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NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Nullagvik Hotel  
November 1, 2022  
Kotzebue, Alaska  
8:31 a.m

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Baker, Chairman  
Elmer Armstrong  
Vern Cleveland  
Wilbur Howarth  
Michael Kramer  
Enoch Shiedt

Regional Council Coordinator, Lisa Hutchinson-  
Scarborough

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 11/1/2022)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, good morning everyone. It is now 8:31 and we'll go ahead and come out of our recess from last night. Welcome everyone. My name is Thomas Baker, the Chair of the RAC. We will go ahead and do a roll call to establish our quorum. Lisa, would you please do that.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council.

Attamuk Shiedt.

MR. SHIEDT: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thomas Baker.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Wilbur Howarth.

MR. HOWARTH: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Elmer Armstrong.

MR. ARMSTRONG: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Michael Kramer.

(No comments)

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Michael Kramer. Are you on Michael?

(No comments)

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Calvin Moto.

(No comments)

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1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Calvin  
2 Moto.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Vern  
7 Cleveland.

8  
9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Mr. Chair.  
12 Vern reported he'd be on just in a little bit. Right  
13 now we do not have a quorum, we have four members  
14 present and eight -- and four not.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. So  
19 with that if we come to any action items that require a  
20 vote we'll just have to wait until we have a fifth  
21 person. Next, we'll go ahead and do introductions and  
22 I will call agencies and if you're in the room please  
23 come up and state your name and who you're with for the  
24 record and then we'll do over the phone after that.

25

26 So first do we have any tribal  
27 governments, or ANCSA Corporations in the room.

28

29 MR. KIRK: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
30 This is Robbie Kirk with NANA.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning. Any  
33 tribal governments or ANCSA Corporations over the  
34 phone.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, do we  
39 have anyone from U.S. Fish and Wildlife in the room.

40

41 MR. WIESE: Good morning. Will Wiese,  
42 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.

43

44 MS. SWEENEY: (In Native) Brittany  
45 Sweeny, Selawik Wildlife Refuge.

46

47 MR. CARER: Bill Carter, Fish  
48 Biologist, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.

49

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1 MS. BROWN: Melissa Brown, RIT,  
2 Selawik.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And anyone over the  
5 phone for Fish and Wildlife.

6  
7 MR. HANDER: Yes, good morning. Ray  
8 Hander. The Northern Alaska Field Office in Fairbanks,  
9 Fish Biologist. Thank you.

10  
11 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill  
12 Klein, Regional Subsistence Coordinator with U.S. Fish  
13 and Wildlife Service and I am based in Anchorage. Good  
14 morning.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. And we'll  
17 move on to the National Park Service folks in the room.

18  
19 MR. YOUNG: Good morning. Justin  
20 Young, Resource Program Manager at Western Arctic  
21 National ParkLands here in Kotzebue.

22  
23 MR. FRONSTIN: (In Native) Raime  
24 Fronstin, Wildlife Biologist National Park Service,  
25 WAR, Western Arctic, sorry.

26  
27 MS. FLOREY: Good morning. Victoria  
28 Florey, National Park Service, Regional Office. I'm a  
29 Subsistence Program Analyst.

30  
31 MR. MCPADDEN: Ray McPadden,  
32 Superintendent Western Arctic National ParkLands based  
33 here in Kotzebue.

34  
35 MR. DALLE-MOLLE: Joe Dalle-Molle,  
36 District Law Enforcement Ranger, based in Kotzebue.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. And anyone  
39 with the Park Service on the phone.

40  
41 MS. FRONSTIN: Good morning. This is  
42 Martha Fronstin for the National Park Service in  
43 Kotzebue, Compliance and Research Permitting.

44  
45 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Eva Patton,  
46 Subsistence Program Manager with the National Park  
47 Service in Anchorage. Good morning.

48  
49 MR. DOWDLE: Good morning. Mark  
50

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1 Dowdle, Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National  
2 Park and Preserve.

3

4 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is  
5 Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the  
6 Arctic National Park and Preserve based out of  
7 Fairbanks. Good morning.

8

9 MR. JOLY: Good morning everyone. This  
10 is Kyle Joly. I'm the Caribou Biologist with Gates of  
11 the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Do we have  
14 anyone with the Bureau of.....

15

16 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. Ken  
17 Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome, Alaska.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....with the Bureau  
20 of Land Management in the room.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anyone with BLM on the  
25 phone.

26

27 MR. SPARKS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
28 This is Tom Sparks, Anchorage Field Office stationed  
29 here in Nome.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning. Do we  
32 have anyone with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
33 in the room.

34

35 MR. HANSON: Good morning. Alex Hanson  
36 here, Kotzebue, Fish and Game, Caribou Biologist.

37

38 MR. SPENCER: Joe Spencer, Division of  
39 Sportfish Fairbanks.

40

41 MS. OSBURN: Good morning. Christie  
42 Osburn, Unit 23, Area Biologist here in Kotzebue.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And anyone with Fish  
45 and Game on the phone.

46

47 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch  
48 in Palmer. Good morning.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Next it  
2 will be the Office of Subsistence Management for those  
3 in the room.

4  
5 MS. HYER: Good morning. Karen Hyer,  
6 Office of Subsistence Management. It's too early.

7  
8 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning. Hannah  
9 Voorhees, Anthropologist with Office of Subsistence  
10 Management.

11  
12 MS. GILL: Good morning. Jessica Gill,  
13 Council Coordinator with the Office of Subsistence  
14 Management.

15  
16 MR. PLANK: Good morning. Tom Plank,  
17 Wildlife Biologist, Office of Subsistence Management.

18  
19 MR. KRON: Good morning. Tom Kron with  
20 OSM. Glad to be here.

21  
22 MS. PERRY: Good morning. I'm DeAnna  
23 Perry, Council Coordinator for Southeast Subsistence  
24 Regional Advisory Council. I work with the Forest  
25 Service working with OSM. Thank you. Good morning.

26  
27 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Good  
28 morning. This is Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough. I'm the  
29 Council Coordinator. Good morning.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And do we have anyone  
32 with OSM over the phone.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anyone with the  
37 National Weather Service.

38  
39 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Good morning. My  
40 name is Brian Brettschneider, I'm a Climate Scientist  
41 with NOAA National Weather Service.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any other  
44 agencies present in the room, or over the phone.

45  
46 (No comments)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And if there's any  
49 members of the public in the room, feel free to  
50

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1 introduce yourself now.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: (In Native) Kotzebue.

4

5 MS. LOON: (In Native) Hannah Loon  
6 resident of Kotzebue.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. And any  
9 members of the public over the phone.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So before we get  
14 started, do we have any members of the RAC who have  
15 called in since we've been doing introductions?

16

17 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, this is Michael.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning, Mike.  
20 So just let it show for the record.....

21

22 MR. KRAMER: Good morning.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....that Mike is over  
25 the phone so we now have a quorum. With that, do we  
26 have any housekeeping announcements, Lisa.

27

28 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, good  
29 morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. Again,  
30 this is the Northwest Advisory Council meeting and  
31 anyway I just reminded those in the room, if you have  
32 not signed the -- your sheet, please sign it so we know  
33 who's here. Anyway just -- Jessica's back there  
34 holding it up -- smile -- so thank you.

35

36 For those of you who are online you can  
37 get access to our materials, our meeting materials by  
38 either just Googling Office of Subsistence Management  
39 and hitting the region area and then you'll find  
40 Northwest Arctic and -- or you can go to  
41 [www.doi.gov/govern](http://www.doi.gov/govern) -- subsistence/regions.

42

43 And that's all I have, thank you, Mr.  
44 Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. Just  
47 to remind everyone the next thing on our agenda for the  
48 morning will be the public and tribal comments on non-  
49 agenda items and for any members of the public that  
50

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1 were hoping to make any comments throughout the rest of  
2 the day there are blue forms back at the table when you  
3 first walk in the room just so that we have your  
4 contact information so that we can followup with you  
5 depending on what your comments or questions are about.  
6 And I do have Hannah Paniyayluk Loon who wanted to  
7 address the Council. If you could state your name for  
8 the record, Paniyayluk, the floor is yours.

9  
10 MS. LOON: (In Native) Hannah  
11 Paniyayluk Loon. I live in Kotzebue. And I am  
12 originally from Selawik. All of my resources like  
13 pike, whitefish, berries, greens, everything comes from  
14 Selawik, of which were sent to me by my daughter who  
15 know which slough to get pike, which slough to get  
16 different kinds of fish like (In Native) from the Fish  
17 River, or late fall, setting the net for (In Native)  
18 the big fish with the roe so all of those that I'm --  
19 that I learn, she learn and Selawik young people learn  
20 where to set their nets and where to get their berries  
21 and greens each year.

22  
23 And it's good that -- thank you for  
24 allowing me to speak this morning. I would like to  
25 request for some kind of a large gathering by all  
26 entities in the region to discuss caribou. As I heard  
27 it is hard to try to sign on people into the Council  
28 and also with Cape Krusenstern. I was the Lone Ranger  
29 in Cape Krusenstern when they were having meeting. And  
30 we need to -- Cape Krusenstern is a vast area to do --  
31 thanks to National Park Service we had a meeting and it  
32 was a learning experience to learn about the status of  
33 the caribou. It was difficult on calling in and losing  
34 people. That's one of the reasons we're losing people  
35 from the audio. So my concern is signing people on who  
36 are users and know the local knowledge of this area and  
37 to be engaging with sportshunters here in Kotzebue and  
38 learn about them and learn about the State and Federal  
39 laws. Thank you. Because when you're not -- when  
40 you're old and you don't -- the only information you  
41 can get is by visiting the village and introduce  
42 yourself to elders, they're not iPhone, Samsung, they  
43 learn by hearing what people are doing in the village.

44  
45 Thank you, very much.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Paniyayluk.  
48 Walter, did you want to make a comment.

49  
50



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1 MR. SAMPSON: Taikuu.

2

3 (In Native)

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: Any questions from the  
6 agencies?

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. SAMPSON: I don't think it's a  
11 laughing matter. I use that as a way for you to  
12 understand exactly how people feel out in the villages.  
13 When you come with documents in regards to how you do  
14 things and what you do, people don't understand what it  
15 is that they have.

16

17 First of all I want to thank you, my  
18 name is Walter Sampson, I'm representing myself. This  
19 morning is critical for people to understand. This  
20 region has the highest cost of living but yet people  
21 try to go out and subsist to make sure that they will  
22 have food on the table for their family to eat.  
23 Sometimes it's hard to understand exactly what the  
24 agencies want and how they want it recognizing that  
25 people in Bush Alaska have no way of receiving the  
26 documents that you're sending; 2, no way of  
27 understanding exactly what those documents are; 3, have  
28 no way of connecting to people who are sending  
29 documents, which would have an impact on their way of  
30 life. And that is the way it is today. That's why I  
31 said it's not a laughing matter when I asked that  
32 question. I was trying to use that analogy to make you  
33 understand that people in Bush Alaska who are trying to  
34 make a living to support their family have a hardest  
35 time getting documents like these to understand and the  
36 impacts it has on their way of life.

37

38 Just imagine 20 years ago, 15 years  
39 ago, 500,000 caribou down to 166,000 now with that  
40 number as low as it's getting, the impact that people  
41 will have when they're only allowed to take so much.

42

43 Inupiaqs in the region, as I was  
44 growing up never really talk about being controlled by  
45 agency besides BIA and I know what that is. BIA is  
46 Bureau of Indian Affairs. BIA had their function and  
47 basically tried to control people in a way that they  
48 wouldn't allow people in school to talk Inupiat. I  
49 grew up in that environment. I stood in the corner  
50

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1 many times looking at a dot saying I will not speak  
2 Inupiat. That started off in that way. Now today's  
3 world we see the effects that it has on people, on  
4 their livelihood and it's a livelihood that people  
5 really never experienced 50 years ago. People went  
6 out, they trapped, fished, hunt and they know what to  
7 take, how much to take, they bring in what they can use  
8 and shared that with their family and friends at the  
9 community level. In today's world we're restricting  
10 people from take and impact on their way of life. And  
11 it's something that we need to consider. If the  
12 agencies are going to be here in Kotzebue, I would  
13 suggest that you go out to the villages to hold village  
14 meetings so people can understand exactly what you're  
15 doing and how you're doing things. State of Alaska is  
16 good at what it does today, it don't ask the people how  
17 hunting will be done, they have a board that controls  
18 that segment. Once regulations are put in place  
19 without any consultation of a 70 year old man it's hard  
20 for those people.

21

22 Periodically I'll use one example.

23

24 Back in the '50s, our people, when they  
25 go out to hunt they say I'm going out to hunt, they  
26 don't say I'm going to go out and catch a caribou.  
27 They go out to hunt whatever they can catch to feed  
28 their family. About 40 years ago a 70 year old man  
29 left Kotzebue to hunt, he went up the Noatak River,  
30 went up into the mountain, he hunted and he saw some  
31 sheep so he got a sheep to bring home to his family, he  
32 got caught catching that sheep so the Park Service  
33 confiscated that sheep, they confiscated his implements  
34 he uses to hunt with. Something wrong with that  
35 picture. When you have an impact on a 70 year old man  
36 who don't understand how laws are written, and, yet,  
37 expect people to live by the way our laws are written  
38 today. And it's a problem today. That's why I ask, if  
39 you're going to come to Kotzebue and you're going to  
40 talk about the way of life of people in this region I  
41 would suggest that you go out to the communities so  
42 that people have their input in regards to what you're  
43 trying to do. But you also need to fully make it clear  
44 to them what it is that you're doing. 50 years ago  
45 when the Park Service first came they bring in a four  
46 inch document that's used somewhere down south for  
47 Monuments and Parks and expect those documents to be  
48 used as management scheme in this region and it's hard  
49 for people to understand what those documents are. We  
50

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1 have a responsibility as leaders. We have  
2 responsibility as managers in agencies, whether you're  
3 Park Monument, Fish and Wildlife, State of Alaska, BLM,  
4 remember we're part of the United States, we're  
5 American citizens just like anywhere else and we need  
6 to understand clearly what it is that you're doing  
7 today that will have an impact on people's life and  
8 their way of life and it's sad to see that we look down  
9 on people from the top end. And I think that has got  
10 to be taken away. We're taxpayers. You're using part  
11 of our tax money to do these things. And I think it's  
12 time that we change that scheme to make sure that we  
13 help people on doing what they need to do to live as a  
14 community, as a family.

15  
16 I didn't mean to take too much time. I  
17 just want to make sure that you understand how people  
18 live in the region and what they need to do to be part  
19 of a discussion because it has an impact on their way  
20 of life.

21  
22 Several of you came from Park Service,  
23 several of you from Fish and Wildlife and several of  
24 you from the State of Alaska. If you can come to  
25 Kotzebue, there's no reason why you can't go out to the  
26 communities so the villages would participate in the  
27 dialogue and discussions on how their lives and way are  
28 being impacted by rules and regulations. And it's  
29 something that I wanted to bring together. I will have  
30 some questions or comments at the end of the session  
31 and I thank you very much.

32  
33 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.

34  
35 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Walter.

36  
37 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you, Walter.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Walter for  
40 your comments. Do we have anybody over the phone that  
41 was hoping to make a public or tribal comment on non-  
42 agenda items.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none we'll go  
47 ahead and get started. We left off yesterday, we were  
48 going to do the priority information needs with Karen  
49 and Hannah.

50

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1 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
2 Members of the Council. Yesterday we heard from  
3 researchers who are currently working on projects  
4 funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.  
5 And those projects came from priority information needs  
6 that this Council identified previously. Now we're at  
7 a spot in the cycle where it's time to finalize -- it's  
8 time to finalize the next round of priority information  
9 needs.

10  
11 The result of today's discussion, that  
12 list of information needs will be combined with  
13 information needs that the North Slope Regional  
14 Advisory Council identified and the Seward Peninsula  
15 Regional Advisory Council identified as the basis for  
16 upcoming research in the next four years.

17  
18 We can work through these one by one  
19 and make any final edits as you see fit. Please see  
20 the list of draft priority information needs on Page 38  
21 of your meeting book. I'll recommend that after we've  
22 reviewed these the Council put forward a motion to  
23 approve the list and at that point it will be  
24 finalized.

25  
26 So first I'll read through the whole  
27 list and then we can go back one by one and I'll pause  
28 and see if you would like to approve that one and move  
29 on or add anything, make any edits.

30  
31 The first priority information need on  
32 your draft list is to inventory -- is inventory and  
33 baseline data of fish in major rivers tied to  
34 subsistence use in Northwest Alaska. When possible  
35 applicants are encouraged to include fisheries close to  
36 the communities of Buckland, Deering, Kivalina and  
37 villages along Kobuk and Noatak Rivers.

38  
39 Second. Evaluate changes in water  
40 temperature and resulting low oxygen in major river  
41 systems associated with subsistence fisheries in the  
42 Northwest Arctic region and how these changes will  
43 affect fish vital for subsistence.

44  
45 Third. The effects of expanding beaver  
46 populations and range on subsistence fisheries  
47 including whitefish in the Northwest Arctic region.  
48 Include effects of dams on fish migration and effects  
49 of changes to water quality on fish health. I'll note  
50

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1 with this priority information need there may be some  
2 research that has recently begun that would cover this  
3 and I think Karen will be able to speak to that more as  
4 we're reviewing these individually.

5

6 The next PIN is to document herring  
7 abundance, seasonal movements and health and  
8 investigate causes of herring die-off events in the  
9 Northwest Arctic region.

10

11 Next. Document the effects of changing  
12 river and tributary conditions on salmon spawning in  
13 the Noatak and Kobuk River drainages with focus on the  
14 potential effects of increased rain on spawning  
15 viability.

16

17 Next. Changes in species composition,  
18 abundance and migration timing especially of Dolly  
19 Varden, lake trout and whitefish species in the  
20 Northwest Arctic to address changing availability of  
21 subsistence fishery resources.

22

23 And, finally, identify the spawning  
24 areas, critical habitat and range expansion in major  
25 rivers tied to subsistence for broad whitefish, least  
26 cisco, northern pike, salmon, grayling and Dolly Varden  
27 in the Northwest Arctic region.

28

29 I will note that when finalizing your  
30 PINS there's always a balancing act in which if there  
31 are information needs that you'd like to prioritize you  
32 may want to think about shortening your list a bit so  
33 that the focus of any applicants will fall on those  
34 most important PINs to the Council.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 So next I will go through each one  
39 individually and we can -- Karen will join me -- my  
40 Fisheries Biology colleague from OSM will join in me  
41 and see if there are any edits you'd like to make.

42

43 So, again, the first PIN, and PIN  
44 stands for priority information need is to -- inventory  
45 and baseline data of fish in major rivers tied to  
46 subsistence use in Northwest Alaska. When possible  
47 applicants are encouraged to include fisheries close to  
48 the communities of Buckland, Deering, Kivalina and  
49 villages along Kobuk and Noatak Rivers.

50

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1 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
2 members. One thing I'd add to this PIN is you notice  
3 Selawik isn't in this PIN and I think that should be  
4 added to the PIN. It's up to you but I would recommend  
5 adding it.

6  
7 MR. SHIEDT: So you're asking us to  
8 request that you put the Selawik report in this?

9  
10 MS. HYER: So, yeah, the communities  
11 that are listed are in this area except Selawik's not  
12 there and so it seems like it also should be on the  
13 list.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, thank you,  
16 Karen. I think one thing that I have about this first  
17 PIN is it's very broad and pretty open-ended. And  
18 while getting that inventory and baseline data would be  
19 good and if it were to be kept, yes, include Selawik,  
20 my issue is it's so broad it takes away from the more  
21 specific PINs that potentially we might want to  
22 emphasize more. So I would just say if we do keep this  
23 PIN to go ahead and add Selawik to it.

24  
25 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. I just want  
26 to make a couple comments for your consideration.  
27 Sometimes we write these PINs broad so we can attract  
28 more investigators because sometimes if things are so  
29 specific we can't get investigators because they might  
30 have a little bit different expertise or a little bit  
31 different of an idea. So as we go through this list  
32 you'll see things, especially when we get down a couple  
33 PINs and I'd like to bring up the whole idea of the  
34 pretty water we talked about yesterday, you'll see the  
35 PIN I think it will fit in is pretty general. So I  
36 just want to communicate that as an idea.

37  
38 But I also think it is important if  
39 there are areas that you think the research is more  
40 important than others you may want to narrow your PIN  
41 list because that also helps guides the investigators.  
42 Because when they look at this list and there are 10  
43 PINs on it there's no way for them to understand what's  
44 most important to the Council but if there are five  
45 PINs on it. So, you know, it's the same thing, so  
46 you're telling them these five are the most important  
47 so I also just wanted to bring that up for your  
48 consideration.

49  
50

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1                   So we could go through them all and  
2 then we could go back and revisit and you could take  
3 out ones, I don't know how you feel is best to work  
4 through them.

5

6                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any thoughts from  
7 members of the RAC.

8

9                   (Teleconference interference -  
10 participants not muted)

11

12                  MR. SHIEDT: I'm trying to understand  
13 what you're saying is this and we all know -- we all  
14 know this, that abundance needs is different, the temp  
15 of the water in the rivers and the drainages affect the  
16 fish and the way I'm trying -- I'm trying to translate  
17 what you're saying to something I could understand. If  
18 the numbers are low in fish you might want to close it,  
19 but you got to understand if the water cool off the  
20 fish will come. And what I'm trying to say is this,  
21 there's no fish in this drainage, you'll say that,  
22 let's close it, but later on, a week later when the  
23 temp get cold, because the weather in the land, sea and  
24 air affects our resources completely. The water  
25 controls the fish a lot. The air controls the geese  
26 and others. And it's really hard for me to say your  
27 abundance of certain species and timing and you're  
28 somebody in the office that don't know what they're  
29 doing and is trying to say well there's no fish let's  
30 close that area. But we need to keep our fish open at  
31 times and I'm trying to understand what you're saying.  
32 But that's what I'm getting so far from you, your  
33 abundance, different timing, if they're not there at  
34 certain times. Correct me if I'm wrong. And I hope --  
35 I'm trying to understand what you are saying.

36

37                  (Teleconference interference -  
38 participants not muted)

39

40                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: So.....

41

42                  MR. SHIEDT: Rephrase it in my language  
43 may be better.

44

45                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: So I think for this  
46 first one, Attamuk, and correct me if I'm wrong, what  
47 they're looking for is having this as an option so that  
48 someone can spend the whole season out in a creek or in  
49 the Delta, so it's not everything everywhere all at  
50

0171

1 once, it's narrowing it down so that they can get the  
2 baseline information needed to know what's at the creek  
3 on the other side of Kivalina, to know what's in the  
4 Buckland River, what the baseline is so that it's open  
5 for people to do these investigations and research  
6 where they need to.

7

8 Is that accurate ladies?

9

10 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. Yes.  
11 Thank you. And I also wanted to add that the Fisheries  
12 Resource Monitoring Program is -- it's designed and  
13 founded on the idea that we need to draw on traditional  
14 ecological knowledge and harvest monitoring, it's  
15 designed to be inter-disciplinary that's why we have  
16 anthropologists and biologists working on it and -- and  
17 any project that draws those two knowledge systems  
18 together would most likely do very well in the way it's  
19 reviewed by the Technical Review Committee. If there's  
20 any priority information need where we need to add  
21 greater emphasis to integrate traditional ecological  
22 knowledge about the variability throughout the year  
23 then we could certainly do that in the wording.

24

25 I think the intent of this one, and I  
26 do want to mention that these priority information  
27 needs were developed in conversation with Bobby  
28 Schaeffer over the summer and they're certainly  
29 supposed to come from the Council so if there's  
30 anything that you disagree with we can remove that, but  
31 the intent of this one is really to create a baseline  
32 so that if development impacts, climate change are  
33 concerns in the future that you have that snapshot,  
34 that baseline knowledge of a system.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any thoughts for this  
39 first one. Wilbur.

40

41 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, thank you. We  
42 are in a time right now that this weather, the climate  
43 change and when we're out in the springtime waiting for  
44 the whitefish to come out of the lakes and we're trying  
45 to put away and dry whitefish and it's cold. We don't  
46 have -- maybe some days we'd have two to three warm  
47 days that would help dry our fish and stuff but with  
48 this climate change and stuff now we're missing the  
49 spawning whitefish and stuff going up the river.

50



0172

1 They're going up early and the water is so high all  
2 summer, all fall so most of us really didn't get a  
3 chance to get our whitefish and stuff. Usually we  
4 would get them first part of October when it freezes.  
5 That was usually, that was maybe five or six years ago,  
6 we'd be setting nets already under the ice for the  
7 spawning whitefish because they're full of eggs and  
8 that's what we really live on is the nice big (In  
9 Native) they are called, the whitefish. And now  
10 everybody's having a hard time and it's continuing  
11 every year. We don't know when the fish are going to  
12 move. Springtime we usually have a -- we know when  
13 they're supposed to be coming out.

14  
15 I missed pike, most of us did because  
16 we didn't even know when they came out of the lakes or  
17 anything. I didn't really get any pike to dry this  
18 spring. We didn't know what happened, the weather is  
19 so warm now days. I was happy to set net just a few  
20 days ago under the ice and that's really late. But you  
21 could see salmon in November and they're black, I mean  
22 they're just black salmon in the net underneath the ice  
23 in November. And usually I don't fish up to November.  
24 When we catch the fish we just do maybe two days of  
25 fishing. I do anyway, that's enough to put away for  
26 the winter. But right now we're all -- most fishermen  
27 and springtime when we need to dry and put away our  
28 fish, we just don't know when the fish move so the  
29 weather, it's just a real confusing -- and we can't be  
30 out there all the time, we have to work sometimes, you  
31 know.

32  
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur. So  
36 I think with that for this first PIN we could do a  
37 couple things. Add in Selawik to the list of  
38 communities, and add in some kind of wording to where  
39 traditional knowledge must be referred to and work with  
40 local folks. Just because as it seems it's kind of a  
41 detached statement but putting some kind of emphasis on  
42 working with local, traditional subsistence users and  
43 learning traditional methods and when they're going for  
44 certain types of fish and that kind of thing, it would  
45 make it a little more specific to what folks in the  
46 region would want to see I think.

47  
48 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 And thank you for your comments. I -- yes, we can  
50

0173

1 certainly do that. And I think that some of the  
2 wordsmithing to get that in there exactly how we want  
3 it -- how you want it, doesn't need to be done right  
4 here, right now, but we can certainly capture that  
5 central idea. And I think that would really improve  
6 this PIN because it sounds like -- like what I'm  
7 hearing is that, you know, the baseline has already  
8 shifted and we need that traditional knowledge to make  
9 that clear. It's fundamentally a hybrid project so  
10 thank you for that.

11

12 MR. ARMSTRONG: I know a bunch of years  
13 ago there was a study done that gathered information  
14 from traditional users around this region to determine  
15 what was caught, how it was caught, the timeline of  
16 when they set their nets or fish traps. It was done by  
17 the Northwest Arctic Borough. They have information on  
18 the type of fish, the area where it was caught but not  
19 pinpointed to make it a hotspot of information to  
20 people that are non-subsistence users. But they do  
21 have information. Like I'm assuming that this is  
22 trying to get, the same information, they already have  
23 it at the Northwest Arctic Borough. Is that the point  
24 of this PIN, to have that information for the Federal  
25 side?

26

27 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair.  
28 Thank you, Council Member Armstrong. What I'm hearing  
29 is that there's been extensive documentation of  
30 traditional knowledge about fish in this region  
31 previously and certainly I'm also aware of some of that  
32 literature and we wouldn't want to reinvent the wheel.  
33 That knowledge was documented at an earlier time that  
34 might more accurately reflect baseline conditions so we  
35 may just want to also add a couple words emphasizing,  
36 you know, inclusion of previous literature and  
37 documentation of traditional knowledge so we're not  
38 reinventing the wheel there. Does that accurately  
39 reflect your concerns?

40

41 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, thank you.

42

43 MS. VOORHEES: So, Mr. Chair, if we're  
44 agreed I could move on to the next priority information  
45 need.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mike, do you have any  
48 comments on this first one on Page 38 that you'd like  
49 to make.

50

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1 MR. KRAMER: No, I don't see anything.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. Have  
4 any other members of the RAC, Vern or Calvin or Bobby  
5 called in since we've gotten started.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So hearing.....

10

11 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, I'm on but I  
12 don't have anything, thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you.  
15 For the record can we please note that Vern Cleveland  
16 is on the phone. So if there's no other comments or  
17 discussions for this one we can move forward Hannah.

18

19 MR. ARMSTRONG: Real quick, I just  
20 wanted to ask, is there language in there to identify  
21 if there's brown (ph) water existing or not in that, or  
22 not?

23

24 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
25 members. There's not in the first PIN. I think the  
26 second PIN is where we might want to work that in so we  
27 can address it in that PIN and then if we're not  
28 satisfied we can go back but we can also work through  
29 and then take a look at the whole and if there's things  
30 you want to change we can revisit. That's why last  
31 night when we said we thought it'd take a while, it has  
32 with our other Councils taken a while to work through  
33 these so.

34

35 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, thank you.

36

37 MS. VOORHEES: I'd also like to note  
38 that we have -- if we look down the list there are a  
39 couple PIN -- other PINs that are influenced by  
40 concerns related to climate change and so we may  
41 integrate some of the concerns that we're hearing at  
42 those PINs. And also I've got a note from one of our  
43 colleagues who's in the audience here and she's  
44 suggesting that based on the conversation and comments  
45 from Council Member Howarth and Armstrong that with the  
46 first priority information need, you know, it would be  
47 possible to add something about changes in timing and  
48 access for subsistence fisheries with an emphasis on  
49 pike and whitefish and particularly changes in timing

50

0175

1 and access that are influenced by climate. So I'm not  
2 sure if that would be -- I'll leave it up to the  
3 Council to think about those suggestions so I'll turn  
4 it over to you, Mr. Chair.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah. I  
7 think what would be best at this time is if we make the  
8 additions that have been brought up so far prior to  
9 that and then kind of as you mentioned, leave it open-  
10 ended just since there's other PINs that talk about  
11 pike and whitefish and this and that. So for this one  
12 we can leave it to the inventory and baseline and leave  
13 it kind of what it started as rather than changing it  
14 to reflect ultimately what's already in a different  
15 PIN. So I think with that we could just move on to the  
16 next one.

17  
18 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you. The next PIN  
19 is -- deals with concerns about water temperature. It  
20 reads: Evaluate changes in water temperature and  
21 resulting low oxygen in major river systems associated  
22 with subsistence fisheries in the Northwest Arctic  
23 region and how these changes will affect fish vital for  
24 subsistence.

25  
26 (Teleconference interference -  
27 participants not muted - on hold)

28  
29 MS. VOORHEES: It does read currently  
30 salmon, whitefish, northern pike and other fish vital  
31 for subsistence.

32  
33 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
34 members. I'm going to jump in here and just say a  
35 couple things and then just listen to your discussion.  
36 But it does have salmon, whitefish and northern pike  
37 and then we had other fish vital for subsistence so  
38 you're welcome to leave those or it can be fish vital  
39 for subsistence. Because when our investigators submit  
40 a proposal and it goes to the Technical Review  
41 Committee, they're looking for what's vital to  
42 subsistence and the statistics that go along with that  
43 because we monitor harvest and so we have a general  
44 idea. And that's part of submitting a good proposal,  
45 is, doing the research and knowing what's going on and  
46 then building upon that and that's what we rely on our  
47 Technical Review Committee to kind of filter. Because  
48 if we get a proposal that hasn't done the research then  
49 it's not a good proposal but you're welcome to put  
50

0176

1 specifics in or make it more general. That would be  
2 the wish of the Council.

3  
4 I do think this is the PIN where we can  
5 talk about fish habitat and water quality and maybe  
6 even relate it to climate in the rivers and bring in --  
7 because then that would allow the investigators to go  
8 and look for the issues we're seeing with the pretty  
9 water. And I'd make it general because of that. One  
10 thing I do is when investigators call me I always refer  
11 them to the transcripts because these discussions are  
12 very valuable and so I leave it up to you. We can be  
13 way more specific about the mineral deposits if you  
14 want, we can be more general because I feel like in  
15 these rivers there may be even more. While the mineral  
16 deposits are very visible to us, there may be more  
17 things that we need to understand about what's  
18 happening there for the health of our fisheries. So  
19 those are just a couple comments for you to consider.

20  
21 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. Is Bob  
22 Schaeffer on because lots of this, the temperature  
23 change and stuff, the people ask me, what's going on,  
24 why are the fish dying and bellying up on the Kobuk  
25 Lake and stuff.

26  
27 (Teleconference interference -  
28 participants not muted - on hold)

29  
30 MR. HOWARTH: Because they got into  
31 cold water -- from warm to cold and they just go into a  
32 shock. I mean water temperature in areas -- if a fish  
33 hit from warm to cold they'll just belly up and -- they  
34 just go into a shock and they'll be moving, I mean I've  
35 seen them struggling and poor fish, but this water  
36 temperature that comes out of nowhere and a couple  
37 days, it'll shock the fish -- I mean we see -- I've  
38 seen lots of fish that are  
39 -- you know because of the change of the weather in two  
40 or three days it'll shock the fish and stuff. Because  
41 I grew up along all these drainages and I do a lot of  
42 subsistence so -- and I've seen all this. And Bobby  
43 Schaeffer would have a real good, clear say about water  
44 temperature and what the fish are doing right now and  
45 probably know where they're going.

46  
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and Karen.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.  
50

0177

1 Any other comments or questions from members of the  
2 RAC.

3

4 MR. ARMSTRONG: I think it'll be  
5 important to understand the water temperature because I  
6 probably seen or heard some talk about the temperature  
7 of the ocean determining arrival of salmon into the  
8 rivers.

9

10 (Teleconference interference -  
11 participants not muted - on hold)

12

13 MR. ARMSTRONG: So I think this would  
14 be good to study and discuss the changes that are  
15 happening that way it'll be documented for other  
16 generations of people that are going to be sitting in  
17 my seat some day.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that, how do  
22 we feel about adding in some of the language regarding  
23 mineral deposits to this one. This is really the only  
24 PIN out of the list we have that kind of deals with  
25 that kind of stuff, so that they can get the language  
26 in so that we can learn more about the water changing  
27 colors and stuff. Do we want to have that added in?

28

29 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes, I believe that  
30 would be good information to have documented because  
31 this region is very important to our subsistence uses  
32 and to have it documented would be good. Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer. Go  
35 ahead, Attamuk.

36

37 MR. SHIEDT: The other effect, I think,  
38 is happening to our fish, in our drainages, we get so  
39 much less snow now and less rain, and low in the water  
40 will shock our fish, there's so many fish and the water  
41 is lower than the regular high water we used to have.  
42 Normal water just go down, and I think that's what's  
43 affecting our fish dying off, they have to have to have  
44 so much water to have oxygen, and the other effect will  
45 be, like I say, we have just low water, not enough  
46 snow.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if we could add in  
49 something along the effect of over time water levels

50

0178

1 and changes in the amount of water in the streams,  
2 creeks, rivers.

3

4 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
5 members. I think that's a great idea. And I think I  
6 put in something because of the changing climate, kind  
7 of roll that whole -- in because there are water levels  
8 but there might be other things that we're not  
9 realizing yet that could be affecting climate, so water  
10 levels and other changes because of the climate.

11

12 MR. SHIEDT: Because when we had a big  
13 die-off about 25 years ago a couple of elders when I was  
14 at Maniilaq told me that, from by Adams' house down  
15 there all the way I hired -- when I was with Maniilaq I  
16 hired a couple people, we went all the way to Little  
17 Noatak and there was a lot of dead fish. And the guy  
18 that -- an elder that lived at Little Noatak tell them  
19 the reason why they're dying off Attamuk, Kobuk Lake,  
20 the water level is low, there's so much fish, and  
21 that's why they're dying off. That's why I'm saying.

22

23 And another elder from Kot -- two of  
24 them tell me that, the same thing, here, the water  
25 level in Kotzebue is low, that's why they're dying off,  
26 so water level affects our fish completely. And if  
27 there's so much -- just like -- they need that oxygen.  
28 IF there's too many fish in a confined area they will  
29 run out of oxygen, that's what they were telling me.

30

31 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
32 members. I also have a question about -- so right now  
33 we have salmon, whitefish, northern pike and then other  
34 fish vital for subsistence, do you feel like we should  
35 leave it with those specific fish species in there, is  
36 that how you'd like it worded or do you want it more  
37 general?

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think given our  
40 conversations from yesterday regarding whitefish, using  
41 the term, whitefish, it's still fairly broad as well as  
42 salmon and northern pike and other fish vital for  
43 subsistence so I don't think we would need to change  
44 that.

45

46 Any other comments or questions for  
47 this second PIN or do we feel ready to move forward.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0179

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   We can go ahead and  
2 move to No. 3.

3  
4                   MS. VOORHEES:   The next PIN is:   The  
5 effects of expanding beaver populations and range on  
6 subsistence fisheries including whitefish in the  
7 Northwest Arctic region. Include effects of dams on  
8 fish migration and effects of changes to water quality  
9 on fish health.

10

11                   MS. HYER:       And, Mr. Chairman and  
12 Council members. I do have one comment to make on this  
13 PIN and then I'll be here to hear what you have to say.  
14 But we've heard about an investigator working in the  
15 area and I'm wondering if this is a PIN we maybe want  
16 to put on hold until we see what research is done so we  
17 can better tailor this pin moving forward.

18

19                   It's just a comment.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   I think for sure  
22 there's a lot of people wanting to know more about the  
23 effects of beaver now that we have rising numbers of  
24 beaver in the area. Given if there's somebody working  
25 on something right now, it might be good to hold off so  
26 that we can, as Karen mentioned, kind of tailor this  
27 one a little better once we know a bit of baseline  
28 information on the effects of beaver. What do the  
29 other RAC members think?

30

31                   (No comments)

32

33                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Mike or Vern do you  
34 have any questions or comments for this one.

35

36                   MR. HOWARTH:   Mr. Chair. The beaver is  
37 so abundant right now. A lot of our year-round campers  
38 are fishermen that live off whitefish and stuff. The  
39 beaver is really a big problem right now in the Lower  
40 Kobuk, the drainages, even over here toward -- we call  
41 Feed Our Creek Area, Oogrukvik, which is right there at  
42 the (In Native) area. So there's so much beaver right  
43 now they're really damming up the lakes and the  
44 whitefish and stuff has to come out. I mean the beaver  
45 are so many that I'm hoping that we have a lot of  
46 trappers. I know Lance show his boys how to trap and  
47 stuff, you got to send all your boys and his buddies  
48 over that way, get rid of some of these beavers. And  
49 they are huge houses now. I mean these beaver are real  
50



0180

1 serious when they build dams and their igloos are huge.  
2 You could go stand on top of them and it's just a huge  
3 big -- there's so many beaver right now we need to do  
4 something. I know Selawik did go 30 beaver per person  
5 and that was in the '80s, maybe 1984/85, they put,  
6 because of the beaver, there is so much beaver we had  
7 to do something. And the Fish and Game was -- I'm glad  
8 they did that and it helped the fish, the whitefish,  
9 because they need to come out of those lakes and if you  
10 fly from Noorvik to Kotzebue you could see how much  
11 lakes and how much fish are there. I mean it's just  
12 beautiful for fish but there's so much beaver now, we  
13 need to work on trying to eliminate some of the beaver.  
14 Because it never used to be -- they never used to be  
15 down here in the lower Kobuk River area. We never  
16 really had beaver but now they're here. There are so  
17 much. Attamuk probably knows about beaver now, too,  
18 although he's been right at the coast but they're  
19 around.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I don't know which mic  
24 you'll use but Brittany, do you have something you want  
25 to add?

26

27 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair  
28 and members of the Council. As someone who has sat in  
29 these meetings for a lot of years and I've heard  
30 concerns about beavers shared for a lot of years, when  
31 I read this draft priority information need, it talks  
32 about beavers and the effects on the fish but one thing  
33 I don't see included is the effects on the people that  
34 are trying to harvest the fish, right. So I think if  
35 you talk to fish scientists they often say, oh, the  
36 fish can adapt, they can move around from the beaver  
37 dams but there's -- I think it would also be  
38 interesting to document or talk about the effects on  
39 people and subsistence fisheries, you know, access to  
40 traditional fishing areas that's harder to come by and  
41 fish net setting and so on. And so possibly if you do  
42 choose to keep this PIN, you could add some language  
43 that, you know, documenting the effects on subsistence  
44 use and access.

45

46 Just a thought. Thank you.

47

48 And for the record this is Brittany  
49 Sweeny speaking.

50

0181

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
2 Brittany. Any questions or comments following up on  
3 that.

4  
5                   Attamuk.

6  
7                   MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, beaver affects the  
8 fish two ways. As a Native we know it. When the fish  
9 going to leave the drainage and if the beaver block the  
10 creek he can't go out to do what he usually do to  
11 survive for the next year. And the other way that they  
12 affect it is when they block the creeks they can't go  
13 into the lakes to spawn. So beavers are affecting us  
14 twice, our fish twice, going out and going back into  
15 the lakes. I know it's a thing, something we talk  
16 about but, really, we can't do anything about it. But  
17 when they first started coming I remember Fish and Game  
18 said they're good for the environment, they're good for  
19 moose. Before they say anything they should have  
20 investigated and talked to the Natives and say what  
21 would the effects have been on so if they keep damming  
22 those creeks we're going to run out of fish of any  
23 species, not just whitefish, all the four different  
24 kinds, the herring and everything else.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with all of these  
27 PINs that we have based on what we're hearing, there  
28 should be something in each one regarding working with  
29 traditional subsistence users and if you look at some  
30 of the North Slope PINs, like the very first one says,  
31 using traditional ecological knowledge and harvest  
32 monitoring, so if we could just add similar language in  
33 to all of these PINs because I think that's going to be  
34 the big thing with all of them since it's been the big  
35 thing with each of them, is including that whoever is  
36 doing the research that they consult with local  
37 subsistence users on what the effects of each thing in  
38 the research is aimed at.

39  
40                   MS. VOORHEES: I think that would be an  
41 excellent addition. Thank you for that feedback and  
42 we'll do that.

43  
44                   MS. HYER: And during the evaluation  
45 process of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, one  
46 of the five criteria is partnerships and capacity  
47 building and consultation comes in there and so we  
48 actually require our investigators to consult because  
49 that's part -- that's what makes our funding source  
50

0182

1 unique is it's just not to do the science, it's to also  
2 engage the local users too.

3

4 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, we have so many  
5 subsistence users that go to camp and when I think  
6 about beavers I'm thinking about the subsistence users  
7 water supply being affected by giardia because there's  
8 so much beaver and we have so much users that go to  
9 camp to catch whitefish, pike to make a supply of  
10 winter food and just having the beaver in the area is --  
11 I worry about their safety on drinking water.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions or  
16 comments for this third PIN regarding beaver  
17 populations.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that I think  
22 we can move on to No. 4.

23

24 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. You would  
25 like to keep this PIN on the list this cycle or would  
26 you like to pause it, it sounds like there's a lot of  
27 interest in it. I will note that I, along with my  
28 other colleagues at OSM, can reach out to Ken Tape, who  
29 I believe is the investigator working on the beaver  
30 research and ask that he present to the Council at a  
31 future meeting. That might be useful.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So do we want to keep  
34 this one in or kind of table it so that this current  
35 study can be completed so that information can be used  
36 for future studies and expedite the process.

37

38 MR. ARMSTRONG: Real quick. Is the  
39 investigator doing it in this area?

40

41 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
42 members. Yes, I believe so.

43

44 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

45

46 MS. HYER: And I'd like to add, whether  
47 you table it or not we've heard some really good  
48 comments here so we will be reworking the PIN and it  
49 will either stay or it will sit and come back maybe in  
50

0183

1 two years but we will include your comments.

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Mr. Chair.  
4 Council. This is Lisa, the Council Coordinator. Just  
5 in the annual report replies from the Federal  
6 Subsistence Board, just a little bit of information.  
7 Ken Tape, he's with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks  
8 and he's been -- just started a five year project  
9 studying beaver range expansion in the Arctic Alaska  
10 [sic] and the impacts it will have. So I know it's in  
11 this region but not specifically in the Northwest, it  
12 kind of covers the whole Arctic it sounds like. But we  
13 could reach -- I'm happy to reach out and have him give  
14 a report to you this next meeting. I'm sure he'd be  
15 happy to present. That doesn't mean that you can't  
16 still put out a proposal if you would like to do more  
17 research on them as well.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. I  
22 think if we could have Ken present on what he's got so  
23 far at our next meeting that we'd be good and given  
24 that it's more of a big picture Arctic expansion rather  
25 than Northwest Alaska specific, I think with that I  
26 think it'd be best that we keep this one in, so that  
27 something specific to this region can get rolling.

28

29 What does the Council think of that?

30

31 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, this is  
32 Wilbur. This information and stuff is -- see we --  
33 when we hold an IRA meeting with the public I would --  
34 Brittany would be a good one, if she had this  
35 information to bring up where I probably could already  
36 have gathered a bunch of the subsistence users --  
37 because camp next to a whole bunch other people that  
38 fish during the spring and we dry whitefish and stuff  
39 and they always say there is so much beaver, what could  
40 we do. I mean beaver now is a big problem for us  
41 subsistence people staying out at camps and trying to  
42 dry fish and put away for the winter. And I think this  
43 one, we should get more information, keep it open I  
44 would say and get more information from the users.  
45 Because I mean the lower Kobuk, the Delta area is so  
46 wide-spread that we have camps all over the place and  
47 they're always talking about beaver. So I think we  
48 should have more -- I mean your investigators will know  
49 exactly where to go if we tell them.

50

0184

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mr. Ologist, if you'd  
4 like to come up.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. CARTER: Hi, this is Bill Carter,  
9 the Fish Biologist at Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.  
10 I had to look it up to make sure that I was correct in  
11 this but Ken's work was -- there was work done on the  
12 Refuge itself, he did mostly satellite imagery to count  
13 the prevalence of dams mostly, not necessarily lodges  
14 and lakes and things, but dams especially in the higher  
15 mount -- or higher elevation streams, but his five year  
16 study is in this region, including some stuff in the  
17 Noatak Preserve, I believe, with some USGS people so he  
18 would be a really good person to have talk at the next  
19 meeting on beaver because it is -- his interest is in  
20 the entire Arctic, but he's done -- his most recent  
21 stuff has been done here in the Northwest Arctic  
22 Borough, especially on the Refuge so.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bill.  
25 Justin.

26

27 MR. YOUNG: Justin Young with the Park  
28 Service here in Kotzebue. Later in the agenda we have  
29 a Kobuk Valley SRC update. As part of that I was going  
30 to bring up the SRC's concerns about beaver and that  
31 I've already reached out to NPS and USGS Staff who have  
32 been doing the research in this region and they are  
33 going to be giving a presentation and they can give a  
34 presentation here as well.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that.  
37 So I think for the purposes of this agenda item I think  
38 we all agree that we should keep this one on but just  
39 in the meantime have Ken Tape come and speak at our  
40 next meeting and look at different organizations that  
41 have some information on this just because it is kind  
42 of a hot topic.

43

44 MS. VOORHEES: So we'll keep this  
45 priority information need and as I understand it, we  
46 will add a clause about consulting with local knowledge  
47 holders about where the beavers and the impacts are  
48 most noticeable and we'll -- the nuances of the effects  
49 they're having might be. And then we also need to

50

0185

1 include documentation of the affects on subsistence  
2 users. Does that sound accurate?

3

4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

5

6 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you. With that we  
7 can move on to the next PIN, which is: document  
8 herring abundance, seasonal movements and health and  
9 investigate causes of herring mortality events in the  
10 Northwest Arctic.

11

12 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I wish  
13 Bobby was here. He knows and do well the studies and  
14 stuff that he does with the University of Fairbanks I  
15 believe. And these herring are really being pushed  
16 into Yorks Bay now. I mean I never heard so much seals  
17 and oogruk growling over a little space right at the  
18 mouth of Theodore Creek and hear they're chasing in the  
19 herring. The herring are really going to be -- we're  
20 going to have seals and stuff all the way up our  
21 rivers, we already seen them as far as above Kiana. So  
22 you know herring is going to be a big challenge now to  
23 monitor I would say.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
28 members. I just want to remind the Council of where  
29 our jurisdiction is. So our Federal lands are the Park  
30 and the Refuges and we have no jurisdiction in the  
31 marine environment except for a few areas around  
32 Kodiak. So if you left this PIN on this list it would  
33 be somewhat limited as to where our jurisdiction is and  
34 what our researchers could do with our funding, given  
35 that we can't do research in the marine environment  
36 just because that jurisdiction does not belong to us.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions or  
39 comments. I see Brittany has her hand up.

40

41 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
42 guess I would comment that, you know, at Selawik Refuge  
43 we -- one of our purposes is protection of sheefish but  
44 we also know that sheefish, which are real important,  
45 feed on herring and other small fish. And so while  
46 we've worked to understand the sheefish population, we  
47 don't understand the whole food web that supports the  
48 sheefish so I don't know, this is a Karen maybe too,  
49 but the herring are coming in to spawn in this area,

50

0186

1 right, so if we understand where their spawning grounds  
2 are, it's not the marine environment, is that true?  
3 I'm just thinking about the -- you know us  
4 understanding the whole system.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
9 members. Yeah, I do agree with that Brittany, it's  
10 just somewhat limited because herring are a marine --  
11 are in the marine world, too. And so certainly you  
12 could pair with an investigator it's just the amount we  
13 can do with our resources is somewhat limited.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So I think with that  
16 said this kind of falls along the same lines as the  
17 beaver PIN that this would be good to have so that if  
18 there's any future studies done from a different  
19 funding source, they would have this as a baseline  
20 where they could use it to help further their  
21 investigations. Do we want any changes or any comments  
22 or questions about this one for herring.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there's nothing  
27 else I believe we can move on.

28

29 MS. VOORHEES: The next priority  
30 information need: Document the effects of changing  
31 river and tributary conditions on salmon spawning in  
32 the Noatak and Kobuk River drainages with focus on the  
33 potential effects of increased rain on spawning  
34 viability.

35

36 And we've heard some concerns about  
37 water levels. I don't know if you'd want to say  
38 something about changing water levels in there as well.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think based on  
41 previous conversation it'd be good to add that language  
42 in. Any other questions, comments, changes for this  
43 salmon spawning.

44

45 MR. CLEVELAND: Hello, this is Vern.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Vern.

48

49 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, my comment

50

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1 earlier but right now with the salmon spawning on the  
2 river we got so much erosion going on with our river  
3 it's making new channels every year and we're losing a  
4 lot of ground, some guys are even losing some Native  
5 allotments because of erosion. And it's changing quite  
6 a bit, the river, the way I went up this fall, the  
7 river changes every year, different routes it's because  
8 of erosion. You can tell when you're traveling the  
9 river that a lot of erosion is happening.

10

11 And same thing with the beaver, if the  
12 beaver puts a dam and the fish don't come out -- I've  
13 been a dam buster since I was a kid for my mom, been  
14 busting beaver dams ever since I was a kid to let the  
15 fish out from the creek for our lakes. And now it's --  
16 I think some of them creeks are dammed up, pretty much  
17 dammed with the beaver and that's one thing that's  
18 causing the fish not to come out, and no air and stuff  
19 like that happening statewide, it's not just happening  
20 here. But salmon spawning, man, I tell you the erosion  
21 that's happening and it's turning the river shallower,  
22 seems like, and I haven't gone up river for quite  
23 awhile it seems like the river's changed above -- above  
24 Kobuk it's really changing. I mean that Maniilaq once  
25 said that the river's going to become straight. I  
26 believe that, I mean I went up there and gee some of  
27 the -- a lot of short cuts being cut through and it's  
28 changing. Everything is changing. Global warming.  
29 Fish. Caribou. You know it's going to change if this  
30 global warming keeps getting warm we're not going to  
31 get anything and it's not our fault, we can't stop it,  
32 we can't do anything about it.

33

34 But salmon spawning, oh, man, they're  
35 going to be lower and lower down this way for salmon  
36 spawning because getting pretty -- a lot of dead salmon  
37 on the sides after spawning. But I tried to get you  
38 guys about the whitefish area but I couldn't get out.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Vern. So  
43 with that I think for this one, if we could update the  
44 language to something along the lines of the potential  
45 effects of climate change such as increased  
46 precipitation, such as erosion, such as temperature  
47 change just to be a little more inclusive for the  
48 different factors going on.

49

50



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1 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 We've noted that. And in keeping with your earlier  
3 comments we will also, with all of these, have a clause  
4 about consulting local knowledge holders as well.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah.  
7 Any other comments or questions for this one.

8

9 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, Wilbur. When  
10 I went by the Salmon River just maybe three weeks ago  
11 and why I said that there is pretty water. I mean  
12 there's -- it's beautiful blue and then yellow and then  
13 we have the green Kobuk River. People at home, that's  
14 Noorvik, you know the salmon goes into the Salmon  
15 River. I mean I've seen them by the hundreds and  
16 thousands going into the salmon river and I take a lot  
17 of pictures. I like to take pictures when I'm out.  
18 And they are wondering what, and why is the colors of  
19 the Salmon River draining out into the Kobuk, why is it  
20 that color? So -- and this is -- this year is the  
21 first time I ever seen such pretty water coming out of  
22 the Salmon River and so -- and I really don't have an  
23 answer for them. I would like to see some kind of  
24 study being done or somebody give me an answer so I  
25 could pass it on.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you for those  
30 comments, Member Howarth. And I hope that we do get a  
31 good proposal for you. I think that the earlier PIN  
32 that we discussed about changes in water quality,  
33 including those mineral incursions -- mineral  
34 incursions [sic] hopefully we'll get a project under  
35 that PIN. And it's interesting to hear your comments  
36 and concerns about salmon in particular related to  
37 that.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 That'll be on the record.

42

43 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
46 Hannah and thank you, Wilbur, for your comments. Do we  
47 want to add anything else or do we have any more  
48 comments for this PIN.

49

50

0189

1 (Teleconference interference -  
2 participants not muted)

3

4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If not I believe we  
5 can move forward to No. 6.

6

7 MS. VOORHEES: The sixth PIN reads:  
8 Changes in species composition, abundance and migration  
9 timing especially of Dolly Varden, lake trout and  
10 whitefish species in the Northwest Arctic to address  
11 changing availability of subsistence fishery resources.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions or  
14 comments from members of the RAC.

15

16 MR. CLEVELAND: Could you please note  
17 what page you're at? Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Vern, we're on  
20 Page 38 at the bottom. Any questions, comments,  
21 concerns.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think given the  
26 conversations we've had on earlier PINs this one is  
27 pretty in-line with a lot of us are hoping to see from  
28 these kinds of studies so there doesn't seem like there  
29 will be any need to change anything besides the TEK  
30 inclusion.

31

32 Attamuk.

33

34 MR. SHIEDT: On the trout, as a  
35 commercial fisherman, before we used to get trout when  
36 we were commercial fishing pretty much late in the  
37 season but last two years our trout been coming in  
38 early to the Noatak River. And I notice that we get  
39 more right at first setting in July, we used to get  
40 more in August, but the later part of the year we get a  
41 lot of trout that come in, that's going back to the  
42 normal cycle. But what I'm trying to say a lot of our  
43 trout are coming earlier than before for some reason, I  
44 don't know why.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.

47

48 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
49 members. I have a note and I was going to bring this

50

0190

1 up at the end but since Attamuk was talking about trout  
2 on the Noatak, we heard an investigator yesterday and  
3 they talked about an abundance estimate also on the  
4 Noatak with the trout and so we're seeing changes and  
5 then they don't really know the abundance either so I'm  
6 wondering if we want to add something about that into  
7 the PINs also to get a better handle on the abundance  
8 of the trout on the Noatak.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think adding that  
11 language in would be good for this one. Any other  
12 questions, comments.

13

14 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. The migration  
15 timing, like Enoch said, they are coming in early up  
16 the Kobuk they usually come in right ahead of the  
17 salmon and I missed the trout this year because they  
18 did come in early. At least they went up the Kobuk  
19 River early this year. And usually it's mid-July or  
20 almost into August but, yeah, the timing migration is --  
21 there's a lot of changes in all these fish that we are  
22 missing our timing on gathering. So -- and these  
23 studies, thank you all so much for doing this so the  
24 people's know -- all the subsistence users at home,  
25 it's just hard to get out there to your campsites and  
26 try to gather when we don't know what's going on with  
27 the fish so thanks.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
32 Wilbur. If there's no objection we can move on to the  
33 last PIN in this list.

34

35 MS. VOORHEES: The final PIN reads:  
36 identify the spawning areas, critical habitat and range  
37 expansion in major rivers tied to subsistence for broad  
38 whitefish, least cisco, northern pike, salmon, grayling  
39 and Dolly Varden in the Northwest Arctic region.

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hello.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Vern.

44

45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hello.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Vern  
48 Cleveland.

49

50

0191

1 MR. CLEVELAND: It's not me, it's  
2 somebody else.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Oh.

5  
6 REPORTER: It's just another unmuted  
7 person on the phone.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes. Do we want to  
10 add lake trout or just trout to this one.

11  
12 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. When you say  
13 lake trout, what kind of trout is that besides Dolly  
14 Varden because the only lake trout that I know of is  
15 coming out of the Baker which is way above Kobuk and  
16 this kind of trout is something that people ask what is  
17 this because, you know, they haven't seen this type of  
18 trout and it looks like it's part salmon and part pike.  
19 It's -- to them it's a scary looking fish. And what we  
20 -- what I found out is it came from the lake that never  
21 really comes out into the Kobuk unless the water gets  
22 high and we had crazy high water in the past couple  
23 years during the falltime and it stays high. So  
24 there's studies that when you say lake trout, I believe  
25 they really are coming out of the lakes now.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I believe Brittany has  
28 an illustration.

29  
30 MR. HOWARTH: Oh, yea.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So for those that have  
33 a copy of the book, Fish That We Eat, it's on Page 126  
34 and we're getting a look at it now.

35  
36 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, I think adding lake  
37 trout to this would be good because when I was showing  
38 my kids doing sportfishing, trying to fish for salmon I  
39 caught a lake trout and it was the first time seeing  
40 that type of fish but going home I looked it up and  
41 found out that it was a lake trout and it was about  
42 almost three feet long but I think it would be good to  
43 add it to this PIN.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
48 members. I also want to point out that in this  
49 particular PIN it says broad whitefish, least cisco and  
50

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1 in the other PINs we've been working with it's more  
2 general, whitefish, so I just wanted to point that out  
3 to you and make sure that that's the wording the  
4 Council wants.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that do we  
7 want to change the language a little bit and keep it  
8 more general and just say trout and whitefish.

9

10 MR. HOWARTH: Yes, I think that'll be  
11 good. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Mr. Carter.

14

15 MR. CLEVELAND: Abundance of broad  
16 whitefish right now. Some guys are fishing down here,  
17 I know they spawned already because I had some last  
18 night, whitefish -- broad whitefish, it tasted pretty  
19 good. But I think they must have spawned early but I'm  
20 not sure. But they're putting nets in front of Noorvik  
21 here for (In Native) and they're getting abundant (In  
22 Native) right now and for the lake trout, up river that  
23 comes out, they come pretty huge, the lake trout. I  
24 don't know what we do about the lake trout but they're  
25 pretty huge.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for your  
28 comments Vern. Go ahead, Bill.

29

30 MR. CARTER: Yeah, this is Bill Carter  
31 again. So if you change this to trout, most fish  
32 biologists will not consider Dolly Varden because in  
33 the fish science world Dolly Varden are not trout,  
34 they're considered Dolly Varden or Arctic Char. So I  
35 would urge you to keep them as separate, if you want to  
36 include lake trout, to include them specifically and  
37 say Dolly Varden rather than trout. And I know the  
38 common thing around here is to call Dolly Varden trout  
39 but fish scientists won't necessarily look at them that  
40 way. So that's one thing.

41

42 And then as far as whitefish are  
43 concerned, you are missing humpback whitefish which is  
44 kind of the largest group.

45

46 And, quickly, to address what Vern just  
47 said, broad whitefish do spawn later than all the other  
48 whitefish so that's why you're usually catching them  
49 under the ice, they're moving up the river much later

50

0193

1     than the humpbacks and the ciscos.

2

3                     Thank you.

4

5                     CHAIRMAN BAKER:     Thank you for that  
6 Bill.

7

8                     Attamuk.

9

10                    MR. SHIEDT:     Yeah, you're right.  
11 There's a big difference in the lake trout versus Dolly  
12 Varden. They are different, you could tell easily.  
13 Growing up in Noatak I grew up with a lot of Dolly  
14 Varden, a lot of -- to me they're trout. Your  
15 language, that's what I'm saying, our trout is trout if  
16 you're talking Northwest Alaska. Yet we know there's a  
17 big difference, they are -- they're scary, when you're  
18 not used to seeing them they're completely different.  
19 They even taste different than our Dolly Varden. I'd  
20 rather have Ms. Dolly than Ms.....

21

22                    (Laughter)

23

24                    MR. SHIEDT:     I mean there's a big  
25 difference I've seen them. They're up in Noatak River  
26 too, the lake trouts. But they do get huge. There's a  
27 lot of it in Kougerok (ph).

28

29                    MS. HYER:     Mr. Chairman. Council  
30 members. I appreciate that. Because the first time I  
31 came up here and they started talking about trout, and  
32 I'm like trout, but we understand what you're saying  
33 and -- and we do write this for the scientists because  
34 they're the ones that are applying but, yeah, we do  
35 understand that when you say, trout, we understand what  
36 you mean. And we will adjust the wording to be more  
37 general with whitefish.

38

39                    MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH:     Thank you,  
40 Mr. Council [sic] and Chair. I was wondering, Attamuk,  
41 would you mind providing the Inupiaq names for trout  
42 and for lake trout and for Dollies and for whitefish  
43 for the record, please.

44

45                    MR. SHIEDT:     Yeah, to us they're all  
46 (In Native), they're trout. And the smaller ones are  
47 (In Native). That's all I could really say, (In  
48 Native) are the small ones, they're in abundance right  
49 now but those are char. Lake trout, completely

50

0194

1 different skin, and I'll tell you that right now,  
2 they're darker in color. Our trout, the one we call  
3 trout, the Dollys are more silver.

4

5 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions or  
8 comments on this one.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if we could make  
13 those language changes I think that will suffice, and I  
14 believe we've gone through all seven of our PINs. How  
15 would we like to proceed.

16

17 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair and members of  
18 the Council. The next step would be to make a motion  
19 to approve your priority information needs for the 2024  
20 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program cycle and then  
21 this item will be complete.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Would we like to  
24 approve these as a block or individually.

25

26 MR. SHIEDT: As a block.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is that a motion?

29

30 MR. SHIEDT: Yes, sir.

31

32 MR. HOWARTH: And I'll second that  
33 motion.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Attamuk.....

36

37 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....seconded by Vern  
40 with the delay, is this appropriate for a roll call  
41 vote or can we do a majority.

42

43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I believe  
44 either is fine, whatever you want, Mr. Chair. Thanks.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. Well, all  
47 those in favor of approving these PINs as a block  
48 please say aye.

49

50

0195

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And those opposed same  
4 sign.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And with that, we  
9 approved, as a block all seven.

10

11 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
12 members. We really appreciate your help on this, thank  
13 you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, ladies. At  
16 this time.....

17

18 MR. SHIEDT: Are we on the radio?

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I'm not too sure, are  
21 we on the radio today?

22

23 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I asked the  
24 radio to be but I'm not sure if somebody else  
25 could.....

26

27 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah you are.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So right now it is  
30 10:22. I'd like to propose we take a 15 minute break  
31 and be back in about 15 minutes. Thanks everyone.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So it's now 10:43 and  
38 one of the things that we had to push to today from  
39 yesterday morning was identifying issues for the fiscal  
40 year 2022 annual report. We had a brief discussion on  
41 it yesterday but we were hoping to get some more  
42 conversation going over the last day or so. Lisa,  
43 would you please take the reins.

44

45 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, thank  
46 you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Council. I'm just  
47 going to read this again. We mentioned it yesterday  
48 but we didn't talk a lot about it so we kind of  
49 deferred this towards later in the meeting to give you  
50



0196

1 a chance to think about it.

2

3

4 So what we're asking for you at this  
5 point is to -- it's an action item so you guys are  
6 going to come up -- need to come up with some ideas if  
7 you have some concerns. So ANILCA established the  
8 annual report as a way to inform the Federal  
9 Subsistence Board of regional subsistence uses and  
10 needs and to provide recommendations for regional fish  
11 and wildlife management strategies, policies,  
12 standards, guidelines and proposed regulations. So I'd  
13 like to emphasize that your annual report ensures that  
14 the Board, your Federal Subsistence Board, has the most  
15 up to date awareness of issues concerns and current  
16 events that impact your subsistence way of life. So  
17 with this report and recommendations the Board can make  
18 informed decisions on regulatory and policy actions.

18

19

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And just for some guidelines of what to  
think about, the -- ANILCA established the annual  
reports as a way to bring the regional subsistence uses  
and needs to the attention of the directors of the --  
of also the four -- Department of Interior agencies and  
the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the  
capacity of the members of the Federal Subsistence  
Board, so those guys make up the Federal Subsistence  
Board. So anyway that's -- your concerns will  
go to the Federal Subsistence Board and to the head of  
those -- the agencies.

So some guidelines, you can find them  
on Page 43 of your meeting book if you want to kind of  
follow along.

1. Is you identify the current and  
anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife  
populations.

2. You can identify current and  
anticipated subsistence needs.

3. You can recommend strategies for  
the management of fish and wildlife populations to  
accommodate subsistence uses and needs.

4. And you can make recommendations on  
policies, standards, guidelines and regulations to  
implement such a strategy.

0197

1 I know that's all kind of not very well  
2 summarized but I mean it's summarized but anyway it's  
3 just -- these are kind of guidelines you can use in  
4 thinking about issues of concerns that you would like  
5 the Federal Subsistence Board to address. And some of  
6 them, the Federal Subsistence Board, is able to -- to  
7 follow action and sometimes they will not be able to  
8 but they will still provide you support and some  
9 mechanisms to -- so like getting other speakers to come  
10 to meetings or giving you more information on topics  
11 and things like that.

12  
13 So what I heard so far in this meeting  
14 and these don't necessarily mean that that's what you  
15 want to address but these are some things you might  
16 want to think about.

17  
18 One was just your following up on the  
19 special action -- Wildlife Special Action 21-01, Unit  
20 23 caribou that we had the closure for two years and it  
21 seemed like that you wanted maybe some -- perhaps some  
22 more followup on that, or continuing concerns about the  
23 caribou declining, which was a huge issue that seemed  
24 to be over -- the issue I heard in this meeting, that  
25 that's the -- or the herd is the lowest you ever recall  
26 in your lives and it's -- and so those are concerns you  
27 might want to continue to address to the Board.

28  
29 Also I related to that I heard outside  
30 hunters flying in to drop off their -- their clients  
31 and then they're disturbing the migration patterns of  
32 caribou that boat traffic -- local boat traffic doesn't  
33 seem to disturb the migration of the caribou but having  
34 people fly in and drop off and just the airplane  
35 disturbance is one thing that I heard you say.

36  
37 Let's see another was regional  
38 involvement with agencies and working more with the  
39 communities and communication in the -- in providing  
40 information to the communities directly with -- with  
41 what the agencies regulations are and what our rules  
42 are so people understand more what -- better understand  
43 within the community level what the -- what they're  
44 being asked to do or not -- what they can or can't do  
45 and -- and how they can get more involved in this  
46 process and how do we go about doing that so we can get  
47 into the communities better.

48  
49 I also heard about the hunter reporting  
50

0198

1 on caribou harvest, the local subsistence hunts are not  
2 -- currently there's not a lot of reporting of how many  
3 caribou are harvested and so it's hard for the wildlife  
4 biologists to manage and -- or even know how many --  
5 what's going on with the herd if we don't know how many  
6 are harvested.

7

8 And then climate change on subsistence  
9 is an issue that was also of major concern. Just  
10 climate change, water levels.

11

12 And then we did talk about beaver.  
13 Beaver was one of your -- your questions from before  
14 that the Board -- the Board reported on and gave you  
15 some recommendations. I don't know if you want to  
16 continue to show that as another concern or not.

17

18 Anyway those were the main things I  
19 wrote down but it's just to kind of give you some  
20 thinking points and see if you want to establish any of  
21 those and -- Attamuk, did you have a question?

22

23 MR. SHIEDT: I have a -- yeah, you  
24 commented about the harvest report. I think what you  
25 need to do is talk to Maniilaq and the village IRAs  
26 because when they get fuel through Maniilaq for  
27 harvesting they're required to report what they get and  
28 who they give to. I think that's where you need to  
29 reach out, I think you'd be better off reaching to  
30 them, how much caribou or other resources they get.

31

32 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. Yeah, Enoch,  
33 he was just telling me about this hunter report and  
34 stuff and I really don't want to say but I do get  
35 elders gas so to me I always think I'm not an elder yet  
36 but I'll be 65 in a few more months and we look at the  
37 reports and stuff. This fall was such a late caribou  
38 harvest and going up all the way to above Onion  
39 Portage, which is right below Ambler area and maybe the  
40 Noorvik community probably harvest about 30-something  
41 caribou because there was about six, seven boats from  
42 Noorvik up there and the gas is 9-dollars-something in  
43 Noorvik so it was hard for many of the hunters to go up  
44 and I would say in the 30s is what's been harvested on  
45 caribou this fall.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that

50

0199

1 Wilbur.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -  
4 participants not muted)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So I think going with  
7 -- if you could all please mute your phones, there's  
8 somebody shuffling some papers around.

9

10 For in the report, going with the  
11 language of following up locally, if different agencies  
12 could reach out to Maniilaq, to the IRAs in each  
13 village and just see what communication gaps are and  
14 what can be bridged because that's something that was  
15 brought up at our last meeting in February of we need  
16 to hear from Maniilaq and we need to hear from these  
17 agencies because there are reporting measures in place.  
18 So if there's away to remind all those involved that  
19 there are local entities working towards trying to get  
20 these numbers recorded that would probably be the  
21 biggest thing for this report.

22

23 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here again. For  
24 your information, Susan Georgette and I did a lot of  
25 caribou surveys for years and we established numbers  
26 and our local biologists, when caribou start going  
27 down, at the meeting he put himself on the line and  
28 say, when you do the survey, Attamuk, I will say that's  
29 how much -- if they're going to take a reduction, he  
30 told us that through the surveys that's how much  
31 caribou should be taken for the villages and it was  
32 about 14 per family for a year take and he said that's  
33 the number they could have used. And what I'm trying  
34 to say is this, if you guys want another survey, you  
35 got money, give me some money I'll do the surveys in  
36 the village because I'll pay the villages -- what I do  
37 is I pay the villages to answer the questionnaires I  
38 got, how many they get and I pay per house but make it  
39 interesting I let it -- I get a drawing for gas to help  
40 them on the side, that way they have interest in the  
41 surveys. So you guys really want the survey call me.

42

43 (Teleconference interference -  
44 participants not muted)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anything else to add  
47 for this caribou issue for the annual report.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0200

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Vern or Mike, you have  
2 anything you'd like to add.

3  
4                   MR. KRAMER: This is Mike, no, nothing.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike.  
7 Vern, do you have anything.

8  
9                   MR. CLEVELAND: Not at the moment, Mr.  
10 Chair, thank you.

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Vern. So  
13 with that I think if we can review the language after  
14 the meeting and touch up the official thing via email  
15 this, for sure, will be in the annual report. Do we  
16 have any other issues that we talked about. I know  
17 some of the big things we talked about is effects of  
18 climate change, trying to get more studies done so we  
19 can figure out why certain things are happening,  
20 mineral deposits and such. Is there anything  
21 specifically we'd like to add in for the report?

22  
23                  MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, Wilbur. This  
24 climate change in the past maybe five, six years and  
25 knowing the caribou and stuff, after it snows in  
26 November we usually get rain and when it snows, that  
27 rain it'll freeze on top of the tundra and the caribou  
28 are having hard time feeding so -- and we lose a lot of  
29 caribou due to starvation due to this climate change,  
30 so people out there need to be aware of that because a  
31 lot of people will wonder why are we losing so much  
32 caribou. So this climate change did lots of damage on  
33 our subsistence take on caribou. The moose are --  
34 they're big powerful and they're -- they are eventually  
35 -- me, being out there and stuff, they're population  
36 is, I think is increasing I would say. I haven't seen  
37 so much in one little pile during the fall and that's  
38 before rutting so I think the moose is good but the  
39 caribou is -- we need a lot of studies but I know the  
40 climate change is the big thing on the caribou. And  
41 the people should know that it affects the herd. And  
42 when I walk during berrypicking and that's late July, I  
43 could see the lichen that the caribou feed on and they  
44 are coming back and in those areas where the caribou  
45 migrates, they'll go through there and they'll just eat  
46 all that lichen and then it takes about eight years for  
47 lichen to regrow, or they grow again. They're slow  
48 growing food for the caribou. But when you walk and  
49 see this, I always think, oh, boy, the caribou are  
50

0201

1 going to come through here this time, you know, instead  
2 of another migration route so they have to move and  
3 migrate not only in one area every year, they have to  
4 move and keep moving so sometimes they get farther,  
5 farther away. So this younger generation needs to be  
6 educated on something like this.

7

8 And I am glad to see all of you here  
9 with the information, your guys' reports and stuff,  
10 thank you.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur. I  
15 think with that that's a good segway into there's  
16 multiple issues going on with the caribou and as was  
17 stated yesterday we have some pretty rough metrics for  
18 what's actually happening with the herd. So I think if  
19 we could keep the first issue, which focuses more  
20 towards harvest and human interaction with the animals,  
21 and make a separate issue specifically about the  
22 effects of climate change and natural causes on the  
23 herd, so that we can kind of differentiate what's going  
24 on with some of the numbers that get passed around if  
25 one community gets only about 30 animals each fall and  
26 there's 10 communities, 11 communities in this region  
27 how are we taking 14,000 animals a year. So it's  
28 things along those lines of creating a separate issue  
29 for the report focusing on the natural causes such as  
30 those related to climate change on what the herd is  
31 doing.

32

33 Anything else to add to that, or any  
34 separate issues that we'd like to bring up in the  
35 report.

36

37 Yes, Brittany.

38

39 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 This is Brittany Sweeny. Just looking back at my notes  
41 from yesterday we did have some good discussion about  
42 getting full Council membership, the application  
43 process and the geographic distribution. So just  
44 something from my notes, I didn't know if the Council  
45 may wish to comment to the Board on that, or even the  
46 inclusion of alternates perhaps.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Brittany.  
49 I think that would be a good thing to add in for the  
50

0202

1 report just so that we can once, again, have a full  
2 Council and be represented from across the entire  
3 region. There's been times where people say we need  
4 someone from Noatak, we need someone from the upper  
5 Kobuk, just so we get a better understanding at each  
6 meeting what's going on around the region. So if we  
7 could add in an issue regarding that membership, and if  
8 there is a way for OSM or whichever other entities  
9 involved may be able to do outreach specifically to  
10 those communities that are under-represented.

11

12 MR. ARMSTRONG: So I just wanted to say  
13 that are we reaching out enough to the tribes to get  
14 the applicants because I know when the issue does come  
15 up to the tribe they ask a tribal council member that  
16 is on the Council to see if they want to become a  
17 Council member on the Federal Subsistence, are we  
18 reaching out? I know it comes up, when I go to the  
19 meetings to Noorvik, the tribe is aware.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, thank  
24 you. Through the Chair. I'm a new Coordinator and  
25 that's my plan to try to -- I just started a few -- a  
26 couple months -- a few months ago, but that's my plan  
27 is to reach out more to individual tribes and  
28 Brittany's been really good about getting me all the  
29 names and contacts and I have been emailing them but,  
30 you know, it's not -- that's not an ideal way of  
31 communicating, I understand. So as I'm getting more  
32 familiar with this area I definitely will be reaching  
33 out and I'll probably be also talking to you as well as  
34 Council members to provide names of people who might be  
35 -- you know that I can reach out to as well. So does  
36 that answer your question?

37

38 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, thank you.

39

40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you,  
41 Mr. Chair.

42

43 MR. ARMSTRONG: I know we always reach  
44 out too because one of the Councilmen -- Council  
45 members reaches out through FaceBook trying to invite  
46 the public to at least apply because it's so vital to  
47 have a full Council to where the agencies can get  
48 reports, that way we could make better decisions on --  
49 better decisions on the people we represent, even  
50

0203

1 making suggestions for changes in regulations.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is  
6 Mike.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Mike.

9

10 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, over the years that  
11 I've served I've always wondered how many seats are we  
12 allowed, you know, for our RAC Council? I've tried and  
13 I've gotten a hold of so many people to try and get  
14 them to come in. There's some people that think it's a  
15 joke and I'm like, no, man, this is a serious matter.  
16 This Council means a lot to our subsistence resources  
17 and our lives and they're kind of -- they kind of think  
18 it's a joke but, you know, I try to pass it out there a  
19 lot. Any time I go anywhere, travel, whatever, you  
20 know, and I see local people I try to pass it on to  
21 them that they should at least try to see if they can  
22 get on. And, you know, I give them Lisa's information  
23 so they could get applications. You know it's kind of  
24 a long process so I mean like right now if any of your  
25 guys seats are coming up, you should be filling out an  
26 incumbent application right now. I'd rather get mine  
27 nine months early than nine months too late and I am  
28 not on the RAC at the next meeting. So, you know,  
29 there's always that overlap so, you know, it's to  
30 prevent any gaps in having a Council quorum, you know,  
31 just try to make sure we're way ahead of schedule,  
32 apply, those incumbent ones -- the incumbent  
33 application makes it easier on us that are already  
34 there. The regular application is kind of a long  
35 process also but, you know, once you get your foot in  
36 the door, man, you're serving your community, you're  
37 serving the region, you're serving the people, you  
38 know, you're serving the subsistence users in a big  
39 manner. And one of the biggest things that I've seen  
40 in the last however many how years I've been with them,  
41 you know, I'm one of the ones that said we need to have  
42 it on the KOTZ radio because we need to have these  
43 people out there informed of the regulations because if  
44 they go out and harvest caribou and they get arrested  
45 or a lot of their things taken away for just trying to  
46 do a simple thing and that's putting food on the table  
47 when the grocery stores are very minimal, you know,  
48 they have to buy gas, they have to buy shells, you  
49 know, and they have to spend time out there in the  
50



1 country in order to fill their freezers but if we get  
2 them busted because we're not informing them of the new  
3 regulations, you know, there's got to be a constant  
4 communications throughout all the villages here in  
5 Northwest Alaska, about the regulations, there needs to  
6 be people present to be able to tag wolves, wolverines,  
7 you know, not these little temporary tags but when they  
8 go to get them sealed there needs to be someone in the  
9 villages, you know, on a regular basis flying out to  
10 the villages constantly, coming back and, you know,  
11 going up there to seal animals, you know, such as  
12 bears, wolverines, wolves, beavers, you know.

13  
14 But when you're on the RAC you're  
15 serving a very, very, very important seat within the  
16 region. You know we're making decisions that impact  
17 the rest of our future and we're still fighting. We're  
18 fighting hard for our people. Some people think we  
19 don't, I'm like, uh, you should come to a Council  
20 meeting then and they're kind of like, yeah, yeah,  
21 yeah, well, they don't realize how hard we fight just  
22 to keep our subsistence rights and to make sure that,  
23 you know, regulations are upheld and if there's any  
24 other new regulations we put forth that, you know, the  
25 Board of -- Subsistence Board of Directors get things  
26 passed, we're looking out for everybody's future, you  
27 know, especially for the subsistence, our children and  
28 grandchildren. Yeah, it's very important.

29  
30 So if any of you guys there that are at  
31 the meeting, I'm sorry I couldn't be there both me and  
32 my son are not feeling good still but, yeah, get your  
33 incumbent applications done even if it's a year in  
34 advance, get your incumbent applications -- you got all  
35 the people there to sign your -- you know, to sign your  
36 -- I can't think of it right off the top of my head,  
37 but your witnesses or whatever they're called -- but,  
38 you know, my main concern is I know we're having a hard  
39 time filling seats but we need to have more applicants  
40 and using these incumbent applications makes it much  
41 more simpler to be on the RAC and stay on the RAC.

42  
43 But I was just curious as to how many  
44 seats are we -- available to have, you know, is it 15,  
45 is it 9, or -- Lisa, if you have any answers to that.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, Mr.  
50

0205

1 Chair. Mr. Kramer. Thank you for saying that, I  
2 really appreciate it. It's important to be reaching  
3 out to anybody that's interested and we particularly  
4 need members from the upper Kobuk areas -- communities,  
5 if possible. Your answer to your question, is 10  
6 members is the number of Council members that you can  
7 have. It is supposed to be composed of representative  
8 members as follows:

9  
10 And it's -- this is under the  
11 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council charter for this  
12 region. So 10 members who are knowledgeable and  
13 experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of  
14 fish and wildlife and who are residents of the region  
15 represented by the Council.

16  
17 So they -- to -- and also the Secretary  
18 of Interior is who appoints the members. But you can  
19 also provide an alternative -- alternate members may be  
20 appointed to the Council to fill vacancies if they  
21 occur out of cycle.

22  
23 So right now we currently have an  
24 opening for membership application. It opened in  
25 September and it closes February 21st and you can find  
26 the application, for those of you online, on our  
27 website. Just, again, Google -- sorry, I'm not  
28 promoting Google but anyway, Google the Federal -- the  
29 Office of Subsistence Management and you will find it  
30 in there but also it's -- we have brochures here for  
31 everybody and you can -- that you can -- there's  
32 applications and there's a couple of the Council  
33 members from the Kodiak/Aleutian region on the cover  
34 but we just encourage you to do it. And we can -- I  
35 can help you. Just -- you can contact me or somebody  
36 at OSM if I'm not available to help you fill out the  
37 form if you're interested. But just because you -- you  
38 know, just put it in and right now we had seven for  
39 this last cycle -- this Council had apparently seven --  
40 seven applicants -- new applicants that are now being  
41 considered to be on the Council. So the Secretary of  
42 Interior should be getting back with us pretty soon on  
43 that but right now there's eight sitting members and  
44 there's two vacancies, and then three of you need to  
45 reapply so -- and so I need to be getting some  
46 reapplications for you too.

47  
48 But I hope that answered your question,  
49 thanks. Back to you, Mr. Chair.  
50

0206

1 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is  
2 Mike.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Did you say something  
5 Mike.

6  
7 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is  
8 Michael.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Mike.

11  
12 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, like for our -- the  
13 people who will be covering for us, like if I'm out  
14 sick and I'm unable to attend the meeting, does this  
15 person have to be from the same community or can I, you  
16 know, have someone to take over -- or cover for me from  
17 a different village? You know that would be one good  
18 way, too, is , you know, I could have someone from  
19 Noatak, like if I can't make it to a meeting, he comes  
20 in and he could take my seat for, you know, that  
21 meeting, that would be another good thing too, is if we  
22 could get alternates from different villages. You know  
23 like Kiana would have -- Ambler, Shungnak, whatever.  
24 But I know I've asked a person from Ambler, from Noatak  
25 and, you know, they just wanted to come in or listen in  
26 and see what kind of a meeting it is that we have. And  
27 I hope they applied and I sure would like to see a lot  
28 more come in and apply. The more the merrier. You  
29 know the best thing to do is fill out that application,  
30 don't sign it, make yourself another copy, if it has  
31 any changes leave some room to make any changes but  
32 don't sign it so what you do is you sign one and you  
33 send it to them. Let's just say all the seats are  
34 filled and you get your letter that says, sorry the  
35 seats are filled, then the next time you hear that  
36 there's going to be some more seats you just sign and  
37 date that one after you make another copy and just keep  
38 submitting it. I kind of wish that the timeframe for  
39 these applications to get approved would be a lot  
40 quicker, you know, because I'm sure these people from  
41 Noatak, Kiana, Ambler, Shungnak, Buckland, Kobuk,  
42 Kivalina -- you know, Noatak is a high conflict area,  
43 that's the Noatak River, you know, is a pretty high  
44 conflict area all because of the air traffic going up  
45 that way and up there in the Kivalina, Wulik area, you  
46 know, that's State lands. We sure need, you know, a lot  
47 of good members from different places. You know  
48 there's 11 villages I don't understand why we don't  
49 have, you know, at least 12 or 15 seats available.  
50

0207

1 But that's all I have for right now,  
2 thank you.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike.  
5 Anybody else have any questions or comments regarding  
6 RAC membership for the annual report.

7  
8 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, for years we've been  
9 requesting.....

10  
11 (Teleconference interference -  
12 participants not muted - echo)

13  
14 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you. That we change  
15 the term from three years to five years because the  
16 cycle takes forever. So we need to increase -- it's  
17 three years, every three years, we need to do it, the  
18 Federal is so slow approving.....

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Can you hold on one  
21 second, Attamuk, he's going to try to fix it.

22  
23 So if everyone listening in on the  
24 phone could please mute your phones we're getting a lot  
25 of feedback in the room.

26  
27 MR. SHIEDT: It's somebody on the line.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Attamuk.

30  
31 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, all I'm saying is  
32 let us increase it to five years instead of three years  
33 because it takes forever just to get it approved  
34 through Congress, and we've been doing it for years and  
35 year, we're trying to change it, but the Federal, you  
36 guys are so slow approving and taking forever. I think  
37 the time is changed where we need to change it.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So maybe under the  
40 issue of membership we could put in considerations for  
41 changing the length of terms and looking into the  
42 possibility of alternate Council members.

43  
44 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I think that  
45 alternates would be a good thing. It would help a lot,  
46 you know, and at our meetings it would be also awesome  
47 to have our alternates there at times, the ones who  
48 could make it in or make it to wherever we plan on  
49 having meetings.

50

0208

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Anything else for RAC  
2 membership for the report.

3  
4                   (No comments)

5  
6                   (Teleconference           interference       -  
7 participants not muted - echo)

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Let's please remember  
10 to mute our phones if we're listening in.

11  
12                   Mike, you bring up a -- in the first  
13 half of what you said you brought up something from  
14 yesterday that we talked about, that I think is a great  
15 idea that you've had and have been a big advocate for  
16 and I think needs to be a separate issue in the report  
17 is predator surveys. Studies, wherever they may apply,  
18 towards bears, wolves and predation on caribou and  
19 moose. It's something that comes up every year and has  
20 been increasingly parts of our discussion of what's  
21 happening with the caribou and moose populations  
22 insofar as predation from wolves and bears.

23  
24                   (Teleconference           interference       -  
25 participants not muted)

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   So if we could mute  
28 our phones that would be cool.

29  
30                   And having that stated as one of our  
31 issues that we'd really like to push for more in the  
32 coming year, coming out of the agencies and seeing  
33 what's available so that we can work with the different  
34 agencies to see what's happening, where the people  
35 aren't, and it's a wildlife issue.

36  
37                   MR. KRAMER:   Yeah, it'd be great to put  
38 that in there. You know there's got to be something  
39 they can do. I mean we're not trying to be mean to the  
40 animals, there's got to be a way to be able to  
41 sterilize an animal, a bear or a wolf, so they can't  
42 have pups or they can't have pups. I figure if you get  
43 40 a day, 20 a day, go out there with a helicopter, fly  
44 up by them, pop them with a dart, you know, within two  
45 months they're sterile, you know, they can't make  
46 babies. You know if they get 20 a year, next year it'd  
47 be 40, the year after that it'd be 60 and then try that  
48 with bears to see and, you know, in different areas not  
49 just one target area. You know get some out of  
50

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1 Selawik, get some out of Noorvik, get some out of  
2 Kiana, Buckland, Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk, you know,  
3 Noatak, Kivalina, try to get some in different areas I  
4 mean you never know in three years you'll have 60  
5 animals that are sterilized and can't have cubs or  
6 pups. And it's not -- I mean it's just a way of being  
7 able to control predators, you know, in kind of a light  
8 manner. I mean I don't think it's cruel, I think it  
9 would be great. At least we're not out there aerial  
10 hunting them and, you know, putting bounties on their  
11 heads but this would be a pretty interesting way to be  
12 able to take care of, you know, a predator problem.

13

14 But that's my thought on that one.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. I  
19 think that's a good one to add in, is not only predator  
20 studies but looking into predator management procedures  
21 and what can be done by the different agencies involved  
22 as well as what local folks can do to help with the  
23 predator situation.

24

25 Any other questions or comments on this  
26 one.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other issues to  
31 bring up.

32

33 MR. ARMSTRONG: I think we just need to  
34 find out the mortality of the caribou. That way we can  
35 give suggestions on other issues that affect the  
36 caribou too. And I think it'll be best for making good  
37 decisions on regulations or that way it will help  
38 improve the subsistence user, if we find out what's --  
39 why there was such a big number decline in caribou. I  
40 know we've been talking about this for how meetings  
41 already, ever since the first numbers were given out.  
42 We've been giving a lot of suggestions, which is good,  
43 but I think we need to make it more broad to where it's  
44 just not one area. I know predators, we've been  
45 talking about predators. We've been talking about the  
46 calving grounds. The climate. So I think if we really  
47 find out the decline in numbers, our suggestions would  
48 be more broad across the board.

49

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer. If we could add that to, I don't remember if it was the first or the second specific issue that we talked about regarding studies on the caribou, and try to keep that separate from the predator issue.

8

9 Any other issues that we'd like to  
10 bring up for the annual report.

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So thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur. I'm not sure if it's a separate issue for the report but is there a way that working with Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife, the different agencies as far as community and hunter outreach, just letting them know to say if you do find another caribou that's clearly sick and not in a normal way, this is who you could email, this is who you could call, whether it's just reaching out to the IRAs and giving them that information and say you can contact Alex Hanson in Kotzebue with Fish and Game, or Kyle Joly, whoever it might be. But just identifying those different people

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1 to let people out in the villages in know this is where  
2 you can send this information. Even if an answer isn't  
3 readily available, that way it kind of gets the ball  
4 rolling and there's a track of these things that may  
5 get lost in the cracks if somebody loses the pictures  
6 on their phone or whatever.

7

8 MR. SHIEDT: I think what need to be  
9 done here since Wilbur brought it up, the Park Service  
10 should work with the village IRAs to say if they see  
11 any kind of caribou, put a little pamphlet out, what  
12 kind of samples should be taken that way if they have  
13 to freeze it right away or try not to put it in a  
14 plastic bag or somehow preserve it until they get to  
15 the village to have it -- to send out to have it  
16 sampled, what's wrong with the animals. I think that's  
17 what need to be done.

18

19 I hear about this, too, because my boy  
20 was there when they saw it and he told me about it and  
21 he said, dad, it was sick, the animal so every caribou  
22 he get we ask the people to check on them. Like I told  
23 you what he give away here. And I think what the Park  
24 Service to work with the villages, something like this,  
25 we need to take samples and you guys need to tell them  
26 where to send it, Fairbanks or Anchorage.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Adding on to this, not  
29 to put Mr. Hanson on the spot, but are there any kind  
30 of sample kits that if Fish and Game doesn't have that  
31 you could put a paper together to send to the IRA and  
32 say this is the best way to preserve something to get  
33 it to a biologist.

34

35 MR. HANSON: Thank you. Through the  
36 Chair, this is Alex Hanson, Alaska Department of Fish  
37 and Game. So we're interested in all of these reports  
38 and there's different ways to deal with them.  
39 Generally speaking, anything that's going to Fairbanks  
40 or another lab could come through Kotzebue. So just  
41 contact us directly and you can send that through, you  
42 know, we'll pay the fare on that, happy to cover the  
43 cost of the shipping and then we can deal with it.  
44 However, contact us prior just to make sure it's  
45 something we're interested in and somebody's available  
46 to take care of the sample. I will say that we do have  
47 a pocket guide of health information. A lot of that  
48 stuff, common diseases and stuff are in that. I can  
49 get those out to the communities. We have -- I was

50



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1 around several communities this summer and saw IRAs had  
2 them out so they've been distributed pretty widely and  
3 if you need those let us know. It's also available  
4 online, you can pull up the PDF real quick through our  
5 website. But it covers a lot of that, you know, normal  
6 stuff that we see in the field. So if there's  
7 something abnormal we're very interested in that as  
8 well. But just contact us.

9  
10 And be aware that -- I mean make sure  
11 that you cover your bases, if you're leaving something  
12 in the field make sure that you contact us and let us  
13 know so it doesn't look like a waste or a poaching  
14 incident or something like that. We don't expect you  
15 to take home and consume bad meat but we want to make  
16 sure we understand what happened there.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Great, thank you,  
19 Alex.

20  
21 Brittany.

22  
23 MS. SWEENEY: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is  
24 Brittany Sweeney. Another mechanism that's available to  
25 the public and to members of the Council, for those who  
26 are on FaceBook. I know a lot of photos and  
27 information are shared through FaceBook and we often  
28 hear of them in meetings but if we're not FaceBook  
29 friends with the person we may not be aware of it,  
30 right, so the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge has a  
31 FaceBook page and people can message us through there.  
32 It's one way to get the information where we can see  
33 it. And then, you know, I can send it on to Alex or  
34 others who are knowledgeable, so I'm willing to be that  
35 intermediary from the social media world to putting  
36 them in touch with the experts.

37  
38 I want to thank the members who have  
39 sent, like unusual bird sightings, they've tagged us.  
40 We really appreciate receiving that information. So,  
41 again, it's on FaceBook, Selawik National Wildlife  
42 Refuge, you can -- it's open to post on our wall or to  
43 message us.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Great, thank you,  
48 Brittany. Any other issues that we would like to put  
49 into the annual report.

50

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1 MR. ARMSTRONG: I would just like to --  
2 I think it was the Fish and Game that go to the  
3 villages each year during the early spring and they  
4 hold meetings at the school where community members can  
5 attend and ask questions on how caribou can get sick or  
6 the signs of sickness, that way the member -- community  
7 members know what to expect when they get caribou and I  
8 think they need to keep that up, going to the villages.  
9 I think they used to come in early part of the year and  
10 hold meetings. That way we could ask questions about  
11 sick caribou, the signs and I think we need to keep  
12 that going.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer. Any  
17 other issues that we'd like to bring up or would we  
18 like to finish the discussion on the annual report  
19 issues.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And remind me, Lisa,  
24 is this an action item.....

25

26

27 (Teleconference interference -  
28 participants not muted)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If we could please  
31 mute our phones.

32

33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: You could  
34 hear yourself repeating yourself.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So is this an action  
37 item that we need to vote on to approve the list for  
38 the annual report.

39

40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes. Yes,  
41 Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. Yes, this is an  
42 action item. We need to come up with a list and so  
43 what I'm suggesting is that I have been taking some  
44 notes that I might want to kind of reorganize during  
45 our lunch break and I could come back with you right  
46 after and we could just vote on -- and see if that's --  
47 if you concur with what I said and then we can vote on  
48 it, would that be acceptable.

49

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: It looks like that  
2 would be acceptable. So with that, we do have one  
3 request to address the Council from Mr. Willy  
4 (Indiscernible) regarding fishing trawlers. So right  
5 now we're wrapping up identifying issues for the annual  
6 report and next on the agenda would be agency reports.  
7 Given that we have a little time before lunch, Mr.  
8 (Indiscernible) would you like to address the Council.

9  
10                   WILLY: Good morning.

11  
12                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning.

13  
14                   WILLY: Or Good afternoon.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good afternoon.

17  
18                   WILLY: My name is Willy  
19 (Indiscernible), I was born here in town in 1948 and  
20 I've seen a lot of fishing and hunting. And I used to  
21 go hunt caribou, too. But now days it's hard for me to  
22 get around. I ran a lot of dogs. I never had no dog  
23 teams no more because it's hard to feed my dogs. I  
24 used to go hunt caribou, go feed my dogs too with bones  
25 and they sure like it.

26  
27                   But to come to fact is my name is Willy  
28 (Indiscernible) and I was born in Kotzebue and we used  
29 to have lots of fishing nets in the front beach. From  
30 airport to down there. People used to come down from  
31 Kivalina, Noatak, Selawik and come down and go fish but  
32 now days they don't because they put cement on the  
33 beach now. They used to come down and go fish, now  
34 they don't. But the thing is this, I've been listening  
35 to radio and I've been to school and what caught me in  
36 my mind is I went to school in sixth grade and there's  
37 a blue book, that whole blue book was fishing trawler  
38 book. I read about that trawler, it say it could catch  
39 fish and box it and ship it out. I read that book and  
40 it got on my mind yesterday when you fellows talk about  
41 hunting and fishing. The problem I need to know is how  
42 far is the salmon go from Alaska down to -- down, down  
43 to the state side, how far does the fish go and when it  
44 comes back, it comes back to the same river. But what  
45 really bothers me at all is when I watch TV, just about  
46 a week ago, the fishing trawlers, they got big nets,  
47 they catch lots of fish. I don't know what kind but  
48 maybe they get a lot of fish and drag the net, on the  
49 bottom, I read it, no more -- no more fishing Japanese  
50

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1 and no more fishing America because of those fishing  
2 trawlers. Those Japanese are coming up this way to go  
3 get some salmon. Is it true? Yeah. We see them on  
4 TV. I don't know what my situation is that how far  
5 does the salmon goes when it spawns. How far out of  
6 Alaska does the salmon go then come back and come back  
7 to the rivers. But I need to know to correct my mind,  
8 is does the fishing trawlers in the other countries  
9 have their -- are they allowed to come up here and  
10 fish. Are they stopping them from coming up here  
11 because pretty soon there'll be no more fish up here.  
12 Are they allowed that they are going to come up here  
13 and do whatever they want with all kinds of fish,  
14 pretty soon we will run out of salmon because that's  
15 where all the salmon goes, down there, to get fish,  
16 fill their bodies with fish but I don't know.

17  
18 My complication is do those fish  
19 trawlers, are the -- are the problems of fishing around  
20 Alaska because they drain a lot of fish from down  
21 there. Try and tell me something true, how far can  
22 those fish trawlers go?

23  
24 Okay.

25  
26 (Pause)

27  
28 WILLY: I can't hear too good but if you  
29 good me a good voice and talk about it I'll be happy.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any fish  
32 biologists that might be able to speak to this?

33  
34 MR. CARTER: So this is Bill Carter,  
35 the Fish Biologist at Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.

36  
37 So as far as factory trawlers are  
38 concerned, foreign trawlers aren't allowed within  
39 what's called the EEZ, the Exclusive Economic Zone,  
40 which goes 200 miles off our shore. Here in Kotzebue,  
41 because Russia is not 200 miles from us in certain  
42 places, it's equal distance between the two so it's an  
43 equal distance between Russia and the U.S. The  
44 majority of what they're talking about on the news it  
45 actually American factory trawlers that are fishing for  
46 pollock. And the State and the Federal agencies are in  
47 the process of looking at bycatch and how that is  
48 affecting the salmon. Salmon from this area don't  
49 leave the Bering Sea for the most part so -- but salmon  
50

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1 from the Yukon and the Kuskokwim and Bristol Bay do  
2 travel into the North Pacific.

3

4 WILLY: You told me they got no fish  
5 down there.

6

7 MR. CARTER: Right.

8

9 WILLY: Right there when they have AFN  
10 they say they got no fish down there, that's where all  
11 the problems with big boats happen.

12

13 MR. CARTER: Yeah.

14

15 WILLY: Yeah, I sure am happy now.

16

17 MR. CARTER: Okay.

18

19 WILLY: I wish everybody know what's  
20 going on.

21

22 MR. CARTER: We had record catch here  
23 this year so, yeah, the chum salmon from here don't  
24 leave the Bering Sea for the most part.

25

26 WILLY: Uh-huh.

27

28 MR. CARTER: So it's hard to track them  
29 once they get to the sea because they go out as very  
30 young and very small fish. So, okay, any other  
31 question.

32

33 WILLY: Do they have those fishing have  
34 a law to tell them to stay away from Alaska or what?

35

36 MR. CARTER: There is -- there is a  
37 rule that says that foreign trawlers can't come into  
38 the U.S. Zone but there are a lot of trawlers that are  
39 American flagged ships.

40

41 WILLY: Yeah, okay. That ease my mind.

42

43 MR. CARTER: Okay.

44

45 WILLY: Very happy, thank you.

46

47 MR. ARMSTRONG: While we have you on  
48 the mic, talk about the moratorium line between Wales  
49 and Little Diaomede area, do you know about that one?

50

0217

1 MR. CARTER: So that's part of what I  
2 would expect would be part of the EEZ, the Exclusive  
3 Economic Zone and that divides Russia from the U.S. as  
4 far as the territorial waters and where they're allowed  
5 to fish depending on what -- where they're -- how their  
6 vessel is flagged. So if it's a Russian flagged ship  
7 they shouldn't be crossing that line and if it's an  
8 American flagged ship they shouldn't be going the other  
9 direction. For the most part, as far as fishing's  
10 concerned, in the Straits there, the Bering Straits,  
11 there's probably not a whole lot of fishing actually  
12 going on because of the currents in there and stuff,  
13 it's more of a transit zone.

14  
15 Did that answer your question?

16  
17 MR. ARMSTRONG: That's good enough,  
18 thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Willy and  
21 thank you, Bill. So at this time it's just about  
22 11:45, I'd like to propose that we break for lunch  
23 until 1:00 p.m., unless we have anything else we'd like  
24 to discuss before we get into agency reports this  
25 afternoon.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Sound like a plan.

30  
31 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yep.

32  
33 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

34  
35 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, so we will  
38 go ahead and break until 1:00 p.m., at which time we  
39 will reconvene.

40  
41 Thank you everyone.

42  
43 (Off record)

44  
45 (On record)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. The local  
48 time is now 1:02 p.m., if we could make our way back to  
49 our seats. Mike Kramer, Vern Cleveland, are you folks  
50

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1 back online with us.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mike or Vern, are you  
6 on the phone.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So we'll go ahead and  
11 get started. And I believe Lisa will be projecting up  
12 the list of issues for the annual report.

13

14 (Teleconference interference -  
15 participants not muted)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If whoever's shuffling  
18 papers could please mute their phone.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: For those on the  
23 phone, we're just getting things ready here in the  
24 room.

25

26 (Pause)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Lisa, the floor is  
29 yours.

30

31 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you,  
32 Mr. Chair and members of the Council. So these are --  
33 these are the topics that I believe we came up with so  
34 please feel free to add to or change or take out or add  
35 something new.

36

37 So Topic -- one of the topics, I just  
38 put as Topic No. 1, is to have understandable  
39 information reaching the village level. So part of the  
40 kind of sub-categories would be that agencies travel to  
41 communities to meet and distribute information that is  
42 understandable for local communities. So that's not  
43 only paper copies, but, you know, more meetings in  
44 person and explaining things to people in the  
45 communities regarding regulations or what's going on.  
46 Just some -- you know that is being done but it needs  
47 to be improved. And also publications also need to be  
48 understandable primarily -- possibly in the Native  
49 language, if possible, particularly with the elders  
50

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1 that Inupiat's their first language.

2

3 Topic 1 would be Federal/State regional  
4 coordination of caribou management that engages tribes  
5 and communities. So, you know, one would be like  
6 example was brought up to talk to Maniilaq to get the  
7 designated hunter harvest information, that they  
8 provide a rec -- apparently they do that.

9

10 Yes, Mr. Howard -- Howarth.

11

12 MR. HOWARTH: Lisa. Mr. Chair. These  
13 will be available to us to bring back, this information  
14 that you're showing?

15

16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, Mr. H  
17 -- through the Chair. Mr. Howarth. You may bring this  
18 back to your community and so the -- the point of what  
19 we're going to do with this is I'll be -- I'll be  
20 clarifying -- verifying this with your Chair and he can  
21 verify with it you before we send it on, but we will --  
22 OSM will be typing up your different concerns then they  
23 will brought to the Federal Subsistence Board.

24

25 MR. HOWARTH: Okay.

26

27 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And so  
28 these are topics that the Federal Subsistence -- you're  
29 asking the Federal Subsistence Board to look at and to  
30 just show that it's concerns that you have in your  
31 region. But these are definitely things that it would  
32 be -- we can change this. It's not -- I mean if  
33 there's other things you want to add after this  
34 meeting, please let me know, and we can modify the  
35 list. And so if you go back to your communities and  
36 find out some additional topics that we can add to the  
37 list, so this isn't -- this isn't final, final, but we  
38 want to get a pretty solid list at this point.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Howard [sic].

41

42 Okay, anyway, so Topic 2 is just to --  
43 to talk to more like cross central -- cross regional  
44 coordination of caribou management and engage tribes.  
45 So one to be to talk to Maniilaq and also the local  
46 tribes to see -- just in terms of trying to get the  
47 numbers of caribou that are harvested by subsistence  
48 users. And that information that has come up at this  
49 meeting is out there, we just need to kind of reach out  
50



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1 a little bit more and get some of that as well.  
2 There's also permits, as has been discussed that has --  
3 we gather information from any of the permit returns.  
4 In addition we could incorporate surveys in communities  
5 through the tribes, ADF&G, Subsistence Division does  
6 this statewide and it would be -- might nice to be -- I  
7 just added that, it would be nice to incorporate them  
8 in the process because they know how to do the surveys  
9 and they could work with the -- like Attamuk had said  
10 that he had worked with them in the past, and -- and to  
11 work -- and they work a lot with tribes to gather this  
12 information. We could also, you know, incorporate the  
13 local Refuge and National Park Service that also is --  
14 understands the regional issues and -- and what's going  
15 on as well especially with the caribou biologists.

16  
17 Topic 3 was disease and other causes of  
18 mortality of caribou. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park  
19 and Preserve I just -- this is item -- find out more  
20 about what's causing the huge decline on caribou. We  
21 had a report on -- on different things that are  
22 happening but we -- you know it would be nice to  
23 continue to support those studies and understand it  
24 better. And also investigate more the sick and  
25 abscessed animals particularly -- it was brought up at  
26 this meeting, you know, caribou puss finding -- like in  
27 the tongues of caribou and when it being -- and to  
28 support more of what the -- submitting samples for the  
29 National Park Service or the Refuge, to submit to --  
30 for testing to determine the cause.

31  
32 Yes.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Can we just add in  
35 there on the last one, Fish and Game.

36  
37 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Oh, yes,  
38 let's do that. So we're going to add in the Alaska  
39 Department of Fish and Game as well as National Park  
40 Service. Okay.

41  
42 Topic 4. Climate change. Effects on  
43 local resources used for subsistence. So that's --  
44 there's a bunch of different causes but anyway, you  
45 know, some of the things that were brought up is just  
46 your access for subsistence, you know, is the -- is --  
47 you know, the river's not freezing up as quickly. Like  
48 our -- one of our Board members wasn't able to make the  
49 meeting because the river hadn't froze up enough in the  
50

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1 creeks for him to make it to the meeting. I mean that's  
2 just one example of impact for this meeting, for  
3 example. But that happ -- that's happening more and  
4 more and -- and, you know, the weather's becoming  
5 unpredictable. The cost of living increase is also  
6 caused by climate change and there's other things that  
7 we could add to that, for sure, and just also how --  
8 how it's affecting, you know, salmon runs and how it's  
9 affecting your local whitefish runs and caribou  
10 migrations and all that. I didn't have enough time to  
11 add all the details but we can add that in our topic.

12

13 Topic 5 would be full Council  
14 membership, including alternates with better geographic  
15 distribution. So we had some good conversations on how  
16 to do that. It started with this meeting and hopefully  
17 those of you listening on the radio are becoming  
18 interested in applying but we're -- you know, we need  
19 to have this a group effort between OSM and agencies,  
20 tribes and the local Native organizations to try to get  
21 more membership and participating in the RAC.

22

23 Topic 6 increase the term limit of  
24 Council members from three to five years. I believe  
25 that's what we were suggesting. Is that kind of what  
26 you were thinking Mr.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: It was to explore the  
29 possibility of doing that.

30

31 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So Topic 6  
32 would be to explore the possibility of increasing the  
33 term limit of Council members.

34

35 And I believe that the justifi -- the  
36 reason for that, and, Attamuk, I believe you were the  
37 one that mentioned that, it's just to kind of -- I  
38 don't know if I phrased that right but really to  
39 maintain your experienced Council members, but also to  
40 be good mentors for your younger ones. Was that part  
41 of your reason to give more term.

42

43 MR. SHIEDT: No, the reason why I  
44 brought that up is that to increase our term limits is  
45 a few years ago we had a hard time because none of us  
46 were never approved by Congress to keep serving and by  
47 the time my three year term expire, we were expired, we  
48 were no longer in there and that's why, it takes them  
49 so long just to say you are on the Federal Advisory  
50

0222

1 Board, that is why. And for years we've been pushing  
2 this to five years. Even before Thomas' time I've been  
3 pushing it for years, we need to increase it, serving  
4 time from three to five years. That was my reason.  
5 Because a couple times, a few of my fellow Council  
6 members -- that's why a lot of them quit because they  
7 were never renewed on time due to management turnover  
8 in Congress.

9  
10 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you,  
11 Mr. -- thank you, Attamuk, through the Chair, for  
12 clarifying that on the record and we'll make sure that  
13 that gets in -- is a reason.

14  
15 So the topic that I have there,  
16 important to maintain experienced Council members and  
17 to mentor new Council members, would that be a reason  
18 as well or should we just take that off?

19  
20 MR. SHIEDT: Could you go through the  
21 Topic 1 please. Okay, that one here, Topic 1, agency  
22 travel -- when we travel to the communities, if you  
23 have -- I know you guys got money it's just you guys  
24 don't like to spend it. Take it to the topic -- if  
25 there's a concern in the village, like our caribou, or  
26 whatever, that they migrate through, that's where the  
27 meeting should be at. If there's a problem at Kiana,  
28 that should be at the Kiana meeting. That's what we  
29 used to do when we -- when I was with the Western  
30 Arctic Caribou Herd management planning, we even had  
31 one in Point Hope because they have problems, we had  
32 one in Kiana, and we had one in Selawik, that's the way  
33 it usually migrates, and I think that's the best way we  
34 could -- that the people could hear us. And always  
35 invite the radio station when we're going to travel to  
36 the villages.

37  
38 And if you go back to Topic 3, what you  
39 need to do, if you're going to take samples of the sick  
40 caribou or any fish or whatever, I think the people  
41 that take the samples need to tell us how is the best  
42 way to take a sample without contaminating the piece  
43 you're getting. If they're going to send out a sample,  
44 make sure they're knife is clean, or what's the best  
45 way to do it, put it on Ziplock or what before they  
46 send it out that way it won't get contaminated from the  
47 knife.

48  
49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And, Mr. Chair,  
50

0223

1 COD.

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: I had -- I used to send  
4 out samples a lot when I was at Maniilaq, the reason  
5 why that's important because one time -- a couple times  
6 when I sent it out they said it was contaminated,  
7 probably from the knife itself because it already had  
8 blood from another caribou.

9

10 And the other one, it's not up there  
11 but I think what we need to do -- in order for us to  
12 get our people more involved, we need to start inviting  
13 more of the high school students to attend the meeting,  
14 invite them. They'll be glad to get out of school just  
15 to be here. That way hopefully one of them decide to  
16 join us in the future.

17

18 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Mr. Chair.  
19 I don't know if this is appropriate for me to say this  
20 but when I worked -- worked for Fish and Game back when  
21 the harbor seals and sea lion populations were crashing  
22 we had a program for bio-sampling for the -- the  
23 hunters for the sea lions and Fish and Game was able to  
24 get money for a bio-sampling program, I think actually  
25 NMFS helped as well, National Marine Fisheries Service  
26 to train -- have some agency person go to the community  
27 and train a couple of the hunters in the community how  
28 to gather samples and then there were kits that were  
29 provided for them so any time a hunter went and got a  
30 sea lion, for example, they -- this person would come  
31 and take a sample and do it appropriately and then  
32 there was money provided to send the sample in. I mean  
33 that's something that maybe, you know, could -- we  
34 could talk about, or be a concern, or it could be done.  
35 I don't know if it's an FRMP funded project but maybe  
36 the National Park Service funds something like that or  
37 Fish and Game or OSM could come up with that. It's  
38 just an idea.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa, you  
43 have the floor.

44

45 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.  
46 Okay, so should we maybe just kind of go through all of  
47 these and then we'll go back up to the top and then  
48 just kind of make sure we clarify everything.

49

50

0224

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, I believe we're  
2 back down to.....

3  
4 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So topic --  
5 did we talk about the one above six.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

8  
9 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. So  
10 Topic 7 was -- I had predator concerns, interfering  
11 with subsistence activities and, you know, safety of  
12 the community. And that's -- okay, so.....

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So the key takeaway  
15 from that topic is increasing studies -- study  
16 opportunities for managing predators and seeing how  
17 they affect the animals that we're focusing on,  
18 subsisting on.

19  
20 MR. KRAMER: Please use your  
21 microphone, can't hear you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. So  
24 what I just said is the important part about this Topic  
25 7 is increasing study opportunities for managing  
26 predators and how they affect the subsistence resources  
27 that we're relying on, such as the caribou and moose as  
28 well as best management practices.

29  
30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hello.

31  
32 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Mr. Kramer,  
33 were you able to hear that?

34  
35 MR. KRAMER: Yes, I was, thank you.

36  
37 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. So  
38 why don't we just go back up to No. 1 and just sort  
39 of.....

40  
41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hello.

42  
43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: .....refine  
44 it a little bit. And if there's anything in addition  
45 that you wanted -- that I missed, please.....

46  
47 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hello.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hi, can you please  
50

0225

1 identify yourself?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if someone's  
6 attempting to speak right now please unmute yourself so  
7 that we can know who we are speaking with and if it's  
8 appropriate to make a comment at this time.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Lisa, if you would  
13 please start with Topic No. 1.

14

15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. Mr.  
16 Chair. Council. So Topic 1, again, was just to have  
17 understandable information reaching the village level.  
18 So is this a topic that we want to kind of refine and  
19 pass on to the Board as a concern for this region?

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, Lisa, so I think  
22 with this one it's pretty imperative that we include  
23 this in the report just because it kind of touches on  
24 everything else that we're discussing with the other  
25 topics for the report. The most important thing being  
26 that it's coming from the villages, it's coming from  
27 the subsistence users in the region.

28

29 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Do other  
30 Council members agree.

31

32 (Council nods affirmatively)

33

34 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I'm getting  
35 some nods, yes, so we'll go with that.

36

37 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

38

39 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

40

41 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And if  
42 there's any other sort of points -- bullet points you'd  
43 want to address at this point you could just please let  
44 me know.

45

46 Topic 2. Federal/State cross regional  
47 coordination of caribou management that engaged tribes  
48 -- engages tribes and communities. So is this a topic  
49 that you find important for the region that we would  
50

0226

1 like the Federal Board to know?

2

3

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

4

5

6

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Other  
Council members do you agree that it's important?

7

8

MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

9

10

11

12

13

14

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16

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49

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MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you,  
Mr. Howarth. And if any of you have questions about  
this along the way, it's -- you know, while we're  
trying to accomplish it's -- Topic 3, disease and other  
causes of mortality of caribou. So you want to --  
basically want to continue studies to find out really  
what is causing the huge decline in caribou since this  
is a major concern that has been brought up at this  
meeting and for your region you rely heavily on caribou  
and with the numbers going down there's -- there's --  
I'm taking as your biggest concern for your communities  
regarding subsistence and sustaining yourself.

And then I -- I -- we just kind of -- I  
combined the diseases and causes of mortality just sort  
of together because it's related, I believe, so if that  
sounds good to you we can just keep them together.

(Council nods affirmatively)

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: i'm getting  
nods yes. And Topic 4, climate change. Effects on  
local resources used for subsistence. We can also --  
we might want to expand on this, effects on not only  
local resources but subsistence users, I mean it's  
integrated related but we should probably say that.  
Because you're -- and then migration I -- we thought  
about migration patterns and salmon and whitefish runs  
and things.

Mr. Shiedt.

MR. SHIEDT: Well, on this Topic 4, for  
harvest for the sporthunters that -- I think what we  
need to do is due to the warmer and they coming in  
later and later and, you know, just before they -- we  
need to change our opening and closing at certain times  
and where the sporthunters were dropped off -- hunters  
could go -- and we need to look at the regulations  
better, and together and maybe make some changes to the

0227

1 dates. Because at the times -- at certain area at  
2 Noatak on that controlled area you could -- it's closed  
3 until a certain time but the caribou are coming in  
4 later so I think the date need to change with the --  
5 due to global warming. Do you hear what I'm saying, we  
6 need to change that, to help the people, that way they  
7 are able to harvest their food for the winter.

8

9 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.  
10 Within -- within that then I think could we add work  
11 more with both State and Federal regulations and like  
12 during their cycle on -- when the regulatory cycles to  
13 change the regulation so that would be an approach that  
14 we -- that, you know, is -- it's usually -- it's really  
15 the only approach to get regulations changed so the  
16 Federal -- your Council we -- for the State we could  
17 write a letter on behalf of your Council for certain  
18 proposals for the State, and the same for the Federal,  
19 so you guys can submit a proposal -- the -- who can  
20 speak when the next wildlife meeting is? Because we  
21 can submit a proposal with the Federal Board as well as  
22 the State or the fisheries to work on changing the  
23 regulation times. Because climate is an issue, not  
24 just for subsistence but for other resources too, and  
25 it just doesn't make sense to have an open season if  
26 there isn't any resources in your area so.

27

28 This is just me talking.

29

30 Does that make sense to you Council?

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Ray, do you have  
33 something you'd like to add or are you just scratching?

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. MCPADDEN: In response. On the  
38 Federal side, I believe January is the call for  
39 proposals opens in January and then I think it goes  
40 through June for the wildlife cycle, that's my  
41 understanding. yeah. So this coming January and then  
42 it goes through June for essentially the next kind of  
43 normal regulatory round. That's for FSB.

44

45 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: That's  
46 Federal?

47

48 MR. MCPADDEN: Yes, that's Federal.

49

50



0228

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you Ray McPadden  
2 with the Park Service.

3  
4                   MR. MCPADDEN: Yeah, Pardon me.

5  
6                   (Laughter)

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that, I think  
9 not only for the regulations is it important that we  
10 try to update what we can because of climate change but  
11 also put in there the need for more studies because we  
12 do have baseline data on a lot of this stuff but as has  
13 been brought up, with climate change, things are  
14 changing, things are altering, so seeing what changes  
15 have taken place over the last X amount of years due to  
16 climate change when it comes down to caribou migration,  
17 when the first snow falls, when this, when that, just  
18 so that we have a better understanding of what's going  
19 on in these natural habitats as time moves forward.

20  
21                   MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And we're  
22 going to have a climate report here in a little bit so  
23 Brian's going to be giving us -- National Weather  
24 Service so maybe he'll give us a little background on  
25 that and give us some more thought.

26  
27                   Topic 5. Full Council membership  
28 including alternates with better geographic  
29 distribution. I think that was pretty clear but  
30 everybody -- we all believe that that's important.

31  
32                   And, again, it's a group effort for  
33 outreach to -- to try to get more applicants,  
34 particularly in the -- in all of the communities, that  
35 would be ideal.

36  
37                   Nobody can -- they cannot -- nobody can  
38 be -- by the way nobody can be appointed to this  
39 Council if you haven't applied so that's kind of the  
40 bottom line.

41  
42                   Topic 6. Explore possibility of  
43 increasing the term limit of Council members and so we  
44 wanted to, you know, maybe three to five years. So  
45 that's something we can -- it's pretty kind of straight  
46 forward. And then we need to change the reason for  
47 that, Jessica -- or who's writing that up -- mostly  
48 because the process of getting -- once you fill out an  
49 application and actually getting your appointment  
50

0229

1 letter is delayed and sometimes people -- the Council  
2 is empty and we don't have seats filled.

3

4 And Topic 7. Predator concerns.  
5 Again, interfering with subsistence activities and  
6 safety of community. I think we already talked about  
7 that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Well, I  
10 think.....

11

12 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So anyway  
13 Council was there anything else.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think that given how  
16 closely related they are, Topics 5 and 6 can be  
17 combined so that we have, as Topic 6, can just be some  
18 bullet points under 5 since they're regarding  
19 membership, and then the predator concerns topic can  
20 become the new Topic 6 unless there's any objections  
21 from the rest of the Council.

22

23 (Teleconference interference -  
24 participants not muted)

25

26 MR. ARMSTRONG: On No. 6, I think we  
27 could work with the State and change the Federal in-  
28 state regulations on bag limit and on the language  
29 concerning taking of bears.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So whoever's typing,  
32 yeah, what is right now Topic 7, that is going to be  
33 changed to No. 6.

34

35 MR. ARMSTRONG: Bears and wolves. And  
36 then the National Park Service, I think if we get a  
37 bear there we have to take the bear home for  
38 consumption.

39

40 MR. DALLE-MOLLE: Yes. Joe Dalle-Molle  
41 with the National Park Service. That's correct.  
42 Essentially if you're hunting under the Federal  
43 subsistence regulations.....

44

45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Eat the bear.

46

47 MR. DALLE-MOLLE: .....and if you're  
48 hunting under State regulations in the Preserve you  
49 don't necessarily have to take the meat but you would

50

0230

1 have to take the hide and the skull and potentially get  
2 that sealed. There's a few more details to go into on  
3 that. But if you're specifically hunting under  
4 subsistence practices in Cape Krusenstern National  
5 Monument or Kobuk Valley National Park the meat would  
6 have to be salvageable. We are just kind of the  
7 opposite from the State regulations so you would not  
8 have to harvest the skull or the hide.

9  
10 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right. Then maybe  
11 we could do a proposal on a regulation just stating --  
12 because we talk about predator control and through all  
13 the talks we've had, there's a lot of bears, there's a  
14 lot of wolves, and it's affecting caribou migration and  
15 affecting the numbers so I think we need to come up  
16 with a proposal to change the language and to predator  
17 control. Because I know that just what he was saying  
18 about hunting for subsistence use you'd have to take  
19 the bear home with you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So I think, Elmer,  
22 with what Ray said a little bit ago about how the next  
23 round for proposals starts in January this might be  
24 something we can work out at our next meeting, this  
25 winter, so that that way this will go in with the  
26 annual report that it is an issue and then at our next  
27 meeting we'll have the whole time to say this is what  
28 we want, this is the proposal we'd like to send so that  
29 we can have everything prepared for it.

30  
31 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, thank you.

32  
33 MR. CLEVELAND: Hello.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hi.

36  
37 (Laughter)

38  
39 MR. CLEVELAND: Hello. Can you guys  
40 hear me?

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Please identify  
43 yourself.

44  
45 MR. CLEVELAND: Vern Cleveland,  
46 Noorvik.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hi Vern. Do you have  
49 anything you'd want to add?  
50

0231

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, I just heard  
2 about bears, were you -- what's about just taking the  
3 skin and leaving the meat, that's unheard of. If you  
4 shoot a bear you take it home for consumption, you  
5 don't leave the meat out there. This is wrong. I mean  
6 if you're going to shoot a bear and you take it home  
7 and you have subsistence food. If I'm hearing wrong,  
8 this is -- wow, just outrageous, just shoot the bear  
9 and leave the meat out there and take the skin, that's  
10 unheard of. I do eat bears. I eat brown bears and  
11 black bears. I don't know what this is about, but  
12 don't get me wrong, we got some people that eat bears  
13 and live off bears. And you might be sending a wrong  
14 message just shooting a bear and just take the hide, if  
15 you don't get me wrong.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, this is Elmer. I  
20 was talking about that and it was concerning National  
21 Parklands.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So any other comments.

24  
25 MR. CLEVELAND: No matter where I get a  
26 bear I would always bring it home, not just leave it  
27 out there.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Vern and  
30 Elmer.

31  
32 MR. CLEVELAND: On any land. You just  
33 don't go out there and shoot an animal and take the  
34 skin. I think you're sending a wrong message right  
35 there.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Vern for  
40 your comments. Do we have anything else that we like  
41 to amend or change with the issues brought up for the  
42 annual report.

43  
44 MR. CLEVELAND: Being on the phone,  
45 could you please address what page you're on and what  
46 subject you're on because it's pretty hard for me to go  
47 through this book.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

0232

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: So, Vern, right now,  
2 we would be on Page 42, identifying issues for FY22  
3 annual report but what we're doing in the room is we're  
4 typing everything up that we're talking about so that  
5 we can write it down and then we're going to email it  
6 out, once we have it written up, so that we can approve  
7 it approve it.

8  
9                   MR. CLEVELAND: Taikuu, Mr. Chair.

10  
11                   MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah, and  
12 -- through the Chair. Yes, I -- if you would like me  
13 to reread these, I'm sorry that you can't see them  
14 visually, it must be hard for you, but I can reread the  
15 topics if that's important.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, Lisa, if you can  
18 just read off the topics one through six so that we  
19 have an overview of what we've been discussing.

20  
21                   MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. So,  
22 again, Topic -- Topic -- these are items that we're  
23 going -- for -- issues of the annual -- we call it just  
24 the annual report that we're going to be submitting to  
25 the Federal Subsistence Board of concerns for your  
26 region.

27  
28                   Topic 1. Understandable information  
29 reaching the village level. Just to make it so people  
30 understand more of what it is that -- communicate  
31 better between the agencies and the communities.

32  
33                   Topic 2 is Federal/State cross regional  
34 coordination of caribou management that engages tribes  
35 and communities.

36  
37                   Topic 3. Diseases and other causes of  
38 mortality of caribou. So increase the -- increase  
39 studies to find out about that.

40  
41                   Topic 4. Climate change. Effect on  
42 local resources used for subsistence including on your  
43 communities.

44  
45                   Topic 5. Full Council membership  
46 including alternates with better geographic  
47 distributions. Sowe want to get moreCouncil members --  
48 a full Council and also distributed throughout your  
49 region better.

50

0233

1                   And Topic 6.       Predator concerns  
2 interfering with subsistence activities as well as  
3 safety for the community.

4  
5                   So those are the three [sic] topics  
6 we've come up with.....

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Six.

9  
10                  MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: .....six --  
11 I guess it's six topics, yes. Thank you.

12  
13                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that do we  
14 have any more questions or comments for these issues  
15 and this is an action item, correct?

16  
17                  MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, this  
18 is an action item. And I will be -- we'll be -- I'll  
19 be fine tuning this but if you agree on the general  
20 topics we need to vote and support that today and then  
21 I will be sending it -- the first draft to your Chair  
22 and then he will -- we will kind of work it through and  
23 then you all will get a copy of that before it gets  
24 sent to the Federal Board. So thank you.

25  
26                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that do I hear  
27 a motion to approve these six topics as the general  
28 topics for the annual report that will be fine tuned.

29  
30                  MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I make a  
31 motion to adopt the topics.

32  
33                  MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

34  
35                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Moved by  
36 Elmer, seconded by Attamuk. All those in favor of  
37 adopting the six topics please say aye.

38  
39                  IN UNISON: Aye.

40  
41                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: And those opposed same  
42 sign.

43  
44                  (No opposing votes)

45  
46                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: It appears we have a  
47 majority and we will go ahead and adopt these topics  
48 for the annual report.

49  
50

0234

1                   So with that we will go ahead and move  
2 on to agency reports. At this time do we have any  
3 tribal governments that would like to make an agency  
4 report.

5  
6                   (No comments)

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing and seeing  
9 none we will go on the National Weather Service. Dr.  
10 Brian Brettschneider, if you could introduce yourself  
11 for the record, the floor is yours.

12  
13                   MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Thank you, Mr.  
14 Chair. My name is Brian Brettschneider. I am a  
15 Physical Scientist and a Climate Scientist with the  
16 National Weather Service, NOAA, with the Alaska region.  
17 So I'm here today to talk about the winter outlook but  
18 with that said I'm also happy to -- I know practically  
19 every topic that's been discussed for the last two days  
20 since I've been here has had a climate change nexus so  
21 I'm happy to address that to the extent that I can. My  
22 email address is up on this introductory slide, it's  
23 also in the packet here and also is, I believe Tab 5 in  
24 the supplemental materials. So I welcome anybody to  
25 send me an email at any time with any kind of question  
26 and I will do my best to answer it or find someone who  
27 can answer.

28  
29                   So this winter, this late fall and this  
30 winter, you know, we here with NOAA, the National  
31 Weather Service, you know, we have a couple of things  
32 we're looking at for estimating what the upcoming  
33 winter conditions are going to be like. And there's  
34 really three things that we're kind of focused in on.

35  
36                   The first is LaNina, and some of you  
37 may have heard of this before. But LaNina is a cooling  
38 of the waters in the Central Pacific Ocean and that  
39 actually has a global effect on the weather. So this  
40 is year three of a LaNina and typically in LaNina  
41 winters in Alaska it's colder than normal. So if we  
42 had ElNino, which is a warm part of the tropical  
43 Pacific it's almost always a warm winter in Alaska.  
44 When it's a LaNina winter, like this upcoming winter is  
45 forecast to be, and the last two winters, it's more  
46 likely than not that it'll be a little cooler than  
47 normal, and sometimes a lot cooler than normal. A lot  
48 of variability. But more times than not it's cooler.

49  
50

0235

1                   Now, like with everything in Alaska,  
2 everything is -- we're warming with time. So even  
3 though this LaNina, probably, but not guaranteed, would  
4 lead us to believe it's going to be a cooler than  
5 normal winter. LaNina's are getting warmer so, you  
6 know, what used to be a good cold winter 50 years ago,  
7 you know, is not as cold as that anymore, and the same  
8 holds through with LaNina's [sic]. So kind of keep  
9 that in the back of your mind. And so then the -- so  
10 LaNina's one of the three things driving our winter  
11 outlook.

12  
13                   The second thing is the sea ice and,  
14 more specifically, the lack of sea ice. This chart was  
15 generated about 10 days ago. With the numbers I just  
16 finished up, that were computed yesterday, that the  
17 Chuckchi Sea had its seventh lowest sea ice on record  
18 and that's not as bad as some of the other years in the  
19 last decade but seventh, you know, as far back as  
20 records go is not very good, of course. And with all  
21 that open water it just keeps things warmer when it's --  
22 when the water is ice covered it keeps a lid on those  
23 warm temperatures. This is a chart I made, I made this  
24 yesterday, it kind of shows -- a lot of times I get  
25 asked, well, okay, this is what the sea ice this year,  
26 what was it like last year or the year before and  
27 people want to kind of make a comparison, so here's 20  
28 years of sea ice for October 31st and, you know, we're  
29 just starting to get a little bit of sea ice, some  
30 shore fast ice along many of the coastal areas from the  
31 lower Kuskokwim Delta, you know, all the way up along  
32 the coast through the Bering and Chuckchi Seas. In  
33 general the Chuckchi Sea is about where it's been in  
34 the last 20 years and the same with the Beaufort Sea.  
35 So, you know, historically, say more than 20, 30 years  
36 ago, this would be a very poor to the start to the sea  
37 ice year but for the last 20 years it's fairly typical.  
38 So again it may seem okay but by historical standards  
39 it's not.

40  
41                   Okay. So let's get into some of the  
42 numbers here. So this is official NOAA climate  
43 prediction center temperature forecast for the month of  
44 November, of course today is November 1st. This was  
45 issued about 11 days ago, or 12 days ago now.  
46 Yesterday afternoon, I didn't have a chance to get it  
47 in here but they did an update for this, but basically,  
48 you know, it's showing warm in this part of the state  
49 and kind of near normal in the rest of the state. Now,  
50



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1 the update that came up yesterday for Northwest Alaska  
2 looks the same but then for Southeast Alaska they  
3 colored in some blue for some below normal. And really  
4 what you're seeing in this is a combination of, again,  
5 LaNina, the reduction in sea ice, but then the third  
6 thing is trend, or climate change. You know if you  
7 know nothing else, if you had no information, no tools,  
8 no internet, no nothing and you were just going to say  
9 well what is this winter going to be like, it would be  
10 reasonable to say, well, it's probably going to be  
11 warmer than winters used to be. So we do factor that  
12 in. We have a trend, basically a global warming  
13 adjustment that we make. And so here in the northern  
14 part of the state, these kind of above normal shades,  
15 that's basically the global warming signal, that's the  
16 trend signal. So, again, this is just for November.

17  
18 Now, if we look at the early -- this is  
19 a three month seasonal outlook, so this is November,  
20 December, January. Again, you see kind of a pretty  
21 similar pattern where we've got above normal for the  
22 entire west coast, and it's that second tier of  
23 shading, so that's the trend but also the reduction in  
24 sea ice, and those are kind of overwhelming, even the  
25 LaNina signal. So now these -- by the way these  
26 forecasts, these are our best tools -- this isn't a  
27 guarantee, that doesn't mean this is what it's going to  
28 be. You know last winter, in the southern half of the  
29 state we were supposed to have a pretty cold winter and  
30 we had, I think, an above normal, warmer than average  
31 winter, and, in fact, the very warmest winter on record  
32 in Alaska was a LaNina winter in 2001. So, again,  
33 these are guides, and these represent our best estimate  
34 but they're not a guarantee.

35  
36 And then precipitation for the  
37 November, December, January period. It looks a lot  
38 like that temperature map except for we swapped out  
39 shades of orange for shades of green. So, you know,  
40 with all that open water in the Bering and Chuckchi  
41 Seas that really allows more moisture to come in and  
42 produce more precipitation and even with those above  
43 normal temperatures we would expect most of this to be  
44 snow. So this early indication for the early part of  
45 the winter looks by all accounts to be fairly snowy.

46  
47 Now this is the core winter, so this  
48 would be December, January, February. Again, a very  
49 similar map with the above normal on the west coast,  
50

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1 near normal for the center part of the state and below  
2 normal for Southeast. Again, reflecting -- this is  
3 very -- and if you look at the Lower 48, too, this is a  
4 very classic LaNina map. If you were to say give me a  
5 LaNina winter outlook map, it would look exactly like  
6 this, so that's our best guess for what it's going to  
7 look like. And same with precipitation, again, we're  
8 in that second year of above normal precipitation which  
9 would indicate a snowier than normal winter. And,  
10 again, that's reflective of a lot of the open water in  
11 the Bering Sea. And also kind of a more typical storm  
12 track. So in addition to that extra moisture we expect  
13 a slight increase in frequency of storms coming through  
14 to enhance the precipitation.

15  
16 This is a -- so those are official  
17 outlooks. Those are the ones that we put in like press  
18 releases and, you know, that NOAA got interviewed on  
19 CNN and all that kind of stuff. We have tons and tons  
20 of computer models and all kinds of internal guidance  
21 and tools and this is kind of one of our most important  
22 ones and this is a -- called an NMME, North American  
23 Multi-Model Ensemble. This is basically like a -- we  
24 take like seven of the main computer models and we just  
25 through them all together and say, well, what's kind of  
26 the average of those, and the average of those is --  
27 will look like this, a very kind of typical LaNina  
28 which doesn't look quite as warm here in Northwest  
29 Alaska. We're kind of, you know, very close to that --  
30 the no shading, the kind of white. So a little bit  
31 less of a warm signal for this cluster of models from  
32 the U.S. and Canada. And if we look at the -- and I  
33 don't know why we do this but we do, if we look at this  
34 cluster of European models which actually do better  
35 than the North American models, so this is the France,  
36 Great Britain and the European Union, if you look at  
37 all their models it kind of has Northwest Alaska, this  
38 is for the core winter months, right on that same, kind  
39 of right on the edge of just above normal to near  
40 normal. So not a strong signal either way, very much  
41 still looks like a LaNina except for not quite as warm  
42 as a LaNina so that's what the Europeans think. And,  
43 again, the European models tend to do better than the  
44 North American models and that's been the case for at  
45 least the last decade.

46  
47 But, of course, trends are not our  
48 friend.

49  
50

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1                   So these are the four season trends.  
2 You know it shows how much over the last 50 years, how  
3 much we've warmed in each of the four seasons and  
4 there's a whole lot of orange and red on that map, and  
5 particularly in the fall months, which is the bottom  
6 right and the winter months, which is the top left. So  
7 there's -- so, you know, as everyone has alluded to in  
8 the talks the last two days and has everyone has  
9 experienced, it's just warmer than it used to be and  
10 there's just no way around that.

11

12                   I have a couple of trend maps so I'll  
13 just jump through them real quick -- and actually I'm  
14 going to skip over a lot of these. But this is kind of  
15 the fall trend, which shows for high temperatures which  
16 shows warming along the entire West Coast -- and these  
17 are all in the packet so I'm going to jump through them  
18 real quick but you can refer to the hard copy or the  
19 electronic versions. Low temperatures in the fall have  
20 warmed more than the high temperatures. So in a lot of  
21 ways that's probably more cloud cover which is keeping  
22 the lows a lot warmer and also the open water hanging  
23 out longer into the fall. Precipitation for this data  
24 set, you know, for this region, it's just slightly  
25 increased but then if you go, south towards Nome, it  
26 shows a very slight decrease. So for fall not a really  
27 strong signal. But for the winter, the core winter  
28 months, just an incredibly strong signal for much much  
29 warmer temperatures for all the northern half of Alaska  
30 and Northwestern part of the state, you know, over  
31 basically over five degrees -- this is for the high  
32 temperatures, and the low temperatures are even more  
33 extreme, more than five and a half degrees fahrenheit,  
34 or, you know, about three degree celsius for half of  
35 the state. In some cases it's more like 8 degree  
36 fahrenheit up along the North Slope. A largely result  
37 of the reduction in sea ice and the later forming of  
38 the sea ice in the fall and the early part of the  
39 winter. And, again, the core winter month trend in  
40 precipitation, a slight tilt toward increase here in  
41 Northwestern Alaska but we've really had a problem,  
42 it's really difficult to measure winter precipitation  
43 in tundra areas where it's windy. The equipment is  
44 better than it used to be but it's not -- it's still  
45 not great. And unfortunately for reasons that are  
46 outside of my control we've actually reduced -- you  
47 know we don't measure snow in Kotzebue, I'm sorry about  
48 that, we don't measure it in Nome anymore. We do have  
49 some readings here and there but we basically have less  
50

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1 information than we used to and I wish I had better  
2 news on that front.

3

4

5 And I'm just going to skip over that.  
6 But the last couple of charts I'm going to show is kind  
7 of some long-term trends that are centered right here  
8 over Kotzebue. So the nearshore sea surface  
9 temperatures, if you average it out over the course of  
10 the whole year, you know, massive increase in  
11 temperatures the last 25 years. Largely -- not just a  
12 result of having sea ice, you know, covering the sound  
13 for fewer days of the year but when it is open water,  
14 that open water is warmer just like it is right now.  
15 And then the concentration of sea ice near Kotzebue,  
16 again, this is going to be the opposite. So average  
17 over the course of the whole year, you know, we're  
18 having ice over the water for, you know, 15 percent  
19 less time in the year.

19

20

21 And long-term trends of temperatures,  
22 you know, last year was kind of a cool year here, most  
23 of the state was warmer compared to normal but just an  
24 incredibly strong upward trend in annual temperatures,  
25 shouldn't be a surprise to anybody. I think someone had  
26 requested something about cloud cover and maybe even  
27 wind. Cloud cover is extremely difficult to measure,  
28 you know, if you have just a few little wispy clouds in  
29 the air it gets recorded as overcast, that's the same  
30 as heavy clouds that's -- or heavy snowfalling, they  
31 get treated the same way so clouds are really, really  
32 difficult to assess trends on. But to the extent that  
33 we can do that we see a slight increase in cloud cover  
34 over time here in Northwestern Alaska. And finally  
35 wind speeds and not much of a trend although for a  
36 couple of years here it's been pretty windy compared to  
37 the long-term. But I'd say over the last 25 years  
38 there's an upward trend in wind speeds, not broken down  
39 by direction or season but with -- well, a bit tick  
40 upward a few years ago but generally a trend upward and  
41 maybe not quite as variable as it had been in years  
42 past.

42

43

44 So that is my presentation. I'm happy  
45 to take any questions about this or anything about  
46 climate, climate change and I'll do my best to answer.

46

47

48

49

50

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Brian. Do

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1 we have any questions or comments from the RAC.

2

3 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, Wilbur.  
4 Brian, thank you. Is it going to -- these high  
5 temperatures is it going to -- do you think it's going  
6 to continue like this or is it going to start getting  
7 any colder, or our sea ice because we depend on sea  
8 ice?

9

10 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Yeah, you know,  
11 through the Chair. You know it's expected to be warmer  
12 this winter than probably last winter. I assume you  
13 meant this winter or did you mean moving forward in the  
14 years to come?

15

16 MR. HOWARTH: Moving forward, yes.

17

18 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Yeah, you know, so  
19 we really had a regime change with much less ice in the  
20 fall and to that extent you can't get less ice in the  
21 fall than no ice, which in many respects we're now a no  
22 ice regime in the fall so we wouldn't expect that the  
23 dramatic acceleration that we've had to continue, we  
24 would expect though it to increase but at a more  
25 gradual slope. There's really nothing in the entire  
26 climate system that we can look at and say, well, this  
27 will end, or this will change, or this will cool things  
28 off. So we should expect it to be on average, in any  
29 given year there's lots of ups and downs but basically  
30 over the rest of your life I would expect it to be  
31 warmer, all things being equal.

32

33 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you, Brian.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions or  
36 comments from members of the RAC.

37

38 MR. CLEVELAND: Vern, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

41

42 MR. CLEVELAND: The weather is changing  
43 so in 20 years from now, from what you're saying, the  
44 water is warming up and in 20 years we're not going to  
45 see no ice, is that true? I mean I heard it from  
46 another guy that said in 20 years that it's going to be  
47 like Homer, no ice, it's going to be year-round warm, I  
48 mean it's going to happen here in the Northwest.

49

50

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1 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Thank you for the  
2 question, Vern. Through the Chair.

3  
4 MR. CLEVELAND: In 20 years it's going  
5 to be.....

6  
7 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: I'm sorry, I  
8 interrupted you, please continue.

9  
10 MR. CLEVELAND: Go ahead.

11  
12 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: So through the  
13 Chair. We do not expect ice to go away here in  
14 Northwest Alaska, you know, it's always going to be  
15 cold in the winter, it's always going to be dark in the  
16 winter and that's going to promote sea ice growth, it's  
17 just going to be harder for it to get started in the  
18 fall and it'll be easier for it to start melting away  
19 in the spring and early summer. There are no computer  
20 models that predict an ice free Chuckchi Sea, Northwest  
21 Alaska. You know we basically expect it to be ice  
22 covered, you know, for generations. Now, in the  
23 summer, you know, it's possible that there may be  
24 little to no sea ice in the high Arctic, you know, in  
25 the summer but we would always expect it to form back  
26 in the winter, again, maybe not as far, maybe not as  
27 thick, you know, it might not be safe for traveling but  
28 we do expect for there to be Arctic ice in the cold  
29 season for the foreseeable future.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 MR. CLEVELAND: I just suggesting that  
34 what if, in 20 years, there's no sea ice, most of us  
35 are not going to be here in 20 years, maybe, you never  
36 know, I might give you call in 20 years and tell you,  
37 hey, I was right, and then what, you know.

38  
39 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Well, I mean you  
40 have to look at it from.....

41  
42 MR. CLEVELAND: 20 years is a long  
43 ways, with this global warmer it's going to be warmer  
44 and warmer every year and it's going to happen in  
45 Northwest.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Yes. And, again,  
50

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1 through the Chair, you know, if we look at it as an  
2 exercise and, you know, thermodynamics, even the most  
3 -- even the worst case scenario warmings projections  
4 would still leave us with ice in Northwest Alaska in  
5 the cold season for the foreseeable future. Again,  
6 less -- fewer number of days and not as thick  
7 concentrations, lower, but, again, there's no scenario  
8 where the, you know, the equations of heat transfer  
9 would mean that there would not be any ice here so you  
10 can pretty much count on that.

11

12 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you.

15

16 MR. HOWARTH: 25 years from now, Vern,  
17 you will be using your bathing suit.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: One thing that you  
22 mentioned, Brian, that stuck out to my ear was that you  
23 don't -- the National Weather Service doesn't measure  
24 snowfall in Kotzebue anymore, is that a lack of  
25 funding, is that an administrative change due to  
26 Staffing, what's the story behind that?

27

28 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Thank you, Mr.  
29 Chair. So, you know, we have, I believe 12 locations  
30 around the state where we launch weather balloons and  
31 we do it right here in Kotzebue, just on the other side  
32 of the end of the runway, the west end of the runway.  
33 And a few years ago we installed what's called an AROS,  
34 an automated roiswand observation system, basically  
35 it's a robot, it launches the balloons by itself. We  
36 used to have at all these locations around the state  
37 three Staff members in what's we call the WSO, the  
38 Weather Service Office, and every night at midnight one  
39 of those Staff members went out with a ruler and  
40 measured the snow and the snow depth. But with the  
41 automated stations now those WSO sites, including  
42 Kotzebue has one Staff person and that one Staff person  
43 works during the days and does all they can during the  
44 day and works hard, but they're not there to measure  
45 the snow at midnight when it has to be measured, they  
46 just can't do that. And so if you look around we no  
47 longer get snow measured at Nome, Kotzebue, Bethel,  
48 McGrath, Cold Bay, King Salmon, Yakutat, Annette  
49 Island, no more snow depth at any of those locations.

50

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1 Now we do have others, we have snow tell stations and  
2 we have cooperative observers but those kind of long-  
3 term snow climatologies unfortunately have all been  
4 broken now.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So is there not a  
7 robot that can measure the snow?

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: You know measuring  
12 snow is really hard, especially in the tundra with --  
13 you know, you might have a drift where it's 12 inches  
14 deep and then the next day in your measurement  
15 location, you know, where you have your snow stake  
16 maybe it's all blown away so -- and then you report  
17 that there's only a trace of snow or one inch of snow  
18 and then the computer's say well that's not right so we  
19 got to throw out the observation so it's actually  
20 pretty tricky. And even in non-windy places, you see  
21 this in the Lower 48.....

22

23 (Teleconference interference -  
24 participants not muted)

25

26 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: .....where they  
27 have lots of problems measuring snow. We do have  
28 automated stations, we're testing equipment to do that,  
29 but there's really no substitute for a person sticking  
30 a ruler in the ground. It's really the best way to do  
31 it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Understood. Thank  
34 you. Any other questions or comments for Brian.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, thank  
39 you for your presentation. And if we have any follow  
40 up questions we'll be sure to move them your way  
41 through Lisa.

42

43 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Absolutely. And,  
44 thank you, again, for having me out here. This is my  
45 first time to Kotzebue, it's a beautiful place. And I  
46 would also like to add, I give a lot of talks to  
47 various groups, I've spoken to the Legislature and a  
48 number of groups about climate and climate change and I  
49 try to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge  
50



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1 whenever I can and I feel like I've heard a lot the  
2 last two days about what's going on on the ground here  
3 and so I appreciate that information and I'll be taking  
4 that back with me and communicating that.

5

6 So, thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you.

9

10 MR. ARMSTRONG: Is the effects coming  
11 in from the hurricanes that are happening down south.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So for the record  
14 there is a question regarding effects from hurricanes  
15 and typhoons happening down south.

16

17 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Thank you.  
18 Through the Chair. There was a -- as everyone knows a  
19 big storm that was the remnants of Typhoon Merbok in  
20 the third week of September -- second or third week of  
21 September that caused tremendous damage from, you know,  
22 the Seward Peninsula southward and we think that  
23 there's more -- that it's more likely that the typhoons  
24 in the western Pacific, they seem to be curving, you  
25 know, taking a clockwise turn and entering the North  
26 Pacific and everything has to go just right for it to  
27 kind of explosively strengthen like the former Merbok  
28 Storm did but there is an indication that that -- those  
29 scenarios will be more likely than not. And also the  
30 Merbok Storm formed in an area where typhoons didn't  
31 form before because the water -- you have to have water  
32 that's at least 70 degrees fahrenheit for a typhoon or  
33 a hurricane to form, and where it formed, the water is  
34 typically a few degrees too cool but right now it's  
35 extremely warm, it's warm enough that a typhoon was  
36 able to form there. So we're also going to expect more  
37 of that, more of the area where typhoons can form now  
38 is a little bit bigger and so it gives even more of an  
39 opportunity for those storms to head north into the  
40 North Pacific and potentially impact Alaska.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
43 Brian. And welcome to Kotzebue and thank you for  
44 joining us the last couple days.

45

46 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: My pleasure, thank  
47 you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that we'll

50

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1 move on. And I don't believe I mentioned it, it's  
2 traditional with the agency reports for a 15 minute  
3 time limit per agency so just keep that in mind. Next  
4 we'll move on to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
5 with Selawik National Wildlife Refuge activity report.

6

7 MR. WIESE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
8 is Will Wiese with the Selawik National Wildlife  
9 Refuge, I'm the Assistant Manager for Selawik. We  
10 currently don't have a manager and that's why I'm  
11 sitting in front of you. I'll get to that in a second.

12

13 So this is going to be just a verbal  
14 report, although I did type up notes of what I'm going  
15 to say and hand them out so you can refer back to them  
16 later if you'd like. There's copies on the back table  
17 in case anybody in the room wants them and I believe  
18 Lisa emailed them out for folks.

19

20 So Selawik Refuge, just a reminder  
21 where we're at, east of here. Selawik Refuge  
22 encompasses the whole Kobuk River Delta, south of the  
23 river going up past Kiana about 10 miles, the Waring  
24 Mountains, and, of course, the whole Selawik Refuge  
25 Valley, Tag River, Kougerok River, down towards the  
26 Selawik Hills. As a wildlife Refuge we were  
27 established under ANILCA with three main purposes.

28

29 The first purpose being conserve fish  
30 and wildlife, including Western Arctic Caribou Herd,  
31 sheefish, migratory birds, salmon.

32

33 A second really important purpose to us  
34 is to provide for subsistence opportunity.

35

36 The third main purpose was to maintain  
37 quality and quantity of waters.

38

39 So, of course, I talked a little bit  
40 about the land that Selawik Refuge encompasses. Of  
41 course it also surrounds the village of Noorvik, the  
42 village of Selawik, and there's a lot of the people in  
43 the region from those villages but also from Kotzebue,  
44 Buckland, up river that use the resources on Selawik  
45 Refuge, and in our management, we think about that  
46 every day and it's kind of our focus in all of the  
47 decisions we make on Selawik.

48

49 When I say, we, our Staff is myself as

50

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1 the assistant manager. Brittany Sweeny next to me, our  
2 outreach specialist, you've heard from her quite a bit,  
3 she's got a lot of knowledge of the area and a really  
4 good communicator and gets out to the communities as  
5 much as she can. Also, of course, our ologists, Bill  
6 Carter. We also have Christina Nelson who was here  
7 yesterday, she's sort of the face of our Refuge if you  
8 walk in through our office door, she also heads up a  
9 lot of our environmental education programs. Melissa  
10 Brown, who's in the back. Melissa is our newest Refuge  
11 employee, she's in Selawik. She's our information  
12 technician. She's really, really important for getting  
13 information out to the community and bringing  
14 information back to us on what's going on.

15

16 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, thank you, Will.  
17 This is Brittany. I just wanted to mention for those  
18 listening, that Melissa will be -- will have  
19 applications for the Council, if anybody wants to  
20 apply, and she'll have copies of the presentations from  
21 attending these meetings. So for folks out there that  
22 are listening if you have questions to followup Melissa  
23 is one contact person that will be in Selawik but also  
24 knows a lot of folks in Noorvik and the upper Kobuk to  
25 help with that communication.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MR. WIESE: Thanks, Brittany. And  
30 folks we haven't heard from or seen yet this meeting.  
31 Sean Nelson is our maintenance professional here in  
32 Kotzebue, has been keeping us warm for almost 20 years.  
33 Frank Berry, Jr., who is our maintenance person in  
34 Selawik village and also our expert in getting us  
35 around out on the country and showing us the lands and  
36 waters, having grown up being out there.

37

38 So management updates from Selawik  
39 Refuge. The first thing I want to hit on is the OTZ  
40 telecom broadband project. What this is is OTZ  
41 Telecommunications right over here is proposing to  
42 build a system of microwave repeater towers to bring  
43 broadband internet capability or expand broadband  
44 internet capability to the villages in this region.  
45 Basically the project will be 30 towers starting at the  
46 Dalton Highway. A tower approximately every 25 miles  
47 and a tower in each one of the communities. The reason  
48 Selawik Refuge is involved is the current plan is to  
49 have one tower placed in the middle of Selawik Refuge  
50

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1 on Refuge lands. In addition to that there'll be a  
2 couple other towers within the Refuge borders in  
3 villages and on NANA lands. So Selawik Refuge, we're  
4 working with the Bureau of Land Management on  
5 permitting this project. The Bureau of Land Management  
6 is the lead because they'll have several towers on  
7 their lands. One important component of this is also  
8 understanding what impacts to subsistence there might  
9 be from having these towers. This is sort of a  
10 preliminary chance for you to provide input if you have  
11 any right now. But we're just kind of starting this  
12 process and I think at the winter meeting we'll more  
13 formally be asking for input as to what impacts on  
14 subsistence the tower could have. But I want to put it  
15 out there now so that folks are thinking about it for  
16 the next meeting and if you do have comments now we'd  
17 take those.

18  
19 MS. SWEENEY: So on the second page of  
20 our Refuge report there's a map there and the one tower  
21 that's on Refuge lands is the red dot. It's located  
22 right along the main winter trail route between Selawik  
23 and Ambler before the trail branches, you know, between  
24 the Shungnak trail and the Ambler trail so it will be  
25 in a location that will be visible to winter users just  
26 for your information as to where we're talking about.  
27 The other dots that are shown on the map are other  
28 tower locations in communities but not on Refuge lands.  
29 So we only have, you know, say so or any input on the  
30 tower that's on the Refuge lands.

31  
32 And I wanted to mention that according  
33 to the information we have received from OTZ, these  
34 towers will have broadband capability so they would  
35 improve internet speed in communities, they won't have  
36 cell phone capability that we know of so it's not going  
37 to improve like village cell service is what we're  
38 aware of at this time.

39  
40 MR. WIESE: Thank you, Brittany. So  
41 I'll move on from that one. Now and, again, welcome to  
42 take comments at the end of at any time.

43  
44 The next thing I wanted to mention was  
45 hunting guides and transporters on the Refuge. As far  
46 as hunting guides go, the Refuge has one permitted  
47 guides to take hunters out on the Refuge. That guide  
48 hasn't operated on the Refuge for a few years. Did not  
49 operate on the Refuge at all so we had no guided  
50

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1 hunters on the Refuge. That guide is not planning to  
2 renew his permit and so there'll be an application  
3 period in 2023 for hunting guides to guide hunters on  
4 Selawik Refuge. It's worth noting, you know, the  
5 reason that guide is not planning to renew his permit  
6 is because there hasn't been out of state moose hunting  
7 on the Refuge, or in the area, or the whole unit for  
8 several years and that's primarily what he would guide  
9 out there and that hasn't changed. And also the  
10 caribou just aren't showing up on Selawik Refuge in  
11 time for guided hunters. So we don't really know what  
12 to expect as far as interest in that guide permit  
13 application period but it will be open in 2023.

14  
15 Likewise, we also permit transporters  
16 to haul hunters into the Refuge. This year we issued  
17 three permits. I've received reports back from two of  
18 the three that they did not take any hunters into the  
19 Refuge. Haven't received the report from the third  
20 because those aren't due until December but my  
21 understanding from talking to that individual is that  
22 they didn't haul anyone into the Refuge either. So it  
23 doesn't look like any commercially-supported hunters  
24 were out on Selawik Refuge this year.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Real quick, Will.  
27 When you say that you'll be having an application  
28 period for a new guide, does that mean that the Refuge  
29 only allows one guide at a time?

30  
31 MR. WIESE: Yes, Mr. Chair, that's  
32 correct. We only have one guide use area so one guide  
33 receives a permit.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And then for  
36 transporters, or air taxis, similar, you only have  
37 capacity for three or is that just what you have had is  
38 three?

39  
40 MR. WIESE: There is no limit to the  
41 number of transporters we'll give permits to. Just  
42 this year it was only three and typically it's four,  
43 this year it was only three that sought out the permit.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you.

46  
47 MR. WIESE: You're welcome, Mr. Chair.  
48 The next thing I'd mention is we did have a law  
49 enforcement patrol over the eastern half of the Refuge  
50

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1 this year, a helicopter patrol. That was in response  
2 to concerns that non-local residents, non-local out of  
3 area people might come and hunt moose on the Refuge in  
4 places that they have in the past, you know, Wildlife  
5 Special Action 21-01 Selawik Refuge was closed to moose  
6 hunting this year by out of area hunters and so we  
7 wanted to make sure we followed up and actually checked  
8 to make sure that that rule was being followed. The  
9 patrol was in mid-September, usually when the peak of  
10 the sporthunters are here hunting moose and happy to  
11 report they didn't see any sporthunters on that patrol,  
12 or actually any hunters in that up river area where  
13 sporthunters usually are.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And just to let you  
16 know you have five minutes left.

17  
18 MR. WIESE: Okay, we're right on track.  
19 Next thing I was just going to mention we talked a lot  
20 about this yesterday but Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
21 working group. I'm acting as the agency lead for the  
22 Fish and Wildlife Service at that and I'll be at the  
23 December meeting. We're really interested in working  
24 with Park Service, the State and the working group  
25 members to address the caribou issues and I just can't  
26 stress how much we see that as important going forward,  
27 and how important that management plan and  
28 participation there. So hopefully the RAC will be  
29 represented.

30  
31 Next I'll hand it to Brittany.  
32 Brittany was going to give a quick, quick update on the  
33 outreach program activities this year.

34  
35 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you, Will. So,  
36 yeah, just one thing about the caribou herd working  
37 group is I'm going to be more involved in the  
38 production of the Caribou Trails Newsletter this year,  
39 the working group's newsletter so I made a note, you  
40 know, one possible idea, what happens if you get a sick  
41 caribou; that could be an article we could put in  
42 there.

43  
44 But the outreach program, under that  
45 program is myself, Melissa Brown and Christina Nelson  
46 and one of the main projects we do every year is the  
47 Selawik Science Culture Camp so I just want to thank  
48 all the people in Selawik who worked with us on that.  
49 It was really exciting to have the camp in person again  
50

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1 this year after not having it. I felt like the kids in  
2 the community were really happy to have this chance to  
3 get together again and it was really nice to see elders  
4 and kids and everybody coming together. So that was a  
5 big success for us this year. I also am happy that  
6 Christina Nelson and Melissa Brown were able to do lots  
7 of outdoor youth activities this summer. I want to  
8 thank Lonnie Tebbets in Noorvik and Ellen  
9 (Indiscernible) in Noorvik for helping us host those in  
10 Noorvik and Melissa in Selawik along with the Selawik  
11 Wellness Committee. And we try to focus our youth  
12 activities and our outreach in the villages because we  
13 know that there is more going on for kids in Kotzebue  
14 than there are for kids in the villages. So those are  
15 the main things about the outreach program that has  
16 happened this year.

17  
18 But I also want to say that Alex Hanson  
19 from Fish and Game and myself, we were able to travel  
20 to Selawik, Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk this fall to do  
21 hunter information meetings. We wanted to thank the  
22 tribal offices or cities for helping us to host those  
23 and announce them, just to answer any hunters questions  
24 about what's happening with caribou and moose and get  
25 feedback so we would like to continue to do those  
26 hunter information meetings, as you mentioned, Elmer.  
27 I think they're a good way for us to hear from folks  
28 and to answer people's questions and get out into the  
29 villages.

30  
31 MR. WIESE: Thanks Brittany. The last  
32 thing I'll mention really quickly because we only have  
33 a minute is our biological program updates and we've  
34 heard a lot from Bill. Bill's been really busy. One  
35 of the things I'll highlight is he did install some  
36 small sensors to measure stream flow in the Selawik  
37 River, Tag, Kougerok and Fish Rivers to give us an idea  
38 how much water is flowing throughout the year so we got  
39 a better understanding for the future of how much water  
40 is needed for fish to spawn and move. And they're  
41 paired with temperature sensors too so we can look at  
42 temperature. And going forward we're going to look  
43 closely at whitefish. In the coming weeks we're  
44 developing a whitefish plan. We're still monitoring  
45 the thaw slump, or mudslide. It didn't look like any  
46 real major activity there this year but we'll continue  
47 to monitor.

48  
49 The last thing is we're always here in  
50

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1 Kotzebue. The office is open every day, Monday through  
2 Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 stop in any time. Find us in the  
3 phonebook, find us on FaceBook website. We're always  
4 happy to answer questions about the Refuge or if it's  
5 something that's not Refuge related find the right  
6 person who can answer questions.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. SWEENEY: And Melissa Brown's normal  
11 working office is in Selawik, in the city of Selawik  
12 building so anybody can also contact her there with  
13 questions. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, both. Any  
16 questions or comments from members of the RAC for  
17 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.

18

19 MR. KRAMER: Hello, Chairman, this is  
20 Mike Kramer.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Mike.

23

24 MR. KRAMER: I know in the past that  
25 the Selawik Wildlife Refuge used to do a lot of  
26 waterfowl, you know, take on a lot of waterfowl data  
27 and stuff like that, you know, tagging. If I remember  
28 right -- I'm not too sure who did the swans, they did  
29 one up on the Noatak -- the Noatak Delta for swans,  
30 who's taking up waterfowl anymore. You know are they  
31 putting bands on ducks or geese and when was the last  
32 time this was done and who's planning on doing it next  
33 because, you know, waterfowl is a very important of our  
34 subsistence resources. And I've noticed the last five  
35 years that it's been well overlooked, you know,  
36 population-wise, how's the black brants doing, how's  
37 the spectacled eider doing, you know, that's one thing  
38 that I could recall in the past that, you know, my  
39 brother took part in, Lance, and Gene Peltola out of  
40 Arctic Circle, when they used to go down there and get  
41 those rocket nets and catch a bunch of ducks and geese  
42 and put bands on them and release them. It'd be  
43 interesting to see if we could get that started again,  
44 you know, I don't know which entity would take that  
45 over or start it.

46

47 But it would be very nice for, you  
48 know, either Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife, Park  
49 Service, you know, any of them, BLM could try and pitch  
50



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1 in and try and get some of these waterfowls. I know  
2 that we've had a crazy amount of snow geese in the last  
3 10 years at least, that'd be pretty interesting to find  
4 out if we, you know, could get more studies done on  
5 waterfowl. I haven't seen one done in years.  
6 Waterfowls been very overlooked the last how many  
7 years so it'd be good to see a couple more studies come  
8 up on them.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. SWEENEY: Through the Chair. Mr.  
13 Kramer. This is Brittany. I know Bill mentioned  
14 earlier that he doesn't love birds but I do so I'm  
15 happy to hear them mentioned. One thing that's newer,  
16 I guess, is that the Fish and Wildlife Service, you  
17 know, we have a co-management agreement now for the  
18 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and so Fish  
19 and Wildlife Service also has a Migratory Birds  
20 Division that's separate than our Refuge that's based  
21 out of Anchorage. So a lot of the ongoing annual  
22 monitoring of waterfowl populations is done by that  
23 Migratory Birds Division and their crews come through  
24 every year and do surveys. We usually put fliers out  
25 to let people know, hey, they're going to be flying  
26 around with this amphibious float plane and that's what  
27 they're doing, is they're monitoring the population.  
28 They have some specific surveys for scoters as well,  
29 other species of concerns. But one of the main other  
30 groups that we support and partner with is there's a  
31 Northwest Arctic Region Migratory Bird Council that's  
32 set up through that AMBCC co-management. And so Cyrus  
33 Harris is our region's representative on that and he's  
34 the Chair of that Council. Wilbur is a member of that  
35 representing Noorvik and there's village reps. So we  
36 sort of have a separate meeting all about migratory  
37 birds and it's a lot of good information shared there.  
38 I'd be happy to share that with Lisa as well.

39

40

41 Then the last thing I will say is that  
42 when Selawik Refuge recently went through our  
43 biological monitoring planning process and we looked at  
44 what are some of the most important things on the  
45 Refuge for us to pay attention to, birds did come up on  
46 there, because Selawik is a really rich nesting area  
47 for waterfowl so we have scoters on our list, you know,  
48 the black ducks and we also have Canada geese on our  
49 list to monitor and we selected those because they're  
50

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1 important for subsistence and also that they're known  
2 to have important habitat on the Refuge. So we do hope  
3 to continue to monitor those specifically and we'll  
4 engage with local people as we plan those projects.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. KRAMER: Okay, thank you very much  
9 for that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike, for  
12 your questions and thank you, Brittany, for the  
13 answers. If there are no other questions -- Wilbur.

14

15 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. I'll just say  
16 to Michael that our last migratory bird meeting was  
17 just about a month ago or so. And there isn't any  
18 Asian flu or anything in the -- the brants, the geese  
19 and the ducks are all free of that. But Cyrus over at  
20 Sisualik, he ran across a brant that land -- because it  
21 was flying kind of weird and it started staggering, as  
22 it was walking, it fell down, so he disposed of that.  
23 And I guess he's supposed to bring it in or something  
24 to have it tested.

25

26 And the only bird flu deal that showed  
27 up in Alaska was chickens. Two in Wasilla. That was  
28 the only flu of any bird and it came out of the  
29 chicken. They're so -- they stay so close together all  
30 the time and nowhere to go, such a small area that they  
31 were at.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, thank you, Wilbur.  
36 Bird flu was a big topic at our last meeting and there  
37 were some reports around the state. It was hard to get  
38 samples always from subsistence hunters but they did  
39 say that, you know, bird flu will maybe continue to be  
40 around so for people to be observant when you're  
41 harvesting birds, you know, you can recognize a sick  
42 bird. But if birds are cooked then there's no reason  
43 to think that people could be sick from this. Be  
44 careful when you're harvesting and wash your hands and  
45 so on. But there's a bird reporting hot line, I have  
46 it posted on our FaceBook and so recently we heard  
47 calls from Deering about gulls that were being seen on  
48 the beach. And so they're still collecting reports if  
49 anybody is observing birds that might be sick, we're  
50

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1 still taking those reports to try to keep track of it.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Brittany.  
6 If there are no other questions I'd like to thank you  
7 both for coming in and everybody else from Selawik  
8 National for spending time with us the last couple  
9 days. We'll go ahead and move on to the National Park  
10 Service, which usually has a lot of reports and a lot  
11 of information to share, so for this one we'll allow a  
12 little bit extra time of 20 minutes total for the Park  
13 Service and we'll leave about 10 minutes for questions.  
14 So first on the list we have Gates of the Arctic  
15 National Park and Preserve update with Marcy Okada,  
16 Mark Dowdle and Kyle Joly.

17

18 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
19 is Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of  
20 the Arctic National Park and Preserve. I'd like to  
21 refer you to Page 49 of your meeting book for our  
22 written update.

23

24 So we have a new Superintendent for  
25 Gates of the Arctic, Mark Dowdle, and Mark's online for  
26 this meeting and we'll have Mark go ahead and introduce  
27 himself.

28

29 MR. DOWDLE: Thank you, Marcy. Mr.  
30 Chair and members of the Council. I'm Mark Dowdle.  
31 I'm Superintendent of Gates of the Arctic National Park  
32 and Preserve and I also manage Yukon-Charley Rivers  
33 National Preserve to the east. It's an honor to be  
34 with you today. I started this appointment in April of  
35 this year and I had the honor of serving in the  
36 Northwest Arctic National ParkLands last winter there  
37 in Kotzebue. I actually got a chance to meet several  
38 of you in person and to attend your winter meeting  
39 earlier this year and very glad to see Superintendent  
40 McPadden there now. He's a great Superintendent and  
41 has a great team there. I just wanted to introduce  
42 myself to you. We do have several updates and we're  
43 happy to answer any questions that you have and I'm  
44 going to turn it back over to Marcy.

45

46 Thanks.

47

48 MS. OKADA: So for subsistence, just  
49 like Cape Krusenstern and Kobuk Valley, Gates of the

50

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1 Arctic has a Subsistence Resource Commission which met  
2 this past April. The SRC received an update on the  
3 Ambler Access Road Project and there was much  
4 discussion on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,  
5 preliminary results for a moose survey, dall sheep  
6 surveys and law enforcement along the eastern boundary  
7 of the Park. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for  
8 next week, November 9th through 10th in Fairbanks. And  
9 we will continue to have discussions on the Western  
10 Arctic Caribou Herd, this past dall sheep survey, the  
11 results, law enforcement, climate change and human  
12 impacts on wildlife populations when they're low. And  
13 then I'd like to pass it on to Kyle Joly for an update  
14 on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and our moose  
15 survey.

16  
17 MR. JOLY: Thanks, Marcy. My name's  
18 Kyle Joly. I'm a Wildlife Biologist for Gates of the  
19 Arctic National Park and Preserve. You had a really  
20 nice presentation from Alex Hanson yesterday so I'll  
21 try to keep it short. You know one of the things that  
22 really came across yesterday was later migration and  
23 what's driving that. You know one of the things that  
24 we were able to assess was the impacts of cold weather  
25 and snow on caribou migration. As you know those  
26 things tend to push caribou on their fall migration and  
27 we've been seeing those things happen later and later  
28 but we were able to document that finding which, you  
29 know, you subsistence users have seen and known for  
30 decades.

31  
32 The other thing that's really important  
33 about those migrations is not only are they coming  
34 later but less animals are coming across the Kobuk  
35 River. So five or 10 years ago we were seeing over 80  
36 percent of the collared animals cross the Kobuk River  
37 to migrate south and now in the past few years, the  
38 past five years we've saw about only 32 percent migrate  
39 south so that's a big difference and it's really  
40 impacting who can harvest and how much you can harvest.  
41 Last fall the percentage was up a little bit but it was  
42 still one of the latest and fewest animals migrating  
43 across, or at least fewer than earlier years, five and  
44 10 years ago. Besides weather, the other thing that's  
45 probably impacting the migrations is the population  
46 size. With the herd dropping, again, to 164,000, we  
47 have a smaller herd and smaller herds tend to use less  
48 area which means they migrate less.

49  
50

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1 I just want to echo Vern Cleveland's  
2 and Alex Hanson's comments, I really appreciated them  
3 yesterday, you know, the desire to lower harvest.  
4 That's one of the few tools that we have direct control  
5 over so I'm glad to hear people talking about some  
6 ideas of how to lower harvest to try and help out the  
7 herd especially lowering the harvest on cows. I'm also  
8 really interested in Vern's comments about potentially  
9 using some kind of community reporting, I think that'd  
10 be really helpful to help us biologists look at how  
11 much impact harvest is having on the herd.

12  
13 I'll take any questions on that before  
14 I move on to moose.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions or  
17 comments from members of the RAC for Kyle.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, you can  
22 move on Kyle.

23  
24 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
25 Oh, go ahead.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 MR. JOLY: Was there a question?

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: No.

32  
33 MR. JOLY: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
34 Chairman. I'll move on to moose survey. So this was  
35 done in Gates of the Arctic but it was done over on the  
36 southeast corner of the Park and so it's just out of  
37 the Northwest Arctic region but it is very similar  
38 habitat to the upper Kobuk and things like that. So I  
39 just want to quickly report that we did a new survey  
40 this March of 2022. We had an estimate of about 1,300  
41 moose and that's up from our last estimate which was  
42 done in 2015. So some good news just east of the  
43 region.

44  
45 That's all I have and I'll take any  
46 questions on either moose or caribou.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Kyle. Any  
49 questions, comments from members of the RAC.

50

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1 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is  
2 Michael.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Mike.  
5

6 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, hi, Kyle. I'm not  
7 too sure if I missed the population for Game Management  
8 Unit 23. I know that you guys did a lower Kobuk count  
9 last year and -- or was it this spring, I'm not sure,  
10 but, yeah, I was kind of hoping to hear what the  
11 numbers are, you know, because moose are starting to  
12 get harvested a little more nowadays now that our  
13 caribou population has dropped and I'm trying to pay  
14 attention to moose and dall sheep, you know, out of  
15 Gates of the Arctic and here in the Bairds and the  
16 DeLongs.

17  
18 MR. JOLY: Yeah, thank you. That's a  
19 great question. So hopefully Raime's in the building  
20 and he'll be able to answer questions about the Kobuk  
21 moose survey. I wasn't involved with that one. So  
22 hopefully he'll answer that one.

23  
24 Sheep surveys, we continue to do them  
25 in Gates of the Arctic. Overall sheep populations are  
26 down in much of the Brooks Range. This year's survey  
27 was relatively stable from previous years but still  
28 lower than, you know, what we kind of consider as  
29 normal.

30  
31 MR. KRAMER: Has there been any local  
32 harvest out of Ambler, Shungnak or Kobuk?

33  
34 MR. JOLY: Do you mean for sheep?

35  
36 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, dall sheep.

37  
38 MR. JOLY: I think probably Marcy would  
39 know better than me about that. Generally the harvest  
40 is pretty low from those villages in the Gates of the  
41 Arctic. Sometimes we get a few sheep taken by people  
42 coming up from Allakaket. Marcy, do you have any  
43 additional information on dall sheep harvest?

44  
45 MS. OKADA: Yeah, Mr. Kramer, so for  
46 Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk, just to the north of them it's  
47 State and Corp lands and there's dall sheep habitat on  
48 those lands in addition to Gates of the Arctic so folks  
49 don't have to go all the way up into Gates of the  
50

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1 Arctic to go look for sheep. I think there's only a  
2 handful of real avid sheep hunters coming out of the  
3 upper Kobuk and then heading into Gates, you know,  
4 because they have to travel quite a bit of a distance.  
5 So as of right now I think if there's any sheep harvest  
6 it's pretty low.

7

8 MR. KRAMER: And you guys said that the  
9 numbers are stabilizing, but kind of lower than normal.

10

11 MS. OKADA: So unfortunately the dall  
12 sheep surveys that were conducted this past July were  
13 done in the northeastern and southeastern portions of  
14 the Park so the opposite end from Unit 23. And they  
15 weren't able to do surveys in the western portion of  
16 Gates which is inside of Unit 23. So hopefully that  
17 area can be surveyed fairly soon. So as of right now  
18 we don't have any population numbers for you folks.

19

20 MR. KRAMER: Okay, thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike and  
23 Marcy and Kyle. If there's no other questions  
24 we'll.....

25

26 MS. OKADA: And if there's.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead.

29

30 MS. OKADA: .....just -- I just got a  
31 little bit more to share just to wrap things up real  
32 quick.

33

34 So there was a lot of discussion about  
35 orange colored streams yesterday and today and so  
36 there's a multi-Park project titled the Rusting of  
37 Arctic Waters, Using Orange Streams to Identify and  
38 Assess Degraded Water Quality Caused by Metal  
39 Mobilization from PermaFrost Soils, and that's a really  
40 long title -- but it's a joint project between the Park  
41 Service and USGS and it aims to measure the effects of  
42 iron mobilization on stream water quality and food webs  
43 including resident fish communities. So Arctic soils  
44 store large amounts of iron and mercury which can be  
45 released as permafrost soils thaw. So these  
46 preliminary observations suggest that orange streams  
47 reaches have higher iron concentrations, less dissolved  
48 oxygen and more acidic water than nearby clearwater  
49 streams. So this project would like to work on the

50

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1 Salmon River, the Alatna River, which is in Gates of  
2 the Arctic, the Kougaroik River and the Gashashok River  
3 and they're also looking at possible other potential  
4 sites and they're working on their study design. And  
5 currently this project is funded from 2023 to 2025.  
6 They were able to collect preliminary samples at some  
7 sites in 2022 and they're waiting for the data from  
8 those samples to come back from the lab and then  
9 they're hoping to present this information at your next  
10 RAC meeting in March 2023. And the main contact person  
11 for this project is John O'Donnell who works for the  
12 Park Service.

13

14 So that's our update for Gates of the  
15 Arctic, if there's any further questions.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Marcy. Any  
18 questions for Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
19 Preserve.

20

21 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Wilbur.

24

25 MR. HOWARTH: It's Wilbur. You say  
26 you're going to be going over to the Salmon River and  
27 do some testing, when is that going to happen?

28

29 MS. OKADA: So this project is going to  
30 start next year, so this is going to be next year  
31 sometime.

32

33 MR. HOWARTH: Okay, thank you. Thank  
34 you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.  
37 Thank you for that Marcy. Any other questions or  
38 comments from members of the RAC.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, I'd like  
43 to thank the Gates of the Arctic crew for joining us  
44 the last couple days. It's now 2:47, we'll go ahead  
45 and take a 10 minute break before we continue on with  
46 the rest of the Park Service reports.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50



0260

1 (On record)

2

3

CHAIRMAN BAKER: So it's now 3:00  
o'clock and we'll now come back to the agenda item of  
the agency report from the National Park Service. Next  
we'll be doing the Western Arctic ParkLands update.  
The floor is yours Mr. McPadden.

8

9

MR. MCPADDEN: Thanks, Mr. Chair and  
members of the Council. Ray McPadden here, Western  
Arctic National ParkLands, Kotzebue. A few updates,  
we're going to go pretty quick. We've had several team  
members sharing today.

14

15

So we are actively filling several  
positions. We have good news to share about new hires.  
One is Emily Creek. She'll begin with us here in just  
a couple of months as an anthropologist. So she will  
replace Hannah Atkinson, who I think many people knew,  
and Emily has a Masters in Anthropology and she  
currently works for the National Park Service so she'll  
be moving up here in January. And she'll facilitate  
our SRC meetings, she'll participate in RAC meetings as  
well. We're also excited to announce a local hire from  
Kotzebue, his name is Andrew Bell (ph). He'll begin  
with us as the facility manager for the Parks in  
January of 2023. He's a long time resident of the area  
and he's got a great background in construction trades  
and education.

30

31

In other news, Cape Krusenstern, Pit 6  
in Cape Krusenstern is a former quarry and gravel pit  
used in the construction of the Red Dog Road and in the  
summer of 2022 we began the first phase of a 15 acre  
multi-year -- what will be a multi-year reclamation  
effort. So this summer included survey work, earth  
work, revegetation and the site and the goal is to  
essentially reclaim it back to more natural conditions.

39

40

We also conducted.....

41

42

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Just one second, Ray.

43

44

MR. MCPADDEN: Yeah.

45

46

CHAIRMAN BAKER: I don't think we  
announced it but for those following in the book, we're  
under Supplemental Tab 6. All yours.

48

49

50

0261

1 MR. MCPADDEN: Thanks, Mr. Chair. And  
2 most of these things are in a written update and  
3 there's a few I'm adding just to -- based on the  
4 conversation here the last couple days.

5  
6 So we resumed field work in community  
7 programs this year. It was sort of a back to normal  
8 summer for us. We reopened our visitor's center back  
9 in the spring and then we were able to keep it open,  
10 you know, in spite of several spikes in Covid here over  
11 the summer. We also saw a return of recreational  
12 visitors to Kobuk Valley National Park and Noatak  
13 Preserve for float trips, fishing and to visit the  
14 great Kobuk SandDunes. Our Park Staff also visited a  
15 number of villages including Noatak, Kivalina, Ambler  
16 and Kiana just to name a few.

17  
18 We spent a considerable part of late  
19 summer implementing, or enforcing Wildlife Special  
20 Action 21-01(a) which was the closure of Noatak  
21 Preserve to caribou hunting by non-subsistence hunters.  
22 So lots of communication with outfitters and  
23 transporters and then also conducting enforcement  
24 patrols. Joe Dalle-Molle discussed this a little bit  
25 yesterday but, you know, my take on this, my  
26 observations were that, you know, essentially the  
27 closure worked, we didn't see a whole lot of outside  
28 activity in the Preserve itself. There were three big  
29 game guides that operated in the Preserve but that was  
30 for bear hunting and normally we see four big game  
31 transporters and only one of those big game  
32 transporters operated this year and that was actually  
33 north of the Preserve so more in Game Unit 26. So we  
34 really did not see, or not that we're aware of, any  
35 outside hunters hunting along the Noatak River in what  
36 is navigable waters, so did not observe that this year.  
37 Not saying it didn't happen perhaps and we're just not  
38 aware of it, but we think the closure was pretty  
39 effective in doing what it was supposed to do and we  
40 didn't see a whole lot of folks kind of pushing the  
41 navigable waters hunts.

42  
43 Okay.

44  
45 Last thing, visitor's center still  
46 open, we'll move to winter hours. So that's our  
47 bookstore and our museum, we'll move to winter hours on  
48 November 15th and winter hours will be Monday through  
49 Friday 10:30 to 4:30.  
50

0262

1                   If there's no questions I'm going to  
2 hand it over to Raime Fronstin.

3

4                   MR. ARMSTRONG:     So they apply for  
5 permits to enter the Park?

6

7                   MR. MCPADDEN: Yes, so we did have the  
8 three big game guides that had -- you know, that  
9 typically operate in the Preserve. And then just the  
10 one transporter that operated this year but that was  
11 north of the Preserve. So typically we have four  
12 transporters, Elmer, and essentially only one operating  
13 kind of in the area. So the other three transporters  
14 who would typically be dropping, you know, caribou  
15 hunters or moose hunters just essentially cancelled  
16 their trips and that was, you know, basically because  
17 of the closure. So, you know, I think it was just, you  
18 know, not appealing for most people to hunt in kind of--  
19 with all of the restrictions that were in place, you  
20 know, between the full larger, WSA21-01(a) and then  
21 also the controlled use area along the -- kind of along  
22 the lower portions of the Noatak, so, yeah, we just  
23 didn't see a whole lot of activity.

24

25                   MR. ARMSTRONG:     So you said they were  
26 going to Unit 26?

27

28                   MR. MCPADDEN: So, the one -- yeah, the  
29 one group that was still operating, the one big game  
30 transporter company that was still operating were going  
31 north of Noatak into 26, that was our observation,  
32 yeah.

33

34                   MR. ARMSTRONG:     Okay. Were there any  
35 violations?

36

37                   MR. MCPADDEN:     In 26 or?

38

39                   MR. ARMSTRONG:     Yeah.

40

41                   MR. MCPADDEN:     Yeah, I can't speak to  
42 what was happening there but we did not observe any  
43 violations in Noatak Preserve.

44

45                   MR. ARMSTRONG:     That's all, thank you.

46

47                   MR. MCPADDEN:     Okay, thank you very  
48 much.

49

50

0263

1 MR. FRONSTIN: (In Native) Raime  
2 Fronstin, Wildlife Biologist with Western Arctic.

3  
4 MR. SHIEDT: What'd you say.

5  
6 MR. FRONSTIN: Raime Fronstin, Wildlife  
7 Biologist.

8  
9 MR. SHIEDT: No, you said in Eskimo  
10 something.

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 MR. FRONSTIN: I said (In Native).

15  
16 MR. SHIEDT: That's good morning.

17  
18 MR. FRONSTIN: (In Native)

19  
20 MR. SHIEDT: (In Native)

21  
22 MR. FRONSTIN: How do you say good  
23 afternoon.

24  
25 MR. SHIEDT: (In Native)

26  
27 MR. FRONSTIN: Oh, that's what I tried.

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 MR. FRONSTIN: I need to go to Hannah's  
32 class, which I'm planning on.

33  
34 MR. SHIEDT: That's okay, you're  
35 trying.

36  
37 MR. FRONSTIN: I'm sorry, Christie.

38  
39 MS. OSBURN: Hi. This is Christie  
40 Osburn. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
41 Game, the Unit 23 Area Biologist. I'll be tagging  
42 along on Raime's presentation here.

43  
44 MR. FRONSTIN: So Supplemental Tab 7.  
45 We have the wildlife report from the Park Service so  
46 you can follow along with that or there's handouts on  
47 the table up front. I have caribou in here, I won't  
48 cover that because we've gotten good coverage of that  
49 already.

50

0264

1                   So with moose, Park Service and Fish  
2 and Game do surveys annually and we cycle through  
3 different survey areas and you can see that on Page 2  
4 of the wildlife report. I have the table and you can  
5 see all the survey areas that we cycle through, the  
6 years that we've surveyed and then the population  
7 estimates and then finally we'll answer Mike Kramer's  
8 questions about the moose population in lower Kobuk and  
9 the upper Kobuk. So as most of you know, from 2016 to  
10 2018 we had declines in three of the five populations  
11 that we sampled, however, the recent -- the most recent  
12 surveys in 2019 of the upper Kobuk, 2020 of 23  
13 southwest, 2021 of Selawik, and 2022 of lower Kobuk  
14 have all suggested that our populations have  
15 stabilized. They are still at those reduced numbers  
16 but they are stable. So the most recent survey we did  
17 was of the lower Kobuk this spring and our next survey  
18 we plan to do of the lower Noatak in April.

19  
20                   Any more -- oh, also, you know, we have  
21 heard and understand and share the concerns of everyone  
22 regarding the increase in use of moose because of the  
23 decrease and inaccessibility of the caribou. So we are  
24 planning on doing more extensive statistical modeling  
25 on the data that we've already collected from the moose  
26 population so that we can incorporate spacial and  
27 environmental variables to see if we can relate  
28 environmental variables and changes in climate and  
29 other things with population increases and decreases  
30 and location. So, you know, we will hope to reach out  
31 also with -- to get some traditional knowledge about,  
32 you know, environmental co-variants that we can include  
33 that we may not think about.

34  
35                   And did you have something.

36  
37                   MS. OSBURN: Yeah. Many of you might  
38 have worked with -- well, at least some of you might  
39 have worked with Warren Hanson, who is a research  
40 biologist out of Nome. He was the one who kind of  
41 spearheaded the neonate project in the lower Kobuk the  
42 last few years, that project has concluded but we have  
43 a new research biologist with Fish and Game, her name  
44 is Joel Heppler and she'll be picking up where Warren  
45 left off. And at this point we're hoping to start a  
46 project in the lower Kobuk, so the same area we did the  
47 neonate study to look at survival for short-yearlings,  
48 so calves that are about to turn one year old and we'll  
49 look at mortality throughout the next several years of  
50

0265

1 their life. So we should have more info on that coming  
2 out in the next few months and probably be able to talk  
3 more on that at your next winter meeting.

4

5 MR. FRONSTIN: So Page 3 is dall sheep  
6 and there really have been no changes -- yeah, I'm  
7 sorry, go ahead Elmer.

8

9 MR. ARMSTRONG: Real quick. I just  
10 wanted to ask about what number you use for your  
11 thresholds to decide decrease and stable?

12

13 MR. FRONSTIN: That's a good question.  
14 So we look at the difference between the two population  
15 numbers so once we have two surveys in one area we can  
16 compare the two numbers and so we're really just going  
17 on the survey before. So when you look at, for  
18 instance, Selawik 2016, the number -- the estimate was  
19 940, 2021 the estimate was 1,036 and that's considered  
20 stable because we use a T-test to determine whether  
21 those numbers are the same or different or increased or  
22 decreased and that's just a statistical analysis that  
23 allows us to determine, you know, is this number -- it  
24 is -- you know if you look at 1,036 obviously it's  
25 higher than 940 but if we go out and survey this area  
26 every single time, first of all we're never going to  
27 count all the moose, right, that's just impossible.

28

29 (Teleconference interference -  
30 participants not muted)

31

32 MR. FRONSTIN: Second of all our number  
33 is going to be different every time, right. So is this  
34 number -- is there a large enough difference in the  
35 number that we're getting this year versus the number  
36 that we got last time to actually say that there's a  
37 real difference in the numbers and so for these there's  
38 no real difference in the numbers, it's just saying  
39 that there's a stable-- they're essentially stable.  
40 Does that make sense, I know that's kind of.....

41

42 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes, thank you.

43

44 MR. FRONSTIN: Okay.

45

46 MR. ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to.....

47

48 MR. FRONSTIN: Yeah, good question,  
49 thanks.

50

0266

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: .....understand how you  
2 decide stable and decrease.

3  
4 MR. FRONSTIN: Right. And so that's,  
5 again, like so these numbers are reduced from what  
6 we've seen in the past, right, but from the last  
7 surveys is that they're stable so they're not  
8 continuing to decline at this moment.

9  
10 (Teleconference interference -  
11 participants not muted)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So whoever's coughing,  
14 please mute your phone.

15  
16 MR. FRONSTIN: So on Page 3 is the dall  
17 sheep data that we have collected in the past. We  
18 attempted a survey in 2020, we -- because of Covid and  
19 the different methods that we had to use we didn't get  
20 really reliable data so we really have no new  
21 information on that for you.

22  
23 There is a study -- funding was just  
24 received for a study that will begin in 2023 and it  
25 will last three years and that is a study that is going  
26 to develop a more precise, faster and lesser expensive  
27 method of monitoring sheep, particularly sheep that are  
28 in such small populations, like the ones we see here  
29 now. And so the emergency closure, you know, is still  
30 in effect, it has been since 2014. But we hope to get  
31 better estimates of these smaller populations in the  
32 future.

33  
34 So did you have anything on sheep?

35  
36 MS. OSBURN: Yeah. Council, through  
37 the Chair. Christie here with the Alaska Department of  
38 Fish and Game. We do a separate survey from the Park  
39 Service and it's a trend count survey so we go out and  
40 we just look at a survey area and count sheep and the  
41 minimum count this year, we were able to complete this  
42 last July. In over three days of survey we saw 180  
43 sheep and that included portions of the Central DeLong  
44 Mountains so essentially between Kaktovik and all the  
45 way out towards the Wulik Peaks. This was similar to  
46 what we'd found in 2018 and 2019 so kind of echoing  
47 what Kyle had mentioned for the Gates of the Arctic  
48 populations, it looks like we might have some stability  
49 at this point but a broader sheep survey by the Park  
50

0267

1 Service I think is not until two years.

2

3 MR. FRONSTIN: Correct. I believe  
4 we're planning that for 2023 or 2024 so. Should I move  
5 on to muskoxen.

6

7 MR. ARMSTRONG: Real quick. I just  
8 wanted to ask what are you going to do to determine  
9 what caused the decrease?

10

11 MR. FRONSTIN: Christie and I were just  
12 talking about this. So there have been studies in the  
13 past, I need to look in greater depth of them. Our  
14 sheep biologist is Will Deacy and he's out of Anchorage  
15 and so he really knows more about the sheep than I do  
16 and the surveys. But in the past they have shown that --  
17 I'm not sure if they were here or not, they were in  
18 the area, right, where they've shown icing events and  
19 severe weather events, you know, are definitely -- and  
20 deep snow are definitely hard on the sheep and increase  
21 their susceptibility to predation.

22

23 Do you have anything?

24

25 MS. OSBURN: Yeah, Mr. Armstrong,  
26 through the Chair. Fish and Game is actually hoping to  
27 look into some causes of sheep mortality within the  
28 DeLongs and the Bairds. This project idea is still  
29 very much in its infancy but we're hoping to collar  
30 individuals and look at, not only rates of mortality  
31 but causes of mortality. We've had this somewhat  
32 persistent decline for many years and as many of you  
33 know we have no current open hunting season. So we'd  
34 really like to start investigating why we have this  
35 persistent low levels of decline and then what the  
36 causes are. Other things that we'd look at would be  
37 disease monitoring. Ideally we'd incorporate some  
38 other aspects such as habitat use and potentially  
39 genetics. So lots more in development. We'll probably  
40 be reaching out to members of this Council as well as  
41 other members of the community to see what the public  
42 might be interested in finding out more of. So similar  
43 to our moose project I say stay tuned and hopefully  
44 we'll have more information at your next winter  
45 meeting.

46

47 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, thank you.

48

49 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is

50



0268

1 Michael.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Mike.

4

5

MR. KRAMER: Yeah, so what was your  
6 guys' total count on the Baird and the DeLong Mountains  
7 below and separate.

8

9

MS. OSBURN: Yes, Mr. Kramer, through  
10 the Chair. So with the State, ADF&G, we only looked at  
11 the DeLong Mountains. The Bairds is primarily Federal  
12 jurisdiction and so that's typically completed by the  
13 Park Service so I don't have numbers on the Bairds.  
14 But for the DeLong Mountains for overall the minimum  
15 count we had was 180 sheep and of that we had an  
16 observed lamb ratio -- lamb to 100 ewe-like at 18 lambs  
17 per 100 ewes and that was in the central area. We also  
18 looked at the western portion of the DeLongs which is  
19 more of those Wulik Peak areas and the lamb ratio there  
20 was actually quite a bit higher. We saw 39 lambs per  
21 100 ewe-like in the western.

22

23

A little info.

24

25

26

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MR. FRONSTIN: And I do have an  
estimate from 2019. In Figure 2 you can see there's  
some -- a break down of the different areas that the  
Park Service surveys and we did do a western Baird  
survey in 2019 and the count -- the abundance estimate  
was in the low 200s so pretty low.

MR. KRAMER: Okay. I'm pretty sure the  
wolves are doing a lot of picking off. A few years ago  
I spoke to the Fish and Wildlife Officer and he said he  
flew by this one peak and at that one time there was 21  
sheep on that one peak, and he said three months later  
he flew by and there was only three left and all the  
rest were down below dead that the wolves stayed down  
below and picked them off one at a time in the deep  
snow. But, yeah, there's -- with all these agencies,

0269

1 we got to come up with something, you know, we're kind  
2 of looking at -- it'd be nice to be looking at  
3 something kind of animal friendly by sterilizing wolves  
4 and bears. I mean it's better than going out and doing  
5 aerial wolf hunts and all this other stuff and aerial  
6 bear hunts or whatever. But this way you're taking a  
7 less interactive way and ensuring that, you know, like  
8 I was saying earlier that some animals won't be able to  
9 breed. I mean if you can get 20 bears a year, you  
10 know, in three years that's 60 bears, that's a pretty  
11 big dent. And like I said earlier that I talked to a  
12 pilot and he said he flew over a sow with four cubs and  
13 to be able to bring up four cubs up to almost  
14 adulthood, they were right along side mom and they were  
15 all just about the same size -- and they were just  
16 about the same size as mom, to rear that many young at  
17 once that's one pretty tough mom. You know they said  
18 they saw a lot of triplets, only a few twins, you know,  
19 two cubs but, yeah the wolves and the bears need to be  
20 -- start to be controlled, you know, try to find user  
21 friendly ways to be able to help bring down the  
22 population of the predators. I know that the Park  
23 Service and Fish and Wildlife are just like just let it  
24 be, let it go but, you know, we got to try to pitch and  
25 help because down there they feed elks hay, they dump  
26 off bales of hay to feed the elks, you know, I mean we  
27 should be able to go out and sterilize some bears and  
28 wolves.

29

30 But, yeah, that's all I have for right  
31 now. Thank you for your information on the sheep.

32

33 MR. FRONSTIN: Thank you, Mike. I do  
34 hear you. So muskoxen, we -- ADF&G and Park Service  
35 complete surveys, annual surveys on muskoxen. Annually  
36 we survey the core muskoxen survey area which is in  
37 your packets on Page 4, Figure 3 and it's essentially  
38 Cape Krusenstern up to Cape Thompson and then every  
39 four or five years we survey an expanded area which  
40 goes out to Howard Pass, includes Point Lay and the  
41 northern part of the Noatak. So in 2022 the core was  
42 surveyed and the estimate was 343 which essentially is  
43 no change since 2019. I mean there's been a little  
44 fluctuation where that's believed to be due to movement  
45 between that expanded population and the core  
46 population. 2020 the expanded survey area was surveyed  
47 and they did find an increase in the muskoxen  
48 population there. It went from 556 in 2019 to 911 in  
49 2020.

50

0270

1                   So that's all I have for that unless  
2 there's questions about muskoxen.

3

4                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Just one real brief  
5 question Raime. I don't know if this is a you question  
6 or maybe an Alex question since I know he was involved  
7 with a couple of the muskox that came into town here in  
8 Kotzebue this summer. Is there any ideas at this time  
9 why the muskox are being kind of pushed closer to  
10 communities that they traditionally haven't been that  
11 close to. I know it's not something that's been  
12 studied necessarily but just an observation.

13

14                  MR. FRONSTIN: I think we could say,  
15 one, the muskox population is growing. And I imagine --  
16 I mean I don't think anyone has done any studies  
17 really on that. I imagine with all of the changes  
18 going on that's -- you know that's affecting all of the  
19 wildlife, it would be the same. Do you -- Alex, do you  
20 have anything.

21

22                  MR. HANSON: Briefly I would just say  
23 like the encounters -- for the record, through the  
24 Chair, this is Alex Hanson. The encounters we saw in  
25 Kotzebue were probably, you know, rut activity. These  
26 were bulls that were just coming in probably looking  
27 for females. Didn't find any in town so we did our  
28 best to deal with that. One was obviously killed and  
29 donated to the local elders. And the other one I was  
30 able to push back out of town and did not come back.  
31 So that's my guesstimate on what was happening with  
32 those individuals, they were just rutty bulls looking  
33 for a mate.

34

35                  Thank you.

36

37                  MR. FRONSTIN: And I do want to keep it  
38 short but I want to say that the Park Service -- you  
39 know, the Park Service and Alaska Fish and Game hear  
40 the concerns about nuisance muskox and we are doing our  
41 best to try to address those -- the muskoxen population  
42 is increasing and they just opened a hunt on the North  
43 Slope, which basically they hunt out of the same  
44 population. Another thing is we're very interested in  
45 trying to open a culture camp so that we can have more  
46 people benefit from muskoxen. So if we can have, you  
47 know, one permit where there's a designated hunter and  
48 they hunt and we have this culture camp around muskoxen  
49 and then a lot of the community members can take home  
50

0271

1 some meat I think -- you know, we're looking into that.

2

3 And so -- so next up is brown bears.

4 The last survey was May 2021 for brown bears and that  
5 was on the Seward Peninsula and this is another  
6 rotating survey so we go Seward Peninsula to the lower  
7 Noatak, upper Noatak and Gates of the Arctic. And the  
8 Seward Peninsula population in 2021 was estimated that  
9 527. In 2015 was the last estimate in that area and it  
10 was 462 and so that population essentially is stable.  
11 It's not really increasing or decreasing. The next  
12 area is the lower Noatak and we're planning that survey  
13 -- hopefully it will be 2024 when we can do that survey  
14 and that is the largest population of brown bears in  
15 this area as everyone is familiar with. So that's in  
16 the works.

17

18 Any questions on the brown bear.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MR. FRONSTIN: So finally the wolves.  
23 So we have heard your concerns over the years regarding  
24 wolves. There haven't been any wolf surveys or studies  
25 done in this area in over 20 years so the Park Service  
26 began a pilot study in order to determine if we could  
27 use DNA to estimate population -- with population sizes  
28 and pedigrees and things like that. And so this study  
29 unfortunately began when Covid began so kind of our  
30 methods had to change a little bit but our first steps  
31 were to go out and fly over Noatak National Preserve  
32 and look for active den sites. And once we find active  
33 den sites we'll -- because wolves have high fidelity to  
34 their den sites, they essentially return to the same  
35 sites every year, they have a few -- a few dens but,  
36 you know, they kind of pick the right one depending on  
37 the year, so once we can determine where their dens are  
38 we can go back very easily and obtain fur samples and  
39 scat samples and obtain DNA. We also hope to reach out  
40 to local hunters and trappers to get samples for DNA  
41 and hopefully, eventually, you know, be able to have  
42 some estimates on population size. Currently, just  
43 based on the den surveys for the past three years, we  
44 have averaged five active dens in Noatak National  
45 Preserve and I don't presume that we've seen all of the  
46 active dens but I think that is the majority of them  
47 and, yeah, I can answer questions. I'm trying to be  
48 brief, so -- but there is more information in these  
49 packets.

50

0272

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: Real quick. Back to  
2 the bears, how many were reported taken by hunters? Is  
3 there a number?

4  
5 MR. DALLE-MOLLE: Just really briefly,  
6 through the Chair. Joe Dalle-Molle, again, with the  
7 Park Service. We don't have a good number count on  
8 that just yet. We have three guides that operate  
9 within the Preserve and out of that the most that any  
10 one guide can take is 12 clients in so it would be a  
11 maximum of 12 bears. Most of the guides don't come  
12 close to that, a couple just bring in a couple clients.  
13 I believe the numbers were less than they were in  
14 previous years. Just off the top of my head, before  
15 the reports are in, I'm estimating maybe in the  
16 vicinity of a dozen or so by what I've been hearing  
17 from the guides. We'll have better numbers at the next  
18 meeting for you.

19  
20 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions or  
23 comments from members of the RAC.

24  
25 MR. ARMSTRONG: Real quick, back to the  
26 bears. Those are from non-residents?

27  
28 MR. DALLE-MOLLE: And non-subsistence  
29 users (no microphone).

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: For the record the  
32 answer was for the most part, yes.

33  
34 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, thank you.

35  
36 MS. OSBURN: If I may, through the  
37 Chair, to followup more on Mr. Armstrong's question.  
38 We average about 50 bears sealed out of this area per  
39 year and that includes local and non-resident hunters.

40  
41 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Well, if there are no  
44 other questions, thank you Raime and Christie. We'll  
45 go ahead and move on. There's a note that Mr. Dalle-  
46 Molle might have something to present, was that still --  
47 were we still going to do that Joe, and Ray?

48  
49 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I think he  
50

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1 -- yeah, he covered it already.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay. If it's been  
4 covered already we won't worry about it. And, finally,  
5 for the Park Service we have Justin Young for the Kobuk  
6 Valley Subsistence Resource Commission.

7

8 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
9 is Justin Young with the National Park Service here in  
10 Kotzebue. Much of the concerns that the Kobuk Valley  
11 SRC wanted to bring up have been discussed in the  
12 meeting already so we can be kind of short.

13

14 They were concerned about the beavers  
15 and the discoloring of the Salmon River so we are  
16 bringing our Park Service and USGS researchers who did  
17 a multi-year beaver range expansion project and our --  
18 and thank you, Marcy Okada, for presenting the project,  
19 they are doing that larger scale -- or browning of the  
20 rivers. They're going to come up to the Kobuk Valley  
21 and Cape Krusenstern SRCs to present those projects and  
22 they've already agreed to present here. They'll likely  
23 do it remotely but if the RAC is interested we can  
24 definitely get them on the agenda.

25

26 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I think it would  
27 be good for the winter meeting. Let's do it.

28

29 MR. YOUNG: And then the last thing  
30 would be the voted -- the next SRC meeting for Kobuk  
31 Valley is going to be February 23rd and 24th with an  
32 alternate of February 28th and March 1st. And that is  
33 all my update. If anyone has any other questions about  
34 the Kobuk Valley SRC or have concerns they want to be  
35 translated back I'm open.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions,  
38 comments for Justin.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: One thing, just  
43 touching back from yesterday is for the open seats that  
44 we will need to nominate or appoint someone to. If we  
45 could just have those for our winter meeting then we  
46 could review and hopefully get someone to fill whatever  
47 vacant seats there are on the SRC.

48

49 MR. YOUNG: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

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1 We will be doing that. I've already reached out to  
2 some of our Staff in the regional office to create that  
3 list, and will likely also try to reach out to those  
4 individuals who are available to see if they're  
5 interested so that when we do have that list, if you  
6 say I want to nominate this person and they've already  
7 said yes then we can move faster in filling those  
8 seats.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Great. If there's no  
11 other questions we -- if you have something you can  
12 keep going.

13  
14 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
15 forgot to mention that as part of the Salmon River --  
16 issues of the Salmon River, the Park Service is looking  
17 to develop a pilot project to look at the fish  
18 populations in conjunction with that larger USGS and  
19 other Park Service water quality study so we'll be  
20 giving you updates on those proposal designs and  
21 potentially even if, with your PIN, if a proposal comes  
22 in we could try to collaborate with them.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Justin.  
27 Anything else for Mr. Young.

28  
29 MR. KRAMER: Yes, Chairman, this is  
30 Michael.

31  
32 MR. ARMSTRONG: Well -- go ahead Mike.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, go ahead Mike.

35  
36 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, you know, I know the  
37 Kobuk River had some pretty temperature, you know,  
38 differences in there in the spawning rivers, like the  
39 Hunt River and the Maniilaq and all those other  
40 spawning rivers, have you guys thought of putting  
41 temperature probes, you know, in specific areas in the  
42 Kobuk River all the way from Kiana, you know, down in  
43 front of Kiana and all the way up, something you could  
44 just drive by with a boat and pick up a week's worth of  
45 details as you pass by it because, you know, I noticed  
46 even up on the Noatak that there's some water  
47 temperature fluctuations. I've seen things up there  
48 that I haven't seen in a long time. You know we see a  
49 lot of salmon pooling up down at the mouth of the  
50

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1 Noatak for some odd reason and we see them up by the  
2 Aggi, you know, a few weeks later and then after that  
3 they're finally moseying up the river. Have you guys  
4 ever decided, or would want to try to do something like  
5 that so you could see what kind of temperature  
6 fluctuations we are having on both rivers?

7

8 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 MR. KRAMER: The spawning rivers, Eli,  
11 Kelly.

12

13 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Kramer.  
14 Through the Chair. There are ongoing long-term lakes  
15 and stream studies that they do water quality and I  
16 believe that there are sometimes temperature gauges  
17 that have been put in. We can reach out to the same  
18 researcher who did the beaver project to see about that  
19 data for the next RAC meeting. But I know that we are  
20 looking in that discoloring stream and potentially with  
21 fish study related to it, we are going to be looking at  
22 sensors that could be useful for getting temperature  
23 gages and things like that. So we are looking into it  
24 and it is something of interest for the Park Service.

25

26 MR. KRAMER: Okay, thank you.

27

28 MR. ARMSTRONG: Real quick. I just  
29 wanted to ask if there has been studies on methane  
30 release? I know it's been a topic about global warming  
31 and have you guys -- if so, have you guys been using  
32 that information?

33

34 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Armstrong.  
35 Through the Chair. Yes, we are starting up a couple  
36 different projects, also with the same researcher who's  
37 doing the water quality and the beaver research, we're  
38 looking at two different projects to look at methane  
39 release. One through a permafrost study where we're  
40 trying to understand the changes of depths and we're  
41 looking into ways that we can try to study that in  
42 frozen lakes. And I am actually having a meeting with  
43 the researcher about his interest in methane release  
44 tomorrow and so we can also give you an update at the  
45 next meeting on where we're going with it and where  
46 we're designing our research. But I think it's usually  
47 around lakes to be able to monitor its release and  
48 then see how that translates to everything else.

49

50



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1 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, thank you.  
2 That sounds good.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions  
5 for Justin.

6  
7 Wilbur.

8  
9 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair.  
10 Speaking of methane, in your guys' studies that you'll  
11 be doing, is it possible you could do it in the winter  
12 when they're like -- like just about now when it's  
13 freezing you sure can see those right in the -- I would  
14 say the -- maybe the Riley Channel has the most methane  
15 that's coming out of the river.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Howarth.  
20 Through the Chair. Yes, that's actually one of the  
21 reasons why I was going to be reaching out to the  
22 researcher was to find out his methodology and what  
23 he's planning to do and recommending that this is the  
24 right time of year to do what he wants to look at and  
25 how he wants to study it. My tests that we're going to  
26 be trying to do does need frozen lakes. So we're  
27 likely going to try and look this March and see if we  
28 can even test for it which then gives us other data  
29 points. So, yes, thank you.

30  
31 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is  
32 Michael.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Mike.

35  
36 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, speaking of methane,  
37 I know that quite a few years ago me and my brother  
38 were up on the Noatak Flats and we were driving up that  
39 way up towards Onion and towards the Kelly, we noticed  
40 several lakes had these like holes, you know, were like  
41 warm water, and there were nothing but bubbles coming  
42 up. And back then and still to this day I'm still  
43 curious about it and one thing I notice when I go to  
44 the Earthquake Center that the Noatak Flats on a daily  
45 basis has small quakes, you know, up here on the Noatak  
46 Flats, I mean northern -- you know, the Serpentine Hot  
47 Springs and some of these other places, the Noatak  
48 Flats has a lot of small earthquakes and that's the one  
49 thing I noticed is a lot of those lakes up there on the  
50

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1 Noatak Flats have a lot of methane in them. And I'm  
2 kind of wondering maybe these, you know, earthquakes  
3 are shaking a lot of that methane and something up and  
4 pools opening in the middle of frozen lakes in the  
5 middle of dead of winter.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Kramer.  
10 Through the Chair. Sadly I'm not a geologist so I  
11 don't have a lot of experience with this but it is  
12 possible that could be due to methane release. That is  
13 something I can very much reach out to our Staff  
14 members in the Regional Office who are far more  
15 experienced in this and give you an update at the next  
16 RAC meeting.

17  
18 MR. KRAMER: Okay, thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anything else for  
21 Justin.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, thank  
26 you, Justin and everyone from the Park Service. We  
27 will go ahead and move on to the next agency which is  
28 the Bureau of Land Management. Is Bruce Seppi on the  
29 line.

30  
31 MR. SPARKS: Mr. Chair. This is Tom  
32 Sparks, I can give the report if you'd like. Over.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please.

35  
36 MR. SPARKS: I just want to say that  
37 our report is on Page 51 of your packet. I don't want  
38 to repeat that. I know it's been a long day for you  
39 guys.

40  
41 Just wanted to inform the Council that  
42 there is an Ambler Road supplemental review that is  
43 being undertaken by the Bureau of Land Management out  
44 of our Fairbanks Office. They're looking for public  
45 comments that are due before November 4th so it's very  
46 timely here. The public comments can be sent in by  
47 email or by mail. The email address is  
48 blm\_ak\_akso\_amblerroad\_comments@blm.gov and that can be  
49 found at our BLM website that's www.blm.gov and that's  
50

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1 under our press releases.

2

3

4 I think the only other thing I'd like  
5 to say is we have some Staff changes at the State  
6 level. We have a new State Director, his name is Steve  
7 Cohn. We have a new BLM Director on the National  
8 level, TracyStoneManning. And then at our Field Office  
9 Level we are anticipating filling the field manager  
10 position, I'm the associate manager currently, and the  
11 field manager hopefully will be approved in the next  
12 few months. We'll keep the Council informed on that.

12

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And we also are engaged in a project  
looking at the Public Land Orders, we're going to be  
doing a very large EIS in the next couple of years so  
stay tuned for that. That's the listing of the D1  
withdrawals in some of our land use plans.

Other than that I think I'll just leave  
it open for questions that you may have or any member  
of the Council.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions for Tom.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mike or Vern, do you  
have anything.

MR. KRAMER: No, I don't have anything,  
thank you.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
Mike. So if there's no comments or questions I'd like  
to thank you, Tom, for giving us that brief update. If  
we develop any questions we'll be sure to reach out.  
With that we can move on to the Alaska Department of  
Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Review of  
Arctic Area Subsistence Division Projects. And the  
floor is yours, Morgan.

MS. URQUIA: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
Council. For the record my name is Morgan Urquia and  
I'm a Subsistence Resource Specialist with the  
Department of Fish and Game based in Fairbanks. And  
ours begin on Page 55 of your packets. I work in the

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1 Arctic region with my colleague Helen Cold who's  
2 joining us by phone right now. She is the Arctic  
3 Region Research Director.

4

5 I talked yesterday about our work with  
6 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and I want to  
7 take a few more minutes and introduce you to the other  
8 research projects we have going on in the Northwest  
9 Arctic. So Page 56 I already spoke about but happy to  
10 take questions on at any time.

11

12 On Page 57 you'll find information on  
13 this ongoing project to document indigenous knowledge  
14 of beaver ecology in Arctic communities. So this is in  
15 partnership with Ken Tape's project. I confirmed with  
16 my colleague Helen. And it's funded by the National  
17 Science Foundation in partnership with University of  
18 Alaska-Fairbanks. And as you heard this is focused in  
19 the Northwest Arctic. We plan to work directly with  
20 the Native Village of Shungnak, Kotzebue and Noatak for  
21 ethnographic interviews and mapping as well as  
22 observation. So Ken Tape's work is combining the  
23 remote censusing and landscape impact surveys of that  
24 region and we'll be helping with that work as well as  
25 the interviewing, mapping and observation pieces to  
26 incorporate indigenous knowledge into the work.

27

28 So this project began in October 2021  
29 but the exploratory field work happened this summer.  
30 Also this year we got -- we were getting approval from  
31 IRAs to conduct the project. It includes multiple  
32 years of interviews and will go through 2026. And  
33 while documenting traditional knowledge is a goal of  
34 this project, so is sharing the monitoring information  
35 that folks have talked about so that includes that  
36 remote censusing, that includes the landscape impact  
37 surveys and so while we're in communities conducting  
38 interviews we'll also be going out with folks with  
39 trappers and hunters as well as hosting community  
40 meetings to share that information that Ken Tape's work  
41 is collecting. We also want to create data management  
42 plans with all three of those communities so that how  
43 this -- how the interviews and how the remote censusing  
44 information is stored in the communities is determined  
45 by the IRAs and the tribes.

46

47 So Helen Cold, the Regional Director --  
48 the Research Director I mentioned earlier is leading  
49 this project so I want to share her email, which is,

50

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1 helen.cold -- H-E-L-E-N.C-O-L-D@alaska.gov, and for  
2 more questions on this project I encourage you to email  
3 her.

4  
5 We also wanted to let you know about a  
6 conference happening in Canada in November that's  
7 related to this project and related to beavers impact.  
8 There's a relatively new international group of  
9 scientists who are hosting this annual meeting to keep  
10 updated on beaver spread and activity internationally  
11 across the Arctic. So this year's meeting will be held  
12 in November in Yellowknife, Canada and we'll be sending  
13 someone from our division. The theme is land  
14 management so they'll be hearing concerns on land  
15 management related to beavers and we welcome you to  
16 call into this conference. It's November 21st to 23rd  
17 and we can share more information specifically on  
18 participating with Lisa or please do email Helen. We  
19 hope that the 2023 meeting for this group will be held  
20 in Fairbanks and if that's the case we'll talk more  
21 about inviting tribal members and making sure that  
22 folks from the Northwest Arctic are present at that  
23 meeting.

24  
25 Our next project is in partnership with  
26 the National Park Service. This is the Bering  
27 LandBridge Ethnographic Overview and Assessment  
28 includes a comprehensive literature review, reviewing  
29 research that's already been done in the area as well  
30 as community consultation and interviews and those we  
31 will hopefully conduct in winter 2023. Deering and  
32 Buckland are the two communities in the Northwest  
33 Arctic that are included in this project and we hope to  
34 consult and visit and we'll work together with those  
35 tribal councils, the Park Service and the ADF&G Staff  
36 to coordinate those visits. So we hope that the  
37 community consultations can identify information gaps  
38 in the literature that exists currently and we'll be  
39 completing a report for that in fall 2024 and that will  
40 be shared with the communities.

41  
42 That is a Bering LandBridge project on  
43 Page 59.

44  
45 You can find more information about the  
46 Western Arctic Caribou Herd assessment project that I  
47 think we -- I believe we shared with the Council at  
48 previous meetings but it is continuing, it's in its  
49 fourth year. We started the project in 2019 to collect  
50

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1 harvest data on large land mammal harvest in eight  
2 different villages and Covid forced us to postpone some  
3 of the surveys but we've restructured them, we had a  
4 lot of help from our year two communities, which we  
5 really appreciate, and were able to conduct surveys  
6 remotely. We've been back on the ground this year and  
7 we'll be in 2023 as well. And this year, 2022, we were  
8 able to make it to Shungnak, White Mountain, Selawik  
9 and Golovin and we're currently analyzing that data.  
10 It was the second year of the survey so we have really  
11 good comparison of year one and year three to see any  
12 changes in caribou harvest in those communities. And  
13 in this year, the coming year, 2023, we plan to visit  
14 Deering, Kobuk, Noatak and Shishmaref for their second  
15 round of surveys to have that comparison as well. This  
16 is the final year of data collection for the project  
17 and we'll be writing the report and presenting data  
18 reviews to communities until then and we'll be happy to  
19 share more with the Council in that time period.

20  
21 This is one I heard earlier about, you  
22 know, passing on information to communities about who  
23 to contact regarding sick caribou or any concerns folks  
24 have. This is a really great opportunity, we're on the  
25 ground in all of those villages during this time and so  
26 we do our best to communicate about permits, getting  
27 pictures from folks, but after hearing the  
28 conversations earlier we'll make sure to be sharing  
29 Alex's and the Fish and Game here in Kotzebue's contact  
30 information and any other resources we can share with  
31 folks while we're in the villages.

32  
33 On Page 60 we have the Kiana Community  
34 Subsistence Harvest Assessment. That's a comprehensive  
35 harvest survey which we're conducting also in  
36 partnership with the National Park Service. This is an  
37 update, the baseline study completed in 2006, we try to  
38 be doing -- we're trying to do these comprehensive  
39 surveys in all communities on a semi-regular basis so  
40 that we can have -- we can compare data. And a team of  
41 researchers, including myself and Hannah Atkinson from  
42 National Park Service visited Kiana in March of 2022 to  
43 conduct those surveys and complete interviews. We plan  
44 to revisit Kiana this coming winter to facilitate a few  
45 more interviews, we hope, and conduct a data review  
46 with community members.

47  
48 And the last project on Page 61, I went  
49 into yesterday with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
50

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1 Program, the one that is the salmon project that will  
2 start in July of next year 2023.

3

4 So if you all have any questions on our  
5 projects I'm happy to answer them now.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Morgan.  
8 Any questions from members of the RAC.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Just one that I have,  
13 Morgan, for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd harvest  
14 assessment, when would we be able to expect feedback  
15 and reports for this project since it's in the wrapping  
16 up stages?

17

18 MS. URQUIA: We'll be conducting those  
19 last surveys this year which means our data review with  
20 those communities would be sometime after fall 2023, so  
21 with that, either the fall 2023 meeting or winter 2024,  
22 certainly that would be ready.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Got it, thank you.  
25 Any other questions, comments for Morgan on any of  
26 these projects.

27

28 MR. ARMSTRONG: Just for information,  
29 the one for traditional ecological knowledge, why was  
30 that postponed until 7/23?

31

32 MS. URQUIA: That was really due to  
33 Covid, because of a backlog we had with Covid projects  
34 and being able to have time to conduct enough  
35 interviews to complete that.

36

37 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

38

39 MS. URQUIA: Yeah, thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Vern or Mike, any  
42 questions on these projects.

43

44 MR. KRAMER: No. Thank you for your  
45 information.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Well, thank you and  
48 we'll be sure to look out for reports on all these  
49 different projects. If we have any questions between  
50

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1 now and the winter meeting we'll be sure to pass them  
2 on. So with that we'll go ahead and move on to the  
3 Office of Subsistence Management report. And, Tom --  
4 from one Tom to another, the floor is yours.

5

6 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
7 Council. On behalf of OSM, I wanted to thank all  
8 Council members for your exceptional work on behalf of  
9 your communities and the user groups during these  
10 trying times. We value your expertise and contribution  
11 of your knowledge and experience to the regulatory  
12 process. I ask that all seated behind me, please stand  
13 with me and join in recognizing the Northwest Arctic  
14 Council with a round of applause.

15

16 (Applause)

17

18 MR. KRON: We are holding all 10 2022  
19 Regional Advisory Council meetings in person this fall  
20 and have been working over recent months to arrange for  
21 travel, lodging, meeting places for all Councils. OSM  
22 Staff are happy that we can finally see you all face to  
23 face. We thank you again for bearing with us over the  
24 past two and a half years during the pandemic and all  
25 of the teleconferences.

26

27 The Federal Subsistence Management  
28 Program recognizes that in-person Council meetings are  
29 preferable. The Council meetings must follow Federal  
30 government guidelines. We are hoping that Covid-19  
31 levels are low enough in each of the communities where  
32 Council meetings are planned at the time of the meeting  
33 so that we will be able to hold the meetings and thus  
34 far we have. We are working with each of the  
35 Councils on specific requirements in their regions to  
36 conduct in-person meetings safely.

37

38 OSM is pleased to welcome newly hired  
39 Federal subsistence Council Coordinators.

40

41 Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough and Jessica  
42 Gill, both who are at this meeting, and you've had a  
43 chance to meet. Both of them have a wealth of  
44 knowledge and experience in working with rural users in  
45 communities as well as Alaska subsistence issues.

46

47 Eva Patton transferred to the National  
48 Park Service. Karie Crow returned to OSM as budget  
49 analyst. Bernard Shavings joined us as an

50



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1 administrative support assistant and Michelle Andrews  
2 joined us as OSM's executive secretary.

3

4 The OSM Team continues to work to  
5 rebuild our capacity.

6

7 Over the past two and a half years  
8 we've been reminding Council members about the change  
9 in requirements for IDs at airports. Beginning May  
10 3rd, 2023, next spring, every air traveler will need to  
11 present a Real ID compliant driver's license or other  
12 acceptable form of identification such as a passport to  
13 fly within the United States. This is applicable, even  
14 when you fly on small Bush carriers. Please note that  
15 all members will need to make sure that they have  
16 RealID compliant travel information for the fall of  
17 2023, a year from now.

18

19 As you all know we didn't have any fish  
20 proposals at this meeting. The Federal Subsistence  
21 Board will be addressing fish proposals this winter and  
22 we do have a number of fish proposals from the other 10  
23 [sic] regions across the state. Wildlife proposals  
24 will be accepted this winter during your winter meeting  
25 and I've heard discussion during the meeting about  
26 possibly presenting wildlife proposals so the time to  
27 plan for that would be at your winter 2023 meeting,  
28 your next meeting here coming up. Wildlife proposals,  
29 again, normally come in during the winter meetings and,  
30 again, the next window will be -- there's a 45 day  
31 period during the February/March timeframe and that  
32 will be when you should be thinking about submitting  
33 the wildlife proposals you've discussed at this meeting.

34

35 I've got about a page of lawsuit  
36 information, which I'm not going to go through unless  
37 you ask me to. But it basically, these are Federal  
38 Subsistence Board related lawsuit information from  
39 Southeast, from Unit 13 around Glennallen, and from the  
40 Kuskokwim and, again, since we don't have anything  
41 going on in this region I'm not going to touch on that  
42 unless you ask me to.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
47 be happy to answer any questions.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom. Any

50

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1 questions or comments from the RAC.

2

3 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, Wilbur. Thank  
4 you, Tom. And the rest of you that stood up and  
5 applaud us, that was real awesome. Thank you all for  
6 being here.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.  
11 Any other questions or comments for Tom and/or OSM.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, thank  
16 you, Tom. And it looks like we've wrapped up all the  
17 agency reports. None of this would be even possible  
18 without the folks filling the chairs in the room so  
19 thank you for the applause but there's not enough of us  
20 to make a big round of applause for all of you so you  
21 can pat yourselves on the back.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I believe there was  
26 some housekeeping that we had to bring up. I don't  
27 know if that was Hannah or Lisa that was going to bring  
28 that up. And it looks like, Hannah, the floor is  
29 yours.

30

31 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
32 members of the Council. There's been some discussion  
33 at this meeting about the need to send someone from the  
34 Council to attend and represent the Council at the  
35 Western Arctic Caribou Herd working group meeting,  
36 which is being held in December in Anchorage, December  
37 14th and 15th, I believe. And I just wanted to let the  
38 Council know that if you do wish to make a request to  
39 Office of Subsistence Management to fund travel of a  
40 Council member to the meeting this year, that you may  
41 wish to do that on the record now and it would also  
42 make sense to nominate a person you'd like to attend at  
43 this time.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah. I  
48 know we talked about it a good bit yesterday of sending  
49 someone potentially to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd

50

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1 working group meeting next month, do we feel that's  
2 appropriate, would we like to make that motion to ask  
3 OSM to set that up and nominate someone. What is the  
4 wish of the RAC.

5

6 MR. SHIEDT: I think we should nominate  
7 someone. But to be more recognizable I think we should  
8 -- if it's possible send more than one out of the Board  
9 here.

10

11 (Teleconference interference -  
12 participants not muted)

13

14 MR. SHIEDT: That way you could be  
15 together and you could, you know, spread your ears out  
16 and see what's going on.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.  
19 So the suggestion was made but there wasn't a motion,  
20 what is the wish of the RAC.

21

22 MR. ARMSTRONG: I think we should  
23 nominate. Do I need to make a motion to nominate  
24 someone?

25

26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: This is an  
27 action item, correct, or it would be?

28

29 MS. VOORHEES: I think the most that's  
30 required is to just make the request on the record as a  
31 Council, I don't -- it's up to the Council how formal  
32 you'd like to make this. I also wanted to respond to  
33 Council Member Attamuk's comment and say that the  
34 Council can certainly nominate more than one person,  
35 whether that request can be funded by OSM is out of my  
36 hands but this certainly is the first step and then  
37 we'll put this request forward to our office.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah. So  
42 just to recap, I think it would be appropriate. I think  
43 on behalf of the RAC I'd like to recommend that we do  
44 request that at least one of us get to go down to  
45 attend the meeting, do we have any nominees.

46

47 MR. ARMSTRONG: I nominate Attamuk  
48 Shiedt.

49

50

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1 MR. HOWARTH: And I'll second that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So a nomination by  
4 Elmer and seconded by Wilbur to send Attamuk, Attamuk,  
5 do you accept?

6

7 MR. SHIEDT: Yes, but still I would  
8 like two people to attend if possible that way we could  
9 be together.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So for the record  
12 there's a motion on the floor and it was seconded for  
13 the first nominee, all those in favor of Attamuk being  
14 the for sure person to attend the working group  
15 meeting, please say aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And those opposed same  
20 sign please.

21

22 (No opposing votes)

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Are there any  
25 nominations for a second person.

26

27 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Wilbur.

30

31 MR. HOWARTH: I would like to nominate  
32 Michael Kramer for the second person.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So a nomination for  
35 Michael Kramer, do we have a second.

36

37 MR. ARMSTRONG: Second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So nominated by  
40 Wilbur, seconded by Elmer, all those in favor -- well,  
41 Mike, do you accept the nomination to be the potential  
42 second person to go to the working group meeting?

43

44 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I just have to  
45 figure it out with my schedule plus I'm a single parent  
46 of a two year old boy so I just have to make sure -- if  
47 it's going to be in Anchorage my mom would be able to  
48 watch him, I just hope it lands on my days off though.  
49 Okay.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
2 Mike.

3  
4 MR. KRAMER: I do.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So.....

7  
8 MR. SHIEDT: They could give you the  
9 dates Michael.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that, Mike, if  
12 you accept we'll just work it out and you can let  
13 myself and Staff know if you're not able to attend or  
14 how that would work out. All those in favor of Mike  
15 being the second person to attend, please say aye.

16  
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that, the two  
20 people that we would like to officially request OSM to  
21 fund would be Mr. Attamuk Shiedt and Mr. Michael Kramer  
22 and so that is our request to OSM, do we have any other  
23 questions or discussion from members of the RAC on that  
24 one.

25  
26 (No comments)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is that official,  
29 Hannah?

30  
31 MS. VOORHEES: That sounds official.  
32 Taikuu. And we will put this request through right  
33 away as that meeting's coming up and it's great news if  
34 one of you will be able to attend, thank you, or two,  
35 hopefully.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. And just  
38 to make it clear we are requesting for funding for  
39 those two. If one of them is not able to then we can  
40 hash that out at a later date. So with that out of the  
41 way we're move on to future meeting dates.

42  
43 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I just.....

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Mike.

46  
47 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I just have to let  
48 -- my Sun -- my days off are Sunday, Monday, those two  
49 days. You know when you work for Alaska Airlines  
50

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1 you're pretty much trapped in stone until springtime.  
2 So I hope it lands within those days I'd like to attend  
3 more meetings and stuff like that, you know, because I  
4 go down a lot for medical so, you know, hopefully it'll  
5 land on a good time, like a Monday or a Tuesday or  
6 something where I could possibly find a guy to cover me  
7 for a Tuesday and come back Wednesday morning or  
8 whatever. But, okay, yeah, just give me -- keep in  
9 touch with me and let me know the days and I'll be able  
10 to let you know if I could head down or what I could  
11 scoop together and make it down there.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. It  
14 looks like someone may have that schedule.

15

16 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
17 missed a little bit of that discussion but my  
18 understanding is we're trying to figure out if Council  
19 Member Kramer can attend and it -- so March -- I mean  
20 December 13th -- or 14th and 15th is the dates, so does  
21 anyone know what days those are.

22

23 MS. SWEENEY: Wednesday and Thursday.

24

25 MS. VOORHEES: Okay, thank you,  
26 Brittany. Wednesday and Thursday. So if Council  
27 Member Kramer cannot attend I would recommend that you  
28 select an alternative.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah. So  
31 if you didn't catch that, Mike, the working group  
32 meeting is on a Wednesday and Thursday and given what  
33 you just said about your work schedule, do you feel  
34 that you could get the time off for that or should we  
35 pick an alternative person now in case you're not able  
36 to follow up with that.

37

38 MR. KRAMER: It would be good to get an  
39 alternative and I'll see what I could round up,  
40 possibly have to do some trades or something.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you  
43 for that, Mike. So with that said do we have any  
44 nominations for an alternate person to attend the  
45 meeting in the event that Mike can't make it.

46

47 MR. KRAMER: I nominate Elmer.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So Mike has nominated

50

0290

1 Elmer.

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Elmer's  
4 going to be (indiscernible - no microphone)

5

6 MR. HOWARTH: I'll second that, Mr.  
7 Chair.

8

9 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I might be  
10 attending through another sponsor but if not -- are you  
11 going to be attending Thomas?

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: No.

14

15 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, I nominate  
16 Thomas.

17

18 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that, does  
23 that mean you decline your nomination Elmer?

24

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I decline. I am  
26 not too sure I'll be able to make it -- but -- through  
27 another sponsor I may go or not but it's kind of up in  
28 the air right now.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer. So  
31 I have been nominated by Elmer and seconded by Attamuk,  
32 I accept the nomination, all those in favor of myself  
33 being the alternate in the event that Mike can't make  
34 it please say aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 MR. SHIEDT: What's the dates again?

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: December 14 and 15.  
41 All those opposed same sign.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So it looks like I'm  
46 now an alternate to go to the meeting. So with that  
47 out of the way we can move on to our future meeting  
48 dates which, if you look under Supplemental Tab 8, in  
49 the book with the agenda for the cover, we need to

50

0291

1 confirm our winter 2023 meeting date and location. So  
2 right now we are scheduled for March 6th and 7th with  
3 no location decided. Where would we like the location  
4 of our winter meeting to be?

5

6 Yes, Lisa.

7

8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah, Mr.  
9 Chair and Council members. As these other RAC meetings  
10 have been meeting and we're towards the tail end,  
11 there's some -- some of these areas have filled in and  
12 you don't have all the updates so we can provide that  
13 for you. But currently your -- for the winter meeting  
14 you're scheduled -- last time you selected March 6th  
15 and 7th, that could be changed -- one of the things  
16 that Brittany just recommended was if the -- those pre-  
17 meetings are nice, I think maybe -- did you all enjoy  
18 having the pre-meeting that we sort of -- or our little  
19 meet and greet, and if we keep it on the 6th, we would  
20 be having it, again, on a Sunday and I don't know if  
21 that was inconvenient for anybody, so you might just  
22 consider, if that still works to move it but I -- I  
23 know that also our other Council members have airline  
24 schedules and work that they have to -- so I hope that  
25 we could have some input from them.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I think it'll be  
30 good for the meet and greet because we were doing the  
31 meet and greet, too, telephonically, so I don't see  
32 anything wrong with doing a meet and greet again.

33

34 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Was it  
35 convenient having it on a Sunday or does that matter?

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: This is Thomas. Just  
38 given that we would all be here sometime on Sunday --  
39 wherever we have the meeting, we'd all be there on that  
40 Sunday to be able to start Monday morning, I think it  
41 would be fine to have it Sunday evening.

42

43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And we also  
44 need to -- you also need to select a location too so.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I was going to say  
47 time, same place, but maybe not.

48

49 (Laughter)

50



0292

1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah, there  
2 has been discussion about having these meetings in  
3 other villages, in other communities, so that's an  
4 option.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: What is the wish of  
7 the Council, where would we like our winter meeting to  
8 be held?

9  
10 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. Here would be  
11 nice.

12  
13 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

14  
15 MR. HOWARTH: If you all can come back.

16  
17 (Laughter)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,  
20 Wilbur. Was there someone on the phone?

21  
22 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, this is Vern, Mr.  
23 Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Vern.

26  
27 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, when is the  
28 meeting, in March?

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: The meeting dates for  
31 March.....

32  
33 MR. CLEVELAND: When's the meeting?

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....are March 6 and  
36 7, that's a Monday/Tuesday.

37  
38 MR. CLEVELAND: I'd like to make a  
39 motion to have a meeting March 6 and 7 in Kotzebue.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So we have a motion  
42 for.....

43  
44 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

45  
46 MR. KRAMER: Second.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....winter meeting  
49 March 6th and 7th in Kotzebue by Vern, seconded by  
50

0293

1 Mike. All those in favor please say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And those opposed same  
6 sign.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that we will  
11 go ahead and schedule for March 6 and 7 in Kotzebue for  
12 the winter meeting. And then for the fall meeting we  
13 need to select a date and location. Were there some  
14 updates to the schedule that you penciled in, Lisa?

15

16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: This is  
17 actually a question for OSM, can we schedule -- can we  
18 double them up with other RAC -- Jessica, would you  
19 mind answering this?

20

21 MS. GILL: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 For the record my name is Jessica Gill, Council  
23 Coordinator with OSM. So we can have up to two  
24 meetings per week. And I have, in your supplemental  
25 books, there should be an updated version of the  
26 calendar that includes the YK Delta meeting, which is  
27 October 10th, 11th and 12th and then the Southeast RAC  
28 meeting, which is October 24, 25th, 26th.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Just to make it a  
31 little bit easier on Staff so that we don't get any  
32 burnout I'd like to propose that we look at.....

33

34 (Teleconference interference -  
35 participants not muted)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....the week of  
38 October 16th or October 30th. Do we have any  
39 preferences.

40

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think having it  
45 towards the end of the month is beneficial for us as a  
46 Council since at that point everyone else would have  
47 had their meetings so if there were any proposals going  
48 on across the state or any special actions, things that  
49 other regions are discussing, those meetings would be  
50

0294

1 wrapped up and we'd be able to work with the knowledge  
2 that they have made decisions already so that we won't  
3 be in the position where we've been in the past where  
4 other Councils haven't met yet and we aren't sure how  
5 to support them if they, themselves, haven't made a  
6 decision on their actions. So the week of the 16th of  
7 October or 30th.

8  
9 MR. ARMSTRONG: I know you gave your  
10 suggestions, how about 2 and 3.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: October 2 and 3?

13  
14 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: There's meetings that  
17 week. That book isn't updated, I don't think.

18  
19 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay, sorry, I just saw  
20 that.

21  
22 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Apparently  
23 AFN is that week, October 16th, that week, just for  
24 your information.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Well, we can't overlap  
27 with AFN.

28  
29 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: No, we  
30 don't want to do that.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So in the copy that I  
33 have, the week of September 25th is open, September  
34 11th, and October 30th.

35  
36 MR. ARMSTRONG: So your suggestion was  
37 30 and 31?

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Just found out we  
40 can't do 30 and 31 because there's.....

41  
42 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah, we  
43 already.....

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....other.....

46  
47 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: .....have  
48 two other meetings that week so we -- I guess we -- in  
49 Utqiagvik and then in Nome.

50

0295

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So can you read out  
2 what dates are open, what beginning of the weeks are  
3 open.

4  
5 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I said AFN  
6 was October 16th.

7  
8 MR. KRAMER: Why don't we just have  
9 a.....

10  
11 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: The 23rd  
12 would be.....

13  
14 MR. KRAMER: .....joint meeting with  
15 North Slope.

16  
17 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: North Slope  
18 is November 1st and 2nd. And then Seward Peninsula is  
19 also November 1st and 2nd. AFN is October 16th I just  
20 said, right, so we could do October 23rd, that week.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: One second everyone,  
23 Mr. Young with the Park Service has something he'd like  
24 to share.

25  
26 MR. YOUNG: I found this as an issue.  
27 Justin Young with Park Service here in Kotzebue. With  
28 our SRC meetings, yes, scheduling around AFN,  
29 especially right afterwards is not favorable, but AFN  
30 is actually the 19th, 20th and 21st, so I could  
31 foresee, especially if the meeting happened the 16th  
32 and 17th, that still gives people a day to travel down  
33 or if, let's say, you held it in Anchorage, they  
34 wouldn't even have to travel down.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 MR. SHIEDT: What'd you say AFN is the  
39 19th through the 21?

40  
41 MR. YOUNG: Yes, Attamuk.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: October 16 and 17 are  
44 open. What do we think of those dates tentatively.  
45 Because we will be able to confirm this at the winter  
46 meeting in a few months, we just need to get something  
47 on the schedule now.

48  
49 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, 16 and 17  
50

0296

1 will work with the meet and greet.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And for a location,  
4 would we like to leave that for the winter meeting.

5

6 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, we could leave  
7 that for the winter meeting.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if there are no  
10 objections we'll go ahead and plan for the fall 2023  
11 RAC meeting October 16th and 17th, location to be  
12 decided.

13

14 MR. CLEVELAND: Location, Kotzebue.  
15 Motion made by Vern to have the meeting in Kotzebue  
16 with those dates.

17

18 MR. SHIEDT: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So motion made for  
21 October 16th and 17th in Kotzebue by Vern, seconded by  
22 Attamuk, all those in favor please say aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And those opposed same  
27 sign.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that we'll  
32 plan for Kotzebue October 16 and 17, 2023. Do you need  
33 anything else for that Lisa?

34

35 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: No, Mr.  
36 Chair, I think that's all, thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. So at this  
39 time I'd like to move us into closing comments and  
40 we'll start with the folks on the phone. So, Vern  
41 Cleveland, do you have any closing comments.

42

43 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, I do. Closing  
44 comments. There was good information in the meeting.  
45 I hope to see you guys at the Western Arctic Caribou  
46 Herd working group meeting next month in December in  
47 Anchorage. And hopefully they get the message that we  
48 are trying to get our caribou to -- since we got the  
49 low count to get our communities to get a count of how  
50

1 many caribou each village gets, that would help Staff a  
2 lot. And you don't have to say your name or anything,  
3 just put a count into -- or they could set it up with  
4 the IRA or the city for our region, a count on caribou.  
5 I know I haven't gotten any caribou in three years,  
6 that's -- so there should be more, I used to get about  
7 20 caribou, but in three years I just got three caribou  
8 so that's cut down a lot. But it's got to be for our  
9 whole region, not the whole region, the whole state, if  
10 they got any caribou they should report it because we  
11 are at a low, low count on caribou. It's alarming for  
12 our area but with our management and everything else I  
13 hope it will come through to work better for our  
14 people.

15  
16 Taikuu. (In Native)

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Vern. Mr.  
21 Michael Kramer, do you have any closing comments.

22  
23 MR. KRAMER: Yes, I do. It's been a  
24 pretty good meeting, sorry I wasn't there. Both me and  
25 my son aren't feeling too well. But, you know,  
26 hopefully next meeting I'll be able to meet everybody  
27 and probably bring my little persuader here, he's the  
28 boss, bring him along with me. But it is good to hear  
29 all the -- you know, all the agencies with all their  
30 projects, you know, starting to get back into the swing  
31 of things, you know, I thank them for trying to get us  
32 the caribou counts and, you know, now we just got to  
33 work on trying to figure out how we could do some kind  
34 of a predator control. I mean I hope by next -- at our  
35 next winter -- early winter meeting that, you know, one  
36 of the agencies, they get together and they figure out  
37 something. You know at least the way that I spoke of,  
38 you know, it ain't physically harming an animal but  
39 it's that many less bears will be killing moose calves  
40 and, you know, the same with wolves. At least we're  
41 trying to find a good way to do it and I think this way  
42 is pretty productive and it's not harming any animals  
43 and, you know, we're going to have a few less animals  
44 because we, as subsistence users, are just aren't  
45 taking enough, you know, we're not getting enough  
46 wolves, we're not getting enough bears. There's not as  
47 many young hunters out there harvesting wolves even  
48 though there is a local market for them but they're  
49 just not getting out there too much, you know,  
50

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1 telephones and all these games and stuff like that.  
2 It's getting pretty tough to get some of these young  
3 kids out there, some of the young ones out there to,  
4 you know, get out there and start harvesting and stuff  
5 so.

6  
7 I used -- you know, with the bears, on  
8 the State side we're allowed to harvest two bears a  
9 year, sell the hides and skulls on the State side, you  
10 know, the Federal, I think we're allowed three bears a  
11 year, I can't really recall but, you know, not very  
12 many people are going to harvest three bears a year to  
13 eat. I know a lot of people, you know, used to ever  
14 really hunt them much in the past, I know some villages  
15 do, some villages don't. So, you know, bear meat was  
16 never really a customary use and trade, you know,  
17 resource.

18  
19 Hopefully next time we'll have some  
20 more youth with us, and youth involved in this. And I  
21 thank KOTZ, man, you guys are getting our information  
22 out there, we're keeping the people of our region  
23 informed of all the regulatory changes. This is, you  
24 know, our goal is to get you guys, you know, informed  
25 of the changes in our regulations and to make it so we  
26 don't get busted for doing, you know, doing the right  
27 thing, we're trying to fill our freezer but we don't  
28 want to get busted for doing something to feed our  
29 family, you know, especially now with Covid, times are  
30 tough, times are still tough to this day even though  
31 Covid is kind of, you know, either leveling out,  
32 unsure, but, you know, we put all ourselves together we  
33 should be able to conquer anything.

34  
35 That's all I have. And I hope to see  
36 some new members at the meeting. I know I referred some  
37 people to Lisa and hopefully we'll get some village  
38 representatives at our next meeting. Hope to see you  
39 all there. Okay, thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for those  
42 comments, Mike. Do appreciate it. In the room,  
43 Wilbur, do you have any closing comments.

44  
45 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and  
46 Lisa, for all your hard work, and the Council here,  
47 Attamuk, Elmer, Mike, Vern. Vern, I wrote down this  
48 caribou count thing. I'll get it to the IRA or to the  
49 rest of the Council since I Chair the IRA and I'll make  
50

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1 sure they get it and we could get something going. And  
2 once again I would like to thank everyone over here on  
3 these chairs. It's kind of emptying out but very nice,  
4 good job. Thank you all for being here. And this is a  
5 real good meeting. I think we got lots done.

6  
7 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
10 Wilbur.

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 (Teleconference interference -  
15 participants not muted)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So whoever's snoring  
18 go ahead and mute.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So, Elmer, any closing  
23 comments.

24  
25 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 I want to thank all the agencies for your work,  
27 gathering data, informing us with the information. I  
28 want to thank the Staff, the Council. It was a good  
29 two days. I'm glad the information got out to the  
30 public. Good meeting. I'm glad we're still working  
31 together to take care of these issues that are ahead of  
32 us and I look forward to the winter meeting. And,  
33 also, the information that comes from the WACH meeting  
34 on the State side.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
39 Elmer.

40  
41 Attamuk.

42  
43 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.....

44  
45 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, Wilbur, Elmer, I  
46 hope you guys are going to be with us for a long time.

47  
48 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thanks, Mike. Lord  
49 willing.

50



0300

1 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you Thomas,  
2 Lisa. The meeting that's well run. And thank you to  
3 Staff for being here and answering our questions. I  
4 think this is one of our better meetings. And, thank  
5 you, Walter, for sitting in and putting up with us,  
6 from the public. And I thank you for being here. This  
7 is well-informed. And I hope we do better for our  
8 people to preserve and able to harvest caribou in the  
9 future. I hope Mother Nature fool us and turnaround  
10 and numbers go up next year. You never know, maybe  
11 they migrated the other way and I hope they come back  
12 because like I always state, our people can't live  
13 without caribou and we need to preserve it. And I hate  
14 to see a reduction taken because -- it's our source,  
15 it's our life, and we live on caribou. And your -- the  
16 public is welcome to call me, which I do get a lot of  
17 calls, especially from the younger generation from  
18 Noatak and Kivalina and Noorvik, I do get a lot of  
19 calls, thank you you young people that call. But like  
20 I stated, we need to have to invite the schools here,  
21 hopefully the future generation take over and take my  
22 seat. I'll gladly give up mine for a young guy, a  
23 young mind maybe will work better.

24  
25 Thank you all, and thanks Staff.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.  
28 For myself, thanks everyone for sticking it out with  
29 us. I know it's been a pretty packed couple days. And  
30 just echoing the other members of the Council, we've  
31 covered a lot of ground and like I said earlier we  
32 couldn't do it without the people actually doing the  
33 work in the offices and helping gather all this  
34 information and helping keeping us on track. So with  
35 that I don't have anything else besides thanks again,  
36 great meeting.

37  
38 Do we have a motion to adjourn.

39  
40 MR. ARMSTRONG: Motion to adjourn.

41  
42 MR. SHIEDT: Second.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All those in favor  
45 please signify by saying aye.

46  
47 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move.

48  
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

0301

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: The ayes have it. We  
2 will now adjourn at 4:36 p.m. Thank you everyone and  
3 look forward to our next meeting.

4  
5                   (Off record)

6  
7                   (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                   )  
   ) 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:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered \_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 1st day of November 2022;

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;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 23rd  
day of November 2022.

Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26