

0133

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 II

TELECONFERENCE  
November 4, 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

0134

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 - 11/4/2021)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, everybody. And it might be important to get the meeting back in order and reestablish quorum. So with that maybe we should do a roll call of who's present and reestablish the quorum so we can act on action items again. We had Eva do the roll call yesterday to get our quorum in place and if we could reestablish quorum, either the Secretary or the Madame Coordinator can do the roll call.

MS. KIPPI: I can do that, Mr. Chair. Good morning. This is Wanda.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

MS. KIPPI: Okay. Good morning, everybody.

Gordon Brower from Utqiagvik.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Present. Good morning.

MS. KIPPI: Wanda Kippi from Atqasuk.

Here.

Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope.

MR. OOMITTUK: (In Native)

MS. KIPPI: Okay. Billy Patkotak, Jr., Wainwright.

(No comments)

MS. KIPPI: Edward Rexford, Sr., Kaktovik.

MR. REXFORD: I'm here.

MS. KIPPI: Martha Itta, Nuiqsut.

0135

1 MS. ITTA: I'm here. Good morning.

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams.

4

5 MS. KIPPI: And Earl from Anaktuvuk  
6 Pass.

7

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, good morning.

9

10 MS. KIPPI: All right. Good morning,  
11 everybody.

12

13 Mr. Chair, we have a quorum.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. (In  
16 Native), Wanda.

17

18 And we left off yesterday working on  
19 proposals. And I believe the next one up and maybe it  
20 might be important before we go right into the  
21 proposals to provide some introductions this morning  
22 for those that might be online and that are elected to  
23 join the Regional Advisory Council this morning, if you  
24 could introduce yourself real quick.

25

26 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Earl  
27 Williams from Anaktuvuk Pass.

28

29 MR. BERENDZEN: Good morning, Mr.  
30 Chair. This is Steve Berendzen, Arctic Refuge.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Steve.

33

34 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Mr.  
35 Chairman and members of the Council. This is Greg  
36 Risdahl, the Forest Service subsistence program leader  
37 and InterAgency Staff Committee member. Nice to be  
38 here.

39

40 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi. This is Lisa  
41 Grediagin, the Wildlife Division supervisor with OSM.

42

43 MS. HYER: Good morning. This is Karen  
44 Hyer, Fisheries biologist with OSM.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Karen.

47

48 \*\*Transcriber Note\*\*

49

50

0136

1 Hannah Voorhees contacted Computer Matrix Court  
2 Reporters requesting she be titled as Dr. Voorhees in  
3 transcripts and not Ms. Voorhees

4

5 \*\*End Transcriber Note\*\*

6

7 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is  
8 Hannah Voorhees, anthropologist with OSM.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Hannah.

11

12 MS. HOLMAN: Kendra Holman, Wildlife  
13 biologist with OSM.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

16

17 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. This is  
18 Chris McKee, subsistence coordinator with the Bureau of  
19 Land Management.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning.

22

23 MR. VICKERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
24 Council members. This is Brent Vickers, supervisor for  
25 the Anthropology Division, OSM.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

28

29 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
30 This is Robbin LaVine, I'm the policy coordinator for  
31 OSM.

32

33 MS. JONES: And this is Shelly Jones,  
34 I'm the BLM Arctic District manager. Good morning.

35

36 MS. MIKOW: Good morning. This is Beth  
37 Mikow, I'm the anthropologist in the Arctic District  
38 Office of BLM.

39

40 MR. PERSON: Good morning. This is  
41 Brian Person, North Slope Bureau, Department of  
42 Wildlife Management. Morning.

43

44 MS. KARPOVICH: Good morning. This is  
45 Shawna Karpovich, research biologist with the Alaska  
46 Department of Fish and Game.

47

48 MS. NIGRO: Good morning. This is  
49 Debbie Nigro, wildlife biologist with BLM Arctic

50

0137

1 District.

2

3 MS. SAVAGE: Good morning. This is  
4 Heather Savage with BLM's Arctic District Office, also  
5 wildlife biologist.

6

7 MS. DREW: Good morning. This is Katie  
8 Drew, fisheries biologist, BLM Arctic District Office.

9

10 MS. DAGGETT: (In Native) This is  
11 Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
12 Utqiagvik.

13

14 MR. HANSON: And good morning. Alex  
15 Hanson here, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
16 Kotzebue.

17

18 MS. BROWN: This is Caroline Brown with  
19 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

20

21 MS. KLEIN: And this is Jill Klein with  
22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office  
23 Subsistence Coordinator in Anchorage.

24

25 MR. BURCH: Mark Burch with the  
26 Department of Fish and Game.

27

28 MS. LENART: Beth Lenart, Alaska  
29 Department of Fish and Game Wildlife in Fairbanks.

30

31 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning. This is Kim  
32 Jochum, acting subsistence program manager, Regional  
33 Office, National Park Service and ISC member.

34

35 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is  
36 Marcy Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
37 Preserve.

38

39 MR. JOLY: Good morning, everyone.  
40 This is Kyle Joly, wildlife biologist with Gates of the  
41 Arctic.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Sounds  
44 like that's the extent of the online guests and Staff.  
45 Good morning.

46

47 With that I'm going to give an  
48 opportunity for any public comments on non-agenda  
49 items. And just to make sure we give that opportunity  
50

0138

1 for -- in the morning and recognize tribes or ANCSA  
2 corporations with general public for them to address  
3 the Regional Advisory Council on non-agenda items. So  
4 it's -- if there are any comments to be made or to  
5 address the Regional Council we'll provide that  
6 throughout the day as well. And but I just want to  
7 formally mention that.

8

9 With that, Madam Coordinator, we were  
10 working on proposals, new business, and we were down I  
11 believe to WCR 22-25, muskox, Unit 26C, closed except  
12 by Kaktovik residents. That could be found on Page 69  
13 and I would like to get Staff to go ahead and read that  
14 and the analysis into the record.

15

16 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
17 Holman. I'll be presenting WCR 22-25. It sounds like  
18 you're ready.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Kendra.

21

22 MS. HOLMAN: So before I start I just  
23 wanted to read this additional. So I'm going to  
24 provide a brief summary of the wildlife closure review  
25 process.

26

27 Section .815 of ANILCA allows the  
28 Federal Subsistence Board to restrict or close the  
29 taking of fish and wildlife by subsistence and  
30 nonsubsistence users on Federal public lands when  
31 necessary for the conservation of healthy populations  
32 of fish and wildlife for continued subsistence uses.  
33 The Board reviews wildlife closures every four years to  
34 determine if the justification for the closure is still  
35 consistent with the Federal Subsistence Board's closure  
36 policy. Every two years half of the closure reviews  
37 will be reviewed. Councils are asked to consider the  
38 OSM preliminary conclusion and make a recommendation to  
39 the Board.

40

41 So for the record my name is Kendra  
42 Holman and I'm the wildlife biologist with Office of  
43 Subsistence Management. This is a closure review, WC  
44 22-25, Unit 26, muskox. Federal -- currently Federal  
45 public lands are closed for the taking of muskox except  
46 by rural Alaska residents in the village of Kaktovik  
47 hunting under these regulations. This proposal can be  
48 found on Page 69 of your meeting book.

49

50

1                   The regulatory history from regulatory  
 2 year 1982 to 1983 until 1990 and 1991 the State of  
 3 Alaska managed the muskox hunt in Unit 26. In  
 4 regulatory year 1991/1992, the Federal government  
 5 assumed management of muskox on the Federal public  
 6 lands in Unit 26C which are part of the Arctic National  
 7 Wildlife Refuge. In 1992 the Board closed Federal  
 8 subsistence hunting to muskox in these -- those  
 9 portions of Unit 26B on the Arctic National Wildlife  
 10 Refuge, restricted the number of permits issued to 10  
 11 bulls for Unit 26C and closed Federal public lands to  
 12 the harvest of muskox except by rural residents of the  
 13 village of Kaktovik. Unit 26B also closed to the  
 14 harvest under Federal regulations because very few  
 15 muskox occupied Federal lands in the unit at that time.  
 16 From 1992 to (indiscernible - distortion).....

17  
 18                   (Teleconference interference -  
 19 participants not muted)

20  
 21                   MS. HOLMAN: .....numbers of individual  
 22 resident registration permits available in the unit --  
 23 in Unit 26C was liberalized. This was followed by a  
 24 reduction in the number of registration permits in  
 25 2002. From 2003 to 2012 the population within Unit 26  
 26 was below the 3 percent threshold level required to  
 27 issue Federal registration permits except in 2008. In  
 28 2017 this Council reviewed and voted to maintain this  
 29 closure because of conservation concerns.

30  
 31                   For the biology of the muskox were  
 32 reintroduced to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal  
 33 plain in 1969 and 1970. The reintroduction --  
 34 reintroduced population grew rapidly, expanding its  
 35 range east into Yukon Canada and west into Unit 26B  
 36 after 1986. The northeast Alaska Yukon muskox  
 37 population ranges from eastern Unit 26A in northern  
 38 Alaska to the Babbage Range in northern Yukon Canada.  
 39 Numbers of the muskox in Unit 26C remained relatively  
 40 stable, an average of 331 between 1987 and 1998, but  
 41 declined sharply in the early 2000s. A figure showing  
 42 these numbers can be found on Page 74 of your meeting  
 43 books.

44  
 45                   Currently no mixed group of muskox live  
 46 year round in Unit 26C, but small groups move across  
 47 the border between 26C and Canada. Population surveys  
 48 conducted over the total range between 2006 and 2011  
 49 suggest that the population was relatively stable at  
 50

0140

1 about 300 animals with about 200 muskoxen in Unit 26B  
2 west of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and a  
3 hundred muskoxen in Yukon Canada east of the Arctic  
4 National Wildlife Refuge.

5

6 The decline of muskoxen has likely been  
7 caused by low calf survival in some years, increased  
8 adult mortality and changes in distribution of the  
9 population. Weather, predation, quality and quantity  
10 of winter forage and exposure to parasites and diseases  
11 are all factors affecting calf recruitment, muskox  
12 survival and population distribution.

13

14 Given the gregarious nature of the  
15 muskox, mature bulls are important for predator  
16 defense, foraging and group cohesion in addition to breeding.

17

18 (Teleconference interference -  
19 participants not muted)

20

21 MS. HOLMAN: Muskox reduce movements  
22 during the winter to conserve energy and depend areas  
23 with low snow cover as they cannot forage in deep  
24 hardpack snow.

25

26 Legal hunting of muskoxen began in  
27 1982. The total annual harvest of muskox in Unit 26C  
28 generally increased between regulatory year 1982/1983  
29 and regulatory year 1996/1997.....

30

31 (Teleconference interference -  
32 participants not muted)

33

34 MS. HOLMAN: .....as the number of  
35 permits increased. Total annual harvest subsequently  
36 declined through regulatory years 2002/2003 when no  
37 permits were issued. This can be found on table -- in  
38 table one on Page 75 of your meeting book.

39

40 Federal subsistence regulations state  
41 that the number of permits issued to residents of  
42 Kaktovik for muskox will not exceed 3 percent of the  
43 number of animals observed in the precalving census of  
44 Unit 26C. At least 36 animals need to be observed  
45 during the precalving surveys to have one permit  
46 issued. From 2002 to 2007 and 2009 to 2020, the Arctic  
47 National Wildlife Refuge issued no permits because the  
48 population was too low. In 2008 the Arctic National  
49 Wildlife Refuge in consultation with the Muskox Working  
50

0141

1 Group issued one permit in Unit 26C as the precalving  
2 census was 44 muskox.

3  
4 If this closure were eliminated the  
5 muskox hunt in Unit 26C -- excuse me, something in my  
6 throat. If the closure -- if this closure were  
7 eliminated the muskox hunt in Unit 26C would be open to  
8 all users under State and Federal regulation. The  
9 State hunt has been closed since 1991 and is not  
10 planned to be reopened until the population increases  
11 to 300. Recent muskox surveys do not indicate there is  
12 a harvestable surplus. In Unit 26C muskox population  
13 is very low and cannot withstand any harvest.  
14 Maintaining the status quo will continue to provide for  
15 Federal subsistence uses of musk ox when possible  
16 without creating any conservation concern.

17  
18 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
19 maintain the status quo.

20  
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the  
22 Council. I'll be happy to address any questions.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Was that  
25 Kendra?

26  
27 MS. HOLMAN: That was, Mr. Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Do we  
30 have any questions from the Board or from the Council  
31 on the introduction and presentation of WCR 22-25.

32  
33 MR. REXFORD: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
34 This is Eddie.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eddie.

37  
38 MR. REXFORD: Yes. Thank you for that  
39 update, Kendra. Could you provide the most recent  
40 survey counts in our area in 26C?

41  
42 MS. HOLMAN: I -- this is Kendra Holman  
43 for the record. I can give you what I have. I believe  
44 that 2020 was the last number that I have, but let me  
45 double check that real quick.

46  
47 (Teleconference interference -  
48 participants not muted)

49  
50

0142

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if  
2 I may. Just a quick update while Kendra's looking  
3 is.....

4  
5 (Teleconference interference -  
6 participants not muted)

7  
8 MS. PATTON: .....reminder to please  
9 mute your phone so that we can hear. There's quite a  
10 bit of background noise and interference. So everyone  
11 please just take a moment, press a mute button or star,  
12 six on your phones.

13  
14 Thank you. And also, Kendra, we may  
15 have State or Federal Staff that might have some  
16 updated information too that might be able to respond  
17 to questions.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah, if there's anyone  
22 else that has numbers that -- the most recent number I  
23 have is specifically for the -- that 2008 only within  
24 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

25  
26 MR. BERENDZEN: Mr. Chair, this is  
27 Steve Berendzen. I think I could address the question  
28 if you'd like.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Please do so, Steve.

31  
32 MR. BERENDZEN: We haven't done any  
33 surveys specifically for muskox since 2011 is my  
34 understanding because we -- the muskox were -- were not  
35 regularly or reliably on Arctic Refuge. There were  
36 some that would occasionally come over from Canada,  
37 across the Canadian border and some that would cross  
38 the Canning River from State lands onto Arctic Refuge,  
39 but they weren't reliably there. We've done incidental  
40 observations or counts at times since then and in the  
41 fall of 2019 we did observe 25 -- a herd of 25 just  
42 east of the Canning River on Arctic Refuge. That's the  
43 last time we've seen a herd on Arctic Refuge. And in  
44 the spring of 2020 there were three individuals that  
45 were seen again during incidental observations of them  
46 during a moose survey. And that's how we've been  
47 trying to do observations in recent years was along  
48 with the moos survey do incidental observations of  
49 muskox.

50

0143

1                   But those are the only updates I can  
2 provide is the herd of 25 in the fall of 2019 and the  
3 three individuals in the spring of 2020.

4

5                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve and  
6 Eddie. Just wondering if that helps.

7

8                   MR. REXFORD: I'm sorry. I got  
9 disconnected. I'm on now and I didn't hear anything  
10 that was said.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, if you could  
13 replay real quick for the benefit of Kaktovik.

14

15                   MR. BERENDZEN: Yes, Mr. Chair, Mr.  
16 Rexford, I'm happy to do that. The last survey -- as I  
17 understand the last survey that Arctic Refuge has done  
18 specifically for muskox was in 2011. And the surveys  
19 that were targeted specifically for them were stopped  
20 after that time because muskox were not reliably seen  
21 on Arctic Refuge. There was a herd that would  
22 occasionally come over from State land west of the  
23 Canning River onto Arctic Refuge, but they would move  
24 back and forth. And there was also a herd that -- on  
25 the Canadian border that would occasionally cross back  
26 and forth near the Kongakut River.

27

28                   And we haven't done surveys  
29 specifically or intentionally just for muskox, but in  
30 recent years we have been trying to do incidental  
31 observations of muskox while we're doing moose surveys.  
32 So the most recent observations of muskox during those  
33 moose surveys in the fall of 2019 a herd of 25 muskox  
34 was observed near the Canning River and in the spring  
35 of 2020 three individuals were seen on Arctic Refuge.  
36 But those are the most recent observations we've had,  
37 incidental observations while we were doing moose  
38 surveys.

39

40                   MR. REXFORD: All right. Thank you for  
41 that info, Steve. And is there any plans on doing  
42 muskox surveys, specifically for muskox because I'm  
43 pretty sure they don't have the same feeding areas as  
44 the moose and not necessarily staying in willow  
45 drainages and stuff like that. That would be helpful  
46 for our next meetings.

47

48                   MR. BERENDZEN: We don't have specific  
49 plans, Mr. Rexford, but we can try to do a more  
50

50

0144

1 specific survey. One complication we've had the last  
2 year and a half has been trying to fly surveys for  
3 extended periods of time in small aircraft with the  
4 covid concerns. But we're hoping to get beyond that  
5 and hoping to do surveys. We really need to do moose  
6 surveys as well so what we will try to do is do a moose  
7 survey that we would also extend into a muskox survey  
8 at the same time and do a thorough survey for muskox.  
9 We will -- we'll try to do that and I'll try to keep  
10 you informed about the status of that.

11

12 MR. REXFORD: And it would be helpful  
13 if our tribe or community members here were informed  
14 before the surveys are done and touch base with the  
15 community on what areas would be searched because  
16 there's local traditional of knowledge of where these  
17 animals are and are not being counted by the folks  
18 during the surveys. That would be very helpful to get  
19 an accurate count.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. BERENDZEN: Okay. We will  
24 definitely plan to be in contact with you prior to the  
25 survey.

26

27 Thanks for that information.

28

29 MR. REXFORD: Thank you, Steve.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

32

33 MR. BERENDZEN: You're welcome, Mr.  
34 Chair and Mr. Rexford.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And maybe for -- I  
37 keep forgetting the young lady's name that kept reading  
38 the summaries and stuff, I need to put a name tag  
39 around here.

40

41 MS. HOLMAN: This is Kendra, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What was your name  
44 again?

45

46 MS. HOLMAN: Kendra.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kendra. Kendra. I  
49 got -- yeah, Kendra. I got to say it like 50 times so  
50

0145

1 I can remember.

2

3 Okay. For this is a existing closure  
4 that's already been in a place and every so often we  
5 need to look at these proposals to make sure that  
6 they're in place with updated information and that's  
7 where we're at now?

8

9 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is already  
12 existing in the regs as a closure to muskox except for  
13 the rural residents out of Kaktovik by registration.  
14 And the harvest can never be -- exceed 3 percent of the  
15 number of muskox counted in that period of time that  
16 the permit is issued in Unit 26C. And so it's -- the  
17 ability to harvest one exists in Unit 26C because of  
18 the population decline.

19

20 So any other comments to Kendra.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, Eva, I would  
25 think that we're ready to go down the line of -- for  
26 comments and consultations and all that stuff.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
29 Council. And the Federal Subsistence Board did hold  
30 tribal consultation and considered the wildlife closure  
31 reviews along with the wildlife proposals. We didn't  
32 have any.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're there now,  
35 right?

36

37 MS. PATTON: Pardon.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're ready to go  
40 ahead and go down the gambit, I wasn't trying to hand  
41 the gavel or anything, but we're ready to start.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Oh, okay. I was reporting  
44 on the tribal consultation for you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, I mean, I would  
47 just see if we were on the same page here that we're  
48 ready to go down the list.

49

50

0146

1 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chair. And if you would like I can provide the report  
3 on the Board tribal consultation.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Report on  
6 the Board consultation. Tribal comments.....

7

8 MR. LIND: Eva.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....consultation.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Oh, Orville, you made it  
13 on.

14

15 MS. LIND: Yes, I made it on. It took  
16 me a while.....

17

18 MS. PATTON: Okay.

19

20 MR. LIND: .....but I'm on.

21

22 MS. PATTON: All right.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Orville.

25

26 MR. LIND: Yes, good morning, Mr.  
27 Chair. My good friend and Council member, Orville  
28 Lind, Native liaison for the Office of Subsistence  
29 Management. And starting off during our consultation  
30 that we held there were no questions or comments on  
31 that proposal.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. How about  
36 consultation with ANCSA corporations.

37

38 MR. LIND: And again during the ANCSA  
39 consultation we did not have any comments on that also.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Orville.  
44 Agency comments. We'll go down the list.

45

46 ADF&G.

47

48 MS. LENART: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
49 This is Beth Lenart from Alaska Department of Fish and  
50

0147

1 Game. The preliminary ADF&G position is neutral on  
2 this proposal because the State season is closed and  
3 has been closed.

4

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Federal  
7 comments.

8

9 MR. McKEE: Mr. Chair, BLM has no  
10 comments at this time.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, BLM. Any  
15 other Federal comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Tribal  
20 comments. Any Native village, regional tribal  
21 organization.

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Point  
24 Hope, the Native Village of Point Hope.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Point Hope.

27

28 MR. OOMITTUK: I was looking for the  
29 population numbers. Was it 169, was that what I heard  
30 earlier, I got -- kept getting cut off. I was looking  
31 on the booklet, I don't have my bifocals on me. So  
32 what's the population of muskox in 26C?

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Steve or  
35 ADF&G, I think those are the folks that do the.....

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: 26C.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....count and --  
40 26C, far eastern.

41

42 MR. BERENDZEN: Mr. Chair, this is  
43 Steve Berendzen. If you want me to provide that  
44 information again.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you please. Thank  
47 you.

48

49 MR. BERENDZEN: For.....

50

0148

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Did I hear a hundred  
2 and.....

3  
4 MR. BERENDZEN: No, Mr. Oomittuk, the  
5 population.....

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve  
8 Berendzen.

9  
10 MR. BERENDZEN: Okay. The population  
11 has declined to the point where muskox have not been  
12 reliably seen on Arctic Refuge for the last eight or 10  
13 years. And there -- what has been documented is the  
14 herd that is on the State lands to the west of Arctic  
15 Refuge and they move across the Canning River onto  
16 Arctic Refuge periodically or move back and forth. And  
17 then there's a herd on the Canadian border that moves  
18 periodically from Canada onto the Arctic Refuge near  
19 the Kongakut River. But it -- the surveys that had  
20 been done specifically for muskox and the last one was  
21 2011. As I understand they did not see muskox on the  
22 Refuge at that time. We've done incidental  
23 observations and surveys where we have occasionally  
24 seen muskox. The last time we had any significant  
25 numbers was a herd of 25 in 2019, the fall of 2019 and  
26 three individuals were seen in the spring of 2020. But  
27 the population is very low as far as we understand what  
28 we've been seeing in recent years.

29  
30 But Council member Rexford has  
31 requested a survey to be done specifically for muskox  
32 so we intend to do that this coming spring and we will  
33 hopefully get more accurate numbers, but for now it  
34 looks like from what our information has provided the  
35 numbers are really low.

36  
37 Does that answer your question.

38  
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you. You  
40 know, I -- you know, when I look at the -- when you  
41 look at the residents of the village of Kaktovik will  
42 not exceed 3 percent of the number of muskox counted in  
43 Unit 26C, you know, I would think that the same would  
44 go for the other communities that subsist on muskox.  
45 They're over there on the 23 and we don't have an open  
46 season for muskox and yet we have a high number of  
47 muskox. And I don't see why we can't have that 3  
48 percent, not exceed that 3 percent in there. You know,  
49 I -- that just caught my eye. You know, I -- you know,  
50

0149

1 we like muskox over here on this side, it's good  
2 eating.

3

4

Thank you for answering that.

5

6

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,  
7 Steve and thank you, Steve. So we understand the herd  
8 is not -- there's no harvestable surplus at all, it  
9 just -- yeah, we'd be lucky to see 10 muskox right now  
10 over there, but we will reserve that sight to talk to  
11 Kaktovik to see how many they are over there. But  
12 apparently it's very low, maybe, you know, potentially  
13 20 or lower. So there's no harvestable surplus so  
14 there's no opening and only reserved to be able to  
15 harvest one by rural Alaska residents of the village of  
16 Kaktovik.

17

18

Any other tribal comments.

19

20

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

21

22

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,  
23 Eddie.

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

That's just a thought. I don't know if  
it could be done, but, you know, right now Canada is  
not very supportive of our people across this border  
and we have dual citizenship, tribal members who have  
the right to cross this border and hunt. That's

0150

1 something that should be looked into I think for the  
2 sake of the muskox herd to grow. It's just a thought.

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. (In Native),  
7 Eddie. I think those are very important observations  
8 and information that would be important. And I don't  
9 want this just to be a comment, but I think we should  
10 make a -- some sort of resolution or something like  
11 that or a motion to effectuate if there isn't a  
12 communications link on muskox across the border to the  
13 Canadian government wildlife service to look into this  
14 and it might be an important relationship building  
15 mechanism to maybe make some buffer around the border  
16 where that -- it allows for these animals to be  
17 protected in the border, to be able to -- I mean, I'm  
18 just making some assumptions here.

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, Steve, if you could chime in on  
this concern just to talk about it a little bit under  
the tribal comments section here for Kaktovik. Steve  
Berendzen from wildlife -- I know we got a couple of  
Steves and it would be important to hear from the  
wildlife Refuge in this area.

MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
and thank you Mr. Rexford for reporting that. Yeah,  
this is Steve Berendzen for the record.

I -- this is news to me, I was not  
aware of any excessive harvest from Canadian residents  
and we are -- we can pursue it. I'm not going to make  
any promises as far as how far we get in this pursuit  
of that, but we will absolutely look into that and try  
to -- we will touch base with our Canadian counterparts  
and try to learn about the regulations and see what  
kind of restrictions they do have. But that is really  
surprising to me that one individual could take 30  
muskox like that.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, maybe it's  
the abundance issue. You know, like there used to be a  
period of time that you can get 10 caribou per day.  
And we have reduced that down to five because of  
conservation concerns and things like that and other  
conservation measures. But, you know, and maybe this  
is a -- maybe we can take this up on -- as some sort of  
resolution or motion to have our Federal folks work to

0151

1 discuss muskox management especially around the border  
2 area between Canada and the United States.

3  
4 Eva, I'm just going to maybe chime in  
5 with you or Orville that we can certainly make a  
6 resolution or adopt a motion that reflects this  
7 sentiment and to do something like that as a  
8 recommendation.

9  
10 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11 Yes, absolutely the Council can make a formal  
12 recommendation. It could also be, you know, in a form  
13 of a letter of request to the Refuge and to Fish and  
14 Wildlife Service that do manage the international  
15 relation.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds like a winner  
18 to me and maybe all of the above.

19  
20 Anyway I think some sort of resolution  
21 that could look into that matter and I really  
22 appreciate Eddie Rexford from Kaktovik to bring that up  
23 as a concern. And yeah, we've seen, you know, muskox  
24 start to increase numbers elsewhere. I don't know if  
25 it's habitat or if it's predation, but there seems to  
26 be a very low recruitment rate or possibly transient  
27 movement is not occurring any more to that degree.

28  
29 To -- in any event thank you.

30  
31 Any other tribal comments on WCR 22-25.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I'm going  
36 to go down the list. Item four, Advisory Group  
37 comments, other Regional Advisory Council Comments on  
38 this.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Any  
43 Fish and Game Advisory Committee comment on this  
44 reinstatement status quo.....

45  
46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
47 Council.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....in Unit 26C.

50

0152

1 MS. PATTON: I have not received any  
2 comments from the local State ACs on this wildlife  
3 closure review.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.  
8 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

9  
10 MS. PATTON: And no SRCs have taken  
11 action on this proposal either.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Summary of written  
15 public comments.

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

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kendra.  
22 This opens the floor to public testimony on WCR 22-25,  
23 Unit 26C muskox closure. Open to the floor.

24  
25 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hello, Earl.

28  
29 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I just cut off,  
30 but I got back on. They were saying something about  
31 Eddie Rexford and muskox. The last time I heard  
32 something about he was talking about Canadian people  
33 and the borderline they're having problem with muskox.  
34 So I was just concerned because I got cut out there.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Earl, the  
37 summary of that dialogue was across the border there  
38 seems to be the ability of hunter in the Canadian side  
39 to have a large take of muskox on the other side, on  
40 the Canadian side. And there might be issues of around  
41 -- especially around the border areas the inability for  
42 transient movement of muskox to reestablish in the  
43 American side. So I think that's at the heart of the  
44 concern. I mean you could just go right across the  
45 border and get a bunch of them, something like that.

46  
47 MR. WILLIAMS: I have a story about the  
48 boundary line treaty with Canadian back in '90 when I  
49 was a tribal member. Anyway we went to a meeting in  
50

0153

1 Arctic Village for Porcupine Herd treaty. Anyway when  
2 they had this thing going on they -- Arctic Village  
3 people were hearing stories about around Canada area  
4 they been killing a lot of caribou, they just don't  
5 (indiscernible - distortion) five a day like we do and  
6 six -- or six -- five or six a day. But we had a big  
7 conflict with that for a while and they had a meeting  
8 in Arctic Village, the whole community had a meeting  
9 with that treaty and, you know, it's been going on I  
10 heard around Kaktovik area because Herman brought that  
11 issue up too one time and I remember Herman spoke up  
12 about that. And it's kind of serious and I fully  
13 support Kaktovik on this muskox issue.

14

15 And thank you very much there Chair.  
16 This is Earl Williams, Anaktuvuk.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Earl.  
19 Any other public testimony.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
24 the Council.

25

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

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Eva.

29

30 MS. PATTON: If I may, just to note  
31 that the wildlife closure review process is a little  
32 different. Rather than a motion to support it would be  
33 a motion to maintain the status quo or if the Council  
34 wanted to propose a modification to the closure or to  
35 open the closure. So if the Council wishes to maintain  
36 the current closure to all but Federally-qualified  
37 users of the village of Kaktovik then that would be to  
38 maintain the status quo.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.  
43 What's the wish of the Council. We need a motion.

44

45 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. So moved,  
46 Mr. Chair. With that said sorry, I got -- there was  
47 some people that came into my -- while you guys were  
48 talking from the Native Village. So but so moved, I --  
49 if it's okay with Kaktovik. Well, I guess we don't  
50

0154

1 have a choice, I get that. So moved.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
4 the floor.....

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....to clarify that  
9 to maintain status quo.

10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Second by Earl.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded.  
14 Discussion.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I think it's  
19 important to maintain status quo because the population  
20 is near extinct in my view in that particular area very  
21 low, not even a harvestable surplus. So that would be  
22 our justification.

23

24 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, under  
25 discussion, you know, we got some high populations down  
26 on the western side, you know. You know, the muskox  
27 was just about extinct in the '70s and was  
28 reintroduced. I don't see why they can't get some  
29 muskox from the western side and bring them over to the  
30 eastern side. You know, that's something to look at  
31 because we are about 900 or more, a thousand muskox  
32 here. And, you know, so that's just a thought  
33 that.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's actually a  
36 pretty good -- you know, it's another justification  
37 because, you know, it is a traditional food source,  
38 customary use determinations made on this animal and  
39 maybe that would be something that we would take up as  
40 another action item is what do you do about recruiting.  
41 I do know -- I remember I think it was in the 1990s  
42 where there was a request from maybe the Interior  
43 Council to allow for the -- what was it Fortymile  
44 Caribou Herd at the time that was absolutely struggling  
45 to come back up and the way they handled that was to  
46 request the Region 10, North Slope Regional Advisory  
47 Council to adopt a whole bunch of wolves and relocate  
48 them instead of, you know, putting them down. And the  
49 Council agreed, said yeah, relocate all those wolves up  
50

0155

1 there and put them by Chipp (ph) or somewhere so I can --  
2 so I can see them.

3

4                   Anyway we agreed to those kind of  
5 things in the past. It doesn't seem like it's out of  
6 the question to -- if we can move wolves around and  
7 relocate them it's like we can do that with some other  
8 animals to see if that would help with recruiting.

9

10                   Anyway very good suggestion. Anyway  
11 we're still under discussion.

12

13                   MR. REXFORD: Question called for.

14

15                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
16 called for to maintain the status quo under WCR 22-25.  
17 All those in favor of maintaining status quo signify by  
18 saying aye.

19

20                   IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
23 nay.

24

25                   (No opposing votes)

26

27                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the  
28 ayes have it. The recommendation is to maintain status  
29 quo, WCR 22-25.

30

31                   All right. We'll go to where we need  
32 to be next there, Eva. That's the.....

33

34                   MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
35 Council.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Are we ready  
38 for crossovers?

39

40                   MS. PATTON: Yes, that brings us down  
41 to the crossover proposals.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So WP 22-  
44 45, here. Units 18, 22 and 23. Establish season,  
45 harvest limits for Alaska here. You'll find that on 78  
46 of your book.

47

48                   And I'm going to ask Kendra to go ahead  
49 and read that stuff.

50

1 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, members of the  
2 Council, this is Kendra Holman, wildlife biologist with  
3 OSM. So I will go ahead and read this and I don't know  
4 if the State biologist is on to help provide some  
5 information on this. I know in previous RACs he's --  
6 Council meetings he's helped provide some information  
7 beforehand, but I can go ahead and do this. And if  
8 he's on he can provide when I'm -- when I'm done. So I  
9 will be presenting a summary of the analysis of  
10 wildlife proposal WP 22-45 submitted by ADF&G to  
11 request -- requesting to create a specific harvest  
12 regulation for the Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and 23.  
13 It starts on Page 78 of your book.

14  
15 The proponent states that the once  
16 abundant Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and 23 is now at a  
17 very low density and has a patchy distribution  
18 throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Seward Peninsula  
19 and Northwest Alaska region. The Alaska hare is  
20 sometimes called jack rabbits, tundra hare or arctic  
21 hare. The Alaska hare is called the tundra hare in  
22 Federal regulation, but the Alaska hare appears to be  
23 the dominant term in contemporary usage including State  
24 regulations. The Alaska hare is a different species  
25 than the snowshoe hare despite being lumped together in  
26 Federal regulations.

27  
28 Federal subsistence regulation for the  
29 hare in Units 18 and 23 have not changed since 1991  
30 when the Federal Subsistence Management Program began.  
31 At that time a year round season with no harvest limit  
32 was adopted from State regulation. Federal subsistence  
33 regulations for the hare in Unit 22 was established in  
34 1990. In 1995 the Board adopted a proposal to shorten  
35 the season for hares in Unit 22 from July 1st to June  
36 30th and September 1st to April 15th with the intent to  
37 close the season for hare during mating, breeding and  
38 birthing season.

39  
40 ADF&G submitted proposal 15 and 43 to  
41 the Alaska Board of Game's consideration for the  
42 January, 2020 meeting noting very low densities, patchy  
43 distribution -- and patchy distribution of Alaska hares  
44 in the units. ADF&G requested the reduction of season  
45 and harvest limits in Units 18 and 22 for consistency.  
46 The Board of Game adopted an identical management  
47 structure in Units 18, 22 and 23 for the Alaska hare  
48 consisting of a harvest limit of two per day, a total  
49 of six per season and an August 1st through May 31st  
50

0157

1 season that required hunters to salvage the hide or  
2 meat for human usage.

3

4

5 Alaska hares are among the most poorly  
6 understood game species in Alaska. Anecdotally  
7 abundance is well below historical levels throughout  
8 the range of the species. In 2018 ADF&G initiated a  
9 multi year study to evaluate movement and mortality as  
10 well as long term capture techniques. Little is known  
11 about the Alaska hare. Household surveys indicate that  
12 it is harvested throughout the communities of western  
13 and southwestern Alaska.

13

14

15 Some information on this can be found  
16 on Page 85 and 86 of your meeting books.

16

17

18 If this proposal is adopted the Alaska  
19 hare season would be reduced although hunters will  
20 still have the opportunity of harvesting hares during  
21 winter when they're out engaging with other subsistence  
22 and recreational activities. The change in daily and  
23 overall harvest limits may be effective at reducing  
24 harvest which could translate in improvements in the  
25 conservation status of these populations. Any positive  
26 effects these changes on the Alaska hare population  
27 will benefit subsistence users in the long term despite  
28 the immediate reduction in subsistence opportunity.

28

29

30 The proponent requested a season which  
31 would be more restrictive than existing State  
32 regulations. If adopted as requested Federal-qualified  
33 subsistence users would still be able to harvest the  
34 Alaska hare in August and May under State regulations.

34

35

36 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
37 support WP 22-45 with modification to shorten the  
38 season from August 1st to May 31st and to modify the  
39 definition of the hare in Federal regulations.

39

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the  
42 Council. I'll be happy to address any questions.

42

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions on the  
45 -- for Kendra on WP 22-45 from the Council.

45

46

47

48

49 (No comments)  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seems to me this one  
is a crossover because of Unit 23 is my best guess.

50

0158

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 This is a crossover proposal for the Council because it  
3 does include Unit 23 and Point Hope is within Unit 23.

4  
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What say you, Point  
8 Hope. Sounds like your rabbits are getting low.

9  
10 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. You know, Mr.  
11 Chair, this is Steve for the record in Point Hope. You  
12 know, I know in the years past they did used to get  
13 hares. I know in Kotzebue area they're -- you know,  
14 sometimes they're right in the community over there in  
15 Kotzebue, you know. You know, I -- when I -- it --  
16 Unit 18 and Unit 22, you know, is out of our  
17 jurisdiction, but, you know, Unit 23. You know, and I  
18 always thought that rabbits were or hares were -- they  
19 populate pretty fast. I thought they were, but, you  
20 know, lately with the weather and everything seem like  
21 animals are starting to come back up north, you know,  
22 other species that used to be here years back. And,  
23 you know, I thought I heard a few times that some  
24 people saw some rabbits, but, you know, I think they  
25 call them hares, but, you know, the younger people now  
26 call them rabbits. But I always thought that they were  
27 real easily populated, you know, because they -- but  
28 apparently they're getting low. So I -- you know, I  
29 haven't seen rabbits here in Point Hope in years. You  
30 know, when I was younger I didn't see too many. When  
31 they trapped and hunted, you know, they caught foxes  
32 and coyotes and other things, but now they're getting  
33 otters.

34  
35 Thank you for that. You know, I.....

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

38  
39 MR. OOMITTUK: .....it just caught me  
40 -- you know, it just caught me when Unit 18 was in  
41 there and Unit 22, you know, and it, you know, this  
42 Unit 22, I didn't know where -- you know, it said to  
43 establish a season harvest limit for Alaska hare and it  
44 would be only in Unit 23, right, would be my  
45 understanding.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Steve, this  
48 affects Unit 18, 22 and 23. And it's submitted by  
49 ADF&G with a conservation concern regarding low density  
50

0159

1 of arctic hare and it's starting to be an issue. And  
2 it might be important for ADF&G to talk about this  
3 proposal and, you know, because a lot of trapping and,  
4 you know, using the fur for clothing and mittens and  
5 all that other stuff that's made into crafts and things  
6 like that, if there could be some explanation. And  
7 also a question to OSM preliminary conclusion to even  
8 shorten that window. OSM wants to looks like shorten  
9 thatwindow even morerestrictive than theState proposal.

10

11 So if we can get both OSM and ADF&G to  
12 say a little bit more about these regulation changes to  
13 the period and looks like also limit the harvest, maybe  
14 down to six or two hares per day, six per season. And  
15 before there was probably an unlimited amount of  
16 harvest for the rabbits like you said because, you  
17 know, they're rabbits.

18

19 So maybe ADF&G.

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: Good morning, Chairman  
22 and Council, this is Carmen Daggett with Alaska  
23 Department of Fish and Game. Rick Merizon was on in  
24 the Northwest Arctic RAC meeting and he's the one that  
25 studies small game. And he said that they hadn't  
26 really documented the presence of arctic hares in 26 or  
27 yeah, in Unit 26. And I'm not going to claim to be an  
28 expert on this particular matter, however I don't think  
29 that I've heard anyone in this region talking about  
30 Arctic hares. They're kind of in the southern portion  
31 of Unit 23 on the Seward Peninsula and they would be  
32 what people would call jack rabbits. They're about 30  
33 pounds, they're a huge rabbit and most of what I've  
34 seen in 26A are snowshoe hares which are much smaller.

35

36

37 So just that you're aware you're  
38 talking about the arctic hare which is a very large  
39 jack rabbit. That's what this proposal is about, just  
40 for point of clarification there.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think they  
43 were being clumped together as a -- all of that. But I  
44 just wanted to -- you know, because it's a crossover  
45 and part of this is in Unit 23, you know, we could  
46 simply refer to ADF&G I guess if we wanted to. But I'm  
47 just -- because the ramifications of doing this from an  
48 unlimited harvest level to six of these rabbits per  
49 season, that's all you get from -- if you were

50

0160

1 harvesting a hundred. Seems to me that would impact  
2 those households that depend on these for various  
3 things, from subsistence foods to the furs and things  
4 like that that make up mittens and clothing and things  
5 like that in many of these smaller communities that  
6 harvest these hares. So and I just want to see, you  
7 know, if there was -- you know, that study and to go  
8 from an unlimited down to six annually.

9

10 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I think that  
11 there has been some work to try to understand the  
12 Alaska hare population, but as the report that OSM gave  
13 mentioned they're one of the most poorly understood  
14 animal. And so, you know, I think that in most of the  
15 range where they are abundant or where they were  
16 abundant that their populations are lower than  
17 historically. I remember Board member Hoffman talking  
18 several times and asking people if they had seen any  
19 Alaska hares, he's from the Bethel area, and almost no  
20 one has seen an arctic hare in several years. But  
21 that's kind of my understanding of it and again I'm not  
22 an expert and I think we don't know very much about  
23 them. So to really understand their population numbers  
24 is kind of outside of what we truly understand right  
25 now, but I think we're working towards that, Rick  
26 Merizon alluded to that during the other meeting too.

27

28 So thank you, Mr. Chair, that's all I  
29 have.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. All  
32 right. I'm just concerned here, you know, there are  
33 arctic hares up here too and I think maybe there's  
34 snowshoe rabbits, who knows, but Unit 26A has them and  
35 Ikpikpuk and the upper Ikpikpuk area, you know, I've  
36 seen them up there before. So and -- anyway we hardly  
37 ever harvest them, you know, 150 miles southeast of  
38 here.

39

40 But yeah, just a concern because of the  
41 dependence on these things for many communities in that  
42 range.

43

44 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe OSM -- yeah, go  
47 ahead, Steve. Let me get to Steve here.

48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, I lived with

50

0161

1 my grandparents and, you know, they were born in 1900  
2 and 1902 and 1913 and 1917. And, you know, in the days  
3 when they trapped, when furs -- when they had a  
4 trapline for foxes, you know, when furs were -- when  
5 the fur traders were around in the 1920s and a source  
6 of funding coming in. You know, they talked about the  
7 arctic hare, but it wasn't in abundance, most of their  
8 traps were all foxes. They might have -- they caught a  
9 few coyotes here and there, he talked about coyotes,  
10 but mostly foxes, but not too much of arctic hare on  
11 this side of the western side of the DeLong Mountains.  
12 Most of their traplines were up north by (in Native)  
13 over there on the Cape Lisburne side there's a (in  
14 Native) on that side also where my parents lived, my  
15 grandparents were on the Lisburne Mountains. And the  
16 majority was all trapping, but, you know, they never  
17 talked about the arctic hare very much, you had to go  
18 further inland for that seemed like. I don't know if  
19 it was too much rocks or too much other animals that  
20 were in the area. We mainly were ocean people, you  
21 know, 90 percent of our food, but every once in a while  
22 they, you know, talked about them, but throughout my  
23 lifetime, 60 years, you know, I very rarely saw a hare.  
24 You know, they get pretty white and camouflage  
25 sometimes, you're not always looking for them. I don't  
26 know if there's any records of -- you know, I see  
27 populations of other places, but I don't see anything  
28 recorded for the Point Hope area, you know. In the  
29 past when they hunted just about everything and  
30 anything to where we're at today, you know, since the  
31 '70s things have changed quite a bit on what is  
32 harvested and what is taken.

33  
34

But thank you.

35  
36

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

37  
38

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the other question  
39 I had was probably to OSM, their preliminary conclusion  
40 with modification to shorten the season to August 1 to  
41 May 31 and to modify the definition of hare in Federal  
42 regulation.

43  
44

And can someone speak to that?

45  
46

MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
47 Holman. So the season was meant to be a little bit  
48 more aligned with the State season. It is very --  
49 they're similar. The State regulations still apply  
50

0162

1 when the Federal ones are on State land or as  
2 appropriate. As far as the definition, currently like  
3 the snowshoe hares, so the little ones, the little  
4 rabbits and then these -- the Alaska hares, the big  
5 ones, are all clumped together in Federal regulations  
6 so we need to separate them and pull them apart  
7 definition-wise in order to have this regulation. But  
8 we did try and do what we can. As far as specifically  
9 shorten, maybe Lisa can give a little bit more  
10 information on why.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean, we're trying  
13 to align with the State season request, you're going to  
14 be off by a couple months here.

15

16 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah. And maybe Lisa can  
17 speak to that information, Mr. Chair.

18

19 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Mr. Chair, this  
20 is Lisa Grediagin. And so currently the State  
21 regulations for Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and 23 is  
22 August 1st to May 31st. And so the OSM modification is  
23 just to align the Federal season for Alaska hare with  
24 the State season because everyone can already -- would  
25 already be able to harvest under State regulations  
26 during those additional months. Honestly I'm not  
27 really sure why ADF&G proposed a more restrictive  
28 season for Federal regulations that they currently have  
29 under State regulations and typically they want to  
30 align Federal and State regulations. So that's why OSM  
31 has that modification for the season.

32

33 And then as far as the -- modifying the  
34 definition of Alaska hare, as Kendra mentioned  
35 currently hares are lumped together in regulation,  
36 snowshoe and tundra hare. And while tundra hare refers  
37 to Alaska hare, Alaska hare is now the preferred term.  
38 And so if we're going to have a season in Federal  
39 regulation for Alaska hare we need to update the  
40 Federal definition of hare to include Alaska hare so we  
41 actually know that that's referring to when we have the  
42 season for Alaska hare.

43

44 So hopefully that helps. Let me know  
45 if that didn't make sense.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, anyway maybe  
48 you need to characterize them as rabbits, big ones,  
49 little ones. That way you got all these different

50

0163

1 things.

2

3

But anyway.....

4

5

6

MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark Burch from the Department of Fish and Game.

7

8

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

MR. BURCH: Yeah. As I said this is Mark Burch from the Department of Fish and Game, I'm in the Palmer office. I've been in communication with Rick Merizon. He is in a meeting right now, but he would be available if necessary in the next -- sometime in our about 20 minutes if that would be helpful to the group. I know it does kind sound of like you're on the periphery of this subject matter and maybe you've got it close to resolution, but if you would like to come back to it when Rick is available, he'd be happy to answer any question that's he's able to do in as I said about 20 minutes from now. So that would be up to you.

23

Thank you, Chair -- Mr. Chair.

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you. Yeah, my concern primarily is probably with the limit, from no limit to almost -- you can make maybe one-quarter of a parka. You know, I've got a picture of my beautiful daughter with a rabbit parka with a sunshine ruff just like my mom in one of her old pictures with a rabbit parka that she sewed together. And, you know, you're -- by doing this is some of the communities from no limit to six rabbits for the whole year, they might take several years to make a parka and even for the babies and stuff. So think about that for a minute, you know, if -- you know, six rabbits for the whole season might make the front side of the parka with no arms and no hood. And I have my grandkids with pictures (in Native) with beautiful parkas. And they have rabbit fur with wolverine and wolf sunshine ruff. And I'm just concerned about that and the ability for these traditional activities of clothing.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

And unless you guys are going to start giving us clothing from Burlington's and say hey, you know, we'll replace all of that with Burlington's fur right now, you know, and get you a sewn parka already made. Just an analogy, I'm just concerned about that because, you know, these -- we're talking about a --

0164

1 you know, maybe a hundred rabbits consumed to getting  
2 six. You know, I would maybe try to understand what it  
3 takes to make one parka and maybe that's the limit. It  
4 may be 20, 20 rabbits to make a parka and look at it  
5 that way instead of, you know, it might take a hundred  
6 rabbits to outfit a whole family of clothing type stuff  
7 like that.

8

9                   Anyway it's an important thing and  
10 maybe we ought to reserve some time for the proponent  
11 to talk a little bit more about that and if -- yeah, it  
12 just seems like there's some concerns here.

13

14                   Anyway we'll -- if it's the wish of the  
15 Council we'll keep that open for a little bit and go on  
16 to the next one of the crossover proposal if that's the  
17 wish of the Council unless you want to take it up and  
18 -- on the hare for Unit 18, 22 and 23. I mean, I have  
19 my own thoughts of bag limits and stuff like that and  
20 such a drastic decline in harvest and I don't know what  
21 the harvestable surplus issue is even on this and if  
22 there were information garnered that way. It just  
23 seems like we don't see them any more type, if we don't  
24 see them well, we should cut it out, you know, typing.

25

26                   Anyway just a concern. If it's okay  
27 with the Council until the ADF&G person comes online in  
28 about 20 minutes, you guy want to take up the next  
29 crossover. What's the wish of the Council.

30

31                   MR. REXFORD: So moved.

32

33                   REPORTER: Who was that, Eddie?

34

35                   MS. KIPPI: Second.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

38 Let's.....

39

40                   MR. OOMITTUK: There was a.....

41

42                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

43

44                   MR. OOMITTUK: .....motion that.....

45

46                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that we will --  
47 it's been moved by Kaktovik, seconded and to wait on WP  
48 22-45 on the hare and move on to the next one, WP 22-  
49 47.

50

0165

1 All those in favor say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. All  
6 right. What was the lady's name that was reading  
7 these.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
10 Council. That is Kendra Holman presenting.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Kendra.

13

14 MS. PATTON: ..... OSM wildlife  
15 biologist. And.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Kendra,  
18 you.....

19

20 MS. PATTON: .....Mr. Chair and.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Eva.

23

24 MS. PATTON: .....Mr. Chair and  
25 Council, I do want to check in because this is a  
26 caribou proposal we had State and Federal Staff on  
27 available to provide kind of an update and overview of  
28 the caribou status for Western Arctic Herd in this  
29 region. So just want to touch base with our caribou  
30 biologist and see if they would like to provide.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's do that.

33

34 MS. PATTON: .....an update prior to the  
35 analysis.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Let's -- I  
40 love to hear about the caribou world and what's going  
41 on with them before we take up this crossover proposal.

42

43

44 So go ahead. You have the floor.

45

46 MR. HANSON: Yeah, through the Chair  
47 and members of the Council, this is Alex Hanson, Alaska  
48 Department of Fish and Game. I work with the Western  
49 Arctic Caribou Herd in Kotzebue. I'll give you a brief  
50

0166

1 update and introduce this proposal.

2

3

4 So currently the Western Arctic Herd,  
5 I'll give you a brief history and background of the  
6 population from 2003 to 2016, the Western Arctic  
7 Caribou Herd population saw a steady decline from its  
8 peak of nearly 500,000 to 201,000 in 2016. This  
9 decline prompted reassessment of hunting regulations.  
10 Proposals to the Alaska Board of Game included  
11 prohibition on the take of calves and shortened bull  
12 season as a tool to minimize harvest impact while  
13 maintaining hunter needs. And that speaks to this  
14 proposal coming up.

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

Additional information for the Council  
to consider is our latest population estimate was 2019.  
That estimate was 244,000. We did not get a census in  
2020, we shot a census in this summer, 2021, and are  
working on putting that number together. That number  
will come out at the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
Working Group meeting in December.

Other considerations are the -- as far  
as the population and abundance, beyond that we monitor  
very closely recruitment and parturition or calving  
rate and we also look at the survival of the adult  
females which are the productive component of the herd.  
But what we've been seeing in the recent past is lower  
survival with the adult females than we would like to  
see and.....

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hello.

MR. HANSON: Sorry. Go ahead.

(No comments)

MR. HANSON: Anyway we're trying to  
understand that.....

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm sorry, I  
wasn't sure if I was still online.

MR. HANSON: .....trying to understand  
that and monitor survival moving forward, but it's been  
down in the last few years. Recruitment coming in has  
been on average about 17 calves to a hundred adults  
which is normal and acceptable levels. Parturition has  
been average or slightly below average in the last

0167

1 couple of years. From that perspective the population  
2 of the Western Arctic Herd seems to be doing fairly  
3 well.

4

5 And I will turn that -- turn the time  
6 back over to OSM for their analysis.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Kendra.

9

10 MS. HOLMAN: All right. Mr. Chair,  
11 members of the Council. I'll be -- this Kendra Holman,  
12 wildlife biologist with OSM. This is proposal WP 22-47  
13 regarding the Western Arctic Caribou Herd proposal for  
14 calf harvest. This proposal can be found on Page 89 of  
15 your meeting book. This proposal was submitted by the  
16 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and requests  
17 that calf harvest be permitted for caribou in Unit 22.  
18 The proponent states that the intent of this proposal  
19 is to allow harvest of orphaned calves and that this  
20 change would align Federal and State regulations.

21

22 In 2016 the Board of Game established a  
23 current registration permit for caribou in Unit 22 with  
24 a harvest limit of 20 caribou per year. Then in 2018  
25 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted regulations to  
26 require a State registration permit for Federal users  
27 in Unit 22. In January of 2020 the Board of Game  
28 adopted a proposal to allow calf harvest in Unit 22, 23  
29 and 26A. Also in 2020 the Federal Subsistence Board  
30 established a year round bull season and allowed the  
31 calf harvest in Unit 23. Justification to allow calf  
32 harvest was to permit the taking of orphaned and  
33 injured calves.

34

35 Caribou calves in the Western Arctic  
36 Herd are typically born in May or June and weaned by  
37 October or November. Calves will usually stay with  
38 their mothers for the first year of their life. If a  
39 calf is orphaned after they are weaned they have a much  
40 greater chance of survival than if they are weaned --  
41 than if they are orphaned before they are weaned. The  
42 current management level determined by the Western  
43 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group places the herd in  
44 the conservative declining category. Some harvest  
45 recommendations of this level include encouraging  
46 voluntary reduction of calf harvest and not allowing  
47 cow harvest by nonresidents. Factors leading to the  
48 declining population are not known for sure, but it is  
49 believed cow mortality and decreased calf recruitment

50

0168

1 are factors.

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

Residents of Unit 22 on average account for 17 percent of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd harvest. From 2016 to 2019 reported harvest averaged 377 caribou per year of which 74 percent were bulls and 26 were cows. It is unknown how many calves may have been harvested as it is not a reportable category. The majority of Unit 22 harvest occurs in winter when caribou are in the Seward Peninsula.

If calf harvest is allowed it may present a minimal conservation concern as most hunters do not specifically target calves. However it would allow the harvest of orphan calves who may die in the winter. One consideration of this point is that it is difficult to tell if the calf is orphaned or not as caribou herds tend to be quite spread out. Orphaned calves that stay with the herd are much more likely to live than a single calf on its own.

Adoption of this proposal may also reduce the wanton waste. It has been mentioned at other RAC meetings that rural residents have discovered calves that have been just shot and left to lay in the field. It is believed that there were -- these were shot by mistake by hunters who realized too late that their mistaken target and then left it in the field rather than bringing back an illegal animal and face repercussions.

This would also align State and Federal regulations. Currently Federal regulations are more restrictive than State regulations.

The OSM conclusion -- preliminary conclusion is to support WP 22-47.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank you, Kendra.

MS. HOLMAN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for Kendra on the proposal from the Western Arctic Working Group.

0169

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I just want to  
4 make some observations.....

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Point  
7 Hope.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....you know --  
10 yeah, go ahead, Steve, I'll refer to you first.

11

12 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. You know, the  
13 last population counted is 2019 and we're at just about  
14 2022. And the estimated population at 2019 is 244.  
15 And the year before that it was at a lower number I  
16 think, you know. And these are estimated -- you know,  
17 estimated counts, that are 20,000 above or 20,000  
18 below. You know, I know they had difficulties counting  
19 in 2020, you know, because of the weather and, you  
20 know, getting aerial photos. But you could still see  
21 the decline of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

22

23 And yet without these numbers of 2020  
24 and 2021 the Federal -- you know, when we put proposals  
25 before the Federal Subsistence Board on closure to  
26 nonresidents and sporthunters on the Western Arctic  
27 Caribou Herd because of the population, you know, and  
28 it gets overruled by the Federal Board even though  
29 there's public testimony. And when you listen to the  
30 public testimony you have people that don't even live  
31 near the Western Arctic Caribou Herd migration or route  
32 and you're hearing testimony from lower 48 and we get  
33 outnumbered. And here you got a proposal from the  
34 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group which is a  
35 broad, you know, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
36 Working Group is real broad, it's practically the State  
37 of Alaska, you know, and putting something before you,  
38 you know.

39

40 When you look at the Western Arctic  
41 Caribou Herd migration and how far south they go, you  
42 know, seems like we're always having other people make  
43 decisions on what we should do, you know, when we know  
44 the population that we need, get that population back  
45 up there, you know. At the highest it was at 500,000  
46 and we're below half. That's an estimate, we don't  
47 even know what the number is, it's been two years since  
48 we got a number. And yet, you know, whatever proposals  
49 come forward and whatever we decide, you know, it's  
50

0170

1 probably going to come to the Federal Subsistence Board  
2 and get overruled again by it, you know. Seems like,  
3 you know, whatever we decide, you know, what's in our  
4 neck of the woods, you know, we get stomped by the  
5 Federal Subsistence Board when a lot of time they're  
6 not even in their jurisdiction.

7

8 And the governor that appoints people  
9 to the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council that, you  
10 know, who consists of the Federal Subsistence Advisory  
11 Council or other, you know, if we have a listing of,  
12 you know, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group  
13 and you have, you know, comments on, you know, a lot of  
14 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional  
15 Advisory, Western Interior Alaska Regional Advisory,  
16 Seward Peninsula Subsistence, you know, you have the  
17 Northwest Arctic Subsistence, you know, which is our  
18 neighbors. But I -- you know, I just -- you know, I  
19 would like to see the numbers. I don't know what's  
20 taking so long for the counts for 2020 and 2021 here,  
21 we're just about 2022 and yet they -- you know, they  
22 give us an estimated numbers and yet they're not going  
23 to post an estimated number when they can post numbers  
24 of -- in the past of what is the estimated count and  
25 they know the population is going down, And we bring  
26 that up to the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council of  
27 the population and our concerns of the population and  
28 why we want closure, you know, to nonresidents and  
29 sporthunters coming in, but yet, you know, they -- you  
30 know, they can make -- we seem to just get overruled  
31 even though it's in our jurisdiction and that's just  
32 not right sometimes, you know.

33

34 You know, we're concerned, we're the  
35 ones that live here, we're the one that need to put  
36 food on our table because of the high cost of living.  
37 We depend on these animals, it's our food source, it's  
38 been with us for thousands of years. And it's a way of  
39 life.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native)

42

43 MR. OOMITTUK: It's not -- you know, we  
44 leave the antlers out there, you know, we don't always  
45 bring them home. But, you know, we bring the meat and  
46 the skin.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0171

1                           CHAIRMAN BROWER:   (In Native), Steve.  
2   And it's always good to hear you and your passion on  
3   our resources. And sometimes a concerning dilemma when  
4   we're faced with trying to do the best regulatory  
5   recommendations for the resources that we depend on.  
6   So it's always good to reflect on that.

7  
8                           I wanted to just talk a little bit  
9   about it myself too in terms of WP 22-47, request that  
10  calf harvest be permitted for caribou in Unit 22 and  
11  this is submitted by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
12  Working Group. And, you know, I've observed orphan  
13  calves or calves that are alone by themselves and being  
14  chased around by red foxes. And, you know, I have  
15  wanted to go put that little calf down because it's  
16  being chased, it gets pitted and it -- the fox chews on  
17  his leg for a little bit and he gets away and he's  
18  limping and he's -- you know, the -- all the little  
19  predators like foxes and other things, it's -- if you  
20  ever see that it's almost inhumane to watch it because  
21  it -- it's heart-wrenching to watch nature be that way,  
22  but sometimes it is.

23  
24                           But at the same time in our history  
25  just like I'm talking about the arctic hare for  
26  clothing, fawns and when the fawn's fur is just getting  
27  good, that used to be a preferred harvest for clothing,  
28  for caribou clothing. It's important to recognize what  
29  we traditionally use some of these animals, whether  
30  they're big bulls, females or even the calves. And  
31  it's important and I think it's -- to me it's  
32  supportable because it's part of our heritage and use  
33  of these resources. We had a practice of using and  
34  eating the fawns as well, not to mention what -- you  
35  know, an incident to occur and mistaken identity on  
36  shooting a calf and then knowing that you can't get a  
37  fawn or a female accompanied by a calf, it's a -- rules  
38  and you find yourself in that situation you easily  
39  could be charged with wanton waste if -- and  
40  criminalized in that way.

41  
42                           So I would tend to support WP 22-47  
43  even though it's really, you know, on our outer fringes  
44  of just a crossover proposal. And, you know, I think  
45  in these instances making those determinations and the  
46  ability to make that determination on a orphaned calf  
47  and something to that affect.

48  
49                           Anyway that's my take on that proposal.  
50

0172

1 Any other Regional Advisory Council member comments on  
2 WP 22-47.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Hearing  
7 none. Report on Board consultation, tribes.

8

9 Orville.

10

11 MR. LIND: Yes. Good morning, Mr.  
12 Chair, Council members. Orville Lind, Native liaison  
13 for the Office of Subsistence Management. During the  
14 consultation sessions there were no comments made on  
15 proposal 22-47.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any ANCSA  
20 corporation comments or consultation?

21

22 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair, again there were  
23 no questions or comments on that proposal.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Agency comments.  
28 ADF&G.

29

30 MR. HANSON: Yeah, through the Chair,  
31 this is Alex Hanson, for the record Alaska Department  
32 of Fish and Game. The department supports this  
33 proposal as it will reduce hunter confusion by aligning  
34 State and Federal regulations.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any  
39 Federal comments.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none on the  
44 Federal side. And any tribal, tribal comments, Native  
45 villages, regional tribal agencies, you have the floor.

46

47 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Native  
48 Village of Point Hope. As president of the tribe, you  
49 know, the proposal for WP 22-47 requesting that calf

50

0173

1 harvest be permitted for caribou in Unit 22 submitted  
2 by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group in  
3 Unit 22. And this is the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
4 population, you know.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, in that Unit 22  
7 only. I would think that's a Western Arctic Herd there  
8 going on.

9

10 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. And, you know,  
11 we're very concerned of the population and we have  
12 estimated counts from 2019. We don't even have a  
13 population count of 2020 or 2021. And it's been at a  
14 steady decline. And living in Unit 23 area where the  
15 Western Arctic Caribou Herd comes through and calve  
16 north of us and you see the population declining I  
17 would not support this.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank  
22 you, Steve. Yeah, I don't think it's a general harvest  
23 of any calf, it's only -- and maybe that's how it needs  
24 to be wordsmithed a little bit, it's talking about a  
25 harvest of orphaned calves and to align with -- the  
26 regulation change would align Federal and State  
27 regulation in these instances where -- and because I've  
28 watched this myself as a hunter and the concerns that  
29 are raised because I had wanted to put a calf down kind  
30 of and harvest it myself because, you know, it looks  
31 like it's lost its mamma and it looks like it might not  
32 be able to survive and the predators are out to get it.  
33 But it's a very important thing about population  
34 decline as well.

35

36 Thank you, Steve, for the comment.

37

38 Any other comments on WP 22-47 from the  
39 Council.

40

41 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,  
44 Anaktuvuk, Earl.

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, this is Earl.

47

48 (Teleconference interference -  
49 participants not muted)

50

0174

1 MR. WILLIAMS: They were important  
2 Western Herd. Anyway we used to be on that group, but  
3 I don't know what happened. And I see Wanda should be  
4 on there and I think she volunteered on that on my  
5 behalf because I fully support this. And  
6 (indiscernible - distortion)

7  
8 (Teleconference interference -  
9 participants not muted)

10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: .....and they had a  
12 meeting of our Council at Shungnak and them  
13 (indiscernible - distortion) doesn't matter what happen  
14 in your area. And (indiscernible - distortion).....

15

16 (Teleconference interference -  
17 participants not muted) because that's -- I'm pretty  
18 sure (indiscernible - distortion) still involved in  
19 this (indiscernible - distortion).....

20

21 (Teleconference interference -  
22 participants not muted)

23

24 MR. WILLIAMS: I just wanted to  
25 (indiscernible - distortion).....

26

27 (Teleconference interference -  
28 participants not muted)

29

30 MR. WILLIAMS: .....I'm pretty sure  
31 it's about a (indiscernible - distortion)

32

33 (Teleconference interference -  
34 participants not muted)

35

36 MR. WILLIAMS: still involved in this.

37

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

42

43 (Teleconference interference -  
44 participants not muted)

45

46 MS. PATTON: A friendly reminder to  
47 everyone on teleconference if you could please mute  
48 your phones, we're hearing background conversation  
49 here. Please take a moment to mute button or star, six  
50

0175

1 to mute.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

4

5

6

MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair, we do have a number of Regional Advisory Council recommendations. This was taken up by numerous other Councils, both within Unit 22.....

8

9

10

11

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let me finish off any more -- if there are any other tribal comments.

12

13

14

Are there any additional tribal comments. This is your opportunity to provide comment on this proposal.

15

16

17

(No comments)

18

19

20

21

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Advisory Group comments, other Regional Advisory Councils.

22

23

24

25

26

27

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. So we had numerous Councils that took this up. The Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council is predominantly in Unit 22 and they voted to support WP 22-47.

28

29

30

31

32

The Western Interior RAC is a crossover region for them as well and the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council voted to support this proposal.

33

34

35

36

37

The YK Delta RAC is also -- has communities with customary and traditional use determination in Unit 22 and they voted to support this proposal.

38

39

40

41

42

And the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council just met in the two days preceding your meeting and the Northwest Arctic RAC voted to oppose this proposal.

43

44

45

46

So all Councils voted to support and Northwest Arctic RAC voted to oppose this proposal.

47

48

49

50

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And

0176

1 we'll go down the line. Fish and Game Advisory  
2 Committees.

3

4 MS. PATTON: We did not receive any  
5 comments from Fish and Game ACs. And the Subsistence  
6 Resource Commissions were -- there was a meeting just  
7 starting this week so we haven't any reports from the  
8 local SRCs at this time.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
13 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
16 Yes, that was the SRC report. They are just meeting  
17 this week themselves so we don't have any  
18 recommendations from the local Park Service SRCs at  
19 this time.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And  
24 summary of written public comments.

25

26 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
27 Holman. There were no written public comments received  
28 on this proposal.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I'm going  
31 to open the floor to public testimony for any public  
32 participants that want to offer testimony I'm opening  
33 the mic now.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, public, okay.....

38

39 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, this is Kyle  
40 Joly with the Park Service.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Kyle.

43

44 MR. JOLY: Yeah, I was just wondering  
45 if OSM can clarify a point. Is the proposal just for  
46 orphaned calves or is it all calves?

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0177

1 MS. HOLMAN: This is Kendra Holman.  
2 The proposal is specifically geared towards orphaned  
3 calves.

4  
5 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, through the  
6 Chair, this is Lisa Grediagin. The regulation is for  
7 all calves, but, I mean, the intention behind the  
8 proposal is to target orphaned and abandoned or injured  
9 calves. But again the regulation as written is just  
10 removing that prohibition to take calves so then the  
11 default would be you could take any calf in regulation.

12  
13 Thanks.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, now there poses  
16 a concern that I would agree with Steve then that we  
17 shouldn't just -- what about the mother and calf -- a  
18 calf accompanied -- a mother accompanied by a calf  
19 which there are some regulations that way, I don't know  
20 if they exist in Unit 22 that way. Other things like  
21 that that we have been trying to preserve for the  
22 conservation measures to allow for continued growth of  
23 the herd. So if we were I think going to make some  
24 efforts to support this I would not make it the  
25 default, I would make it the language of orphan and --  
26 orphan calf because just for those reasons that Steve  
27 had mentioned about conservation measures because, you  
28 know, calf that is orphaned and the -- at least the  
29 type I've seen that are not going to make it, you know,  
30 they're not going to make it, but they're still --  
31 they're still good and harvestable. And those that  
32 I've seen the predators are taking because they've lost  
33 their accompanying of the -- of the female, of the  
34 mother. Anyway it just -- I think there shouldn't be  
35 some perception about, you know, these types of  
36 differentiation, that it's just all out calves. And  
37 you just are able to take those when we already have  
38 conservation concerns.

39  
40 In any event thank you for the  
41 clarification. And was that Kyle that wanted the  
42 clarification?

43  
44 MR. JOLY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank  
45 you. Kyle Joly for the record.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other  
48 public testing on the.....

49  
50

0178

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. This  
2 is Steve for the record.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead.

5  
6 MR. OOMITTUK: So, you know, after  
7 hearing you are we able to do that, you know, this is a  
8 proposal submitted by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
9 Working Group. And can we change the -- can we amend  
10 this when we agree to it.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Absolutely. We could  
13 amend it absolutely.

14  
15 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. I will listen to  
16 the rest of the discussion and then when it comes to  
17 the point we're going to accept it or revise the  
18 language a little bit to where we feel suitable. And I  
19 agree with what you said, you know, orphan calves, you  
20 know, calves that probably won't even make it  
21 especially at a young age compared to older calf that  
22 is orphaned or by itself out in the country without the  
23 herd, you know. And that's something, you know, I, you  
24 know, that I would, you know, if we know that this calf  
25 is not going to make it, that it just -- you know, you  
26 see dead calves and they get rotted and the -- you  
27 know, the meat is lost and the skin, you know, is good--  
28 you know, calf skins are good for certain things too,  
29 you know, but if we know that the calf's not going to  
30 make it, that it should be put out of its misery and  
31 harvest it. It's edible and it's -- and it's --  
32 but.....

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. All right.  
37 Any other public testimony.

38  
39 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, this is Wanda.  
40 I have a comment.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Wanda.

43  
44 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 About the orphan calves I would hope I was -- I was --  
46 I have -- I don't -- I won't support the one with all  
47 orphan calves, but I'll support if there's changes in  
48 the summary to only orphan calves because, you know,  
49 growing up we've always only taken the bulls. Butin --  
50

0179

1 with our elders they would -- you know, they like  
2 eating the soft meat so long ago they would take the  
3 calves for their soft meat and their -- to eat their  
4 soft heads, you know, the brains and stuff. But in --  
5 during my hunting time, all these years that I've been  
6 hunting I have witnessed only one time that I have seen  
7 a different cow with another calf taking in -- taking  
8 in the orphan calf and I have witnessed that during my  
9 hunting time.

10

11 I just wanted to add that into the  
12 comments. It was interesting to hear some of these  
13 comments and I just hope that we can change the wording  
14 instead of keep doing all the calves to change it to  
15 orphan calves. That's my suggestion and that's all I  
16 have to say.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.  
21 And we'll continue with any other public testimony on  
22 WP 22-47, a proposal that requests that calf harvest  
23 be permitted for caribou in Unit 22. Submitted by  
24 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.

25

26 MR. HANSON: If I may, this is Alex  
27 Hanson for the record, Alaska Department of Fish and  
28 Game.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Alex.

31

32 MR. HANSON: I just wanted to kind of  
33 echo Wanda's comments there. You know, generally  
34 speaking we don't see a lot of harvest of calves, we  
35 don't have -- really have a way to track that, but it  
36 just allows for folks to make that conservation  
37 decision on their own. As Wanda indicated typically  
38 folks are harvesting bulls and selecting for bulls, but  
39 it does allow folks if they wanted to make a  
40 traditional harvest, if they wanted that clothing or,  
41 you know, that softer meat for the elders, that allows  
42 them to do that.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it's -- you  
47 know, I -- you know, some of these calves when they're  
48 not with their mother and they're fat and they're more  
49 like year -- you know, they're just past a year and

50

0180

1 just have left their mother, I would just consider  
2 those caribou. And it might be a young caribou and  
3 they're very good eating, but I think when you're  
4 talking about calves, you know, those that we've seen  
5 that become stranded and motherless and still I think  
6 in a condition that has been described in the default  
7 language. That default language should be what it is  
8 so there's a distinction made because I think after the  
9 calf has left the mother and it's on its own that's a  
10 caribou. And it might, you know, still be young and  
11 it's all alone and they are now part of the broad herd  
12 itself at that point, you know.

13

14 In any event I thank you for that.

15

16 Any other public testimony.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. What's  
21 the wish of the Council.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We need a motion to  
26 support.

27

28 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

31

32 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

35

36 MR. OOMITTUK: I'm going to change the  
37 motion and go into discussion and see what we can do,  
38 if we, you know, the Council and -- you know, I make a  
39 motion to support WP 22-47 for discussion.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

42

43 MR. OOMITTUK: .....purposes.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
46 the floor to support WP 22-47 from Steve Oomittuk from  
47 Point Hope.

48

49 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

50

0181

1                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by  
2 Wanda from Atqasuk. We're now under discussions.

3  
4                   MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. And, you know,  
5 during discussion, Mr. Chair, just for the record this  
6 is Steve with Point Hope, Unit 23. You know, the  
7 Western Arctic Caribou Herd comes through here and so  
8 there's times when we see orphaned calves. And, you  
9 know, we get in trouble for getting them. But to put  
10 them out of their misery, you know, you never know, you  
11 always see airplanes flying around and you don't have  
12 much game wardens in the area, but we don't always  
13 notice. But seem like, you know, if there's an orphan  
14 caribou that isn't going to make it that it just be put  
15 out of its misery and provide food on the table rather  
16 than go to waste, get rotted. I don't know, you know,  
17 what kind of language can we put in there to do that  
18 only, you know, like we talked about earlier, only if  
19 it's orphaned and at that young stage where it won't  
20 survive and is away from its herd, you know, isolated  
21 or whatever. You know, I like what you specified  
22 earlier in the language and if we put that language in  
23 there, I mean, it's something that I would support  
24 rather than the way the language is right now I would  
25 not support that.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.  
28 And, you know, we have some pretty good justification,  
29 Western Arctic Caribou Herd is categorized as  
30 conservation and declining. So there's some leeway  
31 here so that we can try to provide some guidance to the  
32 fame managers and things that way. I would suggest  
33 that we amend the language of the -- of the main motion  
34 just to add orphan in front of calf and leave it at  
35 that. And then all of the other sub default language  
36 would be consistent with the proposal. And I think if  
37 we had a -- under discussion here made a motion to add  
38 orphan in front of calf would remedy those concerns.

39  
40                   MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, for the  
41 record this is Steve Oomittuk in Point Hope. So moved.  
42 I would -- it would amend this proposal of WP 22-47 and  
43 adding orphan in front of calf.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
46 the floor to amend the main motion by Steve Oomittuk to  
47 add orphaned in front of calf.

48  
49                   MR. WILLIAMS: Second by Earl.  
50

0182

1 MS. KIPPI: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Earl from  
4 Anaktuvuk Pass. Any discussion.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

9

10 MS. KIPPI: Question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been  
13 called for to amend WP 22-47 by adding orphan in front  
14 of calf. Signify by saying aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
19 nay.

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. The  
24 amendment has passed. We're back on to the main  
25 motion. We're under discussion.

26

27 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question on the main  
30 motion to adopt WP 22-47 as amended signify by saying  
31 aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
36 nay.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. The  
41 amended proposal has passed the Regional Advisory  
42 Council for the North Slope.

43

44 All right. I'm going to see about  
45 going back to WP 22-45, the arctic hare and see if we  
46 had the guys that was supposed to be with us in 20  
47 minutes. And we were under discussion.

48

49 MR. MERIZON: Mr. Chairman.....

50

0183

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

2

3 MR MERIZON: .....and members of the  
4 Council. Sorry.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Go ahead, Rick. I was  
7 just going to introduce you.

8

9 MR. MERIZON: My apologies. These  
10 telephone meetings can be challenging, I apologize.  
11 Again my name is Rick Merizon and I'm with the Alaska  
12 Department of Fish and Game. I'm a small game  
13 biologist that has been researching and studying Alaska  
14 hares and am happy to address any questions or concerns  
15 the Council may have.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. We did  
18 have some conservation concern type questions. You  
19 know, prior limitations and stuff were no limitations  
20 on the harvest of these rabbits, the big ones. I think  
21 that's what we're talking about here. And from no  
22 limit to down to six, maybe six furs might constitute  
23 maybe half a parka or something. And for the whole  
24 season. And I want to know if that's -- it seems like  
25 a very drastic limitation, but maybe it's warranted and  
26 maybe you've got convincing conservation needs here  
27 that need to go to that level down because, you know,  
28 the furs are used quit a bit, not to mention as a  
29 subsistence food resources. You know, I've got lot of  
30 pictures of my grandkids with rabbit fur parkas that  
31 are beautiful and they're at festival time and during  
32 blanket toss and things like that, I would suspect many  
33 communities would be impacted in many different ways  
34 from having mittens to parkas and beautifying  
35 themselves and clothing themselves with a -- with the  
36 rabbit which is widely used.

37

38 So maybe you could talk a little bit  
39 about that and why it's down to six as the most extreme  
40 conservation measure. And I would have thought at  
41 least bring it down to the ability to make one full  
42 parka, maybe 20 of them or something like that.

43

44 So you have the floor.

45

46 MR. MERIZON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
47 Again this is Rick Merizon with the Alaska Department  
48 of Fish and Game. I just want to extend my gratitude  
49 to being able to speak to the Council today and trying  
50

50

0184

1 to address any questions you might have. So I guess in  
2 reply to your concerns, first thing I just want to  
3 point out is the proposal WP 22-45 deals with -- only  
4 with one of two Native hare species in Alaska,  
5 specifically what we call the Alaska hare or it's more  
6 commonly known as the jack rabbit or tundra hare.  
7 These are the large 10 to 15 pound hares that exist  
8 largely south of Unit 26. There are some smaller  
9 populations in central and southern Unit 23, but by and  
10 large the Alaska hare occurs from central Unit 23 down  
11 through the Seward Peninsula and the YK Delta, Bristol  
12 Bay and the Alaska Peninsula. So this proposal does  
13 not address the more common and abundant snowshoe hare,  
14 this is only addressing the less abundant Alaska hare.

15

16 So beginning in 2017 myself and several  
17 other researchers and Staff within the Department of  
18 Fish and Game began visiting many rural villages  
19 throughout the range of the Alaska hare and trying to  
20 learn as best we could from local long -- especially  
21 long term residents in some of these rural villages  
22 about what they knew about jack rabbits, what they --  
23 what they were seeing more recently and how that  
24 compared to what they had seen 20, 30, 40, even  
25 sometimes 50 years prior. And almost as a rule what we  
26 heard from virtually every rural resident throughout  
27 the range of the Alaska hare was that they were far  
28 less abundant than they had ever remembered seeing them  
29 in their lifetime. The last known high throughout most  
30 of the places we visited, was reported to be back in  
31 the late '70s or early '80s. And since the mid '80s  
32 virtually nobody reported seeing high numbers of Alaska  
33 hares or jack rabbits.

34

35 That instituted or was sort of the  
36 catalyst to begin a four year research project on this  
37 species to try to understand their just basic biology,  
38 movement, mortality, but then also try to develop a  
39 long term population monitoring technique. And we've  
40 been successful in both -- achieving both of those  
41 objectives and we feel very confident that we've  
42 developed a survey design that will be able to monitor  
43 jack rabbit populations going into the future. We've  
44 also learned an extremely -- a great deal of  
45 information from the few individuals we've been able to  
46 put a radio collar on.

47

48 So with both of those -- all of those  
49 efforts that we've employed over the last three or four  
50

0185

1 years we felt that what we were learning was -- it was  
2 very important to have a discussion about a more  
3 contemporary management approach on this species  
4 because the species was far less abundant than current  
5 regulations suggest. And already on the State Board of  
6 Game side, the Board of Game, Alaska Board of Game has  
7 already adopted much more restrictive regulations that  
8 are currently in place throughout Unit 23, 22 and 18.  
9 And the proposal you have before you, WP 22-45 is an  
10 attempt to just essentially have the discussion and  
11 potentially mirror State regulations that are largely  
12 in affect already.

13

14 The reason that the dates are different  
15 is because it was suggested at one point along the way  
16 that currently in Unit 22 hare season dates occur from  
17 the 1st of September to the 15th of April and we  
18 thought in order to just help reduce hunter confusion  
19 we would maintain those dates as opposed to the dates  
20 that the Alaska Board of Game adopted which are  
21 slightly different. But again that was only to -- only  
22 for the attempt to reduce hunter confusion.

23

24 So hopefully that may have addressed  
25 some of your concerns or questions, but again I'm happy  
26 to continue providing you any information I can.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it does. It  
29 does -- that somebody's actually studying these things  
30 and making these determinations. And it's important to  
31 hear that especially when a proposal comes in that  
32 makes a drastic change in harvest of these types of  
33 resources and for me that's -- I'd just like to say  
34 thank you for that. So it would be nice to have a  
35 picture of the varying differences of snowshoe and  
36 Alaska hare or maybe there's an arctic hare or  
37 something, arctic rabbit. Be good to see, to see the  
38 difference that you're talking about as well.

39

40 But I think we went through the whole  
41 gambit of this already for this proposal and we were  
42 waiting on a little bit more information from the area  
43 biologist working on this stuff. And maybe I'm going  
44 to go down on report on Board consultation with the  
45 tribes.

46

47 MR. LIND: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
48 Council members. Orville Line, Native liaison. There  
49 were no questions or comments on this proposal.

50

0186

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. ANCSA  
4 corporation consultations.

5

6 MR. LIND: Again same answer, no  
7 questions or comments on that proposal.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Agency  
12 comments, ADF&G comments.

13

14 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair and Council,  
15 ADF&G supports this proposal with modification to match  
16 the State season of August 1 through May 31st as it  
17 addresses the conservation concerns that local  
18 residents have expressed along with Alaska Department  
19 of Fish and Game Staff are finding. It's also  
20 important to align State and Federal regulations to  
21 reduce hunter confusion.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And  
26 Federal comments.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Hearing  
31 none. Tribal comments, Regional and Native villages.

32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: Can you hear me, this is  
34 Steve at Point Hope.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Point  
37 Hope.

38

39 MR. OOMITTUK: When you look at table  
40 one and you look at the -- how much was harvested in,  
41 you know, Unit 18, Unit 22, Unit 23 and the years that  
42 they were harvested, you know, it only goes back to --  
43 I -- you know, for Unit 23 I only see up to, you know,  
44 there's some at 2012 at Noorvik, 2013 Deering. You  
45 know, I don't see how they're knowing the population  
46 when they don't have data on what was harvested. Here  
47 we are at 2021 and yet when you look at table one and a  
48 lot of the data only goes up to 2014 or 2013.

49

50

1                   And, you know, and then like what  
2 Gordon was mentioning, you know, I remember seeing jack  
3 rabbits or hares, arctic hare parkas that were so  
4 white, I -- you know, in my younger years I thought  
5 they were foxes, but they were rabbits, white hair  
6 rabbits. My aunt -- my aunt used to make them too.  
7 You know, I know they harvested, you know, whenever  
8 they were around, but it wasn't that often. But you  
9 don't see -- you don't see anything in our area other  
10 than Kotzebue, you know, in Unit 23, you know, and I --  
11 I've always heard of Kotzebue and I'm surprised, you  
12 know, that there's no testimony from Kotzebue or  
13 anything or the Western Arctic -- Northwest Arctic  
14 Working Group or, you know, Northwest Arctic Borough  
15 area, any testimony on this. I know they're right in  
16 their community at times and, you know, I've seen  
17 rabbits right inside Kotzebue itself, you know. The  
18 numbers, but I -- you know, I just -- you know, the --  
19 and dropping it from an unlimited to six on -- based on  
20 what count is that when we don't even see the numbers  
21 before.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.  
24 That's the type of concern that would raise my eyebrow  
25 too. I mean, I think in my view it would be maybe, you  
26 know, 10 rabbits or 12 or 15 rabbits, at least enough  
27 to make some usable, you know, when you're building a  
28 -- making a parka or something like that, you probably  
29 got about, you know, 10 skins to work with at a  
30 minimum. Anyway that's the same kind of concern I had.

31  
32                   Any other tribal comments.

33  
34                   (No comments)

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I'm going  
37 to go down the list. Advisory Group comments, other  
38 Regional Advisory Councils.

39  
40                   MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva.

43  
44                   MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair  
45 and Council. The Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional  
46 Advisory Council voted to support WP 22-45. And the  
47 Seward Peninsula RAC also voted to support WP 22-45.  
48 The Western Interior Council also took this up as a  
49 crossover proposal and deferred to the home region.  
50

0188

1 And the YK Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
2 supported WP 22-45 with the modification proposed by  
3 OSM for the season dates of August 1 through May 31st.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. Any  
8 Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments?

9

10 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
11 did not receive any AC comments on this and as well the  
12 National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commissions  
13 had not yet met to make any recommendations on these  
14 proposals.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Summary  
19 of written public comments.

20

21 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
22 Holman. There were no public comments received on this  
23 proposal.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. All  
26 right. The mic is open for public testimony. Any  
27 general public may now make testimony on the proposal  
28 for WP 22-45.

29

30 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve  
31 at Point Hope.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

34

35 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, when you look  
36 at the table and the years, you know, 1980 was  
37 abundance, you know, the Unit 18 really depends on --  
38 in fact they really hunt the Arctic hare or the hare or  
39 jack rabbit, whatever category, I don't know if it  
40 changes as it goes further south. You know, you're  
41 talking a very wide spread from jack rabbits that were  
42 way up in the arctic, to hare, to rabbit, you know,  
43 when you talk about a hare or a rabbit then it's pretty  
44 much the same from the Yup'ik area, you got Kwethluk  
45 and Kotlik and Emmonak, you know, and these ones, you  
46 know, in the 1980s like 806, Alakanuk 669, Kotlik 552  
47 and then you have the other ones in Unit 22 which are,  
48 you know, Shishmaref 112 and Stebbins 110, the highest  
49 numbers. And then Unit 23, Kotzebue in 1991 was 97,  
50

0189

1 you know, that's the highest numbers. And, you know, I  
2 -- you know, I don't know Kotzebue area or Unit 23 area  
3 still hunt any more hares still.

4  
5 You know, they're good eating, you  
6 know, they're like -- you know, hares are good eating.  
7 And the skins are pretty good and light and white, you  
8 know, good for fancy parkas. In the old days you'd see  
9 little girls have them long ago, you know, but just  
10 having numbers is, you know, and that's what Gordon  
11 stated, you know, from -- you know, how did that number  
12 come up six, you know, when they -- when we had an  
13 unlimited thing and what would be suitable. I just --  
14 cutting it down to six when it was unlimited how does  
15 that number get utilized when -- could it be more.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, certainly,  
18 Steve, you bring some good points and those are  
19 important things, you know. I kind of think, you know,  
20 six is pretty low and maybe we should, you know, say  
21 something a little bit about that or modify the -- our  
22 own approach to it, maybe to allow 15, 15 hares or 12  
23 hares is enough to make and finish a garment would be  
24 my preference. It seems six, you know, you might need  
25 to go borrow fur from somebody else to finish a parka  
26 or something.

27  
28 And they should continue to work to  
29 identify the conservation here and I think it's an  
30 important resource for small game and like you say some  
31 villages harvested 600, 800 of them and things like  
32 that. And in any event that would be my concern.

33  
34 So where were we, are we on -- were we  
35 on public testimony still.

36  
37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, that was the  
38 public testimony and then down to Regional Council  
39 recommendation.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

42  
43 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
46 the Council on WP 22-45.

47  
48 MR. WILLIAMS: I'd like to make my  
49 testimony, Mr. Chairman.

50

0190

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, this is Earl from  
8 Anaktuvuk. I'd like to make comment on the rabbits.  
9 Earlier when I was growing up, when I was a kid, this  
10 elder back in -- back in '61, '62 when I was a kid sent  
11 the rabbits there for this elder, she was about 98  
12 years old and she wanted rabbit, rabbits, rabbithair --  
13 rabbit furs. I was wondering about that. And so I  
14 gave about 10 caribous -- I mean, rabbit skins and  
15 later on people were giving her rabbit skins and I was  
16 just wondering what was going on. And she was doing  
17 this for a period of time, she was sitting on the floor  
18 rubbing it and just sewing them together. And about a  
19 year later when she passed on -- when she passed on I  
20 seen her in the -- when she passed on I seen her inside  
21 the church with that -- with that rabbit skin blanket  
22 that she made. My mom told me when elders know when  
23 they're going to pass away they always made something  
24 out of rabbit, rabbit skin blanket. so they could go to  
25 sleep on or something.

26

27 Anyway that's what I heard when I was a  
28 kid and I don't think six rabbit is going to do any  
29 good on trying to make something out of it. I would  
30 prefer more rabbit skins.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's an awesome  
35 comment and thank you, Earl. Pretty interesting.

36

37 Any other public testimony.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none we'll go  
42 down to Regional Council recommendations. What's the  
43 wish of the Council. Need a motion to support and then  
44 we can go into discussions.

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I make a  
47 motion to support this -- this amendment.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion to

50

0191

1 support WP 22-45 from Earl from Anaktuvuk Pass.

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

MR. OOMITTUK: Second that motion for discussion purposes.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded by Point Hope, Steve. We're under discussion.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. Under discussion. You know, I -- you know, the number that was given to us is six and, you know, I know, it's -- if we can amend that and put it to a higher number which we feel is suitable. You know, we had a long discussion on that and we don't even know the actual numbers, but yet we know they decline, but when you look at the numbers that used to be harvested and then you know they're still around, you know, I would feel good, you know, like what Gordon mentioned, you know, instead of six, you know, 15. And then if it comes back to the Council, you know, once we get an accurate number of exactly what's the population, you know, are they at a very steady and a high rate decline, it look like the harvest -- you know, a lot of the areas haven't harvest as much as they used to. I don't know where the decline is at, whether it's the food source. We notice in the climate change and how things are, you know, we see a lot of decline in a lot of different things, migration of animals whether they're coming north or moving south or not coming back to certain areas. But I would think six is kind of a low number.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you, Steve. And I think that would be consistent with, you know, the -- what the recommendation will -- will it be beneficial or detrimental to subsistence needs or uses. And I think it would be maybe highly detrimental to subsistence needs and its uses like the garments and the gloves and mittens and things, you know. A lot of the rural communities and like around -- up here on the North Slope, you know, a lot of communities struggle and they have to make do from the resources that the lands have to offer. That's the basic need of subsistence. I don't think we go out to overharvest and decimate any population of our species and because we're going to need to have them next year and the year after that. So I think we're always a conservative people throughout these regions and we have our own

0192

1 ways, you know, there's some certain times we don't  
2 even like to hunt caribou bulls (in Native) that rut  
3 season, (in Native). You know we shift hunting caribou  
4 so we don't get the ones in rut.

5

6 So I think we have been -- you know,  
7 we're faced with some of these challenges and I think  
8 having enough to finish a parka or maybe that blanket  
9 in these kind of situations and stuff, that could be  
10 seen as detrimental to subsistence need. And I would  
11 hope that, you know, were under discussion that maybe  
12 the -- a motion to amend from this Council just to be  
13 heard, you know, maybe 15 or 10 because we're starting  
14 from no limit, we can catch all we want all these years  
15 and then all of a sudden we're oh, you can only get  
16 six. Pretty soon they're going to say you can only get  
17 one. And maybe it will come to that, but more study  
18 and reasoning should be followed if we -- and be the  
19 basis for that type of conservation measure. But I  
20 think from no limit to maybe 15, I think you can --  
21 that would be palatable. And then when your study is  
22 conclusive and there needs to be even greater  
23 conservation measure that they come back. But if the  
24 study comes back that maybe 45 is the right number and  
25 supportable. We don't know until there -- that  
26 conservation is completely identified in this area.

27

28 So if somebody wants to make an  
29 amendment to this proposal it would be the time now  
30 under discussion because I think we've talked about  
31 many of the justifications here already.

32

33 MR. WILLIAMS: Can we under discussion?

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Earl.

36

37 MR. WILLIAMS: You know, they say our  
38 rabbits recycle every eight years or something like  
39 this.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Yeah, those  
42 are important traditional ecological knowledge too just  
43 like the lynx. You know, my dad was a reindeer herder,  
44 he would talk about the lynx. He was a reindeer herder  
45 in the 20s, 30s, up to the 40s until he had to go World  
46 War II. And he would talk about cycles of animals.  
47 Lynx have a cycle of seven years and they -- and they  
48 become abundant again and move around at least on the  
49 North Slope they would be more present on a seven year  
50

0193

1 cycle. And that's important to recognize is the  
2 traditional ecological cycles and stuff up here as  
3 well.

4

5 Thank you, Earl. I mean, those are  
6 very important things to even mention when we're  
7 talking about proposals.

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Another thing too this  
10 old man brought it to my attention one time and said  
11 that caribou, they don't migrate the same route all the  
12 time, they always go a different route because of their  
13 lichen. When they run out of that one area they move  
14 to another area. So that's another theory right there.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So we're  
17 under discussion. I think we can at least make our  
18 voice heard on this proposal if we wanted to, if we  
19 think a number that to be conservative, I think, you  
20 know, if somebody wants to propose amending -- to amend  
21 this proposal would be the time to do it now.

22

23 MS. PATTON: And thank you, Mr. Chair  
24 and Council. If I may when -- just to clarify, when  
25 you're talking about 15 hares are you talking 15 for  
26 the season, just to clarify from the daily bag limit in  
27 the proposal and the season limit.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: For the season. I  
32 mean, if you're trying to make a garment you're going  
33 to -- your season could be over in about one month, you  
34 know. I mean, they're -- sometimes the fur season we  
35 look at when the fur is just right like (in Native)  
36 would be good right now. And then they'll start to get  
37 bright somewhere around March. And we try to get the  
38 fur when it's the optimum time to get that fur. So I  
39 think we're talking about 15 for the season, from an  
40 unlimited -- no limit bag limit per season. So.....

41

42 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
43 Council. And just one more clarifying question as  
44 well. On Council's main motion to support the  
45 proposal, was the Council's intent to support the  
46 proposal with a season as suggested by OSM which would  
47 be a longer season -- longer Federal subsistence season  
48 than the original proposal.

49

50

0194

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just wanted to  
2 clarify that.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's a good point.  
5 Yeah, I would suggest the OSM proposal for a longer  
6 season, but changing -- recommending a change to the  
7 season bag limit from six to maybe 15.

8  
9 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I think.....

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

12  
13 MR. OOMITTUK: Steve for the record.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

16  
17 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, and I would agree  
18 with that to amend the bag limit from six to 15. And  
19 then we're talking -- we're talking per person, we're  
20 not talking, you know, per community, they're talking,  
21 you know, the person that hunts here is that he's  
22 allowed 15 for that season, and that's based on Unit  
23 18, Unit 22 and Unit 23. And I would change that  
24 motion to 15 like what was.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion.....

27  
28 MR. OOMITTUK: .....to amend.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....on the floor to  
31 amend the WP 22-45, the season bag limit to -- from six  
32 to 15 and it's my understanding in additional dialogue  
33 with Eva, our coordinator, to also include the  
34 recommendation from OSM for the longer period of time.

35  
36 Motion on the floor from Steve.

37  
38 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded by  
41 Wanda from Atqasuk. Any discussion on the amendment.

42  
43 MR. WILLIAMS: Question by Earl.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been  
46 called for. All those in favor of amending WP 22-45 to  
47 change the season bag limit from six to 15 and to agree  
48 with the longer season as suggested by OSM signify by  
49 saying aye.

50

0195

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
4 nay.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. The  
9 ayes have it. And we're back to the main motion.  
10 We're under discussion.

11

12 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been  
15 called for on the main motion to support WP 22-45 as  
16 amended signify by saying aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
21 nay.

22

23 (No opposing votes)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. WP 22-  
26 45 hares in Unit 18, 22 and 23, have been approved by  
27 the Regional Council with modifications.

28

29 It's now lunchtime. What's the wish of  
30 the Council.

31

32 MR. WILLIAMS: Let's break until 1:00,  
33 Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You guys want to have  
36 lunch until 1:15 because we're past 12:00.

37

38 MS. KIPPI: So moved for lunch break  
39 until 1:15.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. There's  
42 been a motion to go to lunch and be back at 1:15. All  
43 those in favor signify by saying aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're at  
48 recess.

49

50

0196

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 MS. PATTON: Do we have Eddie Rexford  
6 or Steve Oomittuk yet.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon. Do we  
11 have any other Council members that have joined us on  
12 teleconference?

13

14 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, Eddie's calling in  
15 now.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Eddie.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon.  
20 Gordon Brower's on.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Good  
23 afternoon, Gordon. We have -- good afternoon. So far  
24 we have Earl and Wanda and Eddie and yourself, just  
25 waiting for Steve to connect. I did just get a text  
26 from Martha Itta. She has not been feeling well and it  
27 sounds like was able to get in for a clinic  
28 appointment. So she may not be able to join us. She's  
29 going to try to call in, but she may be out for an  
30 appointment.

31

32 Mr. Chair, I think we can reconvene the  
33 meeting and Steve Oomittuk will join us when he can  
34 here.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So do we  
37 have a quorum and the ability to do action items?

38

39 MS. PATTON: Right now we have four  
40 Council members present. I did have some correction  
41 from others yesterday on Roberts' Rules of Order. So  
42 technically half plus one would be four and a half, but  
43 with -- suggested by leadership that four Council  
44 members would entail a quorum.

45

46 Before we get back into the Regional  
47 Advisory Council proposals I did want to check in with  
48 the Council on the agenda. We do have quite a few  
49 proposals still to go and a number of other reports and  
50

0197

1 discussions on the agenda as well as our agency  
2 reports. And we're having some very good discussion on  
3 the crossover proposals, it's a little more time than  
4 had anticipated and so wanted to check in with the  
5 Council members on your availability for tomorrow  
6 morning if need be in order to complete the agenda.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, you want to apply  
9 the whip, 'ey.

10

11 MS. PATTON: My apologizes, Counsel,  
12 there's a lot of proposals.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, tomorrow is  
15 Friday. Let me see here. Tomorrow morning, the 5th,  
16 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. is Assembly presentation Kaktovik  
17 plan and annual update. I have a rehearsal to do to  
18 present the comprehensive plan to the Assembly. That's  
19 slated to start at 9:00 a.m. And then 1:30. 1:30 is a  
20 material sales biweekly meeting. Then 2:00 p.m. is our  
21 practice for the Drive to Thrive. And then 3:30 --  
22 3:30. I don't know what this 3:30 is for. The  
23 preAssembly meeting from 3:30 to 5:00. So I'm kindof --  
24 I might not be available. I've got a whole bunch of  
25 meetings lined up at least for my part. So starting  
26 around 9:00 a.m.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We can see what the  
31 appetite of the Council is to go past 5:00 maybe or we  
32 can think about that or we can talk super fast, you  
33 know.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you. Thank  
36 you, Mr. Chair. And we can certainly strive to get  
37 through as much of the agenda as possible, likely it  
38 would be running late into the evening. And if  
39 necessary we can take a look at scheduling out another  
40 day although I think it would be challenging to get all  
41 the Council members back. So yes, let's try to work  
42 through the agenda and work a little late into the  
43 evening.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

46

47 MS. PATTON: .....if necessary here.  
48 And we'll revisit where we're at a little later in the  
49 day then.

50

0198

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So we can  
4 start to -- I would say we're out of recess, we're done  
5 playing now. So and we'll start with -- did you want  
6 to do a quick roll call?

7

8 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
9 Chair. I know Wanda just connected (indiscernible -  
10 distortion) to call back in right now. So we have  
11 Gordon Brower.

12

13 MS. KIPPI: Hello.

14

15 MS. PATTON: There's Wanda. Wonderful  
16 can you hear.....

17

18 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. Yes, I can.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Okay. Wonderful. Thank  
21 you. So we're just going through roll call now.

22

23 Gordon Brower.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm here.

26

27 MS. PATTON: And Wanda Kippi.

28

29 MS. KIPPI: Here.

30

31 MS. PATTON: And Steve Oomittuk, have  
32 you joined us online so far?

33

34 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, I'm here.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Okay. Great. Thank you,  
37 Steve.

38

39 Billy Patkotak, Jr. I believe is still  
40 absent.

41

42 And Edward Rexford, Sr.

43

44 MR. REXFORD: I'm present.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Eddie.

47

48 And Martha Itta.

49

50

0199

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. PATTON: And again Martha may need  
4 to be excused for a clinic appointment. So we'll  
5 welcome her back when she can join us.

6

7 Peter Williams, Earl Williams.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. PATTON: I know we had Earl on  
12 earlier. Are you still connected with us, Earl.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MS. PATTON: Earl Williams, are you  
17 still online.

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm here. I'm here.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Okay. Great. Thank you.

22

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, there he is.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Okay. Wonderful. So, Mr.  
27 Chair and Council members, we have five of seven  
28 Council members present. We do have quorum.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, we have a quorum,  
31 right?

32

33 MS. PATTON: Yes, we do have quorum.  
34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

37

38 MS. PATTON: And Mr.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And so we'll go --  
41 we'll start where we left behind. Just for your  
42 information, Council members, Eva has noticed that  
43 we're pretty slow and that we may need to find a way to  
44 address the remaining meeting and the agency reports  
45 and stuff by adding an extra day. Tomorrow I don't  
46 think I'll be available all day, I've already committed  
47 to meetings all day tomorrow. But if there was a way  
48 we could talk like chipmunks, like super fast and  
49 stuff, but being coherent, we might be able to finish  
50

0200

1 the day and maybe extend the time beyond or something,  
2 maybe take a dinner break. I don't know what the wish  
3 of the Council will be at that time, but once we reach  
4 5:00 we'll decide at that time. She's just worried  
5 about the agenda and we're pretty slow because we got a  
6 lot of things to say.

7

8 Good enough?

9

10 MS. PATTON: Yes. And it's been  
11 excellent, the questions from Council. I have  
12 certainly learned a lot. We do want you to share your  
13 traditional knowledge and discussion on these  
14 recommendations.

15 We do have a -- I have a recommendation  
16 for the next proposal that we get to. Since we do have  
17 a caribou biologist on if the Council would like to  
18 consider taking up the WCR 22-45 which is caribou Unit  
19 23, Noatak National Preserve, close to all but  
20 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, hold up here,  
23 I'm getting mixed up. Where are we on that, we were on  
24 the.....

25

26 MS. PATTON: So that.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Yes, that proposal is  
31 actually or that closure review is actually at the  
32 bottom of your crossover proposal list. And I was just  
33 recommending.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

36

37 MS. PATTON: .....if we bump that up  
38 and take that up next while we have caribou biologists  
39 available to address any questions if they do come up.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds like a very  
42 logical thing. So WCR 22-45. We all agreed to be  
43 flexible yesterday, to shuffle things around that might  
44 be important. So I would concur, let's go ahead and  
45 read the WCR 22-45 caribou Unit 23, Noatak National  
46 Preserve, closed to all but Federally-qualified  
47 subsistence users.

48

49 Yeah. Okay. Is that -- what was the

50

0201

1 gal's name?

2

3 DR. VOORHEES: Kendra. Mr. Chair, this  
4 is Hannah Voorhees.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah, Kendra,  
7 yeah. Yeah, go ahead.

8

9 DR. VOORHEES: This is Hannah Voorhees,  
10 I'll be presenting this particular closure review.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. You have  
13 the floor, Hannah.

14

15 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. This is  
16 Hannah Voorhees, I'm an anthropologist with the Office  
17 of Subsistence Management and I'll be presenting  
18 wildlife closure review 22-45. The analysis begins on  
19 Page 142 of your meeting materials.

20

21 Wildlife closure review 22-45 reviews a  
22 geographically targeted closure within Unit 23. This  
23 is a year round closure to hunting for caribou by non-  
24 Federally-qualified users. There's a map of the  
25 closure area on Page 144 of your meeting materials.  
26 This closure is coming before you because residents of  
27 your region have a customary and traditional use  
28 determination for caribou in Unit 23.

29

30 A description of the closure reads,  
31 Federal public lands within a 10 mile wide corridor,  
32 five miles either side along the Noatak River from the  
33 western boundary of Noatak National Preserve upstream  
34 to the confluence with the Cutler River within the  
35 northern and southern boundaries of the Eli and Aggi  
36 River drainages respectively and within the Squirrel  
37 River drainage are closed to caribou hunting by  
38 Federally-qualified -- except by Federally-qualified  
39 subsistence users hunting under these regulations.  
40 This closure was initiated in 2018 and has not been  
41 reviewed since.

42

43 Next I'll present some regulatory  
44 background. In 2015 the Board approved a special  
45 action request from the Northwest Arctic Regional  
46 Advisory Council to close caribou hunting on Federal  
47 public lands in Unit 23 to non-Federally-qualified  
48 users for the 2016 to 2017 regulatory year. The  
49 Council submitted this request for conservation  
50

0202

1 purposes, but also because nonlocal hunting activities  
2 were negatively affecting subsistence.

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

In 2017 the Northwest Arctic Council again submitted a temporary special action request to close caribou hunting on Federal public lands to non-Federally-qualified users in Unit 23 for the 2017 to 2018 regulatory year. The Board approved this request with modification to close all Federal public lands within a targeted area in Unit 23. This resulted in the current closure which we're now reviewing.

In 2018 the Board adopted proposal WP 18-46 which brought the geographically targeted closure into permanent regulation. This was consistent with the recommendations of the Northwest Arctic and Seward Peninsula Councils as well as the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. The Board viewed the targeted closure as a reasonable compromise to a complex problem.

In June this year the Board deferred wildlife special action WSA 21-01 which requested closing Federal public lands in all of Unit 23 as well as 26A to caribou and moose hunting by non-Federally-qualified users from August 1st to September 30th, 2021 only. This would have been an expansion of the targeted closure that we are reviewing now, but would have only been in place for two months out of the year. And we'll be discussing WSA 21-01 further down in the agenda.

In terms of biological background you've had some of that. The 2019 population estimate as Steve also noted was 244,000 caribou. And the results of the 2021 census are not yet available. The herd is classified by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group as falling into a conservative, declining management level. Local hunters account for approximately 95 percent of the total Western Arctic Caribou Herd harvest. In Unit 23 caribou have historically been available during fall migration, but that has not reliably been the case in recent years. Caribou migration has occurred later in fall resulting in subsistence harvest also occurring later for some communities which in turn contributes to food insecurity.

In terms of the facts of this closure

0203

1 to date the most recent subsistence survey of caribou  
2 harvest in Noatak, the most affected community, dates  
3 to 2016 to 2017. There are no new data available that  
4 would allow for a comparison household caribou harvest  
5 before and after implementation of the closure.  
6 However testimony reflecting the success of the closure  
7 for Noatak has been given by Northwest Arctic Council  
8 members every year since the closure was implemented.  
9 If this closure is lifted non-Federally-qualified users  
10 would be able to hunt caribou on Federal public lands  
11 along the Noatak River and within the Squirrel, Eli and  
12 Aggi River drainages. This could result in more user  
13 conflict and interfere with caribou harvest by  
14 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

15  
16 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
17 maintain the status quo with the following  
18 justification. The current closure is still necessary  
19 to continue subsistence uses of the Western Arctic  
20 Caribou Herd for Federally-qualified subsistence users,  
21 especially Noatak residents. The underlying factor  
22 leading to the closure in 2018, user conflict, has  
23 persisted overall in Unit 23, but has been mitigated in  
24 the closure area. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
25 continues to be managed at a conservative, declining  
26 level. Since the closure has been enacted user  
27 conflicts within the closure area have been reduced and  
28 the hunt experiences and harvest success of Federally-  
29 qualified subsistence users have improved.

30  
31 And just as a reminder on closure  
32 reviews the Council's options are to maintain, modify  
33 or eliminate the closure.

34  
35 Thank you. I'm available for any  
36 questions.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions on this  
39 proposal, let me get back to the page here, of WCR 22-  
40 45, caribou Unit 23, Noatak National Preserve, closed  
41 to all by Federally-qualified users.

42  
43 And was that Hannah?

44  
45 DR. VOORHEES: Yes, Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for  
48 Hannah on the analysis.

49  
50

0204

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

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Then OSM is opting to maintain the status quo meaning keep it close to all but Federally-qualified users in that map that's defined on Page 1 -- what page was the map, on Page 144.

DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that the crosshatched map on the Noatak River getting close to Cutler River and then go -- and then Eli River, Agashashok River and it looks like there's some areas around the Squirrel River and it looks like it's -- around the Squirrel River that might be State land or BLM administered lands that's around the Squirrel River, but recognizing that the waterway, that belongs to the State I suppose from Kiana going.....

DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....west looks like. Yeah, go ahead.

DR. VOORHEES: Oh, I wasn't sure if that was a question or not. Just let me know if you do have a question.

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, is it excluding those waterways that seems like there's a patch within all this hatch -- crosshatched areas that are bolded in black and then it seems like there's an area that has the river itself on the Squirrel River with no crosshatching.

DR. VOORHEES: My understanding is that it's just the BLM lands in that area that are closed and yeah, everything else would be State administered. And so the closure wouldn't apply there.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. And -- all right. And maybe there should be some level of how that's going with them because there's lands on either side and in the middle of that where the Squirrel River is where -- is that a tier hunt in that area or is that just wide open for all residents?

0205

1 DR. VOORHEES: That's a good question.  
2 I don't believe it's a tiered hunt. Is ADF&G on,  
3 otherwise I can check quickly.

4  
5 MR. HANSON: Yeah, through the Chair,  
6 this is Alex Hanson, Alaska Department of Fish and  
7 Game. This hunt is administered for residents through  
8 the RC 907 harvest ticket so a registration permit.  
9 And then for nonresidents through harvest ticket. So  
10 there's no drawing, no tier hunt, this is an over the  
11 counter hunt.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And -- okay. I'm  
14 just -- you know, there's this closure area that's all  
15 crosshatched and then this area around the Squirrel  
16 River where there's some crosshatching and then areas  
17 that are looks like State administered lands that  
18 that's -- that's just for all resident in these areas  
19 to conduct their hunting activities.....

20  
21 MR. HANSON: Yes. Through the Chair,  
22 that.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....without the  
25 restrictions that are in the crosshatch?

26  
27 MR. HANSON: That's correct. Those  
28 areas that are -- don't -- aren't included in that  
29 closure, the restricted Federal lands, are open to all  
30 residents of the State and nonresidents alike.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All  
33 right. So I'm just trying to understand a little bit  
34 better because there's a -- this controlled use area it  
35 seems like it's not embraced by ADF&G even though  
36 they're -- there's closures around all but to  
37 Federally-qualified users and these little slivers that  
38 go through, looks like it's mainly the river waterway  
39 that -- to access these areas.

40  
41 MR. HANSON: If I might.....

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just my observation.

44  
45 MR. HANSON: Okay. One point of  
46 clarification if I may. Through the Chair, this is  
47 Alex Hanson, Department of Fish and Game.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Alex.  
50

0206

1 MR. HANSON: Just to be clear there's a  
2 CUA and that is a State closed area for all big game  
3 hunting and that is a great portion of that closure  
4 area, but the closure that we're talking about is just  
5 that Federal closure area. So there's three different  
6 things going on, there's this Federal closure, there's  
7 a State CUA and there's a delayed entry closure by the  
8 Park Service. So quite a lot going there -- on there  
9 trying to solve this issue.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Right. What  
12 was the State, you said D-U something, D-U-A?

13

14 MR. HANSON: That was a CUA, controlled  
15 use area. So that restricts aircraft use for any big  
16 game hunting in that corridor that the State CUA  
17 controls.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Okay.  
20 It's good to understand what's going on currently in  
21 these areas. I've heard about it for many years from  
22 Enoch and others over time. And about competition in  
23 this areas with local subsistence users and those kind  
24 of issues over time.

25

26 So any other questions to Hannah on WCR  
27 22-45, it's a crossover proposal, close to all but  
28 Federally-qualified users. And I think the reason.....

29

30 (Teleconference interference -  
31 participants not muted)

32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: I was trying to find  
38 the.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The map.

41

42 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I -- is that  
43 1.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Page 144.

46

47 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. Yeah. Okay. I  
48 was looking at another one, I went on the internet and  
49 -- okay. Yeah. And the boundary line of nonclosure.

50

0207

1 And, you know, except to Federally recognized hunters.  
2 My washer is on. I don't know if you guys can hear  
3 that, but, you know, what about the closure on Federal  
4 lands up on the North Slope where a majority of the  
5 nonresidents and sporthunters go and hunt. You're  
6 talking in an area where most of the residents within  
7 the NANA area, you know, and then a majority of the  
8 people that are nonresidents and sporthunters go up the  
9 Kelly, north of and into the North Slope area on  
10 Federal land. What about the closure to nonresidents,  
11 you know, can we include that.

12

13 MR. HANSON: Yeah.

14

15 MR. OOMITTUK: You're talking in an  
16 area where a majority of the residents live. You're  
17 not talking where a lot of the people that come into  
18 Kotzebue and sporthunters that go further north on  
19 Federal land.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Steve, this is  
22 the Chair, Gordon Brower. This is a existing closure  
23 that hasn't been revisited that occurred during that  
24 period of time when there was an actual closure. And  
25 that from time to time we need to look at these  
26 closures on an interval and find new information  
27 whether that control use area has different types of  
28 controls. The current control and this is limited and  
29 this was probably a -- something the Northwest Arctic  
30 Regional Advisory Council did, but it -- it's their  
31 proposal and it's been in -- been in effect and we're --  
32 we are looking at it because it's -- another region  
33 sponsored it, but because of Unit 23 is partially on  
34 the North Slope we get to either defer it to them or  
35 support it to maintain status quo or something to that  
36 effect.

37

38 If I am mistaken maybe Hannah can  
39 correct me.

40

41 DR. VOORHEES: That's correct, Mr.  
42 Chair. And there will be a chance to comment on the  
43 larger proposed closure for caribou and moose hunting  
44 by non-Federally-qualified users in 23 and 26A later on  
45 in the meeting.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. So, Steve, I  
48 think the concerns that.....

49

50

0208

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay.

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

MR. OOMITTUK: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....you bring, we'll talk about those on another proposal, but this one's an existing one that's in -- currently in effect in the control use area in the Noatak Preserve. And I think we can defer any action on this to the -- to those most affected by this and the proponent of that to the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council. It's what I'm kind of thinking on some of these.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you for clarifying that. And I would agree with you also.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

MR. OOMITTUK: .....you know, Noatak is over a hundred miles west of us. You're talking.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

MR. OOMITTUK: .....it's in the Northwest Arctic Borough area and out of, you know, might be out of our jurisdiction, but it's an area Western Caribou Herd in there, but I would think they would have more control, that's right in the Noatak and Noatak drainage. I was wondering why they reviewed it and it came to the North Slope Subsistence Advisory, you know. So.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you for clarifying that. And hopefully the other topic of, you know, how many times we tried to close hunting to nonresidents on Federal lands within Unit 23 within the North Slope and then this one, you know, has been there for a while and it finally be, but it's not in our area.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah. You're the only reason we get to say anything about it if we wanted to because you're part of Unit 23. So that's my take on it.

Any other questions to Hannah before we

0209

1 move on to the protocol.

2

3 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is  
4 Hannah. I just wanted to clarify that actually all the  
5 residents of Unit 26A have C&T for caribou in Unit 23  
6 and that's why it's coming before you. Minor point.

7

8 Thanks.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Very  
11 good. I better go hunting over there.

12

13 All right. Well, having been clarified  
14 a little bit, here we go. Report on Board  
15 consultations to the tribes.

16

17 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
18 going to make this easy. For both tribal and ANCSA  
19 consultations there were no questions or comments on  
20 WCR 22-45.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,  
25 Orville. Agency comments, ADF&G.

26

27 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this  
28 is Alex Hanson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
29 Kotzebue. The department's position is to eliminate  
30 the closure as it has no bearing on the conservation of  
31 the herd.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, ADF&G.  
36 Federal comments.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Come on Feds, you can  
41 say something.

42

43 All right. Tribal comments, any Native  
44 village regional tribal organization.

45

46 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is  
47 Native Village of Point Hope.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

50

0210

1 MR. OOMITTUK: As president of the  
2 tribe I think this would -- I'll defer it to the  
3 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council, it being in  
4 its jurisdiction. I -- I'm sure, you know, that they  
5 have the.....

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.  
8 Any other tribal comments.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.  
13 Advisory Group comments, other Regional Advisory  
14 Councils.

15  
16 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
17 Council. So there were three other Regional Advisory  
18 Councils that took action on this wildlife closure.  
19 The Northwest Arctic RAC and the Seward Peninsula RAC,  
20 both voted to maintain the status quo of the closure.  
21 And then the Western Interior RAC voted to defer to the  
22 directly affected regions.

23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. Fish  
27 and Game Advisory Committees.

28  
29 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
30 Counsel. We didn't get any reports back from the local  
31 ACs on this wildlife closure review.

32  
33 And we also haven't received any  
34 comments from the National Park Service SRCs. They are  
35 actually just meeting now, there's some overlap with  
36 this meeting. So no recommendations from the SRCs yet  
37 at this time.

38  
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.  
42 Summary of written public comments.

43  
44 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is  
45 Hannah. There was one written public comment received  
46 from Resident Hunters of Alaska. The group supports  
47 eliminating the closure because it excludes nonlocal  
48 residents of Alaska. They suggest eliminating access  
49 to nonresident hunters through the Board of Game  
50

0211

1 process instead.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Public testimony. The mic is open for -- to the public that wants to make comments on the -- on the proposal.

7

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

12

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Public testimony is still open and we'll hear any testimony.

13

14

15

So Regional Council recommendation. What's the wish of the Council.

16

17

18

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I think after.....

19

20

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

21

22

23

24

25

MR. OOMITTUK: .....hearing that the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council did I hear Eva right, that they want to keep it as it is and no need to open to Federally-recognized.....

26

27

MS. PATTON: That's correct.

28

29

30

MR. OOMITTUK: .....residents in that area?

31

32

MS. PATTON: Yes, that's correct.

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. After hearing that I -- you know, I would support it if that's -- you know, I know they supported us in other things that we discuss and I -- you know, if they want to keep it that way I think we should support them with that -- it being in Unit 23 and Point Hope is in part of Unit 23. I would support them if that is the wish of the Noatak drainage area and the tribal members in that area.

43

44

Thank you.

45

46

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that in the form of a motion.

47

48

49

50

MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

0212

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
2 to support WCR 22-45 caribou Unit 23 Noatak National  
3 Preserve, closed to all but Federally-qualified  
4 subsistence users to maintain status quo.

5  
6 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's be seconded by  
9 Atqasuk, Wanda. Discussion.

10  
11 MR REXFORD: Call for the question.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been  
14 called for. The area has been subjected to many  
15 different types of resolution and ongoing conflict  
16 resolution in these areas and the control use area was  
17 created to try to minimize conflict in use and to try  
18 to give some deference to the qualified Federal  
19 subsistence users in these areas to put food on the  
20 table and minimize the conflict. And that conflict  
21 provides a substantial interference in subsistence and  
22 the use of these resources.

23  
24 So with that I think the question has  
25 been called for. All those in favor of WCR 22-45  
26 caribou Unit 23 Noatak National Preserve closed to all  
27 but Federally-qualified users signify by saying aye.

28  
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
32 nay.

33  
34 (No opposing votes)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. The  
37 ayes have it. And WCR 22-45 is supposed to maintain  
38 the status quo.

39  
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. I just wanted to  
42 note for the record that Martha Itta did join the  
43 meeting shortly after we began and so is online and  
44 participating in the votes again.

45  
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.  
49 That's -- we want to make sure we acknowledge all the  
50

0213

1 Council members when they come in.

2

3 All right. All right. We jump to the  
4 bottom, do we jump back up on WP 22-50, Eva, or is  
5 there something more important than the beavers.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
8 Council. We can continue with the crossover proposals.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And who  
13 was the young lady that kept reading them.

14

15 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
16 Holman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Kendra,  
19 you have the floor for WP 22-50.

20

21 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
22 the record my name is Kendra Holman and I'm a wildlife  
23 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
24 This is a presentation of a summary of the analysis for  
25 wildlife proposal WP 22-50 submitted by the Northwest  
26 Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council requesting  
27 that Beaver harvest limit be changed from 50 and 30  
28 beaver in Unit 23, Kobuk and Selawik River drainages,  
29 and Unit 23 remainder respectively, to no harvest limit  
30 in both trap areas. This proposal can be found on Page  
31 113 of your meeting book.

32

33 The proponent states that the proposed  
34 changes would align Federal and State trapping  
35 regulations with the more liberal State regulations as  
36 well as provide increased harvest opportunity for  
37 Federally-qualified subsistence users. There has been  
38 a great trend for liberalizing trapping and hunting  
39 regulations within Unit 23. In 1999 the Alaska Board  
40 of Game adopted a year round hunting season for Beaver  
41 in Unit 23 with no harvest limit or sealing  
42 requirements. In addition the trapping season was  
43 extended to year round with no harvest limit and no  
44 sealing requirement. In 2007 the Board adopted WP 07-  
45 51 requesting a hunting season for beaver in Unit 23  
46 with no closed season and no harvest limit.

47

48 The Arctic landscapes are in transition  
49 due to changes in climate. Increased warmth in summer

50

0214

1 and longer growing seasons are contributing to  
2 increased tundra productivity and shrub dominated  
3 vegetation. Beavers have increasingly moved into  
4 tundra areas during the past 20 years. While beaver  
5 numbers remain high in Unit 23 particularly in the  
6 Selawik and Kobuk River drainages where beavers have  
7 fully occupied high quality habitat and now occupy --  
8 now widely occur in marginal areas as well.

9

10 Current harvest data is limited because  
11 few people have sealed pelts since ADF&G made beaver  
12 sealing requirement voluntary in Unit 23 back in 2000.  
13 The most recent community harvest surveys in the  
14 community subsistence information system is 2014. And  
15 that data suggests that beaver harvesting varies  
16 greatly by year and community as seen in figure and  
17 table one on Page 117 of your meeting book.

18

19 If this proposal were to be adopted the  
20 beaver harvest limit would be changed from 50 and 30  
21 beavers per season in the Unit 23 Kobuk, Selawik and  
22 Unit 23 remainder respectively to no harvest limit in  
23 both trap areas. No impacts to the beaver population  
24 or user groups are expected as Federally-qualified  
25 subsistence users can already trap an unlimited number  
26 of beavers on most Federal lands under the more liberal  
27 State regulations. Additionally adoption of this  
28 proposal would align Federal and State regulations  
29 reducing the regulatory complexity for users.

30

31 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
32 support WP 22-50 with modification to combine the Unit  
33 23 trapping areas.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the  
36 Council. I'll be happy to address any questions.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any  
39 questions for Kendra.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds like the  
44 beaver fever is.....

45

46 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, this is Wanda.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Wanda.

49

50

0215

1 MS. KIPPI: Hi. I have a question on  
2 the -- how much beaver. Is there quite a bit of beaver  
3 around that -- in that area? I'm just curious.

4  
5 Thank you. Or an abundance of beaver.

6  
7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if  
8 I may. I can share a little bit of information that  
9 was shared for the Northwest Arctic Council. I know  
10 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge manager, Susan  
11 Georgette, had shared with the Northwest Council that  
12 that region has some very high beaver densities. So I  
13 don't know if we have anybody else online that might  
14 have information. But that's what was shared with the  
15 Northwest Arctic Council for their region.

16  
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds pretty  
20 productive. Any other questions regarding the beaver.

21  
22 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Steve, Point  
23 Hope. And, you know, just for the record.....

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

26  
27 MR. OOMITTUK: .....you know, we don't  
28 have trees there, but we're starting to see beavers in  
29 our area, but maybe they're lost. And we're also  
30 seeing sea otters so we're seeing different types of  
31 animals coming into our area. But, you know, when you  
32 talk about beavers, you know, they're around trees and  
33 stuff. Some of the local people said they saw -- they  
34 saw like a dam in a certain area, but we don't have  
35 trees other than willows and trees that might wash up  
36 on the coastline, along the river. But, you know, that  
37 was when you talk about beavers it seems like maybe  
38 there is an abundance of beaver and they're moving  
39 westerly, maybe they can't find the trees and are  
40 getting lost, I don't know.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. When you  
43 get one, Steve, call me up and I'll come and have some  
44 coffee and we'll try it.

45  
46 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, they might  
47 start.....

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Pretty cool.

50

0216

1 MR. OOMITTUK: .....cutting down our  
2 poles, start with the North Slope Borough.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, we got to  
5 protect the poles now.

6  
7 All right. Any other questions.

8  
9 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Carmen  
10 with Fish and Game.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead.

13  
14 MS. DAGGETT: I don't presume to know  
15 the population dynamics of beavers in Unit 23 although  
16 I do remember Susan saying that they -- that the Refuge  
17 had reached its saturation point with the number of  
18 ponds that could hold beavers. In our area I am  
19 unaware of any discussion of any beavers, I don't -- we  
20 haven't really seen any. I haven't seen any dams when  
21 I've been out surveying things on the Colville. So and  
22 I don't think I've ever heard anybody on the North  
23 Slope talk about a beaver, but if anybody else has  
24 heard of beaver on the North Slope I'd sure be glad to  
25 know about it. But yeah, I don't think we have any up  
26 in 26A.

27  
28 Thank you. Far as I'm aware.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, you  
31 know, a few times I've heard from where I'm camping on  
32 the Ikpikpuk downriver hey, we got a porcupine. Oh,  
33 wow, a porcupine. And that's only like 70 miles from  
34 Barrow. They're trying to come. And I heard a little  
35 bit about upper reaches Ikpikpuk, you know, and just  
36 bordering that knife blade ridge area to maybe tweak  
37 and some of these other little creeks that are  
38 tributaries of Ikpikpuk that they seen otters up there  
39 before.

40  
41 But anyway interesting, but of  
42 different animals and things that might be moving  
43 around. So very cool.

44  
45 Any other comments.

46  
47 MS. KIPPI: Hello, Mr. Chair. Wanda.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,  
50

0217

1 Wanda.

2

3 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. Since you  
4 brought up those porcupine they've been up this way  
5 this far. We've had one one year and another year  
6 there was like three. And there was one year where I  
7 can't remember if it was a beaver, it might have been a  
8 beaver that come up this far once. So I just want to  
9 put that in there.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Pretty cool. All  
14 right. I'm going to go down the list here. And report  
15 on Board consultations to tribes and ANCSA  
16 corporations.

17

18 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 Orville Lind, Native liaison for OSM. During the  
20 consultation sessions we did not have any tribal or  
21 ANCSA comments or questions on WCR 22, I believe it  
22 was, on this proposal.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Orville.  
25 And agency comments, ADF&G.

26

27 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is  
28 Ben Mulligan at Fish and Game. The department supports  
29 the proposal, it'll align State and Federal beaver bag  
30 limits.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, ADF&G.  
35 Any Federal comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Going  
40 down the list, Native villages and regional tribal  
41 organizations.

42

43 Any comments from the tribes.

44

45 MR. OOMITTUK: Just for the record this  
46 is Steve with Native Village of Point Hope. Being in  
47 Unit 23 and being that the tribes, you know, you're  
48 talking Kobuk and Selawik, I think we can support an  
49 increase in it, they -- the numbers are going up to a  
50

0218

1 -- is it to an unlimited amount and, you know, they are  
2 starting to come, different species coming.

3

4 But, you know, our young hunters seem  
5 to be going further and further east and, you know, in  
6 the old days our elders talked about going, you know,  
7 towards the Brooks Range, you know. And here we are at  
8 the DeLong Mountains, but years ago they would go  
9 hunting way back there and travel with their skinboats.  
10 But I know our younger hunters today are going further  
11 and further east and enjoying the country again down  
12 there. And sometimes they'd see a lot of different  
13 species of animals also, but.....

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 (Teleconference interference -  
18 participants not muted)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. I  
21 was on mute and good stuff.

22

23 Any other tribal comments.

24

25 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair, this is Eddie.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

28

29 MR REXFORD: Yes, I'd like to support  
30 this I guess resolution submitted by the Northwest  
31 Arctic Subsistence Advisory Council and support it.

32

33 Thank you From Native Village of  
34 Kaktovik.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eddie.  
37 And it's wildlife proposal 22-50, Unit 23 beaver. It's  
38 a proposal.

39

40 Any other tribal comments.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Going down the list,  
45 Advisory Group Comments, other Regional Advisory  
46 Councils.

47

48 Eva.

49

50

0219

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
2 Council. So this was a proposal for the Northwest  
3 Arctic region, Unit 23, and they voted to support WP  
4 22-50.

5  
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Fish and  
9 Game Advisory Committees.

10  
11 MS. PATTON: And again we did not  
12 receive any Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
13 recommendations and the regional -- National Park  
14 Service Subsistence Resource Commissions have not yet  
15 made any recommendations on this proposal either.

16  
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.  
20 Summary of written public comments.

21  
22 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
23 Holman again. There's no written comments, public  
24 comments received on this proposal.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The mic is open to  
27 public testimony for those that want to provide public  
28 testimony you have the mic and have the floor.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll keep the mic  
33 open. And I'm going to go down to seven, Regional  
34 Council recommendations. What's the wish of the  
35 Council.

36  
37 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I'm not sure  
38 if I heard Eva right, but the Northwest Arctic Regional  
39 Advisory Council supported this and that's.....

40  
41 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's.....

42  
43 MR. OOMITTUK: .....within their area,  
44 right.....

45  
46 MS. PATTON: That's correct, Steve.

47  
48 MR. OOMITTUK: .....is that what I  
49 heard?

50

0220

1 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's correct.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: So, Mr. Chair if it's  
4 time to make the motion I'd make a motion to support WP  
5 22-50, to increase.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

8

9 MR. OOMITTUK: .....to change from 50  
10 to 30 to unlimited, to no limit. Is that what -- is  
11 that what it says.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

14

15 MR. OOMITTUK: .....for.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
18 from Point Hope.

19

20 MR. OOMITTUK: .....the Unit 23.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
23 from Point Hope.....

24

25 MR. REXFORD: I'll second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....WP 22-50 beaver  
28 Unit 23. It's seconded, who seconded.

29

30 MR. REXFORD: Kaktovik.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second by Kaktovik,  
33 Eddie. Discussion

34

35 MS. KIPPI: Question.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. This  
38 recommendation to consider it and it's based on  
39 management principles of areas that are inundated with  
40 an abundance of beaver. And we've heard that from the  
41 wildlife biologist. With that all those in favor of  
42 supporting WP 22-50 beaver Unit 23 trapping, increase  
43 harvest limit to no limit, signify by saying aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
48 nay.

49

50

0221

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

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. The ayes have it. WP 22-50 beaver Unit 23 trapping, increase harvest to no limit is supported by the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.

Thank you for that. All right.

Kendra, WCR 22-18 sheep Unit 23 Baird Mountains, closed to all but Federally-qualified subsistence users. We can find that on Page 120.

MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chairman, members of the Council, this is Kendra Holman, wildlife biologist for the Office of Subsistence Management. This will be summary of analysis for wildlife closure review WCR 22-18. The closure location is Unit 23, south of Rabbit Creek, Kayak Creek and Noatak River and west of the Cutler/Redstone Rivers in the Baird Mountains. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of sheep except by Federally-qualified subsistence users under these regulations. This proposal can be found on Page 120 of your meeting book and a map of this location can be found on Page 121.

The declining sheep population during the 1980s prompted a series of State closures. The initial Federal subsistence hunting regulations came in 1991, were established by adopting the existing State harvest limit of one ram with a seven-eighths curl in the fall hunt and one sheep with a harvest quota of 30 animals in the winter.

In 1997 the Alaska Board of Game redescribed Unit 23 dividing it into the Baird and DeLong Mountain Ranges. It was determined that the number of sheep needed for subsistence was 18 to 47 for the Baird Mountains. In 1998 the Board adopted the State's sheep harvest zones in Unit 23 closing Federal public lands to non-Federally-qualified users in the Baird mountains. In 2014 ADF&G issued an emergency order closing the sheep season in Unit 23 and 26A for all resident and nonresident hunters. This was followed by the Board closing the sheep season on Federal public lands in Unit 23 and 26A. In 2016 a may be announced sheep season in the Baird and DeLong Mountain hunt areas of Unit 23 and delegated authority to open and close the seasons, determine annual harvest

1 quotas and limits to the superintendent of the Arctic  
2 National Parklands. The designated hunter permit  
3 system was adopted by the Board in 1999 for the sheep  
4 in the Baird and DeLong Mountain hunt areas in Unit 23  
5 and 26A.

6  
7 The dall sheep in the Baird Mountains  
8 of Unit 23 are at the northern most northwestern margin  
9 of their range in Alaska and because of this  
10 catastrophic weather events affect their population  
11 more than sheep populations in areas with more abundant  
12 habitat and stable range conditions. Severe weather in  
13 the 1990s resulted in natural -- in a high natural  
14 mortality dramatically reducing sheep numbers in the  
15 area and caused the closure of the general and  
16 subsistence hunts area between 19 -- the subsistence  
17 hunt between 1991 and 1995. The sheep population  
18 decreased from 643 sheep in 2011 to 174 sheep in 2019,  
19 representing a 73 percent population decline. This can  
20 be found in figure one on Page 126 of your meeting  
21 books. Between 2011 and 2019 the lamb, ewe-like lamb,  
22 ewe-like sheep ratios ranged from one to 52 lambs per  
23 hundred ewe-like sheep with the highest ratio occurring  
24 in 2019. This can be found on figure two on Page 126  
25 of your meeting book. Low lamb productivity in 2013  
26 was partially attributable to the long and cold  
27 2012/2013 winter, late spring and record cold  
28 temperatures in May, 2013.

29  
30 Over the same time period the total  
31 number of rams to 100 ewe-like sheep ranged from 17 to  
32 29 rams per 100 ewe-like sheep. This can also be found  
33 on figure two on Page 126 of your meeting book.  
34 Between 2011 and 2018 the full-curl ram to ewe-like  
35 sheep ratio ranged from one to nine full-curl rams per  
36 hundred ewe-like sheep. The low ratios indicate that  
37 there are very few to no large rams available for  
38 harvest. The Federal subsistence hunt was opened in  
39 the 1998/1999 regulatory year and harvest occurred each  
40 year during 2014 except the 1999/2000 and the 2000/2001  
41 regulatory years when low numbers of full-curl lambs  
42 were observed during surveys and the hunt was closed.  
43 No sheep harvest has occurred in the Baird Mountains  
44 under State or Federal regulation since 2014 when  
45 seasons were closed due to observed -- to conservation  
46 concerns.

47  
48 In 2004 and 2014 the annual reported  
49 sheep harvest in Unit 23 and 26A observed 23 animals  
50

0223

1 under both State and Federal subsistence regulations  
2 ranging from 17 to 31 sheep. The majority of the  
3 harvest came from Federal subsistence registration hunt  
4 in Unit 23.

5

6 The National Park Service in accordance  
7 with ADF&G completed sheep surveys in the western Baird  
8 Mountains.

9

10 The effects and justification. The  
11 sheep population of the Baird Mountains remained low,  
12 declining 73 percent since 2011 with few large rams and  
13 no harvestable surplus. If this closure were lifted  
14 the non-Federally-qualified subsistence users would be  
15 allowed to hunt on Federal public lands in the Baird  
16 Mountains. The sheep population of the Baird Mountains  
17 remains very low. This population cannot withstand any  
18 harvest. The closure should be maintained because of  
19 conservation concerns. The Western Arctic National  
20 Parklands superintendent has also -- also has delegated  
21 authority to announce a Federal sheep season.  
22 Maintaining that may be announced season and delegating  
23 authority allows for hunt flexibility and harvest  
24 opportunity in the event that the sheep population  
25 recovers and a harvestable surplus exists. The  
26 delegation of authority is attached in appendix -- as  
27 appendix one and can be found on Page 130 of your  
28 meeting book.

29

30 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
31 maintain the status quo.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the  
34 Council. I'll be happy to address any questions.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any  
37 questions on the sheep or the Baird Mountains.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: To my understanding  
42 this is a status quo with current existing regulation  
43 and just got to reup it and check what numbers for  
44 today and it sounds like numbers are very low compared  
45 to the past. And there's a serious conservation issue  
46 at hand with the sheep in Unit.....

47

48 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair.

49

50

0224

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....23. Any  
2 questions for Kendra.

3  
4 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, Steve for the  
5 record.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

8  
9 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, just a little  
10 history I know. We do get a few sheep at Cape  
11 Lisburne, but the last few years -- for several years  
12 we haven't had any sheep up on the north towards  
13 Lisburne. And just this last year that they finally  
14 saw some sheep coming back to the Delong Mountains area  
15 over toward Cape Lisburne. But they haven't seen them  
16 for quite some time. But I know the majority of the  
17 sheep are herded towards the Brooks Range and to the  
18 higher area. But we know that there was a decline  
19 there for quite some time.

20  
21 Thank you for leaving that up to me. I  
22 would support it to certainly -- you know, how it's  
23 worded.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think if we  
26 were going to make a motion you would want to support  
27 maintain status quo. It's an existing regulation in  
28 place and we're just revisiting it, it seems  
29 appropriate for status quo, to maintain status quo.

30  
31 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, we're not down to  
34 (in Native). We need to -- we need on the -- on this  
35 whole list.

36  
37 Okay. Well, since -- any other  
38 questions.....

39  
40 MR. OOMITTUK: I thought we were  
41 pushing for time and we need to move forward and that's  
42 what you said. Okay. We'll listen to the  
43 recommendations of the agency.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. That would be  
46 too fast and I think we'd get scolded from Eva.

47  
48 Okay. Report on Board consultation,  
49 tribes and ANCSA corporations.

50

0225

1 MR. LIND: Afternoon, Mr. Chair, Board  
2 members. Orville Lind, Native liaison for OSM. For  
3 both tribal and ANCSA there were no comments made on  
4 proposal WCR 22-18.

5  
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Very  
9 good. Agency comments, ADF&G.

10  
11 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chairman. This  
12 is Ben Mulligan again. And the department is neutral  
13 on this proposal. There's currently no open State  
14 season for sheep within Unit 23 and even with that as  
15 you guys have just heard the superintendent of WEAR has  
16 that delegation of authority to make calls to open and  
17 close right now too.

18  
19 Thank you, Sir.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Federal  
22 comments.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If I was a Fed I'd  
27 keep my feet up too I guess.

28  
29 Tribal agencies, Native villages,  
30 regional tribal organizations, you have the mic.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We'll  
35 move down to Advisory Group comments, other Regional  
36 Advisory Councils.

37  
38 Eva.

39  
40 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
41 Council. The Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional  
42 Advisory Council voted to maintain the status quo for  
43 the closure for WCR 22-18.

44  
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. Fish  
48 and Game Advisory Committee.

49  
50

0226

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. I  
4 think the Subsistence Resource Commissions are  
5 currently meeting and haven't made a.....

6

7 MS. PATTON: That's correct, Mr. Chair.  
8 Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. No further.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

11

12 MS. PATTON: .....comments from ACs or  
13 SRCs.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Summary  
18 of written public comments.

19

20 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra  
21 Holman again. There were no written public comments  
22 received on this proposal or closure review.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The mic is open to  
25 public testimony.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll keep the  
30 mic open. What's the wish of the Council. Time for a  
31 motion.

32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved. I couldn't  
34 get myself out of delete. I don't know what the -- I  
35 mean, out of.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mute.

38

39 MR. OOMITTUK: .....mute. Was there a  
40 motion made? I almost got lost.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, you're the first  
43 one.

44

45 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. I'll make a  
46 motion to adopt the WCR 22-18. And.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
49 the floor by Point Hope.....

50

0227

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Seconded by Earl.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....to maintain  
4 status quo and rephrasing that we were directed by Eva  
5 that for those that are already existing regulation and  
6 that we're just doing a review, that we're going to  
7 make motions to maintain status quo.

8

9 So seconded by Earl from Anaktuvuk.

10

11 Discussion.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MS. KIPPI: Question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been  
18 called for. All those in support of maintaining the  
19 status quo for WCR 22-18 sheep Unit 23 Baird Mountains,  
20 closed to all but Federally-qualified subsistence users  
21 signify by saying aye.

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
26 no.

27

28 (No opposing votes)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Ayes  
31 have it. WCR 22-18 sheep Unit 23 Baird Mountains is  
32 passed to maintain status quo by the Regional  
33 Subsistence Advisory Council for the North Slope.

34

35 Thank you. We'll go down to WCR 22-27  
36 muskox Unit 23 Cape Krusenstern National Monument.  
37 You'll find reference to that on Page 134.

38

39 Kendra.

40

41 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, members of the  
42 Council. This is Kendra Holman with the Office of  
43 Subsistence Management as a wildlife biologist. This  
44 proposal can be found on Page 134 of your meeting book.  
45 This proposal or closure review is strictly a  
46 housekeeping closure review. Currently the Cape  
47 Krusenstern National Monument muskox hunt is open to  
48 all resident zoned community members who are Federally-  
49 qualified subsistence users.

50

0228

1                   The current regulation lists Point Hope  
2 which is not a resident zoned community of Cape  
3 Krusenstern Monument. So our -- the OSM preliminary  
4 conclusion is to modify this specifically removing the  
5 language that's currently in regulation regarding Point  
6 Hope. The current regulation states that it is -- so  
7 the current regulation says Unit 23 Cape Krusenstern  
8 National Monument, one bull by Federal permit. Cape  
9 Krusenstern is closed to the taking of muskoxen except  
10 by Federally-qualified subsistence users, but not  
11 residents of Point Hope. So our -- the OSM preliminary  
12 conclusion is to modify removing that language  
13 regarding Point Hope.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank  
16 you, Kendra. Questions to Kendra.

17  
18                   (No comments)

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: So if the proposal  
21 is.....

22  
23                   MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve with  
24 Point Hope.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....housekeeping.  
27 Yeah, go ahead, Steve.

28  
29                   MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. So you're saying  
30 that this would open it up to the Unit 23, Cape  
31 Krusenstern to residents of Point Hope Federally? Is  
32 this a permit, by permit, you're talking -- I'm trying  
33 to -- when you talk about closed to all but Federally-  
34 qualified subsistence users muskox Unit 23 and it's  
35 open to subsistence users, but not resident of Point  
36 Hope. So you -- this would open it up to Point Hope,  
37 right, that's what it's saying.

38  
39                   MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair.  
40 This is Lisa Grediagin. And to Steve's question, there  
41 is -- there would be no difference to the actual  
42 Federal regulations on whether that language is removed  
43 or not. It's mostly OSM wants to remove that language  
44 to just simplify regulations because it's not needed.  
45 So even though Point Hope is a -- has customary and  
46 traditional use determination for muskox in Unit 23,  
47 Point Hope is not a resident zoned community of Cape  
48 Krusenstern National Monument. And so in order to hunt  
49 muskox in Cape Krusenstern you have to be Federally-  
50

0229

1 qualified and a resident zoned community. So it's a  
2 two step process. And but again functionally there'd  
3 be no difference in the muskox hunt.

4

5 MR. OOMITTUK: And can you clarify the  
6 Unit 23 Cape Krusenstern National Monument one bull by  
7 Federal permit. Can you give us some more information  
8 on by Federal permit one bull. You're talking for that  
9 whole area, one bull by a permit.

10

11 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, so the one bull  
12 is the individual harvest limit. So currently there's  
13 a quota for the number of muskox that can be harvested  
14 within Cape Krusenstern, but it's a Federal permit so  
15 as long as you're qualified to get a permit you can get  
16 a permit to hunt muskox in Cape Krusenstern and then  
17 the harvest limit is one bull.

18

19 MR. OOMITTUK: So the muskox in the  
20 DeLong Mountains area are considered part of  
21 Krusenstern, is that what's going to be that if we do  
22 qualify for a permit that we can actually get muskox  
23 within the DeLong Mountains?

24

25 MS. GREDIAGIN: No, that's a whole  
26 separate hunt. So under Federal regulations there's a  
27 number of muskox hunts in Unit 23 and so for the area  
28 north and west of the Kobuk River drainage that  
29 includes the DeLong Mountains, it's one bull by Federal  
30 registration permit, but it's a different permit. And  
31 so Point Hope is eligible for that muskox hunt, but  
32 right now we're just focused on the muskox hunt within  
33 Cape Krusenstern National Monument.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On Page 112 there's a  
36 map that defines Cape Krusenstern. It looks like a  
37 boot and it's right by Noatak -- between Noatak and  
38 Kivalina and then going looks like south from there or  
39 southeast. So you would be able to -- you have C&T in  
40 the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, you can take a  
41 boat ride over there if you got a permit and harvest a  
42 bull which is already probably the case. It seems like  
43 this is just a housekeeping thing.

44

45 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know, we do  
46 have people that go back and forth to Kotzebue from  
47 Point Hope and stop out at Krusenstern. And, you know,  
48 it -- so all right. So Point Hope residents if they  
49 are -- if they have a permit they would be qualified to  
50

0230

1 harvest a muskox in that Cape Krusenstern area, right?

2

3

4 MS GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair. This  
5 is Lisa Grediagin. No, Point Hope is not a resident  
6 zoned community of Cape Krusenstern so therefore  
7 residents of Point Hope may not harvest muskox within  
8 Cape Krusenstern.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So this  
10 regulation.....

11

12 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. When you say a  
13 resident, you know, you have -- is Kotzebue a resident  
14 of Cape Krusenstern, Kivalina..... Noatak.....

15

16 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr.....,

17

18 MR. OOMITTUK: .....Kiana, are those --  
19 yeah, are they residents of Cape Krusenstern?

20

21 DR. VOORHEES: This is Hannah Voorhees.  
22 So the resident zoned communities for Cape Krusenstern  
23 are all the NANA communities, so yeah, Kotzebue,  
24 Selawik, Noorvik Kiana, Shungnak, Ambler, Kobuk,  
25 Noatak, Kivalina, Buckland and Deering.

26

27 MR. OOMITTUK: And, you know, in the  
28 past, you know, Point Hope used to do a lot of trading  
29 right then in Cape Krusenstern and Kotzebue and travel  
30 back and forth. We're just right at the borderline and  
31 I don't see how that changes everything, you know, when  
32 it deals with subsistence and putting the borderline  
33 when we're right at the edge of it. And it's colluding  
34 them especially when we can't even hunt muskox when we  
35 have a number of muskox in our DeLong Mountains, but  
36 then you can still hunt them in Cape Krusenstern where  
37 in the whole NANA area there's a population of over 900  
38 and then you're excluding, you know, and you're just --  
39 you know, I would think that, you know, when you talk  
40 about that category, you know, territories and you in a  
41 widespread of NANA area and then you say oh, the muskox  
42 herd in Point Hope is a different herd than the NANA  
43 area which goes a long range and then a population of  
44 that area in Unit 23 is over 900. And excluding Point  
45 Hope from hunting muskox, you know, especially within  
46 their own territory.

47

48 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair, Mr.  
49 Oomittuk, this is Hannah. And I -- yeah, I hear what  
50

0231

1 you're saying and so this -- the resident zoned  
2 communities are determined by the National Park Service  
3 for Cape Krusenstern National Monument. And it's just  
4 a little bit different than the normal practice that we  
5 would go through for, you know, determining C&T,  
6 customary and traditional use determinations and that  
7 kind of thing. So I -- I mean, it's a -- I guess one  
8 approach would be to connect with the Park Service and,  
9 you know, sounds like there is evidence to support  
10 inclusion, but that would be up to the Park Service.  
11 So we can definitely, you know, facilitate that  
12 communication.

13

14 I did also just want to note, I just  
15 wanted to make sure that -- you know, that in Unit 23,  
16 that portion north and west of the Kobuk River  
17 drainage, there is a muskox hunt. So that would  
18 include I believe Point Hope. There is a hunt for one  
19 muskox -- one bull, excuse me, by State or Federal  
20 registration permit. And that's August 1st to March  
21 15th. I can be, you know, corrected if wrong, but I  
22 believe that that would be a hunt that residents of  
23 Point Hope could take part in. And I just wanted to  
24 make sure that you knew that.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I hope  
29 that helps.

30

31 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. I just, you  
32 know, when you look at the miles between communities  
33 and where Cape Krusenstern is and Selawik within that  
34 area, you know, we're about the same miles away, you  
35 know, Point Hope to Cape Krusenstern is only about --  
36 when you go straight across and you're looking at 70  
37 miles, 80 miles straight to Cape Krusenstern from Point  
38 Hope, but if you follow the coastline yeah, it's a  
39 little different, but, you know, Selawik being part of  
40 the NANA and where Selawik is located and can go and  
41 hunt at Cape Krusenstern, you know, you're talking  
42 Selawik is way to the east. I don't know how far away  
43 are they there, they're over -- they're 150 miles from  
44 Kotzebue and then you got to go another 30 miles to  
45 Cape Krusenstern. And when they put jurisdiction so I  
46 know our subsistence hunting or people have been  
47 hunting since time immemorial and have no territorial  
48 guidelines of where they can hunt, when they can hunt,  
49 how many they can hunt and territory and put in a  
50

0232

1 boundary line especially when, you know, we're in the  
2 Unit 23 area and yet we can't go hunt and get a permit  
3 and hunt in that area when we travel through that area  
4 also.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, this is  
7 Gordon. I think there was some description about how  
8 to facilitate the resident village for Cape Krusenstern  
9 through the National Park Service. And it sounds like  
10 that's going to happen, that working with the Park  
11 Service to change the or include Point Hope into the  
12 resident community for Cape Krusenstern. You know, I  
13 can see your point there because there's a lot of  
14 distance between many of the communities even look  
15 like, you know, some might even be farther away in some  
16 cases that are resident communities for Cape  
17 Krusenstern. So I think that's a -- there's a  
18 different venue through the National Park Service to  
19 make those cases to qualify you as a resident community  
20 in Cape Krusenstern.

21  
22 It also sounds like there's a -- if  
23 there's a muskox 10 miles out of Point Hope and  
24 somebody has a permit and it's a bull, it's harvestable  
25 is what I'm hearing. There is a -- either Federal or  
26 State registration would allow you to harvest that  
27 muskox. So it sounds like there's a muskox already  
28 ready for harvesting in that area. I know we had that  
29 talk on yesterday when we were talking about our first  
30 time ability to hunt in Unit 26A because we haven't  
31 been able to hunt muskox forever over there. So but  
32 interesting -- yeah, it's a crossover proposal  
33 because.....

34  
35 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....of 23.

38  
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Another question was,  
40 you know, when you talk about permits, you know, do  
41 these permits have to be purchased or are they just  
42 given to you. I know you have to get a hunting  
43 license, but are these permits, do they cost money or  
44 are you given to them by however many people fill out  
45 for a permit to hunt muskox, is it done in a lottery  
46 type thing, are they, you know, or are you only allowed  
47 so much muskox and you got 50 people applying for a  
48 permit and who decides on who gets that permit. Is it  
49 a paid permit that you have to purchase this permit  
50

0233

1 from the National.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that something  
4 that ADF&G can respond to.

5

6 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Oomittuk, are --  
7 through the Chair, this is Hannah. Are you -- are you  
8 asking about in Cape Krusenstern or closer to Point  
9 Hope?

10

11 MR. OOMITTUK: Well, I would be asking  
12 about both of them. There's a permit for Point Hope  
13 also and there's permits for Krusenstern, are those  
14 permits have to be purchased by Federally-qualified  
15 people as subsistence users, you know.

16

17 DR. VOORHEES: There's no cost for the  
18 Federal registration permit near Point Hope. The State  
19 hunt is actually a tiered hunt so I don't believe  
20 there's a cost for that, but I don't know unless ADF&G  
21 needs -- wants to chime in. And I believe there's no  
22 fee for the Federal permit in Cape Krusenstern either.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Carmen  
27 Daggett with Fish and Game. I can address these  
28 questions for the tier two hunt permit.

29

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

32

33 MS. DAGGETT: Hey, Steve, I just wanted  
34 to let you know that you're actually correct that you  
35 would need to get a hunting license, but beyond that  
36 the permit doesn't cost anything. There is an  
37 application process that people would need to go  
38 through ahead of time to get a tier two permit for the  
39 TX 107 hunt, the tier two hunt muskox. So but there  
40 would be no additional cost for that permit, you would  
41 just have to make sure you get a hunting license,  
42 that's all.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. And if you  
47 were to fill out, you know, for a permit, how do they  
48 go about and picking who -- if you're allowed one in  
49 that area, you know, how do they get that permit?

50

0234

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it's one per  
2 person maybe.

3  
4 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah.

5  
6 MR. OOMITTUK: One per person. So.....

7  
8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, there is a --  
9 this is Lisa Grediagin. I think.....

10  
11 MR. OOMITTUK: .....is that.....

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Lisa.

14  
15 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks. I just  
16 wanted to refocus the Council a bit more on the closure  
17 review you have before you. And a lot of Steve's  
18 questions could be addressed perhaps off the record  
19 with OSM Staff and probably Park Service Staff.  
20 Becoming a resident zoned community of Cape Krusenstern  
21 is way beyond the scope of the proposal right now, but  
22 if that's something Steve in Point Hope wants to pursue  
23 we can certainly facilitate discussions with Park  
24 Service and figure out a way to move forward on that.  
25 But again that's way beyond the scope of the closure  
26 review for the Council to consider right now.

27  
28 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. I -- you  
29 know, it's just for many years we were always told we  
30 cannot hunt and that we would get in trouble and be  
31 fined even if there was a muskox with porcupine quills  
32 in our community and was killed, we -- you know, they  
33 chase it out of town and, you know, and there's -- you  
34 know, we've always been told we can't hunt muskox, it's  
35 not permitted in Point Hope area or the DeLong  
36 Mountains. And nobody goes after the muskox because  
37 they don't want to get fined, get in trouble.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, Steve,  
40 this is Gordon. Yeah, I think -- it's important I  
41 think some of the area biologists take time to visit  
42 and talk to the community about those particular issues  
43 because it sounds like, you know, there's some  
44 misinformation out there about harvestability and  
45 availability on locally.

46  
47 And I just had a call from my son, I  
48 need to pick up my granddaughter from school because  
49 somebody was -- had covid in school and they're letting  
50

0235

1 all of the -- that classroom go. And so I'm an  
2 emergency contact for my granddaughter.

3

4

5 So I'd like to think that we could -- I  
6 think we've deliberated on WCR 22-27 pretty extensively  
7 and a lot of the questions that Steve has, you know,  
8 eligibility and stuff for residency and Cape  
9 Krusenstern is not through this venue, but through the  
10 National Park Service and it sounds like they will help  
11 facilitate that with the Parks -- National Park Service  
12 on that. And the issue surrounding permits and  
13 registration, just a little bit more dialogue probably  
14 with ADF&G on those registrations, sounds like they're  
15 free. And if I was in Point Hope and there was muskox  
16 around I'd get me a permit and go get one.

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 with that I would like to think is  
there any other questions on the -- to -- was it  
Kendra?

MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. So I'm going  
to go down the list. Report on Board consultation with  
tribes and ANCSA consultations.

Orville.

MR. LIND: Mr. Chair, Orville Lind,  
Native liaison. Council members, during the  
consultation held for tribal and ANCSA there were no  
comments on WCR 22-27.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much.  
Agency comments, ADF&G.

MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chairman, Ben  
Mulligan here at ADF&G. The department is neutral on  
this proposal as regardless of whether or not the  
closure is repealed it will not alter the number of  
resident -- number or residency of the hunt  
participants.

Thank you, Sir.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any  
Federal comments.

0236

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tribal comments,  
4 Native villages, regional tribal organizations.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Advisory Group  
9 comments, other Regional Advisory Councils.

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: We'll keep the mic  
open. What's the wish of the Council, time for a  
motion.

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, for the  
record Steve. I make a motion to support this WCR 22-  
27 muskox Unit 23 Cape Krusenstern National Monument.

0237

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you want to put  
2 additional language as modified by OSM, same as  
3 Northwest Arctic?

4  
5 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

8  
9 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
12 to adopt WCR 22-27 from Point Hope, Steve Oomittuk as  
13 modified by OSM.

14  
15 MR. REXFORD: Seconded.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.  
18 Sounds like that was Kaktovik possibly. Discussions.

19  
20 MR. REXFORD: Call for the question.

21  
22 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been  
25 called for. All those in favor of WCR 22-27 as  
26 modified by OSM signify by saying aye.

27  
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
31 nay.

32  
33 (No opposing votes)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And the -- hearing  
36 none. The WCR 22-27 is adopted by the North Slope  
37 Regional Advisory Council with modifications by OSM.

38  
39 I'm going to need to hand the  
40 Chairmanship over to the Vice-Chair and I need to pick  
41 up my granddaughter from school because they're calling  
42 me. I had a second call and I'm probably going to be  
43 no more than 10 minutes and I'd like to hand the mic  
44 over to the Vice-Chair for the Regional Advisory  
45 Council and be excused for about 10 to 15 minutes.

46  
47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
48 that would be Wanda Kippi is our current Vice-Chair.

49  
50

0238

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Wanda,  
2 you have the floor and I'll be right back.

3  
4 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Okay.  
5 Thank you. I forgot I was Vice-Chair.

6  
7 Okay. Where do we stand, Eva, on the  
8 next Statewide proposal or where do we go from now.

9  
10 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Madame  
11 Vice-Chair. Yes. You were just elected last winter so  
12 thank you for taking over the Chairmanship at this  
13 time. And we are down to the Statewide proposals. And  
14 these are both addressing community harvest programs of  
15 which Anaktuvuk Pass does have a community harvest for  
16 sheep. But these are Statewide proposals that all the  
17 Councils are taking up.

18  
19 And we have Pippa Kenner online who  
20 will be presenting those Statewide proposals.

21  
22 Thank you, Madame Chair.

23  
24 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Thank you.

25  
26 MS. KENNER: (Indiscernible -  
27 distortion).....

28  
29 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: We're  
30 having bad communication from my end.

31  
32 MS. PATTON: Yeah, was that you  
33 speaking, Pippa, it was really garbled.

34  
35 MS. KENNER: (Indiscernible -  
36 distortion).....

37  
38 MS. PATTON: Sorry. Still can't hear  
39 whoever is speaking at the moment.

40  
41 REPORTER: So they need to hang up and  
42 redial it sounds like.

43  
44 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Sounds like maybe  
45 that was Pippa who was not coming in very clear. I  
46 think she's trying to call back in now. Let's see,  
47 there's a text coming in now.

48  
49 MR. VICKERS: Eva, this is Brent  
50

0239

1 Vickers from OSM. That was Pippa.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you.

4

5 MR. VICKERS: And I believe she's  
6 probably just hanging up or at least it sounded a lot  
7 like Pippa so I believe she's hanging up and trying to  
8 call back in. It might take her a moment or two.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Okay. Great. Thank you.

11

12 MR. VICKERS: So -- uh-huh.

13

14 MS. PATTON: And just one moment to  
15 standby, everybody, Pippa is dialing back in.

16

17 You'll find those Statewide proposals  
18 starting on Page 168 of your meeting books.

19

20 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: And that  
21 would be proposal WP 22-01.....

22

23 MS. PATTON: Yes.

24

25 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: .....for  
26 your info.

27

28 MS. PATTON: 22-01 Statewide proposal  
29 to define who is or is not a participant in a community  
30 harvest program.

31

32 MS. KENNER: Hi, Eva.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Okay. We got Pippa. Yay.  
35 Thank you, Pippa. You have the floor.

36

37 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Eva. I did a  
38 little test earlier, but prob -- I guess I wasn't on  
39 clear enough to present. So anyway.

40

41 Good afternoon, Madame Chair and  
42 members of the Council. The analysis for wildlife  
43 proposal WP 22-01 begins on Page 168 of your Council  
44 books. And because it hasn't been mentioned in a while  
45 I'll also say it's available at the Federal Subsistence  
46 Management Program webpage at  
47 doi.gov/subsistence/region. Look for the North Slope  
48 region meeting materials.

49

50

0240

1 My name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an  
2 anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management  
3 in Anchorage. I really wish I could be there to meet  
4 you individually. There's been a lot of change on the  
5 Council and I'm not familiar with a lot of you, but I'm  
6 going to try to go ahead with this presentation anyway.

7

8 So proposal WP 22-01 was submitted by  
9 the Office of Subsistence Management and it requests to  
10 clarify who is and who is not a participant in the  
11 community harvest system. So first I'll describe  
12 community harvest system in Federal regulation.

13

14 Community harvest systems generally  
15 allow hunters to harvest animals up to a community  
16 harvest limit. Individual harvest limits such as one  
17 moose do not apply to hunters in a community harvest  
18 system. Each hunter may continue to harvest until the  
19 community harvest limit is met. These regulations  
20 generally describe one animal may be taken, what type  
21 of animal may be taken, where they may be taken and who  
22 may take them. So the general regulation describing  
23 community harvest limits is split between Pages 171 and  
24 172 in your Council books.

25

26 So it states an animal taken under  
27 Federal or State regulations by any member of a  
28 community with an established community harvest limit  
29 for that species counts towards the community harvest  
30 limit for that species. And an animal taken as part of  
31 a community harvest limit counts toward every community  
32 member's harvest limit for that species taken under  
33 Federal or State of Alaska regulations.

34

35 So what the regulation doesn't say is  
36 that a person might not want to participate in their  
37 community harvest system for moose for example. This  
38 proposed regulation clarifies that a person can request  
39 a registration system where only people who register  
40 have to participate in the community system. So the  
41 proposed regulation would read for the purposes of this  
42 provision all residents of the community are deemed  
43 participants in the community harvest system unless the  
44 Board approved framework requires registration as a  
45 prerequisite to harvest -- for harvesting pursuant to  
46 that community harvest. In which case only those who  
47 register are deemed participants in that community  
48 harvest system.

49

50

0241

1 Now as you heard currently there is one  
2 community harvest system in regulation in the North  
3 Slope region. And it's for Anaktuvuk Pass residents  
4 for Units 24 and 26 sheep. However it's important for  
5 you to know that this proposed regulation will not  
6 affect any existing community harvest system in Federal  
7 regulation. So this proposed regulation will not  
8 affect any community harvest system in Federal  
9 regulations including this one for Anaktuvuk Pass. So  
10 that would be no affect.

11  
12 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
13 support proposal WP 22-01. And the justification says  
14 subsistence users and others will find this revised  
15 regulation less confusing and easier to use.

16 Finally this Council will be the 10th  
17 and last Council to hear this proposal. The proposal  
18 is a request to change a general regulation that  
19 affects all regions of the State. We are asking all  
20 Regional Advisory Councils to act on this proposal. So  
21 before today one, two, three, four, five -- like seven  
22 Councils recommended supporting the proposal. One took  
23 no action until the winter meeting because they ran out  
24 of time and one deferred to regions with community  
25 harvest systems.

26  
27 Thank you, Madame Chair. That's the  
28 end of my presentation and I'm available to answer  
29 questions.

30  
31 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Thank you.  
32 Was that you, Pippa?

33  
34 MS. KENNER: Yes.

35  
36 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Any  
37 questions -- any questions for Pippa from the Council.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Hearing  
42 none. I guess we go down to the next consultation from  
43 -- from who, Eva, ADF&G or.....

44  
45 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Eva.

46  
47 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, this is  
48 Orville Lind, Native liaison for OSM. During the  
49 consultation for tribal and ANCSA we did not have any  
50

0242

1 comments on that proposal.

2

3

Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5

ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Okay.

6

Thank you. Thank you, Orville from OSM.

7

8

Anybody from Federal agencies.

9

10

(No comments)

11

12

ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Hearing

13

none. Going down to tribal. Any tribal comments.

14

15

(No comments)

16

17

ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Hearing

18

none. Going down to.....

19

20

MR. OOMITTUK: Madame Chair, this is

21

Steve. You said.....

22

23

MS. PATTON: Madame Chair.

24

25

MR. OOMITTUK: This is Native Village

26

of Point Hope for tribal comments. When you look at

27

the proposal, WP 22-01, requesting clarification of who

28

is and who is not a participant in a community harvest

29

system and how that affects the community and

30

individual harvest limit. I think it's pretty clear,

31

you know, if you're a resident of a community, you

32

know, and you have to be a 30 day and you're a

33

resident. If you're a Federally recognized tribal

34

member, yeah, you're a Federally recognized tribal

35

member in a area, you know, if it states that you have

36

to be a Federally recognized person.

37

38

And then, you know, I -- you know, I --

39

you know, I just -- you know, who's -- you know, how

40

this came about. You know, we have so many people that

41

are nonresidents and, you know, and nonresidents of the

42

State of Alaska, you know, nonresidents of Alaska, you

43

know, nonresidents of a community. And then here, you

44

know, they -- you know, when they want to hunt

45

especially in Unit 23 for caribou or for moose, you

46

know, especially in the last few testimonies we've been

47

through, you know, trying to close the Western Arctic

48

Caribou Herd because of low population, but yet, you

49

know, people from outlying, not even within our area

50

0243

1 were able to give testimony and not even in the State  
2 of Alaska, you know, from lower 48, you know. It just  
3 seems like, you know, when we're requesting  
4 clarification who is and who is not, I think it states  
5 very clearly, you know, who's a resident and who's not  
6 a resident.

7

8 I don't know what they're trying to  
9 find here or what, but we need to put that, you know,  
10 especially when you have nonresidents or sporthunters  
11 coming into the area that, you know, are closed  
12 especially on Federal lands. And who's keeping an eye  
13 out on all that, who's.....

14

15 MS. KENNER: So thank.....

16

17 MR. OOMITTUK: .....regulating that.

18

19 MS. KENNER: .....thank you for your  
20 comments, Mr. Oomittuk. So no, only Federally-  
21 qualified subsistence users can participate in our  
22 community hunts. And only communities who are included  
23 in the customary and traditional use determination are  
24 eligible to hunt under our regulations.

25

26 The purpose of this regulation is that  
27 we have had many, many requests for community harvest  
28 limits over the years so people aren't limited by their  
29 individual harvest limit. And so this is one of the  
30 alternative permit systems that we have in regulation  
31 to make it easier for Federally-qualified subsistence  
32 users who wish to participate in that community harvest  
33 limit rather than an individual harvest limit. It only  
34 applies to communities who apply for it and non-  
35 Federally-qualified users can never participate in one  
36 of these community hunts.

37

38 Thank you very much for your comments.  
39 This was Pippa for the record.

40

41 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. And for the  
42 record.....

43

44 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Thank you,  
45 Pippa. I was.....

46

47 MR. OOMITTUK: .....and for the record  
48 this is Steve. And when you look at Federal recognized  
49 tribes, you know, we have, you know, they're  
50

0244

1 registered, who's a Federally recognized within the  
2 tribal members. We have registered people even though  
3 they're not residents, you know, we might have a  
4 population of eight, 900 people in Point Hope, but we  
5 have 1,500 Federally recognized tribal members. So we  
6 know that, you know, we know who's recognized.

7

8                                   And then when you talk about Federally-  
9 recognized for a resident, you know, any person that --  
10 tribal member can relinquish their tribal membership  
11 from a different community and if they are residents of  
12 another community has to be Federally recognized in  
13 that tribe. They can move there, you know, and.....

14

15                                   MS. KENNER:    Yeah, Mr. Oomittuk, so  
16 thank you.....

17

18                                   MR. OOMITTUK:   .....and.....

19

20                                   MS. KENNER:    .....thank you very much  
21 for your comments. I just wanted to remind you that  
22 when we're talking about registering for a community  
23 harvest it's not necessarily -- you don't necessarily  
24 have to be enrolled in your tribe, but you can be  
25 enrolled in your tribe to participate in this. When I  
26 had -- when this proposal came up I was excited to  
27 present it to all the different Councils because I  
28 don't think all the Councils or people on the Councils  
29 know about this option. And I'm glad we're able to  
30 talk about it now so people know that there -- they  
31 have the option to apply for one of these kind of group  
32 harvest limits, it's pretty cool.

33

34                                   Thank you again. This is Pippa for the  
35 record.

36

37                                   MR. OOMITTUK:  Yeah, and this is where  
38 -- you know, when we come into our way of life, you  
39 know, where we live year round and we have people from  
40 -- whether they're from a -- the lower 48 or within  
41 that different region, and apply, you know, and who can  
42 and who cannot. And leaving it broad especially when  
43 it comes to closure when we want to ensure the numbers  
44 of the animals that we depend on especially if they're  
45 at a decline and put closure to nonresident or  
46 nontribal members, you know, and it states very  
47 clearly, you know, we're here to ensure that the  
48 animals that we depended on all our lives continue to  
49 provide food on the table for us, clothing, shelter,  
50

0245

1 whatever, you know. And you put something in broad and  
2 then try to open it up to other people that can make  
3 decisions on things that -- you know, they have no  
4 jurisdiction over.

5

6 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Thank you.  
7 Thank you, Steve. Thank you, Pippa.

8

9 So, Eva, we go down to Advisory Group  
10 comments?

11

12 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, we did need  
13 to check in under agency comments with ADF&G.

14

15 Thank you, Madame Chair.

16

17 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Okay.  
18 Okay. ADF&G you have the -- you have the floor.

19

20 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
21 This is Ben Mulligan at the department. For this  
22 particular proposal we have no recommendations at this  
23 time.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Thank you.  
28 So we're done with ADF&G, Federal and tribal?

29

30 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Madame  
31 Chair. And we are on Advisory Group comments.

32

33 And as Pippa noted at the beginning of  
34 her presentation on this proposal that all 10 of the  
35 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils are  
36 taking action on this proposal. And seven of the 10  
37 councils voted to support WP 22-01. One Council took  
38 no action and one Council deferred to the region with a  
39 community harvest system in place. So not all RAC  
40 regions have community harvest system currently in  
41 place so they deferred to the other regions that do.  
42 So again seven Regional Advisory Councils supported,  
43 one no action and one deferred to the other regions.

44

45

46 And then we have not received any  
47 comments from Fish and Game Advisory Committees and  
48 again the Subsistence Resource Commission, the NPS SRCs  
49 are meeting at this time. And Gates of the Arctic SRC  
50

0246

1 actually will be meeting in a couple weeks so they will  
2 take this up then.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Thank you,  
7 Eva. So are we going down to other Regional Advisory  
8 Councils.

9

10 MS. PATTON: That was the whole list of  
11 the other Regional Advisory Councils. So again seven  
12 of the RACs did support this proposal, one RAC took no  
13 action and one deferred to the other regions. And that  
14 concludes all the other Advisory Group recommendations.  
15 And then we're down to summary of written public  
16 comments.

17

18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19

20 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Thank you,  
21 Eva. Okay. Any written public comments, any other?

22

23 (Teleconference interference -  
24 participants not muted)

25

26 MS. PATTON: And, Madame Chair, I think  
27 Pippa's typing.

28

29 REPORTER: Yep. Could I have whoever's  
30 typing please mute.

31

32 MS. PATTON: And, Madame Chair, we did  
33 not receive any written public comments. There was one  
34 submitted at a RAC meeting, but did request to defer to  
35 those regions that have community harvest systems.

36

37 Thank you, Madame Chair.

38

39 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Okay.  
40 Thank you.

41

42 MS. PATTON: And that brings us to  
43 public testimony next and then the Regional Advisory  
44 Council recommendation.

45

46 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Okay. Any  
47 public testimony.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0247

1                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI:    Hearing  
2 none.       Recommendations from the Council.    Any  
3 recommendations.

4  
5                   MR. REXFORD:    I moved to support WP 22-  
6 01 as presented.

7  
8                   ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI:    Okay.    I  
9 hear a motion in support.    Do we have a -- any more.

10  
11                  MR. WILLIAMS:    This is Earl.    Second.

12  
13                  ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI:    Pardon.  
14 You were a little blurred.

15  
16                  MR. WILLIAMS:    Second by Earl.

17  
18                  ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI:    Thank you.

19  
20  
21                  MS. ITTA:    Question.

22  
23                  MR. REXFORD:    Call for the question.  
24 Call for the question.

25  
26                  MS. PATTON:    Madame Chair, did we lose  
27 you.

28  
29                  ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI:    Oh, I'm on  
30 mute.    I'm sorry.    Can you hear me now.

31  
32                  MS. PATTON:    Yes, we can hear you now.  
33 Thank you.

34  
35                  ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI:    All right.  
36 So we have a question called and now we're going on to  
37 approving WP 22-01 with votes from the Council with  
38 yes.

39  
40                  IN UNISON:    Yes.

41  
42                  ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI:    Okay.  
43 Hearing all the yeses.    Any nays.

44  
45                  (No opposing votes)

46  
47                  ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI:    Okay.  
48 Proposal WP 22-01 has been approved by the Regional  
49 Advisory Council.

50

0248

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair  
2 and Council.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm back. Gordon  
5 Brower is back now.

6  
7 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you, Gordon.  
8 And, Madame Chair and Council if I may just a few words  
9 of justification for the support of WP 22-01 which is  
10 clarifying who is and who is not a participant in a  
11 community harvest system and how that affects the  
12 community and individual harvest limits.

13  
14 So just a few words of justification  
15 for the support of this proposal to clarify the  
16 community harvest system.

17  
18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thanks.

21  
22 ACTING MADAME CHAIR KIPPI: Thank you.  
23 You can have it back, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Wanda.  
26 And I see you guys are forging right ahead. Very good.  
27 Very good.

28  
29 So we'll move on down WP 22-02, Unit 9,  
30 6, 10, 22, 23, 26, rescind restrictions for designated  
31 hunter in areas with community harvest systems in  
32 place. And you'll find information on Page 186.

33  
34 And, Kendra, if you could.

35  
36 MS. KENNER: Oh, are we back to me now.  
37 This is Pippa.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, okay.

40  
41 MS. KENNER: Sorry, I was touching.....

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Whoever is.....

44  
45 MS. KENNER: .....base with -- I was  
46 just touching base with Hannah Atkinson. She was at a  
47 meeting with the Subsistence Resource Commission so  
48 couldn't come to -- couldn't be at our meeting right  
49 now.

50

0249

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

2

3 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, did you just  
4 introduce WP 22-02?

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, I did.

7

8 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 22-02 designated  
11 hunters.

12

13 MS. KENNER: Yes. Good afternoon, Mr.  
14 Chair, members of the Council. This analysis for WP  
15 22-02 begins on Page 186 of your Council books that  
16 were sent to you. And again for the record my name is  
17 Pippa Kenner and I'm an anthropologist at the Office of  
18 Subsistence Management in Anchorage. And the beginning  
19 of this analysis is on Page 186 as the Chair just  
20 mentioned.

21

22 So proposal WP 22-02 was submitted by  
23 the Office of Subsistence Management and requests to  
24 clarify designated hunting regulations that currently  
25 prohibit the use of a designated hunter by a member of  
26 a community operating under a community harvest system.  
27 So earlier, just a minute ago we were talking about  
28 community harvest systems and now we're going to talk  
29 about the designated hunter system which operates a  
30 little bit like the State proxy system which you might  
31 be more familiar with.

32

33 The current Statewide designated hunter  
34 regulation begins on Page 188 of your Council books and  
35 I'm just going to quickly read part of it to you. If  
36 you are a Federally-qualified subsistence user you may  
37 designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user  
38 to take deer, moose and caribou on your behalf unless  
39 you are a member of a community operating under a  
40 community harvest system. So what we propose is to  
41 remove the language that says unless you are a member  
42 of a community operating under a community harvest  
43 system.

44

45 Now the main reason for this is because  
46 if a person does not register to participate in their  
47 community harvest system that person retains, that  
48 person still has an individual harvest limit, one moose  
49 for example. And should be able to designate that  
50

0250

1 harvest limit to someone else to harvest for them  
2 through the designated harvester system.

3  
4 So the proposal is a request to remove  
5 this language from the general regulation and also in  
6 unit specific regulations regarding designated hunters.  
7 And there are two of these regulations specific to Unit  
8 26 and they're on Page 190 of your Council books and so  
9 these will be revised also.

10  
11 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
12 support proposal WP 22-02. And again this is the 10th  
13 and final Council to act on this proposal because it  
14 includes a general regulation that affects all regions  
15 of the State. Before today one, two, three, four, five  
16 Councils supported the proposal; one took no action  
17 until the winter meeting primarily because they ran out  
18 of time; one deferred to regions with community harvest  
19 systems like yours and two supported the proposal with  
20 modification. And that modification was to clarify  
21 that if you are a participant in a community harvest  
22 system you cannot designate another hunter to harvest  
23 on your behalf.

24  
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that's the end of  
26 my presentation. And I'm available to answer  
27 questions.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So your  
30 name again was Pippa?

31  
32 MS. KENNER: Yes, my name is Pippa  
33 Kenner.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any  
36 questions.....

37  
38 MS. KENNER: I don't think we -- I  
39 don't think we.....

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....for.....

42  
43 MR. OOMITTUK: Just for the record this  
44 is Steve Oomittuk at Point Hope. I got disconnected  
45 and it took me a while to get back on. But I am back  
46 on now. And I know we talked about it for a while.  
47 And I think I caught the tail end of it and it sounded  
48 more clarified than earlier. So I just want to let the  
49 Council know that I am back on. I was disconnected for  
50

0251

1 about 10, 15 minutes. So.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Steve.  
4 Welcome back. I just got back myself too.

5

6 All right. Any questions for Pippa on  
7 WP 22-02. And that proposal is a request to remove  
8 language from designated hunting regulations  
9 prohibiting the use of designated hunter permit by a  
10 member of a community operating under a community  
11 harvest system. Submitted by Office of Subsistence  
12 Management and apparently several different Councils  
13 have deliberated on this and are in support of this.

14

15 So if we are -- if there is a community  
16 that has a harvest system, operating under a community  
17 harvest system, you couldn't have a designated hunter.  
18 Is that what I'm hearing?

19

20 MS. KENNER: That's the way the  
21 regulation is now. And we're proposing to remove that.  
22 So if you are a member of a community.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So I'm a  
25 member of a community and I broke my leg and I can't go  
26 out and I can get my nephew to be my designated hunter  
27 and give him my permit and say get me some food?

28

29 MS. KENNER: Yes. This takes away one  
30 of the barriers.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I like that, remove  
33 barriers. Any questions for Pippa from the Council on  
34 the proposed regulation before we got to the list of  
35 organizations.

36

37 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Earl.

40

41 MR. WILLIAMS: (Indiscernible -  
42 distortion) this is what she said about (indiscernible  
43 - distortion). But anyway so most of us elders that  
44 can't go out so these young boys can go be the hunter.  
45 So I support that.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. KENNER: Thank you. This is Pippa.

50

0252

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Steve.

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

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. I think I have a better understanding of what was trying to be fixed and the wording to me had (indiscernible - distortion) a little bit. And then just listening to you, how you explained it, my definition was way different reason, the description of this than how you clarified it. And so.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native)

MR. OOMITTUK: .....I was -- I did not like it in the beginning at first and now that it's clarified I just misread it the way it's worded.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. That's right.

MS. KENNER: Thank you for letting me know, Member Oomittuk.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Pippa.

MS. KENNER: I just thanked Steve for the -- for that information.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Well, you know, I like to.....

MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....start with.....

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I could have -- I might have sounded a little hostile, but I -- when it comes to subsistence I -- you know, I was thinking a totally different thing of somebody from not even our area, you know, that would be designated and not even a tribal member or a resident if somebody asked them, you know, and the relative that can come in and do something, you know. My mind was just going up and I guess wasn't -- there was so much going on. So.....

But thank you for clarifying that. I have a better understanding.

0253

1                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, if you know  
2 your nephew got a brand new Ski-Doo and yours might  
3 break and say hey, I'm going to buy you gas, go get me  
4 five caribou. All right. You're my designated hunter.

5  
6                   MS. KIPPI: I have a question, Mr.  
7 Chair.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,  
10 Wanda.

11  
12                   MS. KIPPI: About the hunters that are  
13 going out for the one that might be injured or cannot  
14 go out hunting. So who do you -- who do you put the  
15 caribou under, like if they catch the five caribou does  
16 it go under the person they go hunt for or for the  
17 person that hunted the caribou.

18  
19                   Thank you.

20  
21                   MS. KENNER: So, Mr. Chair, this is  
22 Pippa Kenner for the record. That's a little off  
23 topic, but I can answer it very quickly.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Pippa.

26  
27                   MS. KENNER: Okay. So thanks for the  
28 question. The person who's going to be your designated  
29 hunter gets a designated hunter permit from a  
30 Federal.....

31  
32                   MS. KIPPI: Okay.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: (Indiscernible -  
35 simultaneous speech) reporting on his.....

36  
37                   MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you, Pippa.  
38 That answers my question.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other  
41 questions to Pippa.

42  
43                   (No comments)

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. I'm  
46 going to go down the list. And report of Board  
47 consultation to tribes and ANCSA corporations.

48  
49                   MR. LIND: Afternoon, Mr. Chair,  
50

0254

1 Council members. Orville Lind, Native liaison for OSM.  
2 During the consultation sessions we did not have any  
3 comments on the proposal.

4  
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Orville,  
8 Agency comments, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

9  
10 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chairman. Ben  
11 Mulligan here from ADF&G. The department is taking no  
12 position on this proposal.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any  
17 Federal comments.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Tribal  
22 agencies, Native villages and regional Native  
23 organizations.

24  
25 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Mr. William from  
26 Anaktuvuk. This is speaking for tribal.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr.  
29 Williams.

30  
31 MR. WILLIAMS: Any of these young guys  
32 are hunting for elders and people that have no  
33 snowmachines or equipment to go hunting with. So that  
34 really helped a lot especially the SRC and  
35 (indiscernible - distortion) gave its gas to the  
36 tribal.

37  
38 Hello.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You're on. Go ahead.  
41 We're still on.

42  
43 Mr. Williams, are you still on?

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We must have lost  
48 Earl. We're under tribal comments.

49  
50

0255

1 Eva, are you still on?

2

3 MS. PATTON: Yes, still on, Mr. Chair.  
4 Some -- like maybe Earl might have just gotten dropped.  
5 So hopefully he can call back in and connect with us  
6 again here.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Who else  
9 is on from the Council. Kaktovik, you on.

10

11 MS. ITTA: Martha's on.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.

14

15 MR. REXFORD: Kaktovik's here.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Point Hope?

18

19 MR. REXFORD: Kaktovik's still on.

20

21 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Point Hope is  
22 still here.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And I got  
25 Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope.

26

27 Atqasuk, you still on?

28

29 MS. KIPPI: Yes, Atqasuk is still here.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We must  
32 have just lost Earl.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm back.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, Earl.....

37

38 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm back.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We lost  
41 you there, Earl. Maybe you can restate what you were  
42 saying.

43

44 MR. WILLIAMS: I was saying that -- I  
45 was saying thank you very much for the SRC for stepping  
46 up on fuel and the purchase of ammos from the tribe and  
47 the city, everybody's working together, hunker down and  
48 really appreciate she said about a person for  
49 designated hunter.

50

0256

1 Thank you from Anaktuvuk.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank  
4 you.

5

6 (In Native)

7

8 And any other tribal comments.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.  
13 Advisory Group comments, other Regional Advisory  
14 Councils.

15

16 Eva.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
19 Council. As Pippa reported there was seven Councils  
20 that supported this proposal, WP 22-02, one that took  
21 no action and one that deferred to other regions with a  
22 community harvest system.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

27

28 MS. PATTON: And.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Yes. Other ACs, we did  
33 not comment from regional Fish and Game ACs. And again  
34 the SRC meeting today and the Gates of the Arctic SRC  
35 will be meeting in a couple weeks.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Summary  
40 of written public comments.

41

42 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
43 This is Pippa Kenner. No written comments were  
44 submitted during the public comment period on this  
45 proposal.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. The mic

50

0257

1 is open to public testimony.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll keep the  
6 mic open. Regional Council recommendations. Time for  
7 a motion. What's the wish of the Council.

8

9 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Frankly I mean  
12 Proposal WP 22-02. There's a motion on the floor. Was  
13 that Steve.

14

15 MR. OOMITTUK: No, somebody came on  
16 before me.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Somebody made  
19 a motion.

20

21 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll make a motion.  
22 Early.

23

24 MR. OOMITTUK: W.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. There's a  
27 motion on the floor from Earl, Anaktuvuk Pass for WP  
28 22-02.

29

30 (Teleconference interference -  
31 participants not muted)

32

33 MR. REXFORD: Second.

34

35 MR. OOMITTUK: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Being seconded. And  
38 was that seconded by Kaktovik.

39

40 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Steve seconded.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve. All right.

43 Any discussion.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it's  
48 important to recognize, you know, that we're all human  
49 beings and some of us might get old and we all got to  
50

0258

1 eat. And it's important to do that. Sometimes I  
2 myself buy fuel for any of my nephews and say give me a  
3 little bit when you get something. And I'll buy them a  
4 drum of gas or something. But I think it's important  
5 that it helps and it's beneficial for subsistence needs  
6 because that need sometime is not met by elders and  
7 those that might be disabled and things like that. So  
8 I think it's -- this is a good one I think.

9

10 MS. KIPPI: Question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been  
13 called for. All those in favor of approving WP 22-02,  
14 signify by saying aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
19 nay.

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. The  
24 ayes have it. WP 22-02 has passed the Council.

25

26 All right. So we'll go back to this  
27 page here. And, Eva, can you help us on the -- looks  
28 like we're done with Statewide proposals. There's an  
29 Alaska Board of Game proposal deferred. I'm not sure  
30 what that means.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
33 Council. At your winter meeting there was just one  
34 proposal, Board of Game proposal, regarding the Dalton  
35 Highway Corridor Management Area that the Council had  
36 hoped to be able to get some more information on. And  
37 it was our understanding that because the Board of Game  
38 meeting was deferred or delayed until 2022 that there  
39 may be an opportunity for the Council to get some more  
40 information on that proposal 173 which was regarding  
41 repealing the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.  
42 A copy of that proposal is in your supplemental  
43 materials.

44

45 But I should check online with our  
46 ADF&G representative to see if there was somebody  
47 available at this time to address this proposal. There  
48 may not be, it sounded like it was a very specific --  
49 you needed somebody with specific knowledge of that  
50

0259

1 management area. So just want to touch base with  
2 ADF&G.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, this is Ryan  
7 Scott with Fish and Game down in Juneau.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,  
10 Ryan.

11

12 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
13 members of the Council. Good afternoon. I don't have  
14 a lot to report on it. There's been a little bit of  
15 work done both by ADF&G, the Department of Natural  
16 Resources. About six weeks ago I had a very good  
17 meeting with the North Slope Borough Wildlife  
18 Management Department about the topic. As you well  
19 know there's a lot of moving pieces in that particular  
20 proposal. We will likely come back to the Board of  
21 Game with very similar information that we had before  
22 with some general updates of some language changes that  
23 DNR has proposed, but there hasn't been any official  
24 action taken on that.

25

26 So at this time it is essentially at  
27 the same stage that it was during the previous  
28 meetings.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And maybe just to  
31 understand a little bit clearer. Is this the  
32 management plan that may be through the Yukon Office of  
33 BLM?

34

35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, no. This is a  
36 Board of Game proposal. That was a BLM EIS process  
37 that I think you're referring to now. So this is --  
38 this is different from that BLM Yukon area office.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. If  
43 there's nothing more to report on that so we'll that  
44 until more information comes forward. And I hope we  
45 have an opportunity to hear with.

46

47 MR. SCOTT: Certainly. Thank you, Mr.  
48 Chairman.

49

50

0260

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Next item  
2 is special action, WSA 21-01 deferred, update and  
3 guided discussion. The information on that is on 204.

4  
5 And, Eva, if you could help us with  
6 that, what are we doing with that one.

7  
8 MS. PATTON: Yes. And thanks again to  
9 Mr. Scott for calling in to provide that update for the  
10 Council.

11  
12 Yes. And under special actions. So  
13 this is the deferred wildlife special action 21-01. It  
14 reads -- that the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory  
15 Council submitted. And this is the opportunity now for  
16 the Council to have its questions. Hannah Voorhees is  
17 online, our OSM anthropologist who will help and  
18 provide the background and a guided discussion and  
19 seeking more information from the Council on that  
20 deferred special action request.

21  
22 So you can find the full analysis is on  
23 Page 204 and I will turn it over to Hannah.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 DR. VOORHEES: This is Hannah Voorhees,  
28 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence  
29 Management. I'm here to give you an update on special  
30 action request WSA 21-01, receive feedback from you and  
31 discuss the next steps for this request. This is not  
32 an action item.

33  
34 Temporary wildlife special action WSA  
35 21-01 was submitted by the Northwest Arctic Council in  
36 February this year and requested closure of Federal  
37 public lands in Unit 23 and 26A to caribou and moose  
38 hunting by.....

39  
40 (Teleconference interference -  
41 participants not muted)

42  
43 REPORTER: Hannah.

44  
45 DR. VOORHEES: .....non-Federally-  
46 qualified users.....

47  
48 REPORTER: Hannah. Hannah, excuse me.  
49 This is Tina. I'm sorry to interrupt you, but if I  
50

0261

1 could ask everybody to please look at your device, make  
2 sure you're muted because you're overriding Hannah for  
3 the recording. So please check your device, put  
4 yourself on mute, star, six or the mute button.

5

6 All right.

7

8 Sorry, Hannah, go ahead.

9

10 DR. VOORHEES: Thanks, Tina. So the  
11 closure was to be to non-Federally-qualified users from  
12 August 1st to September 30th, 2021. This proposal was  
13 also supported by this Council.

14

15 The Northwest Arctic Council expressed  
16 concern about the late migration of caribou through  
17 Unit 23. The caribou migration has been delayed in  
18 recent years. The affect that transporters and  
19 nonlocal hunters may be having on caribou migration is  
20 of particular concern to the Council.

21

22 (Teleconference interference -  
23 participants not muted)

24

25 DR. VOORHEES: The rationale for the  
26 closure request for moose was declining population.

27

28 Following submission of this request  
29 OSM held a public hearing, opened a written public  
30 comment period and held two tribal and ANCSA  
31 corporation consultations. The original OSM conclusion  
32 was to support WSA 21-01 with modification to only  
33 close moose hunting to non-Federally-qualified users in  
34 Unit 23 from August 1st to September 30th, 2021. In  
35 June this year the Board met to decide on this request,  
36 but deferred it until 2022.

37

38 In the meantime the Board requested  
39 that OSM seek additional input on concerns related to  
40 caribou from many different entities including the  
41 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, Federal land  
42 managing agencies, local Fish and Game Advisory  
43 Committees, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
44 Regional Advisory Councils, commercial guides and  
45 transporters and subsistence users in the area. The  
46 Board also asked OSM Staff to include comparisons of  
47 moose harvest by survey area within Unit 23 in their  
48 analysis.

49

50

0262

1                   After OSM has compiled feedback from  
2 these groups updates will be made to include this  
3 information in the analysis which will then come before  
4 this Council at your winter, 2022 meeting. The Council  
5 can make formal recommendations or can make a formal  
6 recommendation at that time. The Board will then take  
7 action on this request in 2022.

8

9                   This item came before the Western  
10 Interior Council for discussion though not as an action  
11 item two weeks ago and they decided to defer all  
12 conversation on this item to the home regions. It also  
13 came before the Seward Peninsula Council. A member  
14 from Unalakleet noted that he has had to go further and  
15 further for caribou and that he and a member from  
16 Brevig Mission have both experienced or have both  
17 observed that weather is likely to be affecting caribou  
18 movements. Changing weather also interferes with  
19 access to caribou on the Seward Peninsula.

20

21                   During the Northwest Arctic meeting  
22 this week they noted that caribou did come very late  
23 this fall. There were few caribou locally around  
24 Kotzebue and none around Noorvik. People from Kotzebue  
25 and Noorvik went to Onion Portage on the Squirrel River  
26 to harvest. Noatak did get some locally. There were  
27 concerns in the region about both predators and air  
28 traffic turning around caribou especially at the Noatak  
29 River. Kiana did get some caribou, but they were also  
30 very late there. They started to cross the river and  
31 freeze up happened the next day.

32

33                   The plan is to have additional public  
34 hearings on this wildlife special action in November  
35 and December. The first is scheduled for November 17th  
36 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. And we can make sure that you  
37 have that announcement in your hand with all the call  
38 in information.

39

40                   Before I move on are there any  
41 questions? I do have some specific questions for you,  
42 but I just wanted to pause for a moment.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from  
45 the Council on this update.

46

47                   (No comments)

48

49                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. If you've

50

0263

1 got questions for us go ahead.

2

3

4 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
5 have a set of questions that have been asked at the  
6 Council meetings for all four Councils, it is a  
7 traditional and customary use determination for caribou  
8 in Unit 23. I know that we're a little short on time,  
9 but so you can spend as much or as little time on this  
10 as you want, but the Board has asked for additional  
11 feedback from Councils so that's why these are being  
12 posed to you.

12

13

14 The first question is can you tell me  
15 more about the recent success or lack of success of  
16 communities in your region with caribou harvest. Can  
17 you tell me about this fall how much effort are you  
18 expending to get caribou and is this more effort than  
19 in the past or about the same or less.

19

20

Thank you.

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

That's kind of the experience that I'm  
seeing this year. And, you know, different people have  
different effort. I like to go to my camp because

0264

1 that's where my mom and dad camped and my great  
2 grandmother camped up there and it's just -- it's a  
3 sentimental feeling to go up there to go home. I go up  
4 there to go home and knowing that there's fishing and  
5 caribou and things like that.

6  
7 So that's what I can say. And maybe  
8 I'll go to Kaktovik if you have anything to say or add  
9 about your caribou success rates and community  
10 difficulty for caribou.

11  
12 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 This is Eva. I just want a quick reminder for folks to  
14 mute your phones. I think somebody's maybe having  
15 dinner or doing dishes. So just take a moment please  
16 to mute your phones so we can hear our Council members.

17  
18 Thank you so much. Sorry to interrupt.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kaktovik, you on?

21  
22 MR. REXFORD: Yes, I'm on.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. It was just  
25 that request to see that -- go ahead.

26  
27 MR. REXFORD: Go ahead.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. If you want to  
30 describe your caribou issues or difficulty with the  
31 community. We don't need to, but they were just asking  
32 what kind of difficulties with caribou we're having  
33 this year.

34  
35 MR. REXFORD: Okay. Yeah, we don't  
36 have any difficulties at the moment harvesting caribou.  
37 In fact yeah, we've been harvesting quite a few this  
38 year, also reindeer again.

39  
40 So thank you for the opportunity.  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kaktovik.  
44 We'll go to Nuiqsut. Nuiqsut, are you still on,  
45 Martha.

46  
47 MS. ITTA: I'm still here. Sorry I had  
48 to unmute my phone. Like I stated in my report, just a  
49 couple of sick caribou that I heard of, the diversion  
50

0265

1 of their route, not crossing the industrial roads on  
2 the NPR-A side. I know they were -- their migration  
3 route usually goes to Fish Creek. A few have made it  
4 on that side. I know there's an abundance out there,  
5 but they're all scattered around our village.

6  
7 That's pretty much all I have for now.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.  
10 Anaktuvuk Pass. Earl, you still on.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We must  
15 have lost Earl again. We'll go to Atqasuk. Wanda.

16  
17 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our  
18 caribou have been at the beginning of the caribou  
19 season there was -- they were probably farther away  
20 from our area, but I'm not too sure because during that  
21 -- the beginning of the season there was hunting very  
22 slowly, they weren't catching as much at the beginning  
23 of the open season. And near the -- near the middle of  
24 the hunting season there was people catching, they were  
25 doing good hunting during that time and there were big  
26 herds, finally near the ending of the season there was  
27 a big herd. So finally there were -- I finally get to  
28 see big herds. And there was actually one big herd  
29 across the -- across the river around the Atqasuk area  
30 and straight across from our river here in Atqasuk. It  
31 was good to see, but they was scared through the wolves  
32 that were in our area, this was just last month or  
33 recently. And I don't know, there was -- it -- you  
34 still have to go pretty far when they first started  
35 hunting. I still had to go further than normal that we  
36 usually hunt. Still the same.

37  
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.  
41 We'll go to Point Hope.

42  
43 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 This is Point Hope, Steve Oomittuk for the record. It  
45 seems like it's been a very good year, you know, and  
46 not as much predators although they seen a few lynx and  
47 caught a few other animals. But the caribou have been  
48 around, you know, they came in late, you know, it seem  
49 like they're staying up north a little longer because  
50

1 of the climate, it gets cold and we see them first --  
2 end of June, first part of July they start coming down  
3 to the Point Hope area. This year they didn't even  
4 come through until later part of July, almost August  
5 when they start coming south, you know, it's still  
6 pretty warm. And the caribou been pretty much been  
7 around year round this last couple of years. It hasn't  
8 been like that for a while even though the population  
9 is down, but they're staying in -- within the western  
10 area in Unit 26 and 23 and they're staying up north a  
11 little longer. The amount of predators, you know, a  
12 few years ago and last year seems like they caught an  
13 abundance of wolves and wolverines, but this year it's  
14 kind of slow. I don't know if it's -- why they're not  
15 around. The predators, the wolves or wolverines,  
16 they're not catching them as much as they caught them  
17 the year before and two years ago. So I don't know if  
18 it has to do with the predators or what, but it's been  
19 a pretty good year.

20

21 And the climate, you know, we're  
22 getting a lot of snow right now. The climate changes,  
23 warm and cold, warm and cold, snow melts the rivers,  
24 but, you know, people usually -- you know, they're up  
25 the Kukpuk fishing for grayling and trout, river trout,  
26 but they're not -- not enough grayling, they got their  
27 nets, but there's caribou around and, you know, and sea  
28 otters, it seems like the river is dry, kind of muddy.  
29 But the caribou are still around.

30

31 Other than that everybody's freezers  
32 are pretty full with caribou meat the last couple years  
33 which is good.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Steve.  
38 And we'll go see if Earl is back on yet at Anaktuvuk.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Must have lost Earl  
43 and he would have a pretty good report too because I  
44 know I have a lot of relatives up that way and a lot of  
45 happy signs.....

46

47 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello there.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....coming through.

50

0267

1 Yeah, you need to.....

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Am I back on.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....express your  
6 concerns about caribou.

7

8 Yeah, you.....

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....were you cut  
13 off?

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much. We  
16 had a good year this year with caribou and everybody  
17 got caribou and they stocked up. There's some wolves  
18 around. I like what the lady said about somebody  
19 hunting for elders, providing. That's a good learning  
20 experience for kids because there's some elders who are  
21 slowly -- they're slowly like animals I guess. I don't  
22 know. But what I'm saying is that, you know, we all  
23 got to work together to stay alive. Like you said  
24 earlier, we're all human.

25

26 So I want to thank you very much for  
27 our comments. Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think  
30 that's all the villages on some feedback on your  
31 caribou and collecting more information for this season  
32 and that will probably help with some of your  
33 compilation of additional information, what currently  
34 is going on in Unit 26A up here and all of Unit 26 for  
35 that matter in terms of caribou movements and  
36 availability of these resources for the villages.

37

38 I hope that helps.

39

40 DR. VOORHEES: Yes, that helped very  
41 much.

42

43 And I do have some other questions  
44 though. So I was just wondering -- I guess I should  
45 clarify also that while I -- you know, we are  
46 interested in everyone's feedback if -- you know, we  
47 want to be cognizant of time, we are focusing mostly on  
48 communities that harvest from the Western Arctic  
49 Caribou Herd. So probably mostly 26A communities.

50

0268

1                   The next question I have is in terms of  
2 -- so in Unit 23 concerns have been voiced about air  
3 traffic and nonlocal hunter on the ground, their impact  
4 on the ground. I'm wondering those two issues also  
5 perceived to be problematic in 26A and is it -- in  
6 terms of which is more disruptive, would it be air  
7 traffic or would it be the nonlocal hunters themselves?

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very interesting.  
10 But, you know, as a land manager for the North Slope  
11 Borough, as a land management administrator, you know,  
12 we are seeing guides that are pretty -- you know, like  
13 cowboys type folks that, you know, say what borough  
14 permit, I got a Federal permit, that overrides  
15 everybody's permit. I mean, there's some guides that  
16 are very arrogant sometimes. And our folks on some of  
17 our inspections encountered an aircraft that was  
18 crashed and it looked like he went upside down in the  
19 Galbraith area. And we took pictures of that,  
20 investigated it and all that. Turns out these guys are  
21 not even -- don't have permits from the local  
22 government, we don't know that they're doing these  
23 things until somebody crashes. And then refuse to talk  
24 to us. So, I mean, we're investigating some of these  
25 things.

26  
27                   So if we're seeing that with some  
28 guides, you know -- you know, it's good to make sure we  
29 from our correspondence to the Big Game Services Board  
30 Committee that license these people, say hey, you know,  
31 these people, you know, we really need to be working  
32 with some of these at the Big Game Services Board to  
33 talk about regulatory requirements and because there's --  
34 it's multi jurisdictional up here on the Slope.

35  
36                   And just leads me to think some of the  
37 concerns that were raised by North West Arctic Regional  
38 Advisory Council when they were proposing the closure  
39 for Unit 26A and Unit 23 to all but Federally-qualified  
40 users, their concern seems to resonate that what's  
41 happening to the caribou, why did they not come to  
42 those villages last year, in last fall. And that  
43 something is obviously -- whether it's a conservation  
44 matter or if it's a widespread air taxi issue, from non  
45 -- from other residents from urban areas that are  
46 having their own aircraft and, you know, we try to work  
47 with landowners like ASRC and then -- and they have,  
48 you know, reported hunt areas on ASRC lands which are  
49 off limits and other guides in the previous years that  
50

0269

1 were cited for that and out of their concession area  
2 and we at the borough issued violation notices. When  
3 you do that to a guide, you know, and these guides got  
4 to be very confident of what they're doing when and  
5 they -- and suddenly they go out of business because  
6 their clientele like Savage Firearms or they're on  
7 these hunting channels with Ted Nugent and those guys,  
8 that's the kind of guides that we see up here  
9 sometimes. And when they're not following the rules  
10 and it seems to be like their arrogance gets in their  
11 way sometimes.

12

13 So I would need to think that there's  
14 some merit to the aircraft users and maybe the private  
15 users that might interfere with movement of caribou.  
16 And that was the reasoning behind supporting the  
17 closure for 26A and 23 because something was happening  
18 to many communities where the caribou didn't even come  
19 and was -- and, you know, you could think about these  
20 things and how best to resolve these things.

21

22 So that's my feedback on that type of  
23 thing. So certainly I think there's some issues like  
24 that, but we don't know what happened. We're thinking  
25 that if the closure was in place and see if those  
26 things would resolve. So that was probably the intent  
27 behind that. But I don't see the impact to the  
28 communities on the north side of the Brooks Range  
29 because we all -- a lot of us were very, very  
30 successful in that harvest. It was basically the  
31 proposal from Northwest Arctic Borough and our  
32 compassion, our compassion to -- that these Federally-  
33 qualified users don't have to compete with many  
34 different variables to try to remedy that.

35

36 I don't know if that makes sense to you  
37 or not, but that was my take on it about the aircraft  
38 and the air taxis that -- you know, if you're being  
39 restricted in these areas, those air taxis might just  
40 go over the hump and go impact on the north side. And  
41 because we're -- our movement of caribou is dependent  
42 on both sides. I'll leave it at that.

43

44 Any other feedback on this air taxi and  
45 private air carriers and stuff. That's from my own  
46 experience and what we're dealing with too.

47

48 MR. OOMITTUK: For the record, Mr.  
49 Chair, this is Steve with Point Hope.

50

0270

1                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

2

3

4                   MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know, usually  
5 the first part of July until the middle part you do see  
6 some traffic. And we try to tell the hunters to get,  
7 you know, the numbers off the tail especially in the  
8 later part of July, first of August we know that, you  
9 know, a lot of the hunters don't come until later in  
10 August or in September even. But you have other people  
11 that are out there too. Whether they're locally out of  
12 the NANA area, we don't always know who's out there  
13 hunting especially when the caribou are starting to  
14 migrate south and but you see a lot of traffic. And,  
15 you know, we try to see if the Bureau of Land  
16 Management is out there doing their surveys or whatever  
17 and, you know, we just try to tell the hunters to get  
18 the tail numbers so -- and write it down so we can  
19 know, you know, because a lot of our hunters are so  
20 used to the caribou coming through first of July and  
21 sometimes they have to go further east. But the  
22 caribou were staying up north and didn't come back  
23 until the later part of July, even August. And, you  
24 know, the weather, it stayed warmer. Seemed like in  
25 the last couple years that's what the caribou have been  
26 doing is staying further north until the later part and  
27 not coming like when they normally do into our area the  
28 first part of July when we get the eggs, murre eggs.  
29 Usually we see them when we're getting the eggs because  
30 we go, but now the eggs -- even the murre are getting  
31 out, they're getting the eggs the middle part of June.

31

32

33

34                   So, you know, the climate, you know,  
35 we're so used to getting things at a certain time of  
36 the month, you know, because of the climate and the  
37 weather. But, you know, the climate is changing and  
38 it's changing the migration of certain animals. And  
39 they're not there when they're supposed to be there or,  
40 you know, when it's too hot in July and they're coming  
41 south, you know, and coming to the coastline to get  
42 away from the mosquitos. You know, seems like it's not  
43 -- not like it used to be, but we do see aircraft and  
44 seem like they do -- you know, hunters say they drive  
45 down -- fly down low further inland and like they're  
46 trying to herd them further east, you know, when  
47 they're coming to the west, you know. And you could  
48 see the trails of the caribou, you know, they've been  
49 going through thousands of years, now the animals will  
50 come to you, you know, at certain areas where we used

50

0271

1 to wait. We didn't have to go chasing them or, you  
2 know, we didn't have the vehicles they have today, the  
3 younger generation. You know, it was always about, you  
4 know, just wait, the animals will come. And, you know,  
5 the last decade or so, you know, there for a while the  
6 caribou didn't come, you know, it's like changing the  
7 migration. And the abundance of aircraft. And so we  
8 told the hunters to keep track of that and at least try  
9 to get those numbers down on the planes that they see.

10

11

12 So but thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Steve.  
15 Anybody else on the aircraft stuff.

16

17 MS. KIPPI: This is Wanda, Steve -- Mr.  
18 Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

21

22 MS. KIPPI: Hi. I had one from  
23 community member was telling people and I heard about  
24 it from family member that there was a plane that was  
25 flying real low, scaring caribou and they flew real  
26 close to the people that were watching on ATVs. And  
27 they didn't get the number, they had given me the color  
28 of the plane and I think at the time I might have given  
29 it to Carmen. I forgot when that was, but it was a  
30 while back.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

37

38 DR. VOORHEES: And through the Chair I  
39 can ask the next question?

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

42

43 DR. VOORHEES: So we've heard about air  
44 traffic and -- as well as climate change possibly being  
45 factors that are delaying the caribou migration or  
46 making subsistence harvest difficult. Are there any  
47 other possible reasons or does anyone have any more  
48 observations about changing weather having a role in  
49 delayed migration?

50

1                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: I can say a couple  
2 things that -- what my father would talk about when he  
3 was alive, he was a reindeer herder from the 1920s,  
4 '30, '40s. And there were certain things that they  
5 observed with the reindeer and also with the caribou  
6 because, you know, they were managing about 20,000  
7 reindeer. And some of the things that they worried  
8 about was during the freeze up time and the caribou  
9 would have a difficulty moving around and would have to  
10 follow the edge until snow cover or that there was  
11 actual water to get into to cross areas and would be  
12 skittish about ice. And there was some concern  
13 sometime ago about the ice road that went all the way  
14 to Barrow when they were doing some drilling. And one  
15 of the things that some of those elders say, that ice  
16 road can be perceived by caribou as a freshly frozen  
17 river and then follow along that. And because it was  
18 just an observation they saw over time when it's  
19 starting to freeze and the caribou tending to just --  
20 not willing to cross areas that they knew was maybe  
21 slippery or looked like a frozen river or something  
22 like that.

23  
24                   And the other thing is when the  
25 temperature is warm then it gets cold then it gets warm  
26 and gets the snow cover damp and then a cold spell  
27 comes in and they have a hard time through snow because  
28 some of their legs start to get cuts above when that  
29 layer on top is a little bit hard and they fall  
30 through, it's like cutting them with a knife sometimes.  
31 And, you know, they used to even work on these for  
32 reindeer and take care of that, they used to actually  
33 do some surgeries, these reindeer guys, to, you know,  
34 cut those legs that might be doing that. And, I mean,  
35 they get -- you know, they learned all this reindeer  
36 husbandry stuff, but in dealing with the environment  
37 itself about these. And I think there's a little bit  
38 of, you know, we need to think about some of these  
39 things and why movements could be -- that nature might  
40 be taking some concerns.

41  
42                   I remember in 19 I think 98 or 1999,  
43 you know, we as hunters and trappers in the Ikpikpuk  
44 and, you know, had reported about maybe 2,000 dead  
45 caribou scattered all around in the upper Ikpikpuk  
46 area. And I don't know if people would remember that,  
47 but and one of the thoughts were they encountered, you  
48 know, warm, cold, warm and then very extreme difficulty  
49 reading because they have to punch through an icy layer  
50

0273

1 of the top to get to the food on the bottom and then  
2 and this is just maybe some I don't know about  
3 guessing, but thinking what may have happened to them  
4 because it kind of looked like they starved and then  
5 froze. But the weather may have played a part to where  
6 they couldn't access their food and then when the  
7 weather dipped to minus 40 below zero these animals  
8 just froze to death because they were already  
9 struggling and malnourished.

10

11                   Anyway those are just some of the types  
12 of observations and things about the weather and  
13 features and things like that that could potentially  
14 impact caribou and their movements as well.

15

16                   Anyway I'll just leave it at that.

17

18                   DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair If  
19 anyone else.....

20

21                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments.

22

23                   (No comments)

24

25                   DR. VOORHEES: If no one else wants to  
26 weigh in on that one the next question is are there any  
27 concerns about potential side effects of the closure?

28

29                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, maybe I can say  
30 something. The side effects of 26A and 23 closure, the  
31 only side effects that you're probably going to see is  
32 that maybe other areas that are not in these two units  
33 may get additional pressure from nonrural resident.  
34 And the other part of it there's always been some  
35 concerns about rural residents in these areas that  
36 elect to live in urban areas and often go home for a  
37 couple weeks to go harvest. And maybe that's a side  
38 effect of that where they once can just go back home,  
39 but they live in the urban areas and maybe they would  
40 have to depend on other folks or go to the other areas  
41 that do not -- that don't have that restriction.

42

43                   But I think they -- one of the side  
44 effects would be that potentially the Federally-  
45 qualified users are going to be less impacted by multi  
46 variables of we don't know what and maybe reset, reset  
47 the normalcy of caribou movements because, you know, a  
48 majority of the Federally-qualified users they don't  
49 have their own airplanes, they don't -- they can't  
50

0274

1 access these areas to go disturb the migration routes,  
2 they're -- the Federally-qualified users are going to  
3 be on boat and going to these places to -- to known  
4 areas where they're normally encountered and reasonably  
5 available for subsistence harvest. I think that might  
6 be one of the things.

7

8 And thank you, Carmen for sending me  
9 some pictures on arctic hare and the hare. I'm  
10 enjoying the pictures and looking at that little rabbit  
11 or the big rabbit.

12

13 So anybody else want to provide input  
14 on potential side effects if the Federal closure of 26A  
15 and 23 to only qualified subsistence -- Federal-  
16 qualified users.

17

18 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, for the  
19 record this is Steve with Point Hope.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: And, you know, I agree  
24 with you also. You know, I -- you know the herd's  
25 migration, you know, the communities within Unit 23 and  
26 then, you know, especially further east from Point  
27 Hope, those communities are in places where the caribou  
28 migrated right -- right, you know, the Western Arctic  
29 Caribou Herd. And they were put right in place because  
30 the caribou migrated right through that area and they  
31 didn't have to go anywhere, you know, the caribou came  
32 to them. Just like the animals of -- where a lot of  
33 our communities are established because the animals  
34 come to us, you know, whether it's the whale, the seal,  
35 the caribou, the fish, you know, the abundance of  
36 birds, ducks, geese. We're established in these places  
37 because, you know, we were not -- you know, we didn't  
38 have to chase the animals, we didn't have to go look  
39 for them, you know, we believe the animals gave  
40 themselves to us. That's why we were there and they  
41 fed us, clothed us, sheltered us for thousands of years  
42 until recently when things started to change. When the  
43 nonresidents or other or sporthunters started winning  
44 the caribou or moose and -- and being put in the front  
45 line of them and changing that migration route. Where,  
46 you know, we had to go further, further in, further  
47 east.

48

49 You know, if there was closure to  
50

0275

1 nonresident and sporthunters I think that, you know,  
2 the local people would go back to their ways, you know.  
3 You know, we're -- you know, we're very patient people  
4 some -- you know, it's changing though, you can see it  
5 in the younger generation especially with the vehicles  
6 they have nowadays and, you know, we didn't have all  
7 that. A lot -- some of us grew up with dog teams and  
8 seeing the changes from a totally subsistence way of  
9 life to where it's a cash economy, now you need -- you  
10 need to have a job to get gas for your four-wheeler or  
11 purchase a four-wheeler. You can't go out hunting with  
12 one dog, two dogs, you know. I have two dogs today, I  
13 used to have 30.

14  
15 But, you know, it's changed and I feel  
16 that if there was closure and it needs to have a  
17 closure because of the population. And, you know, we  
18 still have just the census of 2019, we don't have '20  
19 or '21 and we know it's at a steady decline. And the  
20 population of 244, that's the main population form 2019  
21 is an estimate, it can be 20 below or 20 above which is  
22 still low compared to 500,000. And I think that, you  
23 know, until we see these numbers get to -- you know,  
24 get that accurate number and ensure that we'll find out  
25 why these numbers are declining, whether it's the  
26 calves or the females, not an abundance of females or  
27 what. Why is it declining, is it the food source. You  
28 know, I think that, you know, it needs to be looked at  
29 more. But I think closure would be a big help  
30 especially to the subsistence hunters that are in the  
31 migration routes.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.  
36 Any other comments on the side effects of that  
37 proposal, if it were to take hold.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Hearing  
42 none. Did you have additional questions because we're  
43 coming up to 5:00 o'clock.

44  
45 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 I'll try to be brief as possible. I appreciate  
47 everything you've shared to this point. And I do have  
48 a question about whether the Council has ideas  
49 regarding alternative ways to address the problem in  
50

0276

1 Unit 23 and 26A, a possible alternative solution that  
2 doesn't go as far as closing both units?

3

4

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I have some  
5 ideas, you know. If there was -- you know, you look at  
6 the control use areas like the Noatak National Preserve  
7 area, control use area and you think about some of the  
8 comprehensive plans that for all of the villages on the  
9 -- within the North Slope Borough which are mandated by  
10 the State of Alaska, by Alaska statutes and mandated by  
11 North Slope Borough municipal codes to develop  
12 comprehensive plans, there's a thing called the area of  
13 influence for each community. And the definition of  
14 that area of influence is the immediate environment  
15 outside the village district boundary, the city limits,  
16 that provides for the contemporary and traditional use  
17 patterns that support the community. And to give  
18 deference to the community in this area of influence.

19

20

And it might be important to look at  
21 that because I've often tried to think about how we can  
22 protect better the availability of subsistence  
23 resources for communities that -- you know, we're no  
24 longer being nomads, we used to move around and with  
25 animals and stuff now we're -- we got to be going to  
26 school, we got communities and things like that and it --  
27 and it's important to continue to look at the  
28 subsistence needs instead of wholesale blocking  
29 everything. To that I would say an alternative is, you  
30 know, around a village within 30 miles of that  
31 community, you provide for deference to subsistence  
32 uses for each community and not be -- subject them to  
33 nonrural residents in these areas or it has -- if it's  
34 in State land surrounding that that it be a tier hunt.

35

36

Because here's one thing when you  
37 deflect caribou and other subsistence resources from  
38 where they're normally found for reasonable subsistence  
39 user access and harvesting, the North Slope Borough  
40 Assembly in 2004 with an analysis that we provided for  
41 the Alpine satellite rezone determine that deflection  
42 of caribou amount to depletion because they're no  
43 longer available and reasonably available where they  
44 were normally found. You may have a liberal management  
45 -- a liberal management of these resources because of  
46 their abundance, but to deplete them from where they're  
47 normally found and available for subsistence amounts to  
48 depleting those resources in those areas. And the  
49 creation of the North Slope Borough Mitigation Fund

50

1 Advisory Committee was created and adopted by the North  
2 Slope Borough Assembly by ordinance to do active  
3 mitigation around the Nuiqsut area because of analyses  
4 like these.

5  
6 And it might be important for OSM to  
7 maybe model something like that. And within a certain  
8 radius of a community that that be used for the  
9 exclusive harvest for those resources immediately  
10 outside the village district, city limit boundaries  
11 that provide for the contemporary and traditional use  
12 activities that support the community. And I -- that's  
13 just an idea to me, I mean, I -- if I could I would go  
14 to the mayor and say let's rezone all of these areas  
15 and call it the subsistence zone for each community.  
16 And because now we're talking about food security these  
17 days even because of climate change.

18  
19 Anyway I tend to go and start to  
20 express a lot when I -- when I get motivated to do so,  
21 but I'll leave it at that. And that's just one idea in  
22 my thought.

23  
24 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 And I've heard arguments on this idea of areas of  
26 influence before and I -- as you mentioned that would  
27 probably need to be a State, a Federal look, you know,  
28 it would take both entities to look at whether that  
29 would be feasible. But in terms of.....

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You're already doing  
32 it. When you put in a control use area and define it  
33 and put controls like that, that's basically an area of  
34 influence for those communities in that control use  
35 area. It's already being done, it's just called  
36 something different.

37  
38 DR. VOORHEES: That's a good point. In  
39 terms of caribou migration being deflected, you know, I  
40 mean, part of the problem is it's, you know, saying  
41 that this deflection is happening, we don't know where,  
42 we don't have the data to show us where that would be  
43 happening. At the Northwest Regional Advisory Council  
44 meeting, you know, we tried to -- we had some pretty  
45 detailed conversation about, you know, where the  
46 greatest areas of deflection might be, but that's  
47 something that is taking an agency level effort to try  
48 to, you know, fill in some gaps and get better  
49 information about that deflection. Since it's -- since  
50

0278

1 this issue is not only about availability around  
2 communities, but also, you know, movement through  
3 migration corridors and larger scale processes. So  
4 definitely a very complex problem.

5

6 And I -- I just -- I want to say thank  
7 you for taking the time in a very packed schedule to  
8 speak to this again. I know you've testified about  
9 this repeatedly and I appreciate your patience and  
10 diligence on this. I also just want to say thank you  
11 especially to Steve Oomittuk who's been sharing his  
12 knowledge and perspective on this, wearing multiple  
13 hats as a member of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
14 Working Group as well. And thank you, Mr. Chair, for  
15 sharing all that you did as well.

16

17 That's all I have.

18

19 Well, I guess just really quickly. I  
20 just want to make sure that -- okay. I need to mention  
21 that you will be able to vote on this at your winter,  
22 2022 meeting and I'll mention again that there are  
23 public hearings coming up shortly, the first will be on  
24 November 17th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. There will also  
25 be an opportunity to speak at the actual Board meeting  
26 which will probably be in April, 2022.

27

28 I also want to make sure that I haven't  
29 overlooked the BLM Arctic Field Office. I -- I'm not  
30 100 percent sure if they wanted to say anything on this  
31 topic at this meeting, I just wanted to provide that  
32 opportunity for them if that is okay with you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think that's  
35 all right. And -- yeah, we'll have that opportunity in  
36 our winter meeting to -- is it like reaffirming our  
37 support because we had I think passed the support on  
38 that from the North Slope Regional Advisory Council  
39 last year or earlier this year.

40

41 DR. VOORHEES: Yes, the only difference  
42 will be that there will be, you know, all these sources  
43 of feedback that we've covered including the testimony  
44 that you've given today will be incorporated into the  
45 analysis. And so there may be some changes for you to  
46 review.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Very  
49 good. Remember we're doing some of these things

50

0279

1 already even through the North Slope Borough, but we  
2 will stop and cease and desist bargaining activity that  
3 interferes with bowhead whaling activities and do  
4 orders to cease and desist to industrial operators  
5 based on borough policy on the subsistence needs. And  
6 it's important and they're not indefinite, these are --  
7 you can do time area closures, you know, they can be  
8 during the peak subsistence period between July and  
9 October that some of these closures could be effective.  
10 And remember that too, time area. And then it goes  
11 back to opening based on those types of things.

12

13 All right. Thank you very much. And I  
14 know this is not an action item and it was an update  
15 and to try to provide feedback and information. Thank  
16 you very much for the update.

17

18 It's 5:00 o'clock and so, Eva, is there  
19 a -- you want to guide us here a little bit.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
22 Council. Great discussion. And we have probably just,  
23 you know, maybe under an hour of work left. There's  
24 just a couple of reports, action items for the Council  
25 and then we have agency reports. So hoping we can just  
26 extend the meeting for a little bit and be able to  
27 finish the rest of the Council's business and hear from  
28 the agencies that the Council had requested specific  
29 information from for this meeting. So if we are able  
30 to continue I'm sure we would be wrapping up probably  
31 around 6:00 p.m.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So what  
34 do we do next.

35

36 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.....

39

40 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....Wanda.

43

44 MS. KIPPI: I would like to finish the  
45 agenda with the action items or the items under the  
46 agenda, what is left.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0280

1                   CHAIRMAN BROWER:    Sounds good.    Let's  
2 try to pummel through it.  Are we all onboard and work  
3 with Eva here and get our agenda done?

4  
5                   MR. REXFORD:    Sounds good.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN BROWER:  All right.    Let's do  
8 it.  Eva, what's the next thing.

9  
10                  MS. PATTON:    Thank you, Mr.  Chair and  
11 Council.  Next we have an update on the FRMP from Karen  
12 Hyer.  And you'll find information in your meeting  
13 books on Page 292.  So that's the Fisheries Resource  
14 Monitoring Program and that's on Page 292 in your  
15 meeting books.  And Karen Hyer will provide that  
16 overview for you.

17  
18                  CHAIRMAN BROWER:  All right.

19  
20                  MS. PATTON:    Thank you.

21  
22                  CHAIRMAN BROWER:  All right, Karen,  
23 you're on the spot.

24  
25                  MS. HYER:    Hi, Mr.  Chair.

26  
27                  CHAIRMAN BROWER:  292 on your book.

28  
29                  MS. HYER:    This is Karen Hyer.  And,  
30 Eva, can you quickly check the notes.  I'm happy to go,  
31 but Hannah said something about Shelly willing to go  
32 and I don't know if this is the appropriate time or  
33 not.

34  
35                  MS. PATTON:  Oh, yes, of course.  Let's  
36 see.  Yes, it looks like Shelly had information on 26A,  
37 commercial guide info.  And we do have BLM, a full  
38 report coming up too shortly under agency reports as  
39 well.  So whichever time is good for Shelly to provide  
40 those updates is great.

41  
42                  Thank you.

43  
44                  CHAIRMAN BROWER:  Are we proposing to  
45 shuffle folks around because of their availability and  
46 we're very flexible at this point.  So we're going to  
47 Karen right now?

48  
49                  MS. HYER:    I am ready to go if that is  
50

0281

1 what the Council wishes I will start.

2

3

4 Okay. I'm going to talk to you about  
5 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And for the  
6 record my name is Karen Hyer, and I'm a fisheries  
7 biologist with OSM. And I am working with Dr. Hannah  
8 Voorhees, she's the anthropologist that works on the  
9 FRMP with me. And so starting on Page 292 you will  
10 find the FRMP and I'm going to take you through the  
11 draft 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan which is  
12 composed of the successful research and monitoring  
13 projects submitted to OSM through the 2022 notice of  
14 funding opportunity. And just a reminder to everybody  
15 that the notice of funding opportunity is what our --  
16 we call our official request for project proposals.  
17 And again as Gordon mentioned earlier, this happens  
18 every two years.

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

So I'm going to pause for just a minute  
and make sure everybody can hear me. Can everybody  
hear me okay?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: We could.

MS. HYER: Okay. Super. All right.  
Well, there's a lot of information in this book and you  
can go through it on your own. I'm going to just hit  
the highlights which is just a fraction of the  
information.

The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan  
is comprised of projects providing information needed  
to sustain subsistence fisheries on Federal public  
lands for rural Alaskans. The projects are  
multidisciplinary and collaborative. The Fisheries  
Resource Monitoring Program is divided into six regions  
which you can see on the bottom of Page 292 of your  
book. These regions correspond with Federal  
subsistence fishery areas and generally hold stock,  
harvest and community issues in common. The northern  
region has three Councils. So your Council works with  
the Northwest Arctic and the Seward Peninsula Council  
to determine what is happening in the northern region.

So in 2020 in the fall we discussed the  
subsistence fisheries information gaps in your region  
and the Council developed a priority information needs  
for your area. This list of research priorities

0282

1 developed by your Council was combined with the  
2 research priorities identified by Northwest Arctic and  
3 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Councils. The  
4 combined list was called the 2022 priority information  
5 needs for northern Alaska. And it is what guided the  
6 2022 notice of funding opportunity. Those priorities  
7 are really important because they're what the  
8 researchers look to to guide what kind of proposals  
9 they develop and they can be found on Page 302 and 303  
10 of your books.

11

12 In response to our notice of funding  
13 investigators submitted proposals for possible  
14 projects. All the submitted proposals go through a  
15 research -- a review process. First they're reviewed  
16 by the Technical Review Committee to make sure they had  
17 a proper Federal nexus and they were evaluated on five  
18 criteria. Those criteria can be found on Pages 297  
19 through 299 and I'll just briefly go over what the TRC  
20 reviewed the proposals on. They look for strategic  
21 priority. The project must address an information need  
22 related to Federal subsistence management. They looked  
23 at technical and scientific merits. The projects were  
24 evaluated for scientific rigor and clarity of purpose.  
25 They looked at investigator ability and resources. The  
26 investigators had to have the ability to complete the  
27 proposed work. They looked at partnership and capacity  
28 building. And each proposal had to have participation  
29 and support from local organizations. And finally they  
30 looked at the cost benefit. The cost had to be  
31 reasonable for the work.

32

33 So for this cycle we have an  
34 anticipated \$2.25 million available for new projects.  
35 The northern -- for the northern region four projects  
36 were submitted and the projects are listed on table  
37 one on Page 304. So I'll give everybody a minute to  
38 get to Page 304 because those are the projects I'm  
39 going to need your comments on.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So.....

42

43 MS. HYER: Everybody -- I'm also  
44 getting to 304 here. So everybody see at the top of  
45 304 there's a table for projects. So and below that  
46 table you can see the Technical Review Committee  
47 comments about these projects. And then in addition to  
48 that in appendix two which starts on Page 308 there's  
49 executive summaries that the investigators have written  
50

0283

1 and submitted for each project.

2

3

4 And so now that the TRC has given us  
5 their comments in a minute I'm going to be going  
6 through the projects asking the Council for their  
7 comments. And then those comments will be put together  
8 with the TRC comments and everything goes to our Staff  
9 Committee and then the Staff Committee provides  
10 additional comments and all of that is taken to the  
11 Federal Subsistence Board when they consider the  
12 proposals.

12

13

14 So before we go over the projects I'm  
15 going to pause. Does anybody have any questions about  
16 the process?

16

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions on the  
19 process for fisheries proposals or nominations or.....

19

20

21 (No comments)

21

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know we had some  
24 concerns about the broad whitefish with mold and I'm  
25 not sure, you know, how we get that study to be not  
26 just studying the fish, but maybe its environment of  
27 how -- maybe there's some wordsmithing that would allow  
28 somebody to take a look at why broad whitefish are  
29 pretty -- you know, pretty damaged up in the Colville  
30 River that are being harvested. And it's been an issue  
31 for about four years now, four or five years. And can  
32 you talk about acceptability of how a monitoring  
33 program of something like that?

33

34

35 MS. HYER: Yes, absolutely. Mr.  
36 Chairman and Council members, I'm going to direct you--  
37 before we go over these projects I'm going to direct  
38 you back to Page 302 and 303 and that is the list of  
39 priorities that we put forward in the notice of  
40 funding. And, Mr. Chairman, we have talked about this  
41 before and we've had a priority in our call before.  
42 And I would encourage you to continue to bring that up  
43 with the Council and when we go forward with our next  
44 call for proposals because again this is a two year  
45 cycle and now we're talking about projects we're going  
46 to implement next summer. And then we're going to come  
47 back and start all over again. Please continue to  
48 bring that up. The challenge for us is we don't  
49 actually do the research, we fund the research. So we  
50 put out this list of priorities which guides

50

1 investigators, but if we don't get an investigator to  
2 submit a proposal then we don't have a proposal to work  
3 with. And sometimes investigators will be very busy  
4 and they won't be able to take on new projects so it's  
5 very important that you continually bring what's  
6 important to your region forward because as they wrap  
7 up projects they'll be looking for new ones.

8  
9 And unfortunately when we go through  
10 this list you'll see there's not -- there's not a  
11 project that's specific to the North Slope. There's a  
12 couple -- there's three in the Northwest Arctic and one  
13 in the Seward Peninsula. And that just happened to be  
14 the proposals we received. So I would encourage  
15 continue you to continually bring that up. And we have  
16 had times where we've had lots of projects on the North  
17 Slope. So we just want to keep that on the forefront  
18 of what we're looking for and then we need to do  
19 outreach to investigators and encourage them to submit  
20 proposals.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. And here's  
23 one thing. Let's say we -- you know, we find a way to  
24 get funding for a proposal.....

25  
26 MS. HYER: Yes.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....and it might be  
29 related and how the impacts on broad whitefish in the  
30 Colville River delta area based on climate change and  
31 climate fluctuation issues and they're productivity.  
32 Things like that you would want to include in a  
33 proposal that might make it palatable because  
34 productivity well, it's not productive because  
35 something's making them really sick here. And that is  
36 the gateway to actually trying to find out why the fish  
37 are in this condition. And then the second portion of  
38 that is the eligibility for the local tribe, like the  
39 Native Village of Nuiqsut to apply for that funding and  
40 develop a scope of work and get its own contractor to  
41 do that study.

42  
43 MS. HYER: So one thing that is really  
44 unique, Mr. Chairman, about our funding is that it has  
45 to have this capacity building component to be  
46 competitive. And so what you just said is kind of an  
47 ideal approach to projects for us where you have  
48 somebody that has the scientific ability, that isn't  
49 always present in smaller communities, but then you  
50

0285

1 have the local knowledge and that portion is very  
2 present and when you combine those two you have a very,  
3 very strong study. So it -- having Nuiqsut engage with  
4 a contractor, another investigator, would be -- I think  
5 that would be something that would be very competitive  
6 in our program because that's what we're looking for is  
7 we're looking for that local knowledge partnership  
8 component.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. I mean, it's  
11 interesting. I like to, you know, try to do things out  
12 of the box because we have so much difficulty in trying  
13 to understand and get feedback and to try to get to the  
14 bottom why these fish that haven't been like this all  
15 the time are suddenly pretty mangled.

16  
17 MS. HYER: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I would like to  
20 see a study that is comparison to an adjacent river  
21 drainage like the Ikpikpuk River delta and why you  
22 don't see the same impacts to the broad whitefish in  
23 that delta. And if they're -- it seems to me that you  
24 -- there can be a comparative study because I fish a  
25 lot of broad whitefish on the Ikpikpuk and I don't get  
26 any of the moldy fish. I might get one deformed one  
27 once in a while, maybe a propeller hit it on a boat or  
28 something, who knows. But.....

29  
30 MS. HYER: Right. Yeah, with that  
31 we're going to be coming back to you next fall to  
32 gather your ideas again for -- to start the whole  
33 process all over again. So that would be a great time  
34 to bring that up and to make sure it gets in the next  
35 priority information needs list.

36  
37 Mr. Chairman and Council members, if  
38 there's no other questions I'd like to go through these  
39 projects with you and if you have comments specifically  
40 about the project I'd like to be able to record that  
41 and take that back to the Subsistence Board -- Federal  
42 Subsistence Board.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And any questions to  
45 Karen before she goes down the list.

46  
47 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, just for the  
48 record this is Steve Oomittuk. Now.....

49  
50

0286

1                   CHAIRMAN BROWER:       Yeah, go ahead,  
2 Steve.

3  
4                   MR. OOMITTUK:    I see your map for the  
5 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program geographic  
6 regions in Federal jurisdiction. And, you know, when  
7 you look at Point Hope area and the Kukpuk River which  
8 once belong with ANCSA lands or belonged to the  
9 corporation which is now under the Native Village of  
10 Point Hope. Now would that change as Federal lands,  
11 you know, because we wouldn't mind seeing some, you  
12 know, we're concerned about our river, you know, we  
13 have 100,000 acres and a lot of the Kukpuk River is  
14 under the Native Village of Point Hope now. But I --  
15 you know, it's not changed to Federal lands or I don't  
16 know how that works, maybe Gordon can elaborate on  
17 that.

18  
19                   But, you know -- you know, we're always  
20 concerned, you know, when we talk about fishery, you  
21 know, and it's a steady -- you know, we have no  
22 jurisdiction in the ocean, mainly the rivers and the  
23 drainages although, you know, a lot of our concerns,  
24 you know -- you know, you have Federal waters, you  
25 know, in the Arctic Ocean and a lot of our subsistence  
26 use of, you know, the arctic char or now people are  
27 fishing more salmon than what they used to, but the  
28 char's our main thing which is in the Arctic Ocean or  
29 Chukchi Sea or Bering Sea. But, you know, I -- we see  
30 a lot of -- we see some fisheries out there, you know,  
31 but they're in the -- they're in the Chukchi Sea area,  
32 you know, there's some people doing research already on  
33 fish, but, you know, this is -- we're talking in the  
34 rivers and stuff like this, you know, on the land.

35  
36                   But, you know, the North Slope  
37 Subsistence Advisory Council has no jurisdiction out in  
38 the ocean, you know, we're limited. But I kind of wish  
39 we weren't because we have concerns out there too, you  
40 know, and especially with the fish when we subsist.  
41 And for some of the villages that fish mainly in the  
42 ocean, but we do go up the Kukpuk and get our grayling  
43 and river trout. And this year there's a lot of  
44 concerns on the grayling because they're having hard  
45 time catching them this year and shallow waters, muddy,  
46 and they're not getting very much grayling. There's --  
47 usually we have an abundance this time of the year or  
48 towards Thanksgiving and for Christmas. But there's a  
49 lot of our subsistence hunters that up in the river,  
50

0287

1 Kukpuk River, are having trouble finding them, they  
2 have nets set out and they're catching nothing.

3

4 But thank you. I thank you for your --  
5 that information on this.

6

7 MS. HYER: Thank you, Steve.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Where --  
10 what page do we start on the list.

11

12 MS. HYER: Okay. So we need to get  
13 back to table one which is on Page 304. So let's get  
14 back to 304. And there are four projects. And I'm  
15 going to -- I'm just going to briefly read a little  
16 summary of each project and if anybody has any comments  
17 we -- what we're interested in is anything that you  
18 think you'd like the Federal Board to know, if you have  
19 any specific concerns about the project given the  
20 material in the book, please just let me know.

21

22 So we'll start with project 22-101,  
23 Kotzebue Sound sheefish describing coastal movement,  
24 temperature preference and potential range expansion.  
25 The investigator proposes using satellite telemetry to  
26 characterize coastal movement of sheefish outside of  
27 their typical range in Kotzebue Sound. Currently the  
28 extent of northerly coastal movement is not well  
29 understood and may potentially be influenced by climate  
30 change. Recently changes in movement patterns and  
31 abundance of sheefish has been observed by local  
32 subsistence users. Many studies of sheefish have been  
33 completed during their freshwater phase, but little is  
34 known about their marine behavior. Originally it was  
35 believed sheefish did not travel very far off the coast  
36 while in saltwater, but recent local knowledge suggests  
37 this is -- this paradigm may not be true in a context  
38 of changing climate.

39

40 So I'll pause and does anybody have any  
41 comments about that project or anything to add?

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I remember  
44 eating.....

45

46 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, this is.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

49

50

0288

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know -- you  
2 know Kotzebue area and the Kotzebue Sound, they get a  
3 lot of sheefish. And, you know, Point Hope we don't  
4 see no sheefish at all. But, you know, they're right  
5 in the saltwater area too, you know, the drainages.  
6 You know, but, you know, we have no sheefish in the  
7 Point Hope area or Kivalina, I think they don't even  
8 get sheefish. It's right there in Kotzebue, right in  
9 the drainage of the Kobuk Lake and Noatak River. And  
10 they're right there at the drainage and then -- and  
11 then -- a lot of it is saltwater it seem like in the  
12 Kotzebue Sound.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do know when they  
15 were doing whitefish studies and their movements and  
16 stuff that they put in, you know, radios on the -- on  
17 the fish to watch their movements. It was like a GPS  
18 marker or something, I don't know. But I think it's  
19 pretty important to try to look at that.

20  
21 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. And, Mr. Chair, I  
22 do have some other obligations at 5:30. I don't know  
23 if that action item that, you know, you have to -- you  
24 need a quorum to vote on. I'm going to have to ask to  
25 be excused here in a few minutes. It's coming on 5:25.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Eva, are there  
28 any other action items, have we taken care most of  
29 those or.....

30  
31 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair. And we  
32 can -- I'll follow-up with Steve on further discussions  
33 that were had by the Council, but we have concluded  
34 most of the action items and after the fisheries  
35 discussion and are on to the agency reports.

36  
37 So thank you so much, Steve.....

38  
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay.

40  
41 MS. PATTON: .....for all your  
42 support.....

43  
44 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah.

45  
46 MS. PATTON: .....and really appreciate  
47 all your discussion and feedback and engagement with  
48 the Council. And you take care and get some good rest.  
49 I know you've been in back to back meetings.

50

0289

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 MR. OOMITTUK: And I thank everybody  
5 and the Council and the Board and all the different  
6 agencies for their report. Between that and, you know,  
7 we put a lot of stuff -- you know, we have these  
8 meetings once a year and it's very time consuming at  
9 times, but it's worth it and I thank you guys for all  
10 your hard work in reporting to the North Slope  
11 Subsistence Advisory Council. And, you know, we might  
12 get hostile a little at times, but, you know, when it's  
13 dealing with our way of life and our food source and we  
14 want to ensure that it's protected then we are going to  
15 voice our concerns. It's not -- I'm not normally like  
16 this, I'm a very quiet and polite person, but sometimes  
17 when it comes to my food source and ensuring that it's  
18 protected and I -- we continue to the next generation I  
19 might get a little loud a little bit.

19

20 But thank you guys and enjoy the rest  
21 of your evening.

22

23

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

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. HYER: Okay. Mr. Chairman, Council  
members, we're on to project 22-103. Unalakleet River  
chinook salmon escapement assessment. The Unalakleet  
River supports the largest chinook salmon subsistence  
fishery in the Norton Sound/Port Clarence area. The  
subsistence fishery occurs primarily under State  
jurisdiction. The Federal subsistence users  
participate in the harvest. Funding for this project  
would be used to continue operation of a floating weir  
on the Unalakleet River to monitor chinook salmon  
passage. The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program has  
funded the Unalakleet River weir since 2010. Results  
from this project will continue providing chinook  
salmon in-season daily passage estimates and run  
timing. This information aids Federal and State  
fishing managers at making in-season and post-season  
decisions.

0290

1 Any comments?

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any comments on 22-  
4 103?

5

6 MR. REXFORD: No comment.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No comment from me.  
9 Looks like a good study.

10

11 MS. HYER: All right. Then on to  
12 project 22-104, Selawik River sheefish population  
13 assessment. A permafrost slump located about 40  
14 kilometers upstream from the sheefish spawning area in  
15 the Selawik River began emitting large amounts of  
16 sediment into the river in 2004. The Selawik River  
17 below the slump at times became turbid during the  
18 summer months, transporting huge quantities of sediment  
19 downstream, potentially have a negative affect on the  
20 habitat for stream spawning fish. In 2012 the  
21 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program began funding  
22 investigators to monitor the annual abundance and age  
23 structure of the sheefish -- of the Selawik River  
24 sheefish spawning population to determine if the  
25 sediment in emitted from the permafrost slump resulted  
26 in an identifiable impact to the population over time.  
27 The investigators were not able to establish and  
28 inspect from the permafrost slump, but recommended  
29 subsequent data collection in five years to confirm  
30 their findings. This proposal addresses the additional  
31 age data collection.

32

33 Any comments on that proposal?

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. No  
36 comment from my end.

37

38 MS. HYER: Okay. Then we have one  
39 more. Project 22-150, traditional ecological knowledge  
40 of salmon in the river drainages of Kotzebue Sound.  
41 This two year project will contribute to the  
42 understanding of the affects of environmental change on  
43 salmon in Northwest Arctic as well as shifting  
44 capacities for subsistence users in Ambler, Noorvik and  
45 Kotzebue to harvest them. This project updates  
46 traditional ecological knowledge, work funded by the  
47 monitoring plan in 2012. Researchers will investigate  
48 subsistence use of all four species of Pacific salmon  
49 on the Noatak River and all five species of Pacific  
50

0291

1 salmon on the Kobuk River. The investigator will  
2 interview subsistence harvesters about traditional  
3 knowledge of salmon ecology, map historical and  
4 contemporary subsistence harvest locations and observe  
5 fish migration.

6  
7 Are there any comments on that last  
8 proposal?

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any comments from the  
11 Council.

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds good.

16  
17 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council  
18 members, that is all I have. That concludes my  
19 presentation so I will turn it back over to Eva and  
20 thank you so much for your input.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Hopefully  
23 we get some fisheries monitoring going on on the North  
24 Slope that we can say more than very good because we've  
25 got some concerns on the Slope.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 MS. HYER: I look forward to that, Mr.  
30 Chairman.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, where are we at.  
33 We're -- are we.....

34  
35 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
36 Council. There are a couple things next up on your  
37 agenda which actually we'll take up at the end of the  
38 meeting. So we began the process of identifying issues  
39 for the Council's annual report and we'll follow-up  
40 with that when we get to the end of the meeting and  
41 then I'll provide an update on the Council application  
42 process at the end of the meeting as well.

43  
44 So it brings us to agency reports. And  
45 I do know -- I've been given a note ADF&G wildlife  
46 biologist was online and I think we're squeaking in  
47 right at her time when she needed to go. So I wanted  
48 to check and see if Carmen is still online and  
49 available to address the Council.

50

0292

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carmen, are you  
2 available.

3  
4 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, Eva, I'm online.  
5 Can you give me like one minute I need to get my baby  
6 in a little bit better position.

7  
8 MS. PATTON: Oh, yes.

9  
10 MS. DAGGETT: I don't want her  
11 screaming into the phone while I'm trying to talk.  
12 Just give me one moment, okay?

13  
14 MS. PATTON: So of course. Thank you  
15 so much for being online.....

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Give me two minutes.  
18 I need to take a quick biological break. Just give me  
19 a couple minutes.

20  
21 MS. PATTON: Sure. Why don't we give  
22 everyone a few minutes here to take a little break and  
23 get the baby settled.

24  
25 And I do want to just check online. I  
26 think we did have the Staff from the North Slope  
27 Borough Wildlife Department on earlier.

28  
29 Do we have Brian Person on at this  
30 time?

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I think they may  
35 have needed to go. I know folks are in a lot of  
36 meetings this week so juggling multiple meetings. And  
37 we did have Doreen Leavitt on from Inupiat Community of  
38 the Arctic Slope earlier in the meeting as well and I  
39 believe she had to go to other meetings too. But just  
40 wanted to check base if we have anyone from ICAS  
41 online.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 MS. PATTON: Okay. And then to let the  
46 Council members know in addition to Carmen's report  
47 coming up now there was going to be a report from  
48 Caroline Brown of ADF&G Subsistence Division. And she  
49 did need to go earlier, but you have a Powerpoint, a  
50

0293

1 printed out Powerpoint presentation from the ADF&G  
2 Subsistence Division on the North Slope region  
3 projects. And that's in your meeting materials.  
4 You'll see -- you know, it is a big color printout  
5 Powerpoint with ADF&G Subsistence Division. So  
6 Caroline just wanted to direct the Council to that  
7 Powerpoint which provides the information on their  
8 current projects in the North Slope region and noted  
9 that she is available for any questions -- to give her  
10 a call if there's any questions or you can relay  
11 questions to me as well and I can share those with  
12 Caroline.

13

14 And then just wanted to touch base,  
15 we've got a number of our agency partners online here  
16 so just to touch base the next on the agenda after  
17 ADF&G is BLM and.....

18

19 MS. JONES: I am still available and  
20 online. This is Shelly Jones.

21

22 MS. PATTON: All right. Great. Thank  
23 you, Shelly. And I actually just sent you an email. I  
24 had forgotten that we actually had printed and mailed  
25 both the BLM report and the Powerpoint that was  
26 provided earlier. So I know you were working on an  
27 updated Powerpoint, but the Council does have a print  
28 copy of both the report and that earlier Powerpoint in  
29 their supplemental materials.

30

31 MS. JONES: That sounds great.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Thank you for hanging on  
34 there, Shelly.

35

36 And Gates of the Arctic National Park  
37 and Preserve, Marcy Okada and Kyle Joly.

38

39 MS. OKADA: Eva, this is Marcy, I'm  
40 still on. I don't think Kyle's available any more, but  
41 then we'll also have Will Deacy to give a sheep update.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you so  
44 much for holding online. Yeah, and I've been chatting  
45 back and forth with Kyle. I know he's also juggling  
46 the SRC meetings at the same time.

47

48 So thank you so much for being on and  
49 we'll welcome Will too for the sheep reports.

50

0294

1 MS. OKADA: Thanks, Eva.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Yeah, thank you, Marcy.  
4 And Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Steve Berendzen.

5

6 MR. BERENDZEN: Hello, Eva. Yes, I'm  
7 still on and I will give an update.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you so much,  
10 Steve.

11

12 MR. BERENDZEN: You're welcome.

13

14 MS. PATTON: And last but not least, we  
15 save our favorite for the last, is the U.S. Fish and  
16 Wildlife Service Utqiagvik Field Office. Is Ernest  
17 Nageak.

18

19 It got really quiet there, do we still  
20 have folks online.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm back.

23

24 MS. JONES: Yeah, I'm still here.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Oh, I'm sorry, who was  
27 that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon Brower's back  
30 on.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you, Gordon.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Let's get  
35 back with ADF&G.

36

37 Carmen.

38

39 MS. DAGGETT: Yes, Chairman and Council  
40 members, thank you so much. This is Carmen Daggett  
41 from Fish and Game for the record. There is a handout  
42 in your supplementary materials. It says Alaska  
43 Department of Fish and Game Summary 2021. And I talked  
44 about the moose and the muskox part of this  
45 presentation already so I'm just going to talk about  
46 the Teshekpuk Caribou stuff in the interests of time.

47

48 Is that okay?

49

50

0295

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

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

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

MS. DAGGETT: So despite best efforts to try and get a photo census out this summer we did not get one done so we still are going off of the 2017 estimate with 55 to 56,000 caribou for the Teshekpuk photo census estimate.

And then looking at the vital signs, additional information that we collect throughout the year to try to give us a bigger picture of what's happening with the herd, we did a short yearling survey this last spring and observed 3,000 animals roughly and about 15 and a half percent were yearlings which is about average for this herd. So that was good to see.

We also did the summer calving surveys and 52.7 percent of the females were pregnant, the 10 year average is 68 percent. So definitely on the low side for number of pregnant females that we were observing. So we're definitely going to keep our eye on that and make sure that -- I know it's not necessarily a good sign to see the number of pregnant females considerably lower. So definitely something to keep in mind when we're looking at things.

We did the summer collaring project again this year. However I was not participating because I was parturient myself, I was pregnant myself and a bit more pregnant than I wanted to be while I was dealing with caribou, but 35 caribou were collared by my colleagues, 19 female yearlings, three bulls and 13 recollared female adults. And so weights were back up this year which was good to see. Last year the female yearling weights were a little on the low side, but this year they seem to be back up above average. So that was good to see, the female yearling weights being a little bit higher again.

Again we're still collecting fecal samples, hair and blood samples and nasal swabs just to look for disease and also looking for different signs of parasites and those sorts of things when we have the animals onhand. So definitely keep your eyes open for all those things and we always like to hear from the general public what they're seeing as far as parasites and things go.

We haven't done a new fall composition

0296

1 survey, we don't do that every year. We might shoot to  
2 do it next fall, but we're still looking at 28 bulls  
3 per 100 cows and 48 calves to 100 cows from 2016 which  
4 is obviously quite an old number and we'd like to  
5 revise that. Again hopefully next fall.

6  
7 I did the adult female mortality  
8 calculation for this year from 2020 to 2021 through the  
9 collared year which go through summer to summer, end of  
10 June to end of June. It was relatively low at 10  
11 percent adult female mortality rate is pretty good  
12 considering that the long term average is about 15  
13 percent.

14  
15 So things are looking fairly good for  
16 the most part other than the pregnancy rate for this  
17 year for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd.

18  
19 And I'd be happy to entertain any  
20 questions with any other information that's on this  
21 sheet in front of you as well if you like.

22  
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.  
26 Any comments for Carmen.  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That was very fast  
30 talking and by the way congratulations on your  
31 parturition.

32  
33 MS. DAGGETT: Thanks.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Meaning  
36 congratulations on your baby.

37  
38 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you. He's doing  
39 very well. Sorry it was so quick. I need to get out  
40 the door so -- but I wanted to get this in before  
41 we.....

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you say that  
44 there was a number associated with the Teshekpuk Herd?

45  
46 MS. DAGGETT: Fifty-five to 56,000.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Fifty-five to 56?

49  
50

0297

1 MS. DAGGETT: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's pretty good.  
4 That's awesome. Seems like that's going up and.....

5

6 MS. DAGGETT: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....have you ever  
9 tried to.....

10

11 MS. DAGGETT: Well, the.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....you know that  
14 animation that happens once in a while with the caribou  
15 movements all at once and you see them going to their  
16 own corner on the Arctic from Central to Teshekpuk to  
17 Western Arctic to Porcupine and they're all -- you can  
18 see that animation with the radio collared information.  
19 Anytime that any of those herds seem to get close  
20 enough to commingle and then separate, some of the old  
21 timers used to talk about caribous colliding and run  
22 through each other and then some of the other herds  
23 would follow the other herd and then sometimes swallow  
24 up an entire herd. And that's what the herders used to  
25 completely worry about because when the caribou  
26 movements were around and they had reindeer it was --  
27 they were on guard because the reindeer would take off  
28 with the caribou.

29

30 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, Gordon, I certainly  
31 -- those old timers are right and certainly some  
32 mingling that happens, some mixing. And actually, you  
33 know, that certainly you can see that in the collars  
34 too. Throughout the year there's certainly times  
35 particularly the Western Arctic Herd, you know, kind of  
36 comes in contact with Teshekpuk Herd and the same.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, just thought it  
39 was important to just note that because it can lead to  
40 some decline perception in one herd and a increase in  
41 another. So it's -- which they actually are when they  
42 do that.

43

44 Any other questions for Carmen.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Am I still on, is  
49 anybody there.

50

0298

1 MS. PATTON: Yes, you're still on.

2

3 MS. JONES: Some of us are here.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Very good.

6 All right. Eva -- I think you, Carmen, for the report.

7 We're going to move on to the next.

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: This is Earl. I tried  
10 to turn off the mute.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, okay. Go ahead,

13 Earl.

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, when you were

16 telling about collars, there was some people asking

17 about the caribou here, where were they located,

18 they're just trying to find out. When the

19 coordinator's office seen it on the wall, usually they

20 see it on the wall where the collared caribou were,

21 they just want to know if they could put it on the

22 Facebook. I just ask -- I was just curious about it

23 too and that's the only thing they asked about is to

24 see where the caribou were.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Carmen

29 Daggett again.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Carmen.

32

33 MS. DAGGETT: Sorry I got dropped. I

34 apologize for that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, anyway that was

37 a question from Anaktuvuk.

38

39 MS. DAGGETT: What was it, I got

40 dropped off the phone call. Can you repeat it, please?

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Where's the.....

43

44 MR. WILLIAMS: I was asking about --

45 you know the collared caribous that these people were

46 asking about it, see where they were because they're --

47 they talk a lot about collared caribou and they want to

48 know where the Porcupine Herd were located

49 (indiscernible - distortion) signed on as the

50

0299

1 coordinator office on the wall and posted, but recently  
2 we don't see it. I was just kind of curious about it.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. DAGGETT: So currently I don't  
7 actually have a good sense of where the Porcupine  
8 Caribou Herd is. Beth Lenart has access to all that  
9 information and I do not. What I can say is that  
10 Anaktuvuk Pass currently it is -- there's quite a few  
11 Teshekpuk caribou around Anaktuvuk Pass and a few of  
12 the Central Arctic animals are around that area too.  
13 So there's definitely mostly Teshekpuk animals are  
14 around Anaktuvuk Pass right now and maybe even a few  
15 Western Arctic. So yeah, there's certainly a good  
16 number of animals in that area right now.

17

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, I was just  
19 curious.

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, if you wanted to  
22 know specifically about Porcupine that would be a  
23 question for Beth Lenart.

24

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other  
28 questions for Carmen before we let her go.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, thank you very  
33 much, Carmen, and we'll go to the next presenter on the  
34 agency reports.

35

36 Who's on the docket there next, Eva.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
39 thank you so much, Carmen, your little one had the last  
40 word there.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, we heard it.

43

44 MS. DAGGETT: Always got to get her  
45 opinion in.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Boy or girl?

48

49 MS. DAGGETT: It's a little boy.

50

0300

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ah, you got a hunter.

2

3 MS. DAGGETT: Let's hope so.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you so  
6 much, Carmen, and take good care.

7

8 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you very much

9

10 MS. PATTON: And.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Are

13

14 we.....

15

16 MS. PATTON: .....thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....on tribal  
19 governments or.....

20

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

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....tribal or.....

24

25 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
26 Chair. While you were on break I did check in. We  
27 don't currently have any one from ICAS online. I think  
28 Doreen had some other meetings she was attending to.  
29 And I didn't hear anybody from North Slope Borough  
30 Wildlife Department on with us either. I know Brian  
31 Person was on earlier.

32

33 So that would bring us then to BLM,  
34 NPR-A, Arctic Field Office. And Shelly Jones is on the  
35 line.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Shelly.

38

39 MS. PATTON: And Mr. Chair.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have the floor.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.....

44

45 MS. JONES: All right.

46

47 MS. PATTON: .....you do have a full  
48 print copy of both the BLM report and the Powerpoint  
49 presentation in Your meeting packets.

50

50

0301

1                   And, Martha, I just emailed you maybe  
2 an hour or so ago those two reports. And again my  
3 apologies, the Goldstreak flew over Nuiqsut with all  
4 the ice logs for last week and might have ended up in  
5 Deadhorse. So but those should be in your email inbox  
6 there, these reports for BLM.

7  
8                   Thanks, Martha. And thank you so much,  
9 Shelly.

10

11                   MS. JONES: All right. Well, thank  
12 you, Eva, And thanks to the Chair and members of the  
13 Council and all the great agency Staff for their work  
14 presenting and getting all the information,  
15 facilitating everything. This has really been a great  
16 meeting for me, from my standpoint.

17

18                   And my name is Shelly Jones, I'm the  
19 district manager for BLM's Arctic District Office. And  
20 I am very happy to present our overview for our office  
21 and some of the updates on our permits and projects.  
22 So I will be kind of just talking my way through that  
23 Powerpoint. I don't think there's any text on your  
24 version of it, but it follows pretty closely with the  
25 much younger written report.

26

27                   So the welcome slide to the Arctic  
28 District is just wanting to recognize some of the other  
29 BLM Staff who were here today and I'm not sure if  
30 everyone is still on the line, but Chris McKee is our  
31 subsistence coordinator from the BLM Alaska State  
32 Office. And also.....

33

34                   MR. McKEE: I'm here.

35

36                   MS. JONES: Oh, great. Hello, Chris.  
37 We've also had Ted Inman, one of our supervisors in the  
38 Arctic District and most of his Staff on throughout the  
39 day. So that includes Heather Savage and Deb Nigro,  
40 two of our wildlife biologists. We also have Beth  
41 Mikow who is an anthropologist working for BLM. We've  
42 got two new compliance inspectors for oil and gas  
43 program, Heather Fish and Ashley Savatino, I think  
44 they've been sitting in and then also Katie Drew, our  
45 fisheries biologists and one of our planning and  
46 coordinators, Cheryl Lamar. So that's almost our  
47 entire office today and really again I appreciate the  
48 discussion.

49

50

0302

1 I guess I just also wanted to ask if  
2 you would join me in just a minute of silence to  
3 recognize the passing of our colleague and mentor, Roy  
4 Nageak, who worked for BLM in Utqiagvik and he passed  
5 away at the end of September and we're just really  
6 deeply sorry to his family and friends throughout the  
7 region and truthfully he had an influence throughout  
8 the world. So just take a minute to recognize Roy.  
9 And I know he's smiling on us because he always would  
10 tell us keep getting together, keep meeting, that's the  
11 important thing. So I know he would be with us and  
12 happy to be participating. But we really miss him.

13  
14 The -- one of the slides there in the  
15 packet, I think it's the third one in the Powerpoint,  
16 shows the office, the Arctic District Office and  
17 usually we just show our lands in the NPR-A area,  
18 that's the biggest block, 22 million acres in that  
19 area. And then there's quite a bit outside it, just  
20 doesn't look equitable in the -- on the map here, but  
21 in total it's 26 million acres so includes quite a bit  
22 of the insect relief area over there on the west side,  
23 outside of NPR-A. And then a little bit of scattered  
24 parcels a few hundred thousand acres in between the  
25 eastern edge of the petroleum reserve on the Dalton  
26 Highway.

27  
28 So as often happens in the Arctic when  
29 different administrations change, most of our major oil  
30 and gas related plans and projects end up being revised  
31 either because of the internal administration goals and  
32 priorities or -- and/or because of litigation. So both  
33 things are underway right now and have been since 2020.  
34 So there's a lot more detail in your packets, but in  
35 brief our three major EISes that are being reworked are  
36 NPR-A, it's -- we've been asked to look into the EIS  
37 that we did and see if we have, you know, if we can  
38 find a different balance within the range of  
39 alternatives that was already analyzed in that 2020  
40 EIS. So that's what's going on right now with our  
41 various partners and cooperators. We've got -- that's  
42 being driven by an internal initiative although there  
43 was some litigation on our EIS, but we -- it -- we  
44 prevailed or I don't know what the right term is on  
45 that, on the litigation, but still the department wants  
46 us to look at revising that.

47  
48 So also due to some litigation on the  
49 Willow Master Development Plan, that case was remanded  
50

0303

1 back to BLM to correct a series of issues with that  
2 decision. So that's what we're working on right now  
3 with the applicant and the other agency partners and  
4 NGOs, other stakeholders that worked with us initially  
5 on that project. And the main thing -- there were  
6 several main points from the court, but the one that  
7 seems to be driving the alternatives the most right now  
8 is that they asked us to look at at least one -- one  
9 alternative that wouldn't maximize the extraction of  
10 the oil and gas on the leases within the Teshekpuk Lake  
11 Special Area. So we are working on that.

12  
13 And then I guess it was early October,  
14 we had a series of scoping meetings on the coastal  
15 plain EIS and we're working with Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service to revise that EIS with what they call a  
17 supplemental EIS that will address a series of issues  
18 that were identified by the court and our internal  
19 auditors on that leasing plan. So the main issue or at  
20 least one of the main issues that the audit was focused  
21 on is to have an alternative that would authorize less  
22 than the maximum allowable, that the Jobs and Tax Acts  
23 authorized up to 2,000 acres of infrastructure and fill  
24 for oil and gas development. And they would like to  
25 see us at least one alternative that looks at less than  
26 that. So you can read more about those in your  
27 packets.

28  
29 The other thing I just wanted to  
30 highlight, every winter we always have quite a few  
31 fairly high profile permits going on and this winter we  
32 do as well so I wanted to bring to your attention the  
33 ones that are -- would be great to have some public  
34 comment on, not necessarily here unless you want to,  
35 but they're open in the website where you can comment  
36 or call is in your packet.

37  
38 So we have an application for right-of-  
39 way from ConocoPhillips to access their -- some of  
40 their wells, three of them up in the Bear Tooth Unit.  
41 These are wells that they already drilled that they  
42 need to plug and abandon. The wells were drilled in  
43 2014 so they'll be building ice roads out to those  
44 locations to do that work after the right-of-way is  
45 approved. They also are getting ready to apply for a  
46 five year right-of-way to access a lot of their winter  
47 field study sites where they have weather stations and  
48 other data gathering stuff. So we'll be working with  
49 them on that.

50

0304

1                   We've also got an application from  
2 Emerald House for right-of-way to access their drill  
3 location near Umiat on their leases.

4  
5                   And then ASRC, a lot of activity going  
6 on this winter. ASRC was the successful bidder for  
7 this year on the legacy well contract. So this year  
8 the plugging and abandoning, every year we try to do  
9 some legacy wells and these are the Umalick wells up in  
10 the foothills, not really near anything, but maybe most  
11 near Umiat, in that vicinity I guess.

12  
13                   And then there's also this winter a  
14 seismic application that we expect to get from SAE to  
15 do some seismic exploration on Kuukpik and BLM areas  
16 around Nuiqsut.

17  
18                   So those are the main projects or  
19 permits that we'd be working on this winter and would  
20 really appreciate any information that people have on  
21 observations of issues from previous years or things we  
22 might be able to do better with the permits this time.  
23 So please give us feedback on those.

24  
25                   The rest of these slides are all what I  
26 wanted to focus on and I'll do so very quickly. The  
27 projects that BLM has are both a combination of  
28 monitoring our permits, making sure our stipulations  
29 are working as intended and then also trying to  
30 contribute to longer term monitoring to compare various  
31 things to and just for our general custodial  
32 responsibilities. So one of the things that Katie  
33 Drew, our fisheries biologist, has been working on  
34 along with they hydrologist from UAF is monitoring our  
35 road -- ice road stream crossings. One of the stips we  
36 have is that the companies that build those need to  
37 breach the ice bridges and make sure that during break  
38 up the stream can flow and doesn't start scouring the  
39 edges or create a barrier to fish habitat. So we try  
40 to get out and monitor that during the break up and  
41 make sure that's going as expected.

42  
43                   She also has a network of long term  
44 monitoring at both -- there's five river gauges at  
45 different places in Fish Creek and Judy Creek and one  
46 of the interesting findings from those long term,  
47 they're measuring water discharge and temperature and  
48 water level at those creeks and Katie let us know a  
49 couple of weeks ago that they've been noticing an  
50

0305

1 increasing trend towards late summer precipitation  
2 rather than the spring melt water as being the major  
3 contributor to the recharge of the -- of those systems.  
4 So that was I guess previously they had thought and as  
5 was the case I think the spring melt had been the major  
6 contributor, but now it seems to be changing.

7

8 They also have eight smaller stream  
9 gauges where they're measuring some of the same  
10 parameters, but also keeping track of the State water  
11 quality standards to make sure they're meeting them  
12 around the infrastructure, things like turbidity and  
13 settleable sediments.

14

15 And they've got nine lake monitoring  
16 sites where they're monitoring lake levels and those  
17 are mainly at lakes where we have permitted for  
18 harvesting ice chips and liquid water for use at the  
19 camps and on the ice roads. So the purpose of  
20 monitoring those is to help us determine if the water  
21 withdrawals are negatively impacting or hopefully not  
22 negatively impacting the lakes and stream systems.

23

24 And I just wanted to take this moment  
25 right now while Katie's on the line, she also has a  
26 pretty interesting project that speaks to an issue that  
27 Martha Itta brought up about people's concerns about  
28 toxins and toxicology in the fish. And so I just  
29 wanted to ask if Katie Drew could address the Council  
30 and Martha Itta just now to speak about a project she  
31 has coming up.

32

33 MS. DREW: Yeah, of course. Thanks,  
34 Shelly. And thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the  
35 Council. Just for the record this is Katie Drew,  
36 fisheries biologist for the BLM Arctic District Office.  
37 And, you know, although it wasn't included necessarily  
38 on the list of projects and in the presentation that --  
39 in the Powerpoint presentation that Shelly has  
40 provided.

41

42 I wanted to be sure to address the  
43 Council's concerns regarding contaminants in  
44 subsistence fisheries, specifically levels of  
45 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or the PAHs. So we  
46 are currently working to secure funding to conduct  
47 follow-up to the monitoring study that was -- that  
48 actually documented baseline PAH levels in fishes and  
49 sediments of the NPR-A. That previous study, it was  
50

0306

1 completed in 2012 so it was prior to the construction  
2 of gravel drill pad CD5, Greater Moose's Tooth 1 and  
3 then also Greater Moose's Tooth 2. So that project  
4 will really provide us with good baseline data for a  
5 follow-up study where we look to compare current levels  
6 to those predevelopment. And that study did target  
7 areas within the Ikpikpuk River, Teshekpuk Lake,  
8 Colville River, Fish Creek tributaries near the  
9 Colville Delta 2 drill pad as well as various creeks  
10 within the NPR-A.

11

12 And so again I just wanted to  
13 acknowledge those concerns. I know there's been a lot  
14 of discussion and concern about containments and  
15 toxicology and fishes and waters within the Fish Creek  
16 watershed. So I just wanted to let you know that we  
17 are actively working to secure funding for a study of  
18 course to inform kind of subsistence users all  
19 throughout the NPR-A.

20

21 Thank you, Shelly.

22

23 MS. JONES: Thanks. Thanks, Katie.  
24 And we look forward to following up with Nuiqsut and  
25 hopefully other partners on that project as well.

26

27 The -- just running through a few of  
28 our other remote data collection monitoring efforts, we  
29 have soil and snow monitoring going on, mostly along  
30 the community winter access trail. And those are --  
31 they're thermistors are what the cables are called,  
32 they're buried down a hundred centimeters into the  
33 ground and remotely transmit their information so we're  
34 able to post that online. So I put the website where  
35 that info can be found.

36

37 We also combine our data with USGS and  
38 Fish and Wildlife Service data that's very similar in  
39 terms of measuring permafrost and air temperatures and  
40 some of the other climatic information and USGS is a  
41 big partner of both Fish and Wildlife and BLM on that  
42 long term climate work. They are publishing papers on  
43 that data. It's -- the dataset is about 21 years long  
44 and some of the key points that I thought the Council  
45 might be interested in from Frank Urban's paper again  
46 with USGS says that all the sites show a distinct  
47 warming trend in both air and ground temperatures on  
48 the order of plus one degree celsius per decade. Some  
49 sites have sebertrends (ph) and those sites are cooling.

50

0307

1                   The active layer is refreezing later in  
2 the autumn, an average of six weeks later when the snow  
3 depths has been increasing -- a delay in the autumn sea  
4 ice formation. And the year to year and site to site  
5 variability of snowpack depth and duration is  
6 increasing. There is a weak trend towards shorter  
7 snowpack duration.

8  
9                   So those are interesting results to  
10 study and balance our own observations against from  
11 different places, but potentially ramifications  
12 obviously for the local residents and the different  
13 resources in the area.

14  
15                   We have.....

16  
17                   MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

18  
19                   MS. JONES: Sorry.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

22  
23                   MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank  
24 you, Shelly. Martha Itta for the record. Before you  
25 go forward I had some questions in regards to the fish  
26 and the permits that you spoke about. I.....

27  
28                   MS. JONES: Sure. Yeah. That's -- go  
29 ahead.

30  
31                   MS. ITTA: Okay. Thank -- I'd like to  
32 thank you guys for trying to find the -- you know,  
33 taking my concerns into consideration and trying to  
34 involve or include contaminant studies in our animals,  
35 especially our fish and our caribou.

36  
37                   Okay. I'm going to be straightforward.  
38 You guys know me very well from me working at the tribe  
39 and me attending so many meetings and voicing the  
40 concerns about our animals and development, responsible  
41 development. Now that you guys are just finally  
42 starting to include -- trying to get funding to study  
43 fish that -- including contaminants in my -- you know,  
44 to my knowledge when some company, oil industry or what  
45 have you are seeking permits, and it is required to  
46 offset subsistence impacts, that you guys have a full  
47 report on our animals, our fish and to make sure that  
48 they're going to survive even before develop the  
49 project or the permits are given. Does that affect  
50

0308

1 past permit that has already been done and the  
2 mitigation measures that come with it and does it  
3 affect future permits also given that you guys are just  
4 finally starting to do real -- like get real data on  
5 contaminants and, you know, that's been causing a lot  
6 of our animals to get sick without full reports,  
7 answers from agencies or whoever's doing these studies.

8

9 MS. JONES: Right. Yeah. So no, those  
10 are good questions and I don't know where all the  
11 research will lead or what conclusions they'll be able  
12 to make. I think it could have implications for  
13 permits we've already issued because, you know, if it  
14 either might verify that our stipulations are working  
15 or that they're not working or that perhaps it will be  
16 inconclusive. Right now I think mostly what we rely on  
17 unless there's a spill is that they're meeting their  
18 permit conditions as far as their air quality and, you  
19 know, not having runoffs so they ought not be having  
20 any contaminants getting away from the development.  
21 But, you know, I definitely understand the concern of  
22 people living there.

23

24 And so, you know, we don't have  
25 toxicology experts on our staff so we have to  
26 definitely work with all the other, you know, agencies  
27 that are also wrangling with this issue. I think we're  
28 reaching out right now to the North Slope Borough, but  
29 also in the past we've -- there's a person at the Park  
30 Service even though the Park Service doesn't really  
31 have anything to do with this area necessarily, but  
32 she's a little bit of an expert in toxicology. So  
33 we're working on that. And it could if there were --  
34 if it did show that we needed to develop a different  
35 mitigation or get more real about the way we're  
36 describing the impacts then we would be in a position  
37 to do that on the future permits.

38

39 MS. ITTA: Okay. Thank you for that.  
40 I -- you know, I understand that whole process. The  
41 reason why I asked is, you know, with the last couple  
42 of projects that have gone up, you know, at the time  
43 BLM and all those that are seeking permits all the way  
44 to the Borough, you know, they give information, they  
45 say yes, we're going to do this, we're going to do  
46 that, you guys, you know, were -- you guys are going to  
47 be offsetting our subsistence impacts, but then once  
48 the permits are given the language changes and nothing  
49 really gets done.

50

0309

1                               So I'm going to give an example. Our  
2 Colville River access road that just got built after  
3 fighting 30 some years to get it built for subsistence  
4 hunters and our whaling impacts that we face due to  
5 climate change and so many other factors that are  
6 draining our rivers to make it hard for our whalers and  
7 hunters to get on the main channel. It was the  
8 responsibility of the Bureau of Land Management, the  
9 North Slope Borough and those other agencies to be able  
10 to maintain and make sure it's successful. I know  
11 ConocoPhillips even agreed to put in a boat ramp. But  
12 now today now that the road is built and it's up now  
13 I'm hearing that these agencies are not willing to  
14 maintain, not willing to do anything with our  
15 subsistence road, they're not going to put in a boat  
16 ramp, North Slope Borough now is not going to maintain  
17 the road and it's the only road that is going to -- you  
18 know, it's a subsistence road that we -- the only  
19 subsistence road that we have. The other roads that is  
20 built going to NPR-A is all industrial besides the  
21 three mile to K pad, private use on Kuukpik land and  
22 from there it's really restricted.

23  
24                               MS. JONES: Yeah, so I know BLM issues  
25 the right-of-way or works with BIA to issue that right-  
26 of-way for the road, but I can't remember -- usually it  
27 says in the right of way who's responsible for the --  
28 you know, the maintenance if there is any maintenance  
29 or if it falls to the landowner or what have you, but  
30 I'd have to follow-up with you on that to see if it  
31 spells it our or if -- you know, there still might be  
32 future opportunity for us to help out with that, but  
33 usually if we don't have any land in the right-of-way  
34 then we don't get involved in that.

35  
36                               MS. ITTA: Oh, yeah, it's BLM. You  
37 know, with that project BLM, Kuukpik and the North  
38 Slope Borough has the right-of-way for that. And yeah,  
39 I just wanted to voice that concern because, you know  
40 we've been pushing for these studies to get done for  
41 the contaminants and to get an answer and why it's --  
42 and now it's getting worse.

43  
44                               So I just wanted to put that out there  
45 and ask, you know, if it will affect the permits that  
46 are given and will it be more strict, more stipulations  
47 such as the studies that are being done.

48  
49                               Thank you, Shelly.  
50

0310

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.

4

5 MS. JONES: And if I just might add a  
6 couple of things on that. Martha, I do think we'll  
7 have some stipulations into the future that are  
8 changing. One of the programs that used to be in  
9 effect during the Obama Administration was a program  
10 that the Corps of Engineers has had for a long time but  
11 BLM had never really participated in, compensatory  
12 mitigation, but during the Obama Administration we did.  
13 And one of the first projects that was permitted that  
14 had compensatory mitigation was the GMT1 project. But  
15 by the time GMT2 and other things were permitted we  
16 weren't using that program anymore but now it's back.  
17 So I guess that might be a possibility in the future  
18 that's an opportunity to sort of address hard to  
19 quantify impacts, you know, could be used for a lot of  
20 things. So we can follow-up more on that, too, I'm sure  
21 there'll be workshops and other things because a lot of  
22 people have to sort of relearn about that program.

23

24 Yeah, I'm really looking forward.....

25

26 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Shelly. If you  
27 can.....

28

29 MS. JONES: .....to working.....

30

31 MS. ITTA: .....also please include the  
32 mitigation, the mitigation program. That needs to be  
33 looked into and improved also based on your guys'  
34 studies and all that stuff.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MS. JONES: Thanks. Thanks, Martha.  
39 And happy that you're on the call today and also  
40 starting to have a few more meetings with Nuiqsut so  
41 that feels good.

42

43 Just to give you a few more, couple  
44 more -- we have some other fisheries studies going on.  
45 One is just kind of a historical fisheries data to get  
46 a lot of our reports that are just in notebooks and  
47 stuff into an electronic database so we succeeded  
48 there. We had about 4,000, almost 5,000 records from  
49 1979 through 2020 that needed to get inputted and now  
50

0311

1 we got a lot more info in our database and so does the  
2 public. So that's great.

3

4

5 We have been contributing since the  
6 '90s to the North Slope Wildlife Department and the  
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and sometimes USGS  
8 on collars for the Teshekpuk Herd among others and just  
9 wanted to express our thanks to our partners for all  
10 the good work with that program and super beneficial to  
11 our permitting and, yeah, so that's just a great  
12 dataset.

12

13

14 And then the last project I wanted to  
15 mention is a permit actually but it's also a project  
16 we're interested in from the Wildlife Conservation  
17 Society that this is -- this is the second year of the  
18 wolverine ecology. I guess they had been doing some  
19 wolverine studies in the foothills of the Brooks Range  
20 around Tuluk and Kavik and now they want to be out more  
21 into the coastal plane and so they've got some baiting  
22 stations, they're trying to do some camera work to  
23 identify the wolverines and they've apparently done  
24 some communities but it sounds like they'll be trying  
25 to work a lot more this year with the local subsistence  
26 hunters and trappers on that project.

26

27

28 So those are some of our fish and  
29 wildlife projects and thank you. I'm sorry for the  
30 extra time I took but if there are any other questions  
31 I'm happy to answer them, or try to answer them.

31

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Shelly.

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

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

126

127

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

135

136

137

138

139

140

141

142

143

144

145

146

147

148

149

150

151

152

153

154

155

156

157

158

159

160

161

162

163

164

165

166

167

168

169

170

171

172

173

174

175

176

177

178

179

180

181

182

183

184

185

186

187

188

189

190

191

192

193

194

195

196

197

198

199

200

201

202

203

204

205

206

207

208

209

210

211

212

213

214

215

216

217

218

219

220

221

222

223

224

225

226

227

228

229

230

231

232

233

234

235

236

237

238

239

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

248

249

250

251

252

253

254

255

256

257

258

259

260

261

262

263

264

265

266

267

268

269

270

271

272

273

274

275

276

277

278

279

280

281

282

283

284

285

286

287

288

289

290

291

292

293

294

295

296

297

298

299

300

301

302

303

304

305

306

307

308

309

310

311

312

313

314

315

316

317

318

319

320

321

322

323

324

325

326

327

328

329

330

331

332

333

334

335

336

337

338

339

0312

1 more agency reports. Up next is National Park Service,  
2 Gates of the Arctic National Park, and then following  
3 that will be Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And I  
4 think Marcy.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Marcy,  
7 Kyle Joly.

8

9 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
10 Council members. My name is Marcy Okada. I'm the  
11 Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic Park  
12 and Preserve. I'll just refer you to Page 319 in your  
13 meeting packet and then I'll just quickly be giving an  
14 update followed by Will Deacy who will provide an  
15 update on our sheep survey.

16

17 The Gates of the Arctic Subsistence  
18 Resource Commission last met in April and Park Service  
19 Staff continue to provide updates on the Ambler Mining  
20 District Road as well as other management updates. Our  
21 next meeting, as Eva had mentioned earlier, is going to  
22 be in less than two weeks on November 16th via  
23 teleconference.

24

25 And, unfortunately, Kyle is no longer  
26 online, but as you can see in written update there's a  
27 lot of research going on with the Western Arctic  
28 Caribou Herd and there's links to articles that are  
29 written on this research. And then, of course, Kyle's  
30 contact information is available for folks who would  
31 like to reach out to him.

32

33 Real quick, there's going to be a moose  
34 survey conducted in the south -- more southeastern  
35 portion of Gates of the Arctic. They're going to do  
36 the survey in March next year. The last survey that  
37 was done in -- that was conducted was in 2015. They'll  
38 be based out of Bettles and it should take less than a  
39 week to conduct that moose survey.

40

41 So I'll just quickly hand it off to  
42 Will Deacy to talk about sheep.

43

44 MR. DEACY: Thank you, Marcy. And  
45 thank you, Mr. Chair, and Council members. This is  
46 Will Deacy, I'm a biologist with the Park Service based  
47 in Fairbanks. I'm going to give a quick update about  
48 the sheep surveys and I'll be referring to a map you  
49 can see on Page 320 of your packet.

50

0313

1                   We did a distance sampling for dall  
2 sheep in early july in Gates of the Arctic Park and  
3 Preserve, and then also in partnership with BLM we did  
4 a survey on BLM and State-managed lands surrounding the  
5 Dalton Highway. Today I just have preliminary results  
6 to share but we'll have a more through update for the  
7 winter and spring RAC meetings.

8  
9                   So looking at that map on Page 320, our  
10 preliminary estimates indicate stable populations in  
11 the Itkilluk Preserve, which is shown in pink and then  
12 also in the area surrounding Anaktuvuk Pass which is  
13 yellow and tan on that map. But, of course, this is  
14 following the large declines that we saw in sheep in  
15 2013 and 2014. And also in both of those areas during  
16 this last survey we saw an approximately stable number  
17 of lambs per ewe-like sheep. And we also did surveys  
18 in the blue and orange areas on your map but I know  
19 they're outside of your North Slope RAC so I'll just  
20 leave it at the preliminary results suggest in both  
21 those areas the sheep populations have dramatically  
22 dropped, potentially more than 50 percent. And our  
23 plan for next year is to continue to survey these areas  
24 and I'll continue to come back and report results as  
25 they come in.

26  
27                   Happy to take any questions if you have  
28 any.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN BROWER:     Thank you.     Any  
31 questions on sheep.

32  
33                   (No comments)

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN BROWER:     Very good. Is that  
36 the report for Gates of the Arctic?

37  
38                   MS. OKADA: Yep, that's it, Mr. Chair.  
39 Thank you.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN BROWER:     Very good. Very  
42 quick. And very gooder.

43  
44                   (Laughter)

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Eva, we'll  
47 go to National Wildlife Refuge, Steve Berendzen, I  
48 believe.

49  
50

1 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair  
2 and Council members. This is Steve Berendzen, Refuge  
3 Manager for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The  
4 written summary of our report starts on Page 321 of  
5 your meeting booklet and I will just hit the highlights  
6 in the interest of time.

7  
8 Our oil and gas leasing program that  
9 was put on hold when the new Administration came in in  
10 January, more recently the BLM has initiated a  
11 supplemental EIS for the coastal plain, public scoping  
12 has been done, comments are being reviewed by BLM, so  
13 that is moving now.

14  
15 For biological monitoring and research,  
16 we've got a big study going on at the Canning\* River  
17 Delta, it started with tundra nesting birds but it's  
18 expanded. I'll explain a little bit of that. But it's  
19 a collaboration between several partners including our  
20 regional office, a couple programs there,  
21 (Indiscernible) Bird Observatory, the Wildlife  
22 Conservation Society, the University of Alaska-  
23 Fairbanks, the USGS and Alaska Department of Fish and  
24 Game, Washington Department of Fish and Game -- or Fish  
25 and Wildlife, and the Oregon Department of Fish and  
26 Wildlife. And one just general observation is that  
27 this past summer there were fewer birds nesting at the  
28 Canning River Delta than compared to prior years but  
29 that's not that, you know, that surprising, those  
30 changes happen for different reasons and we don't  
31 really know why but it's not alarming, at least not at  
32 this point. We're focusing our work on this area and  
33 we think it's a representative area of the coastal  
34 plain but focused there to help inform management  
35 decisions for Refuge management and to better  
36 understand how climate change is impacting the  
37 different species that nest up there and use the area  
38 and the habitats that occur there. And in support of  
39 some of these questions and objectives, we're tracking  
40 different bird species, their movement and from this we  
41 learn about their migration pathways and some of the  
42 threats that those populations encounter in other areas  
43 on the way to their wintering grounds or on the way  
44 back or on the wintering grounds themselves. And so  
45 we're monitoring a few shorebird species, cackling  
46 geese and red-throated loons with small radio tracking  
47 devices that give us that information. We're also  
48 looking at small mammals at the Canning River  
49 Delta, what we've learned or, you know, what has become,  
50

0315

1 I guess has been obvious but we're wanting to document  
2 better is that small mammal abundances can correlate  
3 with the success of nesting birds relative to the  
4 predation of predators. For example, big lemming  
5 population years have -- usually provide an increase  
6 success of tundra nesting birds because the predators  
7 are finding all the food that they need from lemmings,  
8 and there's less predation on the nesting birds. So we  
9 just want to monitor small mammal populations to, you  
10 know, try to confirm that correlation or see how well  
11 that will line up data-wise. And we're also looking at  
12 foxes, and they're predators that also drive bird  
13 productivity and we've seen changes between red foxes  
14 and Arctic foxes being present at that site and we  
15 monitor fox abundance and different individuals by  
16 collecting scat, saliva or hair samples and checking  
17 the DNA and we learn more about, you know, different  
18 individuals and, you know, just from observations what  
19 species are there. But that's another part of the  
20 project that we're trying to integrate into the rest of  
21 the work we're doing there.

22  
23 And then moving up into the Brooks  
24 Range, the grey-headed chickadee is the bird species  
25 that's had severe declines in numbers in recent years  
26 and the last few surveys that have been done no birds  
27 have been found and that's the only place they are  
28 found is in Brooks Range on the Arctic Refuge. So we  
29 would like to see that bird survive or persist and  
30 actually thrive but unfortunately the numbers are  
31 declining. It's increasing our interest and creating  
32 more of, I guess, of a desire to try to learn more  
33 about them, survey them, and we're hoping that they're  
34 still around but like I said the last few surveys we  
35 have not been able to find any or detect any.

36  
37 And then moving to the big mammals, we  
38 have ongoing monitoring of the Porcupine Caribou Herd,  
39 we're partnering with Fish and Game, Yukon government  
40 and USGS in monitoring the Porcupine Caribou Herd  
41 movements and habitat use and population trends through  
42 radio telemetry and aerial surveys. These have been  
43 ongoing for years. And another thing that we added  
44 this year is looking at the diet of the Porcupine  
45 Caribou Herd, we're collecting fecal samples during the  
46 calving period, the post-calving period and the insect  
47 relief periods to determine what are the most important  
48 plant species for caribou on the costal plain during  
49 these critical times and we were wanting to get that  
50

0316

1 information because we have a sense of what it, but  
2 what we really don't understand is why they go where  
3 they go at specific times or in different years because  
4 they will use different areas for those different  
5 critical time periods and we want to understand that a  
6 little better.

7  
8 We did not do any dall sheep surveys  
9 this year due to Covid and by the same token we didn't  
10 do any moose surveys either. But we're still planning  
11 to do moose capture and collaring work in this coming  
12 spring, April of 2022 and we're hoping to do that to  
13 learn more about the movements and abundances and, you  
14 know, just where they are at different times on the  
15 Refuge and do they move back and forth to Canada and,  
16 if so, how much.

17  
18 And then moving on to our public use  
19 activities, the polar bear viewing, again, for the  
20 second year we did not issue any special use permits  
21 for polar bear viewing so there was no commercial  
22 guiding conducted on the Refuge waters in 2021.

23  
24 We have done a -- or have a historic  
25 access study going right now through a contractor  
26 that's looking at the historic use of off-road vehicles  
27 on Arctic Refuge and they're looking, or they have done  
28 interviews in the villages of Kaktovik, Arctic Village,  
29 Venetie, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik and Wiseman, and  
30 they're scheduled to have a final report into us by  
31 December 23rd and that's something that was requested  
32 or directed by the previous Administration, the  
33 Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, so we are  
34 following up on that and should have that completed by  
35 the December 23rd deadline.

36  
37 And Arctic Village Sheep Management  
38 Area, that area was established several years ago but a  
39 change last year by the State Board of Game overlaid a  
40 new area over that they designated as the Eastern  
41 Brooks Range Management Area and they opened it to  
42 State hunts but because it's Federal lands, or over 99  
43 percent of it is Federal lands it's really not open to  
44 those State hunts but it caused quite a bit of  
45 confusion last year by having both a youth hunt for  
46 sheep and also a -- and just a general hunt for sheep  
47 but we had to do quite a bit of work to inform the  
48 hunters who were interested in that, or the hunting  
49 public about that -- I guess the conflict between  
50

0317

1 what's the Federally-designated Arctic Village Sheep  
2 Management Area and the State-designated Eastern Brooks  
3 Range Management Area and we've got an example of the  
4 flier that we put together to inform people about that.

5  
6 And then for resource management, a  
7 couple things that we did we think were pretty  
8 positive, is, we removed -- we had the time and ability  
9 and a little extra funding to remove a bunch of old  
10 barrels. I think mostly drums, oil or petroleum  
11 products off the coastal plain, we did that at the end  
12 of this summer and were able to remove 21 barrels from  
13 the Camden Bay area and 8 barrels from the Canning  
14 River Delta area to help in our effort to continue the  
15 clean up of some of those old remains that are out  
16 there that could cause, or probably have caused some  
17 contamination and are also an eyesore.

18  
19 And then one other effort that we were  
20 able to undertake this late summer was removal of two  
21 4,000 gallon fuel tanks that had been transferred to  
22 the Refuge from the Air Force many years ago. We no  
23 longer had a need for those so they were removed from  
24 Barter Island and barged to Prudhoe Bay and then they  
25 were purchased by a local business owner so they can be  
26 reutilized. So that was a positive thing to get those  
27 off Barter Island, get them to somebody who can reuse  
28 them and get some good use out of them.

29  
30 That's my report. There are some  
31 things I skipped over so if there -- if anything is in  
32 there that folks have questions about or questions  
33 about what I did talk about I'll do my best to answer  
34 those questions.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.  
39 Any questions for the Refuge Manager from the Council.

40  
41 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair, this is Eddie.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,  
44 Eddie.

45  
46 MR. REXFORD: I have a few questions  
47 for Steve. Steve, you mentioned that folks were  
48 already interviewed in Kaktovik about past history on  
49 ORV, ATV use in the Refuge and I thought that was put  
50

0318

1 on hold because of Covid or were folks contacted by  
2 telephone without the community knowing and you said  
3 that there's a report due, would you clarify that?

4

5 MR. BERENDZEN: Yes. Through the  
6 Chair, Mr. Rexford. I probably misspoke. What I heard  
7 from the contractor, I believe, last week or two weeks  
8 ago was that they would conduct phone interviews either  
9 last week or early this week. So if they have not  
10 happened then I misspoke and I apologize for that.  
11 But, yes, I thought it was supposed to have happened  
12 very recently but maybe those interviews were pushed  
13 back so I'm sure you would know the answer to that  
14 better than I would.

15

16 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, that's very  
17 surprising if they did contact folks without notifying  
18 the tribe or the city, you know, or the corporation for  
19 that matter but I believe it was put on hold because of  
20 Covid and if he's planning on calling certain folks in  
21 the community we'd like to find out who he talked to  
22 because that's not the way it was planned to work  
23 without our knowledge. And we certainly want him to  
24 come to the community to do the interviews personally  
25 like originally planned so more folks could testify --  
26 you know past usage of the Refuge.

27

28 MR. BERENDZEN: Sure. And, Mr.  
29 Rexford, I -- my understanding is that they had been  
30 coordinating with Mathew Rexford to line this up and I  
31 thought they had coordinated with him to do interviews,  
32 you know, very recently but I'm probably mistaken on  
33 that and I can check with them again and ask them to  
34 make sure they have been coordinating with Mathew like  
35 they said they were.

36

37 MR. REXFORD: All right, thank you for  
38 that. And the other concern I have is with the sheep  
39 hunting in Game Management Unit 25A which is near  
40 Arctic Village. And I don't know why they have  
41 Kaktovik listed as able to hunt near Arctic Village.  
42 Historically I don't believe that has ever been done.  
43 I've been living here over 60 years and nobody has ever  
44 hunted sheep in Arctic Village area, that's like  
45 trespassing on tribal lands so I think this needs to be  
46 changed to delete Kaktovik from their traditional  
47 hunting areas.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0319

1 MR. BERENDZEN: Okay, well, thank you,  
2 Mr. Rexford. I will pass that on to the -- I think the  
3 Eastern Interior RAC is who developed this, yeah, who  
4 was the entity that formulated this but we will pass  
5 that on to them. Thank you, very much for that.

6  
7 Are there any other questions.

8  
9 MR. REXFORD: Thank you, Steve. That's  
10 all I had, thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eddie.  
13 Any other questions from the Council to the Refuge  
14 Manager.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, thank  
19 you very much for your presentation and.....

20  
21 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman. Mr.  
22 Chairman, Earl.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Earl.

25  
26 MR. WILLIAMS: Steve, how big is  
27 Wiseman anyway?

28  
29 MR. BERENDZEN: I'm sorry, Mr.  
30 Williams, I did not understand your question.

31  
32 MR. WILLIAMS: What's the population of  
33 Wiseman?

34  
35 MR. BERENDZEN: I'm sorry I'm unable to  
36 answer your question -- I mean I'm unable to understand  
37 your question if somebody can say it.

38  
39 REPORTER: It's coming in kind of  
40 muffled, Earl.

41  
42 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. I said.....

43  
44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may, I  
45 think -- Earl, this is Eva, were you asking what is the  
46 population of Wiseman?

47  
48 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

49  
50

0320

1 MR. BERENDZEN: Okay, the population  
2 of.....

3  
4 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I'm sorry, Earl,  
5 Steve Berendzen is the Refuge Manager for Arctic  
6 National Wildlife Refuge and that doesn't encompass  
7 Wiseman and I'm not sure if we have anybody online who  
8 might know that question but it's outside of the  
9 Refuge's reach.

10  
11 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, in his report he  
12 brought up Wiseman, so I was just wondering.

13  
14 MR. BERENDZEN: Well, I think you're  
15 asking in reference to what I said about the  
16 traditional access study and Wiseman was close enough  
17 to Arctic Refuge that they felt Wiseman should be  
18 included in that study, the residents of Wiseman, but  
19 the size of the -- or the population of Wiseman, I know  
20 it's a very -- relatively small population. I don't  
21 know if it's somewhere in the ballpark of 20 to 40  
22 residents but it's pretty small.

23  
24 MR. WILLIAMS: The reason why I ask is  
25 because a guy named Jack Reakoff keep texting me and  
26 Facebooking me about the corridor on the highway and I  
27 recall, remembering when Zack Hugo and Jacob Moses --  
28 Jacob (Indiscernible) was comprehensive planning on  
29 corridor on the pipeline, they said that they wanted  
30 three miles but I guess they voted five miles, Zack was  
31 talking about it at that time when we were at the  
32 meeting and I was just kind of curious about that.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl. Any  
37 other questions for Steve Berendzen.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, I  
42 appreciate the presentation and the long wait. We've  
43 been pretty talkative and getting as much information  
44 absorbed, I guess. Thank you, Steve.

45  
46 MR. BERENDZEN: No problem, very  
47 informative, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I'm going  
50

0321

1 to go to Ernest Nageak, Fish and Wildlife with the  
2 Barrow field office.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ernest, are you on  
7 still?

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Eva,  
12 where.....

13

14 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair  
15 and.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....are we at, are  
18 we on future meetings.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Yes, so we just have --  
21 there's a brief OSM report. Before we get to the OSM  
22 report, I just want to touch base very quickly with the  
23 Council on topics for your annual report. Some of the  
24 topics that were discussed earlier in the meeting, I'm  
25 keeping a running tally, were climate change impacts to  
26 subsistence, and this was a follow-up to the Council's  
27 annual report reply from the Board, and the need to  
28 clarify the -- the issue of timing with warming  
29 temperatures, that there's not always flexibility with  
30 regulations to help support subsistence communities  
31 getting fish and able to freeze them, and ways to  
32 address that. There was also discussions and follow-up  
33 on the community harvest, about the importance of  
34 having that opportunity for designated hunters to  
35 provide for elders and others not able to provide for  
36 themselves and how important that is for many of the  
37 communities. And then Martha had concerns about  
38 contaminants in fish and opportunities for addressing  
39 that through studies and testing. And the Council had  
40 also addressed Unit 26C muskox and a concern for  
41 management of that population across the Canadian  
42 boundary and making a request for information about  
43 management of that muskox herd on the Canadian side.

44

45 So those were some of the topics the  
46 Council had addressed throughout the meeting and just  
47 want to touch base and see if there's anything else the  
48 Council would like to add to your annual report at this  
49 time. And then, again, I'll be drafting that and  
50

0322

1 working with the Council on the draft and it'll come --  
2 a draft will come before the Council at your winter  
3 meeting to edit and add anything you would like at that  
4 time as well.

5  
6 But just wanted to touch base before we  
7 conclude the meeting, if there are other topics the  
8 Council would like to add to your annual report to the  
9 Federal Subsistence Board.

10  
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, thank you,  
14 Eva. I think some of the things that you pointed out  
15 for the -- that we talked about was pretty good. If  
16 you missed anything on the draft report I'm sure we'll  
17 all have a chance to say something about that and --  
18 unless the Council has something else needing to add to  
19 that report -- any Council members have any feedback  
20 for Eva on the list of items for our annual report.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. I  
25 think once you get the draft I normally read them, once  
26 you put it together, and then I remember something and  
27 it's hard to just be a rolodex and to try to move back  
28 immediately but when I see it on paper, a lot of times  
29 it jars the memory.

30  
31 MS. PATTON: Yes, absolutely, Mr.  
32 Chair. And then there's opportunity -- we'll work  
33 through the annual report with the whole Council at  
34 your winter meeting so there's opportunity for everyone  
35 to add more detail as the Council wishes.

36  
37 So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So are we on Item 13.

40  
41 MS. PATTON: There's just a brief OSM  
42 report and I believe Brent was going to provide that  
43 and.....

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah, okay.

46  
47 MS. PATTON: .....Brent, we're always  
48 welcome to abbreviate the OSM report for the Council if  
49 needed. And then.....

50

0323

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, OSM, you have  
2 the floor.

3  
4 MR. VICKERS: Hello, yes, sorry, it's  
5 so late I'm having problems finding the mute button on  
6 my phone. But hello, Mr. Chair, and members of the  
7 Council. This is Brent Vickers, I am the Supervisor  
8 for the Anthropology Division at OSM.

9  
10 On behalf of OSM I want to thank all  
11 Council members for your exceptional work that you do  
12 on behalf of your communities and user groups during  
13 these trying times. We value your expertise and  
14 contribution of your knowledge and experience to the  
15 regulatory process. It has been a very difficult for  
16 us all dealing with the Covid19 environment.

17  
18 As you've learned from Chairman  
19 Christianson's letter dated August 20th, 2021, we are  
20 holding all 10 fall 2021 RAC meetings via  
21 teleconference. This decision was made with the utmost  
22 consideration and concern for the health and safety of  
23 Council members, families, rural communities, the  
24 public and Staff who are all part of the Council  
25 meetings. The health and safety of everyone is our  
26 highest priority. The DOI guidelines advise that  
27 people avoid travel and refrain from meeting in person  
28 to minimize risk and to help prevent the spread of  
29 Covid19. The Regional Advisory Councils are the  
30 foundation of Alaska's Federal Subsistence Management  
31 Program. The Federal Subsistence Management Program  
32 recognizes that in-person meetings are preferable,  
33 however, until we can ensure the safety of all  
34 participants we will follow current guidelines and hold  
35 all meetings via teleconference. We thank you for be  
36 willing to participate in the lengthy teleconferences  
37 and appreciate your patience as we deal with the  
38 various technical issues that arise from the poor  
39 telephonic connections, the vast distances involved and  
40 differing communication systems throughout the state.

41  
42 Since your last Council meeting in  
43 winter 2021 the following OSM Staffing changes have  
44 occurred. We are very pleased to announce that Ameer  
45 Howard has joined OSM as our new Deputy Assistant  
46 Regional Director. Ameer previously worked in OSM as  
47 policy coordinator.

48  
49 We are also very pleased to see the  
50

0324

1 number of Staff that worked at OSM for awhile grew with  
2 the program and got promoted.

3

4                   Katya Wessels was promoted from Council  
5 Coordinator to the Supervisor of the Division.

6

7                   Myself, Lisa Grediagin, was promoted  
8 from Wildlife Biologist to the Supervisor of her  
9 Division.

10

11                   Robbin LaVine was promoted from  
12 Anthropologist to Policy Coordinator.

13

14                   Additional good news is that three  
15 wildlife biologist positions at OSM were filled. Tom  
16 Plank came to us from the BLM in Utah. Bryan Ubelaker  
17 came to OSM from the BLM in Anchorage. And Kendra  
18 Holman, you got to know pretty well these last two days  
19 came to OSM from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in  
20 Anchorage.

21

22                   We also had some departures at OSM  
23 through retirement and new opportunities.

24

25                   We bid a fond farewell to Donald Mike,  
26 Caron McKee and Zach Stevenson.

27

28                   The OSM team is diligently working on  
29 building capacity and will be filling several new  
30 positions in our Anthropology, Council Coordination,  
31 Fisheries and Regulatory Divisions, along with adding  
32 additional administrative support.

33

34                   Over the past few years we have been  
35 reminding Council members about the change in  
36 requirements for IDs at airports. Beginning May 3rd,  
37 2023 every air traveler will need to present a RealID  
38 compliant driver's license or other acceptable form of  
39 identification, such as a passport, to fly within the  
40 United States. This is applicable even when you fly on  
41 small Bush carriers. Please note that all Council  
42 members will need to make sure they have their required  
43 RealID for travel to the fall 2023 Council meeting.

44

45                   As you were previously briefed, on  
46 August 10th, 2020 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit  
47 against the Federal Subsistence Board after it adopted  
48 Emergency Special Action WSA19-14. This special action  
49 allowed the Village of Kake to engage in a community  
50

1 harvest of two antlered moose and five male Sitka  
2 black-tailed deer. Also included in the lawsuit was  
3 temporary special action WSA20-3 which closed Federal  
4 public lands in Units 13A and 13B to non-Federally-  
5 qualified moose and caribou hunters. As part of the  
6 lawsuit the State asked the court to issue two  
7 preliminary injunctions. One to prevent the Unit 13  
8 closure from taking effect and another vacating the  
9 Kake hunt and prohibiting the Board from allowing any  
10 additional emergency hunts related to the impacts of  
11 Covid19. On September 18th the U.S. District Court  
12 denied the State's request for a preliminary injunction  
13 on the Unit 13 closure. The court found that, because  
14 the State has not demonstrated either a likelihood of  
15 success or serious questions on the merits of its  
16 claims, the court need not consider the remaining  
17 elements of the preliminary injunction analysis.

18  
19 Two months later on November the 18th,  
20 the Court also denied the State's motion for a  
21 preliminary injunction on the Kake hunt after Judge  
22 Gleason concluded that the State had not demonstrated a  
23 likelihood of success on the merits, raised serious  
24 questions on the merits of its claim, or demonstrated  
25 any likelihood of irreparable harm.

26  
27 While these rulings on preliminary  
28 injunction are encouraging, they do not resolve the  
29 litigation. Recent developments are that settlement  
30 negotiations between the Department of Justice, DOI  
31 Solicitor's Office, the USDA Office of General Counsel,  
32 and the State proved unsuccessful. A briefing was  
33 completed at the end of August 2021 and we are now  
34 awaiting the Court's decision.

35  
36 Based on legal guidance, Program Staff  
37 does not comment on any active litigation directed  
38 against the Federal Subsistence Board beyond what we  
39 have reported here.

40  
41 I would be happy to answer any  
42 questions.

43  
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Council members.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for  
47 OSM.

48  
49 (No comments)

0326

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On that litigation  
2 where the State was suing, was that on Federal land or  
3 on State land?

4  
5 MR. VICKERS: Mr. Chair, this is Brent  
6 Vickers. I do believe that was State land, but I don't  
7 feel -- I can't confirm that right now, does anyone  
8 from the OSM Staff know better?

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 MR. VICKERS: I'm hearing from others  
13 that it was Federal.....

14  
15 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair.....

16  
17 MR. VICKERS: .....as I thought -- oh,  
18 go ahead, please.

19  
20 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Brent.  
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair, this is Eva. Yes, that was  
22 Federal land so it was Federal subsistence management  
23 on Federal lands to respond to those Covid and food  
24 security issues for rural Alaska communities.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, thank you,  
27 just curious. Any other questions for OSM on their  
28 report.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So thank you, was  
33 that Vickers?

34  
35 MR. VICKERS: Yes, Sir, Brent Vickers,  
36 it's nice to meet you. Hope to see you in the near  
37 future.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Brent.  
40 Pretty good -- pretty comprehensive and informative  
41 stuff, yeah. All good. Thank you. All right, Eva,  
42 future dates, give us.....

43  
44 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair  
45 and Council.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....give us some  
48 direction.

49  
50

0327

1 MS. PATTON: Yes, so we are up to the  
2 future dates for the RAC meetings. Just one last  
3 question before we get to that, so.....

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Come on Eva.  
6

7 MS. PATTON: I know, one last detail.  
8 So as we were discussing with the Council before, there  
9 will be several public hearings in follow-up for the  
10 Wildlife Special Action 21-01 and one of them is  
11 already scheduled at a date that worked well for the  
12 Northwest Arctic region coming up on November 17th.  
13 And then we were trying to confirm a date that would  
14 work well to hold public meetings, but a date that  
15 would work well for the North Slope region as well.  
16 And the discussion with the Council was that first week  
17 of December, like December 1 and 2, but, Mr. Chair, you  
18 had wanted to kind of just get the whole Council's  
19 confirmation on those meeting dates for a follow-up  
20 public hearing for the Wildlife Special Action 21-01.  
21 So if we could just get confirmation from the Council  
22 if Wednesday, December 1st, or Thursday December 2nd  
23 does, indeed work well, good days for evening public  
24 hearing.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And  
27 that's the one that was deferred in.....

28  
29 MS. PATTON: Correct. Yes. So  
30 the.....

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....and then.....

33  
34 MS. PATTON: .....discussion that the  
35 Council was having today on the deferred special  
36 action. And these public hearings are similar to an  
37 opportunity for the Board to get further feedback from  
38 the public, recommendations and observations regarding  
39 that special action. So there'll actually be three  
40 additional public hearings and this one we're trying to  
41 schedule at a time that works well for the North Slope  
42 regions to participate.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So you're thinking  
45 December 1 and 2?

46  
47 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct, that's what  
48 we had discussed previously with the Council, if those  
49 dates would work well.  
50

0328

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I think 1 or 2  
2 works for me, I do know the assembly will meet on  
3 December 7th and I'm usually not available -- the Mayor  
4 requires his Staff to be at the assembly all the time  
5 and that's the directors. So I'm comfortable with 2 or  
6 1. What's the wish of the Council for a public hearing  
7 on December -- December 2, Thursday.

8  
9 MS. ITTA: It's good for me, this is  
10 Martha.

11  
12 MS. KIPPI: Sounds good for me.

13  
14 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right,  
17 December.....

18  
19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
20 Council members.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....2, there you go  
23 -- there you go, Eva.

24  
25 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you. And  
26 then last but not least the Council's RAC meeting  
27 dates. So you'll find it on your meeting book on Page  
28 345 the winter 2022 meeting dates, and all the Councils  
29 had previously selected a date so we just want to  
30 reconfirm right now the Council is scheduled to meet on  
31 March 8th and 9th of 2022, if those dates still work  
32 well for the Council.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. What's  
35 the wish of the Council, we can select some dates. It  
36 looks like -- are the white areas available dates and  
37 there's lots of different colors of RACs meeting up on  
38 those dates.

39  
40 MS. PATTON: Yeah, so right now OSM and  
41 our court reporter, we have the capacity to hold two  
42 Council meetings per week, that's so that we have, you  
43 know, ample Staff to support both Councils. So right  
44 now it's only the weeks that have one Council meeting  
45 that would be open. So currently the North Slope RAC  
46 was scheduled for March 8th and 9th, but the meeting  
47 window is open, there's a couple weeks after that, the  
48 week of March 14th and the week of March 21st that  
49 would be available if the Council wished to shift your  
50

0329

1 meeting until later.

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: Uh-huh. What's the wish of the Council, we selected March 8 and 9, do we just want to keep that and tie up that spot.

MR. REXFORD: Sounds good.

MS. ITTA: Sounds good.

MS. KIPPI: Sounds good.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: March 8 and 9 Eva.

MS. PATTON: All right, great, thank you, Council. And then if you'll turn to your next page, Page 346, and you'll see -- I mean it's blank right now but the North Slope RAC is the last Council to meet and so I can tell you which timeframes are open. So pretty much through -- so the window -- the meeting window starts in August and runs until November 4th, and historically this Council has kind of shifted back and forth sometimes meeting in August prior to the fall whaling season, and other years meeting in later in the fall closer to November after the fall whaling season. So the meeting times are wide open all the way through -- one, two, three, four, five, six, seven -- I'm missing someone on here -- let me just pull up my other meeting calendar here -- they're wide open all the way through September 30th to meet, and, apologize, I thought I had all the meeting dates here, let me pull up the latest meeting calendar -- and then there is that week of November 2nd and 3rd is available, kind of the same timeframe you're meeting in now.

MR. WILLIAMS: November 3rd and 4th.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: How about October 18 and 19.

MR. WILLIAMS: 13 and 14.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that you Earl.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I just said 13 and 14 but go ahead.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: On which month, 13 and 14, which month?

0330

1 MR. WILLIAMS: October.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

4

5 MS. PATTON: October 13.....

6

7 MR. WILLIAMS: That was August.....

8

9 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: The reason why I said  
12 that is because August and September is our hunting  
13 season month.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's right.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Okay, so we have October  
18 13 and 14th.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sound good, 13 and  
21 14.

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

24

25 MS. ITTA: Good.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Eva, there  
28 you go.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you, Mr.  
31 Chair and Council.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We got  
34 those done. And we forgot to say date and location.  
35 Can we go and just do that in Hawaii.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MS. PATTON: Sounds like a plan.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MS. PATTON: So, Mr. Chair and Council,  
44 just.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Closing comments,  
47 I'll start with AKP. Closing comments.

48

49 MR. WILLIAMS: I want to thank you for

50

0331

1 the long couple days but I enjoyed it and I'm glad  
2 everybody brought up all the issues that we need to  
3 bring up but there's more on the table that need to be  
4 brought up so we'll meet again. Enjoy you all, and  
5 have a good nice Turkey Dinner.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native) Earl.

8  
9 We'll go to Nuiqsut.

10  
11 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank  
12 you, Council. And to all the agencies for all the  
13 information that was given to us and I look forward to  
14 our 2022 meeting. Everybody stay safe, happy hunting,  
15 and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

16  
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native) Thank  
20 you, Martha.

21  
22 Atqasuk, Wanda.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I wonder if Wanda  
27 went to -- fell asleep or needs to get out of mute.

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 MS. KIPPI: Hello. Hello.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There you are.  
34 Closing comments Wanda.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, no, we lost her  
39 again.

40  
41 MS. KIPPI: Hello.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, while, we're  
44 waiting on Wanda, we'll go to Kaktovik -- Wanda, are  
45 you ready to do closing comments.

46  
47 MS. KIPPI: Can you hear me?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, we could hear  
50

0332

1 you. (In Native)

2

3 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you,  
4 everybody. I just wanted to say thank you to everybody  
5 and our Chair, and everybody that spoke from all the  
6 agencies and you guys always want to meet during the  
7 time when I want to go camping and hunting and I don't  
8 know if I'll be at the next meeting in October, I'd  
9 rather be at camp. That's just my thought. But, yeah,  
10 I told myself I'm not going to miss no camping next  
11 year because I had to get my ATV running and I had to  
12 get parts three times so I didn't get to go at all this  
13 year so I'm looking forward to next year and I'd rather  
14 be at camp so we'll see what happens then.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you  
17 everybody. Thank you, Eva.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Wanda.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Yeah, we  
22 know you love camp. I was thinking about 13 and 14 but  
23 (In Native).

24

25 MS. KIPPI: Ah.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, yeah (In  
28 Native).

29

30 MS. KIPPI: Uh-huh, okay. Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Eddie  
33 from Kaktovik.

34

35 MR. REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Thank you, Council members. Thank you for providing  
37 all that information, the Federal agencies and from the  
38 State. Look forward to next meeting. Thank you,  
39 everybody. Have a good evening.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, thank you  
42 Eddie. And Happy Thanksgiving coming up and all be  
43 safe. If Steve was here I'm sure he would want to bid  
44 everybody a good evening and be safe as well. So my  
45 closing comments are (In Native), this was a long  
46 meeting but it was worth all the dialogue and the  
47 information that we need to bring forth for Council members.

48

49 (In Native)

50

0333

1 Thank you, very much. And thank you  
2 very much, too, Eva, I know we're sometimes  
3 cantankerous, you know, and we just need to be reeled  
4 in by Eva sometimes. But with that.....

5  
6 (Laughter)

7  
8 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....Item.....

11  
12 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

15  
16 MS. KENNER: I just want to let you  
17 know Eva just got -- Eva's just -- Eva's dropped, I'm  
18 sure if she was still on the line she would thank you  
19 very much and thank you for a great two days.

20  
21 Bye-bye.

22  
23 This is Pippa.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Pippa. We  
26 don't like to lose Eva.

27  
28 MS. PATTON: Thank you all, this is  
29 Eva, I just got back on.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But we're.....

32  
33 MS. PATTON: But thank you so much,  
34 Chair Gordon Brower, and the whole Council, thank you  
35 so much for your dedication and care for everyone and  
36 it's just an honor to work with you.

37  
38 Thank you. Quyanagpak.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I would  
41 encourage you.....

42  
43 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....for the new  
46 Council Member Blare yeah, to keep in touch with him  
47 and encourage him to participate. It's important for  
48 these new Council members not to be shy and we embrace  
49 them and we want to.....  
50

0334

1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants not muted)

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....see them  
5 represent their community. All right, Item 15.

6

7 MR. REXFORD: Move to adjourn.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion to  
10 adjourn.

11

12 MS. ITTA: Second it.

13

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, those in  
17 favor of adjourning, signify by saying aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

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

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we are  
27 officially adjourned.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

