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1 NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

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7
8 VOLUME II

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10
11 TELECONFERENCE
12 March 9, 2022
13 9:00 a.m.

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16
17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18
19 Gordon Brower, Chair
20 Brower Frantz
21 William Hopson
22 Martha Itta
23 Wanda Kippi
24 Steve Oomittuk
25 Edward Rexford
26 Peter Williams

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31 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 3/9/2022)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to get us out of recess and get back into the meeting. Good morning, everybody.

And do we want to do a roll call there real quick, Eva?

MS. PATTON: Sure. We can do a roll call and then we'll check in with the roll call again before we get into our action items for the Council because I think we have a couple more members that are going to be joining us shortly.

Gordon Brower.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll acknowledge them as they chime in.

MS. PATTON: Sounds good. Thank you.

So, Gordon Brower, Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. I'm here.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Gordon. And Wanda Kippi.

MS. KIPPI: Good morning. I'm here.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Wanda. Steve Oomittuk just sent a text, he's going to be just a few minutes late this morning. He'll be joining us shortly.

Blair Patkotak, Jr. is absent today.

Edward Rexford, Sr., Kaktovik. We'll give Eddie -- oh, was that you Eddie?

(No comments)

MS. PATTON: I thought I heard Eddie

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1 there in the background. I'll touch base with Eddie
2 and make sure he can get connected here.

3

4 Martha Itta, Nuiqsut.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. PATTON: And I did hear from Martha
9 yesterday, she was -- she had joined us for our
10 premeeting the day before and she was addressing the
11 Alpine issues in Nuiqsut and taking care of her family.
12 So I'm not sure if she'll be joining us today yet,
13 hopefully she might be able to join later today, but
14 she did let us know she was addressing those issues in
15 Nuiqsut so hope all is well for Martha.

16

17 And Esther Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass.

18

19 MS. HUGO: I'm here.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Esther.

22

23 And Brower Frantz, Utqiagvik.

24

25 MR. FRANTZ: I'm here. Good morning.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Brower.

28 Thank you.

29

30 Peter Earl Williams, Anaktuvuk Pass.

31

32 MR. WILLIAMS. Good morning.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Good morning. So far we
35 have five Council members present and Steve will be
36 joining us shortly and I'll also touch base to make
37 sure Eddie can get through. I know his phone kept
38 dropping yesterday.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
41 Council.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So
44 this morning I guess start off with those that are
45 online and you can introduce yourselves.

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff, Western
48 Interior Regional Council on the phone. Good morning.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Jack.

2

3 MS. de SOUSA: Leandra de Sousa, North
4 Slope Borough. Department of Wildlife Management. Good
5 morning.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Leandra.

8

9 MR. ROBARDS: Martin Robards with WCS
10 here for public comments.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who was that?

13

14 REPORTER: Can you spell your last
15 name, please.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

18

19 MR. ROBARDS: Sure. It's Robards, R-O-
20 B-A-R-D-S. Eva has it on her file.

21

22 REPORTER: Perfect. Thank you.

23

24 MR. NAGEAK: Ernest Nageak, U.S. Fish
25 and Wildlife, Barrow.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Ernest.

28

29 MS. URQUIA: Good morning. This is
30 Morgan Urquia, from Fish and Game, Division of
31 Subsistence.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning.

34

35 MR. VICKERS: Good morning. Brent
36 Vickers, Office of Subsistence Management.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning.

39

40 MR. LIND: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
41 Council members. This is Orville Lind, Native liaison
42 for the Office of Subsistence Management.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, good morning,
45 Orville.

46

47 MR. LIND: Good morning, Sir.

48

49 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. This is

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1 Kendra Holman, wildlife biologist with OSM.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Kendra.

4

5 MS. MIKOW: Good morning. This is Beth
6 Mikow. I'm the anthropologist for the BLM, Arctic
7 District Office. Good morning.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who was that again?

10

11 MS. MIKOW: I'm sorry, this is Beth
12 Mikow. I'm the anthropologist for the Arctic District
13 Office of BLM.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Good
16 morning.

17

18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, this is Lisa
19 Grediagin, the Wildlife Division supervisor with OSM.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Lisa.

22

23 MR. STONE: Good morning. This is
24 Jarred Stone, fisheries biologist with the Office of
25 Subsistence Management.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Jarred.

28

29 MS. DREW: Good morning. This is Katie
30 Drew, fish biologist, BLM, Arctic District Office.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I didn't get your
33 first name.

34

35 MS. DREW: Katie.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Good
38 morning, Katie.

39

40 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. Chris McKee,
41 subsistence coordinator with BLM at the State office in
42 Anchorage.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Chris.

45

46 MR. ENMAN: This is Ted Enman with the
47 BLM Arctic District Office.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning Ted.

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1 MR. ENMAN: Good morning.

2

3 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
4 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Mark.

7

8 MS. SAVAGE: Good morning. This is
9 Heather Savage, wildlife biologist, Arctic District
10 Office.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Heather.

13

14 MR. HUCKLELUK: Good morning. This is
15 Nathan Huckleluk, acting Refuge manager with the
16 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Nathan.

19

20 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning. This is Kim
21 Jochum, National Park Service subsistence program at
22 the regional office in Anchorage.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Kim.

25

26 MR. RACIK: Hi, this is Jeff Racik, the
27 acting superintendent at Gates of the Arctic National
28 Park.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Jeff.

31

32 MR. DEACY: Good morning. This is Will
33 Deacy, biologist with the National Park Service based
34 in Fairbanks.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Will. Any
37 others online that haven't been introduced this
38 morning?

39

40 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, BIA
41 subsistence anthropologist out of Anchorage.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Morning,
44 Pat.

45

46 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So hearing that --
49 and welcome, everybody, to the second day of our two
50

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1 Council meeting of the North Slope Subsistence Regional
2 Advisory Council.

3
4 And I'm going to go ahead and give an
5 opportunity for public comments. And I'm going to read
6 a certain section here of public comments. Public
7 comments are welcome for each agenda item and for
8 regional concerns not included on the agenda. The
9 Council appreciates hearing your concerns and
10 knowledge. The Chair will identify the opportunity to
11 provide public comment. At that time please let the
12 Chair know that you want to speak. Time limits may be
13 set to provide opportunity for all to testify and keep
14 the meeting as scheduled.

15
16 So this morning public and tribal
17 comments on nonagenda items is available. It's
18 available now so we'll open the floor for any public or
19 tribal comments on nonagenda items.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll keep that
24 open for those that might chime in.

25
26 MR. ROBARDS: Mr. Chair, this is Martin
27 Robards. I do have a short update on a project that
28 we're proposing on predators in the region.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Go ahead.
31 I'll recognize you.

32
33 MR. ROBARDS: Thank you, Sir. We're a
34 science based NGO. Much of my prior work has been in
35 support of marine mammal subsistence such as with the
36 Eskimo Walrus Commission. But for right here I'm
37 interested in getting your feedback for a project we
38 are proposing that synthesizes current scientific and
39 traditional knowledge about large predators, wolves,
40 wolverines, bears and lynx. All of these are important
41 to hunters and trappers and to the population dynamic
42 too.

43
44 We have been engaged in wolverine
45 research on the North Slope and Northwest Alaska for
46 about 10 years, particularly in Tulik, Umiat and Kavik
47 area. And I want to give a big shout out for all the
48 local support we've had from hunters and trappers who
49 have given us logistic help and samples from trap
50

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1 samples over that time. More recently we have been
2 supporting surveys of Federal partners such as NPS and
3 BLM about other predators such as bears or wolves.

4
5 When covid-19 conditions allow we like
6 to conduct some focus groups in Northwest Alaska and on
7 the North Slope on predators. We would share
8 previously documented information in the region. We
9 would share the results of current surveys and research
10 efforts including our own and hear back from local
11 hunters and trappers about their perspectives on
12 predators and importantly any topics or questions
13 they'd like more information on.

14
15 I'm just looking for feedback at this
16 early stage, it'll be very much appreciated. For
17 example when we were talking to Northwest Alaska there
18 was a real preference to have hunters come from the
19 village to the hub, Kotzebue in that case, to have
20 some, you know, focus groups with different villages
21 represented rather than going out to all the villages
22 individually. So any feedback you have at this time is
23 really appreciated.

24
25 Thank you, everybody. Thank you,
26 Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And who
29 was your name again?

30
31 MR. ROBARDS: My name is Martin
32 Robards. I'm with WCS, we're a research organization.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
37 Martin?

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
42 you, Martin, for your information and your comments.

43
44 MR. ROBARDS: Thank you, Sir.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. With
47 that, the floor is still open for public and tribal
48 comments on nonagendaitems. And we'll see if there's --
49 give a few -- maybe a minute to see if there's anybody
50

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1 else that wants to make -- address the North Slope
2 Regional Advisory Council.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll keep this
7 portion open throughout the morning.

8

9 So with that, Eva, maybe you can
10 reorient us, where we left off. I know we finished the
11 two special action requests, 21-01A and 21-01B as we
12 signed off yesterday. And maybe you can help us where
13 we're at now.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
16 members of the Council. We are now down to the
17 wildlife special action 22-02 which is the sheep
18 special action request that was submitted by the
19 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and we'll
20 have OSM Staff that are available to provide an
21 overview. And that was just recently submitted so I
22 sent the request to those Council members that have
23 email, via email, and again we'll have OSM Staff
24 provide an overview of that special action request.
25 And the Western Interior RAC Chair, Jack Reakoff, is
26 also online and available to address the Council on
27 that request.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So
32 go ahead with the -- would that be Alex?

33

34 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this will be
35 Kendra Holman doing this one.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Kendra,
38 you have the floor. And make sure and orient us maybe
39 to a page or special handout if there was one.

40

41 MS. HOLMAN: So this should have come,
42 Mr. Chair, as an email from Eva just within the last --
43 this week. I think it would have gone out Monday, she
44 can correct me if I'm wrong on that day.

45

46 MS. PATTON: So since we just received
47 this -- this is Eva. Since we just received this
48 special action request we didn't have any materials
49 that we're able to send to the Council in the mail. So

50

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1 it was emailed out on Monday and I can resend that
2 email right now so it comes up to the top of your email
3 if you're able to access that. But Kendra will provide
4 a comprehensive overview so that you have all the
5 information relevant to this.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, excuse me. But
10 I'm printing it, I think it see it right here. It came
11 along with a special action for muskox and then the BLM
12 Field Office RAC update and one of those was WSA22-02,
13 special action request for dall sheep, 24A, 26B.
14 That's the one?

15

16

MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair.

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I got it
on my screen.

20

21

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28

MS. HOLMAN: Okay. So for the record
my name is Kendra Holman and I'm a wildlife biologist
at the Office of Subsistence Management. I'll be
presenting temporary wildlife special action request
WSA 22-02. This request was emailed to the Council
members on Monday and is also on the OSM website under
the North Slope Council meeting materials.

29

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31

32

The Western Interior Council just
submitted this request two weeks ago so no full
analysis is available yet. But now is the opportunity
for the North Slope Council to act on this request.

33

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WSA22-02 was submitted by the Western
Interior Council and requests closing sheep hunting on
Federal public lands in Units 24A and 26B west of the
Sag River to all users for the 2022 through 2024
regulatory cycle.

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The proponent is very concerned about
the decreasing sheep populations along the Dalton
Highway. Since 2012 unusual weather conditions
including rain on snow events, late springs and deep
snows have decimated the sheep population resulting
extremely low lamb recruitment, poor lamb production
and a loss of mature rams. Wolf predation has also
contributed to the severe population declines.

49

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The proponent expresses frustration

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1 over the lack of biological data particularly the
2 failure to classify rams by horn size. Currently six
3 and seven year old rams remain in the population, but
4 there are very few two to five year old rams due to
5 predation and weather events. Past studies have
6 demonstrated detrimental affects of young rams breeding
7 ewes when older rams -- with older rams absent
8 including higher post ret mortality and lower lamb
9 production.

10

11 Current harvest management and harvest
12 levels are another concern. The proponent further
13 states that the full curl management strategy only
14 works with consistent ram recruitment, not when several
15 cohorts are lost like has occurred in the unit 24A and
16 26B sheep population. The proponent argues that
17 harvesting the remaining six and seven year old rams
18 over the next two years which is likely under the
19 current management regime will exacerbate the recovery
20 of this sheep population since there are not any two to
21 five year old rams to take their place and very young
22 rams will end up breeding ewes.

23

24 The Western Interior Council considers
25 Unit 24A and 26B sheep population to be in dire
26 situation and they request closure as critical to their
27 recovery. Public hearings will be scheduled to receive
28 public testimony on this special action request and the
29 Federal Subsistence Board will act on this request in a
30 public meeting sometime before August when the sheep
31 season opens. However no dates have been set yet.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
34 Councils. I'll be happy to address any questions.
35 Again this is an action item and we will take the
36 Council's recommendation on this request.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And that
39 was Kendra?

40

41 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'd like to
44 listen to the Western Interior Council Chair, I think
45 that's Jack, maybe I'll give you the floor following
46 the presentation of this special action request.

47

48 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
49 Chair. Jack Reakoff, Western Interior Regional
50

1 Advisory Council Chair. I'm also the Chairman of the
2 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee to the State Board of
3 Game. Koyukuk River Advisory met in early February,
4 February 3, expressed extreme frustration with the
5 department Staff that didn't seem to have the slightest
6 clue what was going to happen to these dall sheep
7 populations because the State of Alaska does not take
8 or any other agency take any composition of the
9 population if they survey caribou or moose, they're
10 small, large and medium sized bulls taken into account.
11 The department surveys only full curl legal rams which
12 are dead within a month of the survey, 100 percent
13 extraction here in these game management units as
14 described.

15
16 So we're very concerned about that. We
17 wrote a letter to the Board of Game which we expressed
18 that to the Board in public comments on Sunday, but the
19 State is in the let's wait and see what happens. We're
20 going to wait and see the sheep population be driven
21 into a biological crisis, it's already in a crisis.
22 There's only 25 percent of the dall sheep that were
23 surveyed in 2012 at a maximum and that was as of July
24 of 2021 and all legal rams were killed and some of the
25 sublegal. There's 10 percent of the sublegal sheep are
26 killed and that were turned in for stealing that were
27 found to be below minimum. So they're killing even
28 sublegal sheep. That's not even counting the wound
29 loss rate, there's a pretty high wound loss rate.
30 Everybody's become snipers and they're shooting at
31 these sheep at long ranges.

32
33 So this is a heavily, intensively
34 hunted area here in Unit 24 on the south slope in 26B.
35 There are literally hundreds and hundreds of hunters
36 that come up here and at the beginning of the sheep
37 season there's vehicles parked all over the place and
38 people walk -- these guys walk all in and there's no
39 accounting of if they actually shot at sheep and
40 wounded them because they don't have to report until
41 they kill a sheep. And so when they have a harvest
42 ticket you don't even know if they hunted here or not.
43 So there's a minimum of 50 hunters that hunted here
44 and all legal rams were killed in Unit 24A.

45
46 26B, I -- we have customary and
47 traditional use for 26B. I go to the north side quite
48 often and I can -- I find very few older ram and hardly
49 nearly as many sheep. Back in 2002 I counted 385 sheep
50

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1 from Adigan Pass to Galbraith Lake, I can hardly find
2 over 50 sheep in there now. So the sheep population, I
3 talked to a guy that hunted on the Itkillik River and
4 he could hardly find sheep where there used to be
5 hundreds where's there's only 11 and only a few young
6 rams.

7
8 So we're looking at a crisis. When a
9 shift arbitrarily kill off all the older males in a
10 population it shifts the breeding to the younger and
11 everybody knows with caribou the big bulls have lots of
12 fat reserved, those breed the cows. Those younger
13 bulls, they don't have the same pheromone, that's why
14 you can eat those. And so the caribou reject younger
15 bulls and so the same thing with sheep. If we wipe out
16 the rest of these remaining adult rams, plus sheep are
17 very social animals, if they don't have larger adult
18 rams to evade wolf predation, those older rams have
19 learned from their elders how to evade wolves. Younger
20 sheep when we kill off all the older rams in this ham
21 groups and all rams stay together in most of the year
22 and that subjects the younger rams to higher predation
23 factors.

24
25 The department doesn't seem to
26 understand the social structure of the dall sheep, they
27 don't take -- they have no data for composition of the
28 population. If you (indiscernible - distortion)
29 quarter, half, three-quarter curl and full seven acre
30 full curl, then you know what your age classes are of
31 the rams and you also know what the age classes of the
32 females are.

33
34 Since this special action class was
35 submitted the Board of Game is in session right this
36 morning and so there were two proposals for the Dalton
37 Highway Corridor. One was to repeal the Dalton Highway
38 Corridor under proposal 173 and that was submitted by
39 the Fairbanks Advisory Committee and they want to
40 repeat the Dalton Highway Corridor Management area
41 which has lots of restrictions and so it's a violation
42 to -- under Board regulations to shoot from the
43 highway, to use an all terrain vehicle and there's
44 statutory restrictions. And statutory restrictions
45 under State statute don't have a penalty. So the
46 Fairbanks Advisory Committee is made up of a whole
47 bunch of attorneys and they know if they can get the
48 Board to repeal the Dalton Highway Corridor it's going
49 to be mayhem.
50

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1 Well, I just was looking at what the
2 Board's comments to the two proposals, one is to repeal
3 and one was to address -- the department has submitted
4 a proposal to make adjustment to the Dalton Highway
5 Corridor for addressing certain issues. They're
6 withdrawing their proposal and they're endorsing the
7 proposal to repeal. So if the Board takes up that and
8 it's eminently within the next probably day there -- if
9 there's a repeal there's going to be ATVs driving off
10 the road, they'll be shooting caribou in the ditch and
11 they'll be pounding the tar out of these resources
12 because there's no statutory restriction. The troopers
13 can't write tickets because -- they can write a ticket,
14 but there's no penalty, they can't take anybody to
15 court. We will go into mayhem for at least one or two
16 years until the Legislature would address that.

17
18 So the Board is being talked by the
19 department into repeal of the Dalton Highway Corridor.
20 This makes this even more imperative to protect the
21 dall sheep population under wildlife special action
22 request 22-02. I -- we, the Western Regional Advisory
23 Council are requesting full closure to subsistence and
24 nonsubsistence. Why is that, we don't have rams to
25 give right now. The few remaining rams -- I have not
26 killed a sheep in three years. I watch sporthunters
27 going after sublegal sheep because they don't know a
28 full curl from a hole in the ground. And so the
29 sporthunters are killing the sublegal sheep and walking
30 away from it once they kill it, like oh, my gosh, the
31 thing's only seven-eighths and they walk away and leave
32 it. Only 10 percent were actually turned in, but
33 there's an excessive amount that are going to be killed
34 in the next two years.

35
36 I would encourage the North Slope
37 Regional Advisory Council to endorse this proposal.
38 This does not affect the sheep hunt in 26A over in
39 Anaktuvuk, it doesn't affect that hunt at all, that's
40 in the Gates of the Arctic Park, that's hard park for
41 the majority of that land and it would not affect the
42 people in Anaktuvuk Pass.

43
44 So thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll take
45 comments or questions if you care. That'll be my
46 statement.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jack.
49 Very well said and do we have any questions for Jack
50

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1 from the Council, for that matter from any of the area
2 biologists that might be listening and that do
3 inventory and things like that. I'm kind of alarmed at
4 this point too. So.....

5

6 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Esther.

9

10 MS. HUGO: Good morning. Thank you.
11 Good morning, Jack. I was just listening to our area.
12 Thank you. And I'm just wondering are these sheep
13 being hunted where they open that five mile corridor
14 with the bull and all that, where they hunt with their
15 bow and arrow or are they just going there and trying
16 to catch as much rams or these hunters?

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Through the Chair. Good
19 morning, Esther.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Yes. And the sheep, you
24 know how they are in the valleys, they come to the
25 valley in the springtime, they eat grass when it melts
26 off and then they move way back. And if they get five
27 miles out those hunters, sporthunters, walk off the
28 road and the sheep is they're five miles out they shoot
29 them out there. Then if they come to the corridor into
30 the five mile line then they're hunted with archery.
31 But guess what, the State of Alaska Department of Fish
32 and Game endorsed a proposal to lengthen the sheep
33 season from the 20th of September for sporthunting all
34 the way until the 5th of October. They got a longer
35 sheep season than the subsistence users.

36

37 So the reality is the department has
38 endorsed proposals and lied to the Board in 2020 saying
39 the sheep population was stable and increasing when
40 they had data sitting right in front of them that
41 showed the population was 50 percent of what it was in
42 2016 in the 2018 survey.

43

44 So the reality is the department
45 doesn't seem to know what in the world they're doing on
46 dall sheep management, they don't take any composition
47 and so these sheep are killed in and out of the
48 corridor and with a really long season like that for
49 sporthunters, there's a lot of hunters coming -- when

50

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1 those caribou start migrating those sporthunters are
2 killing caribou in the Adigan valley, rutting big
3 bulls. And so if the dall sheep is on the mountain
4 right there by them, with all that kind of harvest
5 power those guys with -- wearing white have a high
6 likelihood when the sheep is distracted chasing ewes
7 around starting in October like that they're -- they
8 have a high likelihood of being killed with archery
9 also. I'm really concerned about this.

10

11

Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you, Jack. You know, I'm just going to say a little bit here. That corridor management plan repeal, I think the borough did comment against that and we brought it to the mayor for his concerns as well. But like you said with an already struggling population in observations of the users here, the subsistence users, that -- repeal of that would only exacerbate the existing condition is what I'm understanding, it'll make it that much more easier and seems to me the mayhem that's already existing is just going to get worse as part of that.

And, you know, a lot of the traditional knowledge that we hold, we know the bulls that are in rut, you know, they -- and we made some rules some years ago to be the conservationists that we are and say, you know, we know the bulls contribute to a healthy population and we don't like to hunt them because they get in rut and they stink up for that mating season. And that's a critical information piece is when those bulls, those are the breeders, you know the sub-bulls, the little bulls and those, you know, they're just playing around and get beat up from those big bulls and stuff. And that's who the females -- you know, that's how the tanglement happens. So that's an important piece of the pie to keep healthy populations.

And when we had to do conservation measures I distinctly remember hey, we don't hunt the bulls about -- you know, starting in October because they stink, they don't even taste right. Then they get back to easy to eat and after they drop their horns somewhere around December 5, you know, a couple weeks into December, then you can hunt them again for food.

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1 And I think they're very important
2 observations and I would really like to hear from ADF&G
3 on when was the last time you did a count and the
4 decline in population while advocating for -- I don't
5 know if it's a nonresident hunt, if they're sporthunts,
6 to continue to allow these guides the free range while
7 subsistence is probably being seriously curtailed.

8
9 Thank you, Jack.

10
11 So any other comments to Jack or to
12 Kendra?

13
14 MR. FRANTZ: This is Brower. I got the
15 question.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Brower.

18
19 MR. FRANTZ: All right. Thank you.
20 Yeah, Brower Frantz for the record out of Barrow. I'm
21 wondering -- well, I'm taking a look at the map and it
22 does show a few areas in here I thought it might have
23 included, but it looks like it maybe doesn't. I know
24 in the 26B area they recently put a sporthunters' shack
25 just on the outside of ANWR to the west in an area that
26 we hunt pretty frequently and, you know, moreover for
27 wolves, wolverines and things like that. There was a
28 lot of muskox. But we did -- well, I used to go there
29 before the sporthunting shack was put in so I was
30 wondering if that area in particular along the Canning
31 was going to be included with that. It looks like it's
32 within the same unit, just a little farther to the east
33 than what this is talking about because that's, you
34 know, a very high use area for this particular
35 discussion and sheep in general. Right up against the
36 mountains there on the Canning they got a nice little
37 landing spot there and I believe it was permitted just
38 a few years ago. I didn't understand it, but it's
39 there. And a lot of them, you know, there are users
40 over there and they've had issues with, you know,
41 noncompliance and stuff like that as far as the borough
42 and stuff went.

43
44 But, you know, I was just wondering if
45 that location would be included in the thing?

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: Through the Chair. That
48 is.....

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Jack.

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4 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah. From that area
5 from the Sagavanirktok over to the Canning River, the
6 26C boundary, that's behind big mountains. Those sheep
7 over there, they didn't get the kind of rain events,
8 they didn't get the deep snows. The weather goes over
9 from the Koyukuk over into the 26B west. So basically
10 from the Sagavanirktok to the Itkillik there, those
11 sheep took a real beating, they had rain on snow in
12 2020 and it really knocks them down when they get iced
13 out like that for quite a while. But to the east,
14 those sheep populations are doing better and I did not
15 want to include those higher populations to water down
16 the problem area that we have from the Sagavanirktok to
17 the west. So that's why there's a boundary there at
18 the Sagavanirktok drainage and that's where the Dalton
19 Highway Corridor also extends to.

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And there's a lot of hunters that go
hunt sheep from the road in the Adigan Gorge, the
(indiscernible), all of those drainages going to the --
into the east, those are under high -- subjected to
high harvest rates, extremely high harvest rates, and
you -- I can barely find very many adult rams left now,
they're -- because of the weather events in 2012, '13.

In the whole -- in the wildlife special
action request we go over what the various events
happened and why the population -- basically right now
the Department of Fish and Game doesn't know what's
coming up because they don't do comp work, composition
data. So we -- TEK observation showed we have no
quarter curl, half curl, three-quarter curl rams
joining ram groups. That means that we don't have two,
three, four and five year old rams that are -- we don't
have those sheep in the population. If you don't see
it in the rams then you don't have it in the ewes
either.

We're looking at a giant cliff coming
up and the department's oblivious as to what this
actually means, the biology of the sheep. They're own --
they're own studies done in the '80s that drove the
full curl management was to avoid killing off sheet
down to younger age classes.

So the answer to your question is we

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1 did not want to put higher populations into the closure
2 area because then the Department of Fish and Game can
3 work that against us. We're going to use the areas
4 that have the problem and stay within those areas.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 MR. FRANTZ: I'm just.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jack. And
11 I'm -- yeah, go ahead, Brower.

12

13 MR. FRANTZ: Quick question. So the
14 one I was talking about it is inside 26B, it's just
15 outside 26C. It's on the west side of (indiscernible -
16 distortion). I get what you're saying about the -- you
17 know, the population (indiscernible - distortion), but
18 if you do shut down around this area, I mean, is it
19 more likely that more hunters will be going by
20 Kaktovik?

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: The hunters -- through
23 the Chair. The hunters that go that way.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF:are flying --
28 they're going over there with Super Cubs and aircrafts
29 and the hunters -- there's a large entity of hunters
30 that hunt from the road. And so the hunters that go
31 from the road, they don't have aircraft, they just walk
32 in. So no, I doubt that they're going to -- yeah, they
33 might cross the Sagavanirktok and hunt by foot over
34 there in the Ivishak and Remdendon and over in that
35 area, but that's -- it's not going to be the main
36 problem. There's already a large number of hunters
37 that are flown in from Happy Valley, Deadhorse and from
38 Fairbanks into the -- into the Arctic Refuge in 26B, E
39 and 26C. So that's already happening. But I don't
40 think it's going to squeeze the balloon and push them
41 over there because most of the hunting pressure on the
42 Dalton Highway is coming from the road and so that's
43 kind of a different issue.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jack. Any
48 other questions for Jack?

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1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So here's what I'm
4 reading. The proposed Federal regulation on this
5 special action would be Unit 24 sheep, Unit 24A, no
6 open season. And I look at Unit 24A, it's kind of like
7 from the Haul Road corridor from around Adigan Pass
8 through Wiseman and it's in between 24B and others.
9 And it's -- just looking at the map of units here, it's
10 all of that Unit 24A. And Unit 26 sheep for no open
11 season. Unit -- under Unit 26A. Unit 24B, that
12 portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management
13 Area, west of the Sagavanirktok River, the Sag River,
14 and you go to Unit 24B and it -- you can see that
15 management area highlighted in kind of like the orange
16 color maybe on the Haul Road, just maybe from Adigan
17 Pass going north towards Galbraith, in those areas
18 there.

19

20 Is that what I'm understanding, Jack,
21 is this intensive use area and the wording in the
22 proposed language?

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

MR. REAKOFF:orange is the BLM
land. And to the west of the corridor is the Gates of
the Arctic National Preserve and that's open to
sporthunting. So that goes.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

MR. REAKOFF:it would go right up
against -- goes right up against the 26A line and
Anaktuvuk is further over here to the -- and we didn't
want to affect Unit 24B because that's in the hard park
of the south of Anaktuvuk Pass and we did not want to
have any kind of a closure over there to the south of
Anaktuvuk because that's part of their use area. So
this only affects the critical areas that have heavy
hunting pressure. And so that's -- and we are willing
to take a cut also. We're willing to take a loss of --
because we're already doing it, we're not harvesting
sheep here under subsistence because we don't have the

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1 sheep to give. We're conservationists. If our
2 populations are down we hunt caribou or black bears or
3 do something else. We're not going to kill the last
4 dall sheep.

5

6 And the Department of Fish and Game
7 intends to kill the last adult rams. They will do that
8 in the next two years. There's Super Cubs flying off
9 of -- out of here in the falltime, three Super Cubs on
10 wheel -- on tundra tires and one on floats, there's not
11 a sheep that can stay away from the hunters. There's a
12 lot of harvest power with aircraft, walk in hunters,
13 Unit 24A and 26B are hunted really hard. And the data
14 shows the harvest for 24A, they took all legal rams
15 that were seen in July were harvested and beyond
16 because there were sublegal sheep that were actually
17 taken.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
22 further questions on the special action -- wildlife
23 special action request for 22-02?

24

25 And I really appreciate your presence
26 this morning, Jack.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

29

30 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Esther.

33

34 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, not a question,
35 but I just want to thank you, Jack. I drove last month
36 to Nuiqsut and I can't imagine -- I was trying to
37 imagine all that activity, all the sporthunters hunting
38 and I just -- I was overwhelmed. I tried to picture
39 the road itself and then all these cars, trucks or
40 whatever sporthunters bring to hunt. So I'm very
41 heartfelt for that and I just wanted to say that.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.

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47 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

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49 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

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3 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Steve.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

6 Sounds like Steve Oomittuk joined us from Point Hope.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I -- I'm sorry, I
9 did call in late. I did text Eva that I'd be calling
10 in late, but I am here. But I missed the portion of
11 it. And can you just what Jack was talking about. I'm
12 sorry I called in late and what this proposal is for,
13 just a brief explanation and what they.....

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: Sure. I can -- and.....

16

17 MR. OOMITTUK:seem like
18 sporthunters. You know, I've always been against
19 sporthunters in any which way, you know, especially
20 when the populations are low. You know, I've heard,
21 you know, our sheep are, you know, the population in
22 Lisburne area is finally just coming back. But, you
23 know, we -- I guess this is all on the eastern side of
24 Alaska. But, you know, I support our subsistence
25 hunters, you know.

26

27 And I just heard some portions of this,
28 I just want a clarification of what is this going to
29 do.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Steve.
32 I'm going to try to summarize it and, Jack, you can
33 fill in if you feel there's a -- I leave anything out.

34

35

36 Special action -- this special action
37 request 22-02 would close Unit 24A. If you look on the
38 maps there's a defined area and it's largely the very
39 available corridor along the Dalton Highway there
40 including Wiseman. And then that portion of Unit 26B
41 of Federal land that's bordered between -- and you can
42 see the borders there in trying to target these very
43 available areas that are on the Dalton Highway Corridor
44 system. And for lack of a census, population count of
45 these sheep, the personal observations from area
46 subsistence users like Jack Reakoff's group out of
47 Wiseman, have noticed a very stark decline in the
48 population of sheep, especially the full curls that are
49 legal to take. And this proposal would close and have

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1 no season and to my understanding even for Federally-
2 qualified users is my understanding.

3

4 Jack, if you could fill in or if that
5 was adequate to explain in a nutshell to Steve.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 That -- yeah, that's it in a nutshell. Basically the
9 units that are associated to the Dalton Highway that
10 have had extreme winter events in 2018, 2019, rain on
11 snow in October, rain on snow in March, deep, deep
12 snow, we have five and a half feet of snow in 2018, '19
13 winter and the mountains were glazed in ice. And the
14 sheep were completely starved out. Then in 2019
15 started into again with rain on snow in October, rain
16 on snow in April, it decimated the -- it can't do back
17 to back weather like that.

18

19 Climate change is driving this sheep
20 population into the toilet and if we don't start
21 getting really conservative with how we harvest these
22 rams we will cause them to go -- this population to go
23 into reproductive failure, that's where we're going.
24 That's the department's objective is to maintain full
25 curl only and that's going to fix it. No, you're going
26 to go into biological reproductive failure, that's a
27 given, they don't even read their own data.

28

29 And so the problem is the department's
30 not paying attention to the population. We are, we're
31 concerned, we need to close this down for at least two
32 years, more or less a moratorium to let these existing
33 rams continue to breed and try to get this population
34 to turn around a little bit. It's still falling, we
35 still have lots of wolves here. Porcupine Caribou Herd
36 came from out of the east, they're in the -- they're
37 close to -- so the caribou feed these wolves all winter
38 and when the caribou take off they leave all these
39 wolves to hunt these sheep and there's not many sheep
40 and so each sheep is critical to this population. And
41 so that's it in a nutshell.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thanks,
46 Jack. f

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48 Does that help, Steve?

49

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1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. Thank you very
2 much and I really appreciate that. And thank you,
3 Jack, for doing what you're doing in, you know,
4 bringing this up to the Subsistence Advisory Council.
5 And, you know, we are always concerned about our -- the
6 animals that we've hunted all of our lives and, you
7 know, making sure that, you know, the population is at
8 a suitable stage where we know that they can -- and,
9 you know, we know that the wolf population is pretty
10 high and predators and abundance of wolf that people
11 are catching nowadays compared to 10, 20 years ago is
12 quite a bit, you know.

13

14 But thank you for bringing that out to
15 us. I appreciate it.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: You're welcome.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Yeah,
20 it's good to be absolutely clear as to, you know, what
21 this proposal -- special action request is for. And in
22 my own humble opinion, you know, we have done our due
23 diligence to try to use traditional knowledge in
24 creating common sense rules and laws to show that we
25 are our own conservationists too when it comes to
26 wildlife resources. And that's why there was no bull
27 hunting in the regs from December or October through
28 December or that period of time when the caribou were
29 declining because it was such a critical subsistence
30 resource for our residents on either side of the Brooks
31 Range.

32

33 So I think this particular special
34 action, wildlife special action request 22-02 -- and I
35 feel like I could say that I am fully supportive of
36 this request from our -- from our neighboring Council.
37 And I appreciate your testimony and your and this
38 proposal to come on this side to the North Slope.

39

40 Any other questions or comments on
41 WSA22-02?

42

43 MR. DEACY: Mr. Chair, this is Will
44 Deacy with National Park Service.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead. Is that
47 Will, you said Will?

48

49 MR. DEACY: Yeah, Will Deacy. I'm a
50

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1 biologist with the National Park Service. I was
2 planning on giving an update about sheep data in the
3 Park during the Park Service update, but I'm happy to
4 give it now if you think that would be helpful to give
5 some context.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I would --
8 yeah, as comments to this and I think it would be
9 important to hear from the Park Service what's going
10 on. And it would be important to know which part of
11 the Brooks Range or where this update of sheep you're
12 reflecting on.

13
14 MR. DEACY: Of course, yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And their
17 interconnectivity.

18
19 MR. DEACY: Right. Yes. I'll be
20 referring to a map, it would be helpful if you could
21 see the map at the end of tab 11, I believe that's
22 right and, Eva, please correct me if I'm not referring
23 to that correctly.

24
25 But you'll see.....

26
27 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

28
29 MR. DEACY:dall sheep 2021 survey
30 summary.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Will, and Mr.
33 Chair, members of the Council. That Gates of the
34 Arctic National Park and Preserve report is under tab
35 11 and you'll see page 2 is where the dall sheep survey
36 summary is.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

41
42 MS. PATTON: And thank you so much,
43 Will.

44
45 MR. DEACY: Thank you, Eva. Yeah, so
46 you should see a colorful map with pink, yellow and
47 blue areas. So this past summer we flew -- did some
48 sampling surveys for dall sheep in early July, July 8th
49 through the 14th in Gates of the Arctic Park. And then
50

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1 also in partnership with the BLM we flew an area to the
2 east along the Dalton Highway.

3

4 And then I was planning on just
5 focusing on the areas in the North Slope area because,
6 you know, this is the North Slope RAC, but I'll -- I
7 can also talk a little bit about the areas that Jack's
8 referring to further south.

9

10 But first in the north you can see the
11 pink study area and the graphs a little further down
12 are -- that data's shown in pink as well. So this area
13 overlaps GMU 26B, about half of it is in GMU 26B. And
14 this area has been surveyed every year since 2009 with
15 the exception of 2020 due to covid. And overall the
16 story for this survey area is that numbers were high
17 and stable from 2009 to 2012 and you can see that in
18 the graph below. But then it crashed due to weather in
19 2013 and 2014. And since then it's been relatively
20 stable at a lower level since 2015.

21

22 So the average number of adults that we
23 estimated from 2009 to 2012 before the crash was about
24 1,300. And the average since the crash has been about
25 500 sheep or 500 adults.

26

27 And then for reproduction we estimate
28 the number of lambs per 100 ewe like sheep. And since
29 2009 the average has been 29 lambs. And this last year
30 we estimated a slightly higher number of 31 lambs per
31 100 ewe like sheep.

32

33 So then the area is to the west is
34 yellow on the map. That's what we call the Anaktuvuk
35 Pass study area. And just like with the other study
36 areas the plot down below -- the graphs down below are
37 also yellow. And this is outside of the areas that
38 Jack is talking about, this is mostly 26A. And there
39 we saw a similar pattern. The population was higher
40 before 2013, crashed in 2013, 2014, and then probably
41 the one bright spot in all the surveys we did this past
42 year is that in this past year we saw a slight increase
43 in the number of adults in 2021. And this is mostly
44 due to an increase in the number of younger and full
45 curl rams.

46

47 And then just like in the Itkillik we
48 estimated there were about an average number of lambs
49 in this area, 29 per 100 ewe like sheep.

50

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1 So then finally the blue -- the larger
2 blue study area is what we call Southeast Gates. And I
3 wasn't going to talk about this because it's outside of
4 your area, but it's relevant to what Jack has been
5 talking about.

6
7 This study area has been surveyed less
8 frequently. It was last surveyed in 2015 and it's most
9 -- you know, the eastern portion of it is in GMU 24A.
10 And it's -- the 2015 estimate for adult sheep in this
11 area was 1,969. And then last year in 2021 we
12 estimated it at 925. So that resulted in an estimated
13 decline of 53 percent since 2015. That population
14 decline is spread across the demographic groups, but it
15 was far more dramatic in or the decline was
16 concentrated in rams of all ages. So younger rams and
17 in particular full curl rams.

18
19 And then finally lamb production is
20 lower than normal, for 2021 it's slightly lower than
21 normal at 27 lambs per 100 ewe like sheep.

22
23 As for future surveys the Park is --
24 certainly continues to be concerned about this -- these
25 sheep populations. So for the summer our plan is to
26 survey all of Gates Park including everything I covered
27 today and then everything in the west -- further west
28 as well. You can expect to see our planes flying
29 around Anaktuvuk Pass around July 6th to the 13th and
30 we'll send out flyers just to let the community know
31 what our planes are going to look like and confirm when
32 we'll be there.

33
34 And then also, you know, Jack mentioned
35 the lack of data about composition and I discussed this
36 data gap with him. This summer we're going to try to
37 fill that gap using a new method of -- with some high
38 resolution camera work to see if we can both get
39 composition, but minimize how much we're flying over
40 sheep groups.

41
42 And I'm happy to answer any questions
43 if it would be helpful.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any
48 question for the dall sheep survey summary in that
49 area?
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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I apologize, I had to step out and take a phone call so I didn't get the full brunt of the report.

So, Brower, did you have any comments on the survey summary and maybe is it aligning with the subsistence users' observations in the area concerning sheep?

MR. FRANTZ: This is Brower. Yep, I think it was enough information for me to say it was adequate and it went along with the proposals that are here in front of us. And I think I'm with on this one. It sounds like it's something that will benefit and it doesn't take away from the subsistence use in AKP so it sounds -- it sounds good to me. The data does correlate with what Jack had mentioned earlier.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And, you know, just stepping out for a little bit to take a call you miss a whole lot and I appreciate your feedback on that part.

Any other questions to -- what was your name again, the sheep summary from the -- is it the Park Service?

MR. DEACY: Will Deacy from National Park Service and I'm based here in Fairbanks.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. Thank you. And, you know, we usually have Marcy Okada a lot of times. She must be on vacation or something, but thank you, Will.

Any other questions or observations or remarks or comments to Will?

MS. HUGO: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Yeah, go ahead. Is that Esther or is that Wanda?

MS. HUGO: It's Esther. Thank you for the report, Will. So you just indicated that you will do the survey on the yellow pink and the blue -- you're doing the surveys and you will be up our way on the

0174

1 certain time of July?

2

3

MR. DEACY: Yeah, through the Chair.
4 This is Will Deacy again. Yes, Esther, our plan is to
5 fly starting July 6th and, you know, we want to finish
6 there around Anaktuvuk Pass first so we should be --
7 you should see us just after July 6th flying for a few
8 days. And like I said I'll send a -- I'll send some
9 flyers out to a bunch of people just so you'll -- you
10 know, to remind you all that we'll be up in the air.

11

12

MS. HUGO: Okay. And on this survey on
13 the blue to where's it Wiseman, since there are a lot
14 of sporthunters up that way just catching every ram
15 they can catch. Will you be able to do the study on
16 that too whether the numbers were down because of them
17 or.....

18

19

MR. DEACY: Yeah, through the Chair.
20 This is Will Deacy again. We'll -- yeah, this -- you
21 know, it's a -- this has really caught the attention of
22 everybody at the Park Service, these declines. And so
23 our plan is to survey all three of those colored
24 studies areas and then everything in Gates of the
25 Arctic to the west. So that's going far, far west.
26 And, you know, we've already documented about a 53
27 percent decline in that blue study area that we will be
28 surveying it again this summer so we can see whether or
29 not it'll help -- it'll add more information about
30 what's happening with the sheep populations down there.

31

32

Thanks for the question.

33

34

MS. HUGO: Thank you.

35

36

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, thank you,
37 Esther. Any other questions to Will?

38

39

(No comments)

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41

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I think it really
42 shed some light on this proposal and I really
43 appreciate, you know, the feedback here.

44

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So with that -- this is an action item
46 and if we're.....

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MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER:done
2 discussing.....

3
4 MS. HOLMAN: Sorry about that. I
5 thought you were going to ask a question.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, I was going to
8 see if discussions were enough for the -- for the
9 Council to warrant on WSA22-02.

10
11 MR. FRANTZ: I believe it was enough
12 for me. If it's proper I guess I would like to make a
13 motion, this is Brower, to accept as written.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
16 the floor from Brower Frantz, Utqiagvik, to adopt.....

17
18 MR. OOMITTUK: Second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER:WSA22-02 as
21 written.

22
23 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
26 Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope.

27
28 MS. KIPPI: Question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any discussion?
31 Question's been called for. All those in favor -- in
32 support of WSA22-02 signify by saying aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
37 same sign.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, special
42 action request 22-02 has passed the North Slope
43 Regional Advisory Council.

44
45 And, Eva, for your justification
46 questions, all those conservation measures that Jack
47 Reakoff read into the record, we fully embrace those as
48 there is a need for preservation measures at this point
49 that would lend itself to closure of this area to
50

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1 preserve these sheep and from the survey summary I
2 think from the -- is it the Park Service or Gates of
3 the Arctic, Will.

4

5 And that would be our justification
6 after full deliberation.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
9 members of the Council and there was also really great
10 discussion that lends to the Council's justification as
11 well.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And I
16 appreciate your time, Jack, and very interesting.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Appreciate working with the North Slope Regional
20 Advisory Council, lots of friends up there, we have
21 common issues and so appreciate working with you. And
22 if you ever have issues for the Western Interior feel
23 free to get ahold of me to comment during our
24 deliberations on various issues.

25

26 Have a great day.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You too, Jack. Have
29 a great day.

30

31 All right. Eva, you're going to keep
32 us in line here and I'm always looking to you for what
33 are we going to do next.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
36 members of the Council. Before we proceed also Eddie
37 Rexford had joined us earlier and just want to confirm
38 you're still on, Eddie.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eddie, you on?

41

42 MR. REXFORD: Yes, I'm here.

43

44 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you, Eddie.
45 Just wanted to reconfirm that since I had communicated
46 with you, but just for the record that you're on and
47 participating in the vote.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the

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1 Council. We do have seven of our nine Council members
2 present through the morning here for the record.

3

4

5 And next up on the agenda is new
6 business. And we are under new business A, Fisheries
7 Resource Monitoring Program information update. And
8 that'll be Jarred Stone presenting.

8

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds good. We're
11 in Item No. 11. Jarred, you have the floor, Fisheries
12 Resource Monitoring Program information update.

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1 on which projects to fund and then lastly the Office of
2 Subsistence Management then funds as many projects as
3 possible based on their available budget.

4
5 At the most recent February meeting the
6 Federal Subsistence Board made recommendations about
7 which projects to fund for 2022. There were a total of
8 four projects in the northern region beginning in early
9 2022.

10
11 With the 2022 cycle now coming to an
12 end it's time for Councils to begin developing priority
13 information needs for 2024 Fisheries Resource
14 Monitoring Program which will happen at your next
15 meeting in the fall. We're asking for Council members
16 to consider volunteering to meet by telephone this
17 summer to identify knowledge gaps or information needed
18 for the management of subsistence fisheries for the
19 northern region.

20
21 And just briefly the northern is made
22 up of three Councils. There's the North Slope, the
23 Northwest Arctic and Seward Peninsula regions make up
24 the entire northern region for the FRMP.

25
26 The draft list of priority information
27 needs will then be presented to the Councils for final
28 approval during their fall, 2022 meeting. If the
29 Council wishes I can provide a list of the priority
30 information needs that was finalized by your Council
31 during the last funding cycle for projects beginning in
32 2022.

33
34 Would you like me to read those?

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think we
37 should read them.

38
39 MR. STONE: Okay. Well, good. For the
40 last cycle, for the North Slope region it looks like
41 there were one, two, three, four, five priority
42 information needs that were put together. And first
43 was using traditional and ecological knowledge and
44 harvest monitoring to document new fish species and
45 changes in abundance, size, timing and distribution of
46 existing fish species and impacts of new or expanding
47 species on other fish that are important to subsistence
48 in the North Slope region.

49
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1 The second priority information need or
2 I'll refer to them from here on out as PINs. The
3 second PIN is the document and investigate the possible
4 causes of mold, disease and discoloration on broad
5 whitefish in the Colville River. Investigators are
6 encouraged to draw on both stock status and trends and
7 traditional ecological knowledge research methods.

8
9 The third PIN is the affects of climate
10 change, including late freeze up, on subsistence access
11 practices and fish preservation and the impact of these
12 changes on continuity of traditions and food security
13 for communities on the North Slope. Studies include
14 the Ikpikpuk River are for -- of particular interest.

15
16 Monitoring -- and the fourth PIN is
17 monitoring and documentation of changing subsistence
18 fish harvests and consumption as well as subsistence
19 user concerns in the community of Nuiqsut.

20
21 And the last priority information need
22 is the baseline fish habitat and water quality
23 monitoring, especially temperature, dissolved oxygen
24 and silt on the rivers and tributaries important to
25 subsistence fishing for communities of the North Slope
26 region. Investigators are encouraged to include
27 overwintering areas.

28
29 And again all of these five priority
30 information needs were developed during the last cycle
31 and now this year new proposals have been submitted for
32 the northern region. And it appears that no proposals
33 were submitted for the North Slope region. It looks
34 like the majority of the proposals came in from the
35 Northwest Arctic and the Seward Peninsula. So that is
36 the complete list of priority information needs that
37 your Council finalized during the last funding cycle.

38
39 This concludes my presentation
40 regarding the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
41 Are there any questions or perhaps volunteers who would
42 like to sign up today and I'll get ahold of them during
43 the summer, we'll coordinate a time to meet for maybe
44 an hour or two and just discuss potential research
45 needs that might be of particular interest for you in
46 your regions.

47
48 MR. FRANTZ: This is Brower.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Questions
2 and volunteers.

3
4 Brower Frantz.

5
6 MR. FRANTZ: Yes. Yeah, Brower Frantz
7 out of Barrow. So I guess I'd say I haven't paid
8 attention to this particular one long enough or don't
9 have enough information of previous discussions on it.
10 But so subsistence monitoring of fisheries that in a
11 way kind of scares me because, you know, first off I
12 guess, you know, it's just lack of knowledge on my part
13 for right now. It seems like that type of information
14 and study -- I mean, is this ever going to be -- lead
15 to management of the fisheries, kind of like what
16 they're doing with -- I know it's a little different
17 with subsistence, but are -- will these -- you know,
18 are these kind of angled towards the management of
19 fisheries?

20
21 MR. STONE: Thank you for the question.
22 Through the Chair and Council member Mr. Brower.
23 You're spot on, that's exactly right. The ultimate
24 goal is that the proposals that are submitted do make
25 that tie to management implications. And the proposals
26 that do the best and score the highest and are funded
27 year after year are proposals that do exactly that,
28 that makes the link to management -- practical
29 management implications and allow resource managers
30 better data so that they can access the fisheries in a
31 way that's both sustainable and allows subsistence
32 opportunity.

33
34 MR. FRANTZ: Well, I'm moreover asking
35 about, you know, limitations and setting restrictions
36 and stuff for us.

37
38 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
39 Chair to Council member Mr. Brower. You know, that's a
40 good question. You know, there are instances where we
41 have monitoring projects that are weirs, sonars,
42 fishwheels, some that do genetic work, some that do
43 traditional ecological work as well as harvest
44 monitoring. And, you know, that all leads to
45 information that helps the in-season managers and the
46 fisheries land managers to make informed decisions on
47 how to manage the fishery. And, you know, in
48 circumstances where a population is dwindling or seems
49 to be low abundance, you know, that is a possible
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1 outcome is that there could be restrictions due to
2 that. And so I hope that answers your question.

3

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Thank you.

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MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, that's good. Thank you for that. I wanted to at least bring that to light for the rest of the members, the Council members, to dwell upon.

Okay. No, that did answer my question.

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

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, all right, Eva. What kind of fish studies do you have in mind?

(Laughter)

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. And also wanted to respond to member Brower's question regarding management. And actually in question and yes, the FRMP program is geared towards practical management applications.

In the North Slope region currently there's very little in the way of any regulation for subsistence fisheries. There's little competing uses in terms of a commercial fishery or wide scale sportfishing in the region. And in large part the fisheries populations are quite healthy. There is little research that has been done on subsistence fisheries in the region. There's, you know, more and more happening each year. And to begin with much of the research that's being conducted is baseline. So based on your observations from a traditional knowledge standpoint to better understand the importance of subsistence fisheries, the health of those subsistence fisheries populations.

The FRMP program funds both stock status trends research and also traditional knowledge and harvest monitoring studies. And so for the North Slope region most of the implications are trying to address questions and concerns that the Council and the subsistence communities in the North Slope region have identified as areas of concern on the health of their fishery or concerns about continuation of subsistence uses with other activities that are going on in the

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1 region, particularly industrial activities that may
2 have an impact on subsistence. And your observations
3 of climate change impacts, you know, those things that
4 are occurring that may impact access to subsistence
5 fisheries.

6
7 So those management applications are
8 more likely for the North Slope region rather than, you
9 know, a regulatory outcome due to the nature of the
10 North Slope region.

11
12 So just wanted to add that, that, you
13 know, most of the studies are focused on what the
14 Council is identifying as potential concerns with
15 changing environments or the health of fisheries and
16 ensuring -- documenting those important subsistence
17 fisheries for the continuation of subsistence uses.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I vote for Eva. All
22 right. Well, you know, there are those concerns about
23 resource monitoring programs and stuff and ability to
24 get these -- get funding. You know, we -- I think it's
25 important, you know, once funding becomes available
26 then we could like partner, like maybe ICAS or maybe
27 the wildlife department can work through the
28 Subsistence Resource Monitoring Program to partner to
29 bring in those resources to conduct those studies
30 locally. And if that aspect of it can.....

31
32 Am I on target there -- who was the one
33 that was presenting?

34
35 MR. STONE: Mr. Chair, this is Jarred.
36 And yes, you are right on target. The projects that
37 succeed that usually do the best in getting funding are
38 the ones that do exactly what you're talking about,
39 that partner up and find partners to leverage
40 additional funds, to leverage additional experience and
41 those are oftentimes the projects that succeed the
42 most.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. So if we were
45 to put in a proposal like the Colville River delta is
46 experiencing a trend of probably five plus years now of
47 fish mold issues on one species. I think it's limited
48 to one species and that's the broad whitefish. And it
49 seems to not affect other local fish, but it's
50

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1 prevalent on the broad whitefish. And we've got -- had
2 samples after samples. There may need to be a study to
3 equate that Colville River delta to maybe what's going --
4 maybe the neighboring delta like the Ikpikpuk River
5 delta. And it seems to me that there's a study right
6 there that could be funded to determine what is a --
7 the factors surrounding a healthy delta versus one
8 that's is being plagued by fish mold.

9

10 Another one is the concern around
11 Umiat. In all kinds of bottom feeding fish like these --
12 there's a sucker fish, there's -- it looks like a
13 little shark by the way, and then the burbot and the
14 liver from the continued exposure from the Umiat
15 landfill that was in place in the 1950s from the
16 Federal government and it's continued overtopping by
17 seasonal river breakup and possibly being undermined by
18 erosion on the bottom. A lot of concerns of drums and
19 other debris that's always coming down the river. It
20 seems to me there's some studies here to be had that
21 really get the -- shed light on what's going on and
22 those types of issues related to consumption of
23 subsistence fish.

24

25 And you don't know what the Federal
26 government put in that landfill, you know, in the 1950s
27 and then buried it because it was a substantial
28 military outpost back then and a cache of military
29 stuff. I've heard from local people that worked there
30 that they buried tanks, ammunition and all kinds of
31 equipment and materials, those kind of things.

32

33 So it seems to me those are of concern
34 too and I'm not sure if there's -- I'd like to be in
35 your -- when you come here be part of your invite to
36 meet with the -- in terms of maybe potential fish --
37 Fisheries Resource Monitoring projects for the North
38 Slope.

39

40 MS. ITTA: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Oh,
43 sorry.

44

45 MS. ITTA: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
46 Council. Martha on the line. I apologize I missed
47 yesterday's meeting. I'm dealing with a lot with my
48 family and the village right now. So I'm online and
49 I'll -- hoping to be online all day depend -- because I
50

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1 have about 15 families come -- driving into Fairbanks
2 today. So I'm going to hang on as long as I can.

3

4 Good morning, everyone.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Martha.
7 I'm glad you're here this morning and hope everything's
8 okay.

9

10 MR. STONE: Mr. Chair, this is Jarred.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Jarred.
13 Yeah, go ahead, Jarred.

14

15 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
16 I've added you as a volunteer and I'll work with you
17 and if there's anyone else on the Council that would
18 like to be a part of this meeting, you know, if you
19 don't feel comfortable to speak up now, maybe what I'll
20 do is just when it comes times I would just extend the
21 invitation one more time come summery so that when we
22 do get together you've got another opportunity to get
23 with us and again this will be drafting the priority
24 information needs that you all will revisit in the fall
25 and finalize.

26

27 And I sure appreciate your time and
28 consideration on this today.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Thank
31 you, Jarred. Any other comments before we let Jarred
32 go?

33

34 MS. de SOUSA: Hello. This is Leandra
35 with the North Slope Borough. Through the Chair, may I
36 ask a question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Leandra,
39 you have the floor.

40

41 MS. de SOUSA: Hi. I was wondering
42 when the announcement will come out next for the
43 funding and also how much -- what was the amount of
44 funding that they -- you guys provided for the previous
45 cycle, please?

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the

50

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1 Chair and to address the question. So the timing of
2 the call will come out sometime in the winter, likely
3 early spring of next year. So the priority information
4 needs that we're discussing now will be finalized by
5 the Councils in the fall of 2022. And then we'll
6 publish those priority information needs and we will
7 submit the -- what we call a notice of funding
8 opportunity on grants.gov. And I forget the length of
9 that call, I seem to think that it's at least 30 to 60
10 days, it might be 90 days. And generally in the past
11 we set a cap for each year of funding at about 215,000
12 per year. And these projects are funded on a four year
13 timeline. Investigators can opt to set up projects
14 that are shorter in duration, like one year or two
15 year, but generally most will apply for all four years
16 of funding.

17

18 And this last cycle I believe the
19 Department of Interior and the USDA, the United States
20 Department of Agriculture, will combine funds for the
21 FRMP projects and so generally in the southeast the
22 USDA pays for those projects. And then for the
23 Department of Interior they pay for the rest of the
24 projects throughout the State. And I believe that was
25 around 2.5 million that was available for this last
26 funding cycle.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MS. de SOUSA: Thank you. And is there
31 a link where we can find the previous notices and the
32 currently funded projects? Or I can ask Eva later if
33 she has the links.

34

35 MR. STONE: Sure. Through the Chair.
36 This is Jarred. You can visit our website and I
37 believe a list of the projects that were funded on
38 available on our website under the Federal Subsistence
39 Board tab. And I can share that link with Eva and
40 maybe Eva can forward that to you or else.....

41

42 MS. de SOUSA: Okay.

43

44 MR. STONE:you -- feel free to
45 get ahold of me directly and then I can provide that
46 information to you as well. And my name is.....

47

48 MS. de SOUSA: Okay. Thank you very
49 much.

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1 MR. STONE:Jarred Stone. My
2 official email for work is jarred_stone@fws.gov.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Jarred. This
5 is Eva.

6
7 MS. de SOUSA: Thank you.

8
9 MS. PATTON: And through the Chair.
10 There is a FRMP link on our Federal Subsistence
11 Management webpage so I can send that link to you and
12 all others that are interested in that.

13
14 And just to let folks know too, at this
15 time due to the DOI accessibility requirements or
16 compliance requirements, we used to have all the --
17 both the abstracts and the full program reports for all
18 of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Programs research
19 and reports that have been done throughout the life of
20 the program. And unfortunately those are not currently
21 posted to the webpage due to those
22 accessibility/compliance requirements. So if there are
23 any reports you're interested in or you'd like to know,
24 you know, what are all the North Slope region reports
25 or research that has been done in the past. Then you
26 can just contact OSM, Jarred can help connect you and
27 we can email those reports out to folks.

28
29 So apologies, all of that information
30 isn't available online, but we do have the 2020
31 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan on there. So I'll
32 email that link to you.

33
34 Thank you so much.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
37 you. Any other questions for Jarred?

38
39 (No comments)

40
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, thank
43 you very much for your presentation on the Fisheries
44 Resource Monitoring Program information update, OSM.

45
46 We'll go down to Item B, call for
47 Federal fish and shellfish proposals.

48
49 OSM.

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0187

1 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
2 good morning members of the Council. Again for the
3 record this is Jarred Stone. And I'm a fisheries
4 biologist here with OSM. Today I'll give you a brief
5 update on our call for Federal fish and shellfish
6 proposals. This is an action item. You can find the
7 materials on how to submit a regulatory proposal on tab
8 7 of your meeting books.

9
10 The Federal Subsistence Board will be
11 accepting proposals this winter and into spring to
12 change Federal regulations for the subsistence take of
13 fish and shellfish on Federal public lands and waters
14 for the 2023 through 2025 regulatory cycle. The Board
15 will consider proposals to change Federal fish and
16 shellfish seasons, harvest limits, methods and means
17 and customary and traditional use determinations.

18
19 The current window of opportunity to
20 submit a proposal is not quite ready yet. However as a
21 Council you may vote on fisheries proposals and then
22 submit the proposal to the Council coordinator. The
23 Council coordinators will then hold on to the proposals
24 until the windows for fisheries regulatory proposal has
25 officially opened and then we'll submit them. The
26 general public will need to wait until the window for
27 fisheries proposals has officially opened which should
28 be sometime soon and stay open for a period of at least
29 30 days. Proposals need to be submitted to the
30 regulations website by going to www.regulations.gov.
31 And there'll also be news releases from OSM announcing
32 the call for proposals window once the dates are known
33 and once they are set.

34
35 The proposals will be analyzed and
36 presented to the Councils during the upcoming fall,
37 2022 meetings for Council recommendations. Proposal
38 analyses and Council recommendations will be presented
39 to the Federal Subsistence Board for their action at
40 the January, 2023 fisheries regulatory meeting.

41
42 That concludes my presentation. Are
43 there any questions related to the fisheries regulatory
44 cycle or proposals that you would like to put forward?

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any
49 questions?
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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: That seemed to be pretty quick there and thank you for that on the call for Federal fish and shellfish proposals as stated by OSM.

All right. We'll go to Item C, new business. Under new business Item C, fisheries closure review discussion.

OSM. Go ahead and continue.

MR. STONE: Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. Again this is Jarred, fisheries biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. In addition to the Federal fish and shellfish call for proposals OSM Staff will continue conducting reviews of closures of the Federal subsistence fishing regulations similar to what the wildlife cycle has done this last round. This is not an action item for today and there are no associated materials in your Council books for this discussion.

Title VIII of ANILCA establishes a priority for the taking of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands and waters for nonwasteful subsistence uses over the taking of fish and wildlife on such lands for other purposes. Under certain circumstances specified in title VIII the Board is authorized to restrict, close and reopen Federal public lands and waters to the taking of fish and wildlife. Like other Board established rules, closures are subject to change during the regulatory cycle. It is the Board's policy that Federal public lands and waters should be reopened as soon as practicable once the conditions that originally justified the closure have changed to such an extent that the closure is now no longer necessary.

To help ensure that closures do not remain in place longer than necessary the Board has directed OSM to review existing closures. OSM will review half of all the closures during each applicable regulatory cycle. The closure reviews will include analysis of all relevant considerations and OSM will then recommend an action for the Council's consideration on that closure. The types of actions that the Council can recommend include to retain which means the closure remains in the regulations unchanged.

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1 The second option is to modify which means a change
2 directly related to the actual closure. An example of
3 this might be adjusting the dates that the closure is
4 effective or perhaps assigning an expiration date or
5 broadening a closure to both subsistence and
6 nonsubsistence uses. A third option is to rescind
7 which means to remove the closure from the regulations.
8 If a season or a harvest limit exists in the
9 regulations that season or harvest limit will then once
10 again become effective. If none exist a proposal must
11 be submitted to establish a season and/or harvest
12 limit. And the last -- fourth option is to defer which
13 means the closure remains in place until that time the
14 Board can take up the closure again. And normally this
15 is no longer than the next applicable regulatory cycle.

16

17

18 There are currently 20 fishery closure
19 reviews Statewide that will be under review for this
20 upcoming fisheries regulatory cycle. Of the 20 closure
21 reviews four will be considered for the North Slope
22 Regional Advisory Council during the fall, 2022 Council
23 meetings. Now none of these closures are located in
24 the North Slope region, they are what we consider
25 crossover proposals. However the OSM Staff analyses
26 will be coming before your Council because residents of
27 the Yukon northern area have a customary and
28 traditional use determination for the freshwater
29 species other than salmon in the Yukon River drainage
30 within the Yukon northern area.

31

32 Here's a brief list of the fisheries
33 closures that will be under review for the -- for this
34 cycle. OSM will be reviewing three closures located in
35 the Western Interior region. The three closures
36 include the Jim River, Bonanza Creek and the Kanuti
37 River. OSM will also be reviewing one closure in the
38 Eastern Interior which includes the Delta River.

39

40 That concludes my update on the
41 fisheries closure review process and the status of the
42 upcoming closure reviews to be considered for your
43 fall, 2022 Council meeting.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes
46 my presentation. Are there any questions?

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any question -- was
49 that Jarred again?

50

0190

1 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,
2 this is Jarred Stone.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
5 Jarred under fisheries closure review discussion?

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Again thank you,
10 Jarred. We'll go to Item D, call for nonrural
11 determination proposals.

12
13 OSM.

14
15 MR. VICKERS: (Indiscernible -
16 distortion).....

17
18 REPORTER: I'm sorry, Brent, I'm having
19 a really difficult time understanding you.

20
21 MR. VICKERS: Oh, really.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, you.....

24
25 MR. VICKERS: I don't know what to say.

26
27 REPORTER: Okay. You're better.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounded like a
30 chipmunk for a little bit.

31
32 MR. VICKERS: Oh, yeah. Yeah, I was
33 going to do my chipmunk voice. Are you -- you can hear
34 me clearly now?

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We could.

37
38 MR. VICKERS: Hello.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, we can hear you
41 now.

42
43 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Sorry. I think my
44 microphone was just, you know half an inch too high or
45 something.

46
47 Okay. My name is Brent Vickers and I
48 am the supervisor cultural anthropologist at the Office
49 of Subsistence Management. And today I'm going to
50

0191

1 provide you with a brief overview of the current call
2 for proposals for nonrural determinations in Federal
3 regulation. I've been told that there's been at least
4 some interest in this topic with this region, with the
5 Council, your Council, in the past year so after I give
6 a little talk please let me know if you have any more
7 questions. This is an action item. The materials are
8 in tab 7 I believe of your Council book and have also
9 been posted on our website as one of the meeting
10 materials for this meeting.

11

12 A nonrural determination is a process
13 for formally changing in the Federal regulations a
14 community's status from nonrural to rural or -- which
15 is more particular to your region, from rural to
16 nonrural. This is the second call for proposals for
17 nonrural determination since 2018. Any valid nonrural
18 determination proposal submitted this year will be
19 acted on by the Board in the year 2025. The call for
20 nonrural determination proposals occurs every four
21 years, concurrent with every other fisheries regulatory
22 cycle. The next call for proposals on nonrural
23 determinations will be in 2026.

24

25 As you just heard from Mr. Stone in the
26 Fisheries Division the call for proposals has not yet
27 been published due to the lengthy clearance process in
28 Washington, DC. When it gets published the public
29 comment proposal -- period to change the regulation
30 will be open for at least 30 days. There's a flyer on
31 our website on how to submit proposals to change
32 nonrural determinations. The flyer includes
33 information where to submit the proposal and lists
34 items proposals must contain to be accepted for
35 consideration by the Board. The website address is
36 www.doi.gov/subsistence/faqs as in frequently asked
37 questions. The flyer can also be found near the bottom
38 of the frequently asked questions page. Additional
39 information may be found in the soon to be published
40 proposed rule for the 2023/2025 subsistence fish and
41 shellfish proposed rule. Again this is an action item.

42

43

44 Thank you very much for your attention
45 and I will try to answer any questions you may have.

46

47

Thank you.

48

49

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Is that

50

0192

1 Brent Vickers, is that what you said your name was?

2

3 MR. VICKERS: Yes, Mr. Chair, Brent
4 Vickers. Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any
7 questions on nonrural determination?

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'd like to know
12 the action item. How you propose us to like propose a
13 proposal to nominate a place or something like that?

14

15 MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
16 that's a great question. And much like with the
17 proposed -- with the situation for fish and shellfish,
18 the Council can put together a proposal right now at
19 the meeting and such a proposal would be to list the
20 community, the boundaries of the community, and suggest
21 that this should be changed, the status should be
22 changed. And in this case since there are really no
23 nonrural communities so you would list the community
24 and say you suggest that the Board relook at this and
25 perhaps classify it as a nonrural community.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

28

29 MR. VICKERS: That would be action you
30 could.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just for.....

33

34 MR. VICKERS:you could do today.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I mean,
37 what would be the standards by which a community would
38 qualify or is overqualified to be rural, is there a
39 threshold.....

40

41 MR. VICKERS: Again that -- that's.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER:population or is
44 that a.....

45

46 MR. VICKERS: Well, there you go, Sir,
47 that -- that's.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER:or is that a

50

0193

1 threshold in population?

2

3

4 MR. VICKERS: Yes, that's an excellent
5 question. So in 2018 the Board had changed the
6 process, but prior to 2018 much of this was associated
7 with population numbers. And so they drew -- basically
8 those determining the rural or nonrural status drew a
9 line around an area and if the area had a population
10 and I -- for some reason 7,000 something people comes
11 to mind, but regardless if the population -- if the
12 population level was over that number they determined
13 it be nonrural and anything under that was rural.

13

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Because many of the communities that -- what happened is a lot of communities who were lumped into that boundary such as communities on the outskirts of let's say Seward or something like that down here in the southcentral, felt that they really had much more of a nonrural characteristics and culture. And so there was a push to determine these communities on their own rather than as a lumped in with an urban area. And so the new process is to not look at communities. So you would list that specific community and give some finite boundaries that could be assessed and the Board would not look at the population number so much as the characteristics of that community.

Characteristics involve what community demographics looks like, how many harvesting the use of subsistence resources, roads, development, all these types of characteristics. There's a series of them that, you know, I -- up to eight or something that aren't necessarily looked at for a metric of yes or no, but all taken into account to really kind of determine what is -- what is the essence of this community, is this more of a rural or nonrural, is there enough data to suggest that this is actually a rural or nonrural community and we should change the status of it.

Thank you. I hope that answers your question.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: It helps. All right. Any questions for Brent?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, Brent, after hearing you, I don't have any proposals to offer in

1 terms of an action item to nominate a community for
2 nonrural status, knowing that it'll up to 2025 to make
3 those types of decisions here.

4

5 MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
6 you or anyone else who's listening decide -- you know,
7 give it some sleep, and this is -- we're just giving
8 the action today for the Council itself because the
9 proposed rule hasn't been opened yet. So if you sleep
10 on it or anyone sleeps on it and decides they would
11 like to submit a proposal for nonrural determination,
12 can always contact Eva or myself. We can help you
13 through that process because it is a little bit
14 different than is some more information that's going to
15 be required for a fisheries proposal. Just there's a
16 couple more initial hoops to get through to determine
17 or see if we want to proceed with the analysis. So you
18 can always contact me, my information is on the
19 website, contact Eva, and we can help you with that
20 process and you can submit the proposal as an
21 individual.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Thank
26 you, Brent. So we'll go down the new business list
27 unless there's any other questions on call for nonrural
28 determination proposals?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Review and approval
33 of FY2021 annual report. Council coordinator, Eva.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
36 members of the Council. You'll find your draft annual
37 report under tab 8 in your meeting book binder. And
38 again for our new Council members this is a report from
39 the Council to the Federal Subsistence Board addressing
40 issues of concern for subsistence, requests for
41 information or research, bringing awareness to the
42 Board's attention, issues of concern, your observations
43 about the status and health of subsistence resources or
44 access to subsistence resources. And this is part of
45 the Council's work and authority under title VIII of
46 ANILCA. And so every year the Council drafts a report
47 to the Board to help advise on subsistence management
48 and issues of interest and concern for the North Slope
49 region.

50

1 And this was developed at the fall
2 meeting. The Council identified topics for their
3 annual report, we draft up that report and then it
4 comes back before the Council at your winter meeting
5 for your final review, if there's any edits, additions
6 or additional topics that you would like to include.
7 And at the fall meeting the Council identified four
8 primary topics of interest to bring to the Board's
9 attention. The first of which was a request for
10 monitoring of Unit 26C muskox and transboundary
11 management with Canada. The Council had discussed
12 being very concerned that that muskox population in
13 Unit 26C remained low and so there's effectively no
14 opportunity for a subsistence hunt in that region. And
15 Council members from Kaktovik had identified concerns
16 about that that muskox population does move across the
17 boundary with Canada and wanted to get more information
18 about the harvest and management of the population
19 within Canada and interested in perhaps developing a
20 comanagement board for that muskox herd similar to the
21 Porcupine Caribou Herd Management Board.

22
23 And that was your topic number 1. And
24 number 2 was ongoing concerns about contaminants in
25 subsistence fish within NPR-A. And this has been a
26 long concern for the Council, in particular around the
27 community of Nuiqsut. And as the Chair had mentioned
28 previous military waste sites. And the Council has
29 worked through this issue through the Fisheries
30 Resource Monitoring Program, however that program is
31 not able to directly fund contaminants testing and that
32 they'll go the agencies that -- either the Federal
33 management agencies that are involved with the
34 permitting for those industrial sites or the companies
35 themselves or others that can address the contaminants
36 testing directly. And so the Council was wanting to
37 further engage with the BLM Arctic Field Office on
38 that. And finally to monitor subsistence fish and the
39 water quality and again particularly around the
40 community of Nuiqsut.

41
42 Number 3 was recognition and support
43 for community harvest and sharing patterns. The
44 Council had discussed at length just how important that
45 sharing is both within communities and across
46 communities in the region. And for the Federal
47 Subsistence Board to be aware of that and also support
48 whether it be a community harvest system, designated
49 hunter permits and really understanding that flow of
50

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1 subsistence resources and critical importance of taking
2 care of whole communities in harvest. So the Council
3 wanted to bring that to the Board's attention again in
4 this report.

5

6 And then number 4 was a request to the
7 Federal Subsistence Board to further consider
8 continuation of subsistence uses as a management goal
9 and that substantial evidence include local and
10 traditional knowledge when taking action on proposals.
11 And the Council addressed both of those issues of
12 concern both in addressing user conflict issues and,
13 you know, perhaps deflection of the herd, industrial
14 development that may also impact access to subsistence
15 resources or deflect the herd or resource for the
16 Council. So the Council wanted to bring that to the
17 Board's attention again. There are many factors in
18 continuation of subsistence resources and access to
19 subsistence resources and also wanted to ensure the
20 Board's full consideration of local and traditional
21 knowledge under the criteria supported by substantial
22 evidence.

23

24 And thank you, Mr. Chair and members of
25 the Council. So if there's any additions, details to
26 add, edits, please let me know and we'll incorporate
27 those into the final report to submit to the Board.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you, Eva,
32 for thoroughly going through that.

33

34 Any additions or things that we -- that
35 may have been left out on the Council's -- on the
36 report, on the annual report?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It seems to be.....

41

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

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

46

47 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. Just recently,
48 you know, we heard about the Alpine and the natural gas
49 leak and evacuation -- prepared evacuation for Nuiqsut.

50

0197

1 And what about the environment, you know, BLM or Park
2 Service, you know, what -- the concern of the
3 environment and the animals that exist in that area,
4 you know, the caribou, the fish, the nesting of the
5 birds. Spring is just about here and all the animals
6 will be coming back in migration. And here we're
7 hearing all this stuff about the natural gas leak and
8 it's -- and sounds like that's going to be a big
9 concern there. And is National Park Service keeping an
10 eye on that or BLM, BLM management, you know -- you
11 know, it's only six miles away from Nuiqsut, you know,
12 and a lot of migration -- the birds will be coming up
13 that way to nest. So I just wondered, you know, if
14 there's anything on that.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

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

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Eva.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
23 members of the Council. Martha Itta, Council member
24 from Nuiqsut, was able to join us briefly this morning.
25 She had just texted me a little bit ago that she did
26 need to jump off the teleconference because she is in
27 the midst of dealing with getting her family out of
28 Nuiqsut at this time and addressing those issues of
29 concerns about the gas leak.

30

31 So Martha had hoped she might be able
32 to call back in later this afternoon. We do have BLM
33 Staff on the line and they are up this afternoon for
34 their reports. I don't know if anybody from BLM might
35 have any updates that you might be able to share with
36 the Council on that, but we will have BLM reports this
37 afternoon as well.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
42 And this -- our annual report is by motion to go ahead
43 and adopt this in its -- when we feel it's final.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair
46 and members of the Council. So if there's any edits or
47 additional detail, additional topics that you would
48 like to add then this is the time to do that. And then
49 ultimately a motion and a vote on the record to submit

50

0198

1 the report as written or submit the report with the
2 edits and additions discussed.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. All
7 right. What's the wish of the Council on the annual
8 report reply process review and revision?

9

(No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think Eva went
12 through it and I'm pretty comfortable with the contents
13 and it seems to reflect our last meeting.

14

15 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I make a
16 motion to adopt the report.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Adopt the report as
19 read?

20

21 MR. OOMITTUK: As read and under
22 discussion for discussion purposes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. There's a
25 motion on the floor to adopt the annual report, FY2021
26 annual report by Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope.

27

28 MR. FRANTZ: Seconded.

29

30 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

31

32 MR. FRANTZ: Brower.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
35 Brower Frantz from Utqiagvik. Any discussion?

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know, what we
38 just talked about was the gas leak and -- this is Steve
39 for the record under discussion. I -- you know, under
40 this report, you know, for the people online who -- you
41 know, all the different agencies, Federal and State
42 agencies and, you know, the safety of our -- you know,
43 our resources that we depend on on our subsistence way
44 of life, hoping that they will keep an eye on what's
45 going on at Alpine, especially with these gas leaks,
46 you know. I mean, I'm sure this is not going to be the
47 last, you know, to have -- you know, evacuation of a
48 community is very serious. And, you know, hopefully
49 these agencies will keep an eye on our subsistence
50

0199

1 resources especially with spring coming and, you know,
2 the animals migrating into that area. And then
3 hopefully we can have an update on what's happening in
4 that area around the.....

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. All
9 right. Thank you, Steve. I think those sentiments are
10 carried by some of us too. I think BLM will be on the
11 agency reports here down the line. And yeah, I don't
12 think the village is currently evacuating, it's those
13 that are taking precautions. But there was a
14 nonessential personnel, paper pushers and others that
15 work at Alpine were evacuated to K pad which is about
16 two miles away from -- CD1 is the central facilities
17 there and out of an abundance of caution they did that.

18

19

20 And to my understanding it's called
21 fugitive gas, it's not production related, it's much
22 like our own gas wells out here at the Barrow gas
23 fields. They say don't get close to them, they're
24 could be fugitive gas around those like H2S which is
25 very poisonous and can kill you pretty quickly. I
26 think that's called hydrogen sulfide and stuff. And I
27 think something like well 41 or something was
28 experiencing fugitive gas in the wellhouse itself,
29 surrounding that.

30

31 That's what I know and it's just -- it
32 is a very serious thing, but it's not related to
33 production, it -- it's related to what's coming out on
34 the outside.

35

36 In any event we're under discussion and
37 I thought it was just important to shed a little bit of
38 light. I'm -- I do get information about Alpine and
39 that condition from the unified command in Anchorage
40 and the incident command in -- at Alpine themselves.

41

42 Any other discussions on the annual
43 report?

44

45 MR. OOMITTUK: Question's called for.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
48 called for. All those in favor of approving the FY2021
49 annual report signify by saying aye, as read.

50

0200

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
4 same sign.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Hearing
9 none, the ayes have it.

10

11 Madame Coordinator, the annual report
12 is approved for signature.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
15 members of the Council. And the final will come before
16 you, Chairman Brower, for your final approval and
17 signature.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're
22 down to Item G, receiving public testimony, protocols,
23 guideline -- guided discussion.

24

25 OSM. Who do we have as the presenter?

26

27 MR. VICKERS: Hello. Mr. Chair, this
28 is Brent Vickers from OSM again. I'm sorry, I just got
29 a little -- okay.

30

31 I believe that the next presentation I
32 should be giving, I have a series of them for you and I
33 think on the agenda it's the Federal Subsistence Board
34 annual report reply review -- review and revision
35 discussion and Council comments and feedback. If I --
36 you would like me to skip that one and go ahead with
37 the receiving public testimony let me know or if you
38 just want me to go and follow these things as listed,
39 let me know what you'dlike to do.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's follow them as
42 listed.

43

44 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Well, what I have
45 listed here on the agenda is the Federal Subsistence
46 Board annual report reply process review and revision
47 discussion and Council comments and feedback. Again
48 for the record this is Brent Vickers and I am the
49 supervisor cultural anthropologist for Office of
50

0201

1 Subsistence Management. If you would like to read the
2 presentation on this topic you can find it under
3 supplemental materials overview of. And that's within
4 the Council's meeting and materials page on our
5 webpage. This is an action item. The action that will
6 be -- that you will be taking is to forward comments on
7 the process to the Board. The Board will use these
8 comments when considering it's final decision.

9

10 And one more thing before I present, I
11 just want to clarify that we're discussing the annual
12 report's response process. The annual report process
13 itself is fine, great, love it. This presentation is
14 going to focus on possible changes to the responses to
15 the items listed on the annual report.

16

17 Okay. During the Federal Subsistence
18 Board's August, 2021 work session the InterAgency Staff
19 Committee or ISC briefed the Board on annual report
20 reply process and possible revisions to improve
21 responsiveness to Regional Advisory Council concerns.
22 This ISC briefing is part of a larger ISC effort to
23 improve workload efficiencies within the Federal
24 Subsistence Management Program. The Board reviewed and
25 discussed the report reply process and agreed to move
26 forward this topic to the Councils for your input on
27 the suggested revisions including possible ideas of
28 your own.

29

30 As you're aware ANILCA section 805
31 authorizes the Councils to prepare an annual report
32 containing information related to important subsistence
33 resource issues within the region. These reports are
34 invaluable as they provide the Board with a broad,
35 holistic picture of local resource condition and the
36 most up to date issues facing communities across rural
37 Alaska. With this knowledge the Board can make
38 informed decisions.

39

40 Historically the Board has strived to
41 provide responses to every topic listed in the annual
42 report, regardless of its authority to address the
43 issues raised. However it is unclear if the Board
44 responses on all report -- all annual report topics are
45 helpful to the Council while also taking considerable
46 Staff time to complete.

47

48 The ISC suggested process revision.
49 First to maintain annual reports as a way to inform the
50

1 Board of local conditions, issues and needs and second,
2 propose a letter writing as a way to request a response
3 from the Board on specific topics of concern.

4
5 We do recognize that the Councils
6 already write letters to the Board and other agencies
7 outside the annual report process. Under the ISC
8 scenario the only change is how the Board responds to
9 issues within your annual report. This change might
10 allow for more substantive and timely responses from
11 the Board on special topics of critical concern to the
12 Council. For example a separate letter requesting a
13 Board response could be written and submitted to the
14 Board much more quickly than including the issue in an
15 annual report as an annual report requires a much
16 longer time both for preparation of the report as well
17 as preparation for the Board's response.

18
19 These suggested revisions are not
20 intended to diminish the abilities of the Councils to
21 communicate with the Board. The Board relies upon your
22 knowledge and expertise and annual reports are the best
23 way to ensure the Board remains up to date in important
24 developments in your region. To that end we are asking
25 you, the Council, to think about what you want from the
26 Board in response to your annual report. To help your
27 discussion I will suggest that you review the ISC's
28 suggestions and then open the floor to questions and
29 Council discussion and then finally take action,
30 develop your own comments to be forwarded to the Board.

31
32 That's all I have right now for this
33 presentation. If you would like me to -- like to go
34 back on the suggestions or answer any other questions
35 or if you wanted to start going into a discussion, let
36 me know. I hand it over to you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you. And
41 in the supplemental information is that something that
42 was -- you forwarded to Eva?

43
44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and members of
45 the Council. The documents that Brent is referring to
46 was actually provided to the Council at your fall
47 meeting and is not in your meeting materials for this
48 meeting.

49
50

0203

1 And so what might be helpful is for
2 Brent to just walk through those points that the ISC
3 was recommending and maybe just for clarification for
4 the Council because we do have new Council members on
5 as well, so the annual report that the Council just
6 reviewed and will submit to the Federal Subsistence
7 Board goes to the Board and OSM Staff and ISC members
8 and the Board usually in the past have responded to
9 each and every one of the reports in your annual
10 report. So whether it was a request for information,
11 asking, you know, for awareness on a particular.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I have one,
14 Eva.

15
16 MS. PATTON: (indiscernible -
17 simultaneous speech).....

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Brent and -- I
22 do recall having the Federal Subsistence Board respond
23 and read their response to one of our annual reports.
24 And one of our concerns was the reasonable availability
25 of subsistence resources where they're normally found
26 and to find or develop a way or to recognize local
27 planning within the North Slope Borough in
28 comprehensive plans that define the village area of
29 influence. And looking at that as a critical avenue to
30 have timely closures maybe during peak subsistence
31 activities to allow for uninterrupted movement of
32 caribou or other resources that could be interrupted by
33 nonresident hunters or nonrural hunters, the urban
34 hunters that might be just taking advantage of the
35 abundant wildlife in the area. Because the village
36 area of influence and its definition itself which is
37 the lands immediately adjacent to village district
38 boundaries, those are the local village city limits,
39 community limits, the lands immediately outside of
40 those that provide for the traditional and subsistence
41 activities for the community.

42
43 And there was some response from
44 Anthony Christensen about that, oh, yeah, we work on
45 ourselves and we don't need to work with these --
46 that's basically what he -- the response that it -- it
47 didn't take into account the work that is adopted by
48 ordinance which is the laws of the borough by ordinance
49 and the statutory requirements, State statutes that
50

0204

1 requires a local political subdivision to create these
2 plans to benefit communities which include defining
3 subsistence use areas.

4
5 And it's important to think about that
6 and maybe not respond from the Federal Subsistence
7 Board saying it's just now allowed. I think there's a
8 way to look at areas including from the State in --
9 themselves on State land, on these village area of
10 influence and device a way to look at the priority use
11 for communities. Anyway that's one thing that I
12 thought in the response back wasn't an effective, it
13 was like end the conversation response, that's what it
14 was.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MR. VICKERS: Mr. Chair, thank you,
19 that's actually -- well, not actually, that is an
20 excellent example of looking at this whole process.
21 And I think what the ISC is hoping to improve through
22 changing the process and what they're -- what the ISC
23 wants is for the Board to be able to write more fully
24 and interact with the Councils more fully on specific
25 issues like the one you just gave.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brent.

28
29 MR. VICKERS:an example of, the
30 one that -- in the past.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brent.

33
34 MR. VICKERS: Yes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brent, this is
37 Gordon. I'm going to ask Esther to take the helm just
38 for about two minutes to three minutes, I need to take
39 a call.

40
41 And, Esther, as the Vice Chairman of
42 the Committee -- of the Council I'm going to hand you
43 the Chair just for a few minutes just so I can take a
44 call.

45
46 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: Okay.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

49
50

0205

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: Thank you.

2

3 MR. VICKERS: Hi, Esther, this is Brent
4 Vickers again. Would you like me to continue
5 where.....

6

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: Yes, please.

8

9 MR. VICKERS:I just left off?

10

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: Yes, please.

12

13 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Well, let me --
14 let me see. So this -- for everyone else in the
15 Council I think this is a good opportunity for looking
16 at the response process and the example that Chair just
17 provided. And as I said the ISC is hoping to improve
18 the process of that when there is a topic, an item,
19 that the Council really wants to address specifically
20 and get a conversation, get a discussion and get more
21 action that they write to the Board about that item
22 outside of the annual report, perhaps in addition to
23 the annual report. But if they really want to hear a
24 full response from the Council that this is something,
25 an item to be addressed in a separate document,
26 separate letter to the Board.

27

28 The annual report -- and the reason why
29 the ISC is suggesting it is because the annual reports
30 come from all 10 Councils and have a list of different
31 items on it. And it can be difficult for the Board and
32 the Staff to really fully address each of those items
33 listed in all 10 of the Council reports at once. And
34 so at times something that a Council might want more
35 focus on doesn't get the attention it deserves. And
36 often the Board and the Staff finds that it's giving
37 responses that aren't as informational or as helpful as
38 they might be if they were able to dedicate a more
39 focused amount of time on it outside of the annual
40 review response process.

41

42 And so that is one thing I think the
43 ISC is trying to address because there are a lot of
44 items listed in the -- five to 10 different Councils
45 and a lot of these items -- each of the items we
46 dedicate time into and some of them we just don't have
47 the time to get into and have to give sort of a -- just
48 a very broad response. And so that is what I think the
49 ISC's trying to get and it sounds to me from the
50

0206

1 Chair's example there that he felt very unsatisfied
2 with not receiving -- with the response that he got and
3 that perhaps he wanted more from the Board and more of
4 a discussion on that.

5

6 So that might be something for you, the
7 Council, to suggest and take action on if this is
8 something you would like to change, if you would like
9 to change it so you were able to write letters at
10 separate times to get more focus on issues.

11

12 And Eva or others, if I've sort of
13 misspoken or anything please let me know. And if the
14 Council has any question -- more questions let me know.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Brent, this is
19 Eva. And I think that was helpful clarification for
20 the Council. (Indiscernible - distortion) would want
21 to hear more feedback from the Council if there's a
22 method of response or needs a response that the Council
23 would like in addition to the annual report replies
24 that has been the usual process in the past.

25

26 And we think -- Gordon, are you.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, this is Gordon.
29 And thank you, Brent, And, you know, I think there's
30 something to this where when it's in an annual report
31 and we're dealing with local laws and ordinances,
32 Alaska statutes say you're required to do this, North
33 Slope Borough municipal code that says that we must
34 build a comprehensive plan and for our communities.
35 And then the governing body of the political
36 subdivision of the State, the North Slope Borough, a
37 home rule borough, you know, which has very much the
38 same powers of the State except reserved by the
39 governor would be important for the State Board of
40 Game, the ACs, the Federal government, the -- to look
41 at these laws and ordinances differently than just as
42 if they're regular comments of the concerns of the
43 Council.

44

45 And those -- I think there's a way to
46 when those kind of comments are generated and because
47 I've been in the planning department and been the
48 director and the land management administrator for the
49 borough for many, many years. And, you know, using the

50

0207

1 land management we've managed to institute fines to oil
2 industry that are 1.6 million in fines, they carry the
3 weight of the law. And even though we're challenged in
4 court we prevail. We've been challenged by
5 nongovernmental organizations about oil and gas
6 development that we were arbitrary and capricious in
7 our approach and I had to be in a position to be
8 deposed and made my statement on what our processes
9 are, very rigorous public hearing processes that are
10 land use ordinances were the law of the land, that went
11 over Federal land, that went over State land and
12 private land meaning you want to do something up here,
13 well, you got to get a permit. And if you don't got a
14 permit then I'm going to fine you.

15
16 And there are other aspects of the land
17 use codes relating to subsistence and some of them are
18 -- we work with NOAA on, we often close industrial
19 development offshore if they do not engage in a
20 conflict avoidance agreement. We don't enforce the
21 conflict avoidance agreement with the Alaska Eskimo
22 Whaling Commission for industrial development offshore,
23 but we recognize that as a means by the local whalers
24 through their organization, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling
25 Commission, that they have consulted and cooperated so
26 that whales won't be deflected out of the reach of
27 reasonable availability for subsistence resources
28 because whales can get deflected up to a hundred miles
29 from ships and other things like that. And when
30 industry is out there and part of -- within our scope,
31 our sphere of influence, that we can do and often have
32 put a cease and desist order for those operations to
33 cease until such time they either consult with the
34 Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission or that they -- or
35 that the area is closed for lack of cooperation with
36 the whalers with a time area management saying this
37 area is close between August 5 and September or October
38 10 or until the whaling quota has been met.

39
40 The same -- and those are laws that we
41 enforce with the borough. And I think when we get a
42 response about the comprehensive plan and the nature of
43 the adoption, that these are existing laws on the
44 books, that maybe it's important for those kind of
45 comments to take a different method of commenting, that
46 it might mean that hey, maybe we need to get together
47 with the North Slope Borough mayor and look at the area
48 of influence and how we can get a compromise of a
49 potential time area closure during peak subsistence
50

0208

1 activities to allow for the herds to be uninterrupted
2 to feed an entire community in its wake, those kind of
3 things.

4
5 And I'm sorry I tend to talk very long
6 on this -- pretty passionate about it myself. But
7 those are the type of comments that I think would be
8 warranted to get better feedback other than yeah, you
9 know, we're the Federal Subsistence Board and yeah, we
10 don't do that. I mean, that's basically the end all
11 conversation type response.

12
13 MR. VICKERS: Thank you again, Mr.
14 Chair. So do you think that the -- as we're discussing
15 with this presentation, do you think that the changes
16 that the ISC wants to make to the annual report process
17 in which you would be more encouraged to write letters
18 on topics such as the one you're discussing, would help
19 with the Council's or the Board's capacity to respond?
20 It sounds -- because it just really sounds to me that
21 you felt unsatisfied, that the Board basically gave a
22 response that in your words ended the conversation,
23 said this is outside. But what you wanted was for the
24 Board not to just give a response like that, but to
25 actually interact with you more. And do you think that
26 the -- writing a letter outside of the annual report
27 would have better instigated more interaction with the
28 Council or do you think that there's something more
29 that needs to be done, is there another suggestion you
30 can make about this annual -- changes to the annual
31 report response process?

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I mean, I don't
34 want to, you know, beat a dead horse or anything, you
35 know, but I was dissatisfied with the response from the
36 Federal Subsistence Board Chair and to that and I don't
37 really know what the mechanism is to comment in that
38 way that would potentially how those types of comments
39 are dealt with. It seems to me a comment like that
40 would lead to maybe the Department of the Interior
41 Secretary, who knows, dialogue to hear the law of the
42 land on the North Slope Borough which is multi
43 jurisdictional in nature and has its own land use
44 policy. And that includes enhancing, protecting and
45 subsistence -- the subsistence resources for the
46 benefit of the residents. And I think those are
47 important things to talk about.

48
49 I don't know if that's the type of
50

0209

1 feedback you're looking for, but if you need to make a
2 comment out of all of these on my behalf you have my
3 blessing to do that provided that the rest of the
4 Council agrees.

5

6 MR. VICKERS: Yeah. Mr. Chair, this is
7 Brent Vickers. I think, you know, in summary you are
8 dissatisfied with the response process, that there are
9 times especially right now where you want a full
10 attention, you want involvement and you want
11 interaction and not just a response listed along with
12 other responses to your annual report. And while we
13 don't have the mechanism for getting more interaction,
14 I think just even making that comment that you are
15 dissatisfied with getting just basically, I don't know,
16 nonsubstantive responsive or response from the Council
17 on annual report items. And so you would suggest
18 making changes that would allow for you guys to better
19 focus on items that you really do want to interact with
20 the Council on.

21

22 Does that more or less summarize what
23 you're trying to say?

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That sounds nice,
26 yes.

27

28 MR. VICKERS: Yes. Thank you. Well,
29 if you want to -- if you want me to forward that
30 comment to the Board then I think that's something you
31 can take action as a Council to have that and any other
32 comments like that or otherwise forwarded to the Board
33 then this is the time to do it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What say the Council?
40 Yeah, go ahead. Is this Steve?

41

42 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
43 Steve for the record. Just out of curiosity, you know,
44 the Federal Subsistence Board, who do they consist of
45 and are they appointed or do you -- yeah.....

46

47 MR. VICKERS: The Federal Subsistence
48 Board.....

49

50

0210

1 MR. OOMITTUK:can I ask that
2 question?

3
4 MR. VICKERS: Yes. That's totally --
5 that's a great question. The Federal Subsistence Board
6 consists of the heads of Federal land and management
7 agencies in Alaska. That includes Fish and Wildlife,
8 the Bureau for Indian Affairs, National Parks. Sorry
9 my mind is going blank as I'm thinking here of other
10 things. The five agencies, BLM, someone can help fill
11 me in on that. But also it includes two members from
12 the public, that being the Chair and another
13 representative from the public.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Brent, this is.....

16
17 MR. VICKERS: And am I missing someone
18 else?

19
20 MS. PATTON: Brent, this is Eva.

21
22 MR. VICKERS: Thanks. Three public.
23 Yes, that's what I thought.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Brent. And
28 through the Chair this is -- this is Eva. And the
29 Federal Subsistence Board.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eva.

32
33 MS. PATTON:is made up of all the
34 Federal land management agencies, the conservation
35 units in Alaska. So for the North Slope Region the
36 primary Federal land managers are the Bureau of Land
37 Management, NPR-A, National Parks Service, Gates of the
38 Arctic National Park, also overlap with Western Arctic
39 Parklands, the Bering Straits region and the Fish and
40 Wildlife Service so Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
41 The other Federal land management agency that doesn't
42 occur in the North Slope region is the Forest Service
43 which is very predominant in the southeast Alaska
44 region. In addition the Bureau of Indian Affairs also
45 serves, the director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
46 also serves as a Board member.

47
48 And then there are three public, rural
49 public Board members one of which is the Chair of the
50

0211

1 Federal Subsistence Board, Anthony Christensen. He's
2 from southeast Alaska, from Hydaburg and a prominent
3 tribal leader in his community. And he has served as
4 the Chair for several years since the previous rural
5 Chair, Tim Towarak from Unalakleet had retired. So the
6 Chair of the Board is a rural subsistence
7 representative. And additionally there are two other
8 public members serving on the Board that are rural
9 representatives. One is currently Rhonda Pitka from
10 Beaver which is a community on a tributary to the Yukon
11 River. So on the northern Yukon side. And also the
12 other public member is Charlie Brower of Utqiagvik.
13 And he is the -- one of the three rural public
14 subsistence members serving on the Board.

15

16 So that -- that's who makes up the
17 Board. And the Federal land management agencies, it's
18 the director of the Federal land management agency and
19 then the three public members are appointed.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
24 you, Eva. Does that help there, Steve?

25

26 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. You know,
27 the Federal Subsistence Board, you know, has a lot of
28 power, you know, that -- especially when they're -- you
29 know, when the North Slope Subsistence Advisory Council
30 makes proposals or even with the Northwest Arctic
31 Borough, you know, sometimes we get overridden by the
32 Federal Subsistence Board. And it -- you know, we're
33 concerned about our subsistence way of life and the
34 animals and the populations and, you know, our -- you
35 know, our local people that depend on the food source.
36 And I just wanted to know who consisted of this Federal
37 Subsistence Board.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. I
42 think we could make a -- I think a motion at this
43 point, you know, that we are dissatisfied with the
44 response from the Federal Subsistence Board on the
45 annual report when submitted based on all of the
46 dialogue. You know, somebody could make that motion
47 and then send that message.

48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair,

50

0212

1 from Steve.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
4 the floor to provide feedback to the Federal
5 Subsistence Board with our dissatisfaction with their
6 responses in relation to the topics we were talking
7 about in relation to subsistence and local laws and
8 ordinances and things like that. Do I hear a second?

9

10 MR. REXFORD: Second. This is Eddie.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
13 Eddie Rexford from Kaktovik. Any discussion?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
20 called for. All those in favor of providing feedback
21 to the Federal Subsistence Board in -- with our
22 dissatisfaction with the responses signify by saying
23 aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
28 same sign.

29

30 (No opposing votes)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
33 ayes have it. We have comments and feedback that will
34 be created by Brent Vickers.

35

36 REPORTER: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, who
37 made the motion for that?

38

39 MS. PATTON: That was Steve Oomittuk,
40 made the motion.

41

42 MR. OOMITTUK: That was Steve Oomittuk.

43

44 REPORTER: Okay. Thank you.

45

46 MS. PATTON: And a second from Eddie
47 Rexford.

48

49 REPORTER: Yep, I got that. Thank you.

50

0213

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Was there
2 somebody else that wanted to be recognized?

3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh. No, this is Earl.
5 I just wanted to say hi.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, Earl, (in
8 Native). It's good to have you.

9

10 Hey, it's about the top of the hour,
11 guys, my stomach's kind of getting noisy. What say ye?

12

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

14

15 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, so move for
16 lunch.

17

18 MS. PATTON: This is Eva.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We want
21 to recess for lunch.

22

23 MS. PATTON: If I could make a quick
24 recommendation for a one hour lunch. We have a few
25 more topics under new business and then quite a few
26 agency reports after lunch. And the Council had
27 planned to hear from our FRMP, our Alaska Native
28 Science and Engineering student report after lunch.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. You're
31 taking too long now, we're hungry.

32

33 Who wants to recess until 1:00 or 1:15?

34

35 MS. KIPPI: 1:15.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. That way
38 I can go check the post office because I know my post
39 office box, I haven't checked it in two days now and
40 that thing fills up real fast, you know.

41

42 And, Eva, you can't hold that up
43 anymore.

44

45 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, I second the
46 motion for a lunch break until 1:15.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're at
49 recess until 1:15. We'll see you all in a little bit.

50

0214

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Afternoon.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, Gordon.

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

11

12 MS. PATTON: And, Gordon, we do have
13 Martha Itta who has joined us online with us. And she
14 is just available until 2:00 p.m. this afternoon and
15 then has a meeting to address issues in Nuiqsut. So if
16 I may, Mr. Chair, make some recommendations to suspend
17 the rules and modify the agenda so we can ensure that
18 we get the BLM report in for Martha this afternoon
19 before she has to go.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we could do
22 that. And I think it's important to try to get that
23 information.

24

25 So do we have all the Council members
26 back online?

27

28 MS. ITTA: Good afternoon, Gordon.

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Martha.
32 It's good to hear you.

33

34 Steve, are you on?

35

36 MS. PATTON: I think we were still
37 waiting for.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brower Frantz, you
40 on?

41

42 MR. FRANTZ: Yes, I'm on.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. One, two,
45 Brower, All right. Eddie, you on?

46

47 MR. REXFORD: I'm here.

48

49 MS. PATTON: And Wanda Kippi is on.

50

0215

1 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

4

5 MS. HUGO: Yeah, I'm a little late.

6 The coordinator's office wasn't open so I waited until

7 they opened it.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Is Earl

12 on as well?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So Earl and Wanda.

17

18 MS. KIPPI: I'm on.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Yeah,

21 Madame Coordinator, I think we have the majority of the

22 Council back.

23

24 What's the wish of the Council, can we

25 make a motion to suspend the rules to allow BLM to do

26 their report for the benefit of Martha, Martha has to

27 go?

28

29 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, I so move to

30 change the agenda.

31

32 MS. HUGO: Second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Motion on

35 the floor to suspend the rules. It's been seconded.

36 All those -- any discussion?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been

41 called for. All those in favor of suspending the rules

42 signify by saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All those

47 opposed say nay.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

0216

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.
2 The rules have been suspended. Can we have BLM do
3 their report.

4
5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
6 members of the Council. I'm just checking online to
7 confirm BLM Staff are present to -- for them to present
8 next.

9
10 MR. ENMAN: Hey, there, this is Ted
11 Enman, (indiscernible - distortion) resources
12 supervisor. I am here, I believe Shelly is not. So I
13 can certainly try to fill in in her place or whatever
14 order you guys would prefer to go then.

15
16 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ted, appreciate
17 that. We have our Council member Martha Itta from
18 Nuiqsut is online and, you know, the BLM report is
19 especially of interest to her. She has to leave for a
20 meeting at 2:00 p.m. So if we would be able to get a
21 report now and, you know, if Shelly were able to join
22 later if Council members had questions later at that
23 time. But if we could squeeze in the basic information
24 so that Martha has this opportunity that would be
25 great.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MR. ENMAN: Okay. No, that's fine.
30 We've got a few small presentations from our biologist,
31 our fisheries biologist and our subsistence specialist.
32 We can certainly talk about anything specific if
33 someone would like to, but barring that.....

34
35 Katie Drew, are you on?

36
37 MS. DREW: Yes, Ted, I am.

38
39 MR. ENMAN: All right. Well, I know
40 that your topic is one of the big ones of interest with
41 the toxicology. So if you don't mind can you please
42 give your talk.

43
44 MS. DREW: Yeah, of course. So thanks,
45 Ted, and thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the
46 Council. For the record this is Katie Drew. I'm a
47 fish biologist with the BLM, Arctic District Office.
48 And I wanted to provide a quick update on a
49 contaminants project we secured funding for this year.
50

0217

1 And the goal of that project will be to examine levels
2 of polycyclic, aromatic hydrocarbons or PHs and
3 sediments of the Colville River and subsistence fishes
4 important to North Slope communities. And so this
5 project is in collaboration with the North Slope
6 Borough Department of Wildlife Management and the Mote
7 Marine Laboratory. They would be doing the analyses
8 and they are located down in Florida.

9
10 And so just kind of for a brief
11 summary, you know, really the overarching goal of this
12 project is to address concerns related to contaminants.
13 And so we're hoping to conduct a monitoring effort to
14 evaluate potential changes in PH concentrations, again
15 in sediments and fish tissue within areas of the NPR-A
16 and then compare those values to baseline levels that
17 were established or documented back in 2004 and 2005.
18 So in addition we also aim to assess whether elevated
19 PH levels are associated with fish infected with water
20 mold.

21
22 And so to achieve this goal what we're
23 looking to do is kind of pursue the following
24 objectives. And so we're hoping, you know, with
25 assistance from fishers that we could collect sub
26 samples of four fish species caught by subsistence
27 users. Those species would be broad whitefish,
28 humpback whitefish, Arctic cisco and least cisco. Fish
29 collected for analyses would include fish infected with
30 the water mold and we would also have a group of fish
31 that would be sent in that would be representative of
32 fish not infected with the mold. And so those fish
33 would essentially serve as the control.

34
35 So our second objective would be to
36 compare PH levels in muscles and liver of the whitefish
37 species to baseline levels that were documented by the
38 Mote Marine Laboratory, again that was back in 2004 and
39 2005. And then we would also compare potential PH
40 levels in all four of the subsistence fishes, using
41 muscle again and liver of the fish to evaluate if PH
42 pollution is present and potentially associated with
43 infections of the water mold.

44
45 And so with input and assistance from
46 the Nuiqsut community we would like to collect
47 sediments to assess potential PHs from locations in the
48 Colville River again to compare values to baseline
49 levels that were established by the Mote Marine
50

0218

1 Laboratory. And if PHs were detected then the
2 laboratory would kind of characterize or fingerprint
3 the source point of those particular pollutants to help
4 clarify where they originated from.

5

6 And kind of our last objective of
7 course is to have the results of this study presented
8 in person by Dr. Dana Wexell. She was the project
9 investigator that led this actual original effort back
10 in 2004 and 2005. And so she would give presentations
11 to local residents in Nuiqsut and Utqiagvik and that
12 would also provide an opportunity for just more in
13 depth discussion and questions about the results.

14

15 And so this is just a brief overview of
16 the project, but both myself and Todd Sformo of the
17 North Slope Borough, you know, would appreciate an
18 opportunity to have an additional meeting with
19 community members interested in this project really to
20 get their invaluable input on proposed sampling
21 locations as well as project design and that way we
22 could just essentially have a extended discussion
23 regarding the details of the project. But in the
24 meantime if members of the Council and Mr. Chairman
25 have any questions I would be happy to answer them.

26

27 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Martha.

30

31 MS. ITTA: I do have a question --
32 couple of questions. I didn't hear a start date on
33 this and I know I brought this up in our past meetings
34 about the studies being done and how they're being
35 done. So this project would be doing the studies that
36 I had requested in those meetings?

37

38 MS. DREW: That is correct. And we
39 would love to set a time to sit down with you and
40 discuss the project details. We are hoping that we can
41 start the initial fish collection aspect of this
42 project sometime during the fall time period of this
43 year, of 2022.

44

45 MS. ITTA: Okay. Thank you for that.
46 And if you -- yeah, if you have my contact information
47 you can keep me updated so that when you guys are ready
48 to meet I'll be there.

49

50

0219

1 MS. DREW: Yeah, absolutely. That
2 was.....

3
4 MS. ITTA: Thank you for your
5 information. That really means a lot because yeah, we
6 had -- our community was hurting last season on our
7 white cisco. So I -- we'd really like some answers and
8 thank you guys for doing this program.

9
10 MS. DREW: Yeah. Well, thank you for
11 kind of bringing up and being willing to discuss the
12 issue and we will definitely keep you as well as any
13 other community members updated so like I said we can
14 all sit down, have a good block of time to have a good
15 discussion so that we can get a meaningful study done
16 for you guys.

17
18 MS. ITTA: My -- one last question. I
19 know we're talking about the fish and stuff. Is there
20 anything being done like with the caribou?

21
22 MS. DREW: So for this particular study
23 there's not, we're just kind of focusing essentially on
24 the fish and the water quality just so that we can get
25 hopefully enough samples to, you know, kind of make the
26 results more robust. And so there's currently not a
27 focus on caribou at this time for this particular
28 effort.

29
30 MS. ITTA: Okay. I just thought about
31 something. Will our community members be able to get
32 involved with doing these studies, I mean, just like
33 our sub reps do, overseeing, you know, activity around
34 our community? That would be really good if our people
35 can be involved in some sort just to.....

36
37 MS. DREW: Yes, (indiscernible -
38 simultaneous speech).....

39
40 MS. ITTA:you know -- just to
41 build trust and let them know that, you know, you guys
42 are doing whatever it takes to protect our fish and all
43 that stuff.

44
45 MS. DREW: Nope, absolutely. We are
46 looking to get as much involvement from the community
47 as we can to oversee sample collection, you know, make
48 observations of the mold on specific fish species and
49 being able to really target and collect those species
50

0220

1 so that we can get them sent for analyses. So
2 community involvement is going to be crucial and
3 something we really look forward to working with you
4 guys on.

5

6 And in addition we talked to the
7 contaminant specialist that works at the Mote Marine
8 Laboratory and in addition to her coming up to the
9 communities to give presentations on the results she
10 really was welcome and open to have community members
11 along with me and Todd to actually travel down to her
12 laboratory to see the process. And yeah, you know,
13 kind of to build that relationship for future
14 monitoring efforts should they become necessary.

15

16 MS. ITTA: I really appreciate that
17 because at this time our community is, you know, under
18 a lot of stress because of a gas leak going on and
19 they're not getting any answers. And I hope somebody
20 from the BLM Staff is there to assure them along with
21 the borough and ConocoPhillips that everything is okay.
22 That's the reason why I'm asking because it's really
23 scary in what they're dealing with. Our community's in
24 distress right now and, you know, you agencies being
25 the permitters and, you know, caretakers, I think it's
26 really important that you guys participate in any
27 meeting and every meeting that is being scheduled
28 because you guys are in charge of all of it. And I
29 would really appreciate some presence because right now
30 our community is panicking, in kind of a panic mode
31 right now and they're not really getting any answers.
32 So I'd really appreciate that, any involvement from any
33 of the agencies.

34

35 Thank you. I really appreciate it.

36

37 MS. DREW: Well, thank you so much for
38 your comments and taking the time to be able to join us
39 today. We know that you're under a lot of stress and
40 pressure so just being able to join into the meeting
41 when you can, we really appreciate that as well.

42

43 MS. ITTA: Thank you. That's all the
44 questions I had.

45

46 MR. ENMAN: All right. Great
47 questions. And we are trying to learn as much as we
48 can about that incident up there as well. That's a
49 very unfortunate situation that we are -- we're trying
50

0221

1 to get information on ourselves and we'll relay that
2 when we can.

3
4 But next we got Heather Savage, the
5 biologist.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let me before you go
8 on and -- while Martha's here.

9
10 Martha, I do have some information
11 about -- from unified command at what's going on at
12 Alpine if you wanted to get updated real quick.

13
14 MS. ITTA: That would be great because
15 I just got off the call, they had a 10:30 updated call
16 in their community. There was a lot of participation
17 from our community, asking questions and they're not
18 getting any answers. That would be really helpful. So
19 they're holding another meeting at 2:00 o'clock to
20 hopefully get answers.

21
22 So thank you, Gordon.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Well, you
25 know, we have been working with the risk management in
26 terms of community safety. And risks would be involved
27 in working with the mayor if any evacuation really
28 needed to happen.

29
30 Currently the Alpine facility 81 which
31 is the main facility, evacuated nonessential Staff,
32 like the paper pushers, the ones that are just working
33 around, milling around at the central facilities pad
34 and evacuated them to K pad, you know, the Kuukpik pad,
35 that one at the end of Kuukpik Spur Road. And they are
36 continuing to assess the situation.

37
38 What's going on has nothing to do with
39 production, none of the production wells are showing
40 anything that's compromised, they're all showing normal
41 pressures except for well number 41. It's what they
42 call fugitive gas. Fugitive gas is like untreated gas
43 that's -- that would leak maybe around the side of the
44 casing. And we have a lot of that kind here in Barrow,
45 we have a lot of gas wells here in Barrow. And there's
46 signs on all of our gas wells to stay away and that
47 there could be gas in these wellhouses. And, you know,
48 we're well -- the community of Barrow lives around gas
49 wells and you have to have gas detecting devices to do
50

0222

1 that, to be around them.

2

3

4 And in any event the unified command --
5 there was some initial concerns or rumors that the gas
6 was shut off to Nuiqsut and yesterday we had
7 confirmation that the gas isn't shut off to Nuiqsut,
8 the gas is on. The North Slope Borough temporarily
9 went offline of our gas powered generators and
10 converted them to diesel power. And we were advised by
11 ConocoPhillips to go ahead and return them back to gas.
12 So the gas generation is powered up and there is
13 available gas for the community right now until such
14 time as there's different notice.

14

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So they're trying to figure out the fugitive gas, it's not production related, it's like -- more like a seep, like a seep gas that comes through the side of a wellbore is the best way I could probably think about it in that way.

In any event that's what I got from unified command and our folks that are participating in unified command yesterday. So I hope that helps.

MS. ITTA: Thank you, Gordon, for that, I really appreciate it. And I really hope things get under control and.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

MS. ITTA:because right now, you know, they're -- they were told to be -- we're on high alert and, you know, people are already leaving. So I really thank you for that information, it does help. I have more of an understanding.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Martha.

MS. ITTA: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, and we live around the gas field here. Barrow is full of gas field all around us. So and it does help when the wind blows and moves it, but when it's not windy it can become stagnant in that area.

So anyway, I'll return it back to the BLM folks.

0223

1 MR. ENMAN: Thank you, Gordon. That
2 was useful as myself as well. I definitely appreciate
3 that update.

4
5 Our next is our biologist for the
6 Arctic District Office, Heather Savage. She's got a
7 few updates with some of her projects.

8 So if you don't mind, Heather, can you
9 please go ahead.

10

11 MS. SAVAGE: Sure. Thank you. Good
12 afternoon, Mr. Chair and Council members. For the
13 record this is Heather Savage, I'm a wildlife biologist
14 with the BLM Arctic District Office and I just had a
15 few updates to share with you on some of the wildlife
16 activities happening in the North Slope area.

17

18 First off I wanted to mention that we
19 have an ongoing agreement with the North Slope Borough
20 to continue collaring animals on the Teshekpuk Caribou
21 Herd. And so that's been an important project that
22 we've been partnering on for the past five years and
23 we're looking to continue that into the foreseeable
24 future. That provides valuable information on herd
25 location and timing of migration and habitat usage.

26

27 Another project related to caribou that
28 we are looking at involves the Central Arctic Herd and
29 that's partnering with the USGS on a road study to look
30 at how caribou may avoid or not avoid roads in their
31 region. And this is along the road so it's further
32 east possibly than may concern some communities, but
33 it's relevant data that may affect or have -- could
34 have implications for future studies with Teshekpuk
35 Herd for example.

36

37 And finally the last study I wanted to
38 mention was the partnership with WCS that was mentioned
39 earlier today regarding a predatory survey that was
40 proposed. So we're looking forward to working with
41 them on that to gather more information about predators
42 potentially.

43

44 And that's all I had for you today.
45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. ENMAN: Yeah. Members of the
48 Council, do you have any questions for Heather?

49

50

0224

1 MS. HUGO: Hello. This is Esther.

2

3 MR. ENMAN: Yes, Ma'am.

4

5 MS. HUGO: Yes, since this is a
6 discussion on mostly towards the Nuiqsut area maybe in
7 the future just because our caribou migrated this year
8 like they haven't before can we do some studies if
9 that's going to occur again like maybe next year or the
10 next year or maybe 15 years from now. I mean, we
11 hardly have any studies being done our way and we need
12 that study to be done so we could know what's going on
13 and we don't have to holler and be angry. After all we
14 are the caribou people and we depend on that to put
15 food on our table.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. SAVAGE: Thank you. Yes, certainly
20 we have plans to continue caribou studies in the NPR-A
21 as a whole (indiscernible - distortion) and we will
22 continue to look for opportunities that might be more westward.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. HUGO: Thank you.

27

28 MR. ENMAN: Any other questions
29 concerning caribou or predators or wildlife in general?

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MR. ENMAN: Hearing none, okay. Well,
34 next we got the BLM subsistence specialist, Beth Mikow.
35 She's got a few updates for everybody as well.

36

37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted).

39

40 MS. MIKOW: Did you want me to go
41 ahead, Ted, or.....

42

43 MR. ENMAN: Yes, please do unless
44 somebody had a question. I kind of heard some static
45 there. I couldn't tell if somebody was asking a
46 question or not.

47

48 REPORTER: I think somebody was just
49 not on mute.

50

0225

1 MR. ENMAN: Oh, I see.

2

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10 Thanks. That helps eliminate the
11 background noise.

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MS. PATTON: Thanks, everyone. Just a friendly reminder maybe before Beth starts, everybody please take a moment to look at your phones and make sure you're on mute. You can hit the mute button or start, six to mute and then hit star, six again when you want to unmute.

Thanks. That helps eliminate the background noise.

And go ahead, Beth. Thank you.

MS. MIKOW: Thanks, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. Like Ted said my name is Beth Mikow. I am the anthropologist for the Arctic District Office. And I just wanted to give a brief update on -- to your community harvest survey efforts that we are partnering with or seeking to partner with folks to do.

The first one, Katie is the lead on that project and I've been working with her, is a fish harvest survey project in Nuiqsut. Basically household harvests surveys to document 12 months of subsistence harvest. There's also questions of -- about resource health and things of that nature, assessing harvests in comparison to prior years. And that will also include some interviews with local residents to kind of conceptualize the harvest numbers, not just the amount of fish that people are eating, but how they go about their subsistence practices.

So there has been approval in Nuiqsut, I know that, and that project should be happening this spring. And the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, is our partner there. So they will be running that survey project.

Other than that we're seeking to partner again with the Division of Subsistence, it's not finalized, but they're doing a comprehensive harvest survey in the community of Wainwright. Basically that is to -- surveys that don't happen that often because they're quite large, but it basically documents subsistence for an entire year in a community. And we're seeking to help them out with funding to get that harvest data because it is so

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1 important, you can compare changes over time if there
2 are any. So that's something that we do have
3 potentially coming up, but I wanted to get that on the
4 Council's radar.

5
6 And other than that, that is all I
7 have. Thanks.

8
9 MR. ENMAN: All right. Thank you,
10 Beth. Mr. Chair, members of the Council, do you guys
11 have any questions from a subsistence standpoint or
12 anything that the BLM has presented in general?

13
14 MS. ITTA: I don't have any questions.
15 Thank you for the information, I really appreciate it.

16
17 MR. ENMAN: You are welcome, Ma'am.
18 All right. Well, that's all the BLM has got unless
19 somebody does have something else.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any
22 questions for BLM?

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I appreciate
27 you taking the time just in case Martha has to leave.
28 I think this part of the report that she would benefit
29 from because she's NPR-A and development oriented over
30 there.

31
32 MR. ENMAN: Yes, Sir. I appreciate the
33 opportunity.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Eva, did
36 we want to get back on our normal schedule?

37
38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
39 members of the Council. We have actually made plans
40 for the fisheries reports right after lunch. We had
41 Brendan Scanlon who was going to also present a report
42 important to Nuiqsut on Colville River drainage.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

45
46 MS. PATTON: And then our.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that the ANSEP
49 student?

50

0227

1 MS. PATTON: Brendan is ADF&G fisheries
2 biologist and then after Brendan is our ANSEP student,
3 Evangeline Duke. And she was going to present on
4 Arctic char after Brendan's report.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So go
9 ahead, ADF&G.

10
11 MR. SCANLON: Hi, everybody. This is
12 Brendan Scanlon with the Alaska Department of Fish and
13 Game. I'm the Northwest and North Slope area
14 biologist. Sorry, I couldn't be with you today, but I
15 do have a presentation I'd like to give. Hopefully you
16 have it with you, it's entitled seasonal habitats, the
17 migration of Arctic grayling in the lower Colville
18 River. And I regret that I did not.....

19
20 MS. PATTON: And, Brendan, let me just
21 jump in here. Okay. Let me just jump in and let the
22 Council members know you'll find that under tab 6 in
23 your meeting binder.

24
25 Okay. Great. Go ahead, Brendan.

26
27 MR. SCANLON: Okay. Thank you.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

30
31 MR. SCANLON: Okay. Is -- does
32 everyone have it?

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MR. SCANLON: Okay. Should I begin,
37 Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead. And
40 what tab was that? I got distracted for a minute,
41 sorry.

42
43 MS. PATTON: You'll find that in tab 6
44 in your meeting book binder.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here we go.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you.

49
50

0228

1 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Eva. Thank
2 you, Mr. Chair and members of the Committee. Once
3 again for the record this is Brendan Scanlon. I want
4 to talk to you today about an FRMP funded project that
5 we started in 2019 regarding the seasonal habitats and
6 movement of Arctic grayling in the lower Colville
7 relative to the Village of Nuiqsut and the subsistence
8 fishery that goes on there in the winter.

9
10 So I'm going to turn to the next slide,
11 it's going to have the same title. So the objective of
12 this project was to use radio telemetry, radio tags
13 essentially, to describe the seasonal movements and
14 locations of grayling that inhabit the lower Colville
15 between the Itkillik River and the Village of Nuiqsut.
16 Now when we don't know much about a fish population at
17 all one thing we like to do that's very helpful is to
18 use radio telemetry to learn a little bit about summer
19 spawning and feeding movement as well as overwintering
20 areas. And from this information a lot of the times we
21 can develop an index area where we can estimate
22 abundance of fish of a certain size. And to do that a
23 lot of times the first thing we do is the radio
24 telemetry. So that's what we're doing here. And we
25 tagged over 150 mature Arctic grayling, they tend to
26 spawn when they're 15 inches or bigger up there, with
27 radio tags during 2019. And we use periodic tracking
28 flights that actually when this slide was made we were
29 going to be done last September, but we still have some
30 more surveys to do through the end of June. So we're
31 not quite done with this project, but I'll let you know
32 what we've done so far.

33
34 So next slide, please. So I didn't
35 realize how important grayling were to the fishers in
36 Nuiqsut and we don't have recent information on
37 harvest, but what we do have from the Department of
38 Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, suggested about
39 six or 7,000 fish are harvested between Nuiqsut and
40 Anaktuvuk Pass every year. And like I said we don't
41 have any information on the ecology and movements of
42 Arctic grayling in the Colville. And this project
43 directly addresses Martha Itta's priority information
44 need regarding abundance, distribution and movement in
45 Arctic grayling in the lower Colville.

46
47 Next slide, please. Okay. This should
48 be a map you're looking at. And the Colville is almost
49 400 miles long and so to take a chunk out of what we
50

1 thought would be the population relative to what the
2 people in Nuiqsut would catch, we took about a 130 mile
3 stretch of the river between the village up to the
4 Itkillik River and we included some of the large
5 tributaries between Nuiqsut and the Itkillik including
6 the Chandler, Tulaga, Anaktuvuk, Nushagak and Aichilik
7 and ones that we're calling the Cog and the Kick
8 because we can't really -- we haven't figured out how
9 to pronounce those. Those are just upstream of
10 Nuiqsut. So this is the study area for this project.

11

12 Next slide, please. It should be a
13 picture of Umiat. We worked out of Umiat in the
14 summer, it's nothing -- nothing really there, but some
15 quonset huts, but we could get fuel for our helicopter
16 so we based out of Umiat for our summer work to put out
17 our radio tags in July.

18

19 Next slide, please. This should be a
20 slide that says 2019 activities and has a timeline on
21 it. This just describes what we've done so far with
22 this project. We went to Nuiqsut in May of 2019 for
23 some community outreach and we met a great guy named
24 Jonna, who helped us in November that year to put out
25 tags upstream of the village through the ice. The
26 middle column in our summer deployment strategy and it
27 tells you what tributaries got how many tags. The
28 Anaktuvuk is the largest tributary and got the most
29 tags. We tried to spread them out as best we could and
30 we did okay, wish we'd done a little bit better. We
31 had seven extra tags in September and I was already in
32 Happy Valley and so I ran over and put them out in the
33 Aichilik River. And since April, 2020 -- oh, I'm
34 sorry. And then 2019 in November we put out 52 tags
35 through the ice. And since April, 2020 we've been
36 doing periodic tracking flights to determine locations
37 throughout the year.

38

39 Next slide, please. This should be a
40 map with a bunch of dots. This describes the
41 distribution of the radio tags we put out. All the
42 yellow ones were from the July event in 2019, these are
43 the approximate locations and number of tags that went
44 out to each drainage. And the number -- the orange
45 number 52 by the Village of Nuiqsut is the tags we put
46 out in November of 2019.

47

48 Next slide, please. This should be a
49 picture of some fishing rods and shotguns. So we found

50

0230

1 that Arctic grayling are really easy to catch and when
2 you're working out of a small camp with a helicopter
3 instead of slinging rafts and nets you can do a really
4 good job of catching fish large enough to tag using
5 just rod and reel, particularly if you don't use bait
6 or treble hooks. So there's been several studies that
7 have shown that hooking mortality in Arctic grayling is
8 very low and we've been doing it for a long time, we're
9 very practiced at it and we felt comfortable with this
10 as a gear type.

11

12 Okay. Next slide, please. This should
13 be some buckets with fish and some surgery. This is
14 how the surgery works. We have two collapsible tubs,
15 both of them have water, but one of them has anesthetic
16 in it, it's called Aquaesse which is essentially
17 synthetic clove oil and ethanol mixed in. And it
18 knocks them out after just about a few minutes, just
19 long enough for us to take some measurements.

20

21 And I'm going to go to the next slide.
22 These are six pictures here describing how the surgery
23 works. It's called the shielded needle technique,
24 we've been using it for a long time. It looks a little
25 rough, but essentially with this method we're able not
26 to -- do a really good job of not nicking any organs.
27 As you can see there's almost no blood here in this
28 fish. It is still alive and we'll pour water over the
29 gills during the surgery to keep it percolating. And
30 at the very end we put in four stitches that will
31 dissolve after a little while. We coat these stitches
32 in Vetbond which is what put on your stitches on your
33 dog when you take it to the vet, it's like a super glue.

34

35 Next slide, please. This is an Arctic
36 grayling after the surgery. You can see it's coming
37 around, we have these little pools that we build next
38 to the surgery table, you can see the antenna coming
39 out of the bottom of the fish.

40

41 Okay. Next slide should be called
42 tracking flights. So this is the schedule for these
43 tags. You can only put really small tags in Arctic
44 grayling so there's a lot going on here, but the
45 message is that we're able to turn these tags on and
46 off and when we turn the tags off the battery doesn't
47 get drained. So we turn off the tags for long periods
48 of time and we turn them back on when we're able to go
49 up there and track so you can see they're off most of
50

0231

1 the time, but they come on for 20 to 80 day stretches
2 during which time we can go up there and track. And
3 doing this we could add another year of life to these
4 radio tags.

5

6 Next slide, please. This should be
7 2021/21 activities. So the tags are still operational.
8 I think there's more than 60 still alive and so we
9 still have three tracking events to do, before breakup,
10 just after breakup and a little later in the summer
11 when they've moved upriver to their feeding locations.
12 What we have right now are some maps of locations I'll
13 show you next, they're a little bit rough, we haven't
14 pulled out what we think are the dead fish yet, but
15 when we do we'll have a better idea of what's going on.

16

17

18 So next slide please. This should be
19 three maps, it says locations of radio tagged Arctic
20 grayling. So if you remember from the earlier
21 slide.....

22

23 REPORTER: I'm sorry to interrupt you,
24 but there's.....

25

26 MR. SCANLON:were tags that went
27 out.....

28

29 REPORTER:something that's
30 interrupting the recording and it's either hitting the
31 microphone or something's rubbing and it's making it
32 really difficult for the recording to hear.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. SCANLON: Okay. I'm sorry. Is
37 that coming from me, you think?

38

39 REPORTER: I'm not really sure who it
40 is, but if anyone else hears it.....

41

42 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I think -- Brendan
43 this is Eva. I think it might be -- I don't know if
44 it's the paper rustling on the microphone or do you
45 have an earpiece with a dangling microphone?

46

47 MR. SCANLON: Oh, I'm sorry, I'm using
48 a telephone. Should I speak a little louder and try to
49 be a little more quiet?

50

0232

1 MS. PATTON: Or maybe just keep the
2 microphone from rubbing on something. I think that's
3 what's causing the noise.

4
5 MR. SCANLON: Okay. I apologize.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

8
9 MR. SCANLON: Yep, I'm sorry about
10 that. At the end if anybody wants to go back over any
11 slides please let me know, but right now I'm on the
12 slide that says locations of radio tagged Arctic
13 grayling and there's three maps. And if you remember
14 from an earlier slide where the -- from the tag
15 deployment slide all the orange dots were fish that
16 were tagged in Nuiqsut in November way down by the
17 mouth. And what we see here is the vast majority of
18 those fish went up into the Aichilik River which is not
19 a huge river, but it looks like just based on this that
20 the Aichilik is really important to the population of
21 fish that are caught in the fall and the winter in
22 Nuiqsut. These slides are dated June 3rd, August 11th
23 and October 11th of 2020. As we get later into the
24 year, into October, you can see there's a general
25 downstream movement to overwintering areas. In the --
26 on the North Slope a lot of streams, the liquid water
27 in the upper drainages goes away and becomes ice so
28 fish have to move down into lower stretches into deep
29 pools. And it's kind of what we see here, it's not as
30 dramatic as what we would see in dolly varden, but
31 there is a trend for Arctic grayling to move downstream
32 into deeper water in the wintertime.

33
34 Next slide, please, it's the last one.
35 Preliminary results. As I just said there's a
36 consistent general pattern of movement downstream to
37 overwinter and then back upstream to spend the summer.
38 They spawn just after ice out and after the water
39 clears up in early June, mid June. Some fish moved
40 over a hundred kilometers, that's 66 miles or so from
41 fish that were tagged in Nuiqsut. Like I said the
42 Aichilik River appears to be an important source for
43 the subsistence fishery in Nuiqsut. The Anaktuvuk is
44 the biggest river and got the most tags, but we didn't
45 see very many fish at all go in to the Anaktuvuk or
46 many Anaktuvuk fish go back down to Nuiqsut.

47
48 But based on the catch rates and the
49 five composition and the relatively low harvest for
50

0233

1 such a large drainage, it appears that the Colville
2 River Arctic grayling population is healthy and
3 harvests are sustainable. And so far we have not seen
4 any of the orange colored springwater that they've seen
5 in all the ANWR rivers from the Ivishak over to the
6 Hulahula. The Colville appears to be clear in most
7 locations unless someone knows something else I'd like
8 to note, but in any case the news for grayling in the
9 Colville appears to be good.

10

11 Thank you. And I'll take any questions
12 if you have any.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And do we
15 have any questions on this study with the grayling?

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And pretty
20 interesting, I'm looking at the surgeries there. And
21 do you guys ever recapture any of those with the insert
22 of that radio telemetry tag?

23

24 MS. SCANLON: Mr. Brower, yes, we do.
25 That's a good point. We tag several species of fish
26 the same way and sometimes when we catch them years
27 later the wound has healed up, the stitches are gone
28 and also when fishers catch the tagged fish and they
29 keep them when they pull the tag out there's actual
30 contact information on there of who to contact and
31 where to send the tag. And if you're able to do that
32 we can use that tag again and I'll send you a letter
33 describing the history of the fish.

34

35 So yeah, we do sometimes catch tagged
36 fish later on.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. That's
39 pretty interesting. Very good. Any questions?

40

41 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
44 Wanda.

45

46 MS. ITTA: This is Martha. I don't
47 have any questions. I thank.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, sorry. Sorry

50

0234

1 about that.

2

3 MS. ITTA: Yeah. And I thank BLM for
4 their information.....

5

6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted).

8

9 MS. ITTA:but I do need to catch
10 another meeting. I just thought I'd say thank you all
11 for allowing BLM to give me the report.

12

13 But I do need to excuse myself now, Mr.
14 Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Martha.
17 We'll be on -- we'll be on until 5:00 o'clock or until
18 we're done.

19

20 MS. ITTA: Okay. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, if
23 there's no further questions for ADF&G on this study
24 and which is pretty cool and pretty cool work I'm going
25 to see if the ANSEP student would like to do their
26 report.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
29 members of the Council. Up next we have Evangeline
30 Duke, our ANSEP student. And also Penny Crane will
31 also help introduce Evangeline.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MS. CRANE: Hi, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You've got the floor.

38

39 MS. CRANE: Hi, Mr. Chair and Council
40 members. This is Penny Crane speaking. I would with
41 the Conservation Genetics Lab at the U.S. Fish and
42 Wildlife Service in Anchorage. And I'm introducing our
43 next speaker, Evangeline Duke. Evangeline has been
44 working in the genetics lab for the last couple of
45 years through the Alaska Native and Sciences and
46 Engineering Program at the University of Alaska.
47 Evangeline will be speaking a bit about her experience
48 as an ANSEP student and then also on a project that she
49 worked on while she was in the laboratory on a genetic
50

0235

1 inventory of Arctic char in the Togiak National
2 Wildlife Refuge with a comparison to char in other
3 areas of the State.

4
5 It's been super wonderful having
6 Evangeline in the lab and we're super lucky because
7 she's been able to be with us for so long, she's been
8 able to work on all aspects of this project, some
9 laboratory to data analysis and also now reporting.

10
11 Thank you. I'll turn it over to
12 Evangeline now.

13
14 MS. DUKE: Thank you, Penny. And thank
15 you, everyone. I just first want to make sure that I'm
16 able to be heard. If.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You're loud and
19 clear, Evangeline.

20
21 MS. DUKE: Thank you very much.

22
23 MS. PATTON: I'll just let the Council
24 members know that your report is printed in your
25 meeting book binders on tab 6 and then you'll find a
26 yellow card stock divider right after Brendan's report
27 and then up next is the genetic diversity of Arctic
28 char in Alaska.

29
30 Thank you, Evangeline.

31
32 MS. DUKE: Thank you, Eva. And just as
33 well the first slide will be a slide that says genetic
34 diversity of Arctic char in Alaska. And then there's
35 my name and an ANSEP logo and a large fish.

36
37 So as I've mentioned a few times
38 already my name is Evangeline Lorrette Duke. I'm named
39 after both my grandmothers and I graduated from UAA
40 with a bachelor of science in mathematics and natural
41 sciences with a prehealth emphasis and a minor in
42 public health. In other words I didn't make too many --
43 I couldn't make decisions early on, but I enjoyed my
44 path. In the future I want to be a medical doctor who
45 practices medicine and does biomedical or public health
46 research. I will be presenting on the progress to date
47 on a project about Arctic char in the Togiak National
48 Wildlife Refuge, but first I would like to talk about a
49 huge component of why I'm here, the Alaska Native
50

0236

1 Science and Engineering Program.

2

3

4 So I'll be switching slides to one with
5 three photos of me on it. The Alaska Native Science
6 and Engineering Program began in 1995 with the mission
7 to improve occupational outcomes for Alaska Natives by
8 encouraging and guiding ANSEP students in educational
9 and leadership opportunities especially in stem fields.
10 For my personal ANSEP history, I have been with ANSEP
11 since 2015. I participated in three summer
12 acceleration academy sessions for high schoolers and
13 then I was fortunate enough to be accepted into their
14 summer bridge program which is the program for students
15 right before they go into college for their first year.
16 This is when I met Penny and actually that's when I had
17 my first internship with her. I have been so blessed
18 because I've been able to be on this path with Penny
19 and ANSEP has supported me all the way. Then I went
20 through college and I was part of the university's
21 success program and after that I graduated and I've
22 been lucky enough to continue with the Conservation
23 Genetics Laboratory. Let's see. I -- let's see. And
24 I've been really grateful this fall just because during
25 this time I've been able to have this great opportunity
26 as well as take care of my mother who's been ill.

27 So I'm going to my next slide which has
28 me doing some work in the lab. First I'm going to talk
29 about some of the lab work that underlies this project.
30 We started by first taking smaller pieces of the tissue
31 samples with a biopsy punch which looks like a blue
32 mechanical pencil on the slide and saving what we did
33 not punch out for future studies. When we added some
34 (indiscernible) agents and put it through preliminary
35 chain reaction in a thermal cycler so that a specific
36 segment of DNA is isolated and then copied many, many
37 times with a fluorescent dye. This is so that.....

37

38 And I'm going to switch slides to the
39 next one with two machines and a digital readout. On a
40 sequencer, the machine in the picture to the left of
41 center, when genes are separated by size the
42 fluorescent dye attached to the DNA is read and the
43 data is shown on the electropherogram which is a pic --
44 which is the picture on the right. So a line shows the
45 sizes of the genes we isolated for one fish.

46

47 The next slide shows some
48 (indiscernible) then using the data from the fish DNA I
49 would tidy and analyze data, produce figures like the
50

50

0237

1 ones on the slide, predominantly in R which is a very
2 common language or program used by researchers in many
3 different disciplines. This is super exciting because
4 I'm learning proto skills that will be extremely
5 applicable in my future work in research. And by using
6 a popular coding program it makes this research and my
7 future research methods in the future more accessible
8 within the scientific community.

9

10 The next slide has two pictures of a
11 fish and a map of Alaska. The project I'm presenting
12 today focuses on dolly varden and Arctic char. Both
13 are used for subsistence and so being able to correctly
14 identify species would help conservation agencies know
15 where each species occurs so that conservation agencies
16 can better monitor harvest. Currently dolly varden and
17 Arctic char are managed as the same species despite
18 having very different life histories because it's hard
19 to tell them apart. Chars are generally identified by
20 their light spots with Arctic char having fewer, larger
21 and blurrier edged spots whereas dolly varden have
22 more, smaller and more defined light spots. And this
23 is still not very clear to tell though between fish.
24 And other distinguishing physical features such as
25 number of pyloric caeca and gill rakers have
26 overlapping ranges. It can also be difficult to
27 identify Arctic char and dolly varden because there are
28 many different names for the two species, often
29 descriptive of where the fish are caught rather than
30 the species itself.

31

32 And for the rest of the slides except
33 for one of them we have a fun little game if you would
34 like to play. There are going to be pictures of chars
35 on the remaining slides and you can see if you can
36 identify whether or not it's a dolly varden or an
37 Arctic char and at the end I'll tell you how many there
38 are.

39

40 The next slide has two electropherogram
41 readouts. The good news is that we can use genetics to
42 tell dolly varden and Arctic char apart. Arctic char
43 and dolly varden often are part of this lumping and
44 splitting debate, are they two species or are they
45 different forms of the same species. However somewhat
46 recently when Eric Taylor studied Arctic char and dolly
47 varden living together in Wood River in Iliamna systems
48 of Bristol Bay he found two microsatellite loci that
49 can differentiate the two species, SOE 18 and SMN 21.

50

0238

1 For SOE 18 dolly varden had smaller alleles, most
2 commonly the 152 alleles, let's see, whereas Arctic
3 char had alleles sizes greater than or equal to 158.
4 And for SMN 21 dolly varden had larger alleles,
5 typically greater than 113 whereas Arctic char had the
6 105 or 107 alleles, the smaller ones.

7

8 The next slide has a photo of the
9 Togiak National Wildlife Region and -- or Refuge. So
10 there are 27 lakes known to contain Arctic char and
11 this project has two components. The first is to
12 develop a model that predicts if a lake may contain
13 Arctic char based on characteristics like geography,
14 lake morphology, water chemistry and so forth. And
15 then the second component is to sample Arctic char in
16 the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge to determine
17 genetic population structure, species composition of
18 lake, if there's evidence of hybridization with dolly
19 varden and what have that characteristics including
20 hybridization influences levels of genetic variation.

21

22 The next slide. To date chars have
23 been sampled from 12 lakes in the Togiak National
24 Wildlife Refuge through this and other projects. In
25 our project we assayed these char at 13 microsatellite
26 loci including SOE 18 and SMN 21. And then assess
27 within and among population variations. Therefore we
28 will focus on a comparison of genetic variation in the
29 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge to Arctic char in lakes
30 from four other regions which we have called Arctic,
31 Southwest which was adjacent to the Togiak National
32 Wildlife Refuge, Kodiak and Swanson Lakes complex in
33 the Kenai Peninsula.

34

35 Next slide. So in testing for species
36 identification two lakes, Sunday Lake and High Lake,
37 were entirely comprised of dolly varden and therefore
38 removed from further analysis so that we could focus on
39 Arctic char. And then one to several dolly varden were
40 found in Giverneck Pond and east Kulikex Lake in the
41 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and a few from Becharof
42 and Ugashik Lakes which are not shown on this map. We
43 found no evidence of recent hybridization. In this
44 case we would see both dolly varden and Arctic char
45 alleles at most diagnostic loci so SMN 21 and SOE 18.
46 So from the 12 Refuge lakes we started with there were
47 nine used for further analysis after removing Sunday
48 Lake and High Lake and then Manovek Lake because of bad
49 genotech readings.

50

1 The next slide has a bar graph on it
2 and a picture of Alaska. There's a lot of genetic
3 variation within lake samples from the Refuge. Alleles
4 richness is the average number of alleles observed at
5 the 13 loci for each lake sample, corrected for
6 variation in sample size. We use it as a measure of
7 within population variation. The height of a bar is
8 the difference of alleles richness observed in that
9 lake from the average alleles richness overall lake
10 samples. Refuge lakes are black, all other regions are
11 green. Notice lakes sampled in the Kwethluk River,
12 let's see, and middle ford Goodnews River has less than
13 average alleles richness while the Refuge lakes and
14 rivers draining into the Bristol Bay and the one lake
15 in Goodnews River had more than average alleles
16 richness. I'll bring this up again later.

17
18 The next slide has a very colorful
19 rainbow graph. When we use a program called Structure
20 to determine the number of genetic clusters supported
21 by the data and assign what fraction of each fish's
22 geno originates from that genetic cluster. This is
23 similar to how ancestry.com determines a person's
24 ethnic makeup from their DNA. So we ran multiple
25 simulations where all the fish unitype data was
26 separated and assigned into two, three, up to 20
27 clusters. And we evaluated which number of cluster
28 settings was the most accurate and in our case the
29 Refuge data had seven clusters. Then we graphed the
30 results of one of the simulations resulting in that
31 colorful bar graph. Each bar of the graph represents a
32 fish sampled with the name of the collection lake
33 listed below the X-factor.

34
35 So the results of this analysis are
36 very consistent with other patterns of observed genetic
37 variation from our project. First similar to a map
38 showing genetic -- genic differentiation which is not
39 shown on this presentation, the samples from Kakatlin
40 Lake and pond were assigned mostly to a single cluster
41 in orange. Similarly samples from Togiak and upper
42 Togiak Lake were assigned to one cluster in pale green.
43 This suggests that there are no barriers to gene flow
44 between these lakes, perhaps because these lakes --
45 these lake pairs are connected by comparatively short
46 waterways (indiscernible) to make up their own cluster.
47 Also notice that the Kwethluk Lake sample and Kakatlin
48 Lake sample are the least mixed. So those were the red
49 and orange ones. They're the least mixed with other
50

0240

1 clusters or colors. These are also the populations that
2 contain the least amount of within population variation
3 and the alleles richness bar chart populations in these
4 lakes appear to have little historic or contemporary
5 gene pool among these and other lakes are -- and other
6 lakes and reduced within population variation.

7

8 I think the next slide has a tree
9 graph. Our last finding is that the genetic population
10 structure of these lakes follows geographic
11 expectation. The tree is built from paired genetic
12 distance which is a value that summarizes the alleles
13 frequency differences at all loci between each
14 population pair with a longer branch signaling a more
15 divergent population. Populations connected by nodes
16 share a common ancestor. You can see there are four
17 genetic aggregates following geographic regions,
18 Arctic, Kenai, Kodiak and the southwest Bristol Bay
19 with the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge cluster.
20 Kwethluk and Kakatlin Pond and Lake are the most
21 divergent groups in the Togiak National Wildlife
22 Refuge.

23

24 And that's actually it. That concludes
25 my presentation. In the future we hope to obtain more
26 lake samples to begin assessing the affect habitat
27 variables have on Arctic char range and possible dolly
28 varden introgression on genetic variation in the Togiak
29 Refuge.

30

31 Thank you very much. And then on the
32 last slide -- so those numbers are actually incorrect
33 because of -- so we actually have three Arctic char and
34 three dolly varden.

35

36 Thank you for letting me present these
37 data and thank you to the many people who supported me
38 on this project.

39

40 And do you guys have any questions
41 about ANSEP or about this project?

42

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

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
47 Steve.

48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, so this is genetic

50

0241

1 diversity of Arctic char in Alaska, is that what you --
2 the presentation you were going through?

3

4 MS. DUKE: Yes.

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. You know, the
7 Point Hope people, Tikigaq, you know, we eat a lot of
8 char and -- in that area and we only get them when
9 they're coming through in August, late August or first
10 part of September. You know, we notice some ships out
11 there doing their fish studies and stuff outside of
12 Point Hope, about four or five miles out on the ocean,
13 you know, so I -- is that the study that they're doing
14 on char in Alaska, for years we've been noticing boats
15 out there and they said they were doing studies which
16 we hadn't heard about on the south side.....

17

18 MS. DUKE: I don't.....

19

20 MR. OOMITTUK:of Point Hope so
21 the public -- so you don't know anything about that?

22

23 MS. DUKE: I don't know if that is
24 related. Well, I'm pretty sure that it is not related
25 to this specific study, but I'm sure if -- well, if I
26 am given any information otherwise I will let you know,
27 but I believe, you know

28

29 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Do.....

30

31 MS. DUKE: Oh, Sir, yes.

32

33 MR. OOMITTUK:you know, the
34 Arctic char that we normally get back in August, late
35 August or early September, they're usually pretty big
36 char, you're talking 12, 13 pounds, you know, to 10
37 pounds, you know. Lately seem like the char aren't as
38 big as they used to be, I don't know if that's the same
39 thing where you're having -- where you're studying more
40 up north, right, than further south, are -- you know,
41 we've been noticing that Arctic char in Point Hope are
42 not as big as they used to be. And Arctic char's one
43 of the most abundant things that we eat frozen raw and
44 aged, but we notice that they're not as big as they
45 used to be. Is that being noticed with this study that
46 you're doing further north in Canada area also, is that
47 the char that's coming from Canada and stuff like that?

48

49 MS. DUKE: I'm not sure, but I can

50

0242

1 defer to -- I can -- Brendan, do you have anything that
2 you'd like to say?

3
4 MR. SCANLON: Yeah, thanks. Yeah, a
5 couple things. We have had dolly varden that were
6 tagged in the Noatak River that were recaptured at the
7 Point Hope and the Kukpuk River so I think what you're
8 probably eating are dolly varden, but we do have some
9 movement information from the Kotzebue area streams up
10 to Point Hope. And relating to size, actually a report
11 just got published by someone at the university saying
12 they're getting bigger because the ice free season is
13 longer they can spend more time out in the ocean to
14 feed. And this was based at Kaktovik so I can't speak
15 to Point Hope, but it seems that the fish out there
16 have been getting bigger because they've had a longer
17 feed season.

18
19 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you. You
20 know, we've been having trouble fishing in August, you
21 know, bad weather. And, you know, when we fish we fish
22 right on the edge of the shore, put the nets and then
23 we sit and wait for them to come through our net. But
24 we're not sure if they're -- because dolly vardens or
25 the char usually follow the edge of the coastline and
26 seem like we're not getting them in abundance as we
27 used to get them or the size of them are -- you know,
28 because we use two inch mesh nets and, you know, to
29 catch the bigger ones, but seem like they're not in
30 abundance or could be, you know, times that we're
31 hunting them the weather, especially the last two
32 years, the wind direction has -- you know, but just out
33 of curiosity, I was just wondering if they're --
34 because you mentioned that they are getting bigger,
35 seems like we're getting them smaller.

36
37 MS. SCANLON: Thank you. That's good
38 to know. I do have a little more information. We have
39 a contract with Red Dog Mine, the department does, to
40 do the aquatic bio monitoring there. So checking on
41 the health of the fish and the bugs in the water and
42 the water itself because the people of Kivalina count
43 on the water and the fish for their needs. And one of
44 the things that we do is we conduct an aerial survey
45 from a helicopter in the fall right before freeze up,
46 the Wulik is really clear, it's not very big and you
47 can see fish really well. And this past fall they
48 counted 87,000 dolly varden in about a 20 mile stretch
49 between Iklukrok and some bluffs downhill --
50

0243

1 downstream. And that's a little below average, but
2 it's not that far below average. It's been about
3 100,000 fish each year overwintering there. But
4 there's only about one to 2,000 spawners in the Wulik
5 so a lot of those fish are from other streams including
6 the Kukpuk, Noatak, even down into Norton Sound, Saint
7 Lawrence Island. So some information on abundance we
8 have near Kivalina seems to be pretty near normal.

9

10 So anyway, hope that helps. Thank you.

11

12 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you for that
13 response and -- thank you.

14

15 MS. DUKE: Thank you, Brendan.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
18 questions on the study?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I really appreciated
23 -- was it Angeline, that was.....

24

25 MS. DUKE: Close enough. My family
26 never agreed on a pronunciation. I go by Evangeline
27 though.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, I
30 think you really know your stuff here and BLM or ADF&G
31 or Fish and Wildlife Service, I hope that you have a
32 formal placement from -- as ANSEP students with this
33 much information and understanding and comprehension of
34 doing this kind of work. I'm very proud of you and
35 this report is very extensive and I think it even
36 surpasses some of the OSM analyses in my view.

37

38 So I just say wow and keep up the good
39 work.

40

41 MS. DUKE: Thank you very much.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments on
44 the ANSEP student presentation?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, thank
49 you very much.

50

0244

1 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Brower.

4

5 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah. No, not really for
6 this presentation, but I guess for both, you know, the
7 grayling and the -- I just remembered seeing, it was a
8 different species though, it was for a broad whitefish,
9 this kind of studies and stuff early, I guess get my
10 brain going. But it just makes me remember fishing on
11 the Ikpikpuk and finding these particular years with
12 these super sized whitefish, I want to say every seven
13 years or so, but, you know, I'm not sure how much went
14 into that or if anybody really knows anything about
15 those, but something along those lines, you know, I'm
16 -- I would definitely be interested in knowing more
17 about.

18

19 It's a little different than what this
20 is aiming for, but it just kind of popped in my head as
21 we were going through the grayling and char and varden.
22 But we get a fluxation of these unusually large broad
23 whitefish it seems like we won the jackpot once every
24 10 years or so on the river and get this incredibly
25 massive broad whitefish that come in. But it's only on
26 particular years and when they come in there's an
27 abundance of abnormally large whitefish.

28

29 So now it just popped into my head and,
30 you know, these kind of studies are intriguing.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thanks, Brower.
35 There is something to be said about Ikpikpuk and the
36 size of the (in Native) and -- yeah, I -- and I can --
37 I've seen it for myself in the '70s and '80s, you know,
38 some of those broad whitefish and the size that they
39 were compared to what we get today. And once in a
40 while we'll -- you know, my net will have those big
41 ones. I mean, when you know the difference between the
42 size of fish so it -- and back then it was primarily
43 those big ones we used to -- that used to be in the
44 nets in the fall fishing.

45

46 Anyway those are always great
47 observations and I always think they should be studied
48 more. And because, you know, Ikpikpuk in my view and
49 handed down from generation to generation on fishing

50

0245

1 those areas are -- that river in particular and maybe
2 the Sag River might be the same because I worked in
3 Prudhoe back in the '80s and on my off time I would go
4 jig for grayling, but I would snag large broad
5 whitefish because there was so many of them in the Sag.
6 And but the broad whitefish, you know, I've been told --
7 both my parents have passed on and they would say
8 don't forget how to fish here. And this place has been
9 feeding entire villages and communities for thousands
10 of years, there's old pictures at the Inupiat Heritage
11 Center of ice warehouses when they used dog teams and
12 still fished these areas and they would haul them to
13 other communities. It was just capable of feeding many
14 communities just from that one river. And it -- and
15 those fish were understood to come out of lakes just
16 during this period of time to do that.

17

18 Anyway I'll leave it at that and I'm
19 very impressed with the presentation and I hope we get
20 more of those kind of stuff.

21

22 Any other questions?

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So with
27 that, that would probably bring us to maybe G, was that
28 new business, receiving public testimony protocols?

29

30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
31 members of the Council. Actually I was communicating
32 with our OSM Staff over lunch on a strategy for this
33 afternoon. Since we were skipping ahead to agency
34 reports we were wondering if the Council like to once
35 again suspend the rules and move those last of the OSM
36 discussion with the Council, there's some brief updates
37 and then discussion on Council feedback on public
38 testimony. So G, H and I under new business, we were
39 proposing to move that to the end of the meeting right
40 before the Office of Subsistence Management report
41 under the agency reports so that we could continue with
42 the rest of our agency reports. Some have a, you know,
43 time certain deadline before the end of the day and
44 that would allow us to get to all our agency reports
45 with ample time for discussion with the Council. So as
46 the wish of the Council, but we were suggesting to move
47 that G, H and I to the end of the meeting today.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0246

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think
2 we can do that if that's -- you know, we're really off
3 script today and yesterday and it might be important to
4 remember that next time we build the agenda because
5 we're really off script, but it's been important to do
6 that, I'm not knocking it in any way.

7
8 And so for the Council's action here,
9 we will move G, H and I toward the end of -- maybe
10 after 12 and somewhere around -- after the agency
11 reports, are you alluding to that?

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Oh, sorry, Mr. Chair.

18
19 MR. OOMITTUK: Do you need a motion,
20 Mr. Chair, is that what you're asking for or are we
21 just going to go forward with the suggestion?

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think, you
24 know, we had an approved agenda, in order to go off
25 script here we would need to reshuffle the agenda with
26 a motion I would think. And I think Eva is proposing
27 to put G, H and I together, cluster them, maybe after
28 the agency reports.

29
30 Is that right, Eva?

31
32 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct, Mr. Chair.
33 Right before we do the final Office of Subsistence
34 Management report at the end of your agenda there under
35 agency reports.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Yeah.
38 That motion there, Steve, or anybody.

39
40 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, thank you. So
41 moved, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
44 to suspend the rules to move G, H and I from old
45 business down to agency reports after Office of
46 Subsistence Management.

47
48 MR. FRANTZ: Seconded.

49
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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
2 the floor. It's been seconded by Brower Frantz. Any
3 discussion?

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.

8
9 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
12 called for. All in favor of suspending the rules and
13 moving 11 G, H and I down to 12, after Office of
14 Subsistence Management, signify by saying aye.

15
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
20 nay.

21
22 (No opposing votes)

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
25 ayes have it. We once again suspended the rules and
26 shuffled that.

27
28 So we're down to agency reports and
29 time limit is 15 minutes or less. I'm just saying
30 that, but if it's very interesting take your time.

31
32 Anyway we'll go to tribal governments.
33 Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, are you on?

34
35 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
36 members of the Council. This is Eva and I did just get
37 an email from ICAS that their natural resource director
38 had to jump off for another meeting at this time. So
39 we'll try to make sure we get a time certain slot for
40 them next time. So that was Doreen with ICAS needing
41 to head out to another meeting at this time.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And we'll
46 go down the list. Native organizations. Tribes and
47 those organization, do we have any of those?

48
49 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair, members of
50

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1 the Council, we had left that open. I didn't get any
2 further confirmations for presentations specifically at
3 this time, but we had left that open if anybody is
4 online that would like to present on behalf of their
5 tribe.

6

7

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Eva. It's
10 not likely -- you know, we haven't posted and we do
11 help post public notice, we go through the mayor's
12 office to post the meeting on the -- on the email and
13 email it to some 700 email recipients throughout all of
14 the villages that the borough has offices in. And so I
15 think we're well noticed and I'm pretty sure that OSM
16 noticed the ICAS and the tribal offices to some degree.
17 So we'll keep that open.

18

19

20

I'm going to go down the list. North
Slope Borough Wildlife Department.

21

22

(No comments)

23

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26

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anybody representing
North Slope Borough Wildlife Department with any agency
report?

27

28

(No comments)

29

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll go down the
list.

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MS. PATTON: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
Chair. I know we did have North Slope Borough on
earlier as well, but I'm not hearing anybody at this
time.

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38

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
Coordinator. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and members
of the Council, we did hear the majority of ADF&G
reports at the beginning of the meeting from Alex
Hansen on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and Carmen
Daggett on her area management report for moose,
caribou and muskox. And we did have ADF&G Subsistence
Division Staff on earlier. Just wanted to touch base

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1 and see if anybody had any further reports at this
2 time.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, and I do recall
7 Carmen had to catch a plane and so I know she's in
8 transit doing something.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct. They were
11 both doing surveys, caribou and muskox surveys at this
12 time. So they were not going to be available today.
13 We did hear Brendan Scanlon's fisheries report. He's
14 also ADF&G. But just touching base to make sure that
15 we got everybody covered.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

20

21 MARK: Mr. Chair, this is Mark from
22 Fish and Game.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mark.

25

26 MARK: I appreciate it, Eva, and Mr.
27 Chair, for checking, but I think that's correct. I
28 think we've given all the reports we intend to give for
29 this meeting.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mark.
34 Bureau of Land Management, NPR-A, Arctic Field Office.

35

36 MS. PATTON: And thank you, Mr. Chair,
37 members of the Council. So we did move BLM up first to
38 provide their report, but definitely will check back in
39 with them to see if there's anything further they would
40 like to address the Council on.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. ENMAN: Yes, Ma'am, this is Ted. I
45 don't have anything else that I plan to address the
46 Council with.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. We'll
49 continue down the list. U.S. Fish and Wildlife

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1 Service.

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MR. HUCKLELUK: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. For the record my name is Nathan Huckleluk, I'm the acting Refuge manager at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And I'll keep this well short of the 15 minutes time frame. I'll just mention a handful of things here and then see if there's any questions from the Council.

I'll lead off with the -- mention that the previous manager, Steve Berendzen, who joined you on many of these meetings previously has moved on to a new position outside of the State. So in the interim between now and when we fill the position permanently I'll be in the acting role.

And I'll highlight just a couple of biological monitoring and research projects we have ongoing and planned for the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. One that we got started last year in cooperation with the USGS is a project evaluating diet of the Porcupine Caribou Herd on their calving and post calving grounds on the coastal plain. That work got started last year and we intend to keep that going this year predominantly in the months of June and July.

A new project that we're hoping to get underway here soon this spring still is a moose research project in collaboration with the Park Service and BLM as well as the University of Alaska to gain a better understanding of migratory patterns and seasonal distribution of some of the moose that occasionally occupy the North Slope. What we're hoping to do is in April, mid April, to do some reconnaissance flights to determine where the moose might be on the North Slope from the Canning River east all the way over to the Kongakut and then deploy some collars in cooperation with the -- our partners and just learn about again those seasonal distributions and migratory patterns. Again that tentatively targeted right now for April 11th through the 20th, weather and other conditions allowing.

I think the only thing -- other thing I'll mention is the Refuge work through a third party vendor this past year to do a traditional access study to determine historic access methods and means for subsistence purposes for communities in and around the

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1 Arctic Refuge. These include the community of Kaktovik
2 as well as Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon,
3 Chalkyitsik and Coldfoot. That study is concluded and
4 we hope to have a final report out to the participating
5 communities very soon, hopefully within a week or so.

6
7 So I think that really concludes the
8 high level things I wanted to mention to the Council.
9 We are gearing up for a pretty active field season for
10 coastal plain projects in preparation for any kind of
11 activities that might occur out there related to oil
12 and gas. We have a multitude of projects, mostly
13 working in collaboration with partners again such as
14 USGS and universities and such as well as other
15 programs with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

16
17 But I'll go ahead and stop there and
18 see if there's any questions from the Council.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, any questions
23 to Nathan from ANWR, acting ANWR chief?

24
25 MR. REXFORD: Yes. Hello, Nathan, this
26 is Edward.

27
28 MR. FRANTZ: This is Brower Frantz.

29
30 MR. REXFORD: Edward from Kaktovik.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll go to Edward
33 first and we'll get Brower after.

34
35 MR. FRANTZ: Very good.

36
37 MR. REXFORD: Yes, Nathan,
38 congratulations for taking over Steve's role. And
39 well, anyway my question is, you know, the moose quota
40 we get is determined by the Refuge manager, is that one
41 of your responsibilities you going to be handling for
42 our Refuge area and Kaktovik?

43
44 MR. HUCKLELUK: Councilman Rexford,
45 through the Chair. Absolutely. I've been working with
46 OSM this past week to get that letter refined and
47 current and up to date and I hope to push that out as
48 well the permits here soon. Yeah, I appreciate you
49 guys notifying me of that recently. So it is my hope
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1 that we'll have them in your hands soon. I don't
2 predict any changes to the -- to the quota or the
3 number of permits issued. Again that's 10 permits for
4 the community and a quota of three.

5

6 But yeah, the short answer is yes, we
7 -- we're working on that now.

8

9 MR. REXFORD: All right. That's good
10 to hear, Nathan.

11

12 MR. HUCKLELUK: Uh-huh.

13

14 MR. REXFORD: Thank you for that
15 information. I'll be sure to pass that on to the.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

18

19 MR. REXFORD:(indiscernible -
20 distortion) here.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Eddie, if
25 you're done I'm going to call upon Brower Frantz.

26

27 MR. REXFORD: Yep, I'm done.

28

29 MR. FRANTZ: All right. Okay. Yeah,
30 thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brower Frantz.

33

34 MR. FRANTZ: All right. So I just had
35 a question on -- well, over the last two years we've
36 been hearing intermittent complaints about fly ins and
37 things of that nature. Just wanted to see if there
38 were any issues outstanding or if there had been any
39 investigations into fly ins in your area because as I
40 understand it, you know, it's difficult for the
41 subsistence users already, it seems they're pretty
42 limited in the summertime to get out there and use the
43 land. It almost seems that the sporthunters have, you
44 know, an easier access to get into ANWR and utilize the
45 land for hunting versus the subsistence user. So, you
46 know, I just wanted to see if there were any issues
47 with fly ins utilization of local subsistence cabins to
48 subsistence -- I mean, to sporthunters and if there
49 were any projected changes to subsistence hunters being
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1 able to utilize their own land during the summer?

2

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Thank you.

4

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MR. HUCKLELUK: Well, thank you for your question and through the Chair. I'd have to think about that. I can't off the tip of my tongue think of any complaints right off in terms of fly in. And I just want to be clear, a clarifying question maybe for you, are you talking about the summer months outside of the normal -- what we call the normal sporthunting season beginning in early August and going until the snow flies maybe later in September, is that the time frame you're talking about is the summer months?

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MR. FRANTZ: Well, any fly ins in general, not really limited to a time frame, you know, if they're there they're there, you know. But we do hear about sporthunters flying in and, you know, being able to go as they -- as they please if they're, you know, private, flying in people for charge or whatever. But we have heard instances of cabins being utilized and things of that nature outside of the people that have allotments out there.

MR. HUCKLELUK: Thank you. There is -- yeah, there is fly in commercial services, air taxis that bring visitors in throughout the year. Of course in the summer months usually they're recreational hikers and floaters. When you get into the hunting season air taxis, air transporters will drop off hunters for a variety of reasons, you know, sheep, caribou being primary reasons and then south side moose hunters. That is -- that is a legal and allowable use. And we get occasional concerns raised about, you know, over using an area if you will where too many -- it's perceived that too many people are dropped off in an area and there's a crowding issue that develops. So we hear occasional complaints or reports of that kind of activity.

The other fly in hunting that occurs frequently out there is associated with guided hunters again for dall sheep, brown bear, caribou and moose. And then of course there's just the regular recreational pilots that will do their own hunting, not commercially based.

But, you know, invariably we'll get

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1 some reports and complaints about all three of those in
2 some form or fashion. But specific to your question
3 about use or illegal use of cabins, nothing recent. I
4 won't say that the Refuge has never received reports
5 like that, but I have not heard of anything over the
6 past couple seasons, particularly on the north side of
7 the range. So I don't have any recent information
8 about that.

9

10 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. I think the biggest
11 question I had though was was there going to be any
12 thought or change to how the locals are able to access
13 their locations in the summer because as I understand
14 it they're limited to no ATV access on the reserve; is
15 that correct?

16

17 MR. HUCKLELUK: That's a tricky
18 question and I don't want to give bad information. But
19 there's allowances for accessing private lands during
20 all times of the year subject to reasonable regulations
21 and that very well could include a -- with an ATV or
22 cross -- you know, cross country vehicle. That would
23 be subject to a special use permit or perhaps even a
24 right of way permit again with some conditions to try
25 to mitigate habitat damage. But if we're talking --
26 well, that would be again if it was in the summer
27 months. In the winter months there's no permission
28 needed whatsoever for.....

29

30 MR. FRANTZ: Sorry. I got dropped I
31 had to call back in.

32

33 MR. HUCKLELUK: I'm sorry.....

34

35 MR. FRANTZ: Oh, no, I.....

36

37 MR. HUCKLELUK:did you just say
38 you dropped off?

39

40 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, I just called back
41 in. I had to -- I got a dropped call and I didn't hear
42 any of the response.

43

44 MR. HUCKLELUK: Okay. Well, I'll try
45 to restate that again. There is allowances for summer
46 month access to remote or allotments within the Refuge
47 boundary. Those would be allowed through a special use
48 permit or perhaps a right of way permit subject to
49 reasonable regulation to try to mitigate any habitat
50

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1 damage. But there is allowances for that kind of
2 access. And I followed it up with saying in the winter
3 months typically, you know, with adequate snow cover
4 there's no permission needed whatsoever, snowmachines
5 are an allowable use at anytime on Refuge land given
6 adequate snow cover.

7

8 So short answer is yes, there's means
9 to access those allotments given the time of year.

10

11 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. Now that's what I
12 wanted to question was that, you know, sporthunters
13 have easier access to their lands versus the
14 subsistence hunters in the summer months. So I think
15 that needs to be revisited or at least discussed
16 because, you know, it's kind of a quiet issue, but it's
17 not -- in my eyes it's an issue for them to get to
18 their locations in the summer. So, you know, to be
19 consistent with any other of the local communities on
20 the North Slope it seems like something that is not
21 fair to them.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. HUCKLELUK: Thank you for your
26 question, I appreciate it.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And thank you.

29

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

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eddie from
33 Kaktovik.

34

35 MR. REXFORD: Yes, thank you for that
36 information, Nathan, but I've been making Refuge
37 managers, Steve recently and every year about
38 trespassing in my cabin up in Schrader Lake and folks
39 using my cabin, making money, coming in by float plane.
40 There's that issue -- ongoing issue. I have to put
41 cameras, I guess that's the only way to stop this,
42 can't seem to get any help from the Refuge. But that's
43 all they suggested, I need to catch them in the act and
44 if I have to put cameras I can do that. So little
45 information there.....

46

47 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I did have a

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1 couple questions in terms of some of our own work from
2 planning, taking my hat off for a minute. I -- I'm
3 also the land management administrator for the North
4 Slope Borough so I oversee all the permitting within
5 the borough which includes Federal, State and private
6 lands. And not too long ago we had an aircraft that
7 crashed near Galbraith area and I had the inspectors
8 dispatched to take a look at it and why we were not
9 getting a report from the outfit. And it turns out the
10 guy never had a North Slope Borough permit and we're
11 dealing with that, but he had permits like to guide in
12 and around ANWR area and other places. And his only
13 excuse was that he had his permits to the lands where
14 he was going to conduct his activities and that either
15 he was unaware or elected to not seek any North Slope
16 Borough land use permits to conduct his activities. So
17 we're investigating that and that's very well probably
18 going to be a violation.

19

20 And it might be important as their
21 acting Refuge manager, Nathan, that anybody who holds a
22 permit they should be encouraged to seek all regulatory
23 compliance with all agencies and not fall into that
24 crack. And we will make our reports and violation
25 notices in any correspondence to the Big Game Services
26 Board as well where they get their licensing and stuff
27 and we're not going to be shy about that. And because
28 some of these guys act like they're cowboys in the wild
29 west out there and they have a very stern attitude
30 towards compliance issues.

31

32 I just thought I'd bring that out and I
33 think that -- that's an issue that should be able to be
34 addressed by the Refuge manager and for those that are
35 conducting operations within the Wildlife Refuge.

36

37 Anyway, thank you.

38

39 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm sure I had
42 another one.

43

44 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

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48 MR. FRANTZ: I want to.....

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1 MR. HUCKLELUK: Thank you.

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MR. HUCKLELUK: Thank you.

MR. FRANTZ:and aren't -- just to make sure those issues aren't standing idly by, I know they're there and if they're not being discussed they need to be. And I want to help out our -- you know, our fellow communities.

Thank you.

REPORTER: I'm sorry, who was that?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: That was Brower Frantz from Utqiagvik, from Barrow.

REPORTER: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Nathan, were you responding?

MR. HUCKLELUK: Yeah, I -- thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. I just wanted to thank you for that comment. I'm not familiar with that one incident you're talking about around Galbraith Lake and I'll have to check with our permit specialist to see if there's any report of an aircraft incident that you described. Typically we do get notified of such things, but not always I'll admit.

And I also was as you were talking I was trying to remember and I will have to fact check this, but we with some of our permits we condition them so that they -- it's an acknowledgement that there may be other permits required to operate out on the Arctic Refuge including, you know, the permits you may be talking about. So we've tried to address that, I don't want to give some specific details because I don't have it right in front of me, but this has been an issue that we've heard of before and we've tried to address with our permitted commercial services permittees.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think there's a way we can, you know, work together because we will put those kinds of advisories on our permits as well and so that they're looking at securing all the appropriate regulatory and fulfilling all of those obligations as well. But sometimes we're so vague

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1 that, you know, what are the other regulatory
2 requirements, you know. And it's very easy I would
3 think, it's the borough and it's the land -- permission
4 from the landholder, you got to have permission from
5 the landholder, you got to get permission from the
6 State, you got to get permission from the North Slope
7 Borough.

8

9 MR. HUCKLELUK: Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
12 questions to acting field manager for ANWR, Nathan?

13

14 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, thank you.

17

18 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead. Who
21 is it?

22

23 MS. HUGO: This is Esther. Thank you
24 very much for that information, Nathan. I'm just
25 curious as to for years as a community and for years
26 mayor after mayor, that we had written letters to
27 various agencies to close down the hunts between end of
28 August and all of September for the community itself.
29 And I know that that commissioner for planning does
30 give them permits. Is there a possibility or a way
31 that we just hold onto those permits until we're done
32 getting what we need for -- to put food on the table
33 and of course we know it's the guide hunters north of
34 us that are catching what was going to come to us, we
35 always have patience for that, but number of years
36 there's been a lot of activity on the guide hunters or
37 the sporthunters. And who do I talk to besides the
38 body here or who can I talk to about trying to get that
39 opened where we simply say no activity, no fly zone
40 like we did before in the late '80s until the community
41 catch what they need for the winter, for the harsh
42 winter. That's bothersome because there's been a lot
43 of stories that we don't say. I heard last summer or
44 two that they fired -- guns been fired from a Piper Cub
45 to the people that we're camping. These kind of stuff,
46 just things that are resolved for so long and all we do
47 is talk about it and I'm going why can't we get what
48 the borough, the whaling people get what they want,
49 they won't have a person come -- persons or they
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0259

1 wouldn't let them boat with them. It's kind of vice
2 versa here. But who do I talk to about that?

3

4 Since they kept the tribal comments
5 open I happen -- I'm going to take my hat off right
6 now. I'm the tribal president and we really need to
7 get something going otherwise we'll have this concerns
8 or we'll always have this problem long after we're gone
9 and we're trying to prevent that from doing what
10 they've been doing for years without listening. And
11 I'm sorry I'm raising my voice, but it's an issue
12 that's been there and never been resolved.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. HUCKLELUK: Well, Councilwoman
17 Hugo, members of the Council, Mr. Chair, through the
18 Chair. I'm sorry, I'm not terribly familiar with
19 perhaps some of the issues that you mentioned just now
20 so I don't know if I have much to offer at this time.
21 I guess I'd ask one short quick question, are you in
22 the community of Anaktuvuk Pass?

23

24 MS. HUGO: Yes, born and raised here.

25

26 MR. HUCKLELUK: Thank you. Well, then
27 the response might be fairly short. You know, we would
28 be your neighbors to the east, but, you know, you might
29 speak to the National Park Service, Gates of the Arctic
30 National Park and Preserve. First if you have some
31 specific resource concerns there's certainly the RAC
32 here as well. Arctic Refuge, I'd have to think about
33 maybe some of -- how we might connect through, you
34 know, some of the resources on Arctic Refuge over
35 there.

36

37 So I'm sorry I don't have any really
38 great answers for you right now.

39

40 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Nathan.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

43

44 MS. HUGO: I just thought I'd bring
45 that out right now and it's frustrating.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.

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1 And maybe I could maybe add a little bit here. You
2 know, the Refuge is roughly maybe a hundred -- maybe a
3 hundred miles to the east of -- to the east of
4 Anaktuvuk, maybe a hundred -- maybe 120 miles maybe.
5 And because we -- you know, we do make the trail from
6 the Haul Road into Anaktuvuk annually we try to do
7 that. And the only reason I brought up the guide that
8 had a plane go down and our own investigation seems to
9 show that this guy may be based out of Happy Valley and
10 then his concession or his area that he's working
11 includes ANWR and would have to have a permit to land
12 like a Piper Cub and it looks like that was a Piper Cub
13 that crashed. And they wouldn't probably be stationed
14 in ANWR, they only go in and out and out of these
15 areas. So we're investigating that. And that was how
16 I brought this into it because it appears this guy was
17 operating without any other permitting other than from
18 the landowner.

19
20 And so it's just interesting and also,
21 you know, the land around AKP, we know there's some
22 Gates of the Arctic, there's National Park Service
23 lands and then you've got the State of Alaska lands
24 which manage very differently than Federal lands. In
25 fact, they manage the lands for all the residents. And
26 that's where I think sometimes we need to sit down with
27 the State and the Feds because there's so much
28 difference guidance in -- from State to Feds and then
29 the Preserves and the Parks and it might be important
30 because there may be other operations. Like if there
31 was a controlled use area north of Anaktuvuk which
32 there is that you can't use an airplane to get in for
33 the take of caribou, but that doesn't limit the guides
34 from coming in to hunt for bear or other sporthunts in
35 that area that might be interrupting caribou movements
36 in that corridor.

37
38 That's where I think what you mentioned
39 a little bit ago about the management of marine mammals
40 through Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and there's
41 regulations in the land use policy about industrial
42 operations need to be coordinated through Alaska Eskimo
43 Whaling Commission in coordination and we recognize the
44 CAA, conflict avoidance agreement, as one mechanism of
45 cooperation between industrial operators and the Alaska
46 Eskimo Whaling Commission which has a comanagement
47 agreement with NOAA. That can only be done because the
48 only people on the planet earth that can kill a bowhead
49 whale are Inupiat people. And there is a specific
50

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1 right for the indigenous people to hunt the bowhead
2 whale for that. Nobody else can do it, not the
3 sporthunters, not anybody else can go out there and
4 hunt the bowhead whale other than the Eskimos. So
5 there's a comanagement to keep that that way.

6
7 In the other hand caribou is managed
8 for the -- all the residents regardless of race, creed,
9 it's -- there's a big difference about those two. And
10 I thought it would be important just to do that, but I
11 think it's not impossible to work together about the
12 village area of influence that are under comprehensive
13 plans and those that provide for the traditional and
14 subsistence needs for the community that we in fact
15 can work together and because the act of sporthunting
16 is a land use, it's categorized as land use which
17 should be regulated and you have to have permits for
18 that.

19
20 And subsistence is different. And but
21 the North Slope Borough has many policies to protect
22 subsistence. It might be important to use that and
23 work with communities and the regulators for
24 subsistence resources perhaps to create a subsistence
25 zone that's identified as the -- as the village area of
26 influence and rezone those to subsistence. I once
27 heard that from a guy named Rex Okukook who used to be
28 my boss about 15 years ago, he was a director back
29 then. He thought that it might be prudent to rezone
30 the village area of influence and have public hearings
31 so that there would be regulations created for land use
32 activities within the subsistence zone to protect the
33 peak subsistence -- the peak subsistence periods of
34 time like a time area closure. Not outright banning
35 anybody and making a time area closure for certain
36 areas of lands so that the uninterrupted movements of
37 large terrestrial resources take place. And I still
38 think it's a good concept to think about in that way.

39
40 Like I said earlier, you know, the land
41 use policy is an enforcement tool, it's multi
42 jurisdictional, we find -- issued violation notices on
43 Federal land, on State land and the industry and others
44 have been recipients of those finds and have to pay
45 fines for some of these types of things that are
46 regulated and it has been upheld in court that I know
47 of because I've been around long enough to see in this
48 area.

49
50

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1 With that I will stop there, but I'm
2 pretty passionate about some of these things, but it
3 might be important that our letter gets to the Federal
4 Subsistence Board with those concerns that their
5 response sometimes is inadequate and just leads to
6 ending the dialogue meaning they have no interest in
7 continuing that dialogue. And anyway.....

8
9 Thank you, Esther.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
12 for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge acting manager,
13 Nathan?

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If none, thank you,
18 Nathan for your report.

19
20 And we'll go down the list to Fish and
21 Wildlife Service, Utqiagvik Field Office.

22
23 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair, greetings. I'm
24 Ernest Nageak from Utqiagvik Field Office, U.S. Fish
25 and Wildlife Service. I've been (indiscernible -
26 distortion) I've been working here with U.S. Fish and
27 Wildlife Service the last 10 years from our Native
28 Village of Barrow and I was working with the North
29 Slope Borough Wildlife. And before that State Fish and
30 Game.

31
32 But our update for our Barrow office.

33
34 REPORTER: I'm sorry to interrupt, but
35 the recording is coming in really, really difficult and
36 I'm not able to get a good one. So hold on just a
37 moment.

38
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, Mr. Chair, I was
40 just.....

41
42 MS. PATTON: Hi, Ernest, this is.....

43
44 MS. HUGO: Pretty bad on my end.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Hi, Ernest, are you on a
47 headset?

48
49 MR. NAGEAK: Can you hear me?
50

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1 MS. PATTON: It's still -- it's really
2 wobbly. Sometimes when you're on a headset or a
3 speaker phone it's wobbly. Are you able to talk
4 directly into the phone?

5
6 MR. NAGEAK: Okay. How about now?

7
8 MS. PATTON: You're still pretty
9 wobbly.

10
11 MR. NAGEAK: Okay. I'm not on the
12 speaker, but this is all that my phone has got.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Are you on a cell phone?

15
16 MR. NAGEAK: No, I'm on my office
17 phone.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Okay. I wonder -- maybe a
20 strategy might be is to hang up and dial back in and
21 see if the connection is any better. And you're
22 speaking right into the headset of your office phone?

23
24 MR. NAGEAK: Yes, but I'll try again.
25 I'll try to call again.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Oh, okay. Yes, maybe that
28 will help reset the connection.

29
30 MR. NAGEAK: Okay. All right.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Thanks so much, Ernest.
33 I'm so sorry for the challenges. Yeah, maybe if you
34 hang up and dial back in that might help reset the
35 connection. And maybe a request to Fish and Wildlife
36 Service for a new phone at the office there.

37
38 Okay. Thanks, everyone. And hopefully
39 Ernest will be able to reconnect with us so we can hear
40 his great report. Give him a few more.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

43
44 MS. PATTON:minutes to connect
45 back in here.

46
47 Thanks so much, everyone.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We'll give
50

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1 Ernest an opportunity to get -- see if he reconnects
2 it'll sound better.

3

4 So is Ernest attempting to redial right
5 now?

6

7 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's my
8 understanding is he was going to disconnect and then
9 dial back in.

10

11 MR. NAGEAK: Hello.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Hi, Ernest.

14

15 MR. NAGEAK: Hi, how is it now?

16

17 MS. PATTON: Oh, it's still pretty
18 wobbly.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, sounds like an
21 accordion.

22

23 MR. NAGEAK: Well, this is the only
24 phone that's open right now. I -- my cell phone is
25 tied up right now.

26

27 So but we're going to have an updated
28 summer season for our eider (indiscernible -
29 distortion) and hopefully we get a couple workers from
30 11th and 12th graders to help with our field projects.
31 And we're trying to look for a polar bear tagger for
32 Nuiqsut, we heard there's a couple of nanooks caught
33 over there. And hopefully we'll get things back to
34 normal this summer and get kids back into
35 (indiscernible - distortion) and that's a short update.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you, Ernest.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Ernest.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It talked better when
44 you weren't talking loud.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Yeah, it came through
47 pretty clear there if you had more you wanted to share.

48

49 MR. NAGEAK: Last spring we were trying

50

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1 to dispatch some raven nests. We had met with some --
2 the community of Barrow, the ICAS, Native Village of
3 Barrow, the North Slope Borough's office and I was able
4 to help dispatch one raven nest out of the four or five
5 in town to help our bird successful rate here in the
6 summer.

7

8 And we used to do fox trapping, but the
9 borough had asked us to stop that about three years
10 ago.

11

12 So this summer we're going to have
13 hopefully kids hired to help our biologists do bird
14 nest checks and lemming monitor, they help with that.

15

16 So that's what our office has been
17 doing and we want to try to get a polar bear taggers in
18 all of our villages to try to keep updated on polar
19 bear catch.

20

21 Any questions?

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
24 Ernest?

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, forever hold
29 your peace.

30

31 (In Native), Ernest. Always good to
32 hear you.

33

34 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, hopefully we get a
35 -- have a open house soon after all this covid, you
36 know, has settled down so we can have a meet and greet
37 and have a community talk show or something or get
38 together.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds good, Ernest.
43 Hearing no other questions we'll go down the line to
44 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

45

46 MR. RACIK: Oh, hi, good afternoon.
47 This is Jeff Racik, I'm the acting superintendent for
48 Gates of the Arctic. My usual job is the chief of
49 resources so I work with Marcy Okada on subsistence and
50

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1 we have a team of wildlife biologists, cultural
2 resource people and wildland fire, that's the resource
3 program at the Park.

4
5 We've provided a written update and I
6 won't rehash all of it, but I'll just highlight a
7 couple of the major topics in case there's any
8 question.

9
10 We held our last SRC meeting in
11 November and we had a full quorum and we dealt with
12 routine business, exchanging information about fish and
13 wildlife and reviewing Board of Game proposals.

14
15 One of the topics of perennial interest
16 to our SRC is the Ambler Road. The National Park
17 Service is one of the permitting agencies for the road
18 and the major permits, the right of way permit for that
19 road was issued by the Park Service and the BLM and the
20 U.S. Corps of Engineers last year in January of '21.
21 And it's been challenged in court and you may have seen
22 recent news, the -- in response to that legal challenge
23 the Department of Interior, the U.S. Department of
24 Justice has offered to revisit parts of the analysis
25 that led to that permitting decision and the focus is
26 on subsistence, particularly caribou and water and
27 fish, fish habitat and also Native consultation and the
28 810 analysis for the subsistence. So that's a proposal
29 that's on the table and we will know in the next few
30 months whether that course of action will be pursued.
31 And again that would spell some additional analysis in
32 the mean -- and a temporary -- at least a temporary
33 suspension of the right away permit. But right now
34 that's undetermined and we're waiting for a judge to
35 decide.

36
37 In the meantime some of the activity
38 for the Ambler Road continues. They're in the
39 predevelopment phase of that project. AIDEA is the
40 project proponent, the same outfit that runs the Red
41 Dog Road, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export
42 Authority is the project proponent. And they have
43 plans for further studies, design and engineering work
44 this summer and the Park Service will consider some
45 access permits to places on Park Service land for the
46 road. So that might be geotechnical work, studies at
47 the bridge crossing, hydrology, cultural resource work,
48 studies that would inform the design and planning for
49 the project. But that's -- we're mid stage on that,
50

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1 it's yet to really begin and it would happen over the
2 next while and part of our process is talking with each
3 of the communities in the area. So we have regular --
4 we attend the regular tribal counsel meetings in all of
5 the neighboring communities and alert people to what's
6 being proposed and let them know how the Park Service
7 is thinking about that ahead of our permitting
8 decision.

9

10 The other major heading in our written
11 brief deals with a series of caribou publications.
12 These are all scientific articles, they largely result
13 from the caribou collaring work that the Park Service
14 participates in along with the Department of Fish and
15 Game and other agencies. And you'll see in each of
16 those bullet points there's a brief description of
17 those scientific articles, but we've also produced a
18 brief summary of those that are available online and I
19 think Marcy sent those for inclusion in the meeting
20 handbook there, basically one page summaries of some of
21 the results of that research.

22

23 There's a note in here about moose
24 survey that we have planned. It's ready to start in --
25 at the end of this month. We see that as an important
26 data point, it's an important time to get moose data
27 because the last study wasn't done -- hasn't been done
28 since 2015. And we want to be sure to get another
29 measurement of the situation before continued
30 development of Ambler Road if that ends up happening.
31 So this is a key juncture to get a good snapshot of the
32 moose population on the southern part of the Brooks
33 Range, central Brooks Range.

34

35 And then finally there's more detail on
36 the sheep inventory and monitoring the Park Service is
37 part of. And Will Deacy spoke earlier to the
38 Commission and provided detail on that, but there's a
39 brief -- a written explanation also for your reference.

40

41 So I'll leave it there unless folks
42 have questions or other topics you want to bring up.

43

44 Thanks for listening.

45

46 MR. FRANTZ: Brower Frantz here.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
49 Brower.

50

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1 MR. FRANTZ: Just a quick question. It
2 has something to do with my -- you know, I had a
3 crossover question about how much involvement we had
4 with things of this nature. So, you know, I get the
5 Point Hope part, but we do have the Ambler Mining
6 District Access Road project so essentially we just get
7 updates and we leave it up to the other communities to
8 make the decisions. So it seems we don't have anybody
9 from there on this call so is it -- you know, we're
10 just separate at this point? I know they're not from
11 the North Slope, but they're within the same unit,
12 there is -- you know, we have -- I'm just trying to get
13 a better understanding. So even if we're discussing
14 this, we don't have them on the call. So it's -- I
15 mean, is that typical?

16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Eva.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Through the
22 Chair, I might be able to help respond to that
23 question, Brower. And yeah, great question. So
24 oftentimes there are crossover proposals as you noted.
25 Point Hope is in Unit 23 and so we take up, you know,
26 all the proposals affecting Point Hope. And in this
27 case with the Ambler Mining District Road, it's coming
28 before you as the North Slope Council because of the
29 concerns about impact to the Western Arctic Caribou
30 Herd which of course ranges throughout four different
31 Regional Advisory Council regions and it also is
32 proposed to cross a section of Gates of the Arctic
33 National Park. So there's a direct relationship with
34 the community of Anaktuvuk Pass in that road passage.
35 And so Anaktuvuk Pass has been a part of the
36 subsistence hearings along with the rest of the
37 communities along the Ambler Access Road.

38
39 But for that reason because the road
40 does transect a large portion of the range of the
41 Western Arctic Caribou Herd and the Western Arctic
42 Caribou Herd is essential to North Slope communities
43 this topic comes before the Council. And again because
44 of that direct connection about any potential impacts
45 to the community of Anaktuvuk Pass which of course is a
46 North Slope community as well.

47
48 So that's why sometimes these topics
49 that are maybe located far from home or predominantly
50

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1 in other regions or other communities comes before the
2 Council. And this particular topic on the Ambler
3 Mining Road has come before all the affected Councils.
4 So the Northwest Arctic Council and the Western
5 Interior Council and now the North Slope Council. So
6 others do weigh in on this and make recommendations and
7 sometimes the Councils try to coordinate on issues, but
8 it does come before all the affected Councils.

9
10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted).

12
13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 REPORTER: And this is also a great
16 time for everyone to check their phones and make sure
17 they're on mute.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MR. FRANTZ: Just a quick comment to
22 that. Yeah. No, that's great. We do have multiple
23 communities that are part of that particular area, but
24 as far as me I wasn't, you know, part of the previous
25 ones, I'm brand new, but as far as getting their input
26 because they are the affected community, you know, I
27 don't know what their wishes are. And to follow the
28 community I guess that would be good input on my part
29 or at least a summary from them with what their wishes
30 were. You know, apart from how we are affected in the
31 North Slope it would be good just to have that input.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brower.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Eva.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
42 to respond again, yes, thank you for that request,
43 Brower. And for the future meeting I know some other
44 Regional Advisory Councils have submitted formal
45 comment letters on the Ambler Mining District Road.
46 This is not a -- you know, a call for comments at this
47 time, informational for the Council, but we can
48 certainly compile and share the feedback and comments
49 that the other Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
50

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1 Councils have made regarding this road so that you and
2 the North Slope Council are aware of what other
3 Councils and communities have responded and some of
4 their recommendations.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Were we on the Gates
9 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve or are we on
10 the Ambler Mining District Road yet?

11

12 MS. PATTON: This is still NPR. Thank
13 you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. All right. No
16 further questions for Gates of the Arctic National Park
17 and Reserve?

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much
22 for the update.

23

24 MR. RACIK: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll move down
27 to.....

28

29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER:Ambler Mining
32 District Access Road, Ambler Access Project. Is there
33 a presenter for that?

34

35 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair
36 and members of the Council. Up next we'll have
37 Charlene who will be presenting on the Ambler Access
38 Project.

39

40 And just before we conclude with the
41 Park Service just wanted to direct the Council. Again
42 those reports are in tab 11 of your materials. And
43 Kyle Joly who often presents for the Council as well is
44 out doing fieldwork for caribou right now so he wasn't
45 available, but his report is in your meeting book
46 binders as well and you'll find that under the tab
47 addressing the wildlife special action, under tab 5.
48 But just wanted to let you know that Kyle's caribou
49 report is also in your binders.

50

0271

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 And then up next we have Charlene.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And is there a tab
6 for Charlene's presentation?

7

8 MS. PATTON: Yes. And that
9 presentation is under tab 12.

10

11 MS. OSTBLOOM: Good afternoon, Mr.
12 Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Charlene,
15 you have the floor.

16

17 MS. OSTBLOOM: All right. Thank you.
18 Well, my name is Charlene Ostbloom and I am the
19 communications manager for the Ambler Access Project.
20 And to give you some background on myself, I am fairly
21 new to the project, it's been about nine months now
22 that I've been part of it. And I am a Doyon
23 shareholder, I was born and raised in Novato and have
24 been involved in mining and pipeline and also with my
25 Native -- my regional Native corporation as well.

26

27 So Jack actually covered a lot of what
28 I was planning on talking about so I won't go into
29 that. But to give you some history and information on
30 the Ambler Access Project, it is a proposed 211 mile
31 controlled industrial access road that would provide
32 access to the Ambler Mining District in northwestern
33 Alaska. It does currently lack the transportation
34 infrastructure necessary for a good development,
35 construction and operation of potential mines in the
36 district. It is a large prospective copper, zinc,
37 mineral with extensive deposits of critical minerals
38 and other elements. This could be a secure, reliable
39 U.S. supply chain resource which would be essential for
40 our nation's tech focused.....

41

42 (Teleconference interference -
participants not muted).

43

44 MS. OSTBLOOM:economy.....

45

46 REPORTER: I'm sorry to interrupt,
47 Charlene, just a moment.

48

49 MS. OSTBLOOM:energy.....

50

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1 REPORTER: Everybody, it's really
2 difficult for the recording, somebody's microphone is
3 not on mute. If we could just take a moment and check
4 and make sure.

5
6 Thank you. Go ahead.

7
8 MS. OSTBLOOM: All right. So
9 developing the mines in the Ambler Mining District is
10 expected to provide employment opportunities for more
11 than 3,000 total jobs during construction and an
12 estimated 1,800 total jobs supporting Alaska families
13 during the operation of the road and associated mines.

14
15 So to cover the last 2021 field season,
16 our activities conducted during the 2021 field season
17 fell within the preconstruction phase of the project
18 which allows for completing the project's front end
19 engineering and design or otherwise known as FEED. We
20 conducted cultural resources, hydrology, fish habitat
21 and land surveys at over 50 component sites mostly
22 related to water crossings and focused at the John,
23 Koyukuk and Wild Rivers. And we completed fieldwork at
24 39 of 59 cultural resource study areas and almost 700
25 acres were surveyed. I will note that the 2021 field
26 season didn't get off to a great start so we did not
27 accomplish as much as we had hoped to.

28
29 For the project 22 people were hired
30 including 22 Doyon Limited shareholders -- well, that
31 doesn't make sense. We had 22 Doyon Limited
32 shareholders that were hired, one from the NANA region
33 and one ASRC shareholder. The total wages paid at the
34 end of the field season of approximately \$190,000.

35
36 And the report that you have is fairly
37 outdated so we have completed the draft annual work
38 plan and submitted that to the BLM and we're just
39 working on some edits now. And we're also in the midst
40 of planning for the 2022 field season and we should
41 know more about what's happening in the coming weeks.

42
43 Over the course of the last quarter of
44 2021 we also formed a Subsistence Advisory Working
45 Group and they set the criteria, communication and
46 process for recommending members to that Committee.
47 And we ensured that we had representation for those
48 communities closest to the proposed access route and
49 there are 10 villages so we have 10 seats -- actually
50

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1 11 because we will be adding -- we're hoping to add one
2 for the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Advisory
3 Council. And a request was sent to that Committee so
4 we're hoping to have someone seated by the third
5 quarter of 2022. And so we have 10 Committee members
6 in addition to the Gates of the Arctic seat, one from
7 each community. We are currently seeking alternates
8 for those seats as well. The membership of the
9 Committee includes members from Alatna, Allakaket,
10 Ambler, Evansville although the Evansville position has
11 not been seated, we have been trying to find someone to
12 fill that seat, but have been unable to at this time.
13 We also have representatives from Hughes, Huslia,
14 Kiana, Kobuk, Noorvik and Shungnak. And we also have
15 two ex officio members from -- one from NANA and one
16 from Doyon.

17
18 So the purpose of the SAC is to provide
19 recommendations to the Ambler Access Project leadership
20 regarding project development activities. And the
21 project will be responsible for responding to the
22 Subsistence Advisory Committee on all formal
23 recommendations. So we completed our first committee
24 meeting on January 11th in Anchorage and are planning
25 on our second quarter meeting in Kotzebue on April 6th
26 and the third and fourth quarter meetings have yet to
27 be scheduled.

28
29 One of the recommendations from the
30 Subsistence Advisory Working Group was to establish a
31 Workforce Development Working Group. And the reason
32 for that is because the Subsistence Advisory Committee
33 Working Group determined that it is very hard to
34 distinguish between having subsistence activities
35 without having some type of economy or jobs and
36 training aspect to it all. So the Employment and
37 Workforce Development Committee is looking at the
38 different project phases with giving them an overview
39 of each of them, they are given the contractor
40 functions and descriptions and they will understand the
41 different job types that are required for the project.
42 And the goal is to have a prepared workforce for the
43 project when the road is actually built and operated.

44
45 We are currently working on community
46 outreach and building awareness and we'll continue to
47 work with partners that will include labor unions, the
48 communities themselves and schools.

49
50

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1 The Working Group members include
2 community members from Huslia, Kiana, Hughes,
3 Allakaket, Shungnak, Kobuk as well as representatives
4 from NANA, Doyon, AIDEA and Ambler Metals.

5
6 We are also in the process of hosting
7 job fairs in each community. We completed a few in
8 January and February. Unfortunately due to schedules
9 and covid we haven't been able to visit as many as we
10 had hoped, but it is something that we're still working
11 to. And the purpose of the job -- bringing the job
12 fairs directly to the community is so that every
13 community member would have access to the list of jobs,
14 have an opportunity to talk to potential hiring
15 managers. We can also provide them with resources as
16 far as resume writing and interview tips.

17
18 For the NANA region unfortunately we
19 have not been able to visit any of the communities due
20 to covid restrictions, however we are planning to begin
21 our in person visits in early April.

22
23 And that is it for my update on the
24 project. I'm happy to answer any questions you may
25 have.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do we have any
28 questions for the Ambler Mining District Access Road
29 Project?

30
31 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
32 for the record, Point Hope.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

35
36 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know, I think,
37 you know, Park Service came here several years ago when
38 the Ambler Project was starting up because of the
39 migration route. And the two routes that they were
40 trying to pick for the access to the Ambler mining.
41 There was a road on the north side and a road that went
42 further south. And, you know, we had concerns about
43 the migration of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and,
44 you know, their increased traffic and not just with,
45 you know, the mining. You know, they say it's not
46 going to be used by -- won't be local access and that
47 it would be strictly for the mining and that's what
48 they said about the Haul Road. And the Haul Road goes
49 straight north and south. It's Ambler Mining goes east
50

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1 and west -- you know, it's going west, straight across
2 and covers a lot of ground. And.....

3

4 (Teleconference interference - parties
5 not muted).

6

7 MR. OOMITTUK:the northern people
8 and the Northwest Arctic people up north were concerned
9 about the migration route of the Western Arctic Caribou
10 Herd and hopefully wouldn't change that route or slow
11 it down or stop them from whether they're going north
12 or south, you know, the size of the road. And we had a
13 lot of concerns. But it sounds like it's already in
14 the process. And now we're dealing with a herd that is
15 dwindling to less than half of what it used to be and
16 then here we have another obstacle that's coming before
17 us with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

18

19 Thank you for that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
22 Any other questions for the Ambler Mining District
23 Access Road from the Council?

24

25 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Esther.

28

29 MS. HUGO: Yes, I just want to quickly
30 ask on the membership to be announced for the Gates,
31 will that representative or the person going to be
32 representing Gates of the Arctic, is that from the
33 office of Gates of the Arctic or is it specifically
34 from the community?

35

36 MS. OSTBLOOM: It is someone from the
37 Council so it should be someone from one of the
38 communities.

39

40 MR. RACIK: Yeah, this is Jeff Racik
41 from the Park. The plan is to have a member of the
42 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
43 appointed to the Ambler Road Committee by the
44 Commission. So it's on the agenda for the next Gates
45 of the Arctic SRC meeting to have the SRC members
46 select one of their members to attend the Ambler Road
47 SAC.

48

49 MS. HUGO: Thank you. Hi, Jeff.

50

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1 Thanks.

2

3

MR. RACIK: Hi, Esther. Good question.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.

6

7

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman.

8

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10

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions for the Ambler Mining District Access Road?

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12

13

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

14

15

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, Earl.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Earl, you got the floor.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, back early '90s when we had a North Slope Advisory Council representative going to Anchorage for a meeting and a couple of people from Northwest discussed about the mining, that was early '90s. And they just wanted it because, you know, they had -- are they going to have the same issue like they had on that road on that Red Dog Mine. That was Raymond Stoney and Willy Goodwin spoke up about that.

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And another meeting I went to is Western Herd Working Group in Shungnak when we had a meeting there with them discussing about that mining issue. And Levi, he was from Shungnak representing said that -- told the people, you know, that mining's going to ruin our habitat and caribou herd and fish. He spoke mostly about caribou. He said caribou comes through Anaktuvuk, goes to Kaktovik area and calving ground, but they come to the key lines in wintertime too because there's less wind he said.

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So, you know, that was the consideration they had and I know this is going to come up sooner or later they said, but, you know, we sure wanted a representative from the village -- from here and recently we haven't heard nothing from Western Working Group. But, you know, we're here for a reason so I just want to speak up for our people and I just wanted to say something about that because those -- you know, that's very important to us.

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl. All
4 good comments. Any other comments for the Ambler
5 Mining District Access Road Project?

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there a way we can
10 get a road alignment that's being worked on so we can
11 take a look at it?

12

13 MS. OSTBLOOM: Are you referring to
14 having a copy of what the route looks like?

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, it
17 sounds like the EIS is done and this project is moving
18 forward, just want to see the road alignment that it's
19 going -- you know, we're doing various different
20 seasonal snow trails up here called community winter
21 access trails, just want to see what it looks like for
22 Anaktuvuk or things like that we have been working
23 towards transportation planning on the North Slope too.
24 And the communities have expressed that we continue
25 working on connecting our communities up here in the
26 Arctic between Barrow and Wainwright and Atqasuk and
27 Point Lay and then we connect Anaktuvuk to the Haul
28 Road seasonally and I just want to see what that
29 alignment looks like.

30

31 MS. OSTBLOOM: Certainly. What I will
32 do is I will send Eva a copy of the prepared access
33 chart and also -- we also have a -- our website which
34 has information about the project as well as a map of
35 where it is on the route or where it is in the State.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you. And
38 I think it's important.

39

40 Any other comments before we let the
41 presenter go?

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I'll go down
46 the line to Office of Subsistence Management, OSM.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
49 members of the Council. I'll just jump in quick here.

50

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1 So we did move our last business items, G, H and I,
2 down to the bottom of our agency reports. So we would
3 take that up first and then the final agency report,
4 Office of Subsistence Management next.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So what
9 did you say we have next?

10

11 MS. PATTON: Next is G under new
12 business, discussion with Mr. Brent Vickers.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

15

16 MS. PATTON:on public testimony.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Go ahead,
21 Brent, you have the floor.

22

23 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Hello. You'll --
24 I'll have the floor for a little while here so --
25 sorry, bear with me. As you -- I've said before my
26 name is Brent Vickers and I am the supervisor, cultural
27 anthropologist for OSM and right now I'm giving a
28 presentation on the Federal Subsistence Board -- oops,
29 wait, we did this one. Let me get to the right page.
30 Did I -- now I'm lost. No, I am giving a presentation
31 on receiving public testimony protocol. Sorry about
32 that. This is for receiving public testimony protocol.
33 If you would like to read my presentation you can find
34 the copy under supplemental materials overview which is
35 on the Council meeting material page. This is not an
36 action item, but the Council's discussion is
37 encouraged. Here's the presentation.

38

39 All 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory
40 Councils were formed under the Title VIII of Alaska
41 National Interest Lands Conservation Act, ANILCA, and
42 chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
43 ANILCA gives each Regional Advisory Council the
44 authority to a) provide a forum for the expression of
45 opinions and recommendations by persons interested in
46 any matter related to subsistence uses of fish and
47 wildlife within the region; and b) encourage local
48 regional participant pursuant to the provisions of
49 Title VIII of ANILCA in the decision making process
50

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1 affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on public
2 lands within the region for subsistence uses.

3

4

5 The Federal Advisory Committee Act
6 stipulates that any member of the public is permitted
7 to file a written statement with the Advisory Committee
8 and may speak to or otherwise address the Advisory
9 Committee if the agency guidelines so permit.

9

10

11 During each regulatory cycle there are
12 several opportunities for the public to provide their
13 oral and written comments to the Board and the Council.
14 The first opportunity commences after the call for
15 proposals, officially known as the proposed rule, is
16 published in the Federal Register. This is an
17 opportunity to submit proposals or any significant
18 comments to the Board. First comment window is open
19 anywhere from 45 -- or up to 45 to -- up to 90 days or
20 longer. The second opportunity for public comments on
21 submitted proposals begin when the proposal submission
22 window closes and validated proposals are published on
23 the Federal Subsistence Management Program website.
24 The third opportunity for public comments on proposals
25 is during the Council meeting. This is actually going
26 to be the focus or the presentation, this third
27 opportunity. After the third opportunity is a fourth
28 opportunity for public comments during the Board
29 regulatory meetings. And these comments are used by
30 the Board in their decision making process.

30

31

32 So let me explain more about the third
33 opportunity for public comments on proposals during RAC
34 meetings. I will -- let me explain in more detail
35 because this is the subject of our guided discussion
36 today.

36

37

38 The public comments on proposals
39 accepted at Council meetings are for use by the
40 Councils in making their recommendations to the Board.
41 The Council Chair or your Council coordinator presents
42 the Council recommendations and any supporting data to
43 the Board at its regulatory meeting. This round of
44 public comments on proposals are part of the record of
45 the Council meeting, not the Board meeting. Public
46 comments on proposals are accepted after the
47 presentation of each proposal analyses. These include
48 oral comments provided by the public attending the
49 meeting and written comments provided by the public
50 during the meeting. The latter will be read or

50

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1 summarized to the Council. Again these comments are
2 for the Council and not to be included in the Board
3 proposal analyses.

4
5 Public comments on nonagenda items are
6 accepted at the start of each day on a Council meeting.
7 In the past when the Council meetings were held in
8 person the public brought their written public comments
9 to the meeting to be distributed to Council members and
10 other meeting participants. During fall 2021 meeting
11 cycle since all of the meetings were held via
12 teleconference OSM leadership deemed it necessary to
13 establish a temporary procedure for submission of
14 written public comments during the Council meeting.
15 The public was directed to submit written comments to
16 the centralized OSM email during the meeting as
17 indicated in that year's proposed rule published in the
18 Federal Register. The OSM staff read these comments
19 into the record verbatim during the meeting. This was
20 in interim process.

21
22 Now prior to the Councils' fall, 2022
23 meeting cycle when the Councils are going to discuss
24 fisheries proposals and closure reviews we are
25 requesting the Councils' input on how the Council would
26 like to receive written public comments submitted to
27 them after the proposed rule deadline. These are
28 comments the Council may want to consider in
29 formulating their recommendation to the Board. Once
30 OSM receives input from the Councils on permanent
31 guidance we will then update the written framework
32 accordingly. This is not an action item, but the
33 Council's discussion is encouraged.

34
35 For the Councils' feedback we developed
36 a number of questions that we would like the Council
37 members to respond to. Remember that we are talking
38 about written public comments submitted only to the
39 Council. These comments are used by the Councils to
40 make the recommendations to the Board. The comments
41 themselves will not be shared with the Board. The
42 questions that we -- these questions that we were
43 hoping the Council will answer -- so I do have a series
44 of questions here that really are just trying to get
45 feedback on the process for giving the written comments
46 during the fall, 2022 and perhaps future meetings.

47
48 Before I get into those questions which
49 are very general and again just trying to elicit
50

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1 conversation and get some feedback, is there any
2 questions on anything I've presented so far?

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to
5 Brent?

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Go ahead.

10

11 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Hearing no
12 questions, and this is a starter question and I might
13 follow-up with some of the others listed depending on
14 if it -- they're not covered or not, but in your -- in
15 the Council's opinion what is the best way to encourage
16 public feedback to the Councils?

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In the Council's
19 opinion what is the best way to get feedback on
20 proposals, like public hearing items and things like
21 that or to.....

22

23 MR. VICKERS: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER:things like
26 that?

27

28 MR. VICKERS: I guess what we're
29 looking for here in this is -- exactly, is what is the
30 best way, what can we do more of or you or anyone to
31 encourage public feedback to the Councils particularly
32 during this third public comment period at the fall,
33 2022 meetings that will be specifically about the
34 proposals, comments, testimonies, anything about the
35 proposed fisheries proposals, closure reviews, nonrural
36 determination proposals, that might be submitted.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

39

40 MR. VICKERS:during the upcoming
41 call for proposals.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Well, let me
44 just give you.....

45

46 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair, Brower Frantz.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER:some ideas of
49 what we -- what we do so far, you know, when we're
50

1 looking for comments on permits, on rezones. We first
2 look at whether it's a -- in a village that might be
3 more impacted than another, then we contact the tribal
4 president, the city mayor and the village corporation
5 to let them know that a comment event is going on and
6 that they will have 20 days to provide comments. If
7 it's something that all villages is encouraged to
8 comment on or affects all villages, I would and I have
9 this practice like this meeting, the date and time, was
10 posted and I specifically made it available to the
11 mayor's webmaster and their public information officer,
12 Larinda Danner, and say post this to the 700 emails
13 borough wide that this meeting is going to happen.

14
15 And it might also be important and I do
16 this routinely is send public notice to the mayor's
17 advisors in each community. And you can do that
18 through the mayor's office because they have offices in
19 every village and Staff, mayor's office Staff in every
20 village and their sole purpose is to do some of this
21 stuff, is bring it over to the school or bring it over
22 to the post office or bring it over to the store and
23 post it, those kind of things. It's -- I think it's
24 effective and if you know these avenues of information
25 dissemination on the North Slope, I think we've become
26 quite effective in communicating with our -- the -- and
27 the other way too is you can provide material on a
28 monthly basis. The planning commission meets every
29 last Thursday of the month and then we often have a
30 request from the planning commission to hear about
31 concerns about caribou and other things like that and
32 they've had Carmen in front of the planning commission
33 from time to time and -- to talk about those things.

34
35 So I'm just -- I think it's important
36 to see what -- you know, if you're going to reinvent
37 the wheel look at the wheel that's turning already and
38 maybe you can just hang on to one of the spokes there.

39
40 And that's -- anyway, that's what I
41 think is a good way to do some public outreach that
42 way.

43
44 MR. VICKERS: Thank you very much, I
45 really appreciate that.

46
47 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
48 for the record.

49
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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think I heard
2 Brower first. Maybe Brower wants to go ahead and chime
3 and then we'll go to Steve.

4
5 MR. FRANTZ: Sure. Yeah. Yeah, Brower
6 Frantz, Barrow, Utqiagvik. So there's a couple of
7 different avenues on top of what Gordon has mentioned
8 as far as outreach. There is the Department of
9 Wildlife Management for the North Slope Borough and we
10 hold Fish and Game Management Committee meetings. We
11 try to do it quarterly, normally February, June and
12 September. Fish and Game Management Committee is --
13 you know, we have a community member from each of the
14 communities on the North Slope that are involved in
15 this meeting, particularly for fish and game discussion
16 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ADF&G or anybody
17 that might be coming up for research or, you know,
18 wildlife related issues or not issues, but research or,
19 you know, what have you.

20
21 And also the Wildlife Department has an
22 outreach coordinator and that one is Michelle Frantz at
23 the moment. So she is the North Slope Borough's
24 outreach coordinator for the Wildlife Department. On
25 top of that there is a liaison's office at the mayor's
26 office.

27
28 So multiple avenues there as far as
29 getting things out and they're all kind of intertwined
30 so if you give the information to one they should know
31 where it should -- it would best lie.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, I think you're
36 up next, Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope.

37
38 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 You know, public hearings since 2019, you know, when we
40 had public meetings with different agencies, that
41 doesn't seem to happen much. And now that it's done on
42 the radio, you know, some people they sometimes wait a
43 long time to make a public comment on certain things
44 dealing with -- my mind is going blank, I just -- but,
45 you know, trying to get people to attend public
46 meetings or public hearings is very hard in some of the
47 communities because of their shyness, you know, they --
48 we have a lot of hunters that are very active, but
49 speaking in public is a different issue, you know.

50

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1 They have a lot of concerns. I think talking with
2 local people, you know, you have coordinators that, you
3 know, they can go house to house and get that person's
4 comments or -- and, you know, it's -- like I said it's
5 very hard to get people to come to public hearings.
6 It's -- you know, nowadays you need door prizes, you
7 know, or certain things for meetings.

8

9 But for subsistence stuff I think -- I
10 don't think door prizes needs to be done. I know we
11 are concerned about our wildlife and habitat, you know,
12 the animals that we depend on. And you know, it's a
13 very touchy subject for some people, you know, we're
14 very verbal people sometimes, there's a long line
15 waiting to do a public comment especially when there's --
16 you know, when it's not just the local people and then
17 you have other people that are nonresidents or out of
18 state that want to make a comment on certain things,
19 especially in public hearings that affect nonresident
20 sporthunters. And we seem to get overwhelmed by the
21 number of people that want to make comments and speak
22 out and they don't even live within the community or
23 even in the State. And then you would specify that
24 these public hearings are specified for certain
25 communities, their residents, you know, to voice their
26 concerns or their opinions on certain issues dealing
27 with subsistence.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
30 you, Steve. One other thing is sometimes you could
31 real easily have put it on the Tundra Drums on KPRW.
32 They announce these -- they announce all of our public
33 meetings and hearings and stuff on the local radio that
34 way too and it might spark an interest for those that
35 might not otherwise get -- heard it on a computer or
36 read it on a computer or some other thing. KPRW works
37 very well too, you just got to get the notice to them
38 and it's free, it's free to get it out there.

39

40 All right. So we're done with that
41 portion unless you got more on that, Brent, you're
42 supposed to be limited to 15 minutes.

43

44 MR. VICKERS: Well, this isn't an
45 agency report, this is actually new business.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah, okay.

48

49 MR. VICKERS: I don't know if that

50

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1 applies. I -- you know, I'm not trying to.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We moved it from new
4 business to agency.

5

6 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we moved it from
9 new business.....

10

11 MR. VICKERS: So the time limit
12 applies, but, you know, whatever you like is.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, it doesn't. I
15 think we're just pulling it.

16

17 MR. VICKERS: Yeah. Well, let's try to
18 get through some of these. You guys have great
19 suggestions so let's keep it rolling.

20

21 My next question is would the Council
22 prefer to receive comments from the public orally or in
23 writing, what's the preference in general?

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Both. I think, you
26 know, the preference is both. We would like to hear
27 them in person, we'd like to have them come to
28 meetings, maybe you should have all kinds of door
29 prizes with -- so that people can come in and do all
30 that kind of stuff if you're going to come to villages.
31 And it's important because our villages are very, very
32 extremely rural. It takes a arm and a leg to go to our
33 communities sometimes. I think they're both equally
34 important.

35

36 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, and also the
37 time when they come in, you know. Like Gordon said,
38 you know, a lot of our communities are in rural areas
39 and there's times when they're out on the -- out in the
40 country or out on the ice, you know, gathering, you
41 know, doing their subsistence hunting. And some of
42 them are out there for hours and hours or days and days
43 or out in the country for days. Timing is always
44 important, you know, when's a good time to come and
45 have these public hearings or public meetings, when the
46 people are home.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much.

49

50

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1 MR. VICKERS: Thank you. Would it be
2 helpful to the Council if OSM requests the written
3 public comments to be submitted to your Council
4 coordinator prior to the meeting within a certain time
5 period and the coordinator in turn will summarize the
6 comments and present them to the Council during the
7 meeting?

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think it
10 would be important to do that even in our packets when
11 they come in. Another means is make -- you know, when
12 we're doing -- receiving comments from the general
13 public like development of a comprehensive plan we
14 create a specific email address or even a Facebook
15 account for that particular comprehensive plan to try
16 and solicit for comments that we could use. So we try
17 and use every means to collect comments that might be
18 useful.

19
20 All right. Go ahead and proceed.

21
22 MR. VICKERS: All right. Thank you.
23 Do you think it's better for the Councils if received
24 public comments are read verbatim into the record
25 during the meeting or if they're summarized?

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's a good one.
28 I'm not too sure how to answer that because you can
29 change the intent from a comment if you summarize it.
30 You better know exactly what they're saying before you
31 summarize it because it can be.....

32
33 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER:changed and
36 misinterpreted.

37
38 Yeah, go ahead, Brower.

39
40 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah. No, I -- what we
41 normally do as far as, you know, being consistent with
42 any other meeting that we do, we completely send
43 everything at least a week, hopefully, you know, a few
44 weeks before the meeting in full. And at the time of
45 the meeting if you have a Powerpoint summary then we
46 would do that and at least you would give them the
47 opportunity a few weeks ahead of time. But still, you
48 know, you wouldn't necessarily be bypassing any of the
49 details. So I think that's a good route and they're --
50

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1 well, at least our committee, our Fish and Game
2 Management Committee, is used to that method.

3

4 Just a suggestion.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brower.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, you know --
9 and, you know, when you do summarize, you know, using
10 words that some of our elderly people can understand
11 and the definitions of certain words and, you know,
12 making it a little simple for them to know what you're
13 talking about summarizing the English language or even
14 having translators. But, you know, a lot of our
15 elderly are very outspoken people, you know, they've
16 lived their life of subsistence, you know, since they
17 were born. And sometimes trying to understand what
18 different agencies are saying to them is kind of hard
19 to, you know, put it together unless they simplify it a
20 little bit more so that they can understand it or have
21 an interpreter to speak to them if you're having a
22 public hearing in certain villages.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Steve.
25 All right, Brent, continue.

26

27 MR. VICKERS: Okay. This is all great
28 responses. Thank you so far.

29

30 The last question I have for you on
31 this subject is do you have any other suggestions
32 regarding the ways of improving written or oral public
33 testimony procedure during Council meetings?

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can you restate that.

36

37 MR. VICKERS: No problem. Basically do
38 you have any other suggestions regarding the ways of
39 improving written or oral public testimony during
40 Council meetings, is there anything we can help the
41 process that we haven't said already?

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think some of
44 the suggestions were -- being floated around are if
45 they're not being used will greatly improve your
46 ability for public outreach and get those results that
47 you might need.

48

49 So unless the Council has anything more

50

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1 to add that we haven't already talked about.

2

3

MR. FRANTZ: I do actually, Mr. Chair.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Brower
Frantz.

6

7

8 MR. FRANTZ: So I guess kind of like
9 today some of the reasons I think ADF&G and stuff
10 aren't available, there are conflicting Board of Game
11 meetings as we speak or at least preparations. I'm
12 having at least issues with some of my stuff. Now make
13 sure to recognize multiple meetings and have time lapse
14 meetings at least with other agencies or State. You
15 know, the State's involved with these meetings so I'm
16 sure, you know, people are aware of it, but yet we are
17 continuing on catching fire for some of the stuff at
18 least for the area committees that I'm involved with
19 right now, you know, being here right now. So that --
20 that's definitely one.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

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29

30

So if you set meetings and it doesn't
matter how hard you try to have public comment if you
set them around the times that bigger meetings such as
the Board of Game looking for public comment if you set
another meeting the day before that you're probably not
going to get the input you're looking for such as now.
But yeah, make sure to be looking both ways down the
street for the meetings.

31

32

And that's my comment. Thank you.

33

34

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Brower
Frantz. All right. Continue, Brent.

35

36

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Many -- one of the many governing
statutes that cover the Federal Subsistence Management
Program is the Paper Reduction Act commonly referred to
as PRA. This law requires all Federal departments and
agencies to gain approval through the Office of

1 Management and Budget or OMB prior to the collection of
2 information from the public. In regards to our
3 program, OSM, this collection of information can be the
4 information you provide on your permits, the data
5 supplied to the nominated -- the data supplied to be
6 nominated to serve or continue your service on the
7 Regional Advisory Councils, but it also covers the
8 signage used for fishwheels, nets and buoy markers.
9 Even the requirement to submit a lower moose jaw, the
10 sealing of an untanned animal skin or other biological
11 submissions are covered under this statute.

12

13 This law was designed to protect you,
14 the public, from unreasonable requirements to provide
15 data and/or personal information without justification.
16 The process to gain approval to collect information
17 from OMB generally takes a year, but can take -- be as
18 long as 18 months. An agency must in short provide the
19 reasons this information will be collected, what it
20 will be used for, how it will be used outside of this
21 original intent, who will have access to the
22 information and how it will be stored. This clearance
23 is valid for three years and must be resubmitted prior
24 to expiration date.

25

26 Another governing statute that covers
27 our program is E Government Act. The purpose of this
28 law is to improve the management and promotion of
29 electronic government services and requires using
30 internet based information technology to improve
31 citizen access to government information and services.
32 You see this in our program, in our web page, providing
33 news releases, meeting materials and other information
34 and in the use of social media which allows for the
35 swift notifications regarding special actions, meetings
36 and submissions of regulatory proposals. Our webpage
37 and social media sites are monitored by DOI 24/7 to
38 ensure we meet all requirements of the law and
39 departmental policies.

40

41 After the most recent OMB clearance to
42 collect information by -- from the public, OMB
43 contacted us at OSM and tasked us with exploring the
44 use of automated permits within our program. Many
45 issues would accompany the use of automated permits and
46 must be addressed before any attempt is made to use
47 internet permits. OSM is asking the Council and the
48 public for ideas of how the issuing of permits might
49 look in the future. Any and all ideas are welcome.

50

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1 There are several overriding factors
2 that must be understood. First all Federal permits
3 must be issued by a Federal agency and cannot be
4 delegated to a non-Federal entity such as a local or
5 State entity or tribal government.

6
7 The cost must be considered. The
8 program has a limited budget and excessive costs cannot
9 be absorbed to the detriment of the Board and Council
10 meetings or the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

11
12
13 A paper permit will still have to be
14 carried into the field for proof when addressing LE or
15 field Staff.

16
17 Some issues that must be addressed.
18 How can we verify a person is a Federally-qualified
19 user. How do we address lack or substandard
20 information -- lack of or substandard infrastructure in
21 rural communities if internet permits are used. How
22 will managers address quotas and/or limit the amount of
23 permits issued in the case of conservation concerns.
24 How will managers deal with a lack of reporting or
25 harvest results in the case of power failures or lack
26 of internet especially when reporting requirements are
27 listed as 48 to 70 hours due to severe conservation
28 concerns. How would this possible change affect
29 subsistence users. What method of issuing permits
30 would be preferred by subsistence users.

31
32 While this is not a formal request for
33 comments, we are asking that any comments be sent to
34 subsistence@fws.gov by November 15th, 2022. More
35 information will be provided to the Councils as this
36 process moves forward.

37
38 And that's all I have for that
39 presentation. If there's any questions or comments or
40 anything else you'd like to say about it let me know.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. There's
45 an email to provide those comments. Let's go on to I.

46
47 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Great. I,
48 briefing on Secretarial regulations proposing the
49 inclusion of identified submerged lands in the Tongass
50

1 National Forest. This is not an action item. This is
2 an informational brief only and no action is required
3 on the part of the Council. This is the second
4 rulemaking on this subject. The first taking place as
5 a publication of the proposed rule in June, 2016 and
6 the final rule in May, 2018.

7
8 To comply with the court order,
9 Peratrovich et. al. versus the United States and the
10 State of Alaska, the Secretaries were directed to
11 initiate regulatory proceedings within the Tongass
12 National Forest that did not pass to the State of
13 Alaska at Statehood and therefore remain Federal public
14 lands subject to Federal subsistence provisions. This
15 task was forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board by
16 the Secretary. This proposed rule would add to the
17 list of submerged parcels in the Federal subsistence
18 regulations that have been identified through agency
19 review. The purpose of this proposed rule is to
20 complete regulatory proceedings addressing submerged
21 public lands within the Tongass National Forest as
22 directed by the court. The majority of these submerged
23 lands are low water lines, reefs, rocks and very small
24 island about a hundred yards to half a mile in length.

25
26 This document is expected to be
27 published in the Federal Register in February, 2022 and
28 will have a 60 day comment period. The exact dates
29 will be announced by the news release and social media.
30 If you or the public desires to comment on this
31 proposed rules you may submit comments by one of the
32 following methods. Electronically, you can go to the
33 Federal E rulemaking portal at www.regulations.gov.
34 There's a code that you would enter into the search
35 box, I can provide that code if anyone would like it
36 now. Once you enter the code click on the search
37 button. On the resulting page the search panel is on
38 the left side of the screen under document type
39 heading, click on it and you may submit a comment by
40 clicking comment.

41
42 The second method is by hard copy,
43 submitting it by U.S. mail and we have an address if
44 you would like it, which mails it to the Fish and
45 Wildlife Service headquarters in Falls Church,
46 Virginia.

47 As a Council if you desire to comment
48 on this proposed rule you may submit your comment to
49 the Council coordinator.
50

0292

1 That's all I have on that presentation.
2 Please let me know if you have comments, concerns,
3 ideas.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brent.
8 Any comments or ideas?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seems to me the
13 Tongass Forest -- National Forest is like southeast
14 Alaska, somewhere by Ketchikan or somewhere. We might
15 have a few trees on the North Slope that survived the
16 last ice age and the remaining forest is inside the
17 permafrost that I see that erodes out from the river
18 banks from time to time along with some mammoth and
19 stuff. So it's hard to think about making comments
20 that's affecting a very geographically distant area of
21 Alaska, all the way on the south/southeast portion in
22 my view. That's just my opinion.

23
24 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair, this is Brower.

25
26 MR. VICKERS: And -- oh, go ahead,
27 Brower.

28
29 MR. FRANTZ: Oh, yeah. No, I just had
30 a comment. Yeah, kind of like, you know, I've been
31 observing different stuff as far as geese down in
32 different regions because they're running into lack of
33 population and stuff, but it's always good to at least
34 observe what's going on because even though we have an
35 abundance of our own geese, it's good to see what's
36 going to happen if something else does happen such as
37 the emperor goose down south and the issues they're
38 having with that. So just an analogy.

39
40 They are having issues with that, you
41 know, but just to see what their methods are and what
42 they're going to be doing as far as regulation and
43 things like that. It's always good to watch it happen
44 because then you know, you get a feel for what might be
45 coming later. So this is interesting to me because
46 even though we're not -- we don't have anything like
47 that, you know, if they accidentally find oil on Takolik
48 Island somewhere, you know, they might come over and
49 think about taking over that too. So just to keep an
50

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1 eye on what's happening even if it's in instances like
2 this, even though we don't have it yet, it might happen
3 sometime later, you know, someplace close to us, just
4 to keep an eye on the methods that they're using to go
5 about these kind of off the wall proposals or things
6 that we're not seeing yet. It's just good to keep an
7 eye on them and see what the methods of it is, just to
8 watch it happen.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Brower.
13 Always another side of the coin there and good one.

14

15 All right, Brent Vickers, any -- I
16 think we're good listeners and provided some feedback.
17 And I appreciate your presentations, you must have had
18 the longest of everybody today.

19

20 MR. VICKERS: Well, I have and it's not
21 done yet. You can't get rid of me just yet, I have one
22 more for you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, no, we got 10
25 minutes.

26

27 MR. VICKERS: All right. It's there's
28 no comments allowed. You can comment, but this was
29 actually agency report is all I have left.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Go ahead,
32 finish it off.

33

34 MR. VICKERS: Yeah. All right. Thank
35 you, Mr. Chair. On behalf of OSM I want to thank all
36 Council members for your exceptional work on behalf of
37 your communities and user groups during these trying
38 times. We value your expertise and the contribution of
39 your knowledge and experience to the regulatory
40 process. It has been very difficult for all of us
41 dealing with the covid-19 environment. In this
42 presentation I'll give you a few topics and a quick
43 summary of what's happened.

44

45 First of all teleconferences.

46

47 We are holding all 10 winter, 2022
48 Regional Advisory Council meetings via teleconference.
49 The DOI guidelines advises that people avoid meeting in
50

0294

1 person to minimize risk and help prevent the spread of
2 covid-19. OSM received direction from Department of
3 Interior that no Federal Advisory Committee meetings,
4 FACA meetings, would be held in person in the fiscal
5 year of 2022. And all Regional Advisory Councils are
6 FACA committees.

7

8 The Federal Subsistence Management
9 Program recognizes that in person meetings are
10 preferable, however until we can ensure safety of all
11 participants we will follow current guidance and hold
12 all meetings via teleconference.

13

14 We thank you again for being willing to
15 participate in the lengthy teleconference and
16 appreciate your patience as we deal with various
17 technical issues that arise from poor telephonic
18 connections, vast distances involved and differing
19 communication systems throughout the State of Alaska.

20

21 OSM Staff changes.

22

23 We are pleased to announce the
24 following OSM Staffing changes that have occurred since
25 your last Council meeting in fall of 2021.

26

27 Scott Ayers was hired as OSM Fisheries
28 Division supervisor in January. Scott worked for three
29 years as a fisheries biologist for OSM several years
30 ago before he took a job with the U.S. Fish and
31 Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
32 Program. We welcome Scott back to OSM.

33

34 Jarred Stone who spoke earlier and Cory
35 Graham have both been promoted with the Fisheries
36 Division. Additional fisheries biologists have just
37 been hired.

38

39 In January Sherri Gould-Fehrs, OSM
40 administrative support assistant, was temporarily
41 promoted to ARD secretary position.

42

43 Kayla McKinney stepped up to
44 temporarily serve as subsistence outreach coordinator.

45

46

47 In December and January Liz Williams
48 and Jason Roberts were hired as OSM anthropologists.
49 Liz worked for OSM about 12 years ago and is now

50

0295

1 returning. Welcome back, Liz.

2

3

4 OSM is pleased to welcome three newly
5 hired subsistence Council coordinators, Nissa Bates
6 Pilcher, Leigh Honig and Brooke McDavid. All with a
7 wealth of knowledge and experience in working with
8 rural users and communities as well as Alaska
9 subsistence issues.

9

10 We also had departures at OSM through
11 retirement and new opportunities.

12

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We bid fond farewell to administrative staff, Katherine Avery, Ricky Carbagow. The OSM team continues to work on rebuilding our capacity and hope to advertise positions in our regulatory and administrative support functions soon.

DOI and USDA conducted listening sections on Federal subsistence policy.

The U.S. Department of Interior and Agriculture conducted virtual listening sessions on tribal consultations on January 10th, 20th, 21st and 28th of this year, 2022. The sessions were on the Federal subsistence policy. The Secretaries requested input from tribes, tribal consortia and Alaska Native organizations and corporations. The DOI senior advisor for Alaska affairs and strategic priorities met with Federal Subsistence Board members prior to the consultations to introduce Board members and Department of Interior leadership and to provide Board members with an update on DOI activities related to subsistence management.

RealID for travel to Council meetings.

Over the past two plus years we have been reminding Council members about the change in requirements for IDs at airports. Beginning May 3rd, 2023 every air traveler will need to present RealID compliant driver's license or other acceptable form of identification such as a passport, to fly within the United States. This is applicable even when you fly on small bush carriers. Please note that all Council members will need to make sure they have their required RealID for travel the fall of 2023 Council meetings. So next fall, next year.

0296

1 Lawsuits from the State of Alaska.

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As you were previously briefed on August 10th, 2020, the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence Board after it adopted emergency special action WSA19-14. This special action allowed the Village of Kake to engage in a community harvest of up to four bull moose and 10 male Sitka black-tail deer.

Also included in the lawsuit was a temporary special action, WSA20-03, which closed Federal public lands in Units 13A and 13B to moose and caribou hunting by non-Federally-qualified users for the 2020 through 2022 regulatory cycle. As part of the lawsuit the State asked the court to issue two preliminary injunctions, one to prevent the Unit 13 closure from taking effect and the other vacating the Kake hunt and prohibiting the Board from allowing any additional emergency hunts relating to the impacts of covid-19.

On December 3rd, 2021 the U.S. Court denied the State's request for declaratory and permanent injunctive relief, finding in favor of the Federal Subsistence Board on both matters. The court found that one, it lacks jurisdiction over the issues associated with a Kake hunt because that portion of the State's claims are moot; and two, the FSB's decision to close Units 13A and 13B to nonsubsistence users, was both legally permissible and supported by the information on record. The State recently filed an appeal of the District Court's decision, but the 9th Circuit has not yet scheduled it for briefing.

I would be happy to answer any questions on anything I presented.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and all Council members.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other questions for Brent and his extensive presentations for today?

MR. OOMITTUK: This is Steve here.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

0297

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I just want to
2 thank him, is that Brett or what, I couldn't quite get
3 his name?

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Brett Vickers
6 -- Brent.

7
8 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you for
9 your presentation and experiences. And thank you for
10 asking communities on how to better get more input in
11 public meeting or hearings and stuff like that.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MR. VICKERS: Thank you very much,
16 Council member Steve. I greatly appreciate that and
17 even more appreciative of your very wise comments and
18 great feedback.

19
20 So thank you all.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Very
23 good. So I think that concludes the last item, Office
24 of Subsistence Management and now we're down to future
25 meeting dates, fall, 2022.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
28 Council members.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got to take a
31 phone call. You guys work on that.

32
33 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thanks, Mr. Chair.
34 You can find the fall meeting calendar under tab 14 in
35 your meeting books. And you'll see on the calendar
36 previously the North Slope RAC had selected October
37 13th and 14th for your upcoming fall, 2022 Regional
38 Advisory Council meeting. That's a Thursday and a
39 Friday. And it says location to be determined. And at
40 the time the Council selected this meeting date we
41 weren't sure about what the -- you know, the covid
42 situation might be, but looking very hopeful that next
43 fall we would be able to meet in person.

44
45 And as noted the RealID is coming up in
46 terms of the requirement for everyone to have a RealID.
47 And previously before covid was an issue and we weren't
48 able to travel we had planned to hold the RAC meetings
49 in regional hubs where all the rural communities would
50

0298

1 be able to have access to and have time to make an
2 appointment with DMV in order to get your RealID. So I
3 might just make a recommendation to the Council that
4 for your fall meeting if it was held in Utqiagvik that
5 we could make sure that all our Council members have
6 the opportunity to have time to go to DMV and get a
7 RealID if you don't have one already.

8

9 But we're looking for reconfirmation or
10 if the Council thinks there should be a different date
11 to hold a RAC meeting. Currently your selection was
12 for October 13th and 14th and then to identify the
13 community that you would like to meet in.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MS. KIPPI: Eva, this is Wanda.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Go ahead, Wanda.

20

21 MS. KIPPI: I was told and I heard
22 about the State IDs, I was told that you could use your
23 Native village card, but I'm wondering does it need a --
24 it needs a photo ID?

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Yeah, thank you for that
29 question, Wanda. I'm not 100 percent certain myself.
30 I know the realID information that I've seen before was
31 that it required a photo ID. You know, regular
32 driver's license are no longer valid, you have to get a
33 special RealID driver's license. They would accept
34 passports. And I know other folks have mentioned too
35 about tribal ID passing for that. I would have to look
36 into that to confirm, but either way I think, you know,
37 we would want to make sure that we do provide that
38 opportunity for the Council members to be able to go to
39 DMV if needed and make sure that everybody has that
40 chance. So we would schedule enough time for Council
41 members to do that if the Council wished to meet in
42 Utqiagvik for this fall meeting.

43

44 But I'll have to look into to confirm
45 whether tribal ID does apply for that new RealID, but
46 either way we would want to ensure that we can help
47 support the Council members from the rural communities
48 being able to get to DMV if needed.

49

50

0299

1 Thank you, Wanda.

2

3 MS. PETRIVELLI: Excuse me, this is Pat
4 Petrivelli.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Yeah, go ahead, Pat. That
7 would be great if you're able to respond to that
8 question.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah, I looked on the
13 TSA website and it does -- there's a question is my
14 tribal identification an acceptable form and it says
15 yes, a Federally recognized tribal issued photo ID is
16 an acceptable form of identification. So the tribal ID
17 has to have a picture on it.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you for
20 checking, Pat. Appreciate that.

21

22 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Pat. I think
23 I've heard that and yeah, I think we all need a photo
24 ID for the tribal one.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. PATTON: And with that do Council
29 members -- does that October 13th and 14th, again
30 that's a Thursday/Friday, October 13th and 14th, do
31 those dates work for you and then would you like to
32 meet in Utqiagvik to make sure you have that
33 opportunity to go to DMV if need be or would you have
34 another recommendation for location?

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, Steve for the
39 record. I just -- Gordon, are you still there?

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm still here. I'm
42 on another call, but I'm still here.

43

44 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. I -- October 13
45 and 14 does sound good, but, you know, we haven't had
46 an AFN in how many years and that's normally October
47 when the AFN, Alaska Federation of Natives is usually
48 towards right around that area, a little later maybe,
49 but we never know. But that's pretty close to AFN
50

0300

1 time, I don't know if there is going to be one this
2 year or not.

3

4 Thank you. Sounds good though. And is
5 that in Fairbanks, that meeting, is that where
6 it's.....

7

8 MS. HUGO: Steve, it's in Utqiagvik.

9

10 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. I.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm on the phone.
13 Esther, do you want to take the helm as the Vice Chair
14 to set the fall, 2022 meeting date and I just got busy
15 on a phone call that I couldn't get off from, but I'm
16 still listening.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
19 Chair and members of the Council and our Vice Chair,
20 Esther Hugo.

21

22 So I am reconfirming. Normally we do
23 include AFN on our fall meeting calendars and it's not
24 on the one in your meeting books, but currently the
25 2022 AFN convention is set for October 20th through
26 22nd, 2022 and they're hoping to hold it in Anchorage
27 at the Dena'ina Center. So there would not be an
28 overlap at this time with your October 13 and 14
29 meeting.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Thank you.

34

35 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: This is Esther.
36 What's the wish of the Council? I think I'm good with
37 October 13 and 14.

38

39 MR. OOMITTUK: Sounds good to me.
40 Point Hope.

41

42 MR. WILLIAMS: Sounds good to me.

43

44 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Earl. Thank
45 you, Steve.

46

47 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you. Thank
48 you.

49

50

0301

1 MS. PATTON: And does the Council have
2 a location that you'd like to meet in?

3
4 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: What was that?

5
6 MS. PATTON: I was just checking to
7 confirm and I think I might have heard Wanda there, did
8 you have a feedback on the dates, Wanda?

9
10 MS. KIPPI: Eva, I don't -- I had no
11 comment, but, you know, during that end of August from
12 September through end of October until the first part
13 of November I'd rather be at camp, but I might make it
14 acceptable to go. But if it's a good week to go
15 camping I might not go. So but yeah, that date's fine
16 with me.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you, Wanda.
19 Yes, and I know you like to spend a lot of time out at
20 your cabin, at your wonderful cabin and everything is
21 weather permitting of course.

22
23 So thank you for that, Wanda, and
24 hopeful those dates will work okay.

25
26 And how about for the location, would
27 the Council like to meet in Utqiagvik, this will be the
28 first opportunity probably to meet back together again.
29 And if it is held there then we would be able to
30 arrange opportunity for Council members to go to DMV if
31 that was needed for the RealID at that time.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: Thank you, Eva.
36 I think most of us are agreeing with the dates on 13th
37 and 14th. And as to the RealID I will try -- I mean, I
38 will get that before then.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you. So any
43 recommendations on location?

44
45 MR. FRANTZ: I'm okay to meet in
46 Utqiagvik.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: Eva, I thought
49 you said Utqiagvik, winter, 2023.

50

0302

1 MS. PATTON: We're still in fall, 2022,
2 to reconfirm that. And I think Brower had a comment.

3
4 MR. FRANTZ: Oh, yeah. No, I said I'm
5 okay with it. That's the ending of our whaling season
6 so, you know, if you guys could go to Utqiagvik there's
7 pretty good chance there's going to be some serving on
8 those dates.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Okay. Wonderful. Thank
11 you, Brower. And also you'll see in your calendar the
12 meeting window opens August 8th and so often the North
13 Slope Council alternates between meeting in the first
14 -- you know, meeting in the early weeks of August prior
15 to the fall whaling season or meeting after the fall
16 whaling season. So that might be a wonderful
17 celebration in Utqiagvik at that time.

18
19 So if we could just a motion and vote
20 for October 13th and 14th to be held in Utqiagvik.

21
22 MR. WILLIAMS: I make a motion.

23
24 MS. PATTON: All right. Motion by Earl
25 Williams.

26
27 MR. WILLIAMS: So moved.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: Earl Williams
30 made a motion of the fall, 2022, October 13 and 14 at
31 Utqiagvik. Is there a second?

32
33 MR. OOMITTUK: Second that motion from
34 Point Hope.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: Second from
37 Point Hope. Steve, thank you.

38
39 Call for question.

40
41 MS. KIPPI: Question.

42
43 MR. FRANTZ: Question.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: The question's
46 been called for. Just excuse me, this is the hardest
47 part, I still don't get in my Council meetings.

48
49 Those that are in favor of holding the
50

0303

1 meeting for fall, 2022, October 13 and 14 signify by
2 saying aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN HUGO: Okay. Thank
9 you. It's passed for that time.

10

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Esther. You're
12 doing great. And I heard everybody say aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm off my call now
15 so I'm back.

16

17 MS. HUGO: Oh, good.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I
20 apologize, I couldn't miss this call and I had to take
21 that call.

22

23 All right. Select winter meeting,
24 2023. So we have a fall date, October 13 and 14 is
25 selected sounds like.

26

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

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And for the -- yeah,
30 go ahead, Madame Coordinator.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
33 October 13th and 14th to be held in Utqiagvik for the
34 fall, 2022 meeting.

35

36 And for your winter, 2023 meeting
37 you'll find that on the next page. And so far all of
38 those meeting dates are available except for two weeks
39 that are already booked with two Council meetings. The
40 Federal Subsistence Management Program is able to
41 support two Council meetings consecutively when we're
42 meeting in person. And so the week of March 12th
43 through 18th is currently booked so you can scratch
44 that out and then April 2nd to April 8th is booked and
45 you can scratch that out, but you have the other five
46 weeks available within that time frame from February
47 21st through March 31st.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Sounds

50

0304

1 good. I think we should meet February 23 and 24.

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: I move to close the
4 nominations in my opinion.

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

7

8 MS. HUGO: I agree.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. The
11 nominations have been closed and so moved. All those
12 in favor of 23 and 24 signify by saying aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
17 nay.

18

19 (No opposing votes)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it. 23
22 and 24 and now we have a winter meeting.

23

24 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is
25 there a location the Council would like to recommend.
26 It can be to be determined or if you have a wish for
27 one of the other.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

30

31 MS. PATTON:communities in the
32 North Slope region.

33

34 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Point Hope. I
35 make a motion for Hawaii so we can warm up a little
36 bit.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Man, you read my
41 mind, Steve. I was thinking Hawaii, man.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Sounds good.

44

45 MS. KIPPI: Too hot.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: How about.....

48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: We can't afford.....

50

0305

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Whoever's
2 going to go to Hawaii, bring some fresh (in Native),
3 you'll have (in Native) in about three hours.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MR. FRANTZ: I guess a comment on that.
8 The PC meetings are the last Thursday of every month
9 too, aren't they?

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, the planning
12 commission.

13
14 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's right. I
17 could have a potential conflict and at the same time
18 sometimes those planning commission meetings might not
19 be that long.

20
21 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But that's a good
24 point. I'll find a way to excuse myself and let Mable
25 take the helm.

26
27 MR. FRANTZ: Especially if it's Hawaii.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, especially if
30 it's Hawaii we got to bring our (in Native) and make
31 (in Native) under the trees right away.

32
33 Well, you know, if we want to meet in a
34 village we can do that too and then we can try. I know
35 we had one in Anaktuvuk in 2014, I think we went to
36 Point Hope in 2019 and just got to remember some of our
37 villages might not have a hotel like Point Lay would be
38 very difficult and Atqasuk might be very difficult.
39 Maybe we can go to Wainwright and go visit Blair.

40
41 MR. OOMITTUK: Barter Island has a
42 hotel.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I heard the
45 cheeseburgers are best at Wainwright.

46
47 MR. WILLIAMS: Eddie Rexford, what do
48 you think?

49
50

0306

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Which one?

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Eddie Rexford, what do
4 you think.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eddie, do you want us
7 in your neck of the woods?

8

9 MR. REXFORD: Oh, yeah, we have a hotel
10 here.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Your village
13 is being nominated for our winter meeting, 2023.

14

15 MR. FRANTZ: Move for Kaktovik.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those signify by
18 saying aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 MS. KIPPI: Kaktovik it is.

23

24 MR. OOMITTUK: Under.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
27 nay.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.
32 Kaktovik winter.

33

34 Go ahead, somebody was addressing the
35 Council.

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: Will we have polar bear
38 protection while we're there?

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, bring our guns
41 so we can skin one and eat it.

42

43 (In Native).

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good meeting, I
46 thoroughly enjoyed it. Lots of blessing to everybody,
47 maybe we could go to closing comments or we could just
48 adjourn.

49

50

0307

1 Let's just go through closing comments.
2 I'll start with Earl.

3
4 Any closing comments?

5
6 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much.
7 This is Earl from Anaktuvuk. I just want to say thank
8 you and have my co -- and now, Esther, welcome and step
9 up the ladder.

10
11 Thank you very much and thanks for the
12 comments and everything.

13
14 And what I wanted to say about the
15 (indiscernible - distortion - distortion) that
16 (indiscernible - distortion) was talking about earlier
17 is that well, I live for my elders (indiscernible -
18 distortion).....

19
20 Thanks very much and enjoy yourself and
21 see you at the next meeting.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Earl,
24 great comments.

25
26 Esther.

27
28 MS. HUGO: Yes, Mr. Chair, just quickly
29 that I've enjoyed the meeting and it's good to be back
30 and we've got some work to do. And god bless you all
31 and I'm ready to get home and cook.

32
33 (In Native)

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Safe
36 travel. (In Native)

37
38 We'll go to Eddie Rexford, Kaktovik.
39 Any closing comments?

40
41 MR. REXFORD: Mainly just it's been a
42 very enjoyable meeting.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. It's
45 always good to hear from you, Eddie.

46
47 We'll go to Martha Itta if you've
48 joined us back in Nuiqsut.

49
50

0308

1 (No comments)

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(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think she may be busy with the city council meeting.

We'll go to Brower Frantz, Utqiagvik. Any closing comments?

MR. FRANTZ: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Just want to let you all know this was actually very ground breaking for me personally. This is the first meeting of my life that I've actually been on a Council. You know, I've headed different Councils and been a part of planning commission, you know, meetings and never been.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

MR. FRANTZ:part of the Council. So I -- you know, I've had my hand in a.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

MR. FRANTZ:great place to be, you know. Gordon, you recommended me I think multiple years ago, it took a little pushing and shoving from another director too so both of you kind of shoved me in this direction so I decided to throw my name in the hat.

Thank you. You know, I've worked a long time with you guys, multiple years and I think I'll be good here, I'm glad to be here, glad to be discussing all this stuff with multiple communities and I look forward to working to better our subsistence.

Thank you.

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Brower. And congratulation again on your appointment from the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America.

(In Native)

0309

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll go to
2 Wanda, Atqasuk. Any closing comments?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wanda, if you're
7 making comments you might be on mute or we've lost you.

8
9 MS. KIPPI: Oh, yes, I was talking on
10 mute. Sorry.

11
12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted).

14
15 MS. KIPPI: Okay. I just wanted to say
16 welcome Brower Frantz and thank you for joining our
17 Council and welcome back to Esther Hugo, it's good to
18 have you back. It's good to hear all of you.

19
20 And I had forgotten in the beginning of
21 our report I had forgotten to mention that there was
22 wolves that caught four caribou in our area, close --
23 nearby, within what, 20 miles or less radius around our
24 community. That's what I had forgotten to add to my
25 report.

26
27 And it's always good to hear all of
28 you. (In Native) until we meet again.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Wanda.
33 And I think Brower's trying to start his ski-doo now to
34 go find those wolves.

35
36 MR. FRANTZ: I'm thinking about it
37 right now.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And I'm
40 not sure if Blair Patkotak, Jr. ever joined us from
41 Wainwright. We would love that participation and we'll
42 continue to encourage Blair to join and be part of the
43 group and represent Wainwright.

44
45 And we'll -- for Point Lay I did send a
46 message to Sophie, she's a tribal council member over
47 there that it would be awesome if somebody could step
48 up and get an application in to represent Point Lay.

49
50

0310

1 And we'll go to Point Hope, Steve
2 Oomittuk, closing comments.

3
4 MR. OOMITTUK: (In Native). Good to
5 hear everybody and welcome aboard, Brower Frantz and
6 also welcome back to Esther Hugo. And good to hear
7 everybody. It's been a good couple days and thank you,
8 thanks for all your input. And we're looking forward
9 to our next meeting.

10
11 (In Native) for all your work and our
12 Chairman for always keeping us on top of things and
13 been there a long time. And thank you for your
14 commitment to the North Slope Subsistence Advisory
15 Council.

16
17 (In Native) Thank you, Eva, for
18 always.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
21 you, Steve. Always wise words. Always wise words.

22
23 For me my closing remarks is I'm very
24 glad we got some new appointments and starting to see
25 -- because a majority of us, a lot of us, I'm not
26 saying we're old, you know, but sometimes we need to
27 start to integrate with the younger folks so that they
28 could see the passion of what we do for rural
29 preference. And I keep that to my heart about the
30 Federal process because it's very different than many
31 of the management regimes out there because it looks
32 out for the community, the rural subsistence
33 preference.

34
35 And thank you so much, Eva, for working
36 with us and keeping us on the agenda and letting us
37 suspend the rules. I haven't suspended rules in a long
38 time and it was good to do that and shuffle a lot of
39 things around to get things done today.

40
41 With that everybody be safe, love each
42 other, pray for one another and we'll see you in our
43 next fall meeting.

44
45 With that do we have a motion to
46 adjourn?

47
48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted).

50

0311

1 MR. FRANTZ: Motion to adjourn.

2

3 MS. HUGO: So moved.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
6 to adjourn from Anaktuvuk, Esther.

7

8 MR. FRANTZ: Second.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded, any
11 discussion?

12

13 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been
16 called for. All those in favor of adjourning signify
17 by saying aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
22 bye.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 (Off record)

27

28 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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