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SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE  
October 27, 2021  
9:03 a.m.

Members Present:

- Louis Green, Chairman
- Tom Gray
- Deahl Katchatag
- Ron Kirk
- Leland Oyoumick
- Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator - Karen Deatherage

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 10/27/2021)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Fine. And it is 9:03 and calling the meeting back to order. We have announcements from Karen.

Go ahead, Karen.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Karen Deatherage with the Office of Subsistence Management. And again I want to thank everybody for your patience with the teleconference meeting. We ask that you please, please, do not put us on hold. And also unless you are speaking please mute your phone. You can do that on -- if you're on a mobile phone, a cell phone, you can do that on the cell phone menu, there's a mute button or if you're on a landline you can press star six and the star is right next to the -- to the left of the zero on your keypad on your -- on your landline. And then when you wish to speak you just press star six to open up your line again. Everybody did pretty doggone good yesterday with that so we really appreciate it very, very much.

I'm going to make some announcements about some oral and written testimony opportunities. At the beginning of each day there is an opportunity to provide testimony on non-agenda items. The Council Chair will announce these opportunities.

Then there is also an opportunity to provide oral comments on the wildlife proposals and closure reviews during and after an analyst presents proposal analyses. The order of receiving the comments is outlined on page 22 of your meeting materials. The Council Chair will call for this public oral testimony.

There is also an opportunity to submit written public comments on the proposals. If you have a written comment please email it to subsistence@fws.gov, that's fish wildlife service.gov, fws.gov. Please clearly indicate the number of the proposal or closure review you are commenting on in the title of the email. The comments need to be emailed prior to the proposal you are commenting on is

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1 presented to the Council. If there are less than 10  
2 written comments we will read them into the record. If  
3 there are more than 10 written comments they will be  
4 tallied and the result will be presented to the Council  
5 prior to their deliberation.

6  
7 With that I'd like to turn it over to  
8 the Chair who can ask if anybody is on the phone who  
9 did not introduce themselves yesterday.

10  
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.  
14 What she said. If there's anybody out there that needs  
15 to introduce themselves, please do, take a moment.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, I guess  
20 we'll proceed.

21  
22 Karen, do -- I'll of a sudden I don't  
23 hear anything, are you there?

24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'm  
26 here.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh.

29  
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: We can check to see if  
31 Martin or Elmer Seetot, Jr., has joined us on the phone  
32 to see if there's a quorum this morning.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Let's do.  
37 Elmer.

38  
39 MR. SEETOT: Present.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds like Elmer.

42  
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 That would mean there are five individuals from the  
45 Council on the phone which does represent a quorum.  
46 And I would like to stress that there are numerous  
47 action items remaining on the agenda. So if all the  
48 Council members could stay on the phone, I know it's  
49 difficult, but we need to be able to establish a quorum  
50

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1 so you can take action.

2

3

Thank you very much.

4

5

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Karen.

6 Thanks, Elmer, Doug, Leland, Ron, for calling in.

7 Hopefully Martin will be able to call in and maybe

8 we'll hear from Tommy.

9

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14

So today's action items starts with  
Wildlife WCR22-13 on Unit 22D, closure for moose  
hunting on the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim drainages  
except by Unit 22 and 22D residents.

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Mr. Ubelaker, I think you have an  
analysis to read for us.

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MR. UBELAKER: I most certainly do, Mr.  
Chair. Thank you much.

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27

For the record my name is Brian  
Ubelaker, wildlife biologist with the Office of  
Subsistence Management. And this analysis begins on  
page 131 of your meeting books. And Wildlife Closure  
Review 22-13 pertaining to Unit 22D within the  
Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River drainages.

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Federal public lands are closed to the  
harvesting of moose except by residents of Units 22D  
and 22C. This closure was initially established in  
2002. This closure was enacted to restrict heavy  
hunting pressure to conserve a declining population of  
moose in 2001. Since then the season has been  
shortened on three separate occasions. Overharvest of  
the herd has occurred in 2003 and 2004 despite efforts  
to close the hunt by ADF&G. The Council had reviewed  
this closure in 2011 and 2014 and recommended to  
maintain status quo.

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The moose population in Unit 22 is  
estimated at 6,775 moose which is within State  
management objectives. ADF&G considers the moose  
population in Unit 22D to be decreasing to stable with  
population estimates below the management objective.  
The bull/cow ratio has averaged 26 bulls to 100 cows  
which is just above management objectives.

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49

50

No nonresident harvest has occurred in  
22D since the nonresident season closed in 2002. All

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1 harvest under State regulations has occurred on non-  
2 Federal lands. Moose harvest in Unit 22D are managed  
3 by quotas and between 2014 and 2019 reported moose  
4 harvest has exceeded quotas in all years. And since  
5 2017 the seasons have closed in five days or less. If  
6 this closure were rescinded non-Federally-qualified  
7 users would be able to harvest moose on Federal public  
8 lands within Unit 22D, that portion within the  
9 Kougarak, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River drainages. As the  
10 State hunt is managed by harvest quotas rescinding the  
11 closure would likely result in zero to minimal increase  
12 in harvest.

13

14 Unit 22D moose population is below  
15 management objectives. Bull/cow ratios are relatively  
16 low indicating few surplus bulls available for harvest.  
17 And calf/cow ratios are very low indicating a declining  
18 population. Increased hunters would lead to decreased  
19 harvest opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence  
20 users by increasing competition for a small, quickly  
21 met quota of harvestable moose.

22

23 Therefore it is OSM's preliminary  
24 conclusion to maintain status quo.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I will  
27 entertain any questions you may have.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian.  
30 Could you share where these Federal lands are? And the  
31 other thing is I was going to say that 22C, 22D unit  
32 people include -- is inclusive of Brevig, Teller, Nome,  
33 all the above that live in the area.

34

35 Anyway go ahead.

36

37 MR. UBELAKER: I -- let's see. I'll  
38 try to describe to you Federal lands in 22D to the  
39 trend. It's the -- it's the block of land to the north  
40 and to the east of Brevig Mission and then if memory  
41 serves correct it's the big block of the Agiapuk, kind  
42 of on the I guess -- or the big block of land just  
43 north of Imuruk Basin. There's one large block that  
44 abuts it and then one smaller block that's kind of  
45 separated to the north.

46

47 Hopefully that made some sort of sense  
48 to you, Sir.

49

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1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I just wanted to  
2 demonstrate a little bit that there -- we're limited on  
3 our Federal lands there.

4  
5                   Anyway any Council members have any  
6 questions for Mr. Ubelaker?

7  
8                   MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig on page  
9 132.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

12  
13                   MR. SEETOT: That portion that is --  
14 the map of 132 is that 22D showing way on the right  
15 side on the unit designation?

16  
17                   MR. UBELAKER: The portion that this  
18 closure is dealing with is the -- kind of the green  
19 tinted one and then the blue tinted -- no, wait. Nope.  
20 I am absolutely wrong. I was looking at the wrong --  
21 the wrong section. The Kuzitrin is the far western  
22 extent of 22D. My apologies on that, Mr. Chair.  
23 Strike the answer I gave you before. Yeah, Elmer has  
24 is right. The map of page 132, the blue tinted area,  
25 the western extent of 22D is the Kuzitrin River  
26 drainage section of 22D. My apologies.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer, do you have any  
29 more?

30  
31                   MR. SEETOT: Yes, Mr. Chair. You  
32 mentioned something about overharvest on moose -- on  
33 moose. There -- there's a lot of wolf activity in and  
34 around that area when they do follow the caribou for  
35 the northern side where they overwinter. And the  
36 wolves do pretty much whatchamacallit, get the wolves  
37 or -- sucks. Come on, you. The hunters drive the wolf  
38 -- the hunter drives the moose to certain areas and --  
39 and that's how come I would think that you mentioned  
40 something about overharvest. Their -- the corridor I  
41 think when bearing to Calvin also drives in the other  
42 predators from other places and I know that that Unit  
43 12D is a -- is a heavy use area by residents of 12C  
44 because they do have a road that goes up that way and  
45 they can use a boat in and out. I have traveled the  
46 Kuzitrin River to Kuzitrin Lake and it's kind of pretty  
47 rugged, not very good for moose habitat in that area,  
48 but I would think that they do reside along the streams  
49 and rivers where there's timber or willow protection.

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1 So I have traveled that area in the past and seems like  
2 just pretty much the southern portion of that area  
3 would permit the moose hab -- moose to be in around  
4 that area. But I do know that there's a lot of wolf  
5 activity and I do think that they do get the animals to  
6 go to other areas when the wolves are present.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Any  
11 other Council comments or questions or concerns of  
12 Brian.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Brian,  
17 it -- that 22D in the blue is matched up to 22D in the  
18 green and the 22D in the pink. So that is inclusive of  
19 Teller and Brevig residents. 22C has Solomon and Nome.  
20 So residents of that whole complete area, those are all  
21 the users of what's in 22D, lower Kuzitrin, right, you  
22 would say?

23

24 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, correct. 22C, Nome  
25 and Solomon and 22D is Brevig Mission and Teller.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess the only  
28 communities that aren't in it that are in the other  
29 Unit, 22B would be White Mountain, Golovin and Elim,  
30 maybe Koyuk, but.....

31

32 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, correct.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....Council is pretty  
35 much 22C residency. We also have King Island people,  
36 Cape Woolley, so they're all part of the 22C. So the  
37 use is -- the use is pretty much everybody in 22 on the  
38 road system.

39

40 So the -- the impacts of -- were --  
41 were mandated over -- well, not mandated, were -- were  
42 in a quota system under ADF&G's management. So that --  
43 we're down to only so many animals in our each -- in  
44 each one of those subunits.

45

46 What was the last one for 22D, what was  
47 the quota? I couldn't -- I can't -- I'm not sure what  
48 it is?

49

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1 MR. UBELAKER: I am not sure if I had  
2 the quotas listed. Let me scroll down here real quick.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, in 2020.....

5  
6 MR. UBELAKER: Sorry.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: In 20 -- in 2020 -- in  
9 2020 it was 27, I don't know what it was in 2021.  
10 Somebody.....

11  
12 MR. UBELAKER: No, I do not have 2021  
13 quota. Maybe Bill could fill in that blank if you'd  
14 like.

15  
16 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, Mr. Chair.....

17  
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hey, there, Bill.

19  
20 MR. DUNKER: .....this is Bill Dunker  
21 with -- Bill Dunker with ADF&G. The harvest quota for  
22 22D in the Kuzitrin and southwest hunt area was 27  
23 bulls during regulatory year 21.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. And  
26 the green is considered 22D remainder, correct?

27  
28 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, Sir. Correct.

29  
30 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Bill. I  
33 think I hear you.

34  
35 MR. DUNKER: Sorry, Mr. Chair. I  
36 wasn't sure if that question was for me or not.  
37 So.....

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. What's the --  
40 what's the situation with that 22D remainder?

41  
42 MR. DUNKER: So 22D remainder was  
43 included as part of the RM840 hunt at the 2020 Board of  
44 Game meeting. So for the last two seasons, '20 and  
45 '21, we've managed that hunt area with a harvest quota  
46 as part of RM840. The other regulatory changes that  
47 were adopted at that time were to eliminate the October  
48 through November season and make a to be announced  
49 winter hunt in the event the harvestable surplus isn't  
50



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1 taken during the fall season. So the last two years in  
2 22D remainder we've had a total reported harvest of 16  
3 bulls and that season ran from August 10th to September  
4 11th in 2020 and then it range from August 10th to  
5 September 14th this past year.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Has it exceeded the --  
8 the quota?

9

10 MR. DUNKER: No. Interestingly enough,  
11 yeah, we closed the season down by emergency order on  
12 the 11th last year in the effort -- in the interest of  
13 being conservative and allowing that population to sort  
14 of rebuild the bull/cow ratio was the primary  
15 motivation for the regulatory changes and adopting the  
16 registration permit requirement. This past year we  
17 went clear through to the season in regulation without  
18 the need for any emergency order closures. So 16 out  
19 of 17 bulls were taken in -- in both of the first two  
20 years of the hunt in the area administered as a  
21 registered hunt.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. And I -- I  
24 was going to ask another question. So I guess was it  
25 mainly residents of Teller and Brevig that targeted  
26 those -- those moose in the remainder area or do you  
27 know yet?

28

29 MR. DUNKER: I don't have -- Mr. Chair,  
30 I don't have the breakdown of the harvest sitting right  
31 in front of me. I can get back to you with that, but  
32 my general recollection that it was a combination of  
33 harvest from Brevig, Teller and residents of Nome as  
34 well.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
37 Bill. So we've taken all the steps in 22D to -- and we  
38 -- that we can besides pretty much closing it down,  
39 right, I think we've got all that in play right now,  
40 Bill?

41

42 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair. Certainly  
43 administering hunts in the area with harvest quotas is  
44 a -- is -- is a time proven way for us to maintain  
45 harvest at a sustainable level.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And so your  
48 observation is that we're maintaining on the State  
49 levels management, right?

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1 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, yes. That's  
2 correct. Particularly since we shifted to a 24 hour  
3 reporting requirement for 22D and the Kuzitrin, we --  
4 we're in a much better place as far as, you know, being  
5 able to, you know, issue closures in a timely manner to  
6 maintain harvest at sustainable levels. We were in the  
7 area doing composition surveys in the fall of 2019 and  
8 sort of across the board we saw I think a -- the  
9 estimated bull/cow ratio at that time was 31 bulls per  
10 100 cows. 22D remainder was below our management  
11 objective and 22D Kuzitrin was slightly above our  
12 objective. But we're making steps towards improving  
13 the bull/cow ratio with the reduced harvest quotas in D  
14 remainder. And the harvest in 22D Kuzitrin is  
15 sustainable at this time.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Do you  
18 have a count in that area or in the blue area?

19  
20 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, we did an  
21 abundance survey throughout 22D and E in the spring of  
22 2020 and the estimate of moose abundance throughout 22D  
23 at that time was approximately 1,200 moose which is  
24 indicative of relatively stability since we completed a  
25 survey in that area in 2014.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What was that, what  
28 was the 2014 number?

29  
30 MR. DUNKER: I've got it right here.  
31 Let me just take a quick look here. Yeah, Mr. Chair,  
32 the estimate from 2020 was 1,254. The estimate for 22D  
33 from 2014 was 1,106.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: A little bit of an  
36 increase. So that was in '14. Okay. Thank you, Bill.  
37 Appreciate it.

38  
39 MR. DUNKER: Okay.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any Council members  
42 wish to have questions or comments or concerns before  
43 we take this to a -- the Ten Commandment process?

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. We'll  
48 start out, we've already heard the analysis, number 1.  
49 So number 2, Karen, do we have any tribes or ANCSA  
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1 corporations?

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MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Karen Deatherage with the Office of Subsistence Management. There were no tribal or ANCSA comments during consultation for WCR22-13.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that. Now we go to number 3, agency comment. We heard from Brian and we've heard from Bill Dunker at ADF&G. Are there any additional ADF&G comments?

MR. DUNKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, if I could. Bill Dunker here again with Fish and Game. So Department of Fish and Game would support the elimination under closures in 22D Kuzitrin. The availability of registration permits for the fall moose hunts in that area have been restricted by the actions taken by the Board of Game in January of 2020. That limits the availability of those RM840 permits to licensed vendors within the hunt area July 25th to August 25th and hunters are required to pick those permits up in person during that time frame. We'll still need some time to evaluate the overall affects of that harvest, but looking over the last five years at the levels of participation and harvest from the area, 89 percent of the hunters that participated in that fall RM840 hunt in 22D Kuzitrin with Federally-qualified subsistence users. And during that same time period 87 percent of the moose taken annually on average were Federally-qualified subsistence users.

And so with that in mind the retention of the closure in the area's unlikely to provide any additional harvest opportunity to Federally-qualified users and one benefit of eliminating the closure is that it would reduce the regulatory complexity for Federally-qualified subsistence users from communities within Unit 22 outside of the 22C and 22D hunt area.

Thank you, Sir.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: And who would that be outside the 22C, 22D area you refer to?

MR. DUNKER: So that would include Wales, Shishmaref, White Mountain, Golovin, Elim and

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1 then portions of eastern Norton Sound for sure.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just on Federal lands,  
4 correct?

5

6 MR. DUNKER: That's correct. And that  
7 would be on -- most of the Federal public land is -- I  
8 know you asked about it earlier, the easiest I think  
9 reference point you're probably familiar with, would be  
10 the mouth of Belt Creek. Everything upriver or the  
11 majority of the land upriver from there is Federal  
12 public land on the Kuzitrin River and the Noxapaga.  
13 And then there is a smattering of Federal public land  
14 in the -- that portion of 22D that -- like north of  
15 Davidsons Landing and I can't remember the drainage  
16 there, but north of Davidsons Landing there's some  
17 Federal public land there as well.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you,  
20 Bill.

21

22 MR. DUNKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Brian, do you have  
25 anything to add.

26

27 MR. UBELAKER: No, Sir, I do not.  
28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. So  
31 we go on the Federal side, BLM.

32

33 MR. SPARKS: This is Tom Sparks, BLM,  
34 Mr. Chair. No comment on this.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.  
39 National Park Service.

40

41 MS. HUGHES: Hello, Mr. Chair. This is  
42 Letty with Bering Land Bridge. The Bering Land Bridge  
43 is in support of the OSM preliminary analysis and  
44 conclusions to maintain closure for 22D Kuzitrin.  
45 Given historical numbers of moose population decline  
46 and then in most recent time of them being stable, we  
47 feel that maintaining the closure is the best.

48

49 Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Letty.

2

3 BIA.

4

5 MS. PETRIVELLI: No comment.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Looks like  
8 we covered all that -- agencies, am I correct? Oh, we  
9 didn't -- we're missing tribal. Are there any tribal  
10 comment.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. We'll move  
15 on to number 4, advisory group comments.

16

17 Brian, other Regional Advisory Council.

18

19 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, no other  
20 Regional Advisory Councils commented on this closure.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: B -- subunit B would  
25 be Fish and Game advisory committees. Any comments.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. We'll  
30 move to item five, summary of written public comments.

31

32 Brian.

33

34 MR. UBELAKER: There were no written  
35 comments submitted by the deadline.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That  
40 brings us to Item No. 6, public testimony. The floor  
41 is open to anybody on the phone lines that is public at  
42 this time.

43

44 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Louis, this is  
45 Leland. I'm from the public.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. Go ahead.

48

49 MR. OYOUMICK: I was wondering how do

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1 they issue those permits, do they have a system or is  
2 it like first come, first serve?

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, I don't think it's  
5 first come, first serve. Could you go ahead and  
6 elaborate there, Bill Dunker.

7

8 MR. DUNKER: Sure. Mr. Chair, Bill  
9 Dunker here. So the RM840 permits, those are good for  
10 moose hunting in 22B west of the Darby Mountains, 22C  
11 and now all of 22D as of 2020. The permits are  
12 available July 25th through August 25th in person at  
13 licensed vendors within the hunt area. There's no  
14 limit on the overall number of permits that are  
15 available for hunters, but they have to pick them up  
16 during that time frame. The permits are not available  
17 currently online, again hunters have to pick them up in  
18 person at licensed vendors.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. OYOUNICK: Yeah, I got that. Thank  
23 you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Thank you.  
26 Any other public comments or concerns or questions, the  
27 floor is still open. Somebody just called in.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. We're  
32 going to move over to the Regional Council  
33 recommendation.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Karen.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 I just want to remind Council members that the motion  
41 for this wildlife closure review would be to maintain  
42 status quo or modify or eliminate the closure.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So  
47 I need a motion and a second for further discussion if  
48 need be. The OSM is recommending status quo. I'm  
49 inclined to agree, it's some degree of protection.

50

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1 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

4

5 MR. SEETOT: I move to maintain status  
6 quo within the Unit 22D of the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and  
7 Pilgrim drainages except by residents of 22D and C  
8 hunting under these regulations.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Is  
11 there a second.

12

13 MR. KIRK: Second. Ron from Stebbins.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. First  
16 and a second. Is there any discussion before we take a  
17 vote.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

20

21 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 MR. SEETOT: What was that?

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: With your permission I  
30 can read the justification for OSM. If the Council  
31 concurs with the.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 The Unit 22D moose population is below management  
37 objectives, bull/cow ratios are relatively low  
38 indicating few surplus bulls available for harvest and  
39 calf/cow ratios are very low indicating declining  
40 population. While harvest under State regulations are  
41 managed by a quota, this quota is usually exceeded.  
42 Rescinding or modifying the closure would also decrease  
43 harvest opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence  
44 users by increasing competition for a small, quickly  
45 met quota of harvestable moose.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for the

50

0196

1 justification, Karen.

2

3 Was there somebody from -- was that  
4 you, Elmer.

5

6 MR. SEETOT: Yes. I was just going to  
7 comment on that portion that there's good browse  
8 habitat for the moose within these areas. So I  
9 wouldn't be surprised that moose are coming from other  
10 places would kind of stay and, you know, be around this  
11 area for a number of years.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for that  
16 comment. Any other Council comments, questions or  
17 concerns,

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hello, somebody said  
22 something?

23

24 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, Louis. What.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Doug.

27

28 MR. KATCHATAG: .....what's the status  
29 of the moose that are -- is it climate change, every --  
30 bugs going into their system and what's the -- anybody  
31 hasn't checked them and find out what's going on?

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think that should go  
34 to you, Bill.

35

36 MR. DUNKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 Bill Dunker with Fish and Game. So we've actually had  
38 the benefit of a recently established research program  
39 in 22D. Warren Hanson, our research biologist here in  
40 the Nome office, has spent a lot of time looking at it,  
41 handling moose in the 22D hunt area. One of the  
42 projects that he just recently wrapped up was looking  
43 at short yearling weights and overwinter weight loss as  
44 an indication of any kind of nutritional stress within  
45 the population. And we've also done a number of or  
46 series of browse removal surveys in the area.  
47 Generally speaking the population doesn't appear to be  
48 subject to any kind of nutritional stresses at this  
49 time. The browse removal rate is below the -- sort of  
50



0197

1 the standard for identifying resource limitation within  
2 a moose population. And our spring short yearling  
3 rates are above what's referred to as the Borchee line,  
4 they're over 375 pounds. Anything -- typically moose  
5 calves lighter than that or moose yearlings lighter  
6 than that are an indication of nutritional stress  
7 within a population. So it doesn't appear at this time  
8 that the limiting factors for growth within that  
9 population are related to nutrition.

10

11 We've had the benefit also of being  
12 able to monitor those animals over the winter months  
13 and get an understanding of what mortality rates are  
14 for those six month old to 12 month old moose calves.  
15 And overwinter mortality has been relatively low. We  
16 have seen a good deal of predation in the early parts  
17 of the spring and summer when the bears start to  
18 emerge, some of those animals have been killed by  
19 bears. But we're in the process now, Sara Jermaine,  
20 the assistant area biologist, is working on her  
21 graduate project here in Unit 22. And one of the  
22 things that she'll be looking at is the sort of  
23 immediate causes of mortality within our moose calves  
24 earlier in their lives to see if bear predation is  
25 having an affect on survival during those first couple  
26 years of their lives or excuse me, weeks of their life  
27 rather. And what sort of affect that might be having  
28 as far as limiting the population's ability to grow.  
29 So we've looked at a couple of things and we plan to  
30 look at a few more things relative to the population in  
31 the hopes of bettering our understanding of what it is  
32 that truly is limiting this population's ability to  
33 grow. At this point in time it doesn't appear to be  
34 anything related to nutrition or disease and so we're,  
35 you know, focusing our efforts elsewhere to evaluate  
36 the affects of predation as a possible factor.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Bill. Does  
41 that answer your question, Doug?

42

43 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for the  
46 question. You might want to go to mute.

47

48 The -- any other Council have any  
49 questions, comments or concerns?

50

0198

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: You've heard the  
4 justification, we have a motion and a second and the --  
5 if there's no more comments, questions or concerns by  
6 Council we need a call for the question.

7

8

MR. SEETOT: Question.

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(No comments)

MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

MR. SEETOT: Yes.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

MR. KIRK: Yes.

MS. DEATHERAGE: And Louis Green.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. The  
questions been called so we'll have a roll call and  
could you please read the -- make sure everybody knows  
that it is, Karen, that we're voting on.

Thanks.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
The motion is to maintain status quo, so maintain the  
closure, in Unit 22D for moose hunting in the Kougarak,  
Kuzitrin, Pilgrim drainages except by Unit 22C and Unit  
22D residents.

So I'll do roll call now.

Doug Katchatag.

MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Doug.

Leland Oyoumick.

MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Did Martin join us on  
the phone, Martin?

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And that'll be a yes.  
2 Thank you.

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 The motion passes, 5/0.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody's got a good  
8 ringer on their phone.

9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is that -- hold on.

11  
12 (Pause)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: This closure to moose  
15 hunting west of Tisuk and Canyon drainage except by  
16 Unit 22 -- yeah, it should be 22C, on mine it says 2C,  
17 Unit 22C and Unit 22D residents.

18  
19 And that bring Brian Ubelaker up for  
20 the analysis.

21  
22 Thanks.

23  
24 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 This analysis begins on page 140 of your meeting books.  
26 Wildlife closure review 22-14 pertaining to Unit 22B  
27 west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek.

28  
29 Federal public lands are closed to the  
30 harvesting of moose except by residents of Units 22D  
31 and 22C. The closure was initially established in  
32 2002. And this analysis uses the same data set that I  
33 used for the previous analysis so the regulatory  
34 history, biology, harvest data, are all identical to  
35 the previous one. So in thoughts of brevity I will  
36 just hope that you all remember from last time around,  
37 I'll skip over those sections. If there's any  
38 questions, any clarifications anybody needs though  
39 please feel free to ask. And then if this closure is  
40 rescinded non-Federally-qualified users would be able  
41 to harvest moose on Federal public lands within Units  
42 22D southwest.

43  
44 Unit 22D southwest population is below  
45 State management objectives and metrics point to a  
46 declining population. Federally-qualified subsistence  
47 users may experience increased competition and  
48 decreased harvest success if this closure is rescinded.

49  
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0200

1                   Therefore it is OSM's preliminary  
2 conclusion to maintain status quo.

3

4                   Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, if there's  
5 any questions I'd be happy to answer them.

6

7                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. You  
8 mentioned 22D southwest, how many -- that's one  
9 community of Teller, right, that if it was opened it  
10 could cause a competition?

11

12                   MR. UBELAKER: Teller is the closest  
13 community to there, yes. And that's the -- you're  
14 looking at the Federal block southwest of Teller. But  
15 I believe it is -- what am I looking at. It's open to  
16 all Federal pub or Federally-qualified subsistence  
17 users, not residents of 22C or D as the previous one.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I was trying to  
20 figure that out. So any questions, comments or  
21 concerns from other Council.

22

23                   MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

26

27                   MR. SEETOT: That portion 22D Southwest  
28 looks like it's pretty much near the coastal areas. I  
29 would say that access to it would be pretty much on --  
30 pretty much by snowmachine other than boat or four-  
31 wheelers, going by boat and then going by four-wheeler,  
32 but that terrain is pretty much rugged.

33

34                   My question was this -- the places all  
35 around the Seward Peninsula have a maritime climate.  
36 How does it affect the plants and stuff that grow and  
37 then feed these animals along the coastal areas. I  
38 know that with the south wind we do have a lot of mist  
39 that comes from breaking waves. I call it the salt  
40 mist that do -- that are deposited on the tundra during  
41 the south wind or other winds push the water mist onto  
42 the tundra. So my question was is there studies done  
43 on plants that moose eat, that the caribou and the  
44 muskox do eat also, is there any difference in the way  
45 the plants grow? That was my question.

46

47                   MR. UBELAKER: Thank you for the  
48 question, Elmer.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Brian, or Bill.

2

3 MR. UBELAKER: Yeah. I was trying to  
4 figure out how to squirm out of answering this one.  
5 Bill might hopefully have a better idea of habitat in  
6 the area if he doesn't mind me throwing him under the  
7 bus.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're under the bus,  
12 Bill.

13

14 MR. DUNKER: Okay. Bill Dunker with  
15 Fish and Game again. So Member Seetot, I don't -- I'm  
16 not familiar with any studies specifically looking at  
17 sort of, you know, the proximity to the coastal areas  
18 and the influence on the plant communities there.  
19 Certainly the hydrology and the salinity of the soil  
20 would sort of dictate the plant communities that live  
21 in those areas. But and I agree completely that that  
22 portion of Federal public land there in 22D southwest  
23 is predominantly veg -- tussock tundra with rocky  
24 benches and low land wetland areas. So certainly not  
25 our highest concentration of moose habitat by any  
26 means.

27

28 The one thing that some folks in the  
29 region might have recognized this year and that does --  
30 is pretty well understood is that as far as moose  
31 habitat or moose browse is concerned the best growing  
32 conditions for moose browse on an annual basis are  
33 basically going to be what we had this summer. Cool,  
34 overcast, wet summers produce willow browse with fewer  
35 tannins, those are defensive compounds that plants  
36 produce to protect themselves from the damaging affects  
37 of sunlight. And so when we have these cool, wet,  
38 overcast summers they don't have to produce as many of  
39 those tannins to protect themselves. And the benefit  
40 to moose is that when they consume plants with high  
41 levels of tannins in them, those compounds will  
42 actually bind to the proteins in the plants themselves  
43 and reduce the digestibility of that plant material for  
44 the moose. So, you know, if a moose during a hot,  
45 sunny summer, you know, eats a -- call it a pound of  
46 willow bushes, they're not likely to benefit as much  
47 from that food resource as they would from a pound of  
48 willow browse grown during a wet, cool, overcast  
49 summer.

50

1

2

3                   And so we saw that this year, lot of  
4 reports coming in from our local hunters were saying to  
5 us that boy, these moose are just about as fat as we've  
6 seen in many years, just incredible body condition and  
7 we've attributed most of that to the growing conditions  
8 that we've had this year and sort of the increased  
9 quality of that browse. Warren Hanson, our research  
10 biologist, is planning to go back out this fall and  
11 conduct more of those six month old fall captures  
12 because that's part of his research project. He was  
13 trying to understand the affects of summer growing  
14 conditions on moose weights in the fall and then  
15 subsequently overwinter weight loss resulting in the  
16 final sort of 10 month old moose weights and then how  
17 that affects their long term reproductive success.

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So that's what I'm able to share about  
sort of the affects of our climate on growing  
conditions and some of the things that we've observed  
and heard from hunters in the region regarding that  
type of phenomenon. Hope that helps.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Did that help you,  
Elmer?

MR. SEETOT: That sure helped me a lot  
because being a plant eater and whatever, picking  
sourdocks near the coastal areas, they're a little bit  
juicer, the salmonberries or the berries are a little  
bit more tangy because of the salt, the mist.

The other thing that I planned to  
mention was -- forgot to mention was that -- that Unit  
22D southwest is also visited by wolves of -- from  
within 22D. They do follow the Kuzitrin or the  
Kougarok River down to -- from there they go down to  
the road and then more towards (indiscernible) I would  
think so and they do -- occasionally are spotted in  
that portion. So to check on their territory. So the  
wolves do have wide range of territory, they do cover  
what -- when they do -- come here to reside in the  
wintertime. I have seen that in the past and, but  
these are roam -- roaming bands that do check their  
territory every once in a while and they're pretty hard  
to get to. So moose and other ungulates wouldn't have  
to, you know, flee from these predators. Other than

0203

1 bear activity I guess more during the spring and summer  
2 season when the moose produce their young.

3

4 And that's all I have.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman  
9 Seetot. Is there any other Council with comments,  
10 questions or concerns before we take a vote.

11

12 MR. GRAY: So, Louis, I just -- this is  
13 Tom Gray. I just got on the line. What proposal are  
14 you on?

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're on the -- Tommy,  
17 thanks for calling in. We're on the wildlife closure  
18 review 22-14 which involves Unit 22D closure to moose  
19 hunting west of the Tisuk and Canyon drainage except by  
20 Unit 22C and Unit 22D residents. Which pretty well  
21 covers everybody on the road system in the Nome area.

22

23 MR. GRAY: Yeah. And this is  
24 reaffirming something that's been in place or is this  
25 something new?

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. It's to maintain  
28 status quo by OSM. Do you want to hear something from  
29 Mr. Ubelaker or.....

30

31 MR. GRAY: No, I think I understand the  
32 thing. And there's -- as far as I know there's no --  
33 and maybe this is for whoever the biologists are  
34 involved in this, there's no -- how can I say this, the  
35 resource moose, is there a limit on the moose and  
36 that's part of the reason for limiting who can hunt  
37 there and keeping it limited. What is -- you know, at  
38 some time there was a problem I guess and that's why  
39 they put this in place. And I'm assuming that the  
40 problem is still there and their recommendation is to  
41 keep it in place. Am I correct in some of this?

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Brian.

44

45 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 Councilman Gray. Good morning, good day, good to hear  
47 from you.

48

49 MR. GRAY: Good morning.

50

0204

1 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, Sir, you are  
2 correct in that assumption. There was a conservation  
3 concern. I'll try to summarize from the last -- from  
4 the last presentation. And pardon me, I opened up the  
5 wrong one here real quick. Let me get that one opened  
6 back up.

7  
8 Yeah. There was a conservation  
9 concern, population decline, back in 2001 in 22D. And  
10 wildlife closures 22-13 and 22-14 were both put into  
11 place in 2002. The moose population for Unit 22  
12 overall is within State management objectives. Fish  
13 and Game considers moose population in 22D itself to be  
14 decreasing to stable, but it sits just below population  
15 objectives. So for the last closure 22-13, OSM  
16 recommended -- sorry, 22-13 pertaining to 22D Kuzitrin,  
17 OSM's preliminary conclusion was to maintain status  
18 quo. And that's how the Council voted to support. And  
19 then for this closure, 22-14, our preliminary  
20 conclusion is to also maintain status quo.

21  
22 Hopefully that kind of -- it's a super  
23 brief summary, hopefully that brings you up to speed  
24 enough, but if you have any more questions please let  
25 me know.

26  
27 MR. GRAY: So the only comment I have  
28 is we have -- if you look at the Seward Peninsula,  
29 other than maybe Koyuk and Shishmaref area the whole  
30 Seward Peninsula we have numbers, you can get 10 moose,  
31 you can get 30 moose, you can get moose, moose. You  
32 know, these numbers -- until those numbers go away and  
33 a general hunt is open we still have a problem with  
34 moose. And, you know, maybe we need to -- I don't want  
35 to hold the meeting up because I don't have much time  
36 to stay on the line, but maybe there needs to be  
37 discussion at sometime between the State and the -- you  
38 guys, your team and the Board about what's realistic in  
39 the future for hunting on the Seward Peninsula. 22D,  
40 are we ever going to go to a general hunt, is the  
41 habitat and the range conducive enough to do this. And  
42 on and on. So, you know, I'm supportive of keeping  
43 that status quo, but at some point we need to discuss  
44 reality here, what's our goals and objectives.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman  
47 Gray. Any other Council before we take a vote,  
48 questions, comments or concerns.

49  
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0205

1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing no more discussion sounds like we need to take a vote. So, Karen, a phone poll or.....

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

MR. SEETOT: Call for question.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, perhaps I missed it, but I did not -- I think we have to go through the process on this, the presentation procedures.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Am I jumping the gun again?

MS. DEATHERAGE: No. No worries. Yeah. I just -- yeah, it's hard to keep up with especially when you guys get into these good conversations. But yeah, if you want me to go ahead and report on tribal and ANCSA corporation I will.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we need to do the Ten Commandments.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes. The Ten Commandments. So there were no tribal or ANCSA corporations comments under consultation for WRC22-14.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So that takes us to item three, agency comments. I don't know if Bill Dunker needs to make any more.

MR. DUNKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So ADF&G supports the elimination of the closures. We've got the same restrictions on permit availability for 22D southwest as we do for the remainder of the RM840 hunt area. And it's our perspective that these limited avail -- the limited availability of these permits make it so that maintaining the closures in the area is unlikely to provide any additional harvest opportunity to Federally-qualified users. And the elimination of the closures would also reduce regulatory complexity for Federally-qualified users outside of the 22D and 22C game management unit.

0206

1 Thank you, Sir.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Dunker.  
4 So we'll move it on to BLM.

5

6 Tom.

7

8 MR. SPARKS: Yeah, no comments at this  
9 time, Mr. Chair.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.  
14 National Park Service.

15

16 Letty.

17

18 MS. HUGHES: No comment, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Letty.

21 BIA.

22

23 Pat.

24

25 MS. PETRIVELLI: No comment. And just  
26 to clarify, Mr. Chairman, BIA usually listens to all  
27 the RAC input and then they develop the ISC comments  
28 after we hear from the RACs. So that's why we have no  
29 comments.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's fine. I'm just  
32 going through the list otherwise Karen will get mad at  
33 me for something.

34

35 Okay. So we've gone through the  
36 Federal so we're at item C under agency comments with  
37 tribal. Do we have anything from tribes or nonprofit  
38 regional.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. We'll  
43 move on to number 4, advisory group comments.

44

45 Mr. Ubelaker, other regional advisory  
46 councils comments.

47

48 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49 No, there were no comments from other RACs.

50

0207

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Under item  
4 D, Fish and Game Advisory Committee's comments.  
5 Anybody on line?

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. I move  
10 this into number -- Item No. 5, summary of written  
11 public comments.

12

13 Brian.

14

15 MR. UBELAKER: No written comments  
16 submitted, Sir. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. So  
19 that moves us to Item No. 6, public testimony. The  
20 floor is open if anybody in the public is on the phone,  
21 questions, comments or concerns of this proposal.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, that  
26 moves us into Item No. 7, regional council  
27 recommendation. So we'll need a motion in effect and a  
28 second for any further discussion.

29

30 MR. GRAY: This is Tom Gray.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Tom.

33

34 MR. GRAY: I move to keep it status  
35 quo.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

38

39 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk seconds.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron Kirk seconds.  
42 There's a first and a second on the motion for status  
43 quo. Are there any other comments, concerns or  
44 discussion from Council?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody needs to call  
49 for the question.

50

0208

1 MR. GRAY: You know -- you know, let me  
2 -- let me make a comment.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Go ahead.

5  
6 MR. GRAY: I appreciate the State's  
7 input and Bill's input on wanting to change this thing,  
8 but I feel that the Fed's is -- as long as we're  
9 limiting how many moose are getting shot and that's not  
10 an open hunt, we're limiting and helping control this  
11 hunt by the Federally-qualified and we've got a foot in  
12 the door. And that's one of the big reasons I made  
13 this motion is we are still involved. If we step back  
14 and let the State run the thing we're not -- we're  
15 giving up and giving away some of our subsistence  
16 users' rights so to speak and letting the State manage  
17 it. And sometimes the State and the Fed's stand at  
18 opposite tables.

19  
20 So anyway that's my thoughts. I call  
21 for the question.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman  
24 Gray. Question's been called. Roll call vote, please,  
25 Karen.

26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 Would you be interested in having me read the OSM  
29 justification to maintain status quo for WCR22-14?

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sure.

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 The unit.....

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Missed you on the list  
37 again.

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, I missed you on my  
42 list again.

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: No worries. We've  
45 just been doing this so I want to make sure that the  
46 Council has an opportunity to agree or disagree with  
47 the justification for the record.

48  
49 The Unit 22D moose population is below  
50

0209

1 management objectives. Bull/cow ratios are relatively  
2 low indicating few surplus bulls available for the  
3 harvest and calf/cow ratios are very low indicating a  
4 declining population. While harvest under State  
5 regulations are managed by a quota, this quota is  
6 usually exceeded. The Unit 22 moose population -- 22D  
7 moose population within the closure cannot withstand  
8 the.....

9

10 (Teleconference interference -  
11 participants not muted)

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....the closure would  
14 also decrease opportunity for Federally-qualified  
15 subsistence users if they would have to compete with  
16 other Federally-qualified subsistence users and non-  
17 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.  
22 Somebody's got an open mic. Go to mute. Star six on a  
23 landline or mute on a cell. Somebody did, they got it.

24

25 Do you have something to add, Karen?

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: No, Mr. Chair. If  
28 everybody is okay with the justification we can go  
29 ahead and proceed with the roll call.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm good with it. Is  
32 there anybody else on the Council?

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds like it's roll  
37 call time. Thank you.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 For the motion to maintain status quo for Unit 22D,  
41 closure to moose hunting, West Kuzitrin and Canyon  
42 drainage except by 22C and 22D residents.

43

44 Doug Katchatag. Are you still on the  
45 phone with us still?

46

47 MR. KATCHATAG: Yes.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Leland

50

0210

1 Oyoumick.

2

3

MR. SEETOT: Yes.

4

5

MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.

6

7

MR. GRAY: Yes.

8

9

MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

10

11

MR. SEETOT: Yes.

12

13

MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

14

15

MR. KIRK: Yes.

16

17

MS. DEATHERAGE: And Louis Green.

18

19

CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's yes, Ma'am.

20

Thanks.

21

22

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

The motion passes unanimously, 6/0.

24

25

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. And that moves us on to -- we've got Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. I think -- didn't Letty do something with this already? I just want to make sure.

29

30

MS. HUGHES: This is Letty with Bering Land Bridge. No, but I'm on the agenda in the event that I'm here if there's any questions related to the upcoming proposal.

33

34

35

Thank you.

36

37

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you, Letty. That brings us to wildlife closure review of 22-16 which involves Unit 22E, closure to moose hunting by non-Federally-qualified users.

41

42

Mr. Brian, your analysis, please.

43

44

MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

And the.....

46

47

CHAIRMAN GREEN: And the winner is.....

48

49

MR. UBELAKER I don't know if you guys

50

0211

1 are winning, you have to listen to me an awful lot  
2 today. But this analysis begins on page 150 of your  
3 meeting books, wildlife closure review, as Mr. Chair  
4 stated, 22-16 pertaining to Unit 22E.

5

6 Federal public lands are closed to the  
7 harvesting of moose except by Federally-qualified  
8 subsistence users. This closure was initially  
9 established in 2002 because of a conservation concern.  
10 Regulatory changes allow the population to begin to  
11 increase. In the 2010 the Federal Subsistence Board  
12 extended the season. In 2011 this Council voted  
13 unanimously to submit a proposal to open Federal public  
14 land in Unit 22E although no proposal was submitted  
15 during the regulatory cycle. Now then again 2015 the  
16 Council voted to submit a proposal to rescind the  
17 closure. This time the Federal Subsistence Board  
18 rejected the proposal because the population increase  
19 in 22E coincided with a decline in moose population in  
20 22D. The new information suggested this redistribution  
21 might have occurred because of a low snow year. This  
22 proposal in 2016 was the last time this closure was  
23 reviewed.

24

25 Same as the last couple presentations  
26 this moose population in Unit 22 is estimated at 6,775  
27 which is within State management objectives.  
28 Population objectives for Unit 22E itself are to  
29 increase the moose to a stable population of 600 to  
30 800. The 2015 population estimate for 22E was 701  
31 moose. And then in 2020 the population estimate  
32 dropped to 662 which is just above the minimum  
33 population objective. ADF&G considers this population  
34 to be stable to increasing because all other metrics  
35 like calf/cow ratios, percent short yearlings and  
36 bull/cow ratios indicate the population is stable.

37

38 Reported moose harvest has been  
39 relatively low in Unit 22E, average 18 moose annually  
40 between 2004 and 2019. But moose harvest is known to  
41 be underreported in this region because of the non-  
42 reporting requirement of the required harvest ticket.  
43 47.5 percent of reported harvest is attributed to  
44 Federally-qualified subsistence users, but is believed  
45 to be as high as 86 percent. Nonresident harvest has  
46 increased during the 2015 to 2019 time period to a  
47 total of 51 percent of the reported harvest.

48

49 An alternative to consider is the full

50

0212

1    recision of the closure to allow all hunters to hunt in  
2    22E. The possible increase in hunting pressure and  
3    competition from nonresident hunters may negatively  
4    impact Federally-qualified subsistence users within  
5    22E. And if this closure is rescinded non-Federally-  
6    qualified users would be able to harvest moose on  
7    Federal public lands within 22E.

8                    The moose population is just above  
9    State management objectives and Federally-qualified  
10   subsistence users may experience increased competition  
11   and decreased harvest success if Federal public lands  
12   were open to all users. There is not enough  
13   information to say if the moose population is  
14   redistributing between 22D and 22E. More investigation  
15   into the cause of this shift is needed before decisions  
16   affecting populations can be made.

17  
18                    Therefore it is OSM's preliminary  
19   conclusion to maintain status quo.

20  
21                    Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I'm open for  
22   any and all questions.

23  
24                    CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody from the  
25   Council -- thank you, Brian. Anybody from Council,  
26   questions, comments or concerns?

27  
28                    Elmer or Tommy?

29  
30                    MR. GRAY: I already know how I'm going  
31   to vote so, you know, until -- like I say I think the  
32   State can and the Feds and maybe they can get in a  
33   corner and talk this out, but there needs to be some  
34   objectives that us as Board members understand and  
35   realize. And, you know, I'm here for my people, I'm  
36   not here for -- and all the big game guides, but I'm  
37   not here for outsiders coming in. If we're marginally  
38   maintaining this hunt area for animals. So anyway.....

39  
40                    CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman  
41   Gray. Are there any other Council comments, questions  
42   or concerns for Brian?

43  
44                    MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig.

45  
46                    CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

47  
48                    MR. SEETOT: Looking at that map on  
49   page 151 under Bering Land Bridge, it seems like  
50



0213

1 there's a lot of Federal land, a lot of water available  
2 to stuff where the moose go dunk their head and feed on  
3 underwater plants. So I can bet that's a good place  
4 for summer feeding for these animals. And access I  
5 think by Shishmaref and Wales along with Diomed  
6 residents is kind of limited in summer, fall harvest  
7 due to the fact that most of the moose are in highlands  
8 or in high places and most of that place within coastal  
9 areas is kind of low. I would assume that there are  
10 willows and brush for their feed and for their cover,  
11 you know, during these times. And I'm not really too  
12 sure about predation, but there's a lot of -- lot of  
13 ways involved that would benefit the moose in the  
14 summer and fall feeding season.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Is  
19 there any other Council questions, comments or concerns  
20 for Brian?

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. That brings us  
25 to the Ten Commandments again. We just did the draft  
26 Staff analysis so we go to number 2 on the list, report  
27 on Board consultations.

28

29 Karen, were there anything from tribes  
30 or ANCSA corporations?

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 There were no comments from tribes or ANCSA  
34 corporations during the consultation for WCR22-16.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. We'll go  
39 to number 3, agency comments.

40

41 Bill, did you have anything to add from  
42 Fish and Game?

43

44 MR. DUNKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
45 our combined estimates of reported and unreported  
46 harvest for the 22E hunt area suggests that the total  
47 harvest from there is likely at the upper end of what's  
48 sustainable for a low density moose population like  
49 what we've got in 22E. We've done fall composition  
50

0214

1 surveys in the area in 2013, '16 and 19 and in each of  
2 those three years the bull/cow ratio was above our  
3 management objective of 30 bulls per 100 cows.

4 We're really looking forward to the  
5 results of a household subsistence survey that was  
6 conducted in the community of Shishmaref this past  
7 spring. And once we have those results we'll certainly  
8 be reevaluating the overall level of harvest for the  
9 hunt area.

10

11 The -- one thing to note about the  
12 nonresident hunt in the area, there were some  
13 regulatory changes adopted or changes to how we  
14 administer the hunt that were put into play this past  
15 regulatory year. So in years gone by we managed that  
16 hunt with a harvest quota and issued a unlimited number  
17 of permits for the RM855, nonresident registration  
18 moose hunt. In response to some increased  
19 participation by guide outfitters in the area we opted  
20 to limit the overall number of permits available for  
21 the hunt. So starting this year we only allowed a  
22 limited number of permits to be available, first come,  
23 first serve, online. So we only issued 10 permits for  
24 the hunt and we had a realized harvest of seven bulls  
25 this past year which would put us just under the  
26 harvest quota for the hunt of nine bulls.

27

28 So all of that was intended to, you  
29 know, better or more effectively manage harvest  
30 relative to what our objective is in terms of  
31 allocation for nonresident hunting in the area based on  
32 guidance from the Board of Game. But ultimately the  
33 department's recommendation for this closure is to  
34 maintain the status quo. Elimination of the Federal  
35 closure for moose hunting on Federal public land in  
36 Unit 22E may result in an increase in harvest by non-  
37 Federally-qualified users. And it's our perspective  
38 that allowing for additional harvest is not recommended  
39 at this time.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Happy to answer  
42 any questions folks might have.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Dunker.  
45 Any questions, Council?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. We'll

50

0215

1 move on to the Federal agency comments.

2

3 Brian, you probably don't have anything  
4 to add just to be sure?

5

6 MR. UBELAKER: Correct.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Shall we  
9 go with BLM.

10

11 Tom.

12

13 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. BLM  
14 has no comments.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. National  
17 Park Service.

18

19 Letty.

20

21 MS. HUGHES: Hello, Mr. Chair. This  
22 is Letty Hughes at Bering Land Bridge. The Bering Land  
23 Bridge is in support of OSM's preliminary analysis and  
24 conclusion to maintain status quo.

25

26 You know, as was stated earlier the  
27 last three population surveys completed between 2011  
28 and 2020 suggest that population is stable in addition  
29 to what other indices such as fall composition and  
30 recruitment have shown. And at this present time we  
31 also believe that, you know, additional information  
32 such as resource limitations on moose in Bering Land  
33 Bridge need to be gained before further hunt  
34 opportunities are explored. And in addition to  
35 repeating like what Bill stated at the higher end of  
36 the harvest, you know, it probably is not sustainable  
37 at this point in time to take on additional.

38

39 Bering Land Bridge will also note that  
40 there is not any hunting guides authorized in Bering  
41 Land Bridge at this time. And through previous  
42 household subsistence surveys documented through Alaska  
43 Department of Fish and Game, you know, Shishmaref  
44 harvest has shown a clear decline since it was first  
45 conducted in 1988. And for the most recent one in 2017  
46 show that definitely there was a decline in that. So  
47 we'll be definitely anxious to see what their most --  
48 their 2020 survey was.

49

50

0216

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Letty.

4 Next is BIA.

5

6 Pat.

7

8 MS. PETRIVELLI: No comment.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ma'am.

11 That brings us to sub-item C under tribal, regional RAC  
12 or any tribes.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing nothing,  
17 moving on to item four, advisory group comments, other  
18 regional advisory councils.

19

20 Mr. Brian.

21

22 MR. UBELAKER: There were no other  
23 regional advisory councils weighing in on this closure.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Sub-item  
28 B, Fish and Game advisory committees in the area.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Moving  
33 on to item five, summary of written public comments.

34

35 Brian.

36

37 MR. UBELAKER: No written comments  
38 submitted by the deadline, Sir.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That moves  
43 us down to six. Item six is public testimony. The  
44 floor is open for anybody on the line that has any  
45 comments, questions or concerns of closure review 22-  
46 16.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0217

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. That  
2 brings us to item seven, regional council  
3 recommendation. So I'm going to need a motion and so  
4 somebody state the motion and a second for further  
5 discussion and justification.

6  
7 MR. GRAY: This is Tom Gray. I move to  
8 stay status quo.

9  
10 MR. KIRK: Second by Ron Kirk.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom. Thank  
13 you, Ron. We have a motion of the floor for status quo  
14 and a second. Any discussion?

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing no discussion.  
19 Karen, could you please read the justification.

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 This is Karen Deatherage, OSM. The OSM justification  
23 to maintain status quo is the Unit 22E moose population  
24 has increased to within State management objectives  
25 since 2017. However in the same time frame there has  
26 been a decline in the moose population in 22D. More  
27 investigation into the cause of this shift is needed  
28 before decisions affecting population can be made.  
29 Harvest rate may become an issue if the closure is  
30 rescinded. If the closure is rescinded pressure from  
31 nonlocal residents may cause user conflicts and  
32 increased harvest pressure.

33  
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So  
37 at this point I need a call for the question.....

38  
39 MR. KIRK: Question.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....unless there's  
42 any discussion. No, there it is, Ron Kirk.

43  
44 So we need a roll call vote, Karen.

45  
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
47 Let's start with Ron Kirk. The motion to retain.....

48  
49 MR. KIRK: Yes.

50

0218

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....same status quo  
2 for WCR22-16. I have a yes from Ron Kirk. Thanks,  
3 Ron.

4  
5 Elmer Seetot, Jr.

6  
7 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

8  
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

10  
11 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Doug Katchatag.

14  
15 MR. KATCHATAG: Yes.

16  
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.

18  
19 MR. GRAY: Yep.

20  
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green, Jr.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am.

24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 The motion to maintain status quo on WCR22-16 passes  
27 unanimously, 6/0.

28  
29 Thanks.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. So that  
32 moves us on into the crossover proposals and closure  
33 reviews and how it affects us. We have wildlife  
34 proposal 22-41, Units 9, 17, 18 and 19, to delegate  
35 authority to announce harvest limits, set restrictions  
36 and open and close seasons. Because we have folks next  
37 door to 18 down there in Stebbins and St. Michael's,  
38 this is a consideration for us to either defer to the  
39 RACs or have anything to say about it. So I'll bring  
40 that up, bring Brian in and let him give his analysis.

41  
42 Thanks, Brian.

43  
44 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 This analysis begins on page 161 of your meeting books.  
46 And wildlife proposal WP22-41 submitted by the Togiak  
47 National Wildlife Refuge and the Yukon Delta National  
48 Wildlife Refuge requests that the Federal in-season  
49 manager be delegated authority to open and close  
50

1 seasons, announce harvest limits and set sex  
2 restrictions for caribou in all or portions of Units  
3 9A, B and C, 17A, B and C, 18 and 19A and B, via  
4 delegation of authority letter.

5

6                   The proponents state in summer of 2019  
7 and summer of 2020 population estimate for the  
8 Mulchatna caribou herd was 13,500 caribou which  
9 represents a 50 percent decline from the previous five  
10 years and is well below the State's minimum population  
11 objective of 30,000 caribou. The proponents note that  
12 2019 and 2020 Federal and State seasons were shortened  
13 due to conservation concerns. The 2020/2021 season was  
14 also shortened providing for a bulls only harvest in  
15 August and September while the rest of the season  
16 remained closed. The proponents state that this  
17 request will help conserve and recover the Mulchatna  
18 caribou herd and provide the flexibility needed to make  
19 harvest management decisions in a timely manner. The  
20 proponents recognize that this request will reduce  
21 harvest opportunity in the short run, but that  
22 conserving the herd now will increase harvest  
23 opportunity in the future. The proponents also state  
24 that harvest of other resources such as moose may  
25 increase in response to this proposal.

26

27                   As a result of the dramatic population  
28 increase the Mulchatna caribou herd experienced during  
29 the 1990s harvest regulations were liberalized through  
30 the range of the herd. By 1997 both State and Federal  
31 seasons in portions of Units 9, 17 and 19 extended from  
32 fall through spring with liberal harvest limits and few  
33 restrictions. The population declined from 2004 to  
34 2014 during which time Federal and State regulations  
35 for the herd became increasingly restrictive including  
36 shortening seasons, reducing harvest limits,  
37 eliminating nonresident season and requiring the RC503  
38 registration permit. Between 2015 and 2018 the Federal  
39 Subsistence Board and the Board of Game began  
40 liberalizing Mulchatna caribou herd regulations. ADF&G  
41 decreased the harvest limit of the RC 503 caribou  
42 registration permit hunt in 2019. This was followed by  
43 the Federal Subsistence Board approving the special  
44 action request to decrease the harvest limit for the  
45 2019/2020 regulatory year. This included closing Units  
46 18, 19A and 19B to caribou hunting except by Federally-  
47 qualified subsistence users with a harvest limit of one  
48 bull and delegating authority to the Togiak National  
49 Wildlife Refuge manager to open and close seasons

50

0220

1 throughout the herd range. This request was approved  
2 due to serious conservation concerns for the Mulchatna  
3 caribou herd and support from the affected regional  
4 advisory councils and local users. Then in 2020 ADF&G  
5 began liberalizing regulations by announcing a bulls  
6 only hunt across the range of the herd. Togiak  
7 National Wildlife Refuge manager announced an identical  
8 Federal hunt for 2020/2021.

9  
10 The Board of Game received several  
11 proposals concerning the Mulchatna caribou herd during  
12 the Central and Southwest region call for proposals.  
13 They will consider proposed changes in Units 19 and 17  
14 in January of 2020. Proposed changes for Units 18 and  
15 19 will be addressed at Western Arctic, Western region  
16 and Interior and Eastern Arctic region meetings  
17 respectively.

18  
19 The population size and distribution of  
20 the Mulchatna caribou herd has changed dramatically  
21 over the past 40 years. The current range of the herd  
22 is depicted in figure one on page 166 of your meeting  
23 book. The herd primarily occurs in two distinct  
24 populations, a eastern segment and a western segment  
25 with separate calving and seasonal areas. Based on  
26 radio collared animals mixing between these two  
27 subpopulations is low. The herd peaked at 200,000  
28 caribou in 1996, declining steadily to 18,000 caribou  
29 in 2013. Between 2014 and 2016 the herd stabilized at  
30 around 28,000. Then most recently in 2019 population  
31 estimates indicated the herd declined to 13,500 caribou  
32 which is well below the State's minimum population  
33 objective of 30,000 caribou. The western segment's  
34 population has declined since 2012, while the eastern  
35 segment's population increased between 2014 and 2016  
36 and then declined back to 2012 levels in 2019. Bull to  
37 cow ratios in the Mulchatna caribou herd have been  
38 depressed since 2001. Calf/cow ratios have also been  
39 low and below State objectives. While ratios have  
40 improved in recent years they are still below the State  
41 management objective of 35 bulls to 100 cows and  
42 continue to be a conservation concern.

43  
44 While the cause of the decline is  
45 unknown increased range quality, predation particularly  
46 by brown bears on the calving grounds, icing events,  
47 deep snows and harvest pressure may all have  
48 contributed to the decline. Reported caribou harvest  
49 has declined in correlation with the caribou population  
50



0221

1 from almost 4,000 caribou in 2000 to 28 caribou in the  
2 2020/2021 season. Household harvest surveys as well as  
3 law enforcement information and observations indicate  
4 actual harvest is much higher than reported harvest  
5 although the magnitude of unreported harvest is  
6 unknown.

7

8 While this change may decrease harvest  
9 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users  
10 in the short term, it may also help conserve the  
11 Mulchatna caribou herd to ensure future harvest  
12 opportunities. If this request is approved the Federal  
13 in-season manager would be delegated authority to open  
14 and close seasons, announce harvest limits and set sex  
15 restrictions across the range of the Mulchatna caribou  
16 herd.

17

18 The conservation benefits of adopting  
19 WP22-41 are uncertain. Delegating authority to an in-  
20 season manager provides management flexibility which is  
21 critical in responding to changing herd conditions in a  
22 timely manner.

23

24 Therefore it is OSM's preliminary  
25 conclusion to support wildlife proposal WP22-41.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I'll try to  
28 answer any questions that anybody may have.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. One  
31 question for me right off is Stebbins and St.  
32 Michael's, do they have C&T on that?

33

34 MR. UBELAKER: Let me dig into that  
35 real quick. I am not sure off the top of my head, Sir.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Unless Bill has  
38 an answer.

39

40 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, actually St.  
41 Michael's and Stebbins have C&T for Unit 18.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. For caribou and  
44 probably moose or whatever. Okay.

45

46 Thank you. Questions from Council.

47

48 Ron, do you have any questions,  
49 comments or concerns because you're right there?

50

0222

1 MR. KIRK: Not really, no. Because a  
2 lot of our people go up towards Unalakleet to go get  
3 caribou and towards (in Native) and the Yukon to go get  
4 moose. So we hardly head towards Unit 18.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Well, thank you  
7 for that. Anything out of Doug or Leland? I meant  
8 questions or concerns with Brian.

9  
10 MR. KATCHATAG: Nothing from me.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Doug.  
13 Okay. So.....

14  
15 MR. OYOUMICK: Louis, this is Leland.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Leland.

18  
19 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I know that way  
20 down there and they know what to do. So let them do  
21 it.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep. So that sounds  
24 like a defer to the RAC of that region or area over  
25 there.

26  
27 Karen, how do we act on that one,  
28 just.....

29  
30 MR. GRAY: Can I say something?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sure. Tommy, go  
33 ahead.

34  
35 MR. GRAY: So listening to this  
36 presentation, you know, it drags on my heart because  
37 you've taken a resource and you -- and going from  
38 200,000 animals to 13,000 animals and nobody's got the  
39 balls to step in and shut down hunting. I just don't  
40 get it, you know. The -- that resource needs to be  
41 protected and there needs to be a bottom line  
42 somewhere. I just -- you know, it's frustrating to see  
43 people pass the buck here, pass the buck there, the  
44 State wants to do this, the Feds want to do that and  
45 they -- it -- we could have a hard winter and half of  
46 those animals die off and we're still hunting. I just  
47 don't get it. I'm sorry. You know, the ultimate goal  
48 shouldn't be hunting, it should be protecting that herd  
49 and managing that herd accordingly. And if it takes  
50

0223

1 giving authority to somebody that is willing to do  
2 that, we need to do that. So I'm in support of this.  
3 But, you know, it tears my heart apart basically going  
4 from 200,000 to 13 and we're still hunting.  
5 Something's wrong somewhere.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. I can't I  
8 disagree with you, Tommy, it was shocking to me to see  
9 the numbers dropped. I'd forgotten how many year span  
10 that was, but yeah, it's about the animals at this  
11 point.

12  
13 Any other Council?

14  
15 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

18  
19 MR. SEETOT: It seems like going from a  
20 big number to a small number would be that loss of  
21 habitat or loss of food or some major event like a fire  
22 or.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We might have lost  
25 Elmer.

26  
27 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, Brevig Mission.  
28 I'm still on. It just -- it seems like we kind of  
29 blame humans for the loss of animals in this area. We  
30 just kind of tend to overlook natural disasters, food  
31 loss, food habitat loss and stuff like that. So we  
32 kind of seem to just kind of blame the managers and  
33 people like that, but there are things in nature, you  
34 know, that regulate the cycle of animals in a certain  
35 area, where they'd be food or natural disaster.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

40 So.....

41  
42 MR. GRAY: So, Louis, I'd like to  
43 respond

44  
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Tommy.

46  
47 MR. GRAY: I'd like to respond. And,  
48 you know, my comments aren't that the humans are doing  
49 this, my comments are the -- whatever reason brought  
50

0224

1 this -- that population down, there needs to be a  
2 bottom line that humans quit and I'm going to take  
3 Kotzebue as an example. We had Beluga whales up in  
4 Kotzebue and, you know, maybe killer whales took a  
5 portion of that, the whales up there, but there  
6 basically is no more Beluga whales up in Kotzebue. It  
7 was the human factor that took them out. And once we  
8 reach a certain point in managing animals we got to  
9 take a big look at this. The bears aren't going to  
10 quit killing them, the wolves aren't going to quit  
11 killing them, mother nature isn't going to quit killing  
12 them, but we can quit killing them. So we can step up  
13 and help manage or help takeaway the negative side of  
14 this die off. And, you know, again I feel that the  
15 State and the Feds need to have a bottom line, okay,  
16 people you can book and take animals to this number and  
17 then after that it's over with. And we're going to  
18 protect that herd. So anyway.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, your comments  
21 are well taken, Tommy. I feel the same thing. You  
22 know, they're talking 30,000 for the State number,  
23 well, it should have stopped right there after it got  
24 below that, but it didn't. If we do take a vote up and  
25 decide to vote on it, I will vote to support also. But  
26 I need a motion and a second to do that.

27

28 MR. GRAY: Well, are we at the point to  
29 vote -- you need a motion? If so I'll move.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm losing track here,  
32 Karen, where am I at? I've gotten.....

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, you need to  
35 do the presentation procedure.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ten Commandments.  
40 Here we go. So introduction, draft analysis by Brian.  
41 Number 2, report on the Board consultations.

42

43 Karen, tribes and ANCSA corporations.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 There were no tribal or ANCSA corporation comments  
47 during consultation for WP42-21.

48

49 Thanks.

50

0225

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Number 3,  
2 agency comments. We heard from Brian on the Federal  
3 level.

4  
5                   I don't know -- Bill, I don't think --  
6 I don't know if you want to weigh in on this or not,  
7 yes or no.

8  
9                   MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, this is Ryan  
10 Scott with Fish and Game.

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go. We got  
13 somebody else out there.

14  
15                  Thank you, Ryan.

16  
17                  MR. SCOTT: Yeah, we've got a few of  
18 these crossover proposals and a couple statewide ones  
19 that a few of us will be helping out with. I do want  
20 to make a couple comments. Great discussion amongst  
21 the Council members.

22  
23                  The Mulchatna caribou hunt is closed  
24 this year, both on the State and the Federal side for  
25 all the reasons that were listed. We did identify some  
26 opportunity with the Nushagak Peninsula herd for people  
27 to be able to hunt and but we're also trying to  
28 understand all the ins and outs of what is happening to  
29 that herd. And I think is a combination of all the  
30 things that everybody pointed out, everything from  
31 human harvest to natural mortality. We've also  
32 detected some disease issue in the herd. So it's going  
33 to take a little bit of time to sort it out, but the  
34 Federal government, our Federal partners and State  
35 agency is working very closely together, working  
36 closely with the communities in the Mulchatna range.  
37 And to that end the department is for giving the  
38 Federal in-season manager the flexibility to manage the  
39 caribou herd, allowing them to open and close the  
40 season, announce harvest limits and set sex  
41 restrictions. The Togiak National Wildlife Refuge has  
42 been a partner in research, monitoring and education  
43 for the Mulchatna caribou herd and has been a partner  
44 toward the longstanding common goal of conserving the  
45 herd throughout the range.

46  
47                  Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48  
49                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,  
50

0226

1 Ryan. That's a little more on the ground information  
2 there.

3

4 We've heard from Brian at the Federal  
5 level so I would say go to BLM. Any comments?

6

7 MR. SPARKS: No comments, Mr. Chair.  
8 This is Tom.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.  
11 National Park Service.

12

13 Letty.

14

15 MS. HUGHES: No comment, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Letty.

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing nothing there.  
We'll go to item five, summary of written public

0227

1 comments.

2

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Brian.

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MR. UBELAKER: There were no written public comments submitted by the deadline.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

10

11

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Item six, public testimony. The floor is open. Any comments, questions or concerns by the public on the phone?

12

13

(No comments)

14

15

16

17

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing nothing. We'll move to Item No. 7, the regional council recommendations. So that means we need a motion and a second to allow for.....

18

19

20

21

MR. GRAY: I'll move to support.

22

23

24

CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....further discussion or justification.

25

26

27

Okay. Thank you, Tommy. Your move to support. Is there a second?

28

29

MR. KIRK: I'll second that motion.

30

31

32

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. So Tommy and Ron. We've got a motion on the floor to support. So we're going to have discussion and then justification.

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36

Karen.

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MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The OSM preliminary conclusion is to support wildlife proposal WP22-41. The justification reads, conservation concerns exist for the Mulchatna caribou herd due to a substantial decline in abundance coupled with poor composition metrics. While the impact of harvest on the Mulchatna caribou herd is unclear, measures to conserve the herd and aid recovery are warranted. Delegating authority to an in-season manager provides the flexibility needed to make timely decisions and respond to changing conditions, for example the Mulchatna caribou herd population decline

0228

1 or recovery.

2

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So  
6 I got a comment in the discussion here that I think  
7 it's important to stay in the game. Stebbins and St.  
8 Michael's have C&T and -- and this is with caribou.  
9 And I heard Ron talk about how you go up north or so to  
10 Unalakleet area and hunt, but I recall times when there  
11 wasn't caribou in Unalakleet and people were all going  
12 towards Granite Mountain and hunting over there from  
13 all areas, even, you know, from Nome and from southern  
14 Norton Sound, eastern Norton Sound, whatever. And I've  
15 seen times where there were very low numbers of caribou  
16 because I went out hunting with a friend of mine up  
17 there or over in the -- in Unalakleet.

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So what I -- with this food security  
issue happening with what's going on, I think we need  
to stay in the game and have our stay. I thought about  
deferring to the RAC, but then, you know, Tommy makes  
it -- you know, makes great points there. And I think  
that we need to protect our C&T for Stebbins and St.  
Michael's subsistence hunters.

So that's my feeling that it is  
important for us to take part on this and vote to  
support.

So any other Council members?

MR. GRAY: So I'd like to add I  
appreciate the State and the Feds' comments on actually  
closing this hunt down. And, you know, it's to me I  
owned a reindeer herd and I crashed and burned and, you  
know, I've watched the Western Arctic Caribou Herd go  
from 500,000 basically to a couple hundred thousand.  
Some of these numbers we got to protect these animals.  
And this whole issue here isn't so much we're -- we're  
beyond filling the freezers right now. Right now it's  
crisis mode and we got to protect that herd. And  
that's why I'm pushing to have it voted on because I  
think the more people hear about it from as far away as  
Nome, Alaska, it's going to open up eyes, you know,  
it's -- to me that resource, if we wipe out the  
resource we're going to have nothing. And our  
grandkids want to go hunt that herd someday.



0229

1                                 So I appreciate you guys stepping up  
2 and actually taking the time to shut it down and taking  
3 the heat from the public. And I'm sure it's not a  
4 pleasant thing, but sometimes things like that got to  
5 happen. So.....

6  
7                                 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for your  
8 comments, Tommy. You know, I -- my thoughts too are  
9 along with the hunters' capability and mobility, I  
10 mean, we got snowmachines now that they didn't have a  
11 hundred years ago, maybe less, say 50 years ago it was  
12 pretty grim, ownership of stuff like that. But now, I  
13 mean, I've travelled 350 miles in one day with a  
14 snowmachine, pulling a sled, 12 foot sled. So I know  
15 how -- you know, what my range is if I wanted to go  
16 somewhere. So anyway it might be a possibility in the  
17 future that Stebbins and St. Michael's need to go  
18 around the corner and -- and do some caribou hunting  
19 because of the lack of up north of them. So I think  
20 it's important that we support this so again any other  
21 Council members?

22  
23                                 Ron, you're right there.

24  
25                                 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I'm in support of  
26 closing it because we have to think about our gen --  
27 future generations because it's down to like they said  
28 15,000. That's not too much caribou, that's almost the  
29 same size as our local reindeer herd here in Stebbins.  
30 Our reindeer herd in Stebbins is over 10,000 and it's  
31 -- and then maybe in another couple years we'll have  
32 more reindeer than the Mulchatna caribou herd up there.  
33 So I'd like to see if we can eliminate hunting so that  
34 they can expand and be there for our future  
35 generations.

36  
37                                 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38  
39                                 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your  
40 input, Ron. I think it's important because you're in  
41 the section there, St. Michael's and Stebbins with the  
42 C&T. And so Tommy makes good points, you do too. Fish  
43 and Game and the subsistence management division seen  
44 to have taken action. This is just a -- to me is a  
45 helper outer. So I'm in favor of it.

46  
47                                 If there are any other comments or  
48 questions or concerns by Council, please speak up  
49 before we take this vote?  
50

0230

1 (No comments)

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Karen,  
5 we've got a motion on the floor, a second. Do we have  
6 a justification? Wait a minute, did we hear that  
7 already?

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I  
10 think we need the question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, the question -- I  
13 need the question to be called.

14

15 MR. KIRK: Question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron called the  
18 question. Thank you.

19

20 Karen, roll call vote.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 For the motion to adopt WP22-41 which would delegate  
24 authority to announce harvest limits, set sex  
25 restrictions and open and close seasons for caribou in  
26 Units 9, 17, 18 and 19.

27

28 Ron Kirk.

29

30 MR. KIRK: Yes.

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot.

33

34 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Doug Katchatag.

37

38 MR. KATCHATAG: Uh-huh. Got that?

39

40 Yes.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Great. Thank  
43 you, Doug.

44

45 How about Leland Oyoumick.

46

47 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.

50

MR. GRAY: Yes.

0231

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green, Jr.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. The motion  
6 passes unanimously, 6/0.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. And just  
11 to correct Tom, this is coming all the way from Brevig  
12 Mission, all the way across.

13

14 Thank you for your votes, folks. I  
15 think it was important to take a stand here.

16

17 That moves us on to the moose for  
18 wildlife proposal 22-42, Unit 18 remainder, increase  
19 the harvest limit for moose. This is really  
20 interesting down there.

21

22 Mr. Brian, your analysis, please.

23

24 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 This analysis begin on page 187 of your meeting books.  
26 Proposal WP22-42 submitted by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
27 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council requests the  
28 Federal Subsistence Board increase the harvest limit of  
29 moose from two to three in Unit 18 remainder. The  
30 proponent states this request is needed to continue  
31 subsistence uses and increase opportunity for sharing  
32 moose throughout the YK Delta Region and help to ensure  
33 long term sustainability of the lower Yukon River area  
34 moose population which is current too high to be  
35 supported by the local environment. Increased harvest  
36 and sharing opportunity is especially needed in these  
37 times of low salmon return on Kuskokwim rivers and  
38 recent closures to the harvest of Mulchatna caribou.

39

40 In 2005 the Board of Game increased the  
41 fall season 21 days and increased the winter season 10  
42 days in response to the rapid growth of the lower Yukon  
43 moose population. In 2009 the Federal Subsistence  
44 Board approved a special action increasing the harvest  
45 limit from one to two moose per regulatory year, one  
46 allowed in the fall and one in the winter. At the same  
47 time the Board of Game extended the winter season to  
48 February 28th and adjusted the unit boundaries. In  
49 2010 the Federal Subsistence Board extended the winter  
50

50

1 season to February 28th and issued delegated authority  
2 to the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. In 2012  
3 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted a proposal to  
4 combine the fall and winter hunts into one season from  
5 August 1st to March 31st with a harvest limit of two  
6 moose with the stipulation that antlered bull harvest  
7 was limited to only between August 1st and September  
8 30th. In 2014 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted a  
9 proposal that adjusted unit boundaries and established  
10 a single Yukon drainage hunt area and modified the bull  
11 harvest stipulation stating bulls cannot be harvested  
12 from October 1st to November 30th. Unit 18 remainder  
13 harvest limit was set at two moose. The Federal  
14 Subsistence Board extended the season to April 30th in  
15 2018. In 2020 the Board of Game extended the winter  
16 season to April 30th stating concerns that part of Unit  
17 18 remainder had surpassed carrying capacity. In 2021  
18 wildlife special action 21-02 was approved by the  
19 Federal Subsistence Board, increasing the harvest limit  
20 for moose in Unit 18 to three moose for the remainder  
21 of the 2021 season -- excuse me, the 2020/2021 season.

22  
23 Moose began to migrate into the Yukon-  
24 Kuskokwim Delta during the mid to late 1940s and have  
25 become an important subsistence resource for locals.  
26 Much of the region supports only low or very low  
27 density moose populations however productive habitat  
28 does exist along river corridors with approximately  
29 4,500 square miles and 3,500 square miles of suitable  
30 moose habitat occurring along the Yukon and Kuskokwim  
31 Rivers respectively. The Yukon River moose population  
32 currently occupies most of the available riparian  
33 habitat at a moderate to high density and has high calf  
34 production and yearling recruitment and the population  
35 is growing. The most recent survey was completed in  
36 early 2021. One survey area in Unit 18 remainder had  
37 an estimated population of a little over 12,000 with a  
38 density of 6.89 moose per square mile. The other had  
39 an estimated 11,799 and a density of 3.68 moose per  
40 square mile.

41  
42 ADF&G's harvest records for the general  
43 moose hunt in Unit 18 only includes Unit 18 remainder  
44 as moose harvest in the other hunt areas of 18 are by  
45 registration permit. Over the past 10 years the  
46 largest portion of the harvest has been by Alaska  
47 residents. Total reported harvest has increased  
48 roughly 26 percent from 587 moose in 2010 to 795 moose  
49 in 2019. While the number of hunters has stayed  
50

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1 relatively the same in the past 10 years, the success  
2 rate for those hunters has increased from 52 percent to  
3 73 percent.

4  
5 The moose population in the Unit 18  
6 remainder hunt area far exceeds management objectives  
7 and is believed to exceed the habitat carrying  
8 capacity. Approval of this proposal would provide  
9 additional opportunity for Federally-qualified  
10 subsistence users. Increasing the harvest limit two to  
11 three moose may help limit the growth of this moose  
12 population. Furthermore the expanded harvest limit  
13 might promote further sharing of moose throughout the  
14 Yukon-Kuskokwim region and support subsistence families  
15 in need.

16  
17 Therefore it is OSM's preliminary  
18 conclusion to support proposal WP22-42.

19  
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And if anybody  
21 has any questions I'd be happy to answer.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian.  
24 Anybody from Council have any questions, comments or  
25 concerns for Brian?

26  
27 MR. GRAY: So.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Tommy.

30  
31 MR. GRAY: .....I'm sitting here  
32 listening to this thinking geez, I live in the wrong  
33 area. You know, we're -- it's -- up here it's a mad  
34 competition to go out and shoot an animal and get it in  
35 your freezer. If you don't get one in four or five  
36 days it's too bad. And then I hear something like this  
37 where, you know, I've heard the Yukon has two moose per  
38 year and now this area they want three moose per year.  
39 And, you know, I'm thinking golly, how many moose can a  
40 family eat.

41  
42 And the other thing that I think about  
43 is our situation up in 22D versus 22E and moose  
44 possibly migrated out of 22D into E, the Yukon there's  
45 always been -- Jerry Austin talked about moose coming  
46 from the Yukon coming over to Golsovia River and back  
47 and forth. You would think maybe these moose are  
48 moving around or if they get too many they're going to  
49 push out and repopulate a different area.

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So I'm a little curious to what the biologists think about the -- you know, I can understand a population overeating or tearing down a area, but what about migration. I mean, I grew up here on the Seward Peninsula and when I was a kid there was hardly any moose and hardly any bears. And they came from somewhere. My -- you know, my wife's grandfather shot the first moose in White Mountain. They came from somewhere. So is there a possibility that these animals are going to be moving out of there.

Anyway I'm thinking out loud I guess.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy. Is there anybody out there that can answer Tommy's question about the mobility of these moose or the herd moving?

MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, Louis, Tom.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

MR. KATCHATAG: You know, we've been having a lot of fires down that way and that's pushing the moose up here. And also farther up in -- on the interior, lot of fires back in there every year. And it's pushing moose down and from the south this way. And I was -- I seen them going north, heading northward so they're on their way up. And to -- the Yukon people I agree with their number of moose that they catch. If you look at the summers they have no fish, no fish at all. They're complaining about not having smoked fish, complaining about having no fish in their freezer. So to give them three moose a year would be a dandy thing because they eat a lot of moose up there.

That's all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that, Doug. Other Council members?

MR. KIRK: Yeah, Ron Kirk, Stebbins, Mr. Chair. Yeah, I agree with what Yukon people are trying to do by getting three moose a year because I live right there, right next door to the Yukon and when I go into the mouth of Kotlik sometimes you see two or three moose swimming across the channel and you have to slow down and let them pass by while you're going into

0235

1 Kotlik River or even from Emmonak to Kotlik. Last --  
2 this summer my son had to weave around a moose to get  
3 from Kotlik from Emmonak so there is an abundance of  
4 moose down there. And the way the Fish and Game is  
5 handling the fish down there, they don't have no fish  
6 to -- for subsistence use down there, they have to come  
7 up to our area which was happening this summer to try  
8 and catch fish for their freezers.

9 So we need to support them and make  
10 sure they have food in their freezers to eat for the  
11 winter to feed their families and relatives or friends  
12 that come visit them. So I'm in support with their  
13 proposal.

14  
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your  
18 comments, Ron. There was a question about movement of  
19 the herd. And so I was wondering if any of our  
20 biologists could answer that for Tommy.

21  
22 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, Brian  
23 Ubelaker.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Brian.

26  
27 MR. UBELAKER: I don't have 100 percent  
28 definitive information on moose movement and I don't  
29 know if ADF&G might be able to speak to it better, but  
30 one point I would like to bring up. The closure review  
31 that we went through yesterday in Unit 22A remainder,  
32 part of the justification of that was such high moose  
33 population numbers in Unit 18 that there was some  
34 belief that moose are migrating into 22A from there.  
35 So that would lead me to believe that somewhere along  
36 the lines somebody has probably anecdotally seen --  
37 seen that happen. Therefore pass that information  
38 along.

39  
40 I hope that -- like I say hopefully  
41 Fish and Game if somebody's on that's smarter than me  
42 can talk to that, but I just wanted to bring that one  
43 point up. Hopefully that would help Council member  
44 Gray with his decision.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. And  
47 anecdotal is -- you know, there's observations by maybe  
48 a guide or guides, the other one is tech like Doug,  
49 Doug is tech that offers that information. Besides  
50

0236

1 collaring moose and tracking them that would be a  
2 Federal and not a State thing.

3

4 But, Mr. Dunker, have you got anything  
5 to add?

6

7 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, Bill Dunker  
8 here. Yeah, I've been reluctant to respond because we  
9 don't have any, you know, definitive information that  
10 would suggest or -- I don't know.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's fine.

13

14 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, not much to add on  
15 that one. What I do know about moose movement is  
16 somewhat limited to our experiences here in Unit 22 and  
17 it's one of those deals where we understand that it  
18 happens, but at what rate and what affect that has on  
19 population dynamics is a little bit less clearly  
20 understood. I'm familiar -- a little familiar with a  
21 collaring project that took place in 21E looking at the  
22 distribution of moose and I think the general takeaway  
23 from that was they -- those animals didn't move much  
24 beyond their established home ranges. What may or may  
25 not happen with the moose population, Unit 18, as time  
26 goes on is unknown from my perspective at this time.

27

28 So not really much to add. Sorry about  
29 that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Dunker.  
32 Ryan, I got to remember you're out there. Is there  
33 anything from you?

34

35 MR. SCOTT: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
36 Chairman and members of the Council. Bill covered it  
37 pretty good. You know, we don't for -- specifically  
38 for this herd we don't have a lot of information about  
39 where they're going. Most of our efforts have been  
40 focused on trying to slow it down to be honest with you  
41 primarily because of habitat concerns. They're eating  
42 a lot and I suspect -- I'm sure most Council members  
43 are aware and have seen it over the years, you get a  
44 bunch of moose in one spot and they eat themselves out  
45 of house and home and then we end up with a decline.  
46 And so we're trying to avoid that there. There is some  
47 thought we may have missed that already, but increasing  
48 the bag limit up to three, that helps. You know, it's  
49 a lot of moose per person, but there are some folks out  
50



0237

1 there interested in it and I also fully concur with  
2 concerns about the fishing season and providing some of  
3 that additional opportunity.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you for  
8 that, Ryan. Myself personally observed -- I was in St.  
9 Mary's for a week or so in 2012 and I flew out of there  
10 to Pilot Station and I think there was a couple of  
11 other stops on the way to Bethel and I was amazed at  
12 what I saw. When we flew low, the moose herd there was  
13 -- man, it would -- it reminded me of the old days up  
14 on the upper limits of the Kuzitrin in the springtime  
15 and wintertime along the river systems there when I  
16 flew through. What was interesting was our past Vice-  
17 Chair, Tim Smith, was with Fish and Game and I think it  
18 was in the late -- early '80s or so, I can't remember  
19 when it was, but they wanted to transplant moose there.  
20 And because there was great habitat and no moose.  
21 Well, like Tim said, he said, Louis, they did it  
22 themselves.

23

24 And the idea that there was no salmon  
25 for these folks on these major rivers and the fact that  
26 there's too many moose obviously, the herd's not  
27 moving, I'm in support of this. So personal  
28 observation.....

29

30 MR. SCOTT: They've got a good.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds good. Thank  
33 you. Go ahead.

34

35 MR. SCOTT: Oh, I was just going to  
36 repeat, Unit 18 had a phenomenal moose situation going  
37 on. Bill's got phenomenal bull to cow ratios a little  
38 bit to the north and we've just got lots and lots of  
39 moose a little bit to the south.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Put them on a barge  
42 and ship them to us. We'll take them.

43

44 MR. SCOTT: Copy that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. So do we  
47 have any other Council members with any comments,  
48 concerns?

49

50

0238

1 MR. GRAY: So Louis made -- yeah, I'd  
2 like to interject a little bit. You know, it's good to  
3 hear these guys' comments and if these moose -- you  
4 know, if the managers don't think they're going to move  
5 then it's pretty obvious you're going to have to go to  
6 three a year. But the only concern I have with three a  
7 year any -- I mean, two a year is lots, three a year is  
8 a huge. The concern that I have is if we go to this  
9 they need to have a streamlined system -- streamlined  
10 system to back up and slow things back down and be able  
11 to go a moose year without overharvesting that herd to  
12 the point -- you know, what I've seen of the government  
13 ain't the Feds, it takes them forever to make change.  
14 And it's usually not a pretty thing. So you've got  
15 time to think about it guys. We need a system -- and,  
16 you know, again if we don't think they're going to  
17 migrate out of there and expand into other areas I  
18 don't have a problem going to three moose a year. But  
19 we need to come back to reality someday and we have to  
20 have a system in place to come back to that one moose a  
21 year, whether it's a manager that has that authority or  
22 whatever.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Tommy. Thanks.  
25 Sorry, I had to -- missed my mute button there. Thank  
26 you for your comments, Tom.

27  
28 All right. So.....

29  
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
31 Karen.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead. Karen, go  
34 ahead.

35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 We are under -- if there are no further questions from  
38 the Council on this proposal analyzes we are at number  
39 2 on the presentation procedures.

40  
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, thanks. I was  
44 getting at that one.

45  
46 All right. So number 2. I don't think  
47 we have any other questions, I asked that a minute ago.  
48 I better make sure.

49  
50

0239

1 Any Council?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. We'll  
6 go to number 2, report on Board consultations.

7

8 Karen, with tribes and ANCSA  
9 corporations.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
12 There were no comments from tribes or ANCSA  
13 corporations during consultations for WP22-42.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. We're on  
18 number 3, agency comments. We heard from Bill and  
19 Ryan. We heard from Brian Ubelaker on the Federal, so  
20 we got other Feds, BLM.

21

22 Tom.

23

24 MR. SPARKS: No comment, Mr. Chair.

25 This is Tom.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. National  
30 Park Service.

31

32 Letty.

33

34 MS. HUGHES: No comment, Mr. Chair.

35 Thanks.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Letty.

38 BIA.

39

40 Pat.

41

42 MS. PETRIVELLI: No comment.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ma'am. So  
45 that leads us into C, tribal. Any tribal comments?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Moving

50

0240

1 on to item four, advisory group comments, other  
2 regional advisory councils.

3

4 Brian.

5

6 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7 The Western Interior and Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence  
8 Regional Advisory Councils both voted to support this  
9 proposal.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian.  
14 That brings us to Fish and Game advisory committee  
15 comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. We'll  
20 move to five, summary of written public comments.

21

22 Brian.

23

24 MR. UBELAKER: There were no written  
25 public comments submitted by the deadline.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Brings us  
30 to six, public testimony. The floor is open for  
31 anybody on the phone line that is public that has any  
32 comments, questions or concerns at this time on  
33 wildlife proposal 22-42, Unit 18, increase harvest  
34 limit for moose.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. We're  
39 moving on to item seven, regional council  
40 recommendation. And that requires a motion and a  
41 second to go into the discussion and justification.  
42 Since this is Unit 18 moose and we know that our  
43 cousins down there in St. Michael's and Stebbins travel  
44 around the corner to go get moose, but that's none of  
45 my business.

46

47 MR. KIRK: I so move, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

50

0241

1 There's a motion on the floor to support, am I correct,  
2 Ron.

3

4 MR. KIRK: Yes, Mr. Chair. You're  
5 correct. I move to support.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Is there a  
8 second?

9

10 MR. SEETOT: Second. This is Elmer.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Elmer. That's a  
13 second from Elmer.

14

15 MR. KATCHATAG: Question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So we're in the  
18 discussion phase here and justification. We got  
19 discussion and then justification. I'd like to hear  
20 the justification from Karen please before we call for  
21 the question.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to support proposal  
27 22-42. The justification reads, the moose population  
28 in the Unit 18 remainder hunt area far exceeds  
29 management objectives and is believed to exceed the  
30 habitat carrying capacity. Increasing the harvest  
31 limit from two to three moose may help limit the growth  
32 of this moose population and will provide additional  
33 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.

38

39 MR. GRAY: Louis, I have a comment.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Tommy.

42

43 MR. GRAY: So I -- I want to -- you  
44 know, this is a Federal proposal then it's going to  
45 affect Federal lands. And then I'm -- I'd like to put  
46 Fish and Game on the spot. And are -- Fish and Game,  
47 are you going to propose to go to the Board of Game to  
48 up this to three moose a year. And, you know, again my  
49 concern not so -- is not the three moose a year, it's  
50

0242

1 how do we reel back and get back to reality if we start  
2 seeing a problem with this thing. The Board of Game  
3 meets every two years and if there's a huge crash and  
4 all of a sudden it's two years before you can meet.  
5 Anyway I -- I'm curious what Fish and Game comments are  
6 on where they're going to go with their rules and  
7 regulations.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess -- Tommy,  
10 thanks for that. I -- the question comes to mind is  
11 emergency order. And maybe Ryan can shed some light on  
12 that. Is there something in place already, I know that  
13 the Federal side we have special action out of cycle?  
14

15 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, through the Chair.  
16 This is Ryan Scott with wildlife conservation. There  
17 is a special action in place for Federally-qualified  
18 hunters right now and this proposal would, you know,  
19 essentially make that permanent.  
20

21 The State -- we haven't talked a lot  
22 about it. We are getting ready for upcoming Board  
23 meeting. The moose -- the moose population there is  
24 certainly a hot topic. Most of the hunters and  
25 harvesters are Federally-qualified from the region.  
26 And so we certainly have working together with OSM on  
27 this and supporting the proposal, I think we've  
28 accomplished a lot of it as far as trying to reduce  
29 numbers. Whether or not we go to the Board of Game  
30 and, you know, we do something, we actually make the  
31 bag limit three moose or up to three moose or give  
32 ourselves a little bit of wiggle room. We haven't  
33 quite gotten there yet, the region five Board of Game  
34 meeting is a couple years out, but we'll be talking  
35 about it fairly soon.  
36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you.  
38 Tommy, does that answer you in any way, shape or form?  
39

40 MR. GRAY: It does. And, you know, the  
41 -- on the State side to get the Board of Game to take  
42 something out of cycle, we did that with the crab. And  
43 -- or we did it with something up here on the Seward  
44 Peninsula. The -- I -- you know, I'm -- this motion's  
45 going to pass, I'm going to vote in support of it, but  
46 the thing I'm trying to throw out there is you guys  
47 that are managers, you'd better pay attention because  
48 we don't need a resource going from 200,000 to 13,000.  
49 You know, maybe the numbers are different, but the  
50

0243

1 situation's the same with the moose. Right now we got  
2 lots of moose and be careful. And that's the main  
3 thing I'm trying to make everybody aware of is -- it's  
4 sun shining today, it could be raining in a few years.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy. One  
7 of the comforts I have in supporting this is that Unit  
8 18, the majority of Unit 18 is under Federal  
9 jurisdiction. So I think that gives you when you say  
10 something a lot of weight when we come to the table to  
11 vote in the future on this. Likewise for the other  
12 council. And in support of our C&T of our friends down  
13 there in Stebbins and St. Michael's, I think is great.  
14 And we're supporting what's going on with the  
15 management over there and the opportunity for providing  
16 more subsistence opportunity. In the past when I was  
17 growing up on -- out on the rivers, you know, we -- two  
18 or three moose was easy and it still happens today  
19 because my family's even bigger than it was. So I'm  
20 not -- I'm not too inclined to worry too much about how  
21 many you get as long as it's being used.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 So we've got a motion and a second. If  
26 there's any more discussion speak up, Council.

27  
28 MR. KIRK: Just one more comment, Mr.  
29 Chair. Ron Kirk, Stebbins. I'd like -- in the past in  
30 the late 1990s we had our rein -- domestic reindeer on  
31 an island, this is just an example of what's probably  
32 happening in the Yukon, district 18. We had our  
33 reindeer on Stewart Island. They were over 800 at that  
34 time, but when they ranged to about 1,500 we weren't  
35 able to go down to the island and harvest greens or  
36 pick salmonberries or pick blackberries because of the  
37 abundance of reindeer that had cleaned off the island.  
38 And I'm pretty sure that that's what's happening in  
39 Unit 18 with the moose is they're -- out there they're  
40 feeding off the land, they're eating up all the  
41 vegetation and the berries and a lot of times they eat  
42 the eggs off the birds. So I can understand why they  
43 want to up their limit to three. That's the problem  
44 down there with the animals is they tend to eat  
45 anything and everything there and if that's the --  
46 that's happening there that's the reason why -- I'm  
47 thinking the reason why they're upping their quota is  
48 to try to sustain the rest of their vegetation and  
49 berries in the Yukon district.

50

0244

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Any  
4 other Council?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. I  
9 think, Doug, you were calling for the question earlier.  
10 We'll honor that.

11

12 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah. Call for the  
13 question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep. Honor that. And  
16 have Karen do a roll call vote, please.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 On the motion to support WP22-42, Unit 18 remainder,  
20 increase the harvest limit for moose.

21

22 Elmer Seetot.

23

24 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Elmer.

27

28 Leland Oyoumick.

29

30 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Doug Katchatag.

33

34 MR. KATCHATAG: Yes.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Doug.

37

38 Tom Gray.

39

40 MR. GRAY: Yes.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

43

44 MR. KIRK: Yes.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am.

49

50



0245

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 The motion to support WP22-42 passes unanimously, 6/0.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.  
5 Thanks, Council. So that moves us to wildlife closure  
6 review of 22-45. Unit 23. Noatak closure to caribou  
7 hunting by non-Federally recognized -- non-Federally-  
8 qualified users, excuse me.

9  
10 Is Hannah online?

11  
12 \*\*Transcriber Note\*\*

13  
14 Hannah Voorhees contacted Computer Matrix Court  
15 Reporters requesting she be titled as Dr. Voorhees in  
16 transcripts and not Ms. Voorhees

17  
18 \*\*End Transcriber Note\*\*

19  
20 DR. VOORHEES: Yes. Thank you, Mr.

21 Chair.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You have the floor.

24  
25 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. Good  
26 morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. This is  
27 Hannah Voorhees, I am an anthropologist for the Office  
28 of Subsistence Management and I'll be presenting  
29 wildlife closure review WCR22-45. The analysis begins  
30 on page 200 of your meeting material.

31  
32 WCR22-45 reviews a geographically  
33 targeted closure within Unit 23. This is a year round  
34 closure to hunting for caribou by non-Federally-  
35 qualified users. There's a map of the closure area on  
36 page 202 of your meeting materials. This closure is  
37 coming before you because residents of Eureka have  
38 customary and traditional use for caribou in Unit 23.  
39 The closure reads, Federal public lands within a 10  
40 mile corridor, five miles either side along the Noatak  
41 River from the western boundary of Noatak National  
42 Preserve, upstream to the confluence with the Cutler  
43 River within the northern and southern boundaries of  
44 the Eli and Aggie River drainages respectively and  
45 within the Squirrel River drainage, are closed to  
46 caribou hunting except by Federally-qualified  
47 subsistence users hunting under these regulations.  
48 This closure was initiated in 2018 and has not been  
49 reviewed since.

50



0247

1 hunters account for approximately 95 percent of the  
2 total Western Arctic Caribou Herd harvest. In Unit 23  
3 caribou have historically been available during fall  
4 migration, but this has not reliably been the case in  
5 recent years. Caribou migration has occurred later in  
6 fall resulting in subsistence harvests also occurring  
7 later for many communities which in term can contribute  
8 to food insecurity.

9  
10 In terms of these facts of this closure  
11 to date the most recent subsistence survey of caribou  
12 harvest in Noatak dates to 2016 to 2017. There are no  
13 new data available that would allow for a comparison of  
14 household caribou harvest before and after  
15 implementation of the closure. However testimony  
16 reflecting the success of the closure for Noatak has  
17 been given by Northwest Arctic Council members every  
18 year since the closure was implemented.

19  
20 If the closure is lifted non-Federally-  
21 qualified users would be able to hunt caribou on  
22 Federal public lands along the Noatak River and within  
23 the Squirrel, Eli and Aggi River drainages. This could  
24 result in more user conflicts and interfere with  
25 caribou harvest by Federally-qualified subsistence  
26 users.

27  
28 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
29 maintain the status quo with the following  
30 justification. The current closure is still necessary  
31 to continue subsistence uses of the Western Arctic  
32 Caribou Herd for Federally-qualified users,  
33 specifically Noatak residents. The underlying factor  
34 leading to the closure in 2018, user conflict, has  
35 persisted overall in Unit 23, but has been mitigated in  
36 the closure area. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
37 continues to be managed at the conservative declining  
38 level. Since the closure has been enacted user  
39 conflicts within the closure area have been reduced and  
40 the hunt experience and harvest success of Federally-  
41 qualified subsistence users have improved.

42  
43 Thank you. I'm available to take any  
44 questions.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Hannah. Do  
47 we have any questions from Council, comments, concerns?

48  
49 (No comments)

50

0248

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: I have a comment  
2 myself. You know, these deer are the herd that comes  
3 all the way down into Unit 22, that spreads out all  
4 over towards the eastern -- southern and eastern Norton  
5 Sound. And I heard Ron talking about it, that they  
6 even go up towards Unalakleet to access this herd. So  
7 it's important for us to weigh in on this in my  
8 opinion.

9

10                   Any other Council?

11

12                   (No comments)\_

13

14                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Doesn't sound like it.  
15 So thank you, Hannah, for your report. There isn't  
16 anything anybody else has question on it sounds like.  
17 And I'm trying to find my -- the Office of Subsistence  
18 Management is maintain status quo on something we have  
19 been part of for quite a while now.

20

21                   So if nobody from Council has any  
22 comments I'll move ahead into the Ten Commandments.  
23 The Staff analysis was done by Hannah. Is there any  
24 additional from Alex, if Alex is on the phone?

25

26                   MR. HANSON: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is  
27 Alex Hanson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
28 Kotzebue, area biologist.

29

30                   I guess I would say that the State  
31 doesn't maintain a specific position on this proposal  
32 or this review or I would say that from a biological  
33 perspective reducing harvest opportunity to nonlocal  
34 residents or non-qualified subsistence users. It may  
35 not be warranted, I realize this is, you know, more --  
36 about more than just biology. As Hannah stated very  
37 well, harvest is -- you know, from nonlocals is 5  
38 percent or less from the herd. But I might also  
39 reiterate that most of that nonlocal harvest is bull  
40 and in that consideration it's biologically  
41 insignificant at the current harvest levels and at the  
42 current population level.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Alex. So  
45 the current -- was the current based on the 2019 or is  
46 there something.....

47

48                   MR. HANSON: Yeah, currently we're  
49 basing that on the 2019 population estimate of 244,000.

50

0249

1 So we're still within our harvestable surplus. We  
2 estimate that local harvest -- total harvest, estimated  
3 harvest, is around 12,000. You know, we have -- we're  
4 a little bit challenged to get that number, we're  
5 hoping to get better harvest reporting locally.  
6 However I would say that I guess for hard numbers we  
7 see nonlocal harvest annually between two and 300  
8 hundred animals in Unit 23 for the Western Arctic herd.  
9 So on a biological note it's really very insignificant.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And that two, 300  
12 nonlocal generally is bulls?

13

14 MR. HANSON: Correct. But we do have  
15 occasional.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And people like.....

18

19 MR. HANSON: Sorry.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

22

23 MR. HANSON: We do have, you know, a  
24 small percentage of that being cow harvest, you know,  
25 folks coming from other part of the state, nonlocal  
26 Alaska residents who do harvest cows, but it's pretty  
27 minimal. I'd have to look at that, but it's probably a  
28 handful of animals each year.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. So  
31 we're at 244,000 now, correct?

32

33 MR. HANSON: I'm in the process of  
34 finalizing that count and that should be out hopefully  
35 in a week or two. We're getting close.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You got a newer count  
38 you say?

39

40 MR. HANSON: Yeah, we shot the census  
41 this summer, but we're not quite done with the count.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you.  
44 Interesting to see what's going on too.

45

46 All right. So thank you for that,  
47 Alex. Anybody from Council have any questions for  
48 Alex?

49

50

0250

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Western Arctic Caribou  
4 Herd is ours too so weigh in if you want.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm not hearing  
9 anything. So Council's satisfied with what has been  
10 presented. So I think that moves us into the Ten  
11 Commandments. Presentation has been given by Hannah  
12 and Alex weighed in, biological side. So number 2,  
13 report on Board consultations.

14

15 Karen, tribes and ANCSA corps.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 This is Karen Deatherage and I have no record of any  
19 tribal or ANCSA corporation comments during  
20 consultation for WCR22-45.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Number 3,  
25 agency comments. We've heard from ADF&G, we've heard  
26 some Federal. So I'd like to hear if there's any  
27 comments from BLM.

28

29 Mr. Tom.

30

31 MR. SPARKS: No, comment Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you.  
34 National Park Service.

35

36 Letty.

37

38 MS. HUGHES: I'll let Western Arctic  
39 Parklands speak to this if they have comments.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. BIA.

42

43 Pat.

44

45 MS. PETRIVELLI: No comment.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Moves us  
48 into sub-item C, tribal. Anything from anybody in the  
49 tribes?

50

0251

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Seeing no comment from there. Let's go to item four, advisory group comments. Subletter A, other regional advisory councils.

6

7

Brian, weigh in.

8

9

DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this closure review was presented to the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and they decided to defer to the home region, Northwest Arctic.

13

14

Thank you.

15

16

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you for that. Sub-item D, Fish and Game advisory committee comments.

20

21

(No comments)

22

23

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Moving on to item five. Summary of written public comments.

24

25

Brian or would that be Hannah.

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

DR. VOORHEES: Yes. There was one written public comment received from Resident Hunters of Alaska. The group supports eliminating the closure because it excludes nonlocal residents of Alaska. They suggest eliminating access to non-State resident hunters through the Board of Game process instead. So again the support eliminating the closure.

35

36

Thanks.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That's all we got from written comments. We move on to item six, public testimony. The floor is open for anybody from the public that wants to talk, questions, comments or concerns of wildlife closure review 22-45 on Unit 23, Noatak closure to caribou hunting by non-Federally-qualified users. Anybody on the line?

45

46

(No comments)

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. That moves us into Item No. 7, regional council recommendation. Which we'll need a motion and a second

0252

1 to go into discussion and justification. So from  
2 Council motion -- a positive motion would be to -- I  
3 don't know what the -- I don't know what the word --  
4 verbiage of status quo. Let's see, to support.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. It would  
7 be to extend, to modify or to eliminate the closure.  
8 That would be -- a motion would choose one of those  
9 words in the positive.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I need a  
14 Council member to make a motion in the positive light.  
15 We can vote it up or vote it down.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
18 Karen. The Council also has the option if preferred to  
19 defer this action to the home region. So that is  
20 another option for the motion if the Council chooses.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for that  
25 comment, Karen. So are we looking to defer, are we  
26 looking to take part in.....

27

28 MR. KATCHATAG: I make a motion to take  
29 part.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Take part?

32

33 MR. KATCHATAG: Yep.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So you want to make a  
36 motion to support?

37

38 MR. KATCHATAG: Support, yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Because there's two  
45 other options.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry. This is a  
48 closure review so the motion would have to be to  
49 maintain the closure or modify or eliminate the  
50



0253

1 closure. So it's not like a wildlife proposal where  
2 you would support the closure or support the proposal.  
3 You would maintain the status quo or modify or  
4 eliminate the closure. So if that motion could be  
5 restated that would be good for the record.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9 MR. KATCHATAG: Could you tell us how  
10 to modify it or.....

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry. I got --  
15 yeah, I got modification -- I got support because I was  
16 on the wrong page here. I'm sorry.

16

17

18

So could you help us out there, Karen,  
a little bit.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, thank you.  
At this point I'm not sure if there's been any  
recommendations for any modification. I think because  
this is a specific area within Unit 23 that the options  
for the Council would be more in line with either  
eliminating this closure that currently exists or  
maintaining that closure as status quo. And so Mr. Kat  
-- member Katchatag, my recommendation would be that  
the Council -- that the motion state status quo to  
maintain the closure or eliminate the closure.

30

31

Thank you very much.

32

33

34

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,  
Karen.

35

36

37

MS. DEATHERAGE: Certainly.

38

39

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Doug.

40

41

MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Thank you.

42

43

MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah. To maintain the  
closure.

44

45

46

47

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. We have a  
motion to maintain closure under status quo. Is there  
a second.

48

49

50

MR. GRAY: I'll second for discussion.

0254

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.  
2 That's a motion by Doug and a second by Tommy and now  
3 we're in discussion and justification.

4  
5 So do we need the justification first?  
6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
8 Karen. I'd be happy to read the OSM conclusion and  
9 justification for the Council's consideration.

10  
11 The OSM preliminary.....  
12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. I know we  
14 heard it a little bit ago. Go ahead.

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

30  
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. Any  
34 discussion?

35  
36 Tommy.

37  
38 MR. GRAY: So I seconded this. I --  
39 you know, I struggle with this one. I'm very  
40 supportive of our people and I want them to get  
41 opportunity, but on the same token I understand the 200  
42 people or 200 animals that are getting shot and their  
43 dilemma. I mean, the resource is not hurting, the --  
44 you know, the 200 animals or 10,000 animals they would  
45 take, it's not hurting right now. So there's no reason  
46 not to let outsiders in. This is a political issue and  
47 this is all in my opinion it's the wrong issue, it's  
48 being handled the wrong way.

49  
50

0255

1                               And so I'm going to vote against this,  
2 but, you know, again I -- this -- our herd is big  
3 enough that the amount of animals versus the amount of  
4 income, the money is millions of dollars coming in to  
5 impact that region up there. And yet the 200 animals  
6 is a pittance to the size of the herd.

7

8                               So anyway I -- that's my two cents.

9

10                              CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman  
11 Gray. I get this 200 animals here that biologists  
12 speak of it. What -- you know, what's the upper range  
13 of this herd that -- the lower is -- when it gets down  
14 to like 200 or 201,000 we start having a problem or  
15 200,000 we start having a problem and we want to close  
16 things down.

17

18                              Alex, could you comment on that?

19

20                              (Teleconference interference -  
21 participants not muted)

22

23                              CHAIRMAN GREEN: I hear somebody  
24 typing, keyboarding. Somebody's not muted.

25

26                              Alex Hanson, are you onboard?

27

28                              MR. HANSON: Yeah, sorry about that. I  
29 had some mute issues.

30

31                              Through the Chair. This is Alex  
32 Hanson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Can you  
33 hear me now?

34

35                              CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

36

37                              MR. HANSON: Okay. So our IM objective  
38 is 200,000 animals. And we have an ANS which is  
39 combined from Teshekpuk and Western Arctic of eight to  
40 12,000. So I guess -- you know, looking at it from  
41 that perspective if we go below 200,000 then we might  
42 have some other considerations to look at.

43

44                              Currently under the population that  
45 we're under we don't see any reason to impose  
46 additional restrictions. In fact if you look at the  
47 Western Arctic herd management plan the guidance is  
48 that we don't reduce nonresident harvest until we go  
49 into more conservative status. We've actually reduced  
50

0256

1 that from one animal to two animal bag limit  
2 prematurely according to that plan

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And what's the health  
5 of the herd besides the number, we got any disease or  
6 any issues with the animals notice -- notable?

7  
8 MR. HANSON: As was reported in  
9 yesterday's meeting our adult female survival is higher  
10 than we'd like to see our mortality rate. Other  
11 factors, recruitment and calving rates, nutrition, are  
12 on average and acceptable at this time. We're  
13 monitoring things as -- you know, as closely as we can.  
14 I would say, you know, that we're proceeding with  
15 caution because we're not too far above that IM  
16 objective of 200,000. So we keep our finger on the  
17 pulse and as we're close to that objective we make an  
18 effort to monitor the population as often as we can.

19  
20 So given that if our population  
21 estimate comes in reasonably high this year we may skip  
22 a census next year. However if it is low enough to  
23 merit another census, we'll go ahead and conduct that  
24 census. We really like to keep our finger on the pulse  
25 with this herd.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Alex. So  
28 keeping a finger on the pulse, do you keep a finger on  
29 the weather patterns that are going on in case we have  
30 warm weather because everybody's talking about this  
31 warming trend we're going through. And we've seen it  
32 in the past and some of that is the thought of our  
33 caribou herd dwindling in numbers in the past was  
34 because of rain and ice on the food source. So how is  
35 it with the weather, do you keep a pulse -- keep your  
36 finger on that pulse too?

37  
38 MR. HANSON: Yeah, certainly we're  
39 trying to look at all aspects of management of the  
40 Western Arctic herd. Kind of the neat thing about the  
41 herd is, you know, if we talk about rain on snow, rain  
42 on frozen ground, we did see, you know an instance of  
43 that several years back up Cape Lisburne. But the  
44 Western Arctic herd is so vast, you know, during winter  
45 range they aren't generally all in the same location.  
46 They have done in the past, you know, we might find 60  
47 to 70 percent of the collars at times, you know, on the  
48 northern Seward Peninsula in the past. However they  
49 seem to spread themselves out enough that, you know,  
50

0257

1 one specific area like the Lisburne Peninsula or we had  
2 deep snow event that caused some additional mortality  
3 in the upper Kobuk a few years back. Those aren't, you  
4 know, spread throughout all of the population because  
5 the animals are spread out so much during that winter  
6 range in general. But it just kind of depends on where  
7 they end up in the winter and when those events take  
8 place. But we certainly monitor that and we're, you  
9 know, holistically looking at survival through our  
10 collaring program to see if we can pinpoint causatory  
11 factors of mortality.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. I  
14 was just reflecting on Councilman Gray's conversation  
15 about moose and the caribou in Unit 18 where, you know,  
16 that could just crash. So 44,000 is the buffer zone at  
17 this point as of 2019. Whether or not it's grown  
18 since.....

19

MR. HANSON: That.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....then we don't  
22 know yet.

23

24 Go ahead.

25

26 MR. HANSON: Yeah. I would agree with  
27 you. 44,000 above, we don't know where we're at on  
28 this current census and that will, you know,  
29 potentially flavor that discussion when we get that  
30 number in a few weeks or a week.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thanks, Alex.  
33 So knowing that our weather patterns are not  
34 predictable to a point of where this is going to  
35 happen, I have a question about the collar. You  
36 mentioned northern Seward Peninsula. So what --  
37 where's the range of those collars, what did you mean  
38 by that, the northern range?

39

40 MR. HANSON: I guess what I meant to  
41 say was that, you know, we look at the range of the  
42 Western Arctic herd to be approximately 157,000 square  
43 miles so this is a huge area. You take for instance  
44 and compare that to the size of the state of  
45 California, takes up almost a quarter of the state of  
46 Alaska. So they can be, you know, potentially anywhere  
47 within that range. So let's just take last year for  
48 example. We had the majority of the caribou wintered  
49 in the Central Brooks Range then on the North Slope.

50

0258

1 This year's a different program. Most of those caribou  
2 moved down, some on the west coast, they're at Kivalina  
3 area currently and then a lot have come down through  
4 the Kobuk, some are still north of the Kobuk in the  
5 lotterin (ph) and the Selawik valley currently. So  
6 we're going to see a very different distribution this  
7 year than what we saw last year. The last few years  
8 it's kind of my impression that what we're seeing is a  
9 lot of those animals are kind of just hanging out in  
10 the mountains and we talk about weather, the fall  
11 weather was pretty mild and they just didn't seem to  
12 have a reason to move out of those mountains. This  
13 year however we saw some snows in the fall and some  
14 icing that I think kind of pushed them out, but that's  
15 just my impression of what went on there.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that's  
18 interesting when you talk about Central Brooks Range,  
19 North Slope, could these animals be trying to stay away  
20 from predation knowing good and well about when they're  
21 in the mountains they're hard to deal with up there  
22 when you want to go hunt them. I would imagine that a  
23 predator would have the same problem dealing with them.  
24 The ones in the mountains seem to probably have a  
25 better survival than the ones out in the flats.

26

27 But back to the question on the collars  
28 on the northern Seward Peninsula. What kind of a range  
29 do you see with the collars that you've seen in the  
30 past, what -- where are you seeing them come into?

31

32 MR. HANSON: Okay. Sorry I.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are they.....

35

36 MR. HANSON: .....missed your.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....are they on the  
39 watershed going to the north side or are they coming  
40 more like Kiwalik Bendelebens or Serpentine or upper  
41 Kuzitrin? I was just trying to understand what  
42 northern means for.....

43

44 MR. HANSON: So.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....collar ranges.

47

48 MR. HANSON: Yeah. You know, we see  
49 basically several different areas. We -- I call it the  
50

0259

1 northern Seward Peninsula, but also moving over to the  
2 western end of that, you know, approaching Serpentine  
3 and even Shishmaref, down a little bit further we've  
4 certainly seen collars and caribou groups approaching  
5 Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Nulato Hills and it seems to be  
6 that, you know, if we look back through time we see  
7 kind of a main body occupying, you know, a specific  
8 area, let's say the Nulato Hills for instance and then,  
9 you know, in subsequent years they might move further  
10 west on the Seward Peninsula. And so they've occupied  
11 it the past 50 plus years, prior to that we kind of  
12 think there wasn't much caribou presence on the Seward  
13 Peninsula. And so it's -- we're kind of in this  
14 confusing gray area, they have pulled back from  
15 wintering on the Seward Peninsula in the last five  
16 years, since about 2018 and now potentially they're  
17 coming back this year, but it's kind of anybody's guess  
18 as to where they might winter on a given year.

19

20 Does that all make sense, did I lose  
21 you?

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, are you  
24 still on the line?

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Can you hear me?

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: There we go.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I had trouble  
31 getting back on. I kept putting my passcode in and  
32 pound signing it and it just kept tell me to redo it so  
33 I hung up and started over and it got through that  
34 time.

35

36 So I didn't hear anything that Alex  
37 said by answer. I had asked about the collar, ranges  
38 of the collars on the northern Seward Peninsula and  
39 where that kind of falls into by -- from Alex.

40

41 So go ahead, Alex, I'm sorry.

42

43 MR. HANSON: No worries. I'll be happy  
44 to go through it again. But I guess what we've seen,  
45 you know, in the past, let's just go back a number of  
46 years, you know, 2015, 2016. We saw a lot of -- maybe  
47 60 to 70 percent of the herd based on our collar  
48 distribution was, you know, northern Seward Peninsula.  
49 So we're thinking kind of Espenberg, Serpentine, that  
50

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1 area, a lot had kind of spread over there and wintered  
2 in that area. They've extended as far west as  
3 approaching Shishmaref and of course south there a  
4 little bit further. And then we also see -- we have  
5 seen in the past, you know, quite a good number of  
6 animals wintering in the Nulato Hills and get down as  
7 far south as Koyuk, Shaktoolik, kind of that area. And  
8 so based on, you know, collar distribution over the  
9 years we don't see the same thing every year. For  
10 whatever reason those caribou, you know, select  
11 different wintering areas and we might see, you know, a  
12 good portion of the animals for a number of years in  
13 the Nulato Hills for instance and the next few years or  
14 maybe it bounces back and forth, we might see a good  
15 portion of the animals wintering, you know, maybe over  
16 in the Serpentine area or something. So just  
17 distribution changes every year and it's certainly, you  
18 know, different this year than it was last year and the  
19 -- you know, the previous three years or so were very  
20 similar, where a lot of animals stayed on the North  
21 Slope and the Central Brooks Range. However as I  
22 mentioned we're starting to see movement south of the  
23 Kobuk this year which is interesting and different and  
24 exciting as compared to the previous five years or so.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So -- okay. Great.  
27 What does that tell you about the Unit 22 when the  
28 caribou move in there, we're just.....

29

30 MR. HANSON: I guess as far as 22 I  
31 would say, you know, if I tried to guess where the  
32 caribou were going to end up I'd probably become a  
33 liar, but I suspect Unit 22 will probably have more  
34 access to caribou this winter than they did in the past  
35 four or five years. However that's just based on  
36 current observations and that could change.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thanks. I know  
39 I'm pushing you a little bit there.

40

41 Yes, interesting to see most of it, you  
42 know, even back 2015, 2016 where Espenberg, Serpentine,  
43 Shishmaref were all talking about the northwest and not  
44 so much over in Bendelebens or the flats around  
45 Kuzitrin Lake or Kiwalik comes to mind, I've hunted  
46 there, I've hunted in the Bendelebens. So kind of just  
47 had me curious about this collar situation. You're not  
48 seeing many collars over there or any at all or.....

49

50



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1 MR. HANSON: Not at the moment.  
2 They're kind of stacked up in the Selawik Refuge there  
3 and kind of moving south. They're during -- you know,  
4 it's -- they're in rut right now so they're not moving  
5 a whole lot, they're just kind of moving around doing  
6 their thing. But my expectation they'll go further  
7 south or southwest. You know, we always seem to have a  
8 few around the -- you know, the head of the Buckland  
9 and stuff, but we might have a lot this year. But I  
10 don't know for sure, we'll see what happens.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I've seen --  
13 I've seen caribou all the way over to Salmon Lake, I've  
14 seen them all the Imuruk Basin on the north side. You  
15 know, the guys that go ahead of everybody.

16

17 And so I was just curious about the  
18 collars, the collars aren't showing up where I would  
19 suspect that you would see collars. So that's why I'm  
20 asking the questions.

21

22 Anyway thank you for that.

23

24 MR. HANSON: Yep.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we better move  
27 on, we got stuff to deal with besides my curiosity  
28 here. But my curiosity -- I'm a hunter and so I just  
29 want to know what to expect. So.....

30

31 All right. Thank you.

32

33 Anybody on Council, any questions of  
34 Alex or Hannah? I'm just trying to figure out where  
35 we're at.

36

37 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot from Brevig.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Brevig, go ahead.  
40 Elmer and then there was somebody else. Who was the  
41 other one?

42

43 MR. SEETOT: I -- we were hunting  
44 caribou last spring and they're also locating in the  
45 Urik Mountains. The closer in Unit 23 on the Noatak  
46 River. Is there a pattern that biologists can finger  
47 on, which side or is there a certain pattern. There's  
48 some caribou that do go to the Bendelebens, Pilgrim,  
49 that area, certain years, other times they just kind of  
50

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1 stay up around the north side of Bendeleben or towards  
2 Serpentine Hot Springs. Do they have a dividing line  
3 where certain animals on the west side of that line go  
4 through the northern Seward Peninsula or something or  
5 line east -- east of a certain -- they go toward the  
6 Bendeleben or the Noatak River area. It's just  
7 patterned like that. That -- the file just -- I have  
8 noted it in the past. That was just my question  
9 because wherever they cross sometimes access to the  
10 caribou is either short, like the Bendeleben, Pilgrim  
11 River area or long, north side of the lava beds or up  
12 towards Kougarok, that was pretty much my question that  
13 I was trying to find out from biologists that keep  
14 track -- that keep track of the movement of the  
15 caribou.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. HANSON: Yeah, I guess I would  
20 speak to that briefly by saying as far as on the Seward  
21 Peninsula in the last few years we've done, you know,  
22 Bendelebens, Urik Mountains, Brevig Mission, we  
23 wouldn't -- we didn't have any collars in that vicinity  
24 in the past few winters or few years so we wouldn't  
25 have any hard data on what those movements were looking  
26 like. Those would have been anecdotal observations  
27 from folks out in the airplane or potentially on the  
28 ground.

29

30 As far as movements, you know, further  
31 up, fall movements seem to be the most interesting and  
32 dynamic. It changes and it can vary and I think a lot  
33 of it has to do with weather. We -- you know, for a  
34 number of years we were seeing a lot of movements  
35 coming off the North Slope through the Nigu, now they  
36 seem to be more concentrated on the Anisak drainage.  
37 And, you know, it just changes and varies. And, you  
38 know, some of the most interesting movements that we  
39 see I would probably attribute to weather patterns. We  
40 would see, you know, across the board, you know, a  
41 couple hundred miles across the mountains, caribou  
42 spread out and at one point they're all going north and  
43 then potentially weather and patterns change and then  
44 they all go south. And so just interesting to see how  
45 those movements change and how dynamic they are.

46

47 There certainly are some, you know,  
48 historic movement patterns and corridors, you know,  
49 they're certainly -- you know, they're funneled through  
50

0263

1 certain areas, we think of Onion Portage for instance  
2 where they just kind of come out of the mountains there  
3 in this valley and they're just kind of all funneled  
4 toward this point that comes out there at Onion  
5 Portage. And so they're just kind of directed that way  
6 due to terrain and vegetation. But I would say that  
7 caribou movements are always subject to change, the  
8 most consistent movements that we see are to the  
9 calving grounds in the spring. The second most  
10 consistent movement would be the post calving  
11 aggregation area on the Lisburne Peninsula and the rest  
12 of it is -- you know, we're often surprised, things are  
13 constantly changing.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Alex. I  
16 know I'm dwelling on this a little bit long, I ask for  
17 people's patience here because I'm homing in on  
18 something. When I -- when I go hunting and I'm going  
19 into the Bendelebens you're telling me for the last  
20 four or five years or so that there is no collars  
21 showing up there. What am I hunting on. I'm hunting  
22 on caribou, but apparently you're not seeing them on a  
23 map or on a -- with a collar. So what do we know about  
24 residential caribou on the Seward Peninsula, do we have  
25 any information.

26  
27 MR. HANSON: Yeah, it was certainly  
28 maintained that they're, you know, resident caribou,  
29 reindefur, you know, perhaps they're mixed in with  
30 reindeer, rogue reindeer, whatever, that live and  
31 reside on the Seward Peninsula. We don't have, you  
32 know, real hard data on what's going on with them. We  
33 would -- I would suggest there's probably -- maybe Bill  
34 could speak to this better than I can, but, you know,  
35 on the order of two to 5,000 caribou down there on any  
36 given year and they went through this summer, they're  
37 not necessarily moving or migrating with the Western  
38 Arctic herd. They're probably remnants, you know, of  
39 the Western Arctic herd mixed in there that decided not  
40 to move back and forth for whatever reason. And when  
41 the Western Arctic herd moves down there there's  
42 certainly potential that they can either deposit  
43 animals or pick them up. Generally what we see in  
44 caribou populations is smaller populations or groups  
45 give up animals to larger groups.

46  
47 And but it just seems to be this  
48 dynamic situation where there's always caribou kind of  
49 in flux down there and we don't really have a good  
50

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1 finger on the pulses as to how many they are and, you  
2 know, what's going on, they're just resident population  
3 I would say.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. Thank you.  
6 That kind of leads me to saying maybe we should be  
7 studying these deer, maybe we should do genetics on  
8 them, maybe we should collar them, maybe they are a  
9 separate herd. So.....

10  
11 MR. HANSON: You know, the discussion  
12 has been out there.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Well, now it's  
15 coming out of me too because I'm familiar with that  
16 area.

17  
18 So anyway, Bill, did you have anything  
19 to add?

20  
21 MR. GRAY: Louis, before we go on to  
22 Bill, you -- I said that 10 years ago, let's go study  
23 those animals, let's put collars on them and I got  
24 resistance out of the system. Part of the system  
25 wanted to do it and part didn't. So.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds like we need to  
28 push harder.

29  
30 MR. GRAY: .....it's good to hear it  
31 from somebody else.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.  
34 Sounds like you and I are old hat about that area over  
35 there. I know for decades of animals being over there  
36 in those mountains. So I'm on the same side. So maybe  
37 we need to push for that.

38  
39 So anyway, Bill, did you have anything  
40 to add, Dunker, Mr. Dunker?

41  
42 MR. DUNKER: No, I believe Alex  
43 effectively summarized our understanding of range  
44 around the Seward Peninsula. I know some observations  
45 from this past spring when we were working on the bear  
46 project with Park Service and BLM and we were seeing  
47 caribou or excuse me, reindeer in the Bendeleben  
48 Mountains with calves later on in the -- early in the  
49 year that suggested there was probably, you know,  
50

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1 reindeer from local herds wandering around outside of  
2 Seward, they're historic calf -- excuse me, grazing  
3 areas and things like that. But certainly a mixed bag  
4 of Western Arctic herd animals and likely some reindeer  
5 in the area.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you.  
8 Being an observer and hunter for the last probably four  
9 decades since the '80s, those are caribou up in there.  
10 And haven't really noticed reindeer, but caribou are  
11 pretty distinct.

12

13 Anyway thank you. Any Council members?

14

15 Karen, were we at. this was such a long  
16 discussion, I need to move forward here. What were we  
17 at, I lost track.....

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....of my notes here.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
24 we currently have.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we got to  
27 vote.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....we currently have  
30 a motion on the floor to maintain status quo. The  
31 motion has been seconded. The Council's been  
32 discussing the issues and the justification from OSM  
33 has been read. So at this point the Council can  
34 continue with justifications or the question can be  
35 called and I will do roll call.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Did you say you wanted  
40 to read justifications or do we need it?

41

42 MS. DEATHERAGE: I -- Mr. Chair, I have  
43 already read the justification.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....from OSM, but if  
48 other individuals on the Council have any additional  
49 justification that can be discussed now or the question  
50

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1 can be called.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Any  
4 Council or question to be called?

5

6 MR. KIRK: Question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question's been  
9 called. Roll call vote please, Karen.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14 For the question or the vote to maintain status quo on  
15 wildlife closure review 22-45 which is a closure to  
16 caribou hunting by non-Federally-qualified users in the  
17 Noatak area of Unit 23.

18

19 Ron Kirk.

20

21 MR. KIRK: Yes.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.

24

25 MR. GRAY: No.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

28

29 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

32

33 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl Katchatag.

36

37 MR. KATCHATAG: Yes.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Louis Green.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: In support of the Unit  
42 23 because it's part of our herd on the north side of  
43 the Seward Peninsula I say yes.

44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Green.  
46 The motion passes unanimously or not unanimously, with  
47 a vote of five to one.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair. To maintain

50

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1 status quo.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ma'am. It  
4 is 12:18. How about a 30 minute lunch or so. Let's  
5 say 1:00 o'clock.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: That sounds good, Mr.  
8 Chair. I would like to request that all Council  
9 members to please call back at 1:00 o'clock. We still  
10 have remaining action items on the agenda and unless we  
11 have a quorum those won't be able to be completed. So  
12 appreciate everybody on board and thanks for calling  
13 back in at 1:00 o'clock.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (On record)

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Calling the meeting  
20 back to order at 1:02.

21

22 Karen, you have something?

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 The first thing I want to do is remind everybody to  
26 please put us on mute when you're not speaking, that's  
27 star six on your landline and then a mute button on  
28 your cell phone. And those both will keep us going.  
29 Everybody's done a great job at that and it's much  
30 appreciated.

31

32 And, Mr. Chair, you were going to call  
33 for a comment from the public on non-agenda items and  
34 then also to give Ron Kirk an opportunity to give his  
35 Council member report since he missed that opportunity  
36 yesterday.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for lining  
41 it out. So again this is -- we're going to open up for  
42 non-agenda items for anybody on the phone from the  
43 public to make comment. So anybody from the public on  
44 the phone line please do so at this time.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Since I'm not  
49 hearing anybody, do we -- Ron Kirk, are you on the  
50

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1 line.

2

3

MR. KIRK: Yes. Okay. (In Native)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN GREEN: So since you weren't on in the beginning when all the other Council members gave their Council update we'd like to hear from you what your observations and things going on around you have -- what's been happening. We didn't want to leave you out.

10

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MR. KIRK: Well, we -- we got hit pretty bad in our village as you know by the covid. And so that pretty much shut us down for a while. As far as subsistence go there wasn't too much salmon this year. We were struggling on salmon, but we're getting a lot of whitefish at the river now. We've been doing good with young muktuks and seals here. And this spring the young boys got luck with walrus. So and our salmonberries were pretty good. But it's been raining all summer. As far as bird hunting go the white geese were here a couple weeks ago and people were getting abundance. And so we're good with white geese and yeah, it's been a good summer except for the covid that's been shutting us down, but now we're in the clear, we don't have any cases in our village which is good. We put a damper on it by shutting down the store and having only phone call deliveries from the store to the homes is how we were able to get the covid under control in our community, we shut everything down. Other than that it's been a wet summer and not too much activity going on.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron, for your report. We didn't want to leave you out, Karen made sure of that.

MR. KIRK: Well, if Karen was in charge I should have said it in Yup'ik.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Then they wouldn't be able to type it.

MR. KIRK: That's the point.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: What's that, Karen?



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1 MR. KIRK: That was the point, she  
2 wouldn't be able to type it.

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Nice to know I'm  
5 appreciated here.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, maybe she's  
8 multilingual, I didn't know.

9  
10 All right. So we got to the point  
11 we're at statewide proposals. And wildlife proposal  
12 22-01, you'll find who is or is not a participant in  
13 community harvest program and affects on harvest  
14 limits.

15  
16 So there's Pippa and Hannah, give us a  
17 Staff analysis. I think that's how you put it.

18  
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Just want to make sure  
20 everybody's muted before Pippa Kenner gets started on  
21 that.

22  
23 Thanks, folks.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. Good point. I  
26 heard some shuffling of paper or something.

27  
28 Anytime you're ready. I'm going to go  
29 to mute.

30  
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pippa, are you on the  
32 phone?

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pippa, are you on the  
37 phone with us. This is Karen. She.....

38  
39 Mr. Chair, she may have gotten cut off.  
40 Let me make sure she's still on the phone. She may be  
41 on mute.

42  
43 Pippa, if you're on mute you need to  
44 unmute yourself. Star six or unmute on your telephone  
45 -- your cell phone with the menu.

46  
47 DR. VOORHEES: Karen, this is Hannah.  
48 Pippa says she is having some trouble unmute --  
49 unmuting herself on the phone, but she is on the line.  
50

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1 MS. DEATHERAGE: If she's on a landline  
2 she can keep trying star six because sometimes it  
3 doesn't catch.

4  
5 We also have the option of moving to  
6 moving to wildlife proposal 22-50 with Brian Ubelaker  
7 and then we can get back to Pippa.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, let's go ahead  
10 and do that.

11  
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Brian, are you ready  
15 for 22-50?

16  
17 MR. UBELAKER: In a nervous rushing  
18 scramble, yes, I am.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hey, let's get up to  
21 par here, Nascar, contrail.

22  
23 MR. UBELAKER: I'm sorry, I'm dragging  
24 the whole works down. I apologize.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It's all your fault.

27  
28 MR. UBELAKER: Okay.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We'll indulge you.

31  
32 MR. UBELAKER: Okay.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're okay with.....

35  
36 MR UBELAKER: Thank you, Sir.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, you're on.

39  
40 MR. UBELAKER: Let's see, wildlife  
41 proposal WP22-50 regarding beaver trapping in Unit 23.  
42 The analysis starts on page 34 of your meeting books.  
43 And proposal WP22-50 submitted by the Northwest Arctic  
44 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council requests the  
45 beaver harvest limit be changed from 50 beaver in Unit  
46 23, Kobuk and Selawik drainages and 30 in unit 23  
47 remainder to no harvest limit in both trap areas. The  
48 proponent states that the proposed changes would align  
49 Federal beaver trapping regulations with the more  
50

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1 liberal State regulations as well as provide increased  
2 harvest opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence  
3 users.

4  
5                   There's been a general trend to  
6 liberalize beaver trapping and hunting regulations in  
7 Unit 23. In 1999 the Board of Game established a year  
8 round hunting and trapping season for beavers in Unit  
9 23 with no harvest limit or sealing requirements. In  
10 2007 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted proposal  
11 WP751 establishing a hunting season for beaver in Unit  
12 23 with no closed season and no harvest limit.

13  
14                   Arctic landscapes are in transition due  
15 to changes in the climate. Increased warmth in the  
16 summers and longer growing seasons are contributing to  
17 increasing productivity and shrub dominated vegetation.  
18 Beavers have increasingly moved into tundra areas  
19 during the past 20 years because of this change.  
20 Beaver numbers remain high in Unit 23, particularly in  
21 the Selawik and Kobuk River drainages where beavers  
22 have fully occupied high quality habitat and now widely  
23 occur in marginal areas as well.

24  
25                   Current harvest data is limited because  
26 few people have sealed pelts since ADF&G made beaver  
27 sealing requirements voluntary for Unit 23 in 2000.  
28 The most recent community harvest survey in the  
29 community subsistence information system is from 2014.  
30 And that data suggests that beaver harvesting varies  
31 greatly by year and community.

32  
33                   If this proposal is adopted the current  
34 beaver harvest limit would be changed in Unit 23,  
35 Kobuk, Selawik and remainder to no harvest limit in  
36 both trap areas. No impacts to the beaver population  
37 or user groups are expected as Federally-qualified  
38 subsistence users can already trap an unlimited number  
39 of beavers on most Federal lands under the more liberal  
40 State regulations. Additionally adoption of this  
41 proposal would align Federal and State regulations.

42  
43                   And therefore the OSM preliminary  
44 conclusion is to support proposal WP22-50 with  
45 modification to combine the two Unit 23 trap areas.

46  
47                   Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I will be  
48 happy to answer any questions anyone may have.

49  
50

0272

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. Do  
2 we have any Council with any questions, comments or  
3 concerns?  
4

5                   (No comments)  
6

7                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: The -- we could --  
8 this could be from our Council, we could defer to the  
9 region, the 23 reg -- Unit 23 region. We don't need to  
10 vote on it.  
11

12                   Do we have everybody online, Karen, I  
13 don't.....  
14

15                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, we do have  
16 to go through the process, the procedure for this  
17 proposal. It is a statewide proposal because pretty  
18 much everyone has C&T I believe to trap beaver in 23 so  
19 this is why it is on your agenda. That doesn't mean  
20 you cannot defer it to Unit 23, but I just wanted to  
21 give you that information in case you didn't know.  
22

23                   Thank you.  
24

25                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. We can't defer  
26 it, is that what you said, you -- it kind of broke up.  
27

28                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, you can  
29 defer this proposal.....  
30

31                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh.  
32

33                   MS. DEATHERAGE: .....if you want. I  
34 was just giving you the reason why this is on the  
35 agenda.  
36

37                   Thanks.  
38

39                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. Thank you. So  
40 we have the analysis from Brian. It goes to number 2,  
41 report on the consul -- Board consultations.  
42

43                   Karen, tribes and ANCSA corps.  
44

45                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 There were no comments from tribes or ANCSA  
47 corporations during consultation for WP22-50.  
48

49                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50

0273

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. That brings us  
2 down to three, agency comments.

3  
4 ADF&G, did Ryan have anything to add?  
5 Maybe not.

6  
7 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, this is Bill  
8 Dunker. I was going to provide comment on this  
9 proposal here.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sure.

12  
13 MR. DUNKER: So yeah, our Alaska  
14 chapter report respondent suggested or indicated that  
15 beavers are common throughout Unit 23 and the proposed  
16 regulatory changes are not anticipated to create a  
17 conservation concern. Therefore the department  
18 supports the proposal to align the State and Federal  
19 beaver bag limit in Unit 23 for trapping.

20  
21 (Teleconference interference -  
22 participants not muted)

23  
24 REPORTER: Okay. So before we go  
25 on.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Keyboarding.

28  
29 REPORTER: Hang on. Hold on. Before  
30 we go on, whoever's typing, if you can mute your phone  
31 because it's cutting into the recording.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Tina. Okay.  
36 So we're on agency comments. We just heard from Bill  
37 Dunker, ADF&G. Brian -- Brian read the analysis. So  
38 is there any other comments from BLM.

39  
40 Tom.

41  
42 MR. SPARKS: This is Tom Sparks. No  
43 comment from BLM, Mr. Chair.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Thank you,  
48 Tom. National Park Service.

49  
50

0274

1 Letty.

2

3 MS. HUGHES: No comments from Bering  
4 Land Bridge. I'll defer to any others to Western  
5 Arctic Parklands.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. And BIA.

8

9 Pat.

10

11 MS. PETRIVELLI: No comment.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Pat.  
14 Brings us to tribal under sub-item C. Any comments  
15 from regional Kawerak.....

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, moving  
20 on to item four, advisory group comments. Sub A, other  
21 regional advisory councils.

22

23 Brian.

24

25 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, Mr. Chair. The  
26 Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
27 voted to support this proposal as it was written with  
28 the OSM modification.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brian. So  
33 sub-item B, Fish and Game advisory committee comments.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Moving  
38 on to item five, summary of written public comments.

39

40 Brian, do you have any.

41

42 MR. UBELAKER: No, Sir. There were no  
43 submitted public comments.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Under item  
48 six, public testimony. The floor is open to any  
49 questions, comments or concerns about wildlife proposal

50

0275

1 22-01 define who -- whoops. I am not on the right  
2 track here. Excuse me. That would be wildlife  
3 proposal 22-50 in Unit 23, increase harvest limit to no  
4 limit for trapping beaver.

5

6 Are there any public with any comments,  
7 questions or concerns on the phone for this proposal?

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Moving  
12 on to number 7 where the regional council  
13 recommendation.....

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: I apologize for the  
20 interruption. I just wanted to remind the Council that  
21 the OSM position on this proposal is to support with a  
22 modification. And the modification would simply be to  
23 combine the two trapping areas. Right now they're  
24 separate so they would just combine it to make it  
25 easier.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 So if a motion is made it would be --  
30 and the Council is in agreement with the OSM  
31 modification, the motion needs to be made to adopt  
32 proposal WP22-50 with the OSM modification.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that  
37 information, Karen.

38

39 So we would vote to -- vote to support  
40 with modification or we could defer.

41

42 Do we have any Council that wants to  
43 make a motion to vote?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do we have any Council  
48 members that want to discuss defer?

49

50

0276

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Who's on first, who's

4 on second?

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Have we done a roll  
11 call to make sure we got everybody back on line, Karen,  
12 we didn't do that.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'd be happy to do  
15 that, Madame Chair.

16

17 MR. KIRK: I don't know who's on first.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's Ron.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron Kirk.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: Here.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer, that was you?

34

35 MR. SEETOT: Yes, Ma'am.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

38

39 Leland Oyoumick.

40

41 MR. OYOUMICK: Yep.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Great, Leland. And  
44 Deahl or Doug Katchatag, I think we heard you earlier.  
45 Are you still with us?

46

47 MR. KATCHATAG: Yep.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right. Great.

50



0277

1 Thanks, Doug.

2

3 Tom Gray.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom wasn't sure how  
8 long he would be able to be with us today. So.....

9

10 And then Louis Green.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm here. So is there  
13 anybody want to make.....

14

15 (Teleconference interference - phones  
16 not muted)

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay, great.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....go ahead, sorry.  
21 What did you say.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 We do have a quorum. And again I ask the folks unless  
25 they're making a motion or a comment to please mute  
26 their phones.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I just -- I  
31 want to hear from Council whether we defer or vote on  
32 it to support.

33

34 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Louis, this is  
35 Leland.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep.

38

39 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I think we should  
40 vote on it to support those folks. We were kind of  
41 kicking over rivers now -- salmon spawning places,  
42 they're clogging them up, tone them down a little bit,  
43 you know, in those drainages if there's fish still.  
44 Block them off.

45

46 I move that we support with that --  
47 whatever that was, with that.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Modification to put

50

0278

1 the two together.

2

3 MR. OYOUNICK: Yeah. Yep.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go. We have  
6 a motion on the floor from Leland. Need a second.

7

8 MR. SEETOT: Second.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Second by Elmer.

11

12 Did you get that Karen, Tina?

13

14 REPORTER: Yes.

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair. That  
17 was Elmer Seetot seconded the motion to support with  
18 modification -- with the OSM modification.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Leland and  
21 Elmer then. Okay. So we got discussion and  
22 justification.

23

24 Can we have the justification, Karen.

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 The OSM preliminary conclusion was to support proposal  
28 22-50 with the modification to combine the Unit 23 trap  
29 areas. The beaver populations appear stable at high  
30 levels or even expanding in Unit 23 and harvest levels  
31 do not appear to have any negative impact on beaver  
32 population. Federally-qualified subsistence users are  
33 already able to trap on most Federal lands under the  
34 more liberal State regulations. Adopting this proposal  
35 would provide Federally-qualified subsistence users  
36 with additional harvest opportunity for beaver trapping  
37 under Federal regulations. Combining Unit 23 Kobuk,  
38 Selawik and Unit 23 remainder trap areas would help  
39 simplify Federal regulations. Additionally Federal and  
40 State regulations for beaver trapping in Unit 23 would  
41 be aligned, reducing regulatory complexity.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen, for  
46 the justification.

47

48 Any discussion, Leland already gave his  
49 thoughts. Anybody else?

50

0279

1 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, Brevig.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

4

5 MR. SEETOT: Beaver populations are  
6 pretty much expanding up north. When they first came  
7 here we were trying to reduce them, but they keep  
8 coming back. And I think with the Kuzitrin River  
9 system and the major systems on -- up north and toward  
10 the Norton Sound they're -- whatchamacallit, they're  
11 producing a large number of beavers for them to go out  
12 and populate other areas. We do have a number of  
13 beavers in small ponds and areas. The main concern I  
14 had was when I put out in the Seward Peninsula RAC  
15 meeting a couple years back was that they have a chance  
16 -- they have a tendency to dam every river or water  
17 source, you know, for their own use. And we have been  
18 able to at least mitigate some of these damming  
19 problems by taking them apart or if saltwater does come  
20 in I'm not too sure what affect it does have on their  
21 food source other than probably spoiling it from the  
22 salt water.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your  
27 comment, Councilman Seetot from Brevig.

28

29 Any other Council comments, questions  
30 or concerns.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. I think  
35 we have to -- we've got a motion and a second,  
36 right.....

37

38 MR. KIRK: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What was that.

41

42 MR. KIRK: Question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question. Question's  
45 been called. So let's do a roll call vote.

46

47 Thank you for that, Ron.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0280

1 Elmer Seetot, Jr.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron Kirk.

6

7 MR. KIRK: Yes.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

10

11 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl Katchatag.

14

15 MR. KATCHATAG: Yes.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: And Louis Green.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's a yes, Ma'am.

20 Thank you.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 WP22-50 is -- passes unanimously with 5/0 vote to

25

26 support with modification, with the OSM modification.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So that brings

31

32 us maybe back to statewide proposals under wildlife

33

34 proposal 22-01. Did Pippa.....

35

36 MS. KENNER: Hello, Mr. Chair. This is

37

38 Pippa.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

41

42 MS. KENNER: Hi. Okay. Good

43

44 afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. So

45

46 that doesn't usually happen to me, I'm usually the

47

48 naughty one who's off mute so new experience.

49

50 The analysis for wildlife proposal

WP22-01 begins on page 226 of your Council books that

were sent to you. And because it hasn't been said in a

long time I'm going to add that it is also available at

the Federal Subsistence Management Program website at

DOI.gov/subsistence/regions and look for the Seward

Peninsula region meeting materials.

0281

1                   So my name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an  
2 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence  
3 Management in Anchorage. Most of the people on your  
4 Council have never met me and I wish I were there, but  
5 I am presenting this proposal because it's being  
6 presented to all 10 regional advisory councils.

7  
8                   So this proposal was submitted by the  
9 Office of Subsistence Management and it requests to  
10 clarify who is and who is not a participant in a  
11 community harvest system. So first I'll describe  
12 community harvest system in Federal regulations.  
13 Community harvest systems generally allow hunters to  
14 harvest animals up to a community harvest limit.  
15 Individual harvest limits such as one moose do not  
16 apply to hunters in a community harvest system. Each  
17 hunter may continue to harvest until the community  
18 harvest limit is met. So these regulations generally  
19 describe what animal species may be taken, where they  
20 may be taken and who may take them.

21  
22                   So the general regulation describing  
23 community harvest system harvest limits is split  
24 between pages 229 and 230 in your Council book and it  
25 says an animal taken under Federal or State regulations  
26 by any member of a community with an established  
27 community harvest limit for that species counts towards  
28 the community harvest limit for that species. An  
29 animal taken as part of the community harvest limit  
30 counts toward every community member's harvest limit  
31 for that species taken under Federal or State of Alaska  
32 regulations.

33  
34                   Now what this regulation doesn't say is  
35 that a community member might not want to participate  
36 in their community harvest system for moose for  
37 example. So this proposed regulation clarifies that a  
38 person can request a registration system where only  
39 people who register may participate in the community  
40 system.

41  
42                   So the proposed regulation reads, for  
43 the purposes of this provision all residents of the  
44 community are deemed participants in the community  
45 harvest unless the Board approved frameworks requires  
46 registration as a prerequisite to harvesting or  
47 receiving any fish, wildlife or shellfish pursuant to  
48 that community harvest in which case only those who  
49 register are deemed participants in that community  
50

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1 harvest. It's that simple. This proposed regulation  
2 will not affect existing community harvest systems in  
3 Federal regulation, this is just a clarification to  
4 remind people that they may request a registration  
5 system.

6  
7 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
8 support the proposal, WP22-01. We think that  
9 subsistence users and others will find this revised  
10 regulation less confusing and easier to use.

11  
12 And finally this Council is the seventh  
13 to act on this proposal. The proposal is a request to  
14 change a general regulation that affects all regions of  
15 the State and so we're asking all regional advisory  
16 councils to act on this proposal. Later on I can give  
17 you more details about what the Council actions have  
18 been. So out of six Councils five supported the  
19 proposal and one Council took no action until the  
20 winter meeting because they ran out of time.

21  
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's the end  
23 of my presentation. I'm available to answer questions.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that  
26 analysis, Pippa. So I was trying -- is the old  
27 regulation -- what's in there already right now, does  
28 it say that anytime there's a community harvest taking  
29 place that everyone's a part of that?

30  
31 MS. KENNER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thanks  
32 for the question. That is what the regulation says.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So if  
35 everybody's a part of it and you're one of the hunters  
36 what -- maybe you're not doing -- participating in it,  
37 what does it do to your quota, what does it do to your  
38 personal hunt permit, let's says your hunt permit?

39  
40 MS. KENNER: Your individual harvest  
41 limit?

42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah.

44  
45 MS. KENNER: Uh-huh. Yeah. Thanks for  
46 the question. This is Pippa again. If you opt not to  
47 participate in the community harvest system your  
48 individual harvest limit isn't affected at all.

49  
50

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: As it's written now.

2

3

4 MS. KENNER: Excuse me. As it's  
5 written now all members of the community are considered  
6 in the community harvest system and so you no longer  
7 have an individual harvest limit, you only have a  
8 community harvest limit and you may continue to harvest  
9 until your community harvest limit is met. This is to  
10 facilitate, you know, traditional sharing practices  
11 where, you know, there's usually a family or two that  
12 are really efficient hunters as opposed to one harvest  
13 limit for each person. And this allows a couple of  
14 people or a group of people who are efficient hunters  
15 to harvest for the entire community.

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So this is on  
Federal lands. So I guess I'm trying to understand the  
difference between having a harvest ticket or a  
registration hunt ticket and a community harvest. If I  
take part in the community harvest am I losing out on  
my personal hunt.....

MS. KENNER: Thank you for the  
ques.....

CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....harvest?

MS. KENNER: .....thank you for the  
question. This is Pippa again. So people in the  
community can hunt wherever they have a customary and  
traditional use determination for moose for example.  
So a person may -- a person with a community harvest  
limit may hunt off of Federal public lands, but  
anything they harvest will contribute to the community  
harvest limit.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, I guess what I'm  
trying to understand here, as a hunter I have to -- in  
Nome I have to go get a -- either a general harvest  
ticket or I get a registration ticket for moose. And  
I'm trying to understand if the community of Nome  
decides to go hunting for the community to fill the  
harvest quota for the community, I'm trying to  
understand how that -- does it limit me from my going  
out to do my hunting.

MS. KENNER: No.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: As it stands now.....

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1 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah.

4

5 MS. KENNER: .....I'm sorry, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa  
10 Kenner. Thanks for that question too. No, you're not  
11 -- you're not additionally limited, no. You continue  
12 to be able to harvest during open seasons on Federal or  
13 State managed lands with on State managed lands you  
14 would still need to get a required State permit. On  
15 Federal public lands that would be determined in the  
16 community harvest framework exactly what permit you  
17 would need.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So currently it  
20 doesn't limit me from going hunting during the moose  
21 season for my family?

22

23 MS. KENNER: Correct.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So there's a  
26 community.....

27

28 MS. KENNER: I can -- I can imagine how  
29 your family would be your priority.

30

31 Go ahead.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. So this  
34 community hunt, when does this community hunt take  
35 place, I'm kind of new to that one?

36

37 MS. KENNER: Yes. So.....

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is  
40 Karen. I -- I'm sorry to interrupt. This is Karen, I  
41 hate to interrupt, but I guess the question here is is  
42 there a community harvest hunt in this unit, in this  
43 region. My understanding is there is not, but I'd like  
44 to get Pippa Kenner to confirm that because I think  
45 that will reduce some of the confusion here  
46 potentially.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50



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1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Karen. This is  
2 Pippa Kenner. No, there is not a community harvest  
3 system in the Seward Peninsula area currently. So the  
4 season -- unless stated otherwise the season is the  
5 regulatory season. So what you find in the regulatory  
6 book would be the season even for the community harvest  
7 unless stated otherwise.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I heard you  
10 say that we don't have one in Unit 22?

11  
12 MS. KENNER: That's correct. In the  
13 analysis I mistakenly included a community harvest  
14 system for the community of Wales, but that was  
15 incorrect. In Unit 22 currently there is not a  
16 community harvest system in Federal regulation.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And even if we back  
19 this one this isn't going to create one. So.....

20  
21 MS. KENNER: That's correct.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. All right.

24  
25 MS. KENNER: Good question. Thank you.

26  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. Thank you.  
29 Thanks for both you and Karen in there.

30  
31 So any other Council members have  
32 anything to weigh in on this?

33  
34 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, Brevig.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

37  
38 MR. SEETOT: On the community harvest  
39 limit I'm not too sure if I heard it or not from you or  
40 from the presenter, community harvest limit would just  
41 be one animal per regulatory year or during the season,  
42 what would.....

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It would.....

45  
46 MR. SEETOT: If I'm going to hunt for  
47 some people would I be only able to get one animal for  
48 the -- for the community harvest limit. That was my  
49 question.

50

0286

1 Thank you.

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Thank you.

MS. KENNER: Yeah. Yeah, this is Pippa again through the Chair. Great question. No, the purpose of the community harvest limit would be to pool harvest limits so that you and -- you would be able to harvest up to your community harvest limit. A community harvest limit would be established as part of the community harvest system. So for instance we have one community harvest system where the community harvest limit is the sum of the individual hunters in the community for moose.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I kind of hear something for Elmer to know if he doesn't. On a proxy -- on a proxy hunt, now if somebody's old, too old to hunt or disabled to hunt, a hunter can sign up for proxy. I'm familiar with that because I've done it. And you can go hunt for somebody, an individual, as long as they have a hunting license and it's proven that they're disabled or they're over a certain age. But that's not the same as a community quota hunt like Pippa's talking about. So what I get out of this is our region, our sub -- our Unit 22 doesn't even have this in place. So I.....

MS. KENNER: This is Pippa. Nobody has applied for one yet. So, Mr. Chair, this is.....

CHAIRMAN GREEN: So all.....

MS. KENNER: .....this opportunity is part of a group of what we call alternative permitting system. These were developed by the Board early in the Federal process. They were brought into regulation in order to respect customary and traditional uses, patterns and ways that people harvest. So the State has what we call a proxy system. The Federal system, it's called a designated hunter and through that system you may hunt -- you can hunt on behalf of another Federally-qualified user for moose, caribou or deer and you can have no more than two limits in your possession at one time.

MR. SEETOT: Thank you for the clarification.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: This is Louis.

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1 MR. SEETOT: I -- I'd like to thank you  
2 for.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

5  
6 MR. SEETOT: .....the clarification on  
7 that and then we do it voluntarily when we go out  
8 marine mammal hunting or plant or ber -- or berry  
9 picking and stuff like that out of our need to  
10 supplement maybe foods for people that are incapable of  
11 going out or they don't have the vehicles or they want,  
12 you know, some taste of that animal in the season. So  
13 it -- it's done voluntary pretty much by -- I would say  
14 for every coastal community that do hunt in large  
15 groups seasonally.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. So  
20 I guess my question is is this something that we need  
21 to do now to have for the future in case we want to  
22 apply for a community hunt permit? I'm trying to.....

23  
24 MS. KENNER: Great ques -- great  
25 question, Mr. Chair. This is Pippa again. We actually  
26 have a community doing that now. They're requesting a  
27 registration system and OSM wants to put that option in  
28 regulation so people recognize they have that option.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And through this vote  
31 to support, that allows that take place, is that what  
32 I'm getting?

33  
34 MS. KENNER: It does and it clarifies  
35 regulations, makes them easier to use so people know  
36 right up front if they apply for a community harvest  
37 system not everybody in the community need participate.  
38 Some people for whatever reason, this isn't an Ahtna  
39 region, it's on the road system, there's a, you know,  
40 diversity of people who live in the communities and  
41 they felt like they wanted a registration system so  
42 they weren't forcing everybody to participate.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. So  
45 in other words the Seward Pen RAC could vote to support  
46 in thoughts of in the future we eliminate some of the  
47 issues there and anybody that wants to participate in  
48 it, if we do such a thing, apply for that permit that  
49 just shows that this new regulation would show that not  
50

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1 everybody -- it's not necessary to have everybody in  
2 there and it's only those people that sign up to  
3 participate that are involved in it?

4

5 MS. KENNER: Yeah, that's right. Thank  
6 you, Mr. Chair. This is Pippa again. I also think I  
7 gave you a piece of misinformation. When you were  
8 talking about where you may hunt, if you were in a  
9 community harvest system for moose where you would --  
10 may hunt. And I suggested you would be limited to  
11 where you have a customary and traditional use  
12 determination and that was incorrect. You could also  
13 participate in any State managed hunt in the -- in the  
14 State.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And that takes place  
17 when the hunt is going on, correct, it's not.....

18

19 MS. KENNER: Correct.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....a special hunt?

22

23 MS. KENNER: Correct.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I'm trying  
26 to -- I'm trying to clear the weeds in my head here on  
27 this. So if we voted for it we're voting to just align  
28 it better for anybody in any community that wants to  
29 take part in it?

30

31 MS. KENNER: That's correct, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

34

35 MS. KENNER: Correct.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So anybody on the  
38 Council -- if we're going to do this we need a motion.  
39 We could vote just -- we could put the motion on the --  
40 on the floor and vote on it and you can vote up or you  
41 can vote down.

42

43 (Teleconference interference -  
44 participants not muted)

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You could decide not  
47 to take part in it, but.....

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

50

0289

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hello.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hi, Mr. Chair. Are  
4 you there?

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I can hear.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi, this is.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....this is Karen.

13 If you decide to proceed with this proposal then you'll  
14 need to go through the presentation procedures.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I was just  
19 trying to feel the temperature of the Council here. So  
20 I'll go ahead and go through the.....

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sounds good.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....Ten Commandments.  
25 We've gotten -- Pippa gave us the analysis or the  
26 understanding of what's going on. Hopefully  
27 everybody's onboard one way or the other. Number 2,  
28 report on Board consultations, tribes and ANCSA  
29 corporations.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 This is Karen Deatherage. To my knowledge there were  
33 no tribal or ANCSA corporation comments during  
34 consultation on WP22-01, but I will defer to Pippa  
35 Kenner in case there were any comments.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Pippa, did you  
40 know of anything?

41

42 MS. KENNER: No, I do not. Thank you,  
43 Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

46

47 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa for the  
48 record.

49

50

0290

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. So we go  
2 to step three, agency comments.

3  
4 ADF&G.

5  
6 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 This is Ryan Scott with Fish and Game down in Juneau.  
8 The State doesn't actually have a position for this  
9 proposal. We do agree with the -- we do agree with any  
10 attempts to clarify it and I think just evidence of the  
11 conversation the Council just went through, it gets  
12 very -- it does get very tangled up very quickly and  
13 when you start mixing and matching State regulations  
14 and Federal regulations it even gets a little bit  
15 worse.

16  
17 The one thing I -- the only thing I  
18 wasn't really and frankly I don't know the answer to  
19 this and I'm trying to find it, how you as an  
20 individual, your State bag limit, would be impacted by  
21 this. You know, it's for the majority of the State an  
22 individual gets one moose per year, obviously we've  
23 talked about a couple of areas that you can do a little  
24 bit more of that. It's my understanding that your  
25 State bag limit would be impacted, but I am trying to  
26 get clarification for that and perhaps Pippa can help  
27 straighten me out if I got wrong. And that would only  
28 be applicable on State or private land.

29  
30 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, may I respond.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, go ahead, Pippa.

33  
34 MS. KENNER: Okay. Thank you. So the  
35 answer to your question is that it would not impact a  
36 person at all. When you're hunting -- when an  
37 individual is hunting on State managed lands they would  
38 have to abide by that harvest limit. So once they've  
39 achieved their harvest limit, their State harvest limit  
40 for moose let's say, let's say it's one statewide, they  
41 could no longer continue to hunt n State managed lands.

42  
43 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Yeah, I  
44 -- I'm well aware of that. My contention is that by  
45 harvesting a moose in the system in a Federal community  
46 subsistence hunt technically you filled the bag limit  
47 and that's the State bag limit. So that's where I was  
48 looking for clarification.

49  
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0291

1 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just to follow-up --  
4 oh, go ahead. Go ahead, Pippa. Go ahead.

5

6 MS. KENNER: Yeah, through the Chair.  
7 So if a person has already achieved their individual  
8 harvest limit under State regulations on State managed  
9 lands they may continue to harvest up to their  
10 community harvest limit, let's say 30, but they can  
11 only continue to harvest on Federal public lands.

12

13 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Thank  
14 you for the clarification.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So tip up and  
17 the -- on the Seward Peninsula we're bound by quota.  
18 So, you know, just for instance 22 subunit D is 27 bull  
19 moose quota. So if there's a community hunt, a group  
20 of people are doing community hunt, then they're taking  
21 away from that quota from individual hunters I think is  
22 what Scott was trying to decipher between the two. So  
23 when it comes -- the only place we -- we don't have --  
24 we have general harvests where, I mean, if a family  
25 needs three moose it's a general harvest, they're --  
26 you know, it's possible that they take three moose for  
27 their family, but that -- there's no quota in those  
28 general harvest areas. But in the Nome area on the  
29 road system there is a quota for each subunit. So I  
30 don't know how this would work.

31

32 Scott, do you know how this.....

33

34 MS. KENNER: Okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....am I -- am I  
37 following this right?

38

39 MS. KENNER: Yeah. Yeah, this is a  
40 great question. So a community harvest limit would not  
41 affect any quotas. Those quotas would still exist.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The problem is is  
44 those quotas are set because of the -- they're  
45 determined by the managers, that that's the only  
46 allowable quota -- those are the only allowable numbers  
47 out of those areas because of the small size of the  
48 herd in that area. So.....

49

50

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1 MS. KENNER: Right. So I think.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....how does  
4 that.....

5

6 MS. KENNER: .....I think we might be  
7 -- I think we might be confusing quota with harvest  
8 limit. So quotas generally refer to animals. You have  
9 a quota of animals you can take based on conservation  
10 basically whereas a harvest limit is the number of  
11 animals that people can harvest. So two -- the two can  
12 exist, you could have a community harvest limit or  
13 individual harvest limits for that matter and then a  
14 quota. And once the managers determine that that quota  
15 is likely to have been met then the opportunity those  
16 animals in that area is closed.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Now and that's what  
19 I'm getting at because there -- our limits are -- our  
20 quotas are used up in a matter of three to five days.  
21 And so the community harvest would never exist unless  
22 it was in a general harvest area.

23

24 Am I correct on that Scott -- Ryan?

25

26 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
27 think your question is great, right, and I don't have  
28 an answer for you, I don't know how that would actually  
29 work as we manage the harvest of individual population.  
30 But it seems very logical to me that if a -- if a  
31 community hunt were to occur and Mr. Dunker had talked  
32 to us about we think we can sustainably take 35 bulls  
33 from this area, a community harvest occurs and they  
34 take 35 bulls, opportunity is unlikely to be there for  
35 any other hunters.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right. So the only  
38 place that could take place is under a general harvest  
39 area.

40

41 Bill, am I correct on that?

42

43 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, this is Bill  
44 Dunker with Fish and Game. Can you repeat the  
45 question?

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So -- yeah. Under --  
48 under the quota we're -- under the registered permit it  
49 wouldn't work because you have 27 in Unit 22D for us to  
50



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1 take and we're going to take it three to five days.  
2 But under a general harvest area that's a different  
3 deal, there's no quota to guide the -- there's no  
4 limit. So would that community quota work, say let's  
5 go to Koyuk and say they wanted to do a community quota  
6 or community limit. Would that -- am I thinking in the  
7 right direction, I'm -- what I'm trying to do is do we  
8 want to vote this in and take part in it because part  
9 of our Unit 22 could take advantage of it in the future  
10 if they wanted to. That -- that's what I'm trying to  
11 do, I'm trying to see if that's correct. So under  
12 general harvesting with a green tag area could a  
13 community hunt take place?

14  
15 MS. KENNER: Well, I think the question  
16 too, Mr. Chair, this is Pippa, is are you talking --  
17 when you say general hunt do you mean on State managed  
18 lands?

19  
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, State managed  
21 lands, but also there's -- there could be Federal lands  
22 that are involved there too.

23  
24 MS. KENNER: Okay. Okay.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You just.....

27  
28 MS. KENNER: So of course it would have  
29 no impact on State managed lands, but on Federal lands  
30 individuals could continue to harvest up to a community  
31 harvest limit. So one person, a group of people could  
32 go and take the community harvest limit, that's  
33 correct.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And that -- and I'm  
36 asking the area biologist in my area if that can take  
37 place in a general harvest area.

38  
39 MR. DUNKER: I think -- so my  
40 familiarity -- as has been stated before we don't have  
41 any community harvest hunts in our area so my  
42 familiarity with them is limited. But what I think I  
43 can say is that whether or not, you know, we harvest  
44 moose or caribou or muskox or whatever the case may be  
45 under a registration permit or a community harvest  
46 system or a general season hunt, we would focus on the  
47 level of harvest and ensuring that it's sustainable.  
48 And the distribution of like the allowable harvest  
49 among some of those different systems would ultimately  
50

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1 be allocated in nature and we would manage accordingly,  
2 but the focus clearly would be on main -- ensuring that  
3 we have a sustainable level of harvest. So if the  
4 community harvest hunt was in excess of what was  
5 sustainable or put us above and beyond what we think is  
6 sustainable for a given area obviously we would need to  
7 work to address that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, so that  
10 sounds.....

11

12 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....Bill, that sounds  
15 like a new thing that we'd have to get into.

16

17 So anyone somebody's -- was that Ryan?

18

19 MR. SCOTT: Yes, Sir. Thank you, Mr.  
20 Chairman. It's a -- to give you an example the  
21 Nelchina caribou hunt, you know, arguably one of the  
22 most complex or the most complex hunt that we managed  
23 and there is a variety of drawing permits, registration  
24 permits, general season, Federal permits, and the  
25 managers, both the State and Federal managers  
26 communicate well before the season and determine how  
27 the permits are going to go out and what they're going  
28 to look like. And from the State's perspective, and  
29 this would be applicable to say a registration moose  
30 hunt in region five in your neck of the woods, we would  
31 -- we would make -- we would account for what we think  
32 that harvest is going to be before things happen. So  
33 if you had a quota of a hundred bulls from somewhere  
34 and the community harvest limit is 25 we would actually  
35 be operating more on the -- you know, the -- we would  
36 assume that the Federal harvest is going to happen or  
37 the community harvest is going to happen and so we  
38 would allocate the remaining animals appropriately not  
39 to exceed the hundred bulls. As Mr. Dunker mentioned  
40 we will harvest at a sustainable level, but we'll take  
41 into account the community harvest or at least the  
42 potential community harvest before it happens.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I don't see  
45 that happening in a registered hunt area because  
46 there's so few there, but I do -- the question I had  
47 was could it potentially happen in a general harvest  
48 area where there is no limit, there is no quota say  
49 like Koyuk or Elim?

50

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1 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, general season hunt  
2 would.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: But is.....

5  
6 MR. SCOTT: .....be much.....

7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

9  
10 MR. SCOTT: General season hunts would  
11 be much cleaner.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. But you'd have  
14 to develop that and.....

15 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....what this -- what  
18 this proposal is doing is asking us to weigh in on this  
19 whether we want to have anything to do with it or not.  
20 So.....

21  
22 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa  
23 Kenner again.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

26  
27 MS. KENNER: Yeah. So the community  
28 harvest system is already in regulation. And what  
29 we're asking the Councils to support is just the  
30 addition of information that says a person can request  
31 a registration system.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, okay. So I just  
34 wondered how it pertained to us because of our system  
35 that we have.

36  
37 MS. KENNER: I understand, yeah.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah.

40  
41 MS. KENNER: So where this -- so this  
42 -- where -- where.....

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So anybody out  
45 there.....

46 REPORTER: Okay. Hang on. I need just  
47 one person to talk at a time, Pippa, hold on.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, go ahead, Pippa.  
50

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1 MS. KENNER: Okay. I was just going to  
2 point out that for instance critter which is a part of  
3 Ahtna, their intertribal resource commission, there are  
4 Federal public lands in their area and their Federal  
5 public lands are within their traditional hunting area.  
6 So they wanted this so that they could use the  
7 community harvest system to hunt on Federal public  
8 lands in their traditional hunting area. That's one  
9 situation, then we have other situations where the  
10 majority of land is Federal public lands. And that  
11 people could really, you know, take advantage of this  
12 and continue to hunt their community harvest limit is  
13 met.

14  
15 This may not be a very good solution to  
16 any kind of hunting problems or issues that you have in  
17 your area. I understand why you're asking your  
18 questions and there are going to be situations where  
19 you may be pushing people onto Federal public lands  
20 during the same time and at the same place that they  
21 otherwise may not have been concentrating.

22  
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Pippa.  
26 Anybody on the Council have any questions, comments or  
27 concerns?

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do we have to ask on  
32 this, Karen?

33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35 Specific.....

36  
37 (Teleconference interference -  
38 participants not muted)

39  
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....you could vote to  
41 take no action.

42  
43 REPORTER: Hey, Ryan, could you mute,  
44 please.

45  
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, guys. Mr.  
47 Chair, in response to your question you can move to  
48 take no action on this proposal if you wish.

49  
50

0297

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That kind  
2 of clears the air a little bit. So I would ask --  
3 we're at -- we've gone through all the -- let's see.  
4 Did we go through the Ten Commandments?

5  
6 REPORTER: No.

7  
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.....

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

11  
12 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....thank you for the  
13 question. We do have if there's interest other  
14 regional advisory council input, summary of written  
15 public comments, there are no written public comments  
16 that were received by the deadline, but I do have a  
17 comment that I need to read into the record that was  
18 received after the comment deadline. Then you'll have  
19 open for public testimony and then you can make your  
20 recommendation.

21  
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. I would  
25 like you to read that johnny come lately comment.

26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 Again this is a comment that was accepted after the  
29 comment deadline and I'm going to try to get to it.  
30 The comment comes from Becky Schwanke who is a resident  
31 of Glennallen which is in the area where the community  
32 -- where you were referring to earlier or folks were  
33 referring to where there is a community hunt. Ms.  
34 Schwanke asks that the Council table.....

35  
36 (Teleconference interference -  
37 participants not muted)

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....this OSM proposal  
40 and defer to the proposer's request to clarify their  
41 own requested regulation.

42  
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair. She commented on  
44 both WP22-01 and 22-02 and said the same comment. So  
45 she is requesting that the proposals be tabled.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

50

0298

1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants not muted)

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody needs to  
5 mute. We're hearing every kind of thing going on in  
6 the background.

7

8 (Teleconference interference -  
9 participants not muted)

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're still hearing  
12 background. Please mute your phone.

13

14 Okay. So you said we were at -- that  
15 was -- that was written public comment that was come --  
16 it came in late. So does that put us under number 6,  
17 public testimony. The floor is open, comments,  
18 questions or concerns for anybody on the public on the  
19 phone.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. That  
24 moves us into the number 7, regional council  
25 recommendations.

26

27 MR. OYOUMICK: Louis, this is Leland.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. OYOUMICK: I have somebody here who  
32 wants to comment.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

35

36 MR. IVANOF: Hey, Mr. Chairman, this is  
37 Jerry Ivanof in Unalakleet concerning your hunting on  
38 Federal subsistence lands, Federal public lands. If  
39 it's going to increase the take by those five  
40 registered guides who operate within the Federal public  
41 lands, I don't think that's a good idea because I see  
42 them going down the south of Unalakleet on a daily  
43 basis. I don't know what they're catching, who's  
44 keeping track of them, who's keeping their numbers.

45

46 You know, I -- I'm against any kind of  
47 registered guide hunting within 22A for moose or for  
48 caribou. I think you need to deal with the -- our way  
49 of getting it versus they're doing it now with  
50

1 Supercubs with big tires on them and helicopters that  
2 disadvantage our local people, disadvantage our moose.  
3 So if they're going to open it up to these guides, I'm  
4 strongly against this proposal and any proposal that  
5 opens it up to any guides. I just don't know who's  
6 keeping track of these, are these numbers being  
7 reported someplace whether it's on State or Federal, I  
8 mean, it seems like we should work together and find  
9 out what the total picture is instead of getting a  
10 piece here and a piece there.

11

12                   Sorry for my johnny come lately  
13 comment, but that's on the moose.

14

15                   I was just wondering on where are these  
16 being accounted for, harvest by noncommercial --  
17 noncommunity participants, outside people pay to  
18 harvest the largest moose with the rack and sport.  
19 Harvest by outside guided hunters using helicopters and  
20 Supercubs with huge tundra tires. You know, and what  
21 -- we have to deal with this trying to feed out people  
22 when some of our resources are not coming back, our  
23 salmon. This is the second year in a row as a  
24 commercial salmon fisher, my total income is in the  
25 negative column. I've never lost money in the last --  
26 since the 1960s. So we need to supplement our diet  
27 with, you know, whatever else subsistence resources  
28 that we have. And if these guys are coming in and  
29 taking our resources and taking the biggest bull that  
30 do the best mating and make sure we get some nice ones,  
31 we already lost the big kings, Louis.

32

33                   The scary reality of our subsistence  
34 resources, we have an increased population locally over  
35 the past six decades, we have increased take by  
36 nonlocal participants. We have climate change with  
37 weather patterns affecting our subsistence resource  
38 migration, be it air, land or sea. We have  
39 international pollution, more Russian garbage showing  
40 up every summer now for the last three summers.  
41 Chernobyl heats for thousands of years, that's never  
42 going to go away. They're wondering why they've got  
43 such warm temperatures of our ocean north of Point Lay.  
44 And that leads to the toxic algae bloom. If they dump  
45 that kind of pollution into our oceans we're definitely  
46 going to get toxic algae bloom that kills everything.  
47 And that's scary so why the heck are we talking about  
48 trying to do management of our subsistence resources if  
49 we don't see the full picture, the whole food chain, me

50

0300

1 included and all of you too. It's just scary.

2

3

4 And I just thank you for my public  
5 comment, but I just don't think that with the plight of  
6 our people now with covid-19, the increase in cost of  
7 food because of all this stuff that it's the time to  
8 open it up for people that are not eating it.

8

9

Thank you.

10

11

12

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Jerry. I appreciate your comments because you covered a lot and I'm on the same side you are, I understand where you're coming from. And this Chairman does not advocate for guides and this Council has a guide as vice-president doesn't advocate for guiding, Mr. Gray, Tommy Gray. So all of our decisions are based on subsistence and we worry about the population of the animals that we subsist on. So while we are worried about our subsistence hunters getting adequate numbers of animals to subsist on, we also have to worry about what the animals or the state of the animals are in. So that comes first. If you don't take care of your herd basically you don't take care of your subsistence people. So we're on base with you there.

And I resisted the guiding proposals that have come in. In 2018 I defended the 20 -- at the Federal Board level I defended the 22A remainder to be closed and that closes off non-Federally recognized hunters and which includes guides. So I've never advocated for opening an area at this point on this -- at this level, at the Federal level for guides to have access. It's only for subsistence, subsistence in the area, subsistence in the whole subunit or whole 22 unit. So and that's where we're at at this Council.

And again I really appreciate you coming to the mic and speaking your heart there, Jerry. Thank you. I've known you for a long time. Appreciate your comments.

MR. IVANOF: Thank you. I just -- I'm a subsistence user just like you my whole life, you know, and I just worry about our resource. There's a lot going on and guiding is not subsistence.

Thank you.



0301

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Exactly. You're  
2 welcome. Thank you for stepping up. Encourage more to  
3 come to the mic down there. We even encouraged our  
4 Council to go ahead and go to Unalakleet once so we  
5 could give you that platform at the time, thought it  
6 was important.

7  
8 Okay. So do we have any other public  
9 comment, testimony, the floor is still open since Jerry  
10 spoke up?

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm not hearing any so  
15 I guess we move to number 7 where the regional council  
16 makes a recommendation. So I need somebody from the  
17 Council to speak one way or the other what we're going  
18 to do here.

19  
20 What was the -- what was the verbiage  
21 that you used, Karen, about not participating, I forgot  
22 how you said that.

23  
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, the option  
25 for the Council would be to move to support WP22-01 or  
26 move to take no action on WP22-01 or the Council could  
27 also defer WP22-01 to the more affected regions.

28  
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. So  
32 somebody could do it in a motion or the recommendation  
33 to defer, but I do need Council to bring it forward.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 MR. KATCHATAG: Louis.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Doug.

40  
41 MR. KATCHATAG: I make a motion to  
42 defer.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Is there --  
45 we've got a motion to defer.....

46  
47 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....from Doug. Is  
50

0302

1 there a second.

2

3 MR. OYOUMICK: I second. This is  
4 Leland.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.  
7 There's a second.

8

9 Any discussion or justification, Karen?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. KIRK: Question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. The question's  
16 been called.

17

18 Karen, do we do a roll call or do we  
19 need to hear the justification. I don't think  
20 anybody's -- I think we've gone a long time.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
23 Chair. Given that you're deferring this to the  
24 affected regions with community hunts I think roll call  
25 would be appropriate at this time.

26

27 For the motion to defer WP22-01 to  
28 affected communities with -- I mean, protected regions  
29 with community hunts.

30

31 Ron Kirk.

32

33 MR. KIRK: Yes.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot.

36

37 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

40

41 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Doug Katchatag.

44

45 MR. KATCHATAG. Yes.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am.

50

0303

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Mr. Chair,  
2 the motion to defer WP22-01 passes 5/0.

3  
4 Thank you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you for  
7 that. Thanks, Council. Thank you for the Staff and  
8 everybody to provide and answer questions. That as a  
9 long haul there. So didn't want to miss it and make a  
10 mistake and wish we did something one way or the other.

11  
12 So that moves us on to wildlife  
13 proposal 22-02. And it concerns units 6, 9, 10, 22  
14 which is us, 23, 26, to rescind restrictions for  
15 designated hunters in areas with community harvest  
16 systems in place.

17  
18 I think that after we've gone through  
19 this already I can go through the Ten Commandments here  
20 and we can get down to the bottom.

21  
22 So, Pippa, if you want to bring this  
23 forward.

24  
25 MS. KENNER: Yes, Sir. Okay. Good  
26 afternoon, Mr. Chair, members of the Council again.  
27 This analysis for WP22-02 begins on page 244 of your  
28 Council books. And again my name is Pippa Kenner and  
29 I'm an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence  
30 Management in Anchorage. And this proposal, WP22-02  
31 was submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management  
32 in order to clarify designated hunting regulations that  
33 currently prohibit the use of the designated hunter by  
34 a member of a community operating under community  
35 harvest system.

36  
37 So a moment ago we were talking about  
38 community harvest systems and now we're talking about  
39 our designated hunting system. So what is that system.  
40 The regulation is repeated on page 246 -- 246 of your  
41 Council books and it states, if you are a Federally-  
42 qualified subsistence user you may designate another  
43 Federally-qualified subsistence user to take deer,  
44 moose and caribou on your behalf unless you are a  
45 member of a community operating under a community  
46 harvest system.

47  
48 So what we're proposing is to remove  
49 the language that says unless you are a member of a  
50

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1 community operating under a community harvest system.  
2 We're requesting this because if a person does not  
3 register to participate in their community harvest  
4 system that person retains -- he still has an  
5 individual harvest limit like one moose and should be  
6 able to designate that harvest limit to someone else to  
7 harvest for them through this designated hunter system.  
8 So clearly what this does is it says if you are not  
9 participating in your community's harvest system you  
10 may still designate another hunter to harvest on your  
11 behalf.

12  
13 And again -- oh, the OSM preliminary  
14 conclusion is to support proposal WP22-02 and again  
15 this is the seventh Council to act on this proposal.  
16 In short we have four Councils supporting, one taking  
17 no action until the winter meeting because they ran out  
18 of time and the Eastern Interior Council supported with  
19 modification. They want to make sure that participants  
20 in a community harvest system cannot designate another  
21 Federally-qualified subsistence user to harvest on  
22 their behalf. And that is actually what the proposal  
23 is stating.

24  
25 Thank you. And that's the end of my  
26 presentation. And I'm available to answer questions.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Pippa. So  
29 I'm looking under Unit 22 specific regulations and it  
30 says a Federally-qualified subsistence user recipient  
31 may designate another Federally-qualified subsistence  
32 user to take muskox on his or her behalf. And since we  
33 don't have a community operating under a community  
34 harvest system it doesn't seem to apply. And the other  
35 fact is that we do have a proxy hunt system through the  
36 State in our -- in our area.

37  
38 So I don't know if it's Ryan or Bill  
39 could speak to this, answer any -- am I good on that,  
40 what I just stated?

41  
42 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, this is Ryan  
43 Scott with Fish and Game.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

46  
47 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, I think you read it  
48 right from the State's perspective. And in regards to  
49 this proposal the State actually doesn't have a  
50

0305

1 position on it. The only comment we would make is that  
2 as -- you know, as this moves forward it's important  
3 that the reporting for any harvest is timely and  
4 accurate just so we can keep track of the number of  
5 animals taken.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is it -- do you find  
8 it necessary for us in our area to do this?

9  
10 MR. SCOTT: Well, Mr. -- thank you, Mr.  
11 Chairman. Again this is from the State perspective.  
12 You know, currently without a community hunt system in  
13 place in region five you can utilize the designated  
14 hunter system as it is right now or you could use the  
15 State proxy system. So you actually -- I mean, if you  
16 implement a community hunt at some point in time I  
17 think it would behoove you to have this in place so  
18 people can hunt for others, but at this time you have  
19 an option of Federally designated hunter on Federally  
20 managed lands and you have proxy hunting on State and  
21 private managed lands.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. Okay. So that  
24 -- that follows what I was thinking. And since we  
25 don't have a community harvest I don't think we need to  
26 weigh in on this. Correct me if I'm wrong. Maybe take  
27 this.....

28  
29 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I don't --  
30 yeah, I don't think that's for me to say, Sir.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, anybody on the  
33 Council have any comments, questions or concerns of  
34 Pippa?

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Or any questions about  
39 what we're talking about here?

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: This is on -- I just  
44 read under Unit 22 specific regulations where it talks  
45 about Federally-qualified subsistence user may  
46 designate another Federally-qualified user to take  
47 muskox on his or her behalf unless the recipient is a  
48 member of a community -- well, maybe it does apply to  
49 us.  
50

0306

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thanks, Mr. Chair.

6 This is Karen Deatherage. I think you're in the same  
7 situation as the last proposal where if there were a  
8 community harvest program in your region then this  
9 would be applicable, but there isn't at this time. So  
10 the Council can, you know, look at this in the same way  
11 they looked at the last one. This is just clarifying  
12 and taking restrictions off designated hunters from  
13 community hunts, but since we don't have any community  
14 hunts it wouldn't affect your designated hunter program  
15 at this time.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, thank you. I  
20 second guessed myself and you just brought me back in  
21 line.

22

23 Thank you. So I'm going to go through  
24 the 10 -- if there's no questions for Pippa from  
25 Council I'm going to go ahead and move forward and do  
26 the Ten Commandments here again.

27

28 Anybody out there?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Thank  
33 you for your analysis, Pippa.

34

35 And I'm moving on to report on Board  
36 consultations, Karen, from the tribes and from ANCSA  
37 corporations.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 There were no tribal or ANCSA corporation comments  
41 under consultation for WP22-02.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Under  
44 three, agency comments. I think we did the -- oh,  
45 excuse me. Yeah, agency. I think Fish and Game  
46 answered.

47

48 We got Federal.....

49

50

0307

1 MR. SCOTT: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....under -- I'm  
4 sorry, go ahead.

5

6 MR. SCOTT: Oh, no, we did answer. No  
7 position on this one.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. Thank you.  
10 Federal.

11

12 What do say, Brian, you got anything  
13 there?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Let's move on  
18 to BLM.

19

20 Tom.

21

22 MR. SPARKS: No comment, Mr. Chair.

23 This is Tom.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom. Letty  
28 under National Park Service?

29

30 MS. HUGHES: No comment.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Pat, under

33 BIA.

34

35 MS. PETRIVELLI: No comment.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you very much.

38 That moves us on to tribal comments.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing no tribal.

43 We'll move on to item four, advisory group comments,  
44 other regional advisory councils.

45

46 Brian.

47

48 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair. Sorry, I  
49 fumbled with mute last time around. This would fall to

50

0308

1 Pippa to answer the question. So I'll just stay quiet  
2 in the back. Sorry.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Sorry, I'm  
5 mixing and matching here.

6

7 So Pippa.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Yeah. So real quickly  
10 I'll repeat again that six Councils have taken action  
11 or have done something -- have been presented this  
12 proposal. One took no action until the winter meeting  
13 because it ran out of time, four Councils have  
14 supported the proposal and one has supported the  
15 proposal with modification to clarify that participants  
16 in a community harvest system cannot designated another  
17 Federally-qualified subsistence user to harvest on  
18 their behalf. And it's covered in the regulation.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,  
23 Pippa. Under sub B, number B, Fish and Game advisory  
24 committee comments.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Moving  
29 on to number 5, summary of written public comments. I  
30 guess.....

31

32 MS. KENNER: That's me, Mr. Chair.  
33 Thank you very much. No public comments were submitted  
34 during the public comment period. This is Pippa.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes. Thank you,  
37 Pippa.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We'll move -- yeah?

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, this is  
44 Karen. There was one comment received after the public  
45 comment deadline, written public comment deadline. I'd  
46 like to read that into the record.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, I forgot about  
49 it.

50



0309

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank -- no worries,  
2 Mr. Chair. Thank you very much. This is from Becky  
3 Schwanke, again a resident of Glennallen who commented  
4 WP22-02. I would ask that you table these OSM  
5 proposals and defer to the proposer's request to  
6 clarify their own requested regulation.

7  
8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for reading  
11 that into the public record.

12 That moves us on to public testimony.  
13 The floor is open for anybody on the phone line that  
14 has any comments, questions or concerns of wildlife  
15 proposal 22-02, rescinding restrictions for designated  
16 hunters in area with community harvest systems in  
17 place.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. That  
22 moves us to number 7, regional council recommendations.  
23 I think we can follow with what we did before. So I  
24 need somebody to make that motion.

25  
26 Doug, you did a good job the first  
27 time. Make the motion on this one.

28  
29 MR. KATCHATAG: I'll move to.....

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Defer?

32  
33 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a motion on  
36 the floor to defer. Is there a second?

37  
38 MR. SEETOT: Second.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Who was that?

41  
42 MR. KIRK: Second.

43  
44 MR. SEETOT: Elmer.

45  
46 MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, Stebbins.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So Doug made  
49 the motion and Ron seconded. Any more discussion or do  
50

0310

1 we want to hear justification?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No discussion.....

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....no request for  
10 just -- go ahead, Karen, you must have something.

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I was just  
13 going to say that because you're deferring it it may  
14 not be necessary to hear the justification from OSM.  
15 OSM supported the proposal.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, thanks. So I'm  
20 going to ask for the call of the question.

21

22 MR. KIRK: Question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron calls for the  
25 question. Roll call vote, please.

26

27 Thank you, Karen.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 Elmer Seetot.....

31

32 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....to defer the 22-  
35 02 to regions with community hunts. That's a yes from  
36 Elmer Seetot.

37

38 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Ron Kirk.

41

42 MR. KIRK: Yes.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Deahl Katchatag.

45

46 MR. KATCHATAG: Yes.

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

49

50

0311

1 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green, Jr.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am. Thank  
6 you.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9 The motion passes to defer with a vote of five to zero.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That moves  
14 us down to -- we did hear from Tom Kron already during  
15 our phone blackout.

16

17 Karen, on the identifying issues for  
18 fiscal year 2021 annual report. Did we need to do this  
19 one?

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, we did talk  
22 about the annual report earlier, but that is generally  
23 a topic we leave open particularly.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....until after the  
28 agency reports in case something comes up of concern to  
29 the Council that they wish to include. But as of now  
30 there are no issues that have brought -- been brought  
31 forth for the Council's draft annual fiscal year 2021  
32 report. So where we are now is to go into WSA 21-01  
33 which is a special action update and discussion.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,  
38 Karen. So like she says it's under a special action  
39 update and discussion. Wildlife special action 21-01  
40 to close Federal public lands in Units 23 and Units 26A  
41 to the harvest of caribou and moose by non-Federally-  
42 qualified users from August 1st through September 30th,  
43 2021.

44

45 So we have Hannah to speak to that.....

46

47 DR. VOORHEES: Good afternoon.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....from OSM.

50

1 DR. VOORHEES: .....Mr. Chair and  
2 members of the Council. This is Hannah Voorhees,  
3 anthropologist with OSM. I'm here to give you an  
4 update on this special action request, take feedback  
5 from you on the proposed closure and discuss the next  
6 step for this request. Relevant materials begin on  
7 page 290 of your meeting materials.

8  
9 Temporary wildlife special action WSA  
10 21-01 was submitted by the Northwest Arctic Regional  
11 Advisory Council in February this year and requested  
12 closure of Federal public lands in Units 23 and 26A to  
13 caribou and moose hunting by non-Federally-qualified  
14 users from August 1st to September 30th, 2001. This  
15 proposal was also supported by the North Slope Regional  
16 Advisory Council. You're hearing this presentation  
17 because residents of your region do have a customary  
18 and traditional use determination for caribou in Unit  
19 23. And I'll just give you a summary of the proposal  
20 or the rationale for the request rather.

21  
22 The Northwest Arctic Council submitted  
23 this request because they had concerns about the late  
24 migration of caribou through Unit 23. The caribou  
25 migration has been delayed in recent years. The affect  
26 the transporters and nonlocal hunters may be having on  
27 caribou migration is of particular concern to the  
28 Council. They hoped that a closure would reduce  
29 activity and traffic, creating an easier path for  
30 migrating caribou. The rationale for the closure  
31 request for moose was declining moose population.

32  
33 Following submission of this request  
34 OSM held a public hearing, opened a written public  
35 comment period and held two tribal and ANCSA  
36 corporation consultations. Because of the timing of  
37 the special action request and RAC meeting this did not  
38 previously come before your Council.

39  
40 The original OSM conclusion was to  
41 support WSA 21-01 with modification to only close moose  
42 hunting to non-Federally-qualified users in Unit 23  
43 from August 1st to September 30th, 2021. In June, 2021  
44 the Federal Subsistence Board met to decide this  
45 request, but decided to defer it until 2022. In the  
46 meantime the Board requested that OSM seek additional  
47 input on concerns related to caribou from the Western  
48 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, Federal land  
49 managing agencies, local Fish and Game advisory  
50

0313

1 committees, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
2 regional advisory councils such as this one, commercial  
3 guides and transporters and subsistence users in the  
4 area. The Board also asked OSM Staff to include  
5 comparisons of moose harvest by survey area within Unit  
6 23 in their analysis.

7  
8 WSA 21-01 is on the agenda as an  
9 informational and discussion item for Northwest Arctic  
10 Regional Advisory Council and North Slope Regional  
11 Advisory Council as well as for the Western Arctic  
12 Caribou Herd Work Group in December. Additional public  
13 hearings on the deferred closure will be held in  
14 November and December, but have yet to be firmly  
15 scheduled. OSM is working to coordinate these with  
16 local scheduling preferences so that we can receive  
17 local input. There will also be outreach to the ACs.  
18 This item came before the Western Interior Council two  
19 weeks ago and they decided to defer all conversation on  
20 this item to the home region.

21  
22 After OSM has compiled feedback from  
23 all the groups listed updates will be made to include  
24 this information in a new or updated analysis which  
25 will then come before all affected Councils including  
26 this one at the winter, 2022 meeting. The Council can  
27 make its final, formal recommendation at that time.  
28 The Board will take action on this request in 2022.

29  
30 Before I move on are there any  
31 questions?

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: None from me. Other  
34 Council members have questions?

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Hannah,  
39 continue, please.

40  
41 DR. VOORHEES: So at this meeting we'd  
42 like to seek the Council's feedback on this proposed  
43 closure and any concerns related to caribou. I do have  
44 some specific questions for you, but do you have any  
45 initial comments to give?

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, the only comment  
48 I have is that under 22-45 on the wildlife closure  
49 we've noted to continue that closure on the Noatak,  
50

0314

1 Squirrel, Aggi. Someone's trying to call me, sorry.  
2 Can you hear me?

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Can you hear me?

6

7 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody was trying to  
10 call me here, it kind of threw everything out of whack  
11 here.

12

13 So anyway the Council, the Seward  
14 Peninsula RAC found in line with the Unit 23 on  
15 maintaining that closure on the Noatak. So this is  
16 just a discussion at this time about what we think.

17

18 If there's anybody on the Council that  
19 has anything to bring forward please do that.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I suppose there's  
24 nothing there, doesn't sound like it.

25

26 Hannah, you have questions you say?

27

28 DR. VOORHEES: I do. And this is just  
29 trying to fulfill the Board's request to have more  
30 feedback and input so I have some guided questions for  
31 you. I understand that this is, you know, not directly  
32 in your unit and so it will be up to your Council how  
33 much time you want to spend on this.

34

35 But the first question I have is can  
36 you tell me more about the recent success or lack of  
37 success of communities in your region with caribou  
38 harvest. How much effort are you expending to harvest  
39 caribou. Is this more or less than in the past. Do  
40 you have to go further than in the past. And has the  
41 timing of your harvest had to change.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And that's just  
44 questions of Council?

45

46 DR. VOORHEES: Uh-huh.

47

48 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Louis, this is  
49 Leland.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Leland.

2

3

4 MR. OYOUNICK: Well, when our local  
5 caribou hunters go hunt caribou they used to usually go  
6 -- we used to go to McDonald's and that's no more. And  
7 we used to go up Shaktoolik River to (in Native) and  
8 (in Native) way, way up there. But we haven't been up  
9 there for a long time because the caribou haven't been  
10 there and then people started going (in Native). I  
11 haven't been over that way, but people have gone that  
12 way. And this last winter they went as far as almost  
13 to Selawik. And maybe they got one or two, I don't  
14 know how successful they were, but they didn't see no  
15 caribou close by. So I imagine the gas bill was kind  
16 of high. I haven't been hunting caribou in a long time  
17 because I had issues, I have a couple of surgeries on  
18 my back, on my spine and that kind of took me out of  
19 that kind of action. So anyway the resources are --  
20 seem like when we need to get them there, I don't know,  
21 we have to deal with different kind of weather that  
22 we're not used to in addition to trying to find  
23 animals. I didn't go up there with them, but I know  
24 what they went through because the weather was real bad  
25 here.

25

26

Thank you.

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.  
Other Council members?

30

31

MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig.

32

33

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

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MR. SEETOT: Our hunting experience, I  
think we started about 25 years ago. Most of the  
caribou that we got were from Shishmaref or from --  
either from Buckland or Deering. And then we started  
hunting on our own. We did a inventory or precaribou  
hunt, not survey, but riding around Bendeleben  
Mountains all the way to pretty much Dutch Haven and  
that area, Independence Mountain to get a idea of where  
the caribou were. The closest that we ever hunted  
caribou, maybe about five, six years ago was maybe  
about 20 miles northeast around the Ikpikpuk River  
system drainage. The farthest we went when we first  
started was pretty much maybe toward Boston Creek or  
that Kuzitrin Hill and the farthest I know that I  
traveled was borderline Kiwalik Mountain, Independence

0316

1 Mountain and north of the lava beds. I went around --  
2 couple of times went around the lava beds when we were  
3 looking for caribou especially during late winter or  
4 early spring. So the earliest that we ever got them  
5 was pretty much late fall, I think 10 miles, 15 miles  
6 north of Brevig when they were migrating from either  
7 the Kougarok Mountain or Bear Mountain down towards the  
8 foothills of the Ikpikpuk River mountains or toward  
9 Nuwuk. And the other thing was just north of Davidsons  
10 Landing maybe about 15 years ago, Bendeleben Mountains  
11 coffee dome area maybe about 10 years ago. So it  
12 pretty much all depends on like Leland was saying the  
13 weather, the route that they take from their summer  
14 grounds to their winter grounds.

15  
16 Not all caribou are usually present,  
17 the ones that we kind of -- the ones that we've been  
18 able to harvest have been the bulls and the young ones  
19 after their November or from September to maybe  
20 November rut. We wait a couple months, maybe like in  
21 February, March for the meat of the caribou, male  
22 caribou to improve because during the rut their meat is  
23 so full of chemicals from the rut activity.

24  
25 So that pretty much -- it all depends  
26 on weather here, we've been having late freeze up so  
27 that restricts us from going out towards Kuzitrin  
28 River, Bendeleben Mountains which is east of Brevig.  
29 The closest or the stop over places about 65  
30 snowmachine miles from here is the Kuzitrin River  
31 bridge and that's kind of where we set our hunt from,  
32 you know, either camping out or staying in cabins in  
33 route to that place. And then we have to go another 10  
34 to 40 miles to go after caribou in the Kuzitrin River  
35 flats or north of Bendeleben.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Any  
40 other Council comments?

41  
42 MR. KIRK: Just one, Mr. Chair. The  
43 way this climate is changing it's making it more  
44 difficult for our hunters to get some caribou. There  
45 was some hunters that had to go all the way almost to  
46 Selawik from here in Stebbins and that's a lot of  
47 gasoline mileage between here and there that costs a  
48 lot of money. So I see everybody's having a difficult  
49 time trying to get to the caribou because of the  
50



0317

1 climate change and that's -- I think that's a big  
2 factor in our subsistence way of life is the climate  
3 change. And it's putting a big dent in our pockets.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Any  
8 other Councilman comments?

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. I'll  
13 give mine. So the closest I've hunted caribou around  
14 the road system when the caribou would, I want to say  
15 1997, when they came in and moved in when they -- the  
16 herd grew and needed more room. So I was at 50 mile on  
17 the Kougarok Road was the closest. The farthest I've  
18 traveled is Noorvik and the Noatak to get caribou  
19 probably in the '80s. I've traveled to Kiwalik through  
20 Koyuk and hunted in Kiwalik. I've hunted in -- along  
21 the Bendelebens and the Kuzitrin flats or it's Kuzitrin  
22 Lake. All, you know, you're talking a hundred, hundred  
23 and fifty miles or more over the past few years. So  
24 that's -- and I've actually taken caribou in the Imuruk  
25 Basin, but not -- on the northern end, northern side of  
26 the lower Kuzitrin area I guess back when the caribou  
27 came in by boat. And they definitely weren't reindeer.

28

29 So anyway that's my comments on that.  
30 I lost my screen here to my laptop with my agenda  
31 there, Karen, so waiting for a recharge.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 I think Hannah -- I'm not sure how many additional  
35 questions that you have?

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 DR. VOORHEES: I just have a few more,  
40 but they'll probably be a little quicker.

41

42 As a follow-up question, Mr. Chair, I  
43 was wondering does the  
44 presence of that resident group of caribou, does that  
45 mitigate some of this variability maybe in some part  
46 that Unit 23 might be experiencing or is that not  
47 really a factor?

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I kind of -- you got

50

0318

1 cut off, I didn't hear everything you said, Hannah.  
2 Please repeat yourself.

3  
4 DR. VOORHEES: I was just wondering if  
5 the presence of that resident group of caribou in Unit  
6 22 if that mitigates some of the variability that  
7 they're experiencing in Unit 23 or if that doesn't  
8 really factor in very much?

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm not sure if it  
11 factors in. Generally the hunt on the Kiwalik side,  
12 more towards Granite Mountain, is generally the caribou  
13 that move in in the winter on the northern Seward  
14 Peninsula.

15  
16 DR. VOORHEES: Okay. Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The Bendeleben  
19 question -- the Bendeleben question is -- begs for an  
20 answer too, yes. So I don't have an answer.

21  
22 DR. VOORHEES: Well, the next question  
23 is, Ron touched on it, is what are other possible  
24 reasons for delayed caribou migration and he had  
25 mentioned climate change. Does anyone have anything  
26 else to add to that?

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So the northern end of  
29 the spectrum on the Seward Peninsula, the caribou  
30 coming down from up north all depends on what they do  
31 coming through Kotzebue and spreading down south. So  
32 that's where seems to be the delays that we hear about.  
33 I'm not sure else would be -- would cause anything.

34  
35 Any other Council?

36  
37 MR. KATCHATAG: Louis.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, there's somebody,  
40 there's Doug from Unalakleet.

41  
42 MR. KATCHATAG: I've traveled to Kaltag  
43 and there's always caribou up in the hill back there,  
44 way back where they can't get to them. So I know  
45 they're going up there to the Nulato Hill back there.  
46 That's what I've been told by the people on the Yukon  
47 up there. And some of them go to Fairbanks going down.

48  
49 That's all.

50

0319

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Doug, for  
2 your comment. Any other Council members?

3  
4                   (No comments)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think that covered  
7 all of us.

8  
9                   Go ahead, Hannah.

10  
11                   DR. VOORHEES: Next, what is the  
12 Council's opinion on this closure request, what would  
13 be the benefits and are there concerns about any  
14 potential side effects of the closure?

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, according to  
17 Fish and Game there is no benefit to close it. So  
18 under 22-45, wildlife closure review, we voted to  
19 continue what was going on there in the Noatak today.

20  
21                   That's all I have on that.

22  
23                   DR. VOORHEES: Okay. All right. I can  
24 move on to the next question and last question. So  
25 does the Council have ideas about alternative ways to  
26 address the problem in Unit 23, I know it's distant  
27 from you, but do you have any suggestions that don't go  
28 as far as closing both units?

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't have anything  
31 to add to that other than the fact that we've been  
32 supportive of what's happened with 23 in the North  
33 Slope the last few years. And like I said again we  
34 supported the -- I want to say the status quo, I don't  
35 have my screen up on the 22-45.....

36  
37                   DR. VOORHEES: Okay.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....closure review  
40 today. That's all I have.

41  
42                   Anybody else on the Council?

43  
44                   MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

47  
48                   MR. SEETOT: One of the things I forgot  
49 to comment on was probably the main branch of caribou  
50

0320

1 migration is the wind direction. I know that reindeer  
2 do tend to follow -- point their nose into the wind. I  
3 would say food sources within the migration and pretty  
4 much the main drive would be the predators, i.e.,  
5 especially the wolves. I've seen them going after  
6 caribou pretty much Bendeleben Mountains, Boston Creek  
7 and these other places. So I know what the wolves can  
8 do to a herd of reindeer or herd of caribou or even  
9 moose. I seen moose gathered in a draw or something ,  
10 there was pretty close to 75 to 100 moose all crushed  
11 together. And then we found some wolf tracks, but we  
12 weren't able to spot them because it was kind of windy.  
13 So that I would think is the main driver of migration  
14 of caribou is predation on their route.

15  
16

Thank you.

17  
18

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

19  
20

DR. VOORHEES: Well, thank you, Leland,  
21 Elmer, Ron and Mr. Chair.

22  
23

MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

24  
25

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody's on there to  
26 speak.

27  
28

MR. KIRK: Mr. Chairman, Ron, Stebbins  
29 again.

30  
31

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep.

32  
33

MR. KIRK: Yep, they I -- the reason  
34 why I mentioned climate change earlier is because if  
35 you guys recall last -- last year during the month of  
36 November and December we had rain. And once the rain  
37 comes down on the snow and we get -- all of a sudden we  
38 get a cold chill it freezes. And if it freezes the  
39 reindeer or the caribou cannot punch through the ice  
40 with their hooves. So if there's abundance of feed in  
41 one area and they're trying to migrate to their usual  
42 migrating ground and they don't have any feed, they --  
43 animals are smart, they going to turn around and go  
44 right back to where they were where they were able to  
45 get feed of the ground that isn't frozen with ice over  
46 it. Because they're not -- they're not as dumb as  
47 people think they are, they're smart, they know where  
48 to go if there's abundance of feed in one area and less  
49 feed in the other they're going to turn around and go  
50

0321

1 back to where they had a good abundance of feed.

2

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your comment, Ron.

7

8

9

MR. OYOUMICK: And, Louis, this is Leland.

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Leland.

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Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that. That makes me think about the first time that the caribou came into our road system up north of Nome, you know, 40, 50 miles out of town there. There was -- I want to say it was an emergency order to allow us to hunt when they crossed the road to protect the reindeer herds on the peninsula. And they held us off until the things -- until the caribou cross that highway, the Nome/Taylor Highway. And I think it was effective at that time because the caribou didn't know what to think and they turned around and went back north. Like Ron says they're smart enough at certain times to make their decisions on what they do. And with all the -- I mean, you're talking about a hundred vehicles out there and people shooting across the road, it was ridiculous. But yeah, that's what happened in I think in '97. And it was deterrent to the caribou. They could have kept going to -- I think they would

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1 have kept going all the way to the south side of the  
2 Seward Peninsula if they hadn't gotten chased. They  
3 did later on in small groups, but at that time they  
4 were -- it was a heavy run of them when they did come  
5 in. And the weather was favorable for them to keep  
6 heading to the west and the south.

7  
8                   Anyway that was my observation back  
9 then.

10  
11                   Does that answer your question, Hannah?  
12

13                   DR. VOORHEES: Well, thank you. Yes.  
14 Yes. Thank you very much for taking the time to talk  
15 about this topic.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you.  
18 Karen, I still can't pull my screen up.

19  
20                   MS. DEATHERAGE: No worries, Mr. Chair.  
21 Thank you very much. And the next agenda item we're  
22 moving into agency reports. And at this time we ask  
23 for any tribal governments or any Native -- Alaska  
24 Native organizations if they would to speak, Kawerak or  
25 anybody else that's on the phone. This is an  
26 opportunity to share any information from your  
27 organizations.

28  
29                   Thank you.

30  
31                   (No comments)

32  
33                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, there are  
34 no comments from these organizations. You can move  
35 right into the National Park Service reports from BELA.  
36 Letty Hughes and Nikki Braem will be giving an update  
37 and then I Will Deacy on the phone to give an update on  
38 the Seward Peninsula brown bear survey.

39  
40                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.  
43 Let's go ahead and go forward on that, Nikki Braem and  
44 I think it's Letty.

45  
46                   MS. BRAEM: Hi, this is Nikki. And I  
47 suggest letting Will Deacy go first with his, I guess,  
48 information on the bear work they did this year just  
49 because in the interest of time, I'm just kind of  
50

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1 giving you kind of a -- I've really curtailed what I  
2 present to the Council this time just in the interest  
3 of time. So I'll go after Will and Letty.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's fine. Thank  
6 you.

7  
8 Will.

9  
10 MR. DEACY: All right. Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chair. This is Will Deacy, I'm a biologist with the  
12 National Park Service based out of Fairbanks. I'm just  
13 going to quickly go over the recent bear surveys we  
14 flew on the Seward Peninsula. You should have a survey  
15 summary document starting on page 378. Please take a  
16 look at that for more information and if you end up  
17 with questions that I don't answer you can always use  
18 the contact information there to call or send me an  
19 email to ask more questions.

20  
21 This here is an aerial survey with a  
22 collaboration between the National Park Service, ADF&G  
23 and the Wildlife Conservation Society. We had a total  
24 of five aircraft flying from May 17th, through the  
25 31st. If you have the meeting materials you can see  
26 the survey area on the right side of page 378, but  
27 basically the study area is the north/south swath  
28 between Nome and White Mountain in the south and  
29 Shishmaref and Deering in the north.

30  
31 I'm not going to get into the weeds  
32 about exactly how we estimate bears, but we use a  
33 monitoring method called photo, mark, resight. And  
34 basically it allows us to estimate the number of adults  
35 and cubs inside the study area.

36  
37 Our protocol is to survey this area  
38 every approximately five years. We were going to do it  
39 in 2020, but covid pushed it back to 2021. The last  
40 time we flew this survey was in 2015. In 2015 we  
41 estimated there were 462 adult bears in the study area.  
42 And this year we estimated there were 527. It's a  
43 modestly higher number, but if you're looking at the  
44 figures on page 379 you can see our confidence  
45 intervals overlap quite a bit which indicates to us  
46 that very likely the number of adults has stayed stable  
47 since 2015, maybe a very small increase in adults.

48  
49 As for cubs in 2015 we estimated there  
50

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1 were 275 cubs, whereas in 2021 we estimated that were  
2 521. You can see the confidence intervals for those  
3 two numbers just barely overlap so we're much more  
4 confident in saying that there's many more cubs in 2021  
5 compared to 2015. And, you know, that likely means  
6 that 2020 and 2021 were good years for cub production  
7 and survival.

8  
9 So the bottom line result is that  
10 overall the population is probably approximately  
11 stable, but there are many more cubs in this year's  
12 survey which positions the population to -- has a  
13 potential to increase over the next couple years.

14  
15 Moving forward our goal is to continue  
16 to resurvey the population every five years which means  
17 the next survey would be in 2026.

18  
19 That's just a quick overview, but I'm  
20 happy to answer any questions that anybody has.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any Council members  
23 have any questions, comments or concerns? Please bring  
24 them up.

25  
26 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk,  
27 Stebbins.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

30  
31 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I have a question.  
32 I've been asking for a number years, you're always  
33 doing bear counts up north in that area, why don't they  
34 do bear counts down this way from Unit 3 all the way to  
35 Pastolik River because this year we had an abundance of  
36 bears, we had to chase how many of them off our island  
37 this year. We even had a cow with three cubs. So we  
38 do have abundance of bears in this area and I'm  
39 wondering why they don't do bear counts in our area  
40 down here in remainder of 22A or B.

41  
42 MR. DEACY: Yeah. Through the Chair,  
43 this is Will Deacy again. This study area, it's  
44 something that we agreed with, the Park Service agreed  
45 with ADF&G, it covers -- the goal was to cover this  
46 chunk of the Seward Peninsula. And of course there's a  
47 whole bunch of other agencies that other agencies would  
48 like to survey, but yeah, I can't answer that question  
49 why that area's not being survey. This is just the  
50



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1 area we came up with with Department of Fish and Game.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any other Council members, comments, questions or concerns?

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

11

12

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just out of curiosity my Unalakleet Council members, do you guys notice a lot of bears in your area or bear issue?

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

MR. OYOUNICK: Yeah, there's -- this is Leland. Hey, Louis, there's one bear that's bothering people's fish right down south side of town, cross the mouth. There's a camp and people have fish drying and smoking stations over there. And there's one that raided a smokehouse and they wound up killing it and getting rid of it because that was the second time it did that, it was going to. So seem like the younger, smaller bears are the problem bears. So.....

23

24

MR. DEACY: Thank you.

25

26

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.

27

28

29

MR. KATCHATAG: We always have bear problems.

30

31

CHAIRMAN GREEN: What's that, Doug?

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

MR. KATCHATAG: WE always have that bear problem. There's quite -- if you take a ride down towards St. Michael there's a lot of bear along the beach. You can see the whale -- there was one bowhead whale they were chewing on all summer. So and berry pickers have been having problem with some just two miles out. So they're around.

40

41

MR. DEACY: Okay. Thank you, Doug.

42

43

44

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any questions for Will by any Council members other than.....

45

46

MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, Stebbins.

47

48

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

49

50

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1 MR. KIRK: I'd like them to do a study  
2 on this area for bears. I agree with Doug about bears  
3 along the coast because I was taking boat rides this  
4 summer almost all the way to Unalakleet. One time I  
5 was about five miles out of Unalakleet with my boat and  
6 I saw bears between here and Unalakleet walking the  
7 beach. So we need to do a bear counting in our area.

8  
9 Thank you.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds like it would  
12 be easy, they're on the beach. Anyway.....

13  
14 Yeah, well, Will is taking part in a  
15 project that was I think in -- it covers the widest  
16 portion of the Seward Peninsula from up north in  
17 Espenberg and it goes through the Park which allows the  
18 Park Service to take part in the funding. And then of  
19 course there's some State -- you know, State lands so  
20 they've done a combination. And it sounded like Will  
21 said there'd be other groups that would like to do  
22 other surveys so maybe that can happen on the  
23 southeastern and southern part of this Norton Sound  
24 too.

25  
26 Anyway something's happening with bears  
27 and they're getting some numbers.

28  
29 Is that all the Council has for  
30 questions, comments and concerns with Will about the  
31 bears on the Seward Peninsula survey?

32  
33 MR. SEETOT: Something from Elmer.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer, go ahead.

36  
37 MR. SEETOT: I also mentioned one time  
38 at one of the meetings that we just talk about the  
39 bears around here. So we need an active bear hunter in  
40 and around the Black harbor or the Imuruk Basin. They  
41 did come here a couple times and tried to dig the  
42 walrus, fermented walrus cache. They went to the point  
43 of -- to where the walrus were buried, but they never  
44 did quite open them. So that's a problem that I guess  
45 we have in this area, just talk about the bears, hoping  
46 someone would come in and at least harvest some bears  
47 from this area.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

0327

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.  
2 Well, that covers everybody I think, everybody's had  
3 questions of you, Will, and comments. Appreciate your  
4 time.....

5  
6 MR. DEACY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....and your report.  
9 Thanks. That brings up to the BELA update I think.

10  
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, is Nikki  
12 Braem on the phone?

13  
14 MS. BRAEM: I am.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah.

17  
18 MS. BRAEM: I've been texting if Letty  
19 would go next or if I should. So I'll go ahead and run  
20 with it, but I'll keep it really brief in the interest  
21 of time.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's fine.

24  
25 MS. BRAEM: So.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We need information,  
28 if you've got information for us it helps us make our  
29 decisions. The more information.....

30  
31 MS. BRAEM: Okay.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....the better the  
34 decision. Okay.

35  
36 Thank.

37  
38 MS. BRAEM: All right. Fair enough.  
39 So just -- I'm going to give you a brief overview of  
40 the research activities that took place in Bering Land  
41 Bridge National Preserve in 2021 as they relate to  
42 natural resources. Letty may speak more to you about  
43 the emperor goose project. They were putting satellite  
44 transmitters and doing some analysis of the emperor  
45 goose -- geese that nest up on the northern Seward  
46 Peninsula.

47  
48 There was a study on earthworms at  
49 Serpentine Hot Springs which we hope to have some --  
50

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1 and for all these projects I'm just going to let you  
2 know what happened and hopefully we'll have some nice  
3 summary findings from the researchers that we can go  
4 into a little more detail at your spring meeting.  
5 Ongoing studies on the seabird die-offs that have been  
6 taking place around coastal Alaska and also on the  
7 Russian side. There's a study of the lakes that were  
8 drained. Some of the lakes in BELA that were underlain  
9 by permafrost as climate change has occurred and things  
10 have gotten warmer, some of those lakes just drained  
11 out completely. So we had an NPS researcher go out  
12 there and look at the vegetation that was beginning to  
13 come forth in these lakes that are no longer lakes. We  
14 had a study that actually collected bees. It's a  
15 statewide study looking at pollinators across Alaska.

16  
17 Other stuff, our usual sort of long  
18 term monitoring projects. You've already heard about  
19 brown bear. We had some water quality studies that  
20 happen annually on our lakes and streams as well as  
21 lagoon systems along the northern Seward Peninsula.

22  
23 And Suzanne continues doing her climate  
24 station monitoring which looks at weather condition  
25 across a swath of the northern Seward Peninsula.

26  
27 And I'll be reaching out to the  
28 principal investigators on these projects so maybe we  
29 can have handouts, like one page summaries, of what  
30 their findings were for you guys in your next Council  
31 packet.

32  
33 And with that I'm going to see if Letty  
34 has anything to update you with.

35  
36 MS. HUGHES: Good afternoon. This  
37 is.....

38  
39 (Teleconference interference -  
40 participants not muted)

41  
42 MS. HUGHES: .....Anchorage. So I  
43 guess really quick I have an addition from Will who you  
44 just heard from on the brown bears that -- and the bear  
45 survey also included, you know, two BLM pilots. So we  
46 don't want to leave out, you know, Walker and others  
47 who definitely put in their time and hours to fly the  
48 survey out here. So there's that.

49  
50

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1 Thank you. Really quick, so -- because  
2 they have a very full agenda -- we have a very full  
3 agenda these past two days, what we're going to do is I  
4 plan on inviting Tyler Lewis with Alaska Department of  
5 Fish and Game with the waterfowl program. Your Council  
6 heard from him I believe it was two maybe meetings ago,  
7 but I'm actually going to invite him to talk on his  
8 emperor goose capture work that he did in the Preserve  
9 this past spring. And hopefully he'll have some really  
10 nice flight data to share. His first presentation was  
11 really good and the fact that they actually even got  
12 out and was able -- were able to capture emperor geese  
13 was really fascinating. So that will be next spring  
14 for the next meeting.

15  
16 Seward Peninsula Federal muskox permits  
17 for Bering Land Bridge. We issued eight permits for  
18 this regulatory year. So three up in 22E, two for 23  
19 Southwest and then two for 22D, Kuzitrin area.

20  
21 And that is all I have for now. Thank  
22 you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Nikki and  
25 thank you, Letty. Any questions for those two ladies?

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just a comment from  
30 me. Nikki was talking about the lakes that are  
31 draining up there on the -- I guess it's the northern  
32 side of the Seward Peninsula, would that be around  
33 Espenberg, Nikki?

34  
35 MS. BRAEM: I recall some being in the  
36 -- I guess you could say year, I mean, south of  
37 Espenberg.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah.

40  
41 MS. BRAEM: Yeah.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. Yeah. That's  
44 -- so pretty good Hope, Jr. found the first signs of  
45 that many years ago, probably 20 years or so again.  
46 And -- where one had drained out. He was up there  
47 looking for this deer. There's another site like that  
48 right there on the Kougarok Road, somebody's.....

49  
50

0330

1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants not muted)

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....somebody's  
5 microphone isn't muted. Anyway down the -- along the  
6 Kougarak Road where you're just about to the air strip  
7 on the left side of the road there's a site just like  
8 that, but it's -- all the growth and everything's  
9 happened and for many, many years it had drained out.

10  
11 So anyway just some observations and  
12 some knowledge that I had of some of that.

13  
14 Anyway I guess that's all we've got  
15 from you and I see that we need BLM, Anchorage field  
16 office update. I think I'm on the right track here.

17  
18 MR. SPARKS: Yeah. Good afternoon.  
19 This is Tom Sparks stationed here in Nome. We did  
20 provide a summary of our field office for your  
21 committee to review. I think it starts on page 380,  
22 it's about three pages long. I'll be happy to answer  
23 any questions that you and Mr. Chair or any Council  
24 members might have on that.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any Council members  
27 have any questions or comments or concerns for Tom?  
28 380, 381.....

29  
30 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer, go ahead.

33  
34 MR. SEETOT: I notice in some of my  
35 trips along the coastline or inland that I notice some  
36 fenced off areas for study. Is that put out by BLM to  
37 see what has transpired over the last year?

38  
39 MR. SPARKS: Yeah, through the Chair.  
40 Elmer, thanks for that comment. Yes, those are  
41 reindeer exclosures and that's done in cooperation with  
42 the University of Alaska.

43  
44 MR. SEETOT: And that's just to see  
45 what changes are likely when you first put them in and  
46 then when they're checked later, so they're just trying  
47 to -- are they just trying to figure -- see how tundra  
48 -- tundra vegetation kind of whatchamacallit, not  
49 expand, but kind of grow or die within the climate

50

0331

1 within those areas. Is that the main purpose because I  
2 know that reindeer used to be prevalent in and around  
3 Seward Peninsula from the Lohman time, 19 -- before  
4 1935. So I know that. There's good lichen here and  
5 there, but you just have to kind of look for them.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

10 MR. SPARKS: Through the Chair. Yes.  
11 Councilman Elmer Seetot, we're really concerned about  
12 the browsing of primarily the winter lichen and so  
13 those exclosures are to set aside an area where  
14 reindeer or perhaps other animals won't disturb the  
15 lichen and then we can see how the growth is in an area  
16 that's not being impacted by the ungulates and then  
17 areas that are not. And we have had some areas within  
18 the Teller herd that has been impacted in terms of the  
19 winter lichen.

19

20

Thank you.

21

22

23

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there any other  
Council questions, comments.

24

25

MR. GRAY: So this is Tom Gray.

26

27

CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you are.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

MR. GRAY: This last discussion just  
kind of disturbed me a little bit because if you go  
back and read history there was 500,000 reindeer along  
the Alaska coast and they just stripped and raped all  
the lichen so there's no lichen because of the  
reindeer. And here we are 50, a hundred years later of  
80 years later and lichen have really come back. You  
look at Fish Willow Flats are Tom Gray's grazing range,  
some of these ranges they just flourish. So, you know,  
I guess it's -- depends who you are looking through the  
glass thinking about these ranges.

40

41

42

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Tommy, for  
your comment.

43

44

45

Elmer, you got your comment -- your  
questions answered?

46

47

MR. SEETOT: Thank you very much.

48

49

CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're welcome. Thank

50

0332

1 you for that, Tom Sparks.

2

3 Well, I had a question for Mr. Sparks.  
4 On this genetic sampling of the Arctic char in the  
5 Kigluaiks. Is that just a -- has that been an ongoing  
6 sampling or is that something new?

7

8 MR. SPARKS: Mr. Chair, it's relatively  
9 new. The Fairbanks office did some studies quite a  
10 number of years ago, over a decade ago, and our new  
11 fish biologist relatively new for this area anyway,  
12 Merlin, he's been working on this genetic sampling  
13 technique. So he's just started on that, but it's one  
14 of the species we have some concerns about. It's a  
15 landlocked fish species that is very important to the  
16 area so we've been trying to study it for the last  
17 couple years.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk,  
22 Stebbins.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

25

26 MR. KIRK: This is to BLM. My concern  
27 is the mining that's happening in our backyard behind  
28 the Golsovia River and above Unalakleet mountains. I'm  
29 concerned about mining that's happening and wondering  
30 if BLM can put a stop to that because it's going to  
31 affect our lichen in our area for the caribou and also  
32 for the reindeer in my region. And it'll also affect  
33 the fish going up into the Golsovia River to spawn  
34 which is trout and who knows, maybe dolly varden. But  
35 with this mining happening in our backyards, it's going  
36 to put a big dent on our subsistence way of life. I'm  
37 wondering if there's any way the RAC can get involved  
38 in this to put a -- try to put a stop to these  
39 individuals that are coming from who knows where, Texas  
40 or somewhere, buying land and trying to open up our  
41 backyard for mining. That's -- they're -- they want --  
42 they need more money in their pockets, but they're not  
43 looking at the bot -- the picture of how we live off  
44 our land. This is our land that we live off of, our  
45 ocean, our rivers, our drainages. That's a big concern  
46 of mine. So that's my question to BLM there.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50



0333

1 MR. SPARKS: Through the Chair. Ron,  
2 do you have information on who that might be because I  
3 -- we don't have anything on our books as far as like a  
4 planned level operation on Federal land. If it's on  
5 private property we don't have any purview on that. So  
6 if we have a sidebar or something maybe we can follow-  
7 up on this.

8  
9 MR. KIRK: I'm not sure who that person  
10 is, but it's happening -- it's happening right there in  
11 the backyards beyond Unalakleet and Golsovia Mountains  
12 there. There's a mining happening right now in that  
13 area. Let me see if I can get some information on  
14 who's doing that. It's.....

15  
16 MR. KIRK: Hey, who's operating that  
17 mining in the backyards?

18  
19 MR. KATCHATAG: Nobody's operating it.  
20 It's just being proposed by BLM, opening up lands.

21  
22 MR. KIRK: Did you get that? You're on  
23 speaker phone.

24  
25 MR. SPARKS: Oh, yes, that's a -- yeah,  
26 that's a different issue there. Ron, I appreciate you  
27 reaching out to clarify that. Yeah, that's probably  
28 built with our land use plan down in that area, it's  
29 called the Bering Sea/Western Interior. Part of that  
30 plan was to look at some of the public land orders that  
31 are in effect and whether or not some of those should  
32 continue, should remain in effect or should be lifted.  
33 And that plan recommended lifting some of those public  
34 land orders. They were set aside largely for ANILCA  
35 and for the Native Claims Settlement Act.

36  
37 So that's probably what you're hearing  
38 there, Ron, is that areas that are what we call closed  
39 to mineral entry, meaning you could not stake a mining  
40 claim. If those public land orders are lifted then if  
41 someone follows the regulations and finds a deposit he  
42 may be able to stake a Federal mining claim.

43  
44 Did that help?

45  
46 MR. KATCHATAG: But the issue is --  
47 sorry about that. But the issue is all of the areas of  
48 critical environmental concerns has not been looked at  
49 by the Bureau of Land Management, it has been thrown  
50

0334

1 out and that's what we're dealing with now is trying to  
2 get those ACECs put back in place because the people  
3 that live out here know best. So that -- that's our  
4 argument.

5  
6 MR. KIRK: Did you get that?

7  
8 REPORTER: So who was talking, can you  
9 tell me who that was?

10  
11 MR. KIRK: That was Frank Katchatag.

12  
13 REPORTER: Okay. Thanks.

14  
15 MR. KIRK: Frank Katchatag.

16  
17 REPORTER: Thank you.

18  
19 MR. SPARKS: Tom Sparks if you have  
20 anything on that.

21  
22 MR. KIRK: Yeah, that's my argument  
23 there is I'm concerned about our subsistence way of  
24 life because the Golsovia drainage is right there in  
25 our backyards and they're doing that behind there and  
26 our fish -- like I say they go up in the Golsovia  
27 drainage and spawn and they spawn behind the Unalakleet  
28 River too. So it's a big concern.

29  
30 MR. SPARKS: Right. Understood. Well,  
31 I can tell you that the Bering Sea Western Interior,  
32 the record of decision for the resource management plan  
33 was signed in January, it was actually on the 15th of  
34 January, 2021 and there has been a lot of comments and  
35 concerns from residents of the region. You know, we're  
36 taking those real seriously and reviewing those  
37 comments that were raised. You know, currently that is  
38 in effect though, that land use plan. But like I said  
39 we're reviewing comments and concerns from the public  
40 and I appreciate those comments very much.

41  
42 MR. GRAY: So can I jump in here? I --  
43 Tom, I'm a little curious.

44  
45 MR. SPARKS: Yep.

46  
47 MR. GRAY: Is this a done deal where  
48 Tom Gray can go scout around and find a deposit and  
49 start the process to stake it and eventually get the  
50

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1 permits and the yada, yada to mine, is that in place  
2 and it's a done deal already, there must not have been  
3 a very long comment period or, you know, if people in  
4 that region didn't hear about the comment period to try  
5 and stop this process, you know, it's unfortunate that  
6 they're coming now. But is -- again is this a done  
7 deal to where we can have outsiders come in and start a  
8 process to open up a mine?

9  
10 MR. SPARKS: Well, as I said the land  
11 use plan was signed. We have not lifted any of those  
12 public land orders, that's done at the national level,  
13 on the secretarial level. So like our land use plans  
14 recommend that we would lift them, but that's a step  
15 that needs to be taken like I said on the secretarial  
16 level. So until that's done the lands are not open to  
17 mineral entry.

18  
19 MR. GRAY: So is there a process these  
20 guys need to go through to call your office or send  
21 letters or is there a process they -- it sounds like if  
22 they don't say anything this is going to open up a can  
23 of works. But if they get letters written and things  
24 are brought forward there's a good chance it'll get  
25 stopped in their backyard.

26  
27 MR. SPARKS: Well, as I said we did  
28 receive a lot of comments from residents of the region  
29 over this issue when there was public comment periods  
30 on the Bering Sea/Western Interior Land Use Plan. So  
31 like I said that's currently in effect and we're -- I  
32 know we're reviewing comments and concerns for the  
33 public. You know, we received some after the time  
34 frame of public comments, there were some that were  
35 submitted afterwards.

36  
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

40  
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi. This is Karen.  
42 I'd like to respond to Mr. Gray's query about how to  
43 communicate the concerns of the Council. The -- this  
44 could be an issue that you could bring forth in the  
45 Council's draft annual report to the Board. And you  
46 could state the concerns over the listing of any PLOs  
47 that would allow for activities that threaten  
48 subsistence in the region. And you could ask the Board  
49 to elevate those concerns to the Secretary of the  
50

0336

1 Interior. Those are options that the Council has to  
2 bring this issue of concern before the Secretary.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,  
7 Karen. That should help.

8

9 Mr. Gray.

10

11 MR. GRAY: Yeah. Louis, I think we  
12 need to make sure this gets sent forward because to me  
13 it sounds like the comment period is over with and  
14 they're going to make a decision on what comments they  
15 have in hand. And it's going to take a power player to  
16 stop this thing.

17

18 And, Pat, if you're listening I would  
19 get ahold of Louis and chase this going to the big  
20 Board.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk,  
25 Stebbins again. I very much like the RAC to make a  
26 comment on this issue because like I stated earlier  
27 this mining is going to affect our lichen in our  
28 backyards. And caribou and reindeer live off our  
29 lichen. And if that's depleted boy, we're going to  
30 have a rough time trying to get some caribou. As it is  
31 right now we are having a rough time and it's going to  
32 get even more rougher once they start losing that  
33 lichen that they live off of in this area. Not only --  
34 not only the caribou coming up -- coming down from  
35 Western caribou herd, I'm thinking of the caribou in,  
36 what is that, 18, somewhere in that area. There's  
37 caribou back there in that back hills too that they  
38 said they're dwindled down to what, 13,000 head.  
39 That's going to put a big dent on them too because they  
40 live off the lichen too.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, Thank you, Ron  
45 and Tom. But I think that best information first,  
46 before we proceed to write anything I'd like to know  
47 more about it.

48

49 So, Tom Sparks, what would we have to

50

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1 do to get more information to make a decision on how we  
2 approach this?

3

4 MR. SPARKS: I'm not sure. I mean,  
5 again I can tell you that the record of decision was  
6 signed in early January, the 15th, and perhaps the  
7 advice from Karen would be something you'd want to  
8 follow, that's up to your Board, Sir.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. Okay. We just  
11 thought maybe you had an avenue there. We'll look into  
12 it. I'll talk with Karen about it a little bit here.

13

14 MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Louis, this is  
15 Leland.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Leland.

18

19 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I heard rumors not  
20 too long ago that the Federal government burned down  
21 two structures down towards that area where I'm hearing  
22 about. I wondered if that was true or not?

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All I know is that  
25 there's hazmat stuff that's going on Golsovia Creek. I  
26 see something written in here, the planning of -- for  
27 cleanup activities at nine remote sites near Salmon  
28 Lake, Rhone, Golsovia Creek and Jack Smith Creek.  
29 Activities will include removal of nonhazardous solid  
30 waste, nonhistoric structures and oil and hazardous  
31 substances contamination. So that's -- maybe that's  
32 what took place in Gol -- is that Golsovia Creek, is  
33 that somewhere in the vicinity of the river, I'm not  
34 familiar with it?

35

36 MR. OYOUMICK: I don't know, they just  
37 said somewhere down that way, down south in the hills.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tom Sparks, Golsovia  
40 Creek?

41

42 MR. SPARKS: Yeah, that one has not  
43 been done. We got a contractor, Bristol Environmental,  
44 that was doing the work and the weather precluded us  
45 from moving forward with that. That's an old guide  
46 camp, it's abandoned. We don't have the potential  
47 responsible parties though. We found some dollars to  
48 clean that mess up. And there were two unperfected  
49 land claims around Salmon Lake on State selected land  
50

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1 as part of the settlement agreement between the Federal  
2 government and State and Bering Straits Native  
3 Corporation. The State wanted us to remove two  
4 structures on State selected land close to the Grand  
5 Central River as it goes into Salmon Lake. And that  
6 was done in late fall of this year.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Was that down below  
9 Tobuck's Native allotment?

10

11 MR. SPARKS: That is correct. Willy  
12 Brown.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. And they were  
15 removed I guess?

16

17 MR. SPARKS: That is correct.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Sparks.  
20 I think we should move on to the next -- is it ADF&G  
21 with a brief update on Norton Sound red king crab from  
22 and Jim Menard if nobody has any more pressing  
23 questions for Tom Sparks at BLM.

24

25 MR. SPARKS: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate  
26 the opportunity to hear those comments and, you know,  
27 folks are welcome to reach out at my office at anytime  
28 at 443-2177.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Sparks.  
33 We'll move on to ADF&G and that brief update on the  
34 Norton Sound red king crab.

35

36 Mr. Menard, are you on the line?

37

38 MR. CLARK: You got me here. This is  
39 Kevin Clark with Fish and Game. Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, okay.

42

43 MR. CLARK: Jim's got to step out of  
44 the office for a minute so I'm handling this.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tell him to quit  
47 smoking. Just kidding.

48

49 MR. CLARK: Can you guys hear me all

50

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1 right?

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. You're up.

4 Excuse me.

5

6 MR. CLARK: Can you guys hear me all

7 right?

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're coming through  
10 loud and clear, five by five as they say on the radio.

11

12 MR. CLARK: Roger. All right. We did  
13 do a trawl survey this year, we were able to get it  
14 done. It was able to cover the core areas. The  
15 abundance has increased from what it was last year.  
16 You know, the numbers are not finalized at this point,  
17 but the numbers were better than we have seen in the  
18 last couple years. At this point we do not know if  
19 there is going to be a commercial buyer for the king  
20 crab. So unless -- until we know what NSEC's going to  
21 do with their buying operations, we've had an uptake in  
22 abundance, but except for -- you know, and that's what  
23 we've seen -- that we've seen and been anticipating  
24 showing up here the last couple years.

25

26 I guess that's all the information I  
27 have at this time. If you have any questions.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Mr. Gray,  
30 Councilman Gray, do you have any questions?

31

32 MR. GRAY: So I -- you know, I do. I  
33 guess to me it's somewhat frustrating that the outlook  
34 and, you know, people talking about where we're going  
35 to be at and on and on. This year is supposed to be  
36 the beginning of crab coming into legal size that the  
37 State would be willing to sell. And I guess I'm a  
38 little bit struggling with we just barely get a  
39 baseline or something that is decent to put on our  
40 tables and we don't have a lot of big crab out there  
41 yet. We might end up with a bunch of four and three-  
42 quarter crab this year which is decent. But, you know,  
43 I -- again I just struggle with well, we're at the  
44 bottom level of this fishery and by gosh we got a  
45 hundred and 500,000 pounds, let's go sell it. We can't  
46 let it grow and we can't get five, five and a half inch  
47 crab out of it. You can't ensure that the subsistence  
48 users in the region finally have crab. I had crab pots  
49 out last year and there was nickel and dime crab. And,  
50

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1 you know, we'll see if we get crab this year.

2

3 But to me this commercial crabbing and  
4 I've been there, I've commercial crabbed, but to nip at  
5 the bottom escapement goal so to speak side of this  
6 thing, you just keep tearing it down and they can't  
7 rebuild. I don't understand it. I just -- it's a  
8 little bit frustrating. You know, our subsistence  
9 users have not had a lot of crab for how many years.  
10 And now we're -- I mean, commercial crabbing didn't  
11 even shut down last year. Commercial crabbing went on  
12 through all this no crab process. And it's very sad.

13

14 So anyway I just -- let's let this crab  
15 fishery build up, give it a little relax and let it  
16 build up for some time and take a look at it down the  
17 road. I mean, just because we got a small bunch of  
18 crab out there doesn't mean we got to go rape and  
19 pillage and tear it apart again.

20

21 MR. CLARK: I appreciate your opinion  
22 there, but the recourse for that would be going before  
23 the Board of Fish and putting forth a proposal to open  
24 the management plan up and change not only the harvest  
25 percentages, but also to look at the legal size and the  
26 basic baseline harvest allowance.

27

28 (Teleconference interference -  
29 participants not muted)

30

31 MR. CLARK: So.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody's got to hang  
34 up, do their mute.

35

36 (Teleconference interference -  
37 participants not muted)

38

39 MR. CLARK: .....to date.

40

41 MR. GRAY: So, you know, I've heard  
42 this song and dance time and time again. Fish and Game  
43 points fingers at somebody else. Somebody else's  
44 problem. They're going to tell you guys how many fish  
45 to -- how many crab can be sold, how many fish can be  
46 sold. And you guys can't man -- you're charged with  
47 managing this fishery, you have the authority to open  
48 and close it and you can't manage it yourselves, you  
49 can't read between the lines. I -- this is the part

50



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1 that's frustrating to me, some guy out in Seattle or  
2 somewhere is crunching numbers and says by golly, you  
3 got 200,000 crabs and you guys believe it, you run with  
4 it. And in reality you can't -- you know, you open it  
5 up, you realize the crabs aren't there, you haven't  
6 even got the ownership to let's shut it down and  
7 reevaluate this thing. This finger pointing, somebody  
8 else telling me I can do it is wrong.

9

10 MR. MENARD: And I appreciate your  
11 concern and your opinion, but at the same time honestly  
12 the guy who's been crunching the numbers is not from  
13 Seattle, it's Hamashan, he's been working in the  
14 Anchorage office, he's been the one that's been  
15 crunching the numbers for the last 20 years I've been  
16 with the department anyway. So I think that that was a  
17 little off base. But we've been using the same more or  
18 less management strategy except for when it was changed  
19 in 2013 and that wasn't an outside entity that was  
20 pushing for that. So I don't know, I don't know if  
21 necessarily bringing in this specter of the outsiders  
22 is necessarily apt.

23

24 MR. GRAY: So I grew up in Nome, I've  
25 lived there all my life. I've crabbed with handlines  
26 as a kid, I was 10 years old crabbing out on that ice.  
27 I've seen good days, bad days. And, you know, this  
28 crab fishery when it showed up it killed the  
29 subsistence crabbing for us. And you guys don't  
30 understand what we're talking about. So, you know, as  
31 far as I'm concerned I'm talking to a brick wall and  
32 I'll let it go at that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. This is Louis.  
35 I do identify with what Tommy's talking about. I'm  
36 just a couple years younger than him. Hand lining out  
37 there, me and my cousin sitting there with one chair to  
38 sit down and seven holes in a circle. Handlining just  
39 to the west of -- maybe right out there where the  
40 harbor is. The one guy that was sitting sat there and  
41 waited for the other guy to come around pulling those  
42 lines up. When that guy got around there to the seat  
43 the other guy took off. You didn't have time to sit  
44 there, otherwise the crab would take the bait. Many  
45 people before any crab fishery happened there would  
46 fish all night and they would, you know, barter their  
47 crabs, get whatever they needed, but we always had  
48 plenty subsistence wise.

49

50

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1                    Jim Beaton was the -- I think he was on  
2 the Board of Fish back then, he was married to Jeannie  
3 Wogg from Diomede and Nome. And he came there and I  
4 remember his discussion when he talked about opening  
5 crabbing in the summertime. And I don't -- I want to  
6 remember him saying -- encouraging him not to open it  
7 to the big boats and, you know, you're not going to  
8 compete against them. And of course some of the  
9 fishermen, oh, yeah, I can get -- I can get out there  
10 and compete with those guys from the Bering Sea. Well,  
11 Jim Beaton knew more about fishing than anybody I know,  
12 that's how I got into commercial fishing.

13  
14                    So anyway the big boats came. I worked  
15 the oil field there that -- the oil rigs out there in  
16 the Bering Strait basically, 70 miles southwest of  
17 Nome, towards St. Lawrence Island on the first oil  
18 platform in 1980. I watched those boats come by on  
19 flat, calm days and laying out their gear. And they  
20 raped and pillaged. I don't remember how many years it  
21 was. And it just flattened our -- flattened our crab,  
22 just wiped them out. And because somebody says there's  
23 some biological numbers there that say there's more  
24 than enough, we need to have this -- there's a  
25 serviceable harvest, we got to have a commercial  
26 fishery. It's really heartbreaking because we know  
27 that us older folks are TEK. I mean, Tommy's TEK, I'm  
28 TEK, anybody that's been around for 50, 60 years in  
29 Nome has a TEK when it comes to this if they've had  
30 anything to do with it. I did some commercial fishing  
31 through a guy that had a permit, I helped out there  
32 during the winter. So the thing about crab is it's  
33 never rebounded to what we had in the '70s, early '70s.  
34 It's never been back and subsistence is difficult even  
35 when you're catching great catches in the summertime  
36 and in the wintertime still subsistence is difficult.

37  
38                    So we're about subsistence and I hear  
39 Tommy's frustration, I have a little too and I'm trying  
40 to tone it down. The fact is is there isn't enough,  
41 the biological numbers that are coming -- being brought  
42 up and saying there's 400,000 pounds of crab out there  
43 is mind-blowing. So I guess like you say we need to go  
44 through the process with the Board of Fish with some  
45 kind of a strong message and a permit system and do  
46 something about it maybe, but it definitely is an issue  
47 for the local subsistence user and it's affecting  
48 everybody and it's been doing it for decades and it  
49 hasn't changed. So I'm hopeful that there is no buyer  
50

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1 again next season.

2

3

4 Commercial, they take it out of the  
5 water, put it in a box and it goes away, it doesn't  
6 feed anybody in Nome or in the Norton Sound region. It  
7 just goes to gone, gone to Japan, China, wherever. So  
8 it is frustrating for us that -- call us old timers or  
9 whatever, been around for a long time, it's frustrating  
10 to hear these numbers that suggest that there can be a  
11 crab -- a commercial crabbing fishery or even a  
12 commercial salmon fishery can continue. It's hard to  
13 listen to and I'm.....

13

14 I'm sorry I'm going on here, but that's  
15 my comments. And.....

16

17 MR. MENARD: Yeah, I took -- sorry.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

20

21 MR. MENARD: I was just saying I  
22 appreciate your comments there and just to add some  
23 perspective to that, you know, there's been commercial  
24 crab fisheries in the State of Alaska, you know,  
25 especially in like the Dutch Harbor and Kodiak areas  
26 since the '30s and '40s. And, you know, you talk about  
27 the late '70s and that was pretty much a huge -- that  
28 was a huge age class of crab that came over the entire  
29 state because, you -- you know, that was kind of one of  
30 those lightening striking periods that it was the best  
31 ever. So, you know, we're the -- are we ever going to  
32 be able to get back to that level of abundance, that I  
33 don't know.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. And I -- yeah,  
36 I know about the Kodiak because I -- when we were  
37 talking about the fishery in the Nome area, boat  
38 fishery, I fished with the guys from Kodiak, fished all  
39 their crab away. And they said don't let big boats in,  
40 keep it a small fishery if you even want to have any  
41 hope in having enough to go around in the future. And  
42 that was their advice in the mid '80s. So anyway I  
43 tried to bring that to the table more than once there.  
44 I served 13 years on the advisory council

45

46 So anyway is that you, Tom?

47

48 MR. GRAY: Yes, I appreciate your  
49 insight on the big boats, but look at our fishery. We

50

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1 got hammered by the little boats and the little boats  
2 wiped out this crab fishery. And how many years have  
3 we gone without crabs. It's starting to come back,  
4 Seattle is playing with numbers that the number  
5 cruncher in Anchorage or wherever he's at has to abide  
6 by. But, you know, we've got all kinds of people  
7 calling the shots on this game and that's why I'm so  
8 frustrated, the local manager should be able to pick  
9 the phone up and say hey, guys, something's wrong, we  
10 need to do something different here, let's have a  
11 meeting and fix this problem. Not wait until you go  
12 years without crabs. You know, my subsistence people,  
13 there is absolutely no reason, the State is charged to  
14 subsistence comes first. And then commercial  
15 fisheries. Subsistence, we're not being heard, we're  
16 not -- people don't care. And it -- again it's so  
17 frustrating.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I've got you,  
20 Tom. You know, people have to step up. If we want to  
21 shut down a commercial crab fishery we need to own up  
22 to it and take it to the Board of Fish because the  
23 State's managing it. Same thing with our salmon  
24 fishery. The only reason we're not in a tier two  
25 salmon fishery after what, 20 years that we had put on  
26 us because they thought it was going to shut down area  
27 M at the Board of Fish level, I was a part of that, I  
28 was involved in that from '93 on. You know, this --  
29 the idea that the AC, the Northern Norton Sound AC, has  
30 to make more of a -- make more noise about it and do  
31 something about it because they're there, that's an  
32 entity that's there. What do we need, I don't know,  
33 but I know it didn't take much to get a commercial  
34 salmon fishery after about 20 years of tier two, the  
35 only tier two salmon fishery in the whole State  
36 history. That shows failure on the State's behalf  
37 because they didn't their stocks very well.

38  
39 And so we're like that with the crab,  
40 the crab that never rebounded from what they were,  
41 Tommy. I agree with you. And the -- yeah, I didn't  
42 say that -- I wasn't saying not, that the small boats  
43 didn't take part in it, but they let them build up  
44 enough and they knock them back down again. That is an  
45 issue. They should just have a moratorium, there  
46 should be a moratorium. But the people have to step up  
47 and the advisory council has to do something. And we  
48 have to go to the Board of Fish with it. And that's  
49 the process, whether we can beat it down I don't know,  
50

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1 but right now NSEVC has been supporting of keeping it  
2 closed because they're the only buyer in the area  
3 that's willing to be involved at this point.

4

5 So I think with the crab issue I think  
6 we heard what you had to offer there, Sir, and I think  
7 we need to move on because the day is getting close.  
8 It's 4:02. Certainly my passion has been jacked up a  
9 little bit, I need to watch myself. And we need to  
10 move on to the -- there's something with -- and thank  
11 you for your presentation, what you had to make, your  
12 comments.

13

14 And we need to move on to a red king  
15 crab/dolly varden TEK and Western Arctic Caribou Herd.  
16 This is Helen Cold. I don't remember hearing about  
17 that already in advance.

18

19 MS. BROWN: Hi. This is actually --  
20 this actually Caroline Brown. I am the statewide  
21 resource director for the subsistence division for Fish  
22 and Game in Fairbanks. Helen -- I'm giving this  
23 presentation for Helen because she actually moved into  
24 maternity leave this weekend. So she's at home with  
25 her new little one. But I just wanted to give you in  
26 her stead a quick update about projects in your area.  
27 So Helen is -- I'm not sure if you've had the  
28 opportunity to meet Helen, she's our new Arctic --  
29 Northwest Arctic subsistence lead. She replaces Beth  
30 Miko, if you remember that name and she is assisted by  
31 Morgan Urquia who's also very new to our division. So  
32 hopefully you'll get the opportunity to meet them  
33 either remotely or in person soon.

34

35 So I just wanted to briefly mention two  
36 projects that we're working on in your area. I think  
37 that you have some slides that were provided in your  
38 supplemental materials that Helen put together in  
39 advance of her leave.

39

40 So the first project is the -- it's a  
41 ethnographic overview and assessment for the Bering  
42 Land Bridge National Preserve. And the funder for that  
43 is National Park Service. And that is basically an  
44 ethnographic overview and assessment is really pulling  
45 together all of the ethnographic literature on the area  
46 and pulling that together and then working with local  
47 communities to do a gap analysis of the types of  
48 research that have been done and the types of things  
49 that local communities would like to see done. And  
50

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1 that's a planning document in some ways for the  
2 National Park Service. The focus area are the Bering  
3 Land Bridge zone communities and for you that's  
4 primarily Wales and Shishmaref.

5  
6 So that project really just combines a  
7 very comprehensive literature review with community  
8 consultations to create this what we call an EOA  
9 document for the National Park Service. We started the  
10 project back in 2020, but covid interrupted our ability  
11 to work with communities on consultations. So we have  
12 focused our effort for the National Park Service right  
13 now on pulling together all of the literature for the  
14 area and that has been initially reviewed by the  
15 National Park Service and we're working on those edits  
16 and then hoping to do community consultations when  
17 things calm down and we can safely travel to  
18 communities. So that's the first project.

19  
20 The second project is the Western  
21 Arctic Caribou Herd harvest assessment. So we've --  
22 you heard mention of some of these data over the last  
23 couple of days during your meeting. This is a research  
24 partnership where we're working with eight different  
25 communities and the wildlife conservation at Fish and  
26 Game. And we are conducting household harvest surveys  
27 for large mammals with a focus on caribou. And we --  
28 we're working as I mentioned with eight communities  
29 within the Western Arctic Caribou Herd range. And for  
30 you those communities include Golovin, White Mountain,  
31 Shishmaref and then there's several others. Those --  
32 that project is a four or five year project, it started  
33 in 2019 when we collected the first year data, but then  
34 we were again interrupted by covid. And but we were  
35 able to collect data last spring in Deering, Noatak,  
36 Shishmaref and Kobuk and we're currently reviewing  
37 those data with the communities and wildlife. And then  
38 this spring, this coming spring in 2022 we'll be  
39 working with Shungnak, White Mountain, Selawik and  
40 Golovin. So we basically work with eight communities,  
41 four each year and we go back -- and we alternate  
42 between those two sets. So we'll collect two years of  
43 data in each set for four years of data total.

44  
45 And so that's the project timeline,  
46 we're hoping it will be -- hoping if nothing else gets  
47 -- if nothing else interferes with our timeline then we  
48 will be done with that project in 2024.

49  
50

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1                                 And then finally I just wanted to  
2 mention that based on concerns we've been hearing from  
3 this Council and other individuals from the region as  
4 well as in the context of the North Pacific Fisheries  
5 Management Council, we are putting together a proposal  
6 to document traditional ecological knowledge of Norton  
7 Sound red king crab with a focus on local  
8 understandings of ecology and harvest and use  
9 practices. So directly resulting from or directly  
10 related to what was just said, trying to do a thorough  
11 and robust documentation of local experiences and local  
12 understandings and local knowledge of that fishery as  
13 we move forward and try to manage that sustainably.

14  
15                                 And I'd be happy to take any questions.

16  
17                                 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ma'am. I  
18 didn't hear part of that because I got dropped, I just  
19 got back on about a minute ago.

20  
21                                 So anyway are there any questions from  
22 Council?

23  
24                                 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission  
25 got a comment.

26  
27                                 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

28  
29                                 MR. SEETOT: Concerning not any of the  
30 coverage, but with the salmon ADF&G should contract  
31 with municipal or tribal government to help people  
32 without internet or computers to get salmon permits so  
33 they can keep track of the salmon. I wasn't able to  
34 get one due to the fact that all of this was online. I  
35 could have went to the tribal council to get a permit  
36 online, however I didn't do that. Mr. Menard was able  
37 to call me and I was able to give him the total. So  
38 I'm still old school, I would, you know, like to help  
39 out in how the fish population is that is going toward  
40 Salmon Lake. I think that was the main thing that they  
41 had this salmon permit to see how much our -- how much  
42 of our valued red salmon does go up to salmon lake to  
43 spawn.

44  
45                                 Thank you.

46  
47                                 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Any  
48 other Council have comments, questions or concerns?

49  
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1 (No comments)

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(No comments)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I didn't catch anything on that or that dolly varden TEK.

MS. BROWN: My apologies on that. The dolly varden TEK I'm guessing that was probably just a mistake. We are also working on or just beginning a project looking -- documenting traditional knowledge of dolly varden. But I do not -- I can double check this, but I don't believe it's -- that we're working with any of the communities served by this RAC, but I can double check that.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. I'm just trying to fill in the gaps because like I said I got dropped earlier.

So in the red king crab, now what was that all of what you're doing there?

MS. BROWN: Oh, I'm sorry. With the red king crab we -- I was actually contacted by -- just hearing some of the issues that we've been hearing there, you know, more recently about concerns about the red king crab population, and also knowing that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council has been taking this issue up and has been requesting additional information specifically from local users, we are currently working with Division of Commercial Fisheries to put together a research proposal to document the traditional knowledge and local knowledge of red king crab focusing on local understandings of ecology and the harvest and use practices so that there is a robust documentation of that when -- you know, as we move forward with sustainable management. So we'll be putting together that proposal and we'll be working with folks in your area, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, commercial fisheries and putting that together and having that reviewed to make sure it looks -- it looks good and then hopefully submitting that for research funding.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: One more question. This -- I'm sorry. Who requested this.....

MS. BROWN: Who requested it?

CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....and who's paying



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1 for it? Yeah, who's paying for it.....

2

3 MS. BROWN: Well, it's a.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....is the question.

6

7 MS. BROWN: .....it's a research --  
8 sorry. It's a -- the fish -- the North Pacific  
9 Fisheries Management Council has noted a lack of  
10 information and a need for that information at their  
11 meetings. And so I've had some -- Helen and I have had  
12 some conversations with Hamashan Hamasoki who was  
13 mentioned a little bit earlier. And about designing a  
14 research project to provide that local -- to provide  
15 that information. So at this stage it is a research  
16 proposal and we will be submitting that as soon as we  
17 get it in shape which hopefully will be over the next  
18 month or two. We will submit that potentially to the  
19 -- to NPRB, the North Pacific Research Board and  
20 there's a couple of other options.

21

22 But I'd be happy to.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Your work.....

25

26 MS. BROWN: .....I'd be happy to.....

27

28 (Teleconference interference -  
29 participants not muted)

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody's got to  
32 mute.

33

34 MR. GRAY: Okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is that you, Tommy?

37

38 MR. GRAY: Yep, I just got -- I got  
39 kicked off so I just got back on.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh. Okay. You and  
42 me, they don't like us.

43

44 Anyway so this red king crab, basically  
45 it's a TEK study, right?

46

47 MS. BROWN: Correct. And yes, correct.  
48 It's going to be traditional and local knowledge  
49 studied to really document users' understanding of the  
50

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1 ecology and the history of use and, you know,  
2 understandings of various ups and downs, that kind of  
3 thing.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And when is this  
6 taking place?

7

8 MS. BROWN: It will take place when and  
9 if it is funded. So I would expect if we can -- if we  
10 can pull the proposal together and submit it and be  
11 fortunate enough to be funded, it would probably start  
12 next year.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I was starting  
15 to think I was hearing something coming up soon. So --  
16 okay.

17

18 MS. BROWN: No.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

21

22 MS. BROWN: And I would -- I will  
23 certainly keep the RAC updated with any progress on  
24 that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I'm sorry, I  
27 forgot your name. I really -- I didn't write.....

28

29 MS. BROWN: That's okay. My name is  
30 Caroline -- my name is Caroline Brown. I've just never  
31 presented to your RAC because I spent about 15 years  
32 working in the interior before going on a statewide  
33 level. So I'm happy for the opportunity to meet at  
34 least some of you virtually. But I've been with the  
35 division for quite a long time, but this is my first  
36 opportunity to talk to you guys.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. I should have  
39 remembered your last name at least. Mine's Green and  
40 then we got Tommy Gray.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

45

46 MS. BROWN: Nice.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You got to have a  
49 little humor in the day, otherwise we're all going to  
50

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1 be grumpy when we go home and that's not going to be  
2 nice. And so we're changing.....

3

4 MS. BROWN: Not good.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....gears here.

7 Okay. That's how I do my work.

8

9 Okay. So if anyone has anything for  
10 Ms. Caroline Brown, please speak up, the floor is open  
11 from Council.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm not hearing any.

16 I usually wait a little bit because it takes some a  
17 minute to get this phone situation straight. So it  
18 sounds like we're good with Caroline Brown's report  
19 that Helen Cold didn't do.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is that you, Karen?

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Yeah,

28 thank you. I'd like to make a comment with your

29 permission.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You have my permission

32 you don't need.

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35 I just wanted to thank the agencies who have waited  
36 until the end of this meeting to do their presentation.  
37 It was a very extensive agenda and I just want to share  
38 the appreciation from OSM. And also for the written  
39 reports that the Park Service and BLM provided and then  
40 the slides from Fish and Game. This information is  
41 very helpful, it's got a lot of good stuff in it. So  
42 if you as a Council member haven't had time to look  
43 through it, I would encourage that. There's a lot  
44 still going on despite covid, despite some of the  
45 restrictions a lot of good work and a lot of good  
46 information that this Council can use for its  
47 decisions.

48

49 So I just wanted to thank the agencies

50

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1 for providing that information and these reports and  
2 waiting as long as they have.

3  
4 Thank you very much.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I would say the  
7 same, thanks for the patience, extreme patience. I  
8 know it's hard to sit in a chair because I've been  
9 sitting here for two days too. It's kind of nice to be  
10 at home I guess in a certain aspect of it, but I'd  
11 rather be in front of everybody and having a discussion  
12 in a room where we see everybody's face. Can't wait to  
13 have that again.

14  
15 Appreciate your patience and the time  
16 that you put in, all of you.

17  
18 Okay. So we're -- Tom Kron was the  
19 last one on there, but we heard from him already.

20  
21 MR. KRON: Wait a minute, Louis.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

24  
25 REPORTER: I was just about to say how  
26 well this meeting was going. Thank you everybody for  
27 keeping your phones on mute. I've appreciated that.

28  
29 Go ahead, Tom.

30  
31 MR. KRON: Go ahead?

32  
33 REPORTER: Yes, go ahead.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Calm down, Tina.

36  
37 REPORTER: The finish line.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: She -- you can hear  
40 when she -- when somebody's wrestling some paper, kids  
41 are in the background, Tina's there.

42  
43 (Laughter)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Let's give  
46 Mr. Tom Kron the floor.

47  
48 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair, Louis, again Tom  
49 Kron here with OSM. And we did not want to make you  
50

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1 grouchy. I've never seen you grouchy before and I  
2 don't want to see it. But anyway I've gone in and I've  
3 cut the OSM report in half so this will be a lot  
4 shorter and I'll just dive in.

5

6 On behalf of OSM I wanted to thank all  
7 Council members for your exceptional work that you do  
8 on behalf of your communities and user groups during  
9 these trying times. We value your experience and  
10 contribution of your knowledge and experience to the  
11 regulatory process. It's been very difficult for  
12 everyone dealing with the covid-19 environment.

13

14 First off I'll just talk briefly about  
15 the teleconferencing and again thank you all for  
16 hanging in there, this has been frustrating for all of  
17 us. As you learned from Chairman Christianson in the  
18 letter dated August 20th we're holding all 10 Council  
19 meetings this fall via teleconference again. And I'll  
20 just back up. The Federal Subsistence Program  
21 recognizes that in person meetings are preferable,  
22 however until we can assure the safety of all  
23 participants we're going to follow the guidance and  
24 hold all meeting via teleconference.

25

26 Thank you all for being willing to  
27 participate in this lengthy teleconference. We  
28 appreciate everyone's patience.

29

30 Next we have OSM Staffing. There have  
31 been a number of changes since the report we gave to  
32 you last winter, winter of 2021. First of all Ameer  
33 Howard was hired as the new deputy assistant regional  
34 director. We're all pleased to have Amy onboard. She  
35 previously worked for OSM as policy coordinator.

36

37 Also a number of other Staffing  
38 changes. Katya Wessels was promoted from council  
39 coordinator to supervisor of that division. Lisa  
40 Grediagin was promoted from wildlife biologist to  
41 supervisor of that division. And Robbin LaVine was  
42 promoted from anthropologist to policy coordinator.

43

44 Also we've hired three wildlife  
45 biologists. One of them, Tom Ubelaker, has been  
46 testifying to you during this meeting. We've had a  
47 number of folks retire and I won't go into that. And  
48 we're still trying to fill additional positions in  
49 anthropology, council coordination, fisheries,

50

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1 regulatory division and admin support.

2

3

4 Another issues that we've mentioned to  
5 you in the past couple years, we need all the Council  
6 members to get up to date IDs. Our understanding now  
7 is that the deadline for up to date IDs is May 3rd,  
8 2023. So it's been -- it's been pushed back again.  
9 But our understanding is that this new real ID or  
10 passport, there are other things that you can use as  
11 well, but they're going to be required to fly on Alaska  
12 Airlines as well as bush carriers. So in order to  
13 travel to Council meetings when hopefully this covid  
14 pandemic is over, we'll need people to have real IDs to  
15 arrange for the travel.

15

16 The next issue, again we briefed  
17 you.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hey Tom.....

20

21 MR. KRON: .....on this a little.

22

23 Yeah.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, real IDs. Will  
26 we need real IDs to vote?

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's a little joke.

30

31 MR. KRON: I don't know the answer to  
32 that question, Louis.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That due date is on my  
37 birthday. Hmmmm. Anyway.

38

39 MR. KRON: Okay. Okay. Again the.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: 65th -- okay. Bye.

42

43 MR. KRON: What?

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I was making some  
46 jokes. Sixty-fifth birthday. Anyway carry on.

47

48 MR. KRON: Okay. The next -- just give  
49 you an update, there was a lawsuit a year ago from the  
50

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1 State of Alaska and emergency special action request  
2 that was submitted. Basically the State of Alaska was  
3 concerned about basically the village of Kake down  
4 Southeast were requesting two moose and five deer given  
5 the covid pandemic. And they also filed a court suit  
6 related to a Unit 13A and 13B decision that the Federal  
7 Board had made. Both of those requests from the State  
8 have subsequently been denied. One on September 18th,  
9 2020 and then the other on November 18th, 2020. While  
10 these rulings are preliminary, they are encouraging  
11 from the Federal subsistence perspective, they did not  
12 resolve the litigation. Recent developments are that  
13 the settlement negotiations between the Department of  
14 Justice, the Solicitor's Office, the USDA Office of  
15 General Counsel and the State proved unsuccessful. A  
16 briefing was completed at the end of August, just a  
17 couple months ago and we're now waiting for that court  
18 decision.

19

20                   Anyway that completes the condensed OSM  
21 report. And again hopefully this has not made you  
22 grouchy, Louis.

23

24                   Thank you.

25

26                   (Laughter)

27

28                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: I wasn't referring to  
29 me, I was talking about Tina when people's papers are  
30 rustling and kids are -- because she couldn't hear.  
31 Anyway.....

32

33                   MR. KRON: Anyway thank you. Thank you  
34 all. And I'd be happy to answer any questions.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: What did you leave  
37 out?

38

39                   MR. KRON: Give me a call later and I  
40 can give you the whole thing. I covered the main  
41 points and just condensed things.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, Tom. Thank  
44 you very much. Any.....

45

46                   MR. KRON: Thank you.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....comments or  
49 questions from the Council?

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds like we don't  
4 have any for you, Tom. Your.....

5

6 MR. KRON: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....information was  
9 clear.

10

11 Thank you. All right. So that leads  
12 us into future meeting dates. And what do we have  
13 there for the spring, they call it the winter, we're  
14 talking about the 3rd and the 4th. I guess we're  
15 supposed to be looking into.....

16

17 Karen, are we supposed to be looking at  
18 the fall section? Okay.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. No  
21 worries. This is Karen.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: And the Council  
26 selected March 3rd through 4th, 2022 for their  
27 spring/winter meeting in Nome. And so they just -- it  
28 -- you know, if the Council is still in agreement with  
29 that then we can just leave that as is. And then the  
30 Council needs to select a fall, 2022 meeting date and  
31 location. I do have a calendar before me.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I want.....

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....that shows which  
36 dates are available so go from there.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I want to make sure  
39 Tommy Gray's not on vacation.

40

41 Tommy.

42

43 MR. GRAY: I'm trying to find my mute  
44 button. I was putting and -- you know, unfortunately a  
45 year ago I was in Hawaii and I got a \$300 ticket for  
46 being in the meeting. Today -- right now I'm sitting  
47 at the airport waiting for a flight to Hawaii. So keep  
48 that in mind I guess.

49

50



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1 REPORTER: Poor Tom.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, you're going to  
4 get warm pretty soon. Ear phones, they can't tell if  
5 you're talking on the phone. They're less than \$300.

6

7 MR. GRAY: Yeah, I have a pair on right  
8 now.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Old school gets  
11 up to date. Me and you. All right.

12

13 So, Karen, what were the dates that you  
14 had available you said?

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: We -- Mr. Chair, we  
17 have the week of September 27th through the 30th. Let  
18 me see if that's a Tuesday. No. September -- it's a  
19 long -- September 26th through the 30th. We have the  
20 week of October 3rd through October 7th. We have the  
21 week of October 10th through October 14th. And we have  
22 the week of November or October 31st through November  
23 4th. So there's only a couple of weeks that are not  
24 available for the fall '22 schedule opportunity. So  
25 the Council I guess needs to decide which two days  
26 within the time period from the 26th of September  
27 through November 4th would work.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, thinking ahead,  
30 will we all be home or wherever were supposed to be on  
31 the -- in November?

32

33 Starting with Tommy Gray. Look into  
34 your crystal ball.

35

36 MR. GRAY: So -- yeah. So in November  
37 in every year that I do -- I -- my calendar November,  
38 I'm leaving today and I'm getting back the 16th of  
39 November and I got a reindeer herder meeting to run for  
40 a couple days. So I get freed up around the 18th.  
41 November is a bad -- kind of a bad time. October.  
42 October -- first part of October is usually good. I  
43 just looked, I have the last week of September open,  
44 but the week prior to that I have half a dozen clients  
45 at my camp. So but the end of September's good too. I  
46 -- you know, I -- anyway, pick a date.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

49

50

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1 MR. GRAY: .....and I'll put it in my  
2 calendar.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I'm picking on  
5 you because you're always the one that's traveling at  
6 the -- at that time. So forgive me.

7  
8 Other Council members weigh in on this.  
9 I'm liking the October 1st week, but I want to hear  
10 from others.

11  
12 MR. OYOUNICK: That sounds good to me.  
13 This is Leland.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland. Go ahead.  
16 Sorry, I cut you off.

17  
18 MR. OYOUNICK: That sound good to me.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sometime in the first  
21 week of October. Okay. Anybody else, any other time  
22 frame? Same time?

23  
24 MR. SEETOT: That first week in October  
25 would be good because September is usually pretty much  
26 harvest of waterfowl and picking of berries. In this  
27 area it all depends on the freeze-up so first week of  
28 October will be fine.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Now this one  
31 here, like me I didn't catch it, but I've got land  
32 committee meetings at Sitnasuak and we're doing  
33 workshop work on land issues. So I'm missing out on  
34 that today. I'll take it up tomorrow, but duty called  
35 so here I am.

36  
37 So if your calendar, you know, make  
38 sure it doesn't interfere with anything that you might  
39 know of ahead of time. But that first week in October  
40 sounds like it's good for three of us.

41  
42 Maybe four, Tommy.

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, you could  
45 look at the October 4th and 5th which is a Tuesday and  
46 Wednesday.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that gives you  
49 the -- well, Monday to start the week and then we would  
50

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1 deal with -- did you say 4th and 5th?

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair. And  
4 it gives us Monday to get everybody in for the meeting  
5 if it's.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....held in Nome.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep, if we're face to  
12 face. Yep. Anybody have any conflicts with this?

13

14 Ron.

15

16 MR. KIRK: That's fine with me.

17

18 (Teleconference interference -  
19 participants not muted)

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounded like Ron.....

22

23 MR. KIRK: That's fine with me.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Ron. Doug.

26

27 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, that's good.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Good. Leland  
30 said good. Tommy.....

31

32 Are you good, Tommy?

33

34 MR. GRAY: I'm writing it down in my  
35 calendar so it's good. Okay. I'm good with it.  
36 Everybody will have to live with.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Somebody's talking  
39 pretty loud.

40

41 REPORTER: Tom. Tom, mute your phone.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It sounds like  
44 you're.....

45

46 MR. GRAY: Hold on, let me.....

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: No worries. It's  
49 late. And then, Ron Kirk, is Ron Kirk available, Mr.

50

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1 Chair, the 4th and 5th.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think Ron said.....

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: .....of October?

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think he said yes.

8 Ron.

9

10 MR. KIRK: (In Native)

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I think that  
13 covers everybody. Who am I missing, Elmer. Elmer was  
14 good with it. Yeah, he didn't want to be September.  
15 So I guess that's where we're at, 4th and 5th of  
16 October.

17

18 MR. SEETOT: In Nome?

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Let me just check --  
21 confirm that the location would be in Nome?

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I guess it would  
24 be in Nome.

25

26 MR. SEETOT: Yeah, it's supposed to be.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What's that? Two of  
29 you walked on each other there. Leland, you first.

30

31 MR OYOUNICK: Yeah, it's good in Nome,  
32 yeah.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Who was the  
35 other one? Somebody else spoke up at the same time? I  
36 guess we're good.

37

38 Anybody else have any -- anything else  
39 to add.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing nothing.  
44 Karen, I guess the 4th and 5th of October, Nome.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Okay. So  
49 we picked our date. Tommy's going to be there. Yay.

50

0361

1 So we're going to go ahead and have  
2 closing comments and we'll start with Doug.

3  
4 Doug, are you there?

5  
6 (No comments)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland.

13  
14 (No comment)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer.

17  
18 MR. SEETOT: Yeah, I had trouble with  
19 my phone.....

20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, there you go.

22  
23 MR. SEETOT: .....I don't know is it  
24 on, is it off. I'm not really a phone expert, but I do  
25 have an advisor onhand to help me with the problems  
26 that I encounter in the teleconference.

27  
28 And then one of the other comments that  
29 I heard at the meeting was the mentality was to get all  
30 the fish for the -- from the sea or something. We do  
31 subsist on marine mammals that subsist on fish so save  
32 some fish for the marine mammals that we subsist on.  
33 And that helps us with our diet.

34  
35 Thank you very much. It was a long  
36 meeting, but it was worth it.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

41  
42 Tommy Gray.

43  
44 MR. GRAY: Maybe -- sorry I wasn't  
45 there half the time. See you next spring.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.

48  
49 We'll go back to Doug.

50

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1 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah. Louis, you  
2 mentioned (indiscernible - distortion).....

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hey, Doug, we're not  
5 hearing you, you're fading in and out. Are you still  
6 there?

7

8 MR. KATCHATAG: My phone's.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, you're phone is  
11 going in and out. We'll give it -- we'll let Leland  
12 try.

13

14 Is Leland on?

15

16 MR. OYOUMICK: I'm right here, Louis.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I guess we got  
19 one last thing to do before -- we're doing the closing  
20 comments, but we got one more thing Karen reminded me  
21 of. So go ahead, closing comment, please.

22

23 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, I like the part of  
24 the exhibition -- I mean, being given about the moose  
25 and their diet and why they taste so good. I liked  
26 that, that was a very interesting presentation. And, I  
27 mean, we're really happy here with the moose we get in  
28 Unalakleet and really tasty good. They learned how to  
29 butcher them real well and take care of them so they  
30 taste real good.

31

32 But anyway I hope somebody will figure  
33 out why or how come there's little or no fish. It's  
34 kind of -- it's weird. I grew up with lots of fish all  
35 around us and it -- to see nothing up there, it -- it's  
36 not home. So I hope somebody figures it out.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr.  
41 Oyoumick, Council member Oyoumick.

42

43 Doug, we can try you again. Please try  
44 to make your comment again.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Maybe he's got to dial  
49 back in. We lost him.

50

0363

1 How about you, Ron?

2

3 MR. KIRK: Hey, we.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, there you are.

6

7 MR. KIRK: I'm here now. Yeah. I was  
8 trying to figure out my phone for a minute.

9

10 Let's see where should I start. (In  
11 Native) I forgot you can't understand.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I got people.....

14

15 MR. KIRK: Maybe.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....that can  
18 translate.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I enjoyed the meeting  
23 despite our phone problems. I think we got a lot done  
24 and I appreciate -- I'd like to thank all the people  
25 that participated and I'd like to give my thanks to  
26 Karen who managed to put this together for us. It was  
27 a very good meeting, I enjoyed it and see you again  
28 next year. Everybody be safe from this covid.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron Kirk,  
33 Councilman from Stebbins.

34

35 Who's next?

36

37 MR. KIRK: You in Inupiaq.

38

39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Native)

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anyway I thought I was  
42 going to try Doug again.

43

44 Doug, are you still there?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I sure wanted to hear  
49 what he had to say. I -- he kind of came in and

50

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1 blanked out.

2

3 MR. OYOUNICK: He said his phone was  
4 dying or something, he's running out of battery.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's kind of what I  
7 was wondering. Well, all right. My turn I guess.

8

9 Yes, I enjoyed the meeting despite the  
10 phone issues, something you're used to. But I was  
11 going to suggest that next time whomever, wherever we  
12 can get on the landline at the time maybe that would  
13 help. I understand how these cell systems ain't so  
14 great these days. Or I think they're overused.

15

16 Anyway just enjoyed the discussion with  
17 the Staffs that had to deal with these proposals.  
18 Sometimes there's some members that get a little  
19 cranky. It's kind of hard not to because of the  
20 frustration of some of this stuff. I appreciated the  
21 Staff really, you know, putting up with how things  
22 were. We had the -- we kind of drug through there  
23 yesterday because of the phone situation and people had  
24 to wait until today to give some comments and  
25 presentations here. So and I really appreciate that.

26

27 And Karen and Tina, super woman and  
28 wonder woman.....

29

30 REPORTER: Why thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....we really  
33 appreciate you two keeping things together.

34

35 It's been a tough year for subsistence  
36 in our region and salmon being the top of the list.  
37 And there's a lot of conversations about the high seas  
38 fishing with the trawlers in the Bering Sea and the  
39 Gulf of Alaska, there's a lot of pressure on them right  
40 now with the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
41 at that level. And we see a lot of money in our region  
42 because of that trawling with the CDQ, the community  
43 development program. But it may be impacting us more  
44 than we like to talk about sometimes, difficult  
45 conversation because there are a lot of people that we  
46 know are involved with it. I've been involved with it.  
47 But it begs the question is it worth it. So I know  
48 they had a comment period about trawlers here, I think  
49 it ended day before yesterday online. I don't know how  
50



0365

1 many people might have participated from the region. I  
2 think that we will take it up, there will be some  
3 conversation about it when we got more information in  
4 the next -- in the next meeting in the spring, in  
5 March. I want to know more.

6  
7 And the crab issue, the king crab issue  
8 in Nome and Norton Sound, it's pretty dismal. I think  
9 we need more science behind the thing so we need to  
10 know what's going on with those things. Everybody  
11 wants to lean on global warming or climate change.  
12 Well, climate change is happening no matter what so we  
13 need to -- maybe some science on our salmon and some  
14 science on our crab.

15  
16 Some of the other species we don't talk  
17 about, there's pollack out there and there's grey cod  
18 out there. And I've caught them because I was out  
19 there in the -- '98 and '99 doing halibut experimental  
20 fisheries when they wanted to build that plant in Nome.

21  
22 And so those are some of the other  
23 things that may be causing a problem because what grey  
24 cod and pollack, grey cod specifically and halibut,  
25 excuse me, I forgot about halibut, they feed on crab.  
26 So could that be some of the pressure that's happening.  
27 We don't know, we won't know until somebody does some  
28 kind of survey and some kind of study on it. I think  
29 that's really something that needs to happen.

30  
31 If anybody wants to take part in the  
32 Board of Fish with proposals for salmon and proposals  
33 for red king crab, it's open to the public, there's a  
34 process for it. If this Council wants to take part in  
35 some of that we need to have some discussion about it  
36 in the next meeting maybe and how we would approach it.

37  
38 So anyway with no further ado I'd like  
39 to end my input. One of the things that I wanted to  
40 say is that I did get really involved in the Board of  
41 Fish and in '93 I was representing Sitnasuak Native  
42 Corporation at those meetings in the chum wars as we  
43 call it. And I spent a lot of time away from home. By  
44 1994 when Mr. Tony Knowles got elected, the -- Kawerak  
45 backed me, I had backings from all over the State to  
46 get a seat on the Board of Fish at that time. It was  
47 pretty close. After that I never took interest in it  
48 again. I've been asked by ABC Peta to step it up a  
49 couple different times.

50

0366

1                   But anyway we need to get more involved  
2 in what's going on at the Board of Fish and the Board  
3 of Game. I know that we're a Federal group but it's  
4 still subsistence so as individuals we still could take  
5 part in it. And I just thought I'd put that in there.

6  
7                   Anyway WACH Group, I had hoped that we  
8 could get a -- with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd I  
9 would hope that we could get some kind of a summary  
10 report or something that -- you know, what they're  
11 doing in their meetings and so we'd be on the same page  
12 maybe sometimes. And I know that in the past that  
13 we've cross trails and had differences in opinions so I  
14 would like to see that take place.

15  
16                   There's a couple other items that I  
17 can't remember because I didn't write this down. But  
18 anyway I'll let that go.

19  
20                   Those are my closing comments. I  
21 really appreciate everybody that's here, the Council  
22 members that took part, all the Staff, thank you very  
23 much.

24  
25                   Karen.

26  
27                   MR. KIRK: If we talked in Inupiaq it  
28 would have been shorter.

29  
30                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: I do have a little  
33 French background.

34  
35                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 I did want to bring up the issue of -- oh, first I  
37 wanted to comment on one of your statements you made.  
38 And to let you know that pursuant to ANILCA this body,  
39 this Council is able to write or comment on any Board  
40 of Fish or Board of Game proposals and send in  
41 proposals to the Board of Fish or the Board of Game.  
42 We've actually done that before, this Council has. And  
43 so that's certainly an avenue that's available to you  
44 outside of the Federal regulatory issues.

45  
46                   The last thing is to look at annual  
47 report. At this particular meeting this is the time to  
48 draft your fiscal 2021 annual report. And these -- as  
49 I had said earlier in the meeting I filled out the  
50

0367

1 stipulation in ANILCA for what this report represents.  
2 It's largely to talk about issues that are of concern  
3 that affect subsistence in your region. There were two  
4 issues that were brought up that I would like to know  
5 as your coordinator whether or not you would like these  
6 issues elaborated on in the draft annual report to the  
7 Board. This report will be back before you in draft  
8 form at the winter, 2022 meeting.

9  
10 The first issues was regarding the  
11 individual caribou herd of a few thousand animals. I  
12 did not get the location of that herd in an area of  
13 Unit 22 where the Council members, several council  
14 members, talked about getting some research done on  
15 that group of animals and possibly genetics and try to  
16 understand whether this is a resident her or whether  
17 this is an offshoot from Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
18 and that it needed further study. And so I can  
19 certainly get from the transcripts the area if the  
20 Council is interested in bringing that issue before the  
21 Board to let them know that the Council is interested  
22 in pursuing some type of research on that caribou group  
23 of animals.

24  
25 And the second issue we talked about  
26 was or the Council talked about was the mining issue  
27 that's happening in the area behind Unalakleet and  
28 Golsovia Mountains, does that affect the fish that go  
29 up the river and subsistence. And we heard from Mr.  
30 Sparks that the Bering Sea Western Interior Plan had  
31 been signed in January, but there were options to send  
32 some information to -- regarding the PLOs, opening up  
33 these public land orders that kept certain areas closed  
34 to certain activities. And the Council will -- does  
35 have an opportunity to include that in their annual  
36 report and the Board -- to ask the Board to send this  
37 to the Secretary of the Interior for consideration of  
38 keeping some of those public land orders in place to  
39 protect the areas for subsistence.

40  
41 And also a public member brought up  
42 that there were no ACECs as we call them, areas of  
43 critical environmental concern, that many of those  
44 areas were not included in the record of decision for  
45 the Bering Sea Western Interior Plan and the Council  
46 could certainly put in a request that there be  
47 reconsideration for that.

48  
49 So those are some issues that you could  
50

0368

1 include in your annual report and certainly we are open  
2 to any other concerns that the Council would like to  
3 include.

4

5 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,  
8 Karen. One of the other things that I wanted to ring  
9 the bell on is this North Pacific Fisheries Management  
10 Council. We're dealing with the trawler industry at  
11 this point. I was hoping that we'd have some kind of  
12 information on there for the next meeting to be able to  
13 grind a little bit on and whether or not we come out  
14 with a letter to the NPA, North Pacific Fisheries  
15 Management Council or not would -- maybe can be derived  
16 out of that if there was one, if there's interest for  
17 it. But I wanted information on what they're doing now  
18 and in the near future about cutting back on their  
19 bycatch. Anyway.....

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 This is Karen. I can let you know that there is a  
23 letter that is being drafted that was initiated by the  
24 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council and is  
25 going to be signed on by the Western Interior and I'm  
26 not sure, but I think Eastern Interior Alaska Regional  
27 Advisory Council is either going to sign on or develop  
28 their own letter. And the specific areas of concern  
29 that are going to be brought forth are the issues of  
30 bycatch and Area M fishery management. And this letter  
31 is really going to highlight the disastrous fishing  
32 season on the Yukon River this past summer as well as  
33 the very challenging fishing season on the Kuskokwim  
34 River. And I think if the Council would move to be a  
35 sign on to this draft letter I would be happy to work  
36 with the Council Chair, Louis, yourself, to ensure that  
37 it captures the concerns of the Council for sign on.  
38 There would be a motion needed for the Council to sign  
39 onto that letter.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.  
44 Just for the information here for this Council and  
45 Staff and everybody, there was a study done of the  
46 Pacific Rim and I want to say it came out in 2005, but  
47 I can't remember. I know that they did it early on and  
48 that created where the tribes and the Federal  
49 government and maybe State governments got together in  
50

1 California, Oregon and Washington to create hatchery --  
2 deal with the habitat, straighten the habitat out and  
3 put in hatcheries. Tribes are running those hatcheries  
4 and they're working.

5  
6 One of the things that came out of that  
7 study that I noticed was that there were two salmon  
8 production areas that are a positive thing for the  
9 Pacific Rim. And that one is -- one is Bristol Bay and  
10 we all know about Bristol Bay, the place that always  
11 was or has been or whatever they say. But the other  
12 one was the Norton Sound. The Norton Sound was  
13 identified as a contributor to the Pacific salmon and  
14 the Pacific Rim and the health of everything. And if  
15 you see the chart that they had put together where  
16 these salmon run on both sides of this Bering Sea and  
17 Bering Straits, it's mind-blowing to see how those  
18 salmon have and they part in the yearly fertilization  
19 of our lands. If you're just thinking about what you  
20 eat, you should think about the -- see what you eat up  
21 the river or the moose that you eat that eats the  
22 willows, they all depend on salmon, everything depends  
23 on salmon. And these salmon have been around for maybe  
24 200,000 in their current state, but they've been around  
25 for about five million years. The salmon is real  
26 important to this area, to the land and what it  
27 produces.

28  
29 So, you know, everybody needs their  
30 meat and potatoes and vegetables and when the plants  
31 ain't getting everything they need they ain't going to  
32 produce anything for the animals that eat it and us.  
33 So I just want people to kind of think about that and  
34 look it up and see what you can find on it. But it was  
35 a -- it was quite a study done, it was in the early --  
36 in the '80s and it prompted those states to start  
37 jumping on the bandwagon about producing salmon again  
38 and getting it out there.

39  
40 Hatcheries are nothing new, the  
41 technology is -- you know, they did it up in Kotzebue  
42 at the (Indiscernible) Spring for 14 years and they got  
43 great chum runs up there. You look at those chum and  
44 they're just beautiful, fat fish. It's amazing. And  
45 those people don't regret what they did because it  
46 didn't cause any environmental problems. So a friend  
47 of mine lives -- it was his dad's Native allotment they  
48 did that on. Fish and Game did that.

49  
50

0370

1 Well, anyway just some information that  
2 I thought I'd share depending on who's on the phone  
3 yet.

4  
5 MR. KATCHATAG: It's me, Doug.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, I'm -- yeah, go  
8 ahead, Doug.

9  
10 MR. KATCHATAG: Yes, you talk about  
11 salmon, you really talk about mining because there's  
12 always mining in Golsovia and Nome and Teller area.  
13 And if that happens we will have no fish to talk about.  
14 They will kill everything, the land, all the animals  
15 that reside on the land, all the fish, all the game  
16 that's going to those springs. And in Unalakleet it'll  
17 kill all the fish because that North River is above the  
18 mouth of our river. And it'll fall all the way out to  
19 meet the fish as they're coming in. So that's one  
20 thing you got to consider.

21  
22 Another is high seas fisheries is 200  
23 mile limit and then beyond that is where all the kings  
24 are being caught. And we used to have 70, 80 pound  
25 kings back in the day, now we get 20, 30 pounds, that's  
26 nothing. There's lot to -- lots to look at other than  
27 just what you're saying. There's a lot more to it.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Doug.  
32 Yeah, we did talk about the mining and looking into  
33 what BLM was doing. And there's other mining, the  
34 mining of the Bering Sea is happening, it's been  
35 happening for too long now I think. Crab stocks, red  
36 king crab. opilio crab, chum salmon, king salmon, red  
37 king salmon -- king crab and a lot of that -- that's  
38 all failing in the Bering Sea. And that's not due to  
39 anybody putting nets out and catching fish on the  
40 surface, that has to do with what's going on in the  
41 bottom. Halibut, halibut is another issue.

42  
43 So I know what you're saying, Doug, I'm  
44 not disagreeing with you. And that BLM thing is going  
45 to be looked into about something to do with mining in  
46 the Golsovia area.

47  
48 Appreciate your comments.

49  
50

0371

1 I know that -- I don't know if you now  
2 about what's going on with chinook salmon in the  
3 Unalakleet River, but they're taking eggs there and  
4 they've got some kind of miniature hatchery in Nome and  
5 it's a NSEC project, I don't know anything about it and  
6 I never get answers. So I don't know if you know.

7

8 But anyway who's next?

9

10 (Teleconference interference -  
11 participants not muted)

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I hear something going  
14 on, I thought somebody was on -- wanting to get on the  
15 phone. Somebody's mute button has to be pushed.

16

17 Karen, have you got anything else or  
18 any Council members have any other comments about the  
19 annual report or gap or anything?

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Just to confirm I do  
26 have the individuals who heard the issue and the mining  
27 issue as the two areas of concern currently in the  
28 annual report.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks.

33

34 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, I'm Kirk,  
35 Stebbins, do we have any more issues on the table?

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we're right  
38 there at closing comments and we're about ready to  
39 adjourn unless you have something to share I would be  
40 happy.....

41

42 MR. KIRK: Did we do closing comments?

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, if you want to  
45 go ahead. You haven't yet.

46

47 MR. KIRK: No, I did. I'm wondering if  
48 we all did.

49

50

0372

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah. Well, that's  
2 what I was checking on. I was trying to make sure  
3 everybody -- we got around you and Doug, myself, Tommy.

4  
5                   Elmer?

6  
7                   MR. SEETOT: I gave my report earlier,  
8 closing comments. Yeah.

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. And  
11 Tommy. Let's see, who am I missing. Seems like I'm  
12 missing somebody, there was six. Oh, Leland I think.

13  
14                  Did you give yours, Leland, or are you  
15 there?

16  
17                  MR. KIRK: It was Doug I think.

18  
19                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, Doug did, but I  
20 was checking on Leland. I think he did. Yeah.

21  
22                  So we've gone all the way around the  
23 table. I guess we're getting to the point where I need  
24 a motion to adjourn I think.....

25  
26                  MR. KIRK: So moved.

27  
28                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....right Karen?

29  
30                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 I just heard a motion to adjourn from Ron Kirk.

32  
33                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do we need a second?

34  
35                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, you do, Mr.  
36 Chair, and a vote.

37  
38                  Thank you.

39  
40                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: I need a second.

41  
42                  MR. SEETOT: Elmer, second.

43  
44                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. All  
45 those in favor of adjourning say aye.

46  
47                  IN UNISON: Aye.

48  
49                  CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Thank you  
50



0373

1 everybody.

2

3

(Off record)

4

5

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 ) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

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THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of November 2021.

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Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22