Commission of the
33 Gates of the Arctic to do this based on concerns of
34 residents of Anaktuvuk Pass to increase the harvest
35 limit to two. It's pretty consistent with others like
36 Unit 23 and has a bag limit of two, so I think for
37 uniformity and across different jurisdictions of land,
38 that two is pretty good.

39

40 With that, anybody want to call for the
41 question.

42

43 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All those
46 in support of WP22-56 for brown bears signify by saying
47 aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

0130

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
2 say nay.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Aye's have it, WP22-
7 56 has passed the Council. With that it is now a
8 little bit after 5:00 p.m., what's the wish of the
9 Council, do you want to recess until tomorrow and
10 reconvene at 9:00 a.m.

11
12 MR. WILLIAMS: Reconvene tomorrow -- I
13 make a motion. Earl makes a motion to reconvene
14 tomorrow.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion -- I
17 didn't quite understand it, I think there was two
18 people talking.

19
20 MR. WILLIAMS: Earl, motion to
21 reconvene tomorrow.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are you making a
24 motion to recess until tomorrow.

25
26 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
29 to recess until tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

30
31 MS. ITTA: Second.

32
33 MR. REXFORD: Second.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.
36 Any discussion.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question. All those
43 in favor of recessing until tomorrow morning at 9:00
44 signify by saying aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
49 say nay.

50

0131

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we are recessed until 9:00 a.m. Thank you everybody for today.

MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. Everybody have a good evening.

(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

