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NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I  
TELECONFERENCE  
November 1, 2021  
9:01 a.m

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Baker, Chairman  
Barbara Atoruk  
Elmer Armstrong  
Wilbur Howarth  
Michael Kramer  
Calvin Moto, II  
Robert Schaeffer  
Enoch Shiedt

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton (Acting - AM)  
Robbin LaVine (Acting -  
PM)

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Teleconference - 11/1/2021)

4

5

(On record)

6

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8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: This is Thomas Baker,  
9 I'm going to call the meeting to order, it's now 9:01.  
10 I just want to say thank you and welcome everybody for  
11 joining us this morning just to get things rolling and  
12 then we can move on to welcomes and introductions here  
13 in a moment. If we'd like to observe a quick moment of  
14 silence.

14

15

(Moment of silence)

16

17

18

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22

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, everyone.  
Moving on to Item No. 3, roll call, and establishing a  
quorum. If Mr. Elmer Armstrong, our Secretary could go  
through the roster on Page 4 and just get a roll call  
for us, please.

23

24

25

MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
Enoch Shiedt, Sr.

26

27

(No comments)

28

29

MR. ARMSTRONG: Thomas Baker.

30

31

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Here.

32

33

MR. ARMSTRONG: Michael Kramer.

34

35

MR. KRAMER: Here.

36

37

MR. ARMSTRONG: Calvin Moto, II.

38

39

(No comments)

40

41

MR. ARMSTRONG: Wilbur Howarth, Sr.

42

43

(No comments)

44

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MR. ARMSTRONG: Robert Schaeffer.

46

47

(No comments)

48

49

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MR. ARMSTRONG: Elmer Armstrong, Jr.,  
here.

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1 Brian Jones.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
4 This is Eva. And Brian Jones of Ambler was going to be  
5 traveling back from appointments today and not able to  
6 make it but he expected to be on for the meeting  
7 tomorrow.

8

9 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay, thank you Eva.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay.

12

13 MR. ARMSTRONG: Barbara Atoruk.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: So, Mr. Chair, there  
18 looks like there's three of us online.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Secretary. Eva, if we could possibly have some people  
22 reach out to our other members who haven't called in  
23 yet just to make sure they're calling the right number  
24 and know that we're starting at 9:00. Since we do not  
25 technically have a quorum, is it all right for us to  
26 just continue on until we have enough members call in  
27 there, Eva.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Thank you, yes, of course,  
30 Mr. Chair, I'll give folks a call and text and make  
31 sure they're able to connect on teleconference. And we  
32 can take a few minutes to do that, take a brief break  
33 and try to connect with our Council members. And while  
34 we're all waiting here I need to make the announcements  
35 to remind folks to please mute your phones. So you can  
36 hit the mute button on your cell phone or push star  
37 six. Including for Council members, if you're not  
38 speaking, it helps reduce the background noise so we  
39 can hear those that are speaking. And then when you  
40 want to speak again, just hit star six to unmute. And  
41 then especially for agency folks, if you get an  
42 incoming call, please disconnect from the  
43 teleconference otherwise we get the bad Muzak and.....

44

45 MR. HOWARTH: Hello.

46

47 MS. PATTON: .....and can't disconnect.  
48 So -- and we'll just take a couple minutes here and I'm  
49 going to reach out to Council members and hopefully

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1 we'll be able to connect with folks here shortly.  
2 Thank you.

3  
4 MR. HOWARTH: Hey, Eva, it's Wilbur  
5 Howarth.

6  
7 MS. PATTON: Yes, okay, great, thank  
8 you Wilbur. And any other Council members that have  
9 joined us so far.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 (Pause)

14  
15 MS. PATTON: For the Council members  
16 that have just joined us this morning.....

17  
18 MR. SHIEDT: Okay, yeah, I gotcha.

19  
20 MS. PATTON: Good morning. I'll be  
21 facilitating the meeting for the first half of the day  
22 today and then Katya will likely be joining the Council  
23 this afternoon. Good morning. And I'm just going to  
24 reach out to Barbara and Calvin and see if they're able  
25 to connect with us. Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. And  
28 while we're waiting for that we'll just take a five  
29 minute break and everyone can say good morning if they  
30 like.

31  
32 (Pause)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So while we're waiting  
35 for Barbara and hopefully Calvin to call in, we do have  
36 six out of the 10 positions on the Council online so I  
37 would say we have a quorum at this time. So moving on  
38 we can go to welcome and introductions and so at this  
39 time I would like to just go down the list and ask our  
40 participants that are not on the Council to just again  
41 state their names and what organization they're with  
42 and we'll start with OSM.

43  
44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Good morning, Mr.  
45 Chair. Council members. This is Lisa Grediagin. And  
46 you formerly knew me as Lisa Maas but I changed my name  
47 recently and hopefully you recognize my voice a little  
48 bit. But good to be here with you today and again I'm  
49 the Wildlife Division Supervisor with OSM.

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1 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. -- go  
2 ahead.

3

4

5 \*\*Transcriber Note\*\*

6

7 Hannah Voorhees contacted Computer Matrix Court  
8 Reporters requesting she be titled as Dr. Voorhees in  
9 transcripts and not Ms. Voorhees

10

11 \*\*End Transcriber Note\*\*

12

13 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning, this is  
14 Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist with OSM. Sorry,  
15 Karen.

16

17 MS. HYER: No worries. Good morning,  
18 Mr. Chairman and Council members. This is Karen Hyer,  
19 Fisheries Biologist with OSM.

20

21 MR. PLANK: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
22 Council. This is Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist with  
23 OSM.

24

25 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
26 Members of the Council. This is Robbin LaVine, and I'm  
27 the Subsistence Policy Coordinator at OSM.

28

29 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning. This is  
30 Brian Ubelaker, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, anyone else  
33 from OSM.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you.  
38 OSM Staff thank you for joining us. Moving on we'll go  
39 to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

40

41 MS. GEORGETTE: Good morning. This is  
42 Susan Georgette, the Refuge Manager for Selawik Refuge.  
43 Thanks.

44

45 MR. WIESE: Good morning. This is Will  
46 Wiese, the Assistant Manager with Selawik Refuge.

47

48 MS. SWEENEY: Hi, good morning. This is  
49 Brittany Sweeney calling. The Outreach Specialist,

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1 Kotzebue.

2

3 MS. NELSON: Good morning. This is  
4 Christina Nelson, the Wildlife Refuge Specialist at  
5 Selawik Refuge.

6

7 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill  
8 Klein. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator out of  
9 Anchorage calling in this morning.

10

11 MR. HANDER: Good morning. This is Ray  
12 Hander, I'm the Fisheries Biologist at the Northern  
13 Alaska Fish and Wildlife Field Office out of Fairbanks.  
14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,  
17 Fish and Wildlife. Moving on, National Park Service,  
18 do we have anyone with NPS this morning.

19

20 MS. KOELSCH: Hi, this is Jeanette  
21 Koelsch, Acting Superintendent for Western Arctic  
22 National Parkland.

23

24 MS. ADKINSON: Hi, this is Hannah  
25 Adkinson. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for Kobuk  
26 Valley National Park Subsistence Resource Commission  
27 and Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission,  
28 and I'm the Cultural Anthropologist at the Park Service  
29 office in Kotzebue.

30

31 MR. FRONSTIN: Good morning. This is  
32 Raime Fronstin, Wildlife Biologist with the Park  
33 Service in Kotzebue.

34

35 MS. FRONSTIN: Hi. This is Marsha  
36 Fronstin with Western Arctic National Parklands and I'm  
37 the Research Permit Coordinator and Compliance  
38 Coordinator.

39

40 MR. YOUNG: Good morning. This is  
41 Justin Young, the Archeologist for Western Arctic  
42 National Parklands.

43

44 MR. DALLEMOLLE: (In Native) Joe  
45 Dallemolle. I'm the District Ranger for Western  
46 Arctic.

47

48 MS. OKADA: Hi, good morning. This is  
49 Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the

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1 Arctic National Park and Preserve based out of  
2 Fairbanks.

3

4 MR. JOLY: Hello everyone. This is  
5 Kyle Joly, I'm a Wildlife Biologist for Gates of the  
6 Arctic National Park.

7

8 MS. FLOREY: Good morning. This is  
9 Victoria Florey, Subsistence Program Analyst at the  
10 Regional Office for the National Park Service.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you  
13 everyone from the National Park Service calling in.  
14 Moving on, do we have anyone from Bureau of Land  
15 Management, BLM anyone.

16

17 MR. SPARKS: Yeah, this is Tom Sparks,  
18 Anchorage Field Office.

19

20 MR. GUSSEY: Good morning. This is  
21 Walker Gussey, Anchorage Field Office.

22

23 MR. SEPPI: Good morning. This is  
24 Bruce Seppi, Anchorage Field Office.

25

26 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. This is  
27 Chris McKee out of the Anchorage State Office.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for joining  
30 us, those from the BLM. Next, BIA, Bureau of Indian  
31 Affairs, anyone.

32

33 MS. ATORUK: Hello, good morning.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hello.

36

37 REPORTER: Hi Barb.

38

39 MS. ATORUK: Good morning, this is  
40 Barb.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning, Barbara.  
43 This is Chair Thomas Baker from Kotzebue, thanks for  
44 joining us. Do we have anyone from the BIA on the  
45 phone at this time.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, we'll

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1 move on to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

2

3 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is  
4 Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner here for the  
5 Department here in Anchorage.

6

7 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark  
8 Burch, the Palmer Office.

9

10 MS. BROWN: This is Caroline Brown, the  
11 Statewide Subsistence Manager -- Statewide Resource  
12 Manager for Fish and Game in Fairbanks.

13

14 MR. MERIZON: This is Rick Merizon with  
15 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

16

17 MS. OSBURN: Good morning. This is  
18 Christie Osburn, the Area Biologist with the Alaska  
19 Department of Fish and Game in Kotzebue. Alex Hanson  
20 will also be on the call, he's the Western Arctic Herd  
21 Caribou Biologist. He's having trouble joining  
22 currently but is working his way back to the call.

23

24 (Teleconference interference -  
25 participants not muted)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If we could mute our  
28 phones when not speaking. Besides Alex Hanson, anyone  
29 else from Fish and Game.

30

31 (Teleconference interference -  
32 participants not muted)

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you everyone  
35 from Fish and Game. Do we have any representatives of  
36 any tribal organizations, any tribal members, Staff  
37 from any of the IRAs in the villages in the region.

38

39 MR. CLEVELAND: Gordon Cleveland,  
40 Noorvik. Good morning.

41

42 REPORTER: I'm sorry, I didn't get your  
43 name, can you repeat it please.

44

45 MR. CLEVELAND: Gordon Cleveland.

46

47 REPORTER: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Also anyone from any

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1 Native Corporations.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And if we don't have  
6 anyone else from tribal organizations, Native  
7 corporations, any other members of the public who just  
8 want to listen in.

9

10 MR. DEWITT: This is Neil DeWitt. I'm  
11 on the Anchorage AC and I do represent -- or I have a  
12 seat, I should say on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
13 working group. Thank you.

14

15 (Teleconference interference -  
16 participants not muted)

17

18 REPORTER: Hello. Hi. This is the  
19 court reporter, my name is Tina, and I'd like to  
20 request if you're not speaking right now, if you're not  
21 Thomas Baker, if you could please put your phone on  
22 mute, and you can do that by hitting star six, or the  
23 mute button on your phone, because the background noise  
24 and the echo override the recording. So I'd request  
25 that, please. And, Thomas, sorry, to interrupt, go  
26 ahead.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: No, thank you, yeah,  
29 anyone who's online please mute now.

30

31 MR. MANNIX: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
32 Members of the Council. This is Jacob Mannix with  
33 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning, Jacob.

36

37 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Mr.  
38 Chairman and members of the Council. This is Greg  
39 Risdahl, I am the Forest Service InterAgency Staff  
40 Committee member and Subsistence Program Lead. Thank  
41 you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anyone else on the  
44 call. We did have Mr. Verne Cleveland calling in as  
45 well, but he introduced himself and then said he might  
46 have to leave to go to work, just for the record.

47

48 (No comments)

49

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1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:       Well, welcome  
2 everyone. Seeing as that's about everyone that would  
3 like to introduce at themselves at this time. We'll  
4 move on to Item No. 5, which will be review and  
5 adoption of the agenda. At this time I'd like to just  
6 make the suggestion before we start reviewing, that  
7 today and tomorrow, we adopt our agenda just as a guide  
8 just because we have some members of the Council who  
9 may not be joining us, whether it be due to work or  
10 travel, just to give us the flexibility to rearrange  
11 things as needed. Hopefully we won't need to do that  
12 too much. Is there any comments any of the Council  
13 members would like to make regarding the agenda.

14

15                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:       Go ahead, please  
16 introduce yourself.

17

18                   MS. ATORUK:   Okay, this is Barb Atoruk.  
19 And we're on No. 5, review and adopt the agenda.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Yes, Barbara, we're on  
22 No. 5, this is Thomas.

23

24                   MS. ATORUK:   Okay. Just for personal  
25 information, can I ask who -- which Council members are  
26 online, please.

27

28                   MR. HOWARTH:   Hi, Barb, this is Wilbur  
29 Howarth, Northwest Arctic Subsistence for the Lower  
30 Kobuk unit.

31

32                   MS. ATORUK:   Thank you.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Barbara, this is  
35 Thomas Baker. I'll run down the list, we have Attamuk,  
36 myself, Michael Kramer, Wilbur, Bob Schaeffer, Elmer  
37 Armstrong, Jr., and yourself.

38

39                   MS. ATORUK:   Okay, thank you. If we're  
40 on No. 5 can I add somewhere some time to -- for  
41 reorganization of Council officers, please.

42

43                   MR. SHIEDT:   Mr. Chair, did you start  
44 the meeting yet, I thought you were just doing  
45 introductions.

46

47                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   No, we have called the  
48 meeting to order, it started at 9:00. Eva, are you  
49 available?

50

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1 MR. SHIEDT: Oh, okay, yeah, I just  
2 didn't hear it. Yeah, okay I just didn't hear it,  
3 sorry.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Yes, good morning, Mr.  
6 Chair. And I'm sorry, I couldn't quite hear the  
7 question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, thank you, Eva.  
10 So Member Barbara Atoruk has asked if it would be  
11 possible to add reorganization of Council members to  
12 the agenda. As I understand that's typically only done  
13 at the winter meeting, which is usually in February but  
14 do you have any feedback on that.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
17 And, Barbara, yes, the election of officers for the  
18 Council is typically held once a year at the winter  
19 meeting. So it was held at the Council's February  
20 meeting in 2021, and the next opportunity for election  
21 of officers would be coming up at your winter 2022  
22 meeting. We will have discussion -- we do have a call  
23 for applications to serve on the Council and so we will  
24 be addressing Council membership overall at that time  
25 and encouraging applications. There is currently one  
26 seat vacant on the Council and then a number of Council  
27 members whose terms will expire in 2022 so would  
28 require a reapplication at this time. So we will be  
29 addressing applications and membership under the new  
30 business, F, at the end, the Fall 2021 Council  
31 application nomination and open season.

32

33 MS. ATORUK: Under number what?

34

35 MS. PATTON: If you look on Page 2 of  
36 your agenda it's right above agency reports, so it's  
37 the last new business on the agenda under F, fall 2021  
38 Council application and nomination open season.

39

40 MS. ATORUK: Okay, I got it, thank you.  
41 Withdraw my question.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.  
44 So at this time is there any amendments that should be  
45 made to the agenda or do we have a motion to adopt the  
46 agenda as presented, and, again, just adopt it as a  
47 guide which later we can move around as needed,  
48 depending on how the next couple days go.

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1 MS. ATORUK: I have another question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is that you Barbara.

4

5 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. Were you able  
6 to get a hold of the village of Noatak.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Barbara. I  
9 talked with the acting tribal administrator at Native  
10 Village of Noatak and also spoke with their tribal  
11 President, Enoch Mitchell, and they had hoped to call  
12 in for this meeting, both to address the Council either  
13 under public or tribal comments, and also to address  
14 the Council on the closure review for caribou, Unit 23,  
15 which is WCR22-45. And so I anticipate they'll be  
16 calling in and I can give them a call as well to  
17 doublecheck and alert them, certainly when we're  
18 getting up to the closure review that they had wanted  
19 to comment on.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, that's what I was --  
24 yeah, Mr. Chair, that was what I was asking about to  
25 see, if they could just call in during the time of the  
26 discussion of WCR22-45. So I was just checking, thank  
27 you.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Barbara.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you. At  
32 this time do we have a motion to adopt the agenda as a  
33 guide.

34

35 MS. ATORUK: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So we need a motion  
38 and then a second.

39

40 MS. ATORUK: So moved.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Barbara to  
43 adopt the agenda as a guide. Do we have a second.

44

45 MR. KRAMER: This is Mike, second.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And seconded by Mr.  
48 Mike Kramer. All those in favor please say aye.

49

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And all those opposed,  
4 same sign.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: We have adopted our  
9 agenda as a guide. Thank you for that.

10

11 (Teleconference interference -  
12 participants not muted)

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moving on it will be  
15 Item No. 6, review and approval of previous meeting  
16 minutes. Does anyone have any amendments that need to  
17 be made into the minutes or are they good to be adopted  
18 as presented.

19

20 (Teleconference interference -  
21 participants not muted)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Again, if you're not  
24 speaking.....

25

26 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here. I approve  
27 the minutes as written.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Attamuk, do  
30 we have a second.

31

32 MS. ATORUK: Second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Barbara.  
35 All those in favor, please say aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All opposed, same  
40 sign.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: We have now adopted  
45 and approved our previous meeting minutes. Moving on  
46 to Council member reports, Item No. 7. We will just --  
47 a reminder for everyone, if this is your meeting as a  
48 member of the RAC, this is our opportunity to go ahead  
49 and just report on what's been going on in and around  
50

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1 our communities in the region, what you've experienced,  
2 what people around you have experienced regarding  
3 subsistence, hunting, fishing, trapping, animal  
4 migration, weather patterns, what not. And we'll start  
5 off the Council member reports with Attamuk.

6  
7 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I was just getting  
8 coffee. Yes, I will start. Starting from the most --  
9 it's not important, I'll just try to go to a list --  
10 salmonberries were in -- in Kotzebue was hardly any at  
11 Kotzebue but you go to (In Native) there's lots of  
12 salmonberries.

13  
14 And we move on to salmon, they were  
15 slow this year, everybody know it. But the water temp  
16 so warm that the salmon are not coming in but they were  
17 slow, but they came in late again.

18  
19 And that -- and this is the headache  
20 everybody's going to talk about. Our migration of  
21 caribou was slow except for Noatak. And I talk to a  
22 lot of people, they go see me, a lot of these  
23 youngsters they know me, they see me in the river, they  
24 recognize me, I would say about 11 boats stopped and  
25 they said the problem is we're putting the transporters  
26 and outfitters on the State lands up there where  
27 they're changing the migration of the caribou further  
28 up out of the Federal lands and the State lands. And I  
29 think what I'm hearing, the way I hearing the  
30 youngsters talk to me, we need to figure out a way to  
31 change it or have the Park Service study how much  
32 impact this has -- the transporters and outfitters are  
33 having on us, on the caribou, of the migration, because  
34 they're changing the migration because the transporters  
35 are going further and further up. And I hear that, I  
36 tell you a lot of boats stop by when they see me, they  
37 talk to me, and I hear the youngsters. And what  
38 they're trying to do -- Noatak people got lucky, the  
39 only ones that got lucky this year. They get some in  
40 Kiana but they were late in the season, a lot of the  
41 other villages never get. I think that's what's  
42 happening. And I could hear them.

43  
44 And I'm going to try to make it short  
45 because the teleconference is a little bit too much out  
46 of my hand. But I hope Noatak -- thank you young kids  
47 that talk to me. The youngest one, I asked him how old  
48 was he that talked to me, I asked him, he was 13 years  
49 old. Attamuk, I'm here because my dad hardly hunt, I'm  
50

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1 going with somebody and we need meat and that made me  
2 proud.

3  
4 And when we were at the caribou --  
5 there was so many bears and wolves. I mean the bears  
6 were even right next to the campfire, 10 feet from the  
7 campfire after dark, that's how brave they were  
8 getting, they were hungry. A lot of wolves. And only  
9 in the morning when I get up after I have coffee, when  
10 I get up, right behind the tent I saw young pups, about  
11 seven of them, wolf pups, they were across the river,  
12 down the river, behind our tent, there was lot of  
13 wolves in that one area where we were, because caribou  
14 were trying to cross and the wolves are being like us,  
15 they're trying to harvest, they want to eat too but we  
16 don't like them because they're depleting the stock.

17  
18 And that's where I will stop, thank  
19 you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.  
22 Moving down the list, Michael Kramer, Mike are you on.

23  
24 MR. KRAMER: Yes, I am. Hearing from a  
25 lot of people, you know, the salmon coming through is  
26 pretty slim.

27  
28 Also the caribou, you know, I have a  
29 lot of comments regarding that. Today I'll be here for  
30 the full meeting, tomorrow I'll be here from 1:30 to  
31 4:00. I'd like to try and get in on the Fish and  
32 Game's comments and, you know, their study, whether  
33 they got their count done this year. A lot of  
34 questions regarding caribou, you know, the last several  
35 years from August 1st to October 15th, I'd like to see  
36 some kind of data, collar data, that's in a seven day  
37 interval as to where our collared caribou are. You  
38 know where they are -- also when they pass through the  
39 Noatak. I know that Noatak -- you know we all live by  
40 the rule that we let the first ones go by, I think it  
41 should be the same for transporters and guides up  
42 there. You know, I think we need to come up with a new  
43 date for transporters and guides that allows, you know,  
44 caribou to pass through unhindered. And, you know, I'd  
45 like to hear the moose population. And how many  
46 commercial services were operating in each agency's  
47 area. And, you know, that information will be good  
48 because, you know, if we have to wait for the first  
49 ones to cross they should be able to, too, and the Fish  
50

0016

1 and Game said they can't, if you really look at the  
2 commercial fishing season they're the ones that have  
3 ultimate say so on the fishing periods, so why can't  
4 they have ultimate say so on the hunting in State  
5 lands. You know that's our livelihood up there,  
6 caribou. A lot of people from the villages are  
7 spending a lot of money going out to hunt caribou and  
8 coming home with nothing because there's aircraft back  
9 in the mountains hindering the caribou's migration. So  
10 once they come up with this data and text it to me and  
11 all the Council members, it would really be good to  
12 know -- to find out whether all the collared caribou --  
13 the caribou, in general, you know, their migration, are  
14 they waiting until after October 15th when the guides  
15 aren't up there and transporters aren't operating to  
16 come down, that's what kind of data I want to see  
17 because if we're limited and we allow the first bunch  
18 to go by they should follow the same rule, and that's a  
19 cultural rule that's been here forever.

20  
21 I noticed that this summer we had a --  
22 or this fall we had a polar bear come through Kotzebue  
23 on Front Street until finally he went elsewhere. Last  
24 week we had some beluga come through out here in the  
25 channel. A lot of the trout I noticed, and whitefish,  
26 I haven't really seen too many people post about, you  
27 know, their harvest. It's been kind of an odd year,  
28 weather-wise. I know we had a lot of rain.

29  
30 But other than that, that's about all I  
31 have. Thank you for your time.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for your  
34 report, Mike. Moving down, Wilbur Howarth, Sr.,  
35 Wilbur, are you on.

36  
37 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, I'm here. I like  
38 what Mike just said about the caribou migration because  
39 we, here in the Noorvik area, we didn't see any of them  
40 this year. Had to send the boys, my sons, all the way  
41 up to Onion Portage. But, anyways, yeah, they're not  
42 coming -- they didn't come through here yet. But I  
43 heard later after it practically froze up that Kiana,  
44 these guys, young men going through ice made it up  
45 there and got a few caribou.

46  
47 But anyways the moose I've seen this  
48 summer, I saw some with twins, most of the females so  
49 -- and they're all over. So I kind of figure that the  
50



0017

1 moose are doing okay, but there's still bear all over.  
2 Right at the end of town we had a big old brown bear  
3 came by. And a lot of people talk about wolves, while  
4 they're waiting in their boats. So they are here too,  
5 not very from here, Noorvik.

6  
7 Other than that for the past couple of  
8 years I noticed the whitefish going up early. Because  
9 right now when we set nets under the ice you pull the  
10 fish up and the eggs will just ooze right out so those  
11 are the late ones going up. And a few of our fishermen  
12 are getting the nice black salmon, not a lot, but  
13 they're surprised to see salmon in their nets.

14  
15 So Elmer might have something, thank  
16 you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur for  
19 your report. Next is Robert Schaeffer, Bobby, are you  
20 on.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Robert Schaeffer, are  
25 you on the line.

26  
27 MS. GEORGETTE: Thomas, this is Susan  
28 Georgette. I just got a message asking me to call him  
29 at camp because he's having trouble connecting so I  
30 will see if I can help him.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay, thank you,  
33 Susan.  
34 So while Susan is doing that we will just move on to  
35 Elmer Armstrong, Sr., Elmer.

36  
37 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I went out a few  
38 times for blueberries, and (In Native) didn't get full  
39 pots but -- salmon fishing was kind of slow. We had  
40 our net out for I don't know how many days and I think  
41 we caught enough for the winter.

42  
43 And I went out numerous times looking  
44 for moose, I missed out on the RM880, I was out of  
45 town, but I was able to.....

46  
47 (Teleconference interference -  
48 participants not muted)

49  
50

0018

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: .....and then on the  
2 last day I was able to catch a moose, that was on the  
3 20th.

4  
5 For me caribou was pretty tough. I  
6 couldn't go out, I was contacting Kiana and see if  
7 there was any movement but there was nothing. And then  
8 it froze up so I pulled my boat up, I thought it was  
9 going to freeze for good and then I was out of town and  
10 I heard it thawed out again. There was some hunters  
11 from Noorvik that went up river above Kiana, I know  
12 there was some that went up to Onion Portage which they  
13 were starting to see caribou up there. Right before it  
14 froze up there were some hunters that were able to  
15 catch up by Kiana.

16  
17 I know during my moose hunt I would see  
18 a lot of bear tracks and wolf tracks. I know I saw one  
19 down one of the mouths when I was looking for moose.

20  
21 It's been a couple years since I set  
22 whitefish net because I have -- I have one out -- it  
23 was kind of slow, I think I caught enough, I might pull  
24 it out today because we got about, I don't know, maybe  
25 eight inches of snow and I hope everybody has safe  
26 travels.

27  
28 I think that's all I got.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer, for  
33 your report. Next, Barbara Atoruk, Barbara, do you  
34 have anything to report.

35  
36 MS. ATORUK: Good morning. Good  
37 morning, Mr. Chair. Council members. For this area  
38 here, in Kiana area, salmonberries and blueberries were  
39 kind of good. Pickers had to go out of the village to  
40 go and pick though, but I know they did good because I  
41 got some in my freezer from them.

42  
43 And the salmon was late. Salmon was  
44 late coming in. We have a Fish and Game person here  
45 who does putting out net and gillnet and brings them in  
46 for the village and passes them out and stuff, but then  
47 they had to quit early because they were having motor  
48 problems and stuff so that didn't last very long but  
49 local -- local fishermen put their nets out and shared  
50

0019

1 salmon and so we're thankful for that, although they  
2 came in very late.

3  
4 Sheefish. The sheefish was good. They  
5 were really fat this summer when they came in and still  
6 for a long time they were out there -- a lot of  
7 fishermen were out there with their poles and getting  
8 them and bringing them up to the elders, sharing what  
9 they were getting from out there, and so that was good.  
10 There was just too much rain. Just too much rain to dry  
11 anything this summer. Even further up river -- since  
12 there's no one from up river here on this Council and  
13 Brian hasn't called, I guess, for the second time here,  
14 hardly anyone seined even up there because of the rain,  
15 there was too much rain and a lot of high waters. And  
16 the river up there was so high that it went over the  
17 bank at Kobuk and Shungnak and that hasn't happened in  
18 a very long time that I know and remember. So -- but  
19 that happened up river.

20  
21 The caribou were very late, very late.  
22 They were just starting to cross and then the next day  
23 ice came in and hunters had to hustle back to the  
24 village, some of them would have got frozen up river,  
25 if they didn't get help but they made it back and then  
26 a day or so later it all melted so they put their boats  
27 back out and went out again, the younger hunters and  
28 they shared us some 'bou and they were so happy, the  
29 hunters. But then the caribou is later. And I heard a  
30 lot of complaints from the Noatak area that there is so  
31 many planes, some of them got on Facebook and taking  
32 some pictures of planes but there's just too many  
33 planes and hunters further up Noatak beyond the closure  
34 area. I was asked to see who is giving permits for the  
35 transporters and hunters for up there. And when I was  
36 leaving for Anchorage, I was in Kotzebue and there were  
37 some hunters coming in, there were a lot of hunters.  
38 One came in -- one set came in with moose horns, they  
39 were taking care of that moose horn like it was so  
40 precious. More than -- I don't know, I didn't see any  
41 meat going out. I didn't see any meat boxes. Maybe  
42 they sent them by freight. But we need to get down and  
43 discuss this further when we talk about our special  
44 action.

45  
46 There's a lot of bears. Lynx came in  
47 to the village last spring, all over the place, and the  
48 hunters had to go out and look for them and kill them.  
49 Some of them -- one was at the dump and the hunter  
50

0020

1 called me and said, Ana, that lynx I just shot at at  
2 the dump had a puppy in his mouth and it was still  
3 warm, and I said, oh, my goodness, I said, it could get  
4 kids, you know. We have a lot of kids, we're in a  
5 wilderness up here, we have a lot of trees around the  
6 village. And I live in the wilderness so -- and my  
7 husband used to tell me, he said, stand on the porch  
8 before you go out or go down the stairs because that  
9 lynx is very, very sneaky, it'll just sit under a tree  
10 and just watch. And so I haven't heard of any lately,  
11 but then I hear there's some wolves close by bears and  
12 foxes. And the latest I seen -- I heard about was a  
13 wolf down the beach that was howling and the person who  
14 goes around at night patrolling and stuff said that  
15 wolf wasn't scared of her, it keep trying to come  
16 towards her and getting close so I just told them, I  
17 said shoot it, because I always thinking it might be  
18 rabid, rabies. Rabies. But I didn't hear any more of  
19 that, after that, so.

20

21 Beaver, I wasn't here during the beaver  
22 season so I really don't know and usually hunters come  
23 by with beaver when they get in the springtime but I  
24 wasn't here during that time. But I got some shares of  
25 caribou, trout, beluga and muktuk from other hunters  
26 from the other villages and I'm so glad. I was happy.  
27 I thank everyone who shared with me this season.

28

29 And the late freeze, they still got  
30 some from -- even after the freeze people were still  
31 going out and going back behind the tundra and getting --  
32 still getting some too, and I saw that too up at  
33 Shungnak they were doing that because the freeze came  
34 in so fast. And the caribou hadn't quite gone near  
35 Shungnak until after the freeze. So the hunters when  
36 up there behind either with their Hondas or  
37 snowmachines to hunt up there and then I think they  
38 harvested some and I seen that they harvested a bear  
39 too. And that's another thing we asked, the Council  
40 needs to be informed about the bears. I know -- there  
41 was hardly any black bears that I heard about, usually  
42 I do but then I didn't -- well, I wasn't that exposed  
43 to hunters this summer but I do hear a lot about the  
44 brown bear, even in the Selawik area, so we need to  
45 discuss that further when we get to that area and see  
46 if we can either -- I think -- well, what do we have on  
47 the brown bear, one a year, two a year, anybody know  
48 right off hand?

49

50

0021

1 MR. SHIEDT: Two a year, Attamuk here.

2

3 MS. ATORUK: Okay. We'll discuss that  
4 further when we get to it, I'm sure we're going to be  
5 talking about that too.

6

7 And, moose, moose was okay. I got some  
8 moose from hunters here locally and that was the only  
9 time, only one. And hardly anyone was getting any  
10 moose in the area that I know of when I came back.

11

12 I ended up with Covid when I went to  
13 Anchorage and had to quarantine over there for 11 days  
14 but I had it mild and did not have to get into oxygen  
15 or any other thing, my oxygen was at 95 the whole time  
16 and so I was okay until -- I came back and when I got  
17 off the plane, they have you fill out papers to see  
18 when you're going to go out again and I said -- when do  
19 you plan on leaving again and I said not going to  
20 forever and then she laughed and she said one person  
21 wrote down until God calls me.

22

23 Okay, that's all I have, thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for your  
26 report, Barbara. Susan, did you have any luck getting  
27 Bobby on the phone.

28

29 MS. GEORGETTE: Hi, Thomas, this is  
30 Susan. Yes, I talked to him and his phone connection  
31 at camp is very poor today even though it was working  
32 fine yesterday. And he was going to call Eric and see  
33 if he could get picked up by plane to come in and he  
34 said he'd keep me posted.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay, thank you,  
37 Susan. So at this time I will just go ahead and say to  
38 our members who aren't able to call in, Bobby, Calvin  
39 and Brian, we can -- if they're not able to call in  
40 today we can have them give their reports tomorrow. I  
41 would like to give the Chair's report and I'll try to  
42 keep it brief and then after that I'd like to suggest a  
43 15 minute break.

44

45 So what I have -- this is Thomas Baker  
46 giving my Chair's report. One of the big things that  
47 people have seen here in Kotzebue and people have been  
48 commenting on, even today during this meeting, is the  
49 number of transporters bringing hunters around the  
50

0022

1 region. I couldn't tell you exactly how many  
2 transporters and guides but there were at least five  
3 transporters and at least one or two active guides this  
4 fall season. As far as caribou drop off hunts, there  
5 was two transporters, each one of them reported to have  
6 200 clients for the entire season so that's at  
7 least.....

8

9 MS. ATORUK: Oh, wow.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....400 hunters going  
12 out in a very short window of time. And as I've  
13 mentioned before and as other members of the Council  
14 have mentioned, typically when these people are going  
15 out they are often promised that they are going to have  
16 at least an 85 percent better success rate because  
17 they're typically going far out above the Noatak right  
18 to wherever the herds are at. So needless to say for  
19 locals the caribou season, the caribou came very late,  
20 what caribou did come there weren't many. People from  
21 the village of Noatak were able to get some. People  
22 here in Kotzebue went both ways, they went far up the  
23 Noatak and a couple of people were lucky and got one or  
24 two animals, and then other people went up to Onion  
25 Portage and about the same there. But still not very  
26 many caribou caught locally by those going out, whether  
27 it's by boat or by airplane, or just to their  
28 traditional camps.

29

30 (Teleconference interference -  
31 participants not muted)

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Talking about bearded  
34 seal early in the year, a good number of people were  
35 successful in harvesting oogruck but there was thin ice  
36 and sparse ice this spring season and just made for  
37 poor hunting conditions.

38

39 When it comes to salmon, again, they  
40 were quite late, there weren't many salmon coming  
41 through to begin with. There was some speculation that  
42 the salmon that go up the Kobuk River went to Kivalina  
43 and then came down and went up, I don't know if there's  
44 any science that supports that. But that would be  
45 something worth following with Fish and Game and  
46 perhaps Fish and Wildlife to see if there's any studies  
47 following the patterns of salmon returning each summer.

48

49 One of the things that was brought to

50

0023

1 my attention was a fairly large die-off of herring  
2 around Kotzebue and that the Selawik National Wildlife  
3 Refuge had put some things out on social media and  
4 local people had mentioned that there was fairly high  
5 numbers of herring just washing up on shore. So  
6 somewhat concerning that there's a die-off of any kind.

7

8 Moose, there were a fair number of  
9 those harvested this fall. I was lucky enough to catch  
10 one. People were fairly successful across the board  
11 when they did go out. But then at the end of all of  
12 that there were a lot of predators reported across the  
13 entire region whether it be further up towards Onion  
14 Portage or just in the Squirrel River drainage area,  
15 where I tend to hunt, there were a lot of bears and a  
16 lot of report of wolves throughout the region.

17

18 So with that I will cut my report  
19 fairly short and if there's no objection I'd like to  
20 suggest we take a 15 minute break.

21

22 MR. SHIEDT: Thomas, Attamuk here.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Attamuk.

25

26 MR. SHIEDT: I was asked by Noatak to  
27 give a short brief -- like I mentioned it already, that  
28 there was a lot of bears at Noatak River and a lot of  
29 wolves but the caribou would go down to the river, and  
30 like some years at Kiana, they would get close to the  
31 river and head back. They said there were so many  
32 bears on both sides of the river that they refused to  
33 cross. And they tell me heavily that that was  
34 happening all over. When it got quiet they said they  
35 would cross, But they think the disturbance when they  
36 were crossing was a lot of bears stopping them from  
37 crossing. But I was told -- like I told you a lot of  
38 the young hunters talk to me, and they tell me to say  
39 that when Noatak gets it turn.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for adding  
44 that, Attamuk. The time is now 10:08. If there are no  
45 further comments or additions to anyone's reports from  
46 the Council I'd like to suggest we take a break until  
47 10:25.

48

49 MR. ARMSTRONG: This is Elmer real

50

0024

1 quick.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Elmer.

4

5

6

MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I did communicate with Noatak too and they said they were way up river. That's all, thank you.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Elmer, this is Thomas. Did anyone -- and for any members of the Council, just to add on to our reports here, did anyone from Noatak say roughly how far up river they would have to go to find caribou.

15

16

17

18

MR. ARMSTRONG: Well, looking through media, they were probably near the Canyon, that's quite a ways.

19

20

21

22

23

24

MR. SHIEDT: Thomas they went way up -- way up river, way past that up, up river, (In Native), that's way up there. Two boats tell me they went to Howard's (ph) camp near the end of the mountains. They went way up to get the caribou.

25

26

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Duly noted, thank you, Elmer and Attamuk.

30

31

32

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MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead.

MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, it's Wilbur.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead Wilbur.

MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, I forgot to mention there's lots of beaver houses down here in the lower Kobuk, like over toward (In Native) lots of beaver houses. We have so much beaver in every river down this way, so they're coming down or they're just populating. And I was reading a little bit about the herring, that acouple years ago, I believe, they were -- just had a big population boom and younger ones were not getting enough nourishment or something and dying off. And they find some kind of virus -- they'll probably let us know later on that some kind of virus they might have, the herring, since they're dying off, but the tests take a little longer.



0025

1                   Okay, thank you.

2

3                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.

4

5                   MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, it's Mike.

6

7                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Mike.

8

9                   MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I heard a lot of  
10 concerns about all the air traffic, you know, regarding  
11 the caribou that's why I wanted to try and see if we  
12 can possibly come up with a special action request to  
13 delay non-residents and non-local resident hunters,  
14 pushed back to October -- or September 15th to October  
15 15th because, you know, like I said it's within our  
16 culture to allow the first ones to pass unhindered and  
17 then locals will be able to harvest their animals.  
18 That's why I'm requesting that data from caribou  
19 collars as to where they're mingling and where they're  
20 staying because of the aircraft traffic and then once  
21 the aircraft traffic stops, what's their -- the herd's  
22 reaction, to come down, you know, after all the air  
23 traffic has stopped. We need to do something because --  
24 if we have to, you know, also put in another special  
25 request to only allow transporters and guides, you  
26 know, a minimum number of animals and clients per  
27 season. Because not very many people here in Kotzebue  
28 got caribou at all. I didn't hear of any people going  
29 down to the coast and harvesting any. So we need to  
30 really look at that today and possibly tomorrow because  
31 it is a big concern. You know, I work out at the  
32 airport and food security is the biggest key factor to  
33 our survival, you know, subsistence resources, caribou,  
34 moose, you know, without those animals we would be  
35 paying the ridiculous price -- beef has gone up, fuel  
36 has gone up, utilities have gone up, I seen that on  
37 MSNBC, and you could only understand the effects that  
38 we see here regarding that when it's \$75 for a spiral  
39 sliced ham, \$68 for three prime ribeye steaks, you  
40 know, it's crazy. Because if we don't have caribou,  
41 we're resorting to what the store has. You know, \$75  
42 for a spiral sliced ham, I could get eight of them down  
43 in Anchorage for that price. So food security is our  
44 key factor for those two special action requests  
45 regarding caribou because of it's a serious thing. If  
46 not -- we can require transporters clients and guides  
47 clients to come up here between May 15th and June 15th  
48 to come up and get registered caribou tickets. They  
49 can't get them online, they have to come up here to get  
50

0026

1     them, you know, the same as the RM880.

2

3                     So that's my suggestion and if the  
4     Board approves, you know, we could look at doing  
5     something like that here pretty quick.

6

7                     Thank you.

8

9                     CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike, duly  
10    noted. This is something that Staff and I have talked  
11    about, this is going to be a big part of our meeting  
12    this fall so we're hoping to have the entire -- all  
13    members of the Council that are currently serving to be  
14    on so hopefully by the time we get through everything  
15    on the agenda, by tomorrow afternoon once we have  
16    everybody on we can have a more in depth conversation  
17    and see what the Council would like to do moving  
18    forward.

19

20                    The time is now 10:15, we've been going  
21    for just about an hour and a quarter now and so we will  
22    go ahead and take a break until 10:30. Go ahead and  
23    stay on the line, stay muted, what not, but we will  
24    reconvene at 10:30.

25

26                    (Off record)

27

28                    (On record)

29

30                    CHAIRMAN BAKER: The time is now 10:32  
31    and we will pick back up at agenda Item No. 8, which is  
32    service awards. Lisa, are you back on with us.

33

34                    MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35    Yep, this is Lisa Grediagin and I'm prepared to read  
36    the service award.

37

38                    CHAIRMAN BAKER: If you would, please,  
39    Lisa, you have the floor.

40

41                    MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you.  
42    So Enoch Attamuk Shiedt, Sr., of Kotzebue has served on  
43    the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory  
44    Council since 2001 as a subsistence user group  
45    representative.

46

47                    Mr. Shiedt has a lifetime of experience  
48    as a subsistence hunter and commercial angler. He's  
49    lived in the Northwest Arctic region for his entire  
50

1 life, at various times in Noorvik and Noatak but mostly  
2 raised in the Kotzebue area. He learned a subsistence  
3 lifestyle from his parents and grandparents and recalls  
4 his grandpa telling him when he was just nine years old  
5 that the warming trend will eventually hurt his people.  
6 Other users consider him one of the most knowledgeable  
7 elders in Kotzebue when it comes to subsistence.

8  
9 In addition to living a subsistence way  
10 of life, Mr. Shiedt has held jobs with Native and State  
11 organizations and served in volunteer positions  
12 addressing the management of subsistence resources and  
13 natural resources.

14  
15 For many years Mr. Shiedt worked as a  
16 natural resource coordinator for the Maniilaq  
17 Association in Kotzebue and was a very effective  
18 communicator with people in the community. Mr. Shiedt  
19 advocates for subsistence users in the region, leads by  
20 consensus and makes informed decisions based on  
21 evidence. Mr. Shiedt knows the importance of working  
22 with others and making sure everyone's voice is heard.  
23 Because Mr. Shiedt is a skilled communicator and  
24 bilingual, people frequently contact him with  
25 subsistence concerns and to share information cross  
26 culturally. He reminds us all that everyone plays an  
27 important part in the stewardship of lands and waters  
28 that provides for subsistence needs and other uses.

29  
30 Mr. Shiedt is also one of the founding  
31 members and incorporators of the Bering Sea Fishermen  
32 Association whose mission is to support healthy and  
33 vibrant fishing communities by fostering greater  
34 social, financial, and political capacity, to access,  
35 to sustainably develop and protect fisheries in the  
36 Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim and Bristol Bay regions of  
37 Alaska. Mr. Shiedt received the longevity award from  
38 the State of Alaska for serving many years on the  
39 Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee. In 2012 Mr. Shiedt  
40 participated in the Ice Seal harvest survey for  
41 Northwest Arctic Borough and helped conduct a survey of  
42 spotted, bearded, ringed, and ribbon seal harvest in  
43 the native communities of Kivalina, Noatak, Deering and  
44 Buckland. And Mr. Shiedt continues to participate in  
45 the Federal Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
46 projects.

47  
48 The Federal Subsistence Management  
49 Program and the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional  
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1 Advisory Council thank Enoch Attamuk Shiedt, Sr., for  
2 his dedicated 20 years of service and look forward to  
3 continuing valuable service on the Council.

4

5 So, again, thank you so much, Attamuk,  
6 for your 20 years of service.

7

8 MR. SHIEDT: Thanks for that speech,  
9 well written. I thank everybody and I thank the  
10 communities always calling me saying this is what need  
11 to be done. I am their voice but I hear what they're  
12 saying, I'm just their voice. Thank you, everybody.

13

14 MS. ATORUK: All right, Attamuk.

15

16 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Attamuk.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, thank you,  
19 Attamuk for all your years of service and for  
20 continuing to serve on these Councils, much  
21 appreciated, and we definitely will continue to use you  
22 as long as you're with us as a resource. So moving on  
23 to Item No. 9, which is public and tribal comment on  
24 non-agenda items. So I'd just like to remind to people  
25 that the Council will be taking public and tribal  
26 comments on subsistence issues that are not on the  
27 agenda at this time. There will be a public comment  
28 period associated with each proposal to comment on each  
29 particular proposal. There was some side bar  
30 conversations during the break where some individuals  
31 may have some things regarding issues that are on the  
32 agenda, such as our deferred wildlife special action  
33 request. At this time, if you know that you're  
34 bringing up an issue that isn't on the agenda, public  
35 or tribal comment, this is the time for that, if we  
36 have anyone, you have the floor.

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38 (Teleconference interference -  
39 participants not muted)

40

41 MR. MANNIX: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
42 Council. This is Jacob Mannix with Backcountry Hunters  
43 and Anglers. I do have a quick comment on something  
44 that's not on the agenda that was mentioned during the  
45 break.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hi, Jacob, go ahead.

48

49 MR. MANNIX: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1 Yeah, our organization, our board has recently, you  
2 know, voiced some concern over the proposed Ambler Road  
3 and its effect on just hunting and fishing  
4 opportunities in general, specifically it's potential  
5 effects on subsistence opportunity. As you know we did  
6 come out opposed to your special action request earlier  
7 in the year but our group is not opposed to  
8 subsistence. I think that we -- you know, there are a  
9 lot of things that our group has in common with  
10 subsistence users.....

11  
12 (Teleconference interference -  
13 participants not muted)

14  
15 MR. MANNIX: .....and, you know, I'd be  
16 curious to hear what the Council has in terms of  
17 thoughts on the Ambler Road because it does seem to me  
18 that if we're talking about effects on caribou  
19 migration that that -- you know that proposed east/west  
20 road has significant potential to affect the caribou  
21 migration and access to subsistence resources.

22  
23 So if there is discussion about that or  
24 if that agenda item does get added at some point, I'd  
25 be very curious to hear discussion around that.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Jacob.

30  
31 REPORTER: Okay, so -- excuse me,  
32 Thomas. This is Tina, the reporter. If I could have  
33 people please mute your line, we got a TV in the  
34 background and it's disrupting the recording. So  
35 everybody, please take a moment, check your device,  
36 star six to mute unless you're talking right now, and  
37 right now I think Thomas is the only one talking.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
42 Tina.

43  
44 MR. HOWARTH: Thomas.

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46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, who's speaking.

47  
48 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, this is Wilbur  
49 Howarth.

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Wilbur.

2

3 MR. HOWARTH: I'm glad they brought up  
4 this road project, Ambler Road. I went to one meeting  
5 and there was only (Indiscernible) and Nathan Hadley  
6 and myself, in Fairbanks, were the only ones from the  
7 NANA region at the Ambler Road meeting. And they  
8 listed me as a whitefish specialist, I don't know why,  
9 I spoke on all the fish that goes up the Kobuk and I  
10 would like to know -- we only had that one meeting and  
11 I haven't had any word from them since. Maybe they  
12 didn't want to hear me anymore, but I spoke of all the  
13 different fish that goes up that road -- I mean the  
14 river. And they had put, I think they said five  
15 bridges, and that's over the creeks and stuff, and  
16 there were fish going in those so I would like to hear  
17 someone from that road speak and let us know what's  
18 going on. And when I got back we prepared with the  
19 environmentalist coordinator here so we got all kinds  
20 of equipment to test the water every so many months.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.

25 Eva, are you on the line.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. I  
30 don't believe we have anything on the agenda regarding  
31 the Ambler Road, do you know if we have anything  
32 related to that or anyone planning to speak on that.  
33 It was brought up during the break that we might want  
34 to discuss this, as Mr. Mannix brought up, and if  
35 there's anyone that you may know of that was hoping to  
36 speak on this topic, this might be something we'd like  
37 to add on later in the day or possibly tomorrow.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
40 Council members. The Ambler Road was not on the agenda  
41 for this meeting. I know in the past the Councils have  
42 received reports on the Ambler Road through the  
43 National Park Service representatives and they were  
44 part of the EIS process. I can touch base, I know we  
45 have Marcy Okada on the phone, if there's any updates  
46 she might be able to provide on that process tomorrow  
47 or at the end of the meeting. But I'll have to touch  
48 base with Marcy on that and see if they might have any  
49 updates for the Council on where that road is at with

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1 the permitting and EIS process. But it isn't on the  
2 agenda. We can certainly add that to the winter agenda  
3 to get a full report if the Council wishes. And I'll  
4 have to get back to you after touching base with Park  
5 Service to see if that's something they might be able  
6 to provide an update tomorrow.

7  
8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9  
10 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. Go  
13 ahead.

14  
15 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go.....

18  
19 MS. ATORUK: Hello.

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21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....ahead.

22  
23 MR. SHIEDT: Thomas, Barbara's trying  
24 to get a hold.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead. Go ahead.

27  
28 MR. SHIEDT: .....of you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara, go  
31 ahead.

32  
33 MS. ATORUK: Hello, can you hear me.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara, go  
36 ahead.

37  
38 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Can you guys hear  
39 me?

40  
41 REPORTER: Yes, Barb, go ahead.

42  
43 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

46  
47 MS. ATORUK: They just had a meeting on  
48 the Ambler Road and they included some elders from the  
49 upper Kobuk and also one here from Kiana that I know

50

1 of. And they said, the elders that went, they would go  
2 ahead on the road because they've seen what's gone on  
3 with that road at Red Dog and they've also seen some  
4 pictures on the road of caribou on the road, on the  
5 other roads, and they said that they had a feeling that  
6 it doesn't affect the migration of the caribou. And so  
7 they gave their support for the Ambler Road. But  
8 that's all I know. But we can put this up on the next  
9 agenda, at the next meeting, and discuss it then.  
10 We'll have someone to give us a report and then the --  
11 the Ambler (indiscernible) do send out a report and I  
12 always get mine in the mail. So maybe they'll send  
13 another one after this meeting happened here in  
14 Fairbanks. So let's wait and put it on the agenda for  
15 the winter meeting, if you will.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you,  
18 Barbara. So one thing that I am just thinking is since  
19 this is something that possibly the Park Service could  
20 speak on, if Marcy or anybody else would be able to  
21 speak on it under agency reports, maybe anyone with  
22 information on that could just make a note to bring  
23 that up during the their report if they weren't already  
24 planning to.

25  
26 At this time, Mr. Mannix, I don't feel  
27 that we can really give you a solid response to your  
28 question, what are thoughts on the road are, just  
29 because we don't have any -- right now information is  
30 kind of spread out, no one is really sure what the  
31 latest on the road is. Just in my opinion, from  
32 everything that I've been shown and discussed with  
33 people it's basically going to mirror the Red Dog --  
34 the Mining Ambler District is planning to essentially  
35 mirror the Red Dog set up where you've got the actual  
36 mine and then the road going to the west from Red Dog,  
37 but in this case it'd be going to the east and  
38 following the same kind of safety and wildlife  
39 protection measures but I cannot say that that's  
40 officially what they're doing. So at this time I'd  
41 just like to echo everyone else and say that we can  
42 bring this up later during agency reports or something  
43 we could discuss during the winter meeting in February.

44  
45 (Teleconference interference -  
46 participants not muted)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do you have anything  
49 else Mr. Mannix.



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1 MR. MANNIX: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Yeah, I mean I have a fair amount to say on the Ambler  
3 Road and our concerns over it but I don't want to take  
4 up the rest of this time with non-agenda items. So  
5 thank you, you know, for the consideration and adding  
6 it to the agenda on the next meeting, I'd be curious to  
7 see what the Subsistence RAC decides to do in regards  
8 to this.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 (Teleconference interference -  
13 participants not muted)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Mannix.

16  
17 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is  
18 Michael.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Mike.

21  
22 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I know the last  
23 several years, you know, I've always requested that we  
24 have a speaker for the Ambler Road Project. You know  
25 here in Kotzebue right now we have a road project  
26 that's already started this summer and they're going to  
27 start back up here within a couple weeks, that's the  
28 deep water port that's going to be on the other side of  
29 Cape Blossom, between Cape Blossom and  
30 Riley(indiscernible). You know I would like to get a  
31 report from, you know, whoever's going to be using that  
32 deep water port, you know, as to when the first barge  
33 comes in, you know, when is the last barge leaving.  
34 Because, you know, that's something that could hamper  
35 our bearded seal, seal hunting, beluga hunting in the  
36 future. You know I think they should consult with us  
37 at our next meeting. I don't know who all has overall  
38 control of the deep water port but it would be good to  
39 try and see if we could start having them come to our  
40 meetings because that's going to be a big concern, you  
41 know, as to when these barges plan on coming into the  
42 deep water port here in Kotzebue. And just to make  
43 sure they don't interfere with spring harvest of seals,  
44 bearded seals, and belugas in the spring.

45  
46 That's all.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. So  
49 from my experience with the Cape Blossom Road and  
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1 eventually the Cape Blossom port, at this time there's  
2 no set entity in charge of the port just because it's  
3 not decided yet how the port will be built, who will be  
4 funding it, the size and scope of it. As far as I am  
5 aware the Alaska Department of Transportation would be  
6 the entity that could report on the status of the road  
7 and ultimately they may be involved with the port. But  
8 that is something that we can potentially work with  
9 Staff to have added on to the next meeting, just  
10 getting an idea of what plans are for the deep water  
11 port at Cape Blossom.

12  
13 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, that would good to  
14 get, you know, at every meeting get reports from the  
15 Ambler Road Project, you know, an entity with Ambler  
16 Road Project, and an entity with the deep water port.  
17 That way they could keep us informed, you know, and it  
18 would be good to find out what their shipping dates and  
19 all that other stuff so we can kind of avoid conflict  
20 regarding spring harvest of seals, bearded seals and  
21 beluga.

22  
23 (Teleconference interference -  
24 participants not muted)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Just a reminder, if  
27 you're not speaking please mute your phone. There's  
28 still a lot of background noise.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 Thank you, for that Mike. Do we have  
33 any other public or tribal comments on non-agenda  
34 items.

35  
36 (Teleconference interference -  
37 participants not muted)

38  
39 REPORTER: Whoever has your TV on could  
40 you please mute.

41  
42 MS. ATORUK: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

45  
46 MS. ATORUK: Thomas, are you calling in  
47 from your office? Are you at work?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I am at home but I'm  
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1 not the one with the TV on.

2

3 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay. Every time  
4 you're on I hear more garbled and voices in the  
5 background so I was just wondering. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Attamuk,  
8 were you wanting to speak?

9

10 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, okay. For the --  
11 this is for the public, I got a call from Selawik and I  
12 got a call from here in Kotzebue about on Page 2,  
13 proposal 22-47 on allowing the calf harvest. And if  
14 you want the names I could give you the names but they  
15 told me no, these are two elders, an elder from  
16 Kotzebue said they don't harvest, we never did harvest  
17 calves before, like I stated before, because those are  
18 our future stock. Only time they ever, that I know of,  
19 harvest, if they wound, a fawn, a calf, they will shoot  
20 it so it won't suffer. And they only do it -- and most  
21 of the time they just get it for parkie, and so on that  
22 WP22 -- two of them, one from Selawik and one from  
23 Kotzebue, they said we should deeply oppose it.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 If you want the names I could give them  
28 to you.

29

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

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Mike.

34

35 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, speaking on Attamuk,  
36 the reason why we put that in place was to protect our  
37 hunters in case there was an accidental shooting of a  
38 fawn, calf or a yearling, and that was the main  
39 purpose there, to protect us. Because if we  
40 accidentally shoot a calf or fawn and we get turned in,  
41 we get charged, so that's the main reason why we put  
42 that calf thing in there and fawn and yearling because  
43 if one was accidentally shot, to protect us from, you  
44 know, being charged with a crime.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. I'd  
47 just remind.....

48

49 MS. ATORUK: Hello.

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....everyone, just to  
2 remind everyone -- this is Thomas -- so this is  
3 something that is on the agenda and right now we are  
4 taking -- the Council is supposed to be listening for  
5 public and tribal comments, and any comments from the  
6 Council can be -- we can wait for those until the  
7 agenda item. So when we come to that special action  
8 proposal, or wildlife proposal, rather, we can make  
9 comments on it then but right now let's stick to the  
10 agenda. So at this time do we have any more public or  
11 tribal.....

12  
13 MR. SHIEDT: Thomas, Attamuk here.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....comments on non-  
16 agenda items.

17  
18 MR. SHIEDT: Thomas, Attamuk here.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Attamuk.

21  
22 MR. SHIEDT: They call me to say  
23 something on the public and tribal on this proposal  
24 here that's why I mentioned it. I know it's going to  
25 come up.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay. Understood,  
28 thank you, Attamuk.

29  
30 MR. SHIEDT: But they tell me to say it  
31 on the tribal, okay.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Understood.  
34 Understood, thank you, Attamuk.

35  
36 MS. ATORUK: Okay, let's get back on  
37 the agenda.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there are no more  
40 public or tribal comments on non-agenda items we'll  
41 move on. Next would be Item No. 10, which is old  
42 business, which all we have here that I see is the  
43 .805-c report and get a summary of that. Eva, would  
44 that be you taking care of the summary this morning.

45  
46 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair  
47 and Council. And maybe just a quick update before we  
48 get on to the .805(c) report. I did talk briefly this  
49 morning with the Native Village of Buckland and also  
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1 Native Village of Noatak and they didn't have Council  
2 members able to call in today but had hoped to call in  
3 tomorrow morning under tribal comments tomorrow  
4 morning.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 And, Mr. Chair and Council members, on  
9 Page 10 of your meeting books you will find the .805(c)  
10 report from the Federal Subsistence Board. And this  
11 essentially is a report back from the Board informing  
12 the Council of the actions that the Board took on  
13 Federal subsistence fish or wildlife proposals and  
14 closure reviews to inform the Council if they concurred  
15 with the Council's recommendation and if not the  
16 reasoning and justification for not following the  
17 Council's recommendations. And Section .805(c) of the  
18 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act  
19 provides that the Board will accept the recommendations  
20 of a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council regarding  
21 take unless the recommendation is not supported by  
22 substantial evidence, or the recommendation violates  
23 recognized principles of fish and wildlife management,  
24 or adopting the recommendation would be detrimental to  
25 the satisfaction of subsistence needs. And so when a  
26 Council's recommendation is not adopted then the Board  
27 is required by Secretarial regulations to set forth the  
28 factual basis for the reasons of their decision.

29

30 And if you'll recall last year was the  
31 Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulatory Cycle. There  
32 were 14 fisheries proposals submitted but no proposals  
33 regarding Federal subsistence fisheries regulations for  
34 the Northwest Arctic region. And so this Council  
35 didn't have any specific fisheries recommendations  
36 since there were no proposals affecting the region this  
37 time, so the -- excuse me -- so the .805(c) report, in  
38 this case just provides the background of the proposals  
39 that the Board did take up and, again, there were no  
40 proposals affecting the Northwest Arctic region.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That includes  
43 the .805(c) report, if there's any questions.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. Does  
46 anyone from the Council have any questions or comments  
47 on that for Eva.

48

49 MS. ATORUK: Eva, so this .805 for this

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1 fall -- we can put in some requests right now, right?

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3 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair, thank  
4 you, Barbara. So the call for -- so right now we're on  
5 the wildlife regulatory proposal cycle so this is the  
6 time when the Council's -- coming up next on your  
7 agenda is making recommendations on the wildlife  
8 proposals that were submitted and those recommendations  
9 from the Council then go to the Federal Subsistence  
10 Board and they will be taking action on the wildlife  
11 proposals at their winter/spring '22 Federal  
12 Subsistence Board meeting. In January, roughly in  
13 January we'll start the new call for fisheries  
14 regulatory proposals and so that will be coming before  
15 your Council at the winter meeting, the call for  
16 Federal subsistence fisheries proposals. So that'll  
17 come up again next time, and right now we're in the  
18 cycle for the Council's recommendation on wildlife  
19 proposals and the Board will be taking action on those  
20 at their winter/spring '22 meeting.

21

22 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, but don't we start  
23 discussing our concerns for the region, for the .805,  
24 that is to come up.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Thank you, for that --  
27 thank you for that question, Barbara. I think you  
28 might be referring to the Council's annual report to  
29 the Federal Subsistence Board.

30

31 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Okay, I'm sorry.

32

33 MS. PATTON: And, yes, that -- oh, no  
34 worries, that is on your agenda and actually we'll have  
35 a couple discussions about just the process for how the  
36 Board addresses the annual report and reply. And then  
37 the annual report itself is coming up on the agenda  
38 under E, and, absolutely for the Council just to  
39 consider -- you know, keep in mind as you're discussing  
40 all these issues and requests for items that you would  
41 like to include in your annual report and then we'll be  
42 addressing that specifically on the agenda under new  
43 business, Item E.

44

45 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.

46

47 MS. PATTON: And we'll walk through  
48 that annual report process since we have a number of  
49 new Council members on as well. So we'll have an in-

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1 depth overview at that point. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. Do we  
4 have any other Council questions or comments regarding  
5 this summary of the .805(c) report.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, thank  
10 you, Eva, for giving us that summarization. I look  
11 forward to working on our other reports that you  
12 mentioned, just so we can get clarity and make sure  
13 everything's recorded properly. So moving on on the  
14 agenda we have Item No. 11, which is new business and  
15 we will start with Item A, wildlife proposals and  
16 closure reviews. So with that I believe first we have  
17 Wildlife Proposal 22-45 here, units 18, 22 and 23,  
18 establish season/harvest limit for Alaska here and in  
19 your book that will begin on Page 13. Do we have  
20 anyone -- let's see, that would be Tom Plank that would  
21 be speaking on that this morning.

22

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

24

25 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if  
28 I may.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Please, go ahead.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva, if  
33 I may.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead Eva.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Before we get to the  
38 wildlife proposals itself, I'd like to just briefly  
39 walk the Council through the presentation procedure for  
40 wildlife proposals. And also the plan was to have  
41 presentations on the latest biological information  
42 available for each of the wildlife proposals, so  
43 generally we'll start with an update from either the  
44 State or Federal biologist that has some information  
45 that would be relevant to the proposal so the Council  
46 has that most recent information to consider in their  
47 deliberation of the proposal.

48

49 But if you'll turn to Page 12 of your

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1 meeting books. There's a presentation procedure  
2 process for the proposal and closure reviews, and we  
3 walk through this process for each proposal. So we'll  
4 have -- you know, if available we'll have the latest  
5 biological update presented to the Council, and then  
6 we'll get into the Staff analysis, and for many of  
7 these that'll be Tom Plank presenting, and then we also  
8 have our anthropologist who will be joining us for the  
9 community harvest proposals. So we'll get any relevant  
10 updates on that wildlife population and go through the  
11 draft analysis presented by the wildlife biologist, or  
12 OSM anthropologist. And then we report on the Federal  
13 Subsistence Board consultation. So before every  
14 Council meeting the Board holds government to  
15 government tribal consultation and consultation with  
16 ANCSA Corporations to get feedback on the proposal and  
17 we report any formal comments or recommendations to the  
18 Council. Then we have agency comments. We'll hear  
19 from the State and Federal agencies and any tribal  
20 participants at this meeting. And then we move on to  
21 advisory comments, and so we'll provide a brief update  
22 of recommendations that other Regional Advisory  
23 Councils had made on proposals that are either  
24 crossover or statewide proposals where there's other  
25 Councils taking action. When relevant we also provide  
26 an update on any Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
27 recommendations, if they have met to make  
28 recommendations on the Federal subsistence wildlife  
29 proposals and any updates from Subsistence Resource  
30 Commissions. And then we provide a summary of written  
31 public comments that were submitted during the written  
32 comment period and a call to see if there are any  
33 further written public comments. And then we move on  
34 to public testimony, so anyone participating in the  
35 meeting as a public that would like to comment on the  
36 proposal. And then we move into the Regional Advisory  
37 Council recommendation. So a motion to adopt, a motion  
38 to support a proposal. We try to follow Robert's Rules  
39 of order and so a motion in the positive is helpful to  
40 know what the intent of the Council is. So if you're  
41 voting yes in support, if you're voting no, in  
42 opposition. But really we want to be very clear that  
43 we understand the intent of the Council on any of these  
44 proposals. So there would be a motion to support a  
45 proposal, a second, and getting into Council discussion  
46 and justification. And this is a really important part  
47 of the process to hear from the Council your knowledge  
48 and observations and understanding of the issues for  
49 subsistence and those wildlife populations and the  
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1 justification for the vote. So that's a really  
2 important part of the process so that we are able to  
3 convey to the Board the reasoning and justification for  
4 the Council's vote on a proposal.

5

6 And this is just some guidance to  
7 consider. But, again, really, we're just looking for  
8 your feedback and your knowledge and your  
9 recommendation and the reasons why.

10

11 But some thing that are helpful to  
12 consider is, you know, is the recommendation consistent  
13 with fish and wildlife management principles, and  
14 supported by substantial evidence, such as biological  
15 and traditional ecological knowledge. Will the  
16 recommendation be beneficial or detrimental to  
17 subsistence needs and uses. And if a closure is  
18 involved, if the closure is necessary for conservation  
19 of healthy wildlife populations or if the closure is  
20 necessary to ensure continued subsistence uses.

21

22 So those are just things to consider  
23 but, again, really the Board would like to hear from  
24 you, and your observations and knowledge so that they  
25 better understand the reasoning for the Council's vote.

26

27

28 And then restate the final motion on  
29 the record and a final Council vote.

30

31 So that's the process we'll walk  
32 through for each proposal as we go through it. I just  
33 want to check and see if there's any questions from the  
34 Council.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. Any  
39 questions for Eva on the presentation procedure for  
40 these proposals we're about to go over.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Well, hearing none,  
45 who would like to take the floor first regarding  
46 wildlife proposals.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
49 Council. So we do have Tom Plank on and I do believe  
50

0042

1 we have ADF&G Biologist Rick Merizon on as well, who  
2 may be able to provide some updated information on  
3 WP22-45 for hare. And I'll turn it over to Tom.

4

5 MR. PLANK: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
6 Members of the Council. My name is Tom Plank and I am  
7 a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of Subsistence  
8 Management and I will be presenting a summary of the  
9 analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-45 submitted by  
10 ADF&G requesting to create specific harvest regulations  
11 for Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and 23, and this is  
12 starting on Page 13 in your book.

13

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

26

27 Federal Subsistence regulations for the  
28 hares in Units 18 and 23 have not changed since 1990  
29 when the Federal Subsistence Management Program began.  
30 And at that time a year-round season with no harvest  
31 limit was adopted from State regulations. Federal  
32 subsistence regulations for hare in Unit 22 were  
33 established in 1990 and then in 1995 the Board adopted  
34 a proposal to shorten the season for hares in Unit 22  
35 from July 1st through June 30th, to September 1st to  
36 April 15th, with the intent to close the season for  
37 hares during the mating, breeding and birthing seasons.  
38 ADF&G submitted Proposal 15 and 43 for the Alaska Board  
39 of Game's consideration during the January 2020 meeting  
40 noting very low densities and patchy distribution of  
41 Alaska hares in these units. ADF&G requests that the  
42 reduction in season and harvest limits in Units 18 and  
43 22 and for consistency the Board of Game adopted an  
44 identical management structure in units, 18, 22 and 23  
45 for the Alaska hare consistent of a harvest limit of  
46 two per day with a total of six per season, August 1st  
47 to May 31st season that required the hunters to salvage  
48 the hide or meat for human usage.

49

50

0043

1 Alaska hares are among the most poorly  
2 understood game species in Alaska. Anecdotally  
3 abundance is well below historical levels throughout  
4 the range of the species. In 2018 ADF&G initiated a  
5 multi-year study to evaluate movement and mortality as  
6 well as long-term capture techniques. Little is known  
7 about the harvest of Alaska hare. And household  
8 harvest surveys indicate that this is harvested  
9 throughout the communities of Western and Southwestern  
10 Alaska.

11  
12 If this proposal is adopted the Alaska  
13 hare season will be reduced although hunters will still  
14 have the opportunity to harvest hares during winter  
15 when they're engaging in other subsistence or  
16 recreational activities. The change in daily and  
17 overall harvest limits may be effective in reducing  
18 harvest which could translate into an improvement in  
19 the conservation status of these populations. Any  
20 positive effects these changes have on the Alaska hare  
21 population will benefit subsistence users in the long-  
22 term, despite the immediate reduction in subsistence  
23 opportunity. The proponent requests a season which  
24 would be more restrictive than existing State  
25 regulations, and if adopted as requested Federally-  
26 qualified subsistence users would still be able to  
27 harvest Alaska hares in August and May under State  
28 regulations.

29  
30 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
31 support Proposal WP22-45 with modifications to shorten  
32 the season to August 1st through May 31st and to modify  
33 the definition of hare in Federal regulations.

34  
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the  
36 Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Plank.  
39 Does anyone from the Council have any questions.

40  
41 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here, I have a  
42 couple.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Attamuk.

45  
46 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you, Chair. I have  
47 a question on that hare proposal. It's hard for us to  
48 say if we could get them at certain times because  
49 they're in cycles and these are the ones that you could  
50

0044

1 almost predict what cycle they go through, in  
2 increasing and in decreasing. And it's hard because if  
3 we open it at certain times and they're on the cycle,  
4 low level, it's going to -- to me it's going to be hard  
5 to approve because they're always in cycle. And a lot  
6 of lynx depend on them then. That's what I got to say.  
7 And if we're going to say no harvesting and you said  
8 two limit, on what grounds are they saying that we  
9 could put them on two. Because last year certain areas  
10 I seen a lot of rabbits, certain areas none. If they  
11 could -- they could change locations due to the feed  
12 and how they do just to survive. They know how to take  
13 care of -- Mother Nature -- better than we do -- on  
14 their willows that they feed on in wintertime.

15  
16 So that's what my big question is on,  
17 on what grounds are you trying to take a reduction down  
18 to two?

19  
20 MR. PLANK: Thank you for the question.  
21 Through the Chair. Now, are you referring to the  
22 Alaska hare or the snowshoe hare?

23  
24 MR. SHIEDT: Sorry, I had it on mute.  
25 Yeah, on both hare, they're in cycles and everybody  
26 knows that. And that's why I say on what grounds are  
27 we going to take a reduction and on what grounds are we  
28 going to -- on what grounds are we going to open them  
29 on no limit -- if they're going to have high limit, and  
30 if they're low we're going to hurt the stock that's  
31 going to reproduce. I think they're on a seven year  
32 cycle.

33  
34 MR. PLANK: Okay, thank you. Through  
35 the Chair. By any chance is Rick online with ADF&G. I  
36 think he would be able to help me a little bit on  
37 getting the right answer for this.

38  
39 MR. MERIZON: Yes, thank you. And, Mr.  
40 Chair, Members of the Council, my name is Rick Merizon.  
41 I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Small  
42 Game Program. I appreciate being able to attend your  
43 meeting and to speak to the Council today.

44  
45 So just for clarity, this proposal  
46 specifically deals with one of the two species that is  
47 found throughout Western Alaska. This proposal  
48 specifically deals with a species known as the Alaska  
49 hare, or locally as jackrabbits or tundra hare. These  
50

0045

1 are the much larger of the two species. And we've been  
2 doing quite a bit of field work on this species over  
3 the last three or four years in Unit 22 and 23. And  
4 from what we've determined based on the many weeks  
5 we've spent in the field is that the Alaska hare, the  
6 much larger of the two species, has actually remained  
7 at very low density, specifically in Unit 23, but even  
8 in Unit 22. In contrast to the much, much more  
9 abundant snowshoe hare that was mentioned by one of the  
10 Council members, very well known to be very cyclic in  
11 their eruptive population cycles experienced throughout  
12 Alaska but specifically Northwest Alaska, and the  
13 snowshoe hare again is one of the predominant species  
14 that lynx feed upon, again, this proposal deals  
15 specifically with the other species, though, the  
16 jackrabbit or the Alaska hare, which based on all of  
17 our indications in talking to local residents and our  
18 research indicates that densities have been at very low  
19 levels and remain at very low levels today. And that's  
20 the logic behind this proposal.

21  
22 MR. SHIEDT: Through the Chair.  
23 Attamuk.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Attamuk.

26  
27 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, for your  
28 information, our jackrabbits, the ones we call them,  
29 the bigger ones, at some point they completely  
30 declined, I haven't seen some in a long time, even  
31 maybe the year that the snow froze hard and they  
32 couldn't get down, or they couldn't get out. But last  
33 year when I went toward Candle, upper Candle, further  
34 up I seen a lot of jackrabbits, the big jackrabbits.  
35 But the one by Elephant Point and Gallahand there was  
36 hardly any but that one always had low, but higher  
37 numbers used to be over towards Candle, Candle and  
38 Deering, I mean you could hear them when they're going.  
39 It's like horses are coming, especially when the snow  
40 is hard. Thank you. That's for your information.

41  
42 MS. ATORUK: Now, there's a difference  
43 between a jackrabbit and a hare, right, snowshoe hare?

44  
45 MR. SHIEDT: Yes,.

46  
47 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay, thank you.

48  
49 (Teleconference interference -  
50

0046

1 participants not muted)

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: Smaller ones like the ones  
4 -- smaller ones like around Kiana, those are the  
5 smaller ones.....

6

7 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

8

9 MR. SHIEDT: .....jackrabbits are the  
10 bigones that used to be towards Candle and Deering and.....

11

12 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

13

14 MR. SHIEDT: .....Rabbit Creek.

15

16 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

17

18 MR. SHIEDT: That's why they used to  
19 call it Rabbit Creek, it used to have a lot of rabbits.

20

21 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, that's what I was  
22 wondering because -- so we're talking about (In  
23 Native), right? (In Native)

24

25 MR. SHIEDT: (In Native), yeah, the  
26 smaller ones, yeah.

27

28 MS. ATORUK: Okay.

29

30 MR. SHIEDT: I keep losing my phone --  
31 and, yeah.

32

33 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, it's Wilbur.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Wilbur.

36

37 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, I want to ask this  
38 guy that does the study. Are the jackrabbits, are they  
39 cycling too. Maybe I would say about eight years ago  
40 we had some come in the Noorvik area, the jackrabbit  
41 and I haven't seen any since. And an elder, the one we  
42 gave to -- they say they haven't been seeing them  
43 lately. So I was wondering if they go into a cycle  
44 too, the jackrabbits.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. MERIZON: Through the Chair.  
49 Again, this is Rick Merizon with Alaska Department of  
50

0047

1 Fish and Game. Beginning in 2017 we admittedly knew  
2 fairly little about this species, the big jackrabbits  
3 so we initiated sort of a two-prong effort. One was  
4 visiting as many rural communities as we could and  
5 trying to talk to as many folks as we could, and then  
6 also initiating a large research project which is still  
7 ongoing today. Through that initial kind of village  
8 visit tour that we did, we visited communities in Unit  
9 18, 22 and 23, actually Unit 9 as well, and virtually  
10 everyone that we spoke to, particularly long-time  
11 residents, mentioned how little the jackrabbits had  
12 actually been cycling. And actually the overwhelming  
13 observation from local residents from Unit 9 and  
14 Bristol Bay, all the way up to your area in Kotzebue  
15 suggested that the big jackrabbits had largely, other  
16 than a few very small isolated pockets, had largely  
17 remained at pretty low density since the mid-80s. The  
18 last big high that folks typically remembered,  
19 especially in Unit 18 and 22, was back in the '70s and  
20 early '80s, and since then not many folks had seen the  
21 numbers that they traditionally had in the past. So  
22 I'm not sure if that addresses your question or not.

23

24 MR. HOWARTH: Was that for me, Wilbur  
25 Howarth. Yeah, they told me that they haven't seen  
26 them for years and years, but this was eight years ago  
27 maybe, when I got two here in Noorvik. But other than  
28 that I haven't seen them around for eight years at  
29 least.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.  
34 Any other questions regarding this Wildlife Proposal  
35 22-45.

36

37 MS. ATORUK: So if they're talking  
38 about -- excuse me, Mr. Chair. So if they're talking  
39 about the hare, the snowshoe hare, why are they trying  
40 to limit, put on a limit when they're on a cycle right  
41 now? I've only seen just a very few rabbits here in  
42 Kiana, and I think that's when they came -- the lynx  
43 came in a lot last spring when the rabbits were seen  
44 running around. Is it -- I know they are on a cycle  
45 right now. My husband said, he said it's not time for  
46 them to come back yet but they're slowly coming back.  
47 So why are we trying to put a limit for two per person  
48 already when the cycle is not advancing yet. I don't  
49 know, I'm just asking.

50

0048

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:     Rick, or Tom, do  
2 either of you have a response for that question  
3 regarding the cycle and imposing a limit at this time?  
4

5                   MR. MERIZON:     Sure, thank you, Mr.  
6 Chairman. Again, this is Rick Merizon with Alaska  
7 Department of Fish and Game. So, again, this proposal  
8 does not address snowshoe hares, the more abundant of  
9 the two species, this proposal specifically addresses  
10 the jackrabbits, which is.....  
11

12                  MS. ATORUK:    Oh, okay.  
13

14                  MR. MERIZON:    .....felt to be the far  
15 less abundant of the two species. Again, it does not  
16 address snowshoe hare at all.  
17

18                  MS. ATORUK:    Yeah, okay. Thank you.  
19

20                  MR. KRAMER:     Mr. Chair, this is  
21 Michael.  
22

23                  CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Yes, go ahead, Mike.  
24

25                  MS. ATORUK:    We have -- go ahead.  
26

27                  MR. KRAMER:     Yeah, I think the reason  
28 why this proposal is in place is to protect people  
29 from, you know, getting charged for harvesting two  
30 jackrabbits. I mean if there's only two, you know, if  
31 someone runs into two of them they might take two of  
32 them. But we know that they're under a low cycle. I  
33 used to see them down here towards (Indiscernible)  
34 Peninsula and Callahan and then down here at the  
35 Selawik, but I think what I -- what I think and what I  
36 see is this proposal isn't going -- is going to be put  
37 into place to protect the people who happen to run into  
38 them and harvest two jackrabbits. Because I know that  
39 a lot of people when they run into them, you know, they  
40 like to get them because they're good eating, they got  
41 good hides on them. But I think the main reason for  
42 this proposal is to protect someone who harvests two of  
43 these jackrabbits to feed his family, you know, because  
44 right now, the Covid -- the Covid, food security, you  
45 got to get what you can get. But I think the reason  
46 why this proposal was put in place is to protect us  
47 from any kind of -- accused of any kind of criminal  
48 activity by harvesting a couple of the jackrabbits when  
49 we do get them. But this proposal is going to be -- in  
50



0049

1 my knowledge, in my mind, is to protect the people.

2

3 Okay, thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. So  
6 I've got my papers a little shuffled around here and  
7 I'm not exactly sure where, in the presentation  
8 procedure, we should be at at this time.

9

10 MS. ATORUK: We're still in discussion.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
13 Council. Yes, there's still opportunity to ask  
14 questions of Rick and I just want to touch base, we  
15 kind of dived into the analysis right away, if there's  
16 any further information that our regional biologist  
17 would like to provide that would be helpful to the  
18 Council at this time.

19

20 MS. ATORUK: Have those -- excuse me,  
21 this is Barb. Is there -- have those other regions met  
22 already, 22 and 18? Have they commented on this  
23 proposal already because in this region we.....

24

25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

26

27 MS. ATORUK: .....we don't have Calvin  
28 from that area.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

31

32 MS. ATORUK: That's a jackrabbit area  
33 over there, is Deering area and Buckland. We don't  
34 have anyone speaking on this proposal from that area,  
35 because -- and from Kiana, here in the upper Kobuk we  
36 rarely ever see any jackrabbits but then Wilbur said  
37 they were close to Noorvik, maybe eight years ago, and  
38 that's about right, I think I heard about it then too.  
39 And I would really want to hear from Calvin Moto, who  
40 represents Deering and who knows about this jackrabbit  
41 animal. I don't know see what the other Councils have  
42 to say on it.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair.

49

50

0050

1 MR. SHIEDT: My -- Attamuk here. My  
2 feeling is this, why should we worry about 18 and 23  
3 because our rabbits don't migrate to Unit 18 and 22, I  
4 think we should just worry about Unit 23 on these  
5 jackrabbits. Because the other year when go toward  
6 Candle I thought I saw a few jackrabbits but I never go  
7 after them, the other year -- I never go last year but  
8 the other year when I go hunt towards Buckland, there  
9 was jackrabbits there, I never bothered them because I  
10 wanted caribou. That's why I mentioned I've seen them  
11 there.

12  
13 MS. ATORUK: Okay, sounds good. Thank  
14 you.

15  
16 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
17 Council. And, yes, we will be getting into the other  
18 Regional Advisory Council comments as we walk through  
19 the proposal procedure. Before we begin that, just  
20 wanted to check in and see if there were any other  
21 questions from the Council or if there's any further  
22 updates that our regional biologist, Rick Merizon,  
23 would like to provide at this time.

24  
25 MR. MERIZON: Thank you. Again,  
26 through the Chair, this is Rick Merizon with Alaska  
27 Department of Fish and Game. The only other comment I  
28 may add just for the Council's consideration. I  
29 mentioned that beginning in 2017 the Alaska Department  
30 of Fish and Game embarked on sort of a two-prong effort  
31 and I mentioned that we had visited a lot of rural  
32 communities throughout Western Alaska. The second  
33 large effort that we employed towards jackrabbits is a  
34 large four year research project that is still ongoing  
35 and in its final year of field work. And that research  
36 has had two primary objectives. One is to develop a  
37 long-term population monitoring technique and we feel  
38 like we've actually found a technique that's going to  
39 provide some meaning for our Department to continue  
40 monitoring jackrabbit populations into the future  
41 throughout Western Alaska. And then, secondly, we have  
42 been successful in developing capture techniques and  
43 subsequently radio collaring adult jackrabbits  
44 throughout Western Alaska and we now have quite a few  
45 animals that are currently hopping around the landscape  
46 with radio collars on and giving us a tremendous amount  
47 of information about their movement and mortality and  
48 just general life history throughout Western Alaska.  
49 This is something that's never been done on this  
50

0051

1 species before. And the few individuals that we're  
2 monitoring are providing just a wealth of information  
3 on the species.

4

5 So I just wanted to mention that  
6 research effort that we're also -- like I mentioned, is  
7 ongoing. We have one more year of field work and hope  
8 to provide a final report on that research within one  
9 to two years hopefully.

10

11 And, again, I'm happy to answer any  
12 questions about our visits throughout Western Alaska a  
13 couple of years ago or that research project. I'll be  
14 here throughout the remainder of this discussion.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. ATORUK: Okay, that's good, thank  
19 you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if there are no  
22 other questions, we will -- Eva, could you point us to  
23 the next spot in the procedure.

24

25 MS. ATORUK: The advisory group  
26 comments.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair  
29 and Council. And, again, the procedure process and  
30 we'll refer back to this each time as we go through  
31 each wildlife proposal. So we are on Page 12 and the  
32 report on Board consultations. So the Federal  
33 Subsistence Board did hold tribal consultation on all  
34 of the wildlife proposals and for this proposal there  
35 was no specific recommendation or comment from tribes  
36 on this proposal.

37

38 And that brings us down to agency  
39 comments. So first we have ADF&G.

40

41 MR. MERIZON: Again, this is Rick  
42 Merizon with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Fish  
43 and Game supports this proposal. Thank you.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Rick. And we  
46 have Federal agencies, any comments from Federal  
47 agencies.

48

49 MS. ATORUK: Thomas, you should be

50

0052

1 running the meeting.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Again, I am deferring  
4 to Eva to let us walk through this procedure, just so  
5 that everyone's aware. Is there anyone from any  
6 Federal agencies that have any comments at this time.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, Eva,  
11 would you please proceed with the presentation  
12 procedures so that we know how to properly do this one  
13 so we can continue on with the rest.

14

15

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
16 through the Chair, do we have any tribal  
17 representatives online with us today that would like to  
18 comment on this proposal, WP22-45.

19

20

(No comments)

21

22

MS. PATTON: And hearing none, then we  
23 do get down to our comments from other Regional  
24 Advisory Councils. And several Councils did take this  
25 proposal up since it covers Unit 18, 22 and 23. The  
26 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory  
27 Council, which encompasses Unit 18 and also has C&T in  
28 Unit 22 made the recommendation to support the  
29 reduction in harvest for the harvest limit of hare as  
30 written in the proposal. But then did support the OSM  
31 recommendation for the season, Federal season, which  
32 would be longer than the proposed -- in the proposal.  
33 So they supported the reduction to two hare per day and  
34 six per season, but then supported the OSM  
35 recommendation for an extended season. And then the --  
36 I have to pull up our Seward Peninsula voted to adopt  
37 WP22-45 as written. And the Western Interior Regional  
38 Advisory Council voted to defer WP22-45 to the affected  
39 Council regions. And those were the three Regional  
40 Advisory Councils that took action on this.

41

42

We have not heard back from any Fish  
43 and Game Advisory Committees at this time, unless  
44 there's anyone online representing the local Fish and  
45 Game ACs that had any comments, from local ACs.

46

47

(No comments)

48

49

MS. PATTON: And hearing none, I'd like

50

0053

1 to check in with our National Park Service  
2 representatives, if any of the Subsistence Resource  
3 Commissions have taken up this proposal at their recent  
4 meeting.

5

6 MS. ADKINSON: The Cape Krusenstern and  
7 Kobuk Valley SRC are meeting this week so there will  
8 not be any comments on the proposals yet. This is  
9 Hannah.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: For the record, was  
12 that Hannah Adkinson?

13

14 MS. ADKINSON: Yes, thank you.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Yes, great, thank you for  
17 that Hannah.

18

19 MS. ATORUK: And, Hannah, is this on  
20 their agenda for this week at their meeting?

21

22 MS. ADKINSON: Yes, they have wildlife  
23 proposals and have been provided with the same ones  
24 that are being reviewed by the RAC.

25

26 MS. ATORUK: Okay.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Hannah. And  
29 through the Chair, that brings us down to No. 5,  
30 summary of written public comments. And, Mr. Chair and  
31 Council, we did not receive any written public comments  
32 during the comment period, which then brings us down to  
33 public testimony. If there's any public on the phone  
34 with us today that would like to make a comment or  
35 recommendation to the Regional Advisory Council on  
36 Proposal WP22-45.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. PATTON: And hearing no public  
41 comments that will bring us down to the Regional  
42 Advisory Council recommendation, a motion and then  
43 discussion and justification. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. So at  
46 this time do we have any motions to support this  
47 wildlife proposal, 22-45.

48

49 MR. KRAMER: This is Michael, I make a

50

0054

1 motion to support.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved to support by  
4 Michael, do we have any second.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have anyone who  
9 will second Michael's motion to support.

10

11 MR. HOWARTH: Yes, Wilbur Howarth,  
12 second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Seconded  
15 by Wilbur to support. At this time does the Council  
16 have any discussion regarding the justification of  
17 supporting this wildlife proposal.

18

19 MR. KRAMER: Yes, this is Michael, Mr.  
20 Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Michael.

23

24 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, my main reason for  
25 supporting this is because we know that the numbers are  
26 low, you know, and now that we're in this pandemic food  
27 security is priority, you know, and if someone is out  
28 hunting and they run into jackrabbits and they harvest  
29 two of them, you know, it would go to feeding their  
30 family. But if we don't support it and a guy goes out  
31 to get two jackrabbits to feed his family, and he all  
32 of a sudden faces charges, plus a fine, plus loss of  
33 hunting privileges because he's only trying to do the  
34 right thing and feed his family. So if we don't  
35 support it we're going to be making our people  
36 criminals by not supporting it and at least, you know,  
37 have a minimal allowance of harvest of the subsistence  
38 resource. That's one of my main reasons to support it.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. Do  
41 we have any further discussion.

42

43 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is  
44 Lisa.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Lisa.

47

48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks, Lisa  
49 Grediagin. And I just wanted to clarify that currently

50

0055

1 the Federal regulations for hare are no limit with a  
2 year-round season. And so the proposal is to divide  
3 hare, you know, break that out between snowshoe and  
4 Alaska hare, and then decrease the harvest for Alaska  
5 hare from no limit to two hare per day with a shorter  
6 season. So I just wanted to clarify that the current  
7 Federal regulations there is no limit on Alaska hare in  
8 regulations.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
13 clarification, Lisa. Anyone else from the Council with  
14 any discussion.

15

16 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Attamuk.

19

20 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you for that  
21 last comment on that person there. On me, I would take  
22 no action on this motion because they could take two  
23 yet, that's what she was saying, thank you. I'll take  
24 no action.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.  
27 Any other discussion on this proposal.

28

29 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is that Barbara?

32

33 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. Yeah, ouch,  
34 oh, gosh I got a papercut. I'm kind of unsettled here  
35 in supporting this right now because I'd like to hear  
36 what those two other entities that are going to meet  
37 this week would say about this because they have more  
38 idea of what we're talking about than I am and then  
39 thank you for that lady saying that right now, current  
40 limit is no limit, and the Arctic hare is jackrabbits,  
41 right, this has to do with jackrabbits, not our rabbits  
42 from up this way, is what I'm seeing. So I know -- I  
43 would ask to table this for now and possibly bring it  
44 back up at our winter meeting, if that is possible.  
45 And usually that can happen. But that's how my feeling  
46 is right now, I'd like to hear what those Kotzebue  
47 people -- because they have people speaking out from  
48 their region, from the region over there, probably  
49 Buckland and Deering about this. And that's where I'm

50

0056

1 coming from. I want to hear what other people that  
2 have dealt with this jackrabbits before I put my voice  
3 in to support. So I would ask for it to be tabled.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.

8 So so far we've had a motion and a second to support,  
9 we've had on request for no action and one suggestion  
10 to table this until further discussion can be found,  
11 further review can be had by some of the other  
12 committees; do we have any other discussion from the  
13 Council.

14

15 MR. SHIEDT: Mr. Chair, Attamuk, here.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Attamuk.

18

19 MR. SHIEDT: The reason why I said no  
20 action, I want to wait -- I wanted to wait from 18 and  
21 22, that's why I took no action.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Understood, thank you.  
24 Anyone else from the Council with anything to add.

25

26 MS. ATORUK: Yes, Mr. Chair, that's my  
27 feeling too, also, (In Native) 18 and 22, I want to  
28 hear from 18 and 22.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Noted, thank you,  
31 Barbara.

32

33 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is  
34 Lisa and I -- if I could clarify something.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Lisa.

37

38 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thanks. Yeah, Lisa  
39 Grediagin for the record. And, Eva, read the actions  
40 from the Seward Peninsula Council and the Yukon Delta  
41 Council. And so Seward Peninsula, which you know is  
42 Unit 22, they supported the proposal. And the YKDelta  
43 Council, which represents Unit 18 also supported the  
44 proposal. Eva could clarify their action again, but  
45 they supported the reduction in harvest limit and then  
46 the season as modified by OSM. So both Unit 18 and 22  
47 Councils have already acted on this proposal.

48

49 Thank you.

50



0057

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. So  
2 just following that clarification, the entities that we  
3 haven't heard from at this time are the Subsistence  
4 Resource Commissions that Hannah Atkinson mentioned  
5 would be meeting, was it later this week, Hannah.

6  
7 MS. ATKINSON: Yes. So the Cape  
8 Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission is meeting  
9 on Wednesday, and just to respond to, you know, who you  
10 might want to hear from, the members of the Cape  
11 Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission are Enoch  
12 Mitchell, Cyrus Harris, Alex Whiting, Attamuk Shiedt,  
13 Enoch Adams. Larry Westlake, Hannah Loon, and Hilda  
14 Booth. So that commission has representation from  
15 Noatak, Kotzebue and Kivalina and one member from  
16 Kiana. And then the next day the Kobuk Valley  
17 Subsistence Resource Commission are meeting. So those  
18 two commissions are not in the area -- they're not --  
19 you know, Buckland and Deering, they're not -- Seward  
20 Peninsula.

21  
22 MS. ATORUK: Oh, Buckland and Deering  
23 -- excuse me, this is Barb. So Buckland and Deering  
24 are on Seward Peninsula for that, whatever you just  
25 said?

26  
27 MS. ADKINSON: There's no Buckland and  
28 Deering representatives on the Cape Krusenstern  
29 Subsistence Resource Commission. I'm not sure if  
30 they're are Buckland and Deering rep -- Buckland and  
31 Deering representatives would be on the Northwest  
32 Arctic RAC, so some of the members of your Commission --  
33 your Council, and then they're also represented by  
34 State Advisory Committees, but I don't think any State  
35 Advisory Committees have been announced, so I don't  
36 think there are any upcoming meetings where you would  
37 get more information from those people.

38  
39 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Eva, have you  
40 talked with Calvin this morning, whether he's going to  
41 call in or not?

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 MS. ATORUK: Hello.

46  
47 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa, and Eva  
48 just got dropped off the call so she's calling back in.

49  
50

0058

1 (Laughter)

2

3

MS. ATORUK: Okay, I was just wondering to see if we can delay this for this afternoon, Mr. Chair, to see if Calvin would be able to call in, then we can bring it -- we could bring it back up then, at a later time either today or tomorrow. Can we delay this or table this until then. How does the Council feel about this?

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara. I'd like to wait to hear from Eva when she gets back on the call, hopefully it won't take her too long. But I feel like this would be something we can table until after lunch, just being that it's almost noon. I'm not sure what most people are hoping to do for lunch, but if the Council and all parties involved are in agreement, we could just break a little early for lunch and come back at 1:00 and hopefully get the other RAC members that we're hoping to hear from on the phone by then. Does anybody have any issues with that?

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. Apologies. This is Eva, I got dropped, and just back on now. And just wanted to let you know that I have left a couple messages with Calvin this morning and have not heard back from him yet. He had planned to attend this meeting so I can try reaching him over lunch again in the hopes that he would be able to join us this afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MS. ATORUK: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva.

MS. ATORUK: Sounds good, Thomas, thank you.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, too, Barbara. So we're still in discussion of this Wildlife Proposal 22-45 and is the rest of the Council in consensus that we should wait until we hear from Mr. Moto, since he is in the area that we are kind of talking about here.

MS. ATORUK: I agree. Because we still have tomorrow and we could deal with it tomorrow.

0059

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Right. Do we have --  
2 hear anything else from the rest of the Council.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there are no  
7 objections then I would say we can take a break for  
8 lunch and just ask that we try our best to get a hold  
9 of Mr. Moto, so that we can get him on the phone and  
10 wrap up this presentation for this proposal. If no one  
11 has any problems, I'd say we break now and come back at  
12 1:00 p.m., for our afternoon session.

13  
14 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, this is Mike, Mr.  
15 Chairman. There's still a motion on the floor but we  
16 could go ahead and take care of it after lunch.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you, Mike.

19  
20 MS. ATORUK: Okay, thank you, see at  
21 1:00.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, everyone,  
24 well hearing no other discussion or questions regarding  
25 this we will reconvene at 1:00 p.m. Hope everyone  
26 enjoys their lunch.

27  
28 (Off record)

29  
30 (On record)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good afternoon  
33 everyone, it's Thomas Baker. Rick or Tom, would either  
34 one of you be able to provide a very brief summary for  
35 Mr. Moto of this proposal so that we can continue our  
36 discussion of it.

37  
38 MR. PLANK: Mr. Chair, this is Tom  
39 Plank, I can give a pretty brief one for him.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: The floor is yours.

42  
43 MR. PLANK: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
44 Chair. Members of the Council. For the record, my  
45 name's Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist with the Office of  
46 Subsistence Management. And this is a brief overview  
47 of the analysis for the Wildlife Proposal WP22-45  
48 submitted by ADF&G requesting to create specific  
49 harvest regulations for Alaska hares in Units 18, 22  
50

0060

1 and 23 and starting in the book on Page 13.

2

3

4 And the once abundant Alaska hares in  
5 Units 18, 22 and 23 is now at a very low density and  
6 has a patchy distribution throughout the region. Alaska  
7 hares are among the most poorly understood game species  
8 in Alaska. And anecdotally abundance is well below  
9 historic levels throughout the range of the species.  
10 Little is known about the harvest of the Alaska hare  
11 although household harvest surveys indicate that it is  
12 harvested throughout the communities of Western and  
13 Southwestern Alaska.

13

14

15 And if this proposal is adopted the  
16 Alaska hare season will be reduced although hunters  
17 will still have the opportunity to harvest hares during  
18 winter when they're engaging in other subsistence or  
19 recreational activities. The change in daily and  
20 overall harvest limits may be effective in reducing  
21 harvest which could translate into an improvement in  
22 the conservation status of these populations. And then  
23 the proponent requests a season which would be more  
24 restrictive than existing State regulations, and if  
25 adopted as requested Federally-qualified subsistence  
26 users would still be able to harvest Alaska hares in  
27 August and May under State regulations.

27

28

29 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
30 support Proposal WP22-45 with modifications to shorten  
31 the season to August 1st through May 31st and to modify  
32 the definition of hare in Federal regulations.

32

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the  
35 Council. I'm happy to answer any questions.

35

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Plank.  
38 So, Calvin, just to bring you up to speed, the Council  
39 has -- there's been a motion to support this proposal  
40 and it's been seconded and right now we're in the phase  
41 of just discussing it. I'm not sure how much of your  
42 materials you have with you or available, but do you  
43 have any comments that you wish to provide on this  
44 wildlife proposal, Calvin.

44

45

46 MR. MOTO: Yeah, and excuse me if it  
47 sounds like I'm not here, I'm just muting my phone  
48 because of the environment I'm in right now. But as  
49 far as the proposal I would recommend, you know,  
50 pushing in support of it as we do have a lot -- I mean

50

0061

1 rabbit hunters in the area but I know that it's not so  
2 much in the adult population. I know that there are  
3 hunters that take their kids out and kind of they start  
4 off teaching them because they are easy to hunt. But  
5 throughout social media and stuff and people sharing  
6 their hunting stories I don't see a whole lot of, you  
7 know, hare hunting being done, especially in my area.  
8 But there are people that do do it, but, it's not  
9 necessarily something that I think needs to be  
10 downgraded or something, you know, I think -- it would  
11 work though, the proposal.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Calvin.  
14 Any other discussions from any other members of the  
15 Council.

16  
17 MR. ARMSTRONG: This is Elmer, this  
18 is.....

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Elmer.

21  
22 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, can you let him  
23 know what the other units say about this.

24  
25 MS. ATORUK: They supported it.

26  
27 MR. ARMSTRONG: So Calvin will know.

28  
29 MS. ATORUK: Let Calvin know.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, thank you for  
32 that Elmer. So the other game units involved with this  
33 proposal, Calvin, Units 18 and 22 their Regional  
34 Advisory Councils pushed for -- they moved to support  
35 and supported this. One of the units, they -- it was  
36 slightly modified but they still supported the actions  
37 in this proposal.

38  
39 MR. MOTO: Okay, Mr. Chair, I'm fine  
40 with that. Is there something I need to go ahead and  
41 say that I think on behalf of Unit 23 that we should  
42 support it as well.

43  
44 MS. ATORUK: Thank you, Calvin.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: At this time we're  
47 just in the discussion phase, Calvin, we just wanted to  
48 make sure and get some voice from lower part of the  
49 region just because we didn't have that this morning.  
50

0062

1 Is there any further discussion from other members of  
2 the Council or are we ready to move forward.

3

4 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Barbara.

7

8 MS. ATORUK: Calvin, I was just  
9 delaying this, although it's been supported and  
10 seconded here, just delaying so I could hear from you  
11 since you are in the region and I know your villages  
12 over there, Deering and Buckland, usually hunt  
13 jackrabbits and I just wanted to hear from you. So I'm  
14 good with it now and I'll call for the question.

15

16 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.  
19 Thank you, Attamuk. So with that we'll close up the  
20 discussion and now we will restate the final motion for  
21 the record. And, just again I believe it was Michael  
22 Kramer who moved to support this wildlife proposal, 22-  
23 45 and Mr. Wilbur Howarth seconded it and so now we'll  
24 move on to the Council vote. Eva, at this time would  
25 this be a roll call vote or would it just be an all  
26 those in favor kind of vote.

27

28 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin  
29 LaVine.

30

31 MS. ATORUK: It's your call Thomas.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead.

34

35 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
36 Council. For the record my name is Robbin LaVine, I'm  
37 the Subsistence Policy Coordinator at OSM. And because  
38 of previous obligations Eva.....

39

40 (Teleconference interference -  
41 participants not muted)

42

43 MS. LAVINE: .....Eva has had to step  
44 away and so I will be acting DFO for this afternoon.  
45 And in response to your question about taking action on  
46 this proposal, you could call out all in favor say aye,  
47 all opposed same sign.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

0063

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

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Robbin. It  
4 slipped my mind that Eva wasn't going to be with us  
5 this afternoon, thank you for reminding us of that and  
6 for the clarification.

7

8 So at this time all those in favor of  
9 supporting Wildlife Proposal 22-45 please say aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All those opposed same  
14 sign.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: It would appear the  
19 ayes have it and the consensus is to support Wildlife  
20 Proposal 22-45.

21

22 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, can I -- I'm  
23 sorry, Mr. Chair, this is Robbin LaVine.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Robbin.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: Can we confirm all Council  
28 members on record just so that we're clear that we do  
29 have a quorum.

30

31 MS. ATORUK: You've got a quorum.

32

33 MS. LAVINE: We've got a quorum.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So at this time.....

36

37 MR. SHIEDT: I'm here, Attamuk.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....correct me if I'm  
40 wrong, but we should have Attamuk Shiedt, myself,  
41 Michael Kramer, Calvin Motor, Wilbur Howarth, Elmer  
42 Armstrong and Barbara Atoruk.

43

44 REPORTER: Yes.

45

46 MS. ATORUK: Amen, we have a quorum.

47

48 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50

0064

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Robbin. So  
2 moving on our next point will be Wildlife Proposal 22-  
3 50 regarding beaver in Unit 23.

4

5                   MS. ATORUK: Yes. I make a motion to  
6 move.

7

8                   (Laughter)

9

10                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: I'm looking through my  
11 notes I believe it's Christie Osburn from the Kotzebue  
12 area -- the Kotzebue area wildlife biologist with Fish  
13 and Game, either her or Tom Plank who is going to speak  
14 to us on this proposal at this time.

15

16                  MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

17

18                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Robbin.

19

20                  MS. LAVINE: Unless we have arranged  
21 for a report on beaver from any of the land managing  
22 agencies, Mr. Tom Plank will proceed with presenting  
23 WP22-50.

24

25                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,  
26 Robbin. Mr. Plank if you wouldn't mind you have the  
27 floor.

28

29                  MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
30 members of the Board. Again for the record my name is  
31 Tom Plank, and I'm a Wildlife Biologist in the Office  
32 of Subsistence Management and I will be presenting a  
33 summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-50  
34 requesting the beaver harvest limit be changed from 50  
35 in Unit 23 and 30 beavers in the Kobuk and Selawik  
36 River drainages -- I'm sorry -- change from 50 and 30  
37 beavers in Unit 23 the Kobuk and Selawik River  
38 drainages and Unit 23 remainder respectfully to no  
39 harvest limits in both trap areas starting on Page 24  
40 in your meeting books.

41

42                  The proponent states that the proposed  
43 changes would align Federal beaver trapping regulations  
44 with the more liberal State regulations as well as  
45 provide increased harvest opportunities for Federally-  
46 qualified subsistence users.

47

48                  There has been a general trend for  
49 liberalizing trapping and hunting regulations in Unit  
50



1 23. In 1999, the Alaska Board of Game adopted the  
2 year-round hunting season for beavers in Unit 23 with  
3 no harvest limit or sealing requirements. In addition,  
4 the trapping season was extended to year-round with no  
5 harvest limit and no sealing requirements. In 2007 the  
6 Board adopted a Proposal requesting a hunting season  
7 for beavers in Unit 23 with no closed season and no  
8 harvest limit. The Arctic landscapes are in transition  
9 due to changes in the climate, increased warmth in the  
10 summer and longer growing seasons are contributing to  
11 increased tundra productivity and shrub dominated  
12 vegetation. Beavers have increasingly moved into the  
13 tundra areas during the past 20 years. Beaver numbers  
14 remain high in Unit 23 particularly in the Selawik and  
15 Kobuk River drainages where beavers have fully occupied  
16 high quality habitat and now widely occur in marginal  
17 areas as well.

18  
19 Current harvest data is limited because  
20 few folks have sealed pelts since ADF&G made beaver  
21 sealing requirements voluntary for Unit 23 in 2000.  
22 The most recent community harvest surveys in the  
23 community subsistence information system is 2014 and  
24 the data suggests that beaver harvest varies greatly by  
25 year and community as seen in Figure 1 on Table 1 on  
26 Page 28.

27  
28 If this proposal is adopted the beaver  
29 harvest limit would be changed from 50 and 30 beavers  
30 per season in Unit 23, Kobuk, and Selawik and Unit 23  
31 remainder respectfully to no harvest limits in both  
32 trap areas. No impacts to the beaver population or user  
33 groups are expected as Federally-qualified subsistence  
34 users can already trap an unlimited number of beavers  
35 on most Federal lands under the more liberal State  
36 regulations. Additionally, adoption of this proposal  
37 would align Federal and State regulations reducing  
38 regulatory complexity for users.

39  
40 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
41 support Proposal WP22-50 with modifications to combine  
42 Unit 23 trap areas.

43  
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the  
45 Board. I'd be happy to field any questions.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom. At  
48 this time do any members of the Council have any  
49 questions on the Wildlife Proposal 22-50.  
50

0066

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, we'll  
4 move on in the procedure.....

5

6 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is that Barbara.

9

10 MS. ATORUK: Hello. Yeah, motion to  
11 adopt, please -- motion to support, I mean.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara,  
14 but we need to go through the whole -- the procedure  
15 sheet to make sure that we have all the information  
16 presented first.

17

18 MS. ATORUK: I know, but it's so  
19 obvious that's why I did that, thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: At this time, Robbin,  
22 do we have any report on Board consultations from  
23 either tribes or ANCSA Corporations.

24

25 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. I would ask  
26 Orville Lind if he is online.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MS. LAVINE: And I don't believe he is.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MS. LAVINE: Then I would -- no -- then  
35 I would request -- then I would inform you there were  
36 no tribal comments during the consultation. Thank you,  
37 Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Robbin.  
40 Moving on to agency comments. Do we have any comments  
41 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

42

43 MS. OSBURN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair  
44 and members of the Council. This is Christie Osburn  
45 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And ADF&G  
46 supports the proposal to align the State and Federal  
47 beaver bag limits in Unit 23.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Christie.

50

0067

1 Do we have any Federal agencies that wish to comment on  
2 this.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And any tribal  
7 agencies.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, do we  
12 have any advisory group comments from any other RACs,  
13 which I don't believe we would since it's just in Unit  
14 23.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Or any of the Fish and  
19 Game Advisory Committees.

20

21 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is Lisa  
22 and both the Western Interior Council and the Seward  
23 Peninsula Council considered this proposal and they  
24 both supported with the OSM modification. Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. Do  
27 we have any Fish and Game Advisory Committees that had  
28 any comments.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Or any Subsistence  
33 Resource Commissions.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, did we  
38 receive any written public comments regarding this,  
39 Robbin.

40

41 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
42 Tom Plank. We did not have any written comments for  
43 this one.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom. At  
46 this time is there any public testimony.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0068

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, we will  
2 move on to the Regional Advisory Council recommendation  
3 and Ms. Barbara Atoruk already moved to support this  
4 wildlife proposal, do we hear a second.

5  
6 MR. SHIEDT: I second it.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Mr.  
9 Shiedt. Do we have any further discussion of this  
10 proposal.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, we need  
15 to restate.....

16  
17 MS. ATORUK: Question.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....the final motion  
20 -- what was that Barbara.

21  
22 MS. ATORUK: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, I  
23 was saying question.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Oh, thank you. So  
26 moving on, just to restate the final motion for the  
27 record, motion to support made by Ms. Barbara Atoruk  
28 and seconded by Mr. Enoch Shiedt and at this time we  
29 will move on to the Council vote. So all those in  
30 favor of supporting Wildlife Proposal 22-50 please say  
31 aye.

32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All those opposed,  
36 same sign.

37  
38 (No opposing votes)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And we have a majority  
41 consensus to support Wilderness [sic] Proposal 22-50.

42  
43 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is  
44 Lisa. And if the Council could just provide a little  
45 justification on the record, and an option would just  
46 be to state they support the OSM conclusion but we just  
47 need a little justification on the record. Thank you.

48  
49 MS. ATORUK: Okay, Mr. Chair.

50

0069

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa.

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: There's beavers all over  
4 and they are destroying our fish ponds and everything,  
5 they're blocking them and that's why we need to have no  
6 limit on taking beavers.

7

8 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. The spread of  
9 beaver is all over the region, now, we just heard from  
10 Wilbur at Noorvik that it's in the drainages and that's  
11 where a lot of fishing does happen, is in the drainages  
12 in the springtime, Noorvik, Kiana, those regions do go  
13 to their camps and fish and they say there are a lot of  
14 beaver and the beaver urine is not good for the  
15 freshwater. So we need to -- I'm happy that this came  
16 forward to being -- to come in saying no limit.

17

18 Taikuu.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.  
21 Thank you, Attamuk. Do we need any further support for  
22 this on the record?

23

24 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair, this  
25 is Lisa.

26

27 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, this is Mike here.

28

29 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, go ahead.

30

31 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair, this is  
32 Michael.

33

34 REPORTER: Go ahead, Mike.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Mike.

37

38 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, in the past years  
39 just to let everybody know we've been really pushing  
40 to, you know, be able to harvest a lot of these  
41 beavers. The last I heard up there in the area of  
42 Point Lay that there's been quite a few beaver lodges  
43 and dams up there. I'm not too sure as to the count  
44 how many but there is a lot of beavers getting into the  
45 North Slope, into their drainages. But this will be  
46 good, you know, there's a lot of them harvested here in  
47 the area of Kotzebue. I know my brother takes a toll on  
48 them and that's good. But yeah it's been a problem,  
49 they're starting to get up into the higher valleys up  
50

0070

1 in the Baird Mountains and DeLong Mountains. So I'm in  
2 support of this one. That's my conclusion on that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike.  
5 Lisa, is that -- Lisa, you were going to say something  
6 at the same time Mike started.

7

8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is  
9 Lisa. You just asked if that was sufficient  
10 justification and thanks for Mike for providing even  
11 more, but, yes, that is great. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you  
14 so much Lisa for clarifying that. To reiterate, on the  
15 Council vote it was agreed upon, all members voting to  
16 support Wildlife Proposal 22-50. So we will move on if  
17 there's nothing else for that, WCR22-18 sheep, Unit 23,  
18 in Baird Mountains, closed to all but Federally-  
19 qualified subsistence users, and I believe Mr. Tom  
20 Plank is who we will hear from.

21

22 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
23 members of the Board. Again, for the record, my name  
24 is Tom Plank and I'm a Wildlife Biologist in the Office  
25 of Subsistence Management and I will be presenting a  
26 summary of the analysis for Wildlife Closure Review  
27 WCR22-18 starting on Page 31 of your meeting books.

28

29 Wildlife Closure Review, WCR22-18  
30 pertains to the closure of sheep hunting in Unit 23 to  
31 everyone except Federally-qualified subsistence users.  
32 The closure was initiated in 1999 to allow for  
33 continued subsistence use of a sheep population that  
34 was recovering from a severe decline associated with  
35 severe winters. It was determined that a small surplus  
36 of older rams was available in the Baird Mountains for  
37 a limited subsistence hunt. The dall sheep in the  
38 Baird Mountains of Unit 23 are at the northwestern  
39 margin of their range in Alaska. Because of this,  
40 stochastic weather events affect their populations more  
41 than sheep populations in areas with more abundant  
42 habitat and stable range conditions, thus, sheep  
43 densities in Unit 23 are low compared to other areas of  
44 the state.

45

46 (Teleconference interference -  
47 participants not muted)

48

49 MR. PLANK: Between 2011 and 2019 the  
50

0071

1 sheep population ranged from 174 to 643 sheep. The  
2 highest and lowest estimates occurred in 2011 and 2019  
3 respectively representing a 73 percent population  
4 decline. And you can see that on Figure 1 on Page 37.  
5 Between 2011 and 2019 the lamb per 100 ewe-like sheep  
6 ratio range from 1 to 52 lambs per ewe-like sheep with  
7 the highest ratio occurring in 2019. Over the same  
8 time period the total number of rams per 100 ewe-like  
9 sheep range from 17 to 29 rams per 100 ewe-like sheep.  
10 Between 2011 and 2018 the full-curl ram per ewe-like  
11 sheep range -- ratio ranged from 1 to 9 full-curl rams  
12 per ewe-like sheep.

13  
14 Sheep hunting in the Baird Mountains  
15 has been administered by the National Park Service  
16 since 1995. Harvest reports show that the sheep  
17 harvest in the Baird Mountain portion of Unit 23 remain  
18 under the quota each year. That a hunt occurred since  
19 1998 except for year 2005/2006 when the harvest went  
20 over quota by one ram. Between 2004 and 2014 the  
21 annual reported sheep harvested in Unit 23 and Unit 26A  
22 average 23 animals under both State hunting and Federal  
23 subsistence regulations ranging from 17 to 31 sheep,  
24 the majority of the harvest came from Federal  
25 subsistence registration hunts in Unit 23. No sheep  
26 harvest has occurred in the Baird Mountains under State  
27 or Federal regulations since 2014 when the seasons were  
28 closed due to conservation concerns.

29  
30 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to  
31 maintain status quo due to conservation concerns. The  
32 sheep population in the Baird Mountains remains very  
33 low, the population cannot withstand any harvest.

34  
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the  
36 Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Plank.  
39 Do any members of the Council have any questions on  
40 this wildlife closure review.

41  
42 MR. SHIEDT: Mr. Chair, I have a  
43 question but it's for Mike, on this here.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I'll allow it.

46  
47 MR. SHIEDT: Mike, I thought we closed  
48 this about six years ago when the muskox first  
49 declined, do you remember, I'm having a senior moment.

50

0072

1 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, it's closed. The  
2 only area that's been open is over there in the Gates  
3 of the Arctic near Ambler and Shungnak. They've been --  
4 I know Ms. Okada has monitored that area, the Gates of  
5 the Arctic, but I know our area has been closed due to  
6 the low numbers, and the high numbers of wolves  
7 harvesting sheep and it's been very critical that we  
8 keep the area closed.

9  
10 MR. SHIEDT: Okay, thank you, that's  
11 all I wanted to know.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,  
14 Mike. Do we have any other questions regarding this  
15 WCR22-18.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So hearing none, do we  
20 have any reports on tribal or ANCSA Corp consultations  
21 for this.

22  
23 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair, this is  
24 Michael.

25  
26 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this -- um.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Was that Mike Kramer.

29  
30 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Mike.

33  
34 MR. KRAMER: I was kind of curious as  
35 to why what was the ewe and lamb count in the area, did  
36 they do a count this year in 2021? That's the question  
37 for the biologist.

38  
39 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
40 Tom Plank. I do not have data for this year. If ADF&G  
41 is online maybe they would have more updated data than  
42 I have.

43  
44 MS. OSBURN: Hi, Mike, through the  
45 Chair. This is Christie Osburn with the Alaska  
46 Department of Fish and Game. We were unable to fly a  
47 sheep survey this July so our plan is to do one this  
48 upcoming July. But we don't have any information from  
49 the 2021 survey year.

50



0073

1 MR. KRAMER: Okay, thank you.

2

3 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, this is  
4 Wilbur.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Wilbur.

7

8 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, I believe the last  
9 count done was in 2018, if I'm correct, at one of our  
10 meetings on the sheep. So I guess 2021 was supposed to  
11 be another count but now I just heard it won't happen  
12 until next July.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.  
17 Any other questions before we move on.

18

19 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is  
20 Michael.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Mike.

23

24 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, my suggestion is we  
25 go ahead and continue to keep it closed but keep it  
26 closely monitored. I know I've hunted sheep in the  
27 Bairds in the past, it's been quite a while since I've  
28 harvested one. But I know that the other year I was  
29 talking to a gentleman and he said that over up in the  
30 Aggi in those high rocky cliffs at one time he flew by  
31 and there were like 20-something sheep in November in  
32 December and he went by there again in March and April  
33 and he said that there were only two surviving out of  
34 all those other ones, that wolves had picked off in  
35 that area. And it's on the left side of the Aggi  
36 River, turns into the Baird Mountains. He did say  
37 that, you know, a lot of them were picked off and there  
38 were a lot of kill sites all the way around that  
39 mountain because the sheep couldn't go anywhere to eat  
40 and so they were taking chances and going on and trying  
41 to go elsewhere to graze but they were getting picked  
42 off by wolves. He did say that in March that there  
43 were only two surviving that following spring, out of  
44 those 20-plus sheep that were on that edge.

45

46 So I think we should go ahead and go  
47 with keeping it closed.

48

49 MS. ATORUK: Yep.

50

0074

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,  
2 Mike. Do we have any report on Board consultations  
3 from any tribal entities.  
4

5 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.  
6 And tribal consultations were held and no comments were  
7 received on Wildlife Closure Review 22-18. Thank you.  
8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Robbin. So  
10 next under agency comments, do we have any comments  
11 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
12

13 MS. OSBURN: Mr. Chair, this is  
14 Christie Osburn with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
15 Game and the Department is neutral towards this  
16 proposal as currently there is no open State season for  
17 sheep within GMU 23. And that the Superintendent of  
18 WEAR will still maintain hunt management flexibility  
19 through their delegated authority on Federal public  
20 land.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Christie.  
23 Any Federal agency comments at this time.  
24

25 (No comments)  
26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing no Federal  
28 agency comments, any tribal agency comments.  
29

30 (No comments)  
31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And do we have any  
33 advisory group comments from other Regional Advisory  
34 Councils.  
35

36 MS. ATORUK: Fish and Game and  
37 subsistence.  
38

39 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair, this  
40 is Lisa. And no other Regional Advisory Councils  
41 considered this closure review. I think the North  
42 Slope Council will but they meet later this week.  
43 Thanks.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. Any  
46 Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.  
47

48 (No comments)  
49  
50

0075

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Subsistence   Resource  
2 Commission comments.

3  
4                   (No comments)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Hearing none,   did we  
7 receive any written public comments on this.

8  
9                   MR. PLANK:   Through the Chair,   this is  
10 Tom Plank.   There were no written public comments,  
11 thank you.

12  
13                  CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Thank you, Tom.   At  
14 this time do we have any public testimony.

15  
16                  (No comments)

17  
18                  CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Hearing none, we will  
19 move on to the Regional Council recommendation. Do we  
20 have a motion to support with Wildlife Closure Review  
21 22-18.

22  
23                  MS. GREDIAGIN: Yep, Mr. Chair.

24  
25                  CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Yes.

26  
27                  MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa, and I just  
28 want to clarify motions for closure reviews, they're a  
29 little bit different than proposals. First of all the  
30 closure review process changed recently and so now  
31 closures are reviewed per the Board's closure policy  
32 every four years so that's why this closure review is  
33 coming before you right now, it's just Board policy  
34 that every four years the Council needs to review these  
35 closures and then the Board will consider them at their  
36 meeting in April.

37  
38                  And so for closure reviews there are  
39 three options for motions. One is a motion to maintain  
40 status quo, which is in this case is to maintain that  
41 closure, sheep closure in the Baird Mountains. Another  
42 option is to modify the closure and the third option is  
43 to eliminate the closure. So unlike proposals, you  
44 don't motion to support, you motion to either maintain  
45 status quo, modify the closure or eliminate the  
46 closure.

47  
48                  Thank you.

49  
50

0076

1 MS. ATORUK: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Very good to know.

4

5 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that.

8 Was that Barbara.

9

10 MS. ATORUK: Yep. Make a motion to  
11 maintain status quo because the sheep.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you.

14

15 MS. ATORUK: .....population is still  
16 low. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara. A  
19 motion to maintain status quo, do we have a second.

20

21 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it. Attamuk.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Attamuk.  
24 And then under discussion and justification, I believe  
25 we're all -- from what I'm hearing we're in agreement  
26 that we are motioning to maintain status quo on this  
27 wildlife closure review based upon the low numbers of  
28 sheep in the region and wanting to do what we can to  
29 protect the stock. Is there any further discussion or  
30 justification that we'd like to bring up now.

31

32 MS. ATORUK: Question.

33

34 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is  
35 Michael.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Mike.

38

39 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, at the end of it I  
40 see it's closed to all Federally -- or it's closed to  
41 all but Federally-qualified subsistence users. I think  
42 that needs to be closed also. But it says -- I think  
43 it's as an exception or a modification to where if  
44 there is enough sheep -- harvestable sheep that they  
45 can open it to local subsistence users. It's not  
46 clarified in that -- on the agenda -- I just wanted to  
47 get further into that because it does say closed to all  
48 but Federally-qualified subsistence users.

49

50

0077

1 MS. ATORUK: Thank you, Mike. Mr.  
2 Chair.

3  
4 MR. KRAMER: Because right now it's  
5 closed.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, who's speaking.

8  
9 MS. ATORUK: Thank you, Mike. Mr.  
10 Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, who's speaking.

13  
14 MS. ATORUK: Barbara.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Barbara.

17  
18 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, just because Mike  
19 said that I am reading now where it says, may be  
20 announced, but it says one sheep by Federal  
21 registration permit. If it's closed, it's closed, is  
22 my understanding. There should not be any permits  
23 being handed out, so I think we need to look at this  
24 and take -- request we take that off, one sheep by  
25 Federal registration permit.

26  
27 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is  
28 Lisa, I can clarify.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Lisa.

31  
32 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes, thanks. Through  
33 the Chair. The closure is, it's currently closed to  
34 non-Federally-qualified users, however there's a may be  
35 announced season. And so the superintendent of the  
36 Western Arctic National Parklands, the National Park  
37 Service there in Kotzebue, they have delegated  
38 authority to open the season.....

39  
40 (Teleconference interference -  
41 participants not muted - on hold)

42  
43 MS. GREDIAGIN: .....if the sheep  
44 population, you know, grows to a point where there's a  
45 harvestable surplus of sheep. So in the past the  
46 Superintendent with the Park Service just has not  
47 announced a season because the sheep population has  
48 been so low. So keeping that may be announced season  
49 and delegating that authority to the Park Service  
50

0078

1 Superintendent allows management flexibility, you know,  
2 they're not going to open a season unless the sheep  
3 population gets to a point where it can support  
4 harvest. So an option the Council could motion to  
5 modify the closure to close this hunt to everyone,  
6 including Federally-qualified users, but in reality it  
7 functionally is closed to everyone because the  
8 Superintendent hasn't announced a season.

9

10 So hopefully that makes sense. It's  
11 just kind of a way to maintain more management  
12 flexibility versus having to submit another proposal in  
13 the future.

14

15 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, it's  
16 Michael.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. Go  
19 ahead, Mike.

20

21 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, that was the  
22 clarification that I wanted. And I think keeping that  
23 in there, you know, in case there is somewhat of a  
24 harvestable amount of sheep resource then it would only  
25 be open to us and I think that's good. But the other  
26 thing is we just need to make sure it's not open to  
27 non-residents, and non-local residents, just to keep it  
28 within Game Management Unit 23, and I believe that's  
29 what it is. But I think we should just go ahead and  
30 continue with what they say here. That was the  
31 clarification I wanted from Lisa, that's all.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike.  
34 Barbara, did that clarification help.

35

36 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, but then it says one  
37 sheep by Federal registration permit, is the Federal to  
38 us, or to outside hunters.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So Barbara, that would  
41 just be for us locals that live here in the region. It  
42 wouldn't be that the Superintendent just gives a permit  
43 to someone from outside that wants to come, they'd have  
44 to be a resident and be a Federally-qualified  
45 subsistence user.

46

47 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So if that's -- if  
48 a hunt is allowed then only one Federally-qualified  
49 hunter would get that permit -- that's not how I'm  
50

0079

1 reading it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there is a season  
4 then people could.....

5

6 MS. ATORUK: If Park Service.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....apply for the  
9 permit.....

10

11 MS. ATORUK: .....if the Park Service  
12 would open it -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if there's any  
15 Staff that wish to correct me, how I'm reading it is  
16 that the superintendent were to declare a season then  
17 any Federally-qualified subsistence user could apply  
18 for the permit; I don't know the process whether it  
19 would be a lottery, or first come first serve, but it's  
20 at the discretion of that superintendent to declare  
21 what the season is and it wouldn't just be one person  
22 gets to hunt one sheep in the whole region, it would  
23 just be depending on the level of the herd -- the sheep  
24 are at at that time.

25

26 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is  
27 Michael.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Mike.

30

31 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, it is, you know,  
32 I've hunted in the past when it was closed to all non-  
33 Federally-qualified subsistence users and they did it  
34 by permit, you know, they gave out so many permits and  
35 once they reached the quota, say 15 rams, it was  
36 automatically closed. I know that before they even  
37 allowed several ewes, I can't remember if it was 5 or  
38 maybe 9 ewes harvested, within that 15 rams also. But  
39 I know that that's the way it was in the past. And I  
40 think go ahead, you know, keeping it as is. I'm just  
41 reading the rest of it and I agree with what this  
42 proposal -- you know the conclusion to keep it closed,  
43 what the regulation states.

44

45 MR. FRONSTIN: Mr. Chair, this is Ramie  
46 Fronstin, the Park Service Wildlife Biologist in  
47 Kotzebue. And I just wanted to let you know that you  
48 are correct about what you said with the sheep hunt.  
49 So if the numbers were to increase and it became

50

0080

1 sustainable to harvest sheep we would determine the  
2 number of sheep harvest -- we would determine the  
3 number of sheep that were able to be harvested and then  
4 we would probably do a random lottery to issue permits  
5 to local Federally-qualified subsistence users. And,  
6 right, each hunter would have the -- would be able to  
7 get one sheep by registration permit rather than just  
8 one hunter being able to get one sheep. Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Dr.  
11 Fronstin. Barbara, does that clarify what you're  
12 talking about?

13  
14 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. It's kind of, for a  
15 reader like me being bilingual, but one sheep by  
16 Federal registration permit. Would you want to name  
17 how many permits you could give out or does that  
18 depends on the population of the sheep? And Park  
19 Service has the say so in who and how they would give  
20 out the permits, to whom, and how many do they give,  
21 like Mike said, there were 15, and there were some ewes  
22 taken too.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I believe, Barbara,  
25 that all just.....

26  
27 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, through the.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead.

30  
31 MS. GREDIAGIN: So through the Chair,  
32 this is Lisa. I just wanted to let Barbara know that  
33 changing things like the number of permits is beyond  
34 the scope of this closure review and currently the  
35 superintendent of the Western Arctic Parklands has the  
36 delegated authority to open and close the season, you  
37 know, so to announce a season if warranted, and then to  
38 set the harvest quota, and my understanding is this is  
39 a registration permit so people could get a permit but  
40 then the season would close once the harvest quota was  
41 met, but, again, that's only if they actually announce  
42 the season. But to change things like the permit  
43 numbers and anything to do with the delegated authority  
44 is beyond the scope of this closure review. That would  
45 have to be another wildlife proposal next cycle.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 MS. ATORUK: Okay. I'm good with it,  
50



0081

1 kind of sort of. But then it should say one sheep by  
2 Federal registration permit depending on the size of  
3 the population. This way it says -- I think you did  
4 mention that the Park Service -- so I understand it,  
5 that's okay, go ahead.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.  
8 Do we have any other discussion to justify this closure  
9 beyond helping maintain the status quo and protect the  
10 number of sheep that we have in the game unit.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, to  
15 restate the final motion for the record. We had a  
16 motion to maintain the status quo on Wildlife Closure  
17 Review 22-18. At this time those in favor of  
18 maintaining the status quo on WCR22-18 please say aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And all those opposed.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that we have  
27 voted to maintain the status quo on Wildlife Closure  
28 Review 22-18. We will move on to Wildlife Closure  
29 Review 22-27, muskox, Unit 23, Cape Krusenstern  
30 National Monument, Mr. Tom Plank if you would please,  
31 the floor is yours.

32

33 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 Members of the Council. And, again, for the record my  
35 name's Tom Plank, I'm a Wildlife Biologist in the  
36 Office of Subsistence Management and I will be  
37 presenting a summary of the analysis for Wildlife  
38 Closure Review WCR22-27, starting on Page 45 of your  
39 meeting books.

40

41 Wildlife Closure Review 22-27 pertains  
42 the closure of muskox hunting in Unit 23 to everyone  
43 except by Federally-qualified subsistence users but not  
44 residents of Point Hope. The closure was initiated in  
45 2005 because of a small allowable harvest. The closure  
46 also ensured continued subsistence use of the resource.

47

48 Since 1987 aerial population surveys  
49 have occurred in the core count area which extend from  
50

1 the mouth of the Noatak River to Cape Lisburne within  
2 about 20 miles of the Chuckchi Sea Coast. From 1970 to  
3 1998 the Cape Thompson muskox population grew eight  
4 percent annually while between 1998 and 2005 the  
5 population grew two percent annually. Since 2005 the  
6 population within the core count area has declined  
7 although this is likely due to range expansion into  
8 other areas.

9  
10 In Figure 1 on Page 49, you can see  
11 that between 2011 and 2020 the population within the  
12 core count area stabilized averaging 234 muskox. In  
13 2020 the population estimate was 226. The recruitment  
14 rate and proportion of mature bulls in the core count  
15 area has been stable since 2015 further indicating no  
16 population growth. In spring 2019 short yearlings and  
17 mature bulls compromised of 13 percent and 16 percent  
18 of the population respectfully. No spring composition  
19 surveys occurred in 2020 due to constraints to weather,  
20 time, and the Covid19 pandemic.

21  
22 Harvest within Cape Krusenstern  
23 National Monument occurs only by Federally-registration  
24 permits. No more than two permits have been issued per  
25 year since the hunt was established in 2005. Harvest  
26 has ranged from zero to two muskox per year between  
27 2005 and 2019, and you can see that on Table 1, Page  
28 51. Harvest from the Cape Thompson muskox population  
29 has also -- also occurs outside Cape Krusenstern  
30 National Monument in Northwestern Unit 23 and under and  
31 Federal regulations. Between 2005 and 2019 the State  
32 Tier II muskox harvest averaged 3.7 muskox with an  
33 average -- I'm sorry -- with an annual harvest quota of  
34 six bull muskox and 2016 one was harvested by a Federal  
35 permit. ADF&G considers a two to three percent harvest  
36 rate to be sustainable for the Cape Thompson muskox  
37 population.

38  
39 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
40 modify or eliminate the closure. Currently the Cape  
41 Krusenstern National Monument muskox hunt is open to  
42 all resident zone community members who are also  
43 Federally-qualified subsistence users. As this does  
44 not represent a closure, there is no need for the  
45 additional regulatory language, functionally no change  
46 to the Cape Krusenstern National Monument muskox hunt  
47 would occur. OSM considers this recommendation as a  
48 housekeeping change to clarify regulation.

0083

1                   Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the  
2 Board. I'd be happy to field any questions.

3

4                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Plank.  
5 So just to reiterate this would be -- ultimately this  
6 would be asking for a motion probably to modify, just  
7 as you say, to clarify the regulation language so that  
8 it's clear as to what is actually going on since there  
9 isn't a closure in place, it's just defining who can  
10 get a permit for a muskox out of this area, correct?

11

12                   MR. PLANK: That is correct. Because  
13 currently the only people that can hunt in there is the  
14 resident zone community members who are also Federally-  
15 qualified subsistence users so OSM's conclusion is to  
16 modify or eliminate the closure.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom. Do we  
19 have any questions for Mr. Plank at this time from the  
20 Council.

21

22                   MS. ATORUK: I have one just for  
23 discussion purposes.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead.

26

27                   MS. ATORUK: Yeah. When you say  
28 resident zone, does that mean just the coastal villages  
29 that have -- where the muskox roam, or -- because they  
30 come inland, there's some in Selawik area and I'm sure  
31 up river. And they just don't bother with them or  
32 don't have anything to do with them because they don't  
33 know if they should shoot them or not because one was  
34 shot years ago when they first came, the hunter thought  
35 it was a grizzly bear and shot it. When they called  
36 me, I called Fish and Game, or somebody, I called  
37 somebody and they went up and took the hide, and, here,  
38 they had tried to skin it the best they know how and  
39 really perfectly and what not, and -- but at that time  
40 I guess they were cited for shooting it when they  
41 didn't know what kind of animal it was. Because when  
42 they called me they said I shot a buffalo and I said,  
43 oh, dear they're up there, and so I -- that's why I'm  
44 asking, what resident zone are you talking about, the  
45 whole Unit 23 or just in certain areas.

46

47                   MR. PLANK: Thank you, for the  
48 question. Through the Chair, this is Tom Plank. If  
49 you look in your meeting book on Page 46 under the

50

0084

1 customary and traditional use determination, it shows  
2 what the residents of the region that are considered  
3 resident zone communities of the Cape Krusenstern  
4 National Monument area where this closure is at.

5

6 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So it's just that  
7 area then, resident zone. I don't know what someone  
8 would think of this, whether to modify or eliminate the  
9 closure then.

10

11 MS. ATKINSON: This is Hannah Atkinson  
12 of the Park Service. I have a little information to  
13 add if it will help.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Hannah,  
16 go ahead.

17

18 MS. ATKINSON: For Cape Krusenstern  
19 National Monument, it sounds like Tom referenced a map  
20 in your binder but all of the Northwest Arctic Borough,  
21 all of the Northwest Arctic Borough villages are  
22 resident zone communities for Cape Krusenstern National  
23 Monument. And we do have a Federal muskox hunt right  
24 now and all the villages are able to put in for that  
25 drawing. It's done -- we advertise for it in the  
26 summer and the season opens August 1st so we do the  
27 drawing prior to that and you just call the Park  
28 Service to enter into that drawing.

29

30 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So if we vote to  
31 eliminate the closure that would take that away, right,  
32 it would open it up to all the hunters in the region  
33 then.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So it's already open  
36 to the hunters in the region, Barbara, it's just that  
37 they need to call to get the permit. But this is just  
38 making it easier to read because it's saying that all  
39 the extra stuff that's in the regulation, Cape  
40 Krusenstern National Monument is closed to the taking  
41 of muskoxen except by Federally-qualified subsistence  
42 users. It doesn't need to say that, so that's the only  
43 reason -- it's going to -- the rule is going to remain  
44 the same, the process for getting the permit is going  
45 to be the same and the same people can get it, it's  
46 just changing the words in the book.

47

48 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. But we would --  
49 like if I went to go out and go hunt for a muskoxen  
50

0085

1 then I would have to have a permit on person, right,  
2 because our hunters are opportunistic and then if they  
3 run into a muskox out there a lot of them won't shoot  
4 it although we are always in lack of meat anymore  
5 because of the migration routes of the caribou, and our  
6 moose, no and understand their open season and -- so  
7 I'm just asking to see if in order for us to go out and  
8 hunt do we need to have a permit before we go out to  
9 hunt for muskox, or am I leading you the wrong  
10 direction.

11  
12 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair, this  
13 is Lisa. And, yes, Barbara, to hunt muskox in Cape  
14 Krusenstern National Monument, which this closure  
15 review pertains to, you need a Federal registration  
16 permit. But you also need a Federal registration  
17 permit to hunt muskox anywhere in Unit 23. But, yeah,  
18 also, and specifically for this closure review, Cape  
19 Krusenstern. And just a reminder that Cape Krusenstern  
20 National Monument is only open to Federally-qualified  
21 subsistence users, no one can hunt within National  
22 Parks and Monuments under State regulations.

23  
24 MS. ATORUK: Oh, gosh, okay.

25  
26 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair, Calvin.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

29  
30 MR. MOTO: Yeah, to add to the muskox,  
31 we need to -- I feel like it needs to be increased, the  
32 limits and, you know, there shouldn't -- I mean, we as  
33 Native, being able to hunt on our lands should not need  
34 permits for these, for muskox, because the population  
35 of them have increased, especially in my area by an  
36 abundance. I mean we have like maybe three or four  
37 herds of 30 to 40 of them and they've become more so  
38 pests because they just kind of hang out in the area,  
39 you know, they destroy my runway lights. I'm the  
40 airport manager out there in Deering and all summer  
41 long I deal with just destruction of the airport lights  
42 and, you know, people -- people refrain from taking  
43 their dogs out, like berry picking and just on normal  
44 walks because we've had a few people's dogs that got  
45 mauled by these things. And to top it off as well they  
46 go up to our cemetery and they destroy people's crosses  
47 and gravesites. I think the muskox needs to be  
48 addressed a lot more. I'm not too sure what exactly  
49 direction we were going on the muskox, I don't have my  
50

0086

1 papers in front of me, but I think it's a heavy concern  
2 especially on the Seward Peninsula area.

3

4 But that's all I had on that. I'd like  
5 to elaborate more but hopefully there'll be another day  
6 to do that.

7

8 MS. ATORUK: Thank you. That is kind  
9 of what I'm trying to follow. You know, if the muskox  
10 is close by and doing that kind of stuff in the village  
11 and Deering is over there in the muskox country and  
12 they just can't go out and shoot this animal that's  
13 being a nuisance because they have to wait and get that  
14 permit first. I think that was my question but go  
15 ahead.

16

17 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, it's Wilbur.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

20

21 (Teleconference interference -  
22 participants not muted)

23

24 REPORTER: Enoch, go ahead and mute  
25 your phone.

26

27 MR. HOWARTH: Sorry, I got walked on,  
28 it's Wilbur.

29

30 REPORTER: Yes, go ahead, Wilbur.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you, Tina.  
33 Go ahead Wilbur.

34

35 MR. HOWARTH: I called in for a permit  
36 before and really didn't get in the mail or something  
37 but on my way to Buckland last winter, I ran into at  
38 the cabin just when you climb up on the SnoGo trail,  
39 that first cabin going to Buckland, I ran into one  
40 resident from Kotzebue and two from the Lower 48 and  
41 they had two muskox. I wondered how they got that  
42 permit. But I just say, happily say, wow, good for  
43 you. But those two from the Lower 48, if it -- when  
44 was this -- was this just put up to close now for them,  
45 non-residents, or.....

46

47 MS. ATORUK: Yes, it's closed.

48

49 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0087

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur. Do  
2 any Staff want to take a stab at responding to Wilbur's  
3 question.  
4

5                   MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair, this  
6 is Lisa. First of all the closure review in front of  
7 the Council right now is only for Cape Krusenstern  
8 National Monument. And, again, the National Monument  
9 is closed to anyone hunting under State regulations.  
10 But as far as muskox hunts go in the rest of the  
11 region, there is a Tier II State hunt in the lower --  
12 the southern portion of Unit 23 in the Buckland and  
13 Deering area. But, again, that's Tier II, open only to  
14 residents, and there's not a muskox season open to non-  
15 residents in Unit 23 under State regulations. So I'm  
16 not really sure about those people from the Lower 48  
17 that you saw with muskox unless the -- if you were in  
18 Unit 23, but, again, the closure we're discussing right  
19 now is just for Cape Krusenstern National Monument.  
20

21                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. Do  
22 we have any other questions regarding the nature of  
23 this wildlife closure review.  
24

25                   (No comments)  
26

27                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, do we  
28 have any reports on Board consultation from any tribal  
29 entities.  
30

31                   MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.  
32 And while tribal consultations were held, there were no  
33 comments on this closure. Thank you.  
34

35                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Robbin. As  
36 far as agency comments, do we have anything from the  
37 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
38

39                   MS. OSBURN: Mr. Chair, this is  
40 Christie Osburn with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
41 Game again. The Department is neutral towards this  
42 proposal as regardless of whether or not the closure is  
43 repealed it will not alter the number or residency of  
44 the hunt participants.  
45

46                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Christie.  
47 Do any Federal agencies have any comments at this time.  
48

49                   (No comments)  
50

0088

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any tribal agencies  
2 with any comments.

3  
4                   (No comments)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other Regional  
7 Advisory Council comments.

8  
9                   (No comments)

10  
11                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any Fish and Game  
12 Advisory Committee comments.

13  
14                  (No comments)

15  
16                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Subsistence Resource  
17 Commission comments.

18  
19                  (No comments)

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any written  
22 public comments.

23  
24                  MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
25 Tom Plank. There were no written public comments.  
26 Thank you.

27  
28                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom. At  
29 this time any public testimony.

30  
31                  (No comments)

32  
33                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, for the  
34 Regional Council recommendation, what is the wish of  
35 the Council. The recommendation -- the justification  
36 presented is to modify or eliminate this closure, what  
37 is the wish of the Council at this time.

38  
39                  (No comments)

40  
41                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any members of the RAC  
42 wish to move to modify or eliminate this closure.

43  
44                  (No comments)

45  
46                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Can everyone hear me  
47 all right?

48  
49                  REPORTER: Yes, you're coming in fine.  
50



0089

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tina.

2

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: This is Elmer, I make a  
4 motion to modify.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer, for  
7 a motion to modify Wildlife Closure Review 22-27, do we  
8 have a second.

9

10 MR. KRAMER: Mike seconds.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Mike  
13 Kramer. Do we have any further discussion on the  
14 justification of modifying this wildlife closure  
15 review.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: From the discussion  
20 that we had I would say that our justification for  
21 modifying this is simply to make it more easy and  
22 clarifying what the regulation is and how it reads when  
23 it's printed in the book, just to make it easier for  
24 people to get clarification on what they are allowed  
25 and not allowed to do. Is there any further discussion  
26 or justification.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, just to  
31 restate the final motion for the record, the Regional  
32 Advisory moves to modify the Wildlife Closure Review  
33 22-27 regarding muskox in Unit 23, Cape Krusenstern  
34 National Monument. All those in favor of modifying  
35 WCR22-27 please say aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And all opposed to  
40 modifying WCR22-27, same sign, please.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And, again, just to  
45 reiterate we moved to modify the Wildlife Closure  
46 Review 22-27 so we'll now move on to Wildlife Closure  
47 Review 22-45, caribou in Unit 23, Noatak National  
48 Preserve, closed to all but Federally-qualified  
49 subsistence users and I have here a note that that

50

0090

1 would be Hannah Voorhees.

2

3 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 I'm wondering if Alex Hanson with ADF&G is online to  
5 give a report on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd first.

6

7 MR. HANSON: Yes, Alex Hanson is here,  
8 through the Chair. And can certainly do that.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Alex.

11

12 MR. HANSON: Okay. Through the Chair.  
13 Members of the Council. Let me give a brief update on  
14 Western Arctic Caribou Herd and then happy to address  
15 any questions.

16

17 So getting started with abundance. The  
18 last count that we had was 2019. We did not do a  
19 census in 2020. The 2019 estimate which is the latest  
20 that we have, current number 244,000, down from a  
21 historical high of about 490,000, near 500,000 caribou  
22 in 2003. We saw it bottom out in 2016. Down slightly,  
23 2017, was 259,000. And then that brings us back to the  
24 latest estimate of 2019. We shot a census in the  
25 summer of 2021, we're still finalizing those results  
26 but we don't have those out yet. Typically we have  
27 those results out for the working group meeting in  
28 December, so those are forthcoming. Other things that  
29 we look at very closely in the Western Arctic Herd, the  
30 adult survival, parturition or calving, and  
31 recruitment.

32

33 So we'll start off with recruitment.  
34 We call this short yearling survival. This is  
35 something that we look at in the spring. We look at  
36 the number of short yearlings or calves that made it  
37 through the winter and compare that to the number of  
38 adults out in the population. So in the past few years  
39 our short yearling recruitment has been about average,  
40 it's about 17 short yearlings to 100 adults. It was a  
41 little bit higher in 2016 and 2017, and 2018 as high as  
42 23 short yearlings to 100 adults, but that's gone down  
43 just a touch, but still within average.

44

45 Our calving, our parturition rates, our  
46 average is currently 2020/2021 we had 67 and 68 percent  
47 respectfully, down a little bit from 81 to 86 percent  
48 in the previous three years. So a little bit lower  
49 calving rates than we've seen in the past couple of  
50

0091

1 years but still on average of what we've seen over the  
2 course of the survey life -- so over the past 30 years.

3  
4 One thing that we've been noting as of  
5 late is the lower than normal adult survival. In 2017  
6 through 2020 adult female survival, this is based on  
7 collar data, when we collar those animals we can  
8 estimate survival. But that has been at below average  
9 at 73 percent, which has caused some concern for the  
10 Department. If we see, you know, lack of survival in  
11 the adult females, we might expect to see declines or  
12 less stability than what we'd like to see. Prior to  
13 this recent decline in adult female survival we saw an  
14 increased survival coming out of the bottom of the  
15 decline, so 2016 and a little bit earlier than that  
16 about 2014, '15, '16 our survival was between 85 and 90  
17 percent, so we saw kind of that switch take place about  
18 2017.

19  
20 I'll talk briefly about some of the  
21 implications of that as we go to the working group in  
22 December, there'll be a discussion where we talk about  
23 management level. Currently the management level is  
24 conservative declining and that basically the direction  
25 there is that it's kind of around this idea that adult  
26 cow survival is 80 percent or higher, we're not seeing  
27 decline or, you know, lack of stability, with calf  
28 recruitment lower than 15 to 100, so what we're kind of  
29 seeing is mixed results right now with low calf  
30 survival and good recruitment. And some of those  
31 prescriptions would be to encourage voluntary reduction  
32 in calf harvest, no non-resident cow harvest, and  
33 restrict non-resident bull harvest, and all of those  
34 things have taken place in the recent past.

35  
36 Another thing I'll talk about briefly  
37 is some of the challenges that we've seen trying to get  
38 collars out in the Western Arctic Herd. As many folks  
39 have pointed out, the migration changes have caused  
40 hardships for folks used to hunting along the Kobuk  
41 River, that has been kind of our opportunity to put  
42 collars out is along the Kobuk River deploying collars  
43 via boats. And with the late migrations and, you know,  
44 more and more caribou wintering in the mountains, in  
45 the Central Brooks Range and on the North Slope, we're  
46 not seeing those caribou come down, so we've had to  
47 switch to a more reliable capture and collaring program  
48 which we're using helicopters to deploy collars via net  
49 guns -- using net guns. It's been quite successful,  
50

0092

1 we've been able to get our collar count back up and  
2 been able to maintain that number of collars that we  
3 need to monitor the population accurately.

4  
5 And I guess while we have these  
6 proposals before us, I'll talk briefly about the  
7 proposal to rescind the calf closure, prohibition on  
8 calf harvest in Unit 22. This has already been passed  
9 by -- in Unit 23 -- so this is only for Unit 22 that  
10 we're discussing here today and as Member Kramer  
11 mentioned, this was brought up as a means to be able to  
12 harvest orphaned calves as they were perhaps found  
13 alone or wounded, you know, out while folks were  
14 hunting. This is not of a major concern currently.  
15 You know typically what we're seeing as calf harvest is  
16 more of an opportunistic thing. Folks are typically  
17 not targeting calves and it generally doesn't  
18 'represent -- well, it doesn't represent a conservation  
19 concern from our perspective here. You know if we want  
20 to focus on conservation of the Western Arctic Herd, or  
21 any ungulate herd we should focus on reduction in cow  
22 harvest if that's what we're targeting, what we're  
23 trying to accomplish there.

24  
25 The next proposal, allow Hannah to  
26 speak to that but I would say that at this point we  
27 don't have a stance on that, no official stance  
28 currently on the WCR -- the closure proposal -- the  
29 closure review there.

30  
31 So I'll continue to answer any  
32 questions if there are any and turn the time back over  
33 to Hannah.

34  
35 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Alex.  
36 Through the Chair, if I can continue giving the  
37 presentation.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Hannah.

40  
41 DR. VOORHEES: Hello, Mr. Chair and  
42 Members of the Council. This is Hannah Voorhees, for  
43 the record, Anthropologist with Office of Subsistence  
44 Management. I'll be presenting Wildlife Closure Review  
45 WCR22-45. The analysis begins on Page 53 of your  
46 meeting materials.

47  
48 Wildlife Closure Review 22-45 reviews a  
49 geographically targeted closure within Unit 23. This  
50

0093

1 is a year-round closure to hunting for caribou by non-  
2 Federally-qualified users. There's a map of the  
3 closure area on Page 55 of your meeting materials. A  
4 description of the closure reads, Federal public lands  
5 within a 10 mile wide corridor, five miles either side  
6 along the Noatak River from the western boundary of  
7 Noatak National Preserve up stream to the confluence of  
8 the Cutler River within the northern and southern  
9 boundaries of the Eli and Aggi River drainages,  
10 respectfully, and within the Squirrel River drainage  
11 are closed to caribou hunting except by Federally-  
12 qualified subsistence users hunting under this regulations.

13

14 This closure was initiated in 2018 and  
15 has not been reviewed since.

16

17 Next, I'll give you the regulatory  
18 background.

19

20 In 2015 the Board approved a special  
21 action request from the Northwest Arctic Regional  
22 Advisory Council, your Council, to close caribou  
23 hunting on Federal public lands in Unit 23 to non-  
24 Federally-qualified users for the 2016/2017 regulatory  
25 year. The Council submitted this request for  
26 conservation purposes but also because non-local  
27 hunting activities were negatively affecting  
28 subsistence. In 2017 your Council, again, submitted a  
29 temporary special action request to close caribou  
30 hunting on Federal public lands in Unit 23 for the 2017  
31 to 2018 regulatory year. The Board approved this  
32 request, with modification, to close all Federal public  
33 lands within a targeted area in Unit 23. This resulted  
34 in the current closure which we are now reviewing. In  
35 2018 the Board adopted WP18-46 which brought this  
36 closure into permanent regulation. This was consistent  
37 with the recommendations of the Northwest Arctic and  
38 Seward Peninsula Councils as well as the Western Arctic  
39 Caribou Herd Working Group. The Board viewed the  
40 targeted closure as a reasonable compromise to a  
41 complex problem. In June this year the Board deferred  
42 Wildlife Special Action WSA21-01 which requests to  
43 closing Federal public lands in all of Unit 23 as well  
44 as 26A to caribou and moose hunting by non-Federally-  
45 qualified users from August 1st to September 30th,  
46 2021. This would have been an expansion of the  
47 targeted closure that we are reviewing now but would  
48 have only been in place for two months out of the year.  
49 And I'll be presenting on that WSA, Wildlife Special

50

0094

1 Action, later in the meeting, I just wanted to help you  
2 see the connection between these two items.

3

4 So Alex covered biological background  
5 for you. Just to reiterate the 2019 population  
6 estimate was 244,000 caribou and there is also the 2021  
7 census are not yet available. The herd is classified  
8 by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group as  
9 falling into a conservative declining management level.

10

11 In terms of harvest history, local  
12 hunters account for approximately 95 percent of the  
13 total Western Arctic Caribou Herd harvest. In Unit 23  
14 caribou have historically been available during fall  
15 migration but this has not reliably been the case in  
16 recent years. Caribou migration has occurred later in  
17 the fall resulting in subsistence harvest also  
18 occurring later for some communities which, in turn,  
19 contributes to food and security.

20

21 Now, I'll tell you about the effects of  
22 the closure to date. The most recent subsistence  
23 survey of caribou harvest in Noatak (indiscernible -  
24 muffled) 2016 to 2017, there are no new data available  
25 that would allow for comparison of household caribou  
26 harvest before and after implementation of the closure.  
27 However, testimony reflecting the success of the  
28 closure for Noatak has been given by your Council every  
29 year since the closure was implemented.

30

31 If this closure is lifted non-  
32 Federally-qualified users would be able to hunt caribou  
33 on Federal public lands along the Noatak River and  
34 within the Squirrel, Eli and Aggi River drainages.  
35 This could result in more user conflicts and interfere  
36 with caribou harvest by Federally-qualified subsistence  
37 users.

38

39 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
40 maintain the status quo with the following  
41 justification. The current closure is still necessary  
42 to continue subsistence uses of the Western Arctic  
43 Caribou Herd for Federally-qualified users,  
44 specifically, Noatak residents. The underlying factor  
45 leading to the closure in 2018, user conflict, has  
46 persisted overall in Unit 23 but has mitigated in the  
47 closure area. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
48 continues to be managed at the conservative declining  
49 level. Since the closure has been enacted user

50

0095

1 conflicts within the closure area have been reduced and  
2 the hunt experiences and harvest success of Federally-  
3 qualified subsistence users have improved.

4  
5 Thank you. I'm available to take any  
6 questions.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah  
9 and.....

10  
11 MS. ATORUK: I have a question.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....Alex.

14  
15 MS. ATORUK: I have a question.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Who was that?

18  
19 MS. ATORUK: Barbara.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Barbara.

22  
23 MS. ATORUK: Hannah, as I'm looking at  
24 this 22-45, is that we have stated there bulls may not  
25 be harvested July 1 through June 30, that's so off, as  
26 I see it because the hunters always start getting bulls  
27 like in May through October -- mid-October, that's when  
28 they come in rut. As far as I can tell I think that's  
29 the only time that they usually get bulls, in the  
30 wintertimes they always get (In Native), the mid-male  
31 or the females, right, but I guess instead of closing  
32 it June 30, you can even further it to mid-October, is  
33 my feeling. I don't know how the hunters will all feel  
34 about this, and you guys are online, say something.

35  
36 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is  
37 Hannah.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

40  
41 DR. VOORHEES: Barbara, thanks for that  
42 question. So under Federal regulations in Unit 23  
43 remainder, bulls may be harvested July 1st through June  
44 30th, which is year-round, so there's no closure on  
45 bull harvest under Federal regulations.

46  
47 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Okay, I'm reading  
48 it wrong. Thank you.

49  
50

0096

1 DR. VOORHEES: No, that was an easy  
2 one, thank you.

3  
4 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any other  
7 questions for Hannah regarding this Wildlife Closure  
8 Review.

9  
10 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, this  
11 is Michael.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Mike.

14  
15 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, as I was hearing  
16 Alex, you know, about closing down the cow season, you  
17 know, that would be pretty devastating to people from  
18 Kotzebue and Noorvik, you know, who see this last band  
19 of caribou come through here because they're not coming  
20 through on the -- like the lower portion of the Noatak.  
21 I mean so many people around here in Kotzebue haven't  
22 even harvested caribou yet and to take away the cows,  
23 that's just wrong, that's saying, no, you guys got to  
24 go buy \$75 pounds of beef over at AC, you know. I mean  
25 we'll be out there getting young bulls but still -- I  
26 mean we're going to be hammering something because how  
27 many -- what's the population in Kotzebue, 3,500-plus,  
28 you figure more than half of them hunt, so you could  
29 imagine how many young bulls they're going to strip  
30 right out of the herd. I could see the young bulls  
31 getting hit but, you know, and cows also. There's got  
32 to be a certain amount of harvestable cows that can be  
33 either quota or whatever it may be but eliminate cows  
34 from us right now, that's just wrong. I mean unless  
35 the State wants to pay for our, you know, human  
36 consumption of beef, you know, I think that -- like I  
37 stated before, I think the State needs to push for the  
38 hunting season on State lands to start for non-resident  
39 and non-local resident hunters -- or non-resident  
40 hunters, let's just put it that way, and non-local  
41 hunters on State land within Game Management Unit 23  
42 from September 15th to October 15th, and the reason for  
43 that is to protect the first wave of caribou coming  
44 through.

45  
46 And one other thing I'm expecting to  
47 see from Alex very, very soon is some data. We need  
48 some data from the last five years of the collars.  
49 Have they stayed north of the DeLong or within the  
50



0097

1 DeLong during prime aircraft traffic times when they're  
2 transporting these hunters and guides all up in the  
3 DeLongs and all these other places ahead of the people  
4 hunting in Noatak. You know we live by our culture, we  
5 let the first ones go by. You think the transporters  
6 and the guides are going to care about, no, they don't  
7 care about that, they only see one thing and that's  
8 dollar signs, that's the mighty dollar over people  
9 being able to eat and especially during this time of a  
10 pandemic, that's really slapping us in the face.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So point of order,  
13 Mike.

14  
15 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. But I'm just trying  
16 to tell you that it needs to be considered, you know.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So at this time -- so  
19 we will get to that Mike but right now we're just  
20 talking about this closure review and no one.....

21  
22 MR. KRAMER: Right.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....said we are  
25 taking cows out of this, this is just this -- the  
26 recommendation from OSM is to maintain the status quo  
27 on this Wildlife Closure Review, which is maintaining  
28 the Noatak National Preserve boundary area where we  
29 have that 10 mile corridor that the Council has pushed  
30 for in the past. So at this time that's what we're  
31 talking about and we can save the rest of that for  
32 later in the discussion.

33  
34 MS. ATORUK: Thank you, Mike, you are  
35 right though.

36  
37 MR. KRAMER: I'm always right.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So at this time.....

40  
41 MR. SHIEDT: Oh, boy.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....do we have any  
44 other questions for Hannah regarding Wildlife Closure  
45 Review 22-45.

46  
47 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here. I think on  
48 the closure to help the Natives, us Eskimos to harvest  
49 more, I think we need, on the Federal lands I'm talking  
50

0098

1 about and on certain parts of the State, we really  
2 can't say nothing, it's up to the Board of Game, which  
3 we all don't like, that I think we need to change the  
4 transporters and outfitters coming in with hunters on  
5 those dates. Due to global warming our caribou are  
6 coming later and later; when they come on time before,  
7 never did have this problem before but the last few  
8 years you look at it, due to global warming they're  
9 coming in later and later except for Noatak. And I  
10 think that's what we need to do is change the dates and  
11 revisit our regulations to both the State and the  
12 Federal. I wish the State would do something, like  
13 Vernon, Cyrus on the caribou closure, they probably  
14 look to us and say we have to lead them but they're on  
15 the State land, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd got to  
16 worry about it, we got to worry about the Federal  
17 lands. And yet they from Noatak, and I got camp in the  
18 Noatak River I've seen transporters come in less than  
19 10 miles from the river corridor going up. I think  
20 that's the weakest part right here.

21  
22 I think what we need to do is have a  
23 map to all the villages saying this is your corridor  
24 and if you see a map -- like on Figure 8, I don't think  
25 that's even 10 miles from the Noatak corridor River,  
26 I've seen people from Aggi -- I mean planes come in  
27 closer on the left side going up. This is a real  
28 touchy thing and it's been going on for years and we  
29 need to put a closure for the transporters coming in  
30 with harvesters -- I mean caribou hunters coming in  
31 just for the horns. And this is touchy and it'll be --  
32 I'll tell you we'll talk about this next year and year  
33 after that.

34  
35 Taikuu.

36  
37 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

40  
41 MS. ATORUK: Well, wasn't a year ago or  
42 a couple years ago, Mike, you did try to close and just  
43 for residents only and that didn't go by real good,  
44 didn't it? It didn't go at all.

45  
46 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, it was because I  
47 received a letter from the Subsistence Board and the  
48 Chairman said that it was beyond their control.

49  
50

0099

1 MS. ATORUK: Because it was on State  
2 lands, right.

3  
4 MR. KRAMER: I even had a letter from a  
5 representatives -- this was on Federal -- it was a  
6 complete closure for Game Management Unit 23.

7  
8 MS. ATORUK: But it got stuck with the  
9 State, right? Where -- from which agency are the  
10 transporters getting permits. There's a lot of hunters  
11 up there and I've seen them when I traveled in Kotzebue  
12 just overload of transporters and I was wondering while  
13 I was sitting there watching them and making fun of the  
14 Natives and stuff, listening to them, and we're  
15 allowing that. And here we are volunteers trying to  
16 run our game, our fish and wildlife, game, and nobody's  
17 listening to us, nobody's hearing us except for the  
18 Federal Board but we can't put any -- the Advisory  
19 Committees need to come up or -- come up with a  
20 proposal the same as we do and then it needs to work  
21 somehow but somehow it doesn't. The Board of Game  
22 won't listen to us. The Federal Board has been our  
23 only avenue in trying to help us to do our wishes. And  
24 so we're kind of in a bind here on what we want to do.  
25 And we've seen this for a very long time.

26  
27 And if you got the copy of that letter  
28 that Ross wrote and it was printed on the Sounder, it's  
29 pretty spot on, what's been happening here in our  
30 region. I had asked Eva to send it to you guys and I  
31 don't know if she did it or not, if you received it or  
32 not, but it's September 28th edition. September 30  
33 edition. I accidentally picked this one up at Bering  
34 Air on my way home and it was there. It's a real long  
35 letter that Ross wrote and if you want to get a copy of  
36 it, look through it, it's regarding our caribou and how  
37 we've been treated all these years. And those -- that  
38 section of hunters who were on the Board before us are  
39 going now, most of them are gone. There's Pete,  
40 Walter, Sheldon Katchetag, Seward Peninsula, the North  
41 Slope Council, most of those are different now and  
42 changed. And we're trying to -- we're the younger  
43 people I guess that are on the Board now and taking and  
44 following suit in everything they tell us to do. But  
45 if you read that letter it states some things that are  
46 what we are going through today or have been going  
47 through for some time.

48  
49 So we seriously need to look into doing  
50

0100

1 something and if our Board would follow, but then it  
2 would just be on Federal lands, there's nothing we can  
3 do with the State unless their Advisory Committee do a  
4 proposal to follow suit, and which they won't because  
5 they're pretty controlled on how and what kind of  
6 proposals should be proposed.

7

8 And usually.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So point of order.

11

12 MS. ATORUK: .....this has.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Point of order,  
15 Barbara.

16

17 MS. ATORUK: You're not calling point  
18 of order on me.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So right now  
21 we're.....

22

23 MS. ATORUK: .....I'm talking on the  
24 closed season. Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: You're talking about a  
27 different part that we're going to talk about later on  
28 the agenda but we need to finish this discussion on  
29 this Wildlife Closure Review 22-45.

30

31 MS. ATORUK: That's what I'm talking  
32 about, say, excuse me, don't call point of order.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: You're not, you're  
35 talking about a different matter that we're going to  
36 talk about later.

37

38 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, but.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Right now.....

41

42 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Attamuk.

45

46 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, she's right, though,  
47 there's some parts that we have no control over, we got  
48 control over the Federal lands but right as soon as the  
49 mark go over -- the transporters will go to the State  
50

0101

1 lands. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd, like Verne and  
2 Cyrus need to do something to close off, but they're  
3 pretty much controlled by the Board of Game so we're  
4 really in a bind. And yet if we all look at the  
5 declining of the caribou, through the State, at certain  
6 numbers they're supposed to close transporters and  
7 outfitters from coming in. That's what we're trying to  
8 say but we're not saying it right. Barbara, we need to  
9 close the closure when the caribou count is down. And  
10 when I talked to the Fish and Game and I asked them,  
11 and, yet, they said they included the Teshekpuk Herd, I  
12 tried to ask them how many caribou are Teshekpuk Herd  
13 number you putting there, they would not answer it. If  
14 they put in 30,000 Teshekpuk Herd number, we're talking  
15 about only 200,000 caribou and that would mean the  
16 State would have to close the State lands. Okay.

17

18 MS. ATORUK: That's right.

19

20 MR. HANSON: So through the Chair, this  
21 is Alex Hanson.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Alex.

24

25 MR. HANSON: If I can provide any  
26 clarification, just a couple points. Just speaking to  
27 Attamuk's point, when we do the counts, we do them  
28 separate, so the Teshekpuk count would be totally  
29 separate from the Western Arctic count. Those animals  
30 are in different locations during the photo censuses  
31 and they're not combined. And so what we're operating  
32 on is our latest count which is 244,000, which is above  
33 the current IM of 200,000. So currently within that  
34 window where, you know, reduction in harvest is  
35 recommended by the State.

36

37 Speaking to Member Kramer's comment,  
38 we're not recommending any reduction harvest at this  
39 point.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Alex. Do we  
44 have any further questions for Hannah or Alex regarding  
45 WCR22-45.

46

47 MR. SHIEDT: So, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Attamuk.

50

0102

1 MR. SHIEDT: Are we going to talk about  
2 the counts of the caribou, the Western Arctic Caribou  
3 Herd later.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

6  
7 MR. SHIEDT: Okay.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: At this time do we  
10 have any report on Board consultation with any tribes  
11 or ANCSA Corporations.

12  
13 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.  
14 Tribal consultations were held and no comments were  
15 received on this closure review. Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Robbin. Do  
18 we have any comments from the Alaska Department of Fish  
19 and Game.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any comments from  
24 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

25  
26 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Not at this time.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. And any  
29 Federal agency comments at this time.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any tribal agency  
34 comments.

35  
36 MS. BALLOT: Hey, Mr. Chair, hold on  
37 this is Tonya, let me hang up with my land line, just a  
38 minute, hold on. Yeah, listening to all these wise  
39 folks I really respect Barbara and Mike's comment,  
40 Attamuk's comments, you know, and it'd be really good  
41 to see information. My name is Tonya Ballot, I'm the  
42 Administrator for the Native Village of Selawik and  
43 also, you know, a tribal member for Selawik for 30-plus  
44 years. And it's been a real hardship in the past  
45 couple of years because of the lack of my husband is an  
46 avid hunter, with my sons, and we haven't been able to  
47 put any caribou in our freezer, you know, and so I'm  
48 not sure if this is the proper time to be voicing this  
49 concern but I certainly am on the train with, you know,  
50

0103

1 trying to get these land areas closed for -- to non-  
2 residents, you know. If we can control parts of the  
3 problem why our caribou herd is distracted and going to  
4 -- not following their traditional migration route and  
5 if we could prevent the land part of it, we should  
6 really try to do that.

7

8 I mean Canada did it, why can't we.  
9 Why don't we be strong like those people before us that  
10 sat on this Council before us, why don't we be strong  
11 like that. Isn't that our responsibility to become  
12 strong like them and speak up and talk for our  
13 community members that can't talk and speak up. This  
14 is why we're here. And so we need to do whatever we  
15 can to prevent and to preserve our food source. The  
16 caribou has barely made it here, and when they do  
17 finally come here we get the scrappy teeny tiny  
18 females, or we get the skinny bulls because the big  
19 bulls have already become in their rut and we don't get  
20 to -- we don't get to enjoy the two inches of (In  
21 Native) like people in Noatak and Kivalina and Ambler  
22 get to enjoy, you know. And so it's been a hardship.  
23 And we have to buy \$80 worth of beef and stuff, you  
24 know, and I'm sick and tired of cow and -- I mean pig  
25 and chicken, I'm about to turn into a chicken myself.

26

27 But I just feel very compassionate  
28 about this very touchy subject and I want to help in  
29 any way that I can. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tonya. Do  
32 we have any other tribal agency comments at this time.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any other  
37 Regional Advisory Council's comments on this Wildlife  
38 Closure Review.

39

40 DR. VOORHEES: This is Hannah Voorhees.  
41 This closure review has been presented to two other  
42 Councils. The Western Interior Regional Advisory  
43 Council decided to defer to the home Council, to your  
44 Council. And the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory  
45 Council voted five to one to maintain the closure.  
46 This will come before the North Slope Regional Advisory  
47 Council later this week.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0104

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah. Do  
2 we have any Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.

3  
4                   (No comments)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any Subsistence  
7 Resource Commission comments.

8  
9                   (No comments)

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: And can we please get  
12 a summary of written public comments regarding this  
13 Wildlife Closure Review.

14  
15                   DR. VOORHEES: This is Hannah Voorhees.  
16 There was one written public comment received from  
17 Resident Hunters of Alaska. The group supports  
18 eliminating the closure because it excludes non-local  
19 residents of Alaska. They suggest eliminating access  
20 to non-resident hunters through the State of Alaska  
21 Board of Game process instead.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah. Do  
24 we have any public testimony at this time.

25  
26                   MR. DEWITT: Mr. Chair, this is Neil  
27 DeWitt, I'd like to speak if I may.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Neil, the floor  
30 is yours.

31  
32                   MR. DEWITT: All right. I sit on the  
33 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and I really  
34 feel sorry for you folks out there that have to hunt  
35 and fish to sustain your lifestyle. I understand that  
36 you can't go to Carrs or Safeway or somewhere and buy  
37 food and I've heard plenty of times here that it cost  
38 you 80 to \$100 to buy some beef or whatever. I really  
39 feel sorry for you for that.

40  
41                   But in my own personal opinion, okay,  
42 and talking on my own behalf at this point, not for the  
43 Western Herd, not for the Anchorage AC that I also sit  
44 on, but on my own behalf, I ask you to please think of  
45 things that were said right here during this meeting  
46 today. Before lunch we heard an individual that spoke  
47 on the closure of the Noatak River has caused the non-  
48 Federally-qualified subsistence user and the  
49 transporters to all go to the east, well, the caribou  
50



0105

1 herd is in the east portion of your units and they have  
2 to come back to the west portion over to Noatak or  
3 Kotzebue or, you know, your other areas to the west, if  
4 you line up an army of hunters across the state from  
5 these transporters and the rest of the people, that  
6 five percent that the State covers, you're not going to  
7 get your caribou to come through, it's going to stop  
8 them from coming through and it's going to make them  
9 later getting to you because after those people, you  
10 said yourself, that the caribou come through after  
11 they're all gone.

12  
13 So back during one of the working group  
14 sessions, I think it was back about 2016, 2017, I made  
15 a comment and I wrote a proposal that got shot down at  
16 that point to -- if there's a problem with these guys,  
17 the transporters or the people camping on the wrong  
18 side of the river or whatever, we should either make up  
19 a pamphlet and be just like -- if you want to go bow  
20 hunting up here you have to go down to a Fish and Game  
21 office and prove that you can shoot your bow and arrow,  
22 so in order to come caribou hunting up in your area,  
23 why don't we have a pamphlet that you have to have and  
24 read and maybe sign something that says I have read it,  
25 and I do understand not to camp on this side of the  
26 river, or not to take the first caribou that comes  
27 across, let the first ones go through, because I  
28 understand that they lay down the scent trail and the  
29 rest of them follow.

30  
31 So with that being said, back when the  
32 first closures to this area were put in, the numbers of  
33 the caribou herd was down at 198, which should have  
34 been intensive management, but we adjusted at the  
35 meeting at that point -- we actually said there was  
36 201, I believe, is what we went with for a number so  
37 that we wouldn't go into intensive management. Now,  
38 with that being said, we're up to 244,000 in 2019 when  
39 they done the count, so that's 20,000 -- or I'm sorry,  
40 40,000, 44,000 almost more caribou so that five percent  
41 that the transporters take or the rest of the non-  
42 Federally-qualified people -- Lincoln, I believe it was  
43 -- Perrett, when he was the manager up there, said that  
44 the lowest I think was 200, or 250 or the most that was  
45 ever taken was 800. So in comparison to the 14,500  
46 that the rest of the 95 percent of you take, that's a  
47 drop in the bucket. We're not talking the animals  
48 being the problem, we're talking the transporters as  
49 I've heard, the airplanes flying over scaring them off.  
50

0106

1 I've also heard about boats going up and down. Well, I  
2 don't know too many people that can strap a boat  
3 underneath an airplane wing to fly it up there so they  
4 must be renting a boat from the people that live along  
5 the rivers or something, I would think. So you need to  
6 look hard at that.

7  
8 These closures that you want, I  
9 understand why you want them, but I don't think that  
10 they're doing what you want, especially in 23.

11  
12 Now, I listened to Enoch at one of our  
13 meetings at the working group and I see him get so  
14 emotional I wanted to go over there and give him a hug  
15 because I could understand where he was coming from.  
16 But I don't think your closure -- I think if you lifted  
17 that closure, it would let those transporters separate  
18 and thin out and you wouldn't have that wall of people  
19 keeping your animals from coming in and they would come  
20 in earlier and you would see them sooner.

21  
22 And I'll stop at that point because I  
23 don't want to take up too much of your meeting. But  
24 thank you for your time, thank you, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thank you, Sir.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Neil.

29  
30 MR. DEWITT: Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Before we go into the  
33 Regional Council recommendation, does the Council want  
34 to have any discussion based on this testimony that we  
35 just received from Mr. DeWitt. This is something that  
36 I have thought about and want to know what the Council  
37 feels because this is a problem that we see with this  
38 specific closure, is that hunters from outside come in  
39 and they're forced to go further to the north, they're  
40 forced to go to the east of the Noatak just to find  
41 wherever the herd is before it really starts making the  
42 southern migration. Now, the big problem people claim  
43 will happen is that if we let people go along the  
44 Noatak River then there would be user conflicts, but in  
45 this day and age, just like Mr. DeWitt is suggesting,  
46 if there is a way to educate these hunters from outside  
47 coming in on what they're supposed to do then we can  
48 see them in the act if they are doing this, and that's  
49 how we can, for a lack of a better term, catch people  
50

0107

1 in the wrong.

2

3 Would anyone like to discuss any  
4 opinions regarding to this testimony.

5

6 MR. HANSON: Mr. Chair, this is Alex  
7 Hanson, Fish and Game.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Alex.

10

11 MR. HANSON: If I might just make one  
12 brief point. There is a Unit 23 orientation that non-  
13 local hunters or any aircraft hunters are required to  
14 take. Now, that doesn't necessarily apply to those  
15 individuals transported by transporters, but any  
16 individual coming in to hunt within Unit 23 via  
17 aircraft, has to take an online course, it's a training  
18 course that is graded, they have to pass a test, and it  
19 speaks quite a bit to this traditional knowledge that  
20 was spoken about. I just wanted to bring that up  
21 briefly.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,  
24 Alex. Any other discussion.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is someone trying to  
29 speak.

30

31 MR. SHIEDT: Are we talking about W2-47  
32 [sic] or are we still at 45?

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: 45. The Noatak River  
35 corridor, Attamuk.

36

37 MR. SHIEDT: I got distracted. I was  
38 doing other stuff around the house, thank you. Okay, I  
39 will -- can I say something, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Attamuk.

42

43 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, it's on the closure  
44 on the Federal lands. That was a hard one but it  
45 worked and we might have to go back to it and we need  
46 to extend it to the State lands that so many caribou  
47 could be taken, like we did before. If they keep  
48 declining at the numbers they are declining, us  
49 Eskimos, we're going to starve. I'm an elderly, I try  
50

0108

1 my best at my age to hunt and harvest what I could for  
2 me and my family, even I got younger boys. If I could  
3 keep doing it I'll feel better.

4

5 These closures need to be looked at  
6 better, and we need to work on the State lands heavy.  
7 I was taken out of Western Arctic Caribou Herd because  
8 of what I was doing, politics take me out right out of  
9 Juneau and I want to get back in and they're not trying  
10 to get me back in because my replacement and one of his  
11 relatives is trying working hard to keep me out but  
12 they need a person that'll talk to us on behalf of the  
13 Natives.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.  
18 Do we have any motions to maintain the status quo,  
19 modify, or eliminate this Wildlife Closure Review 22-  
20 45.

21

22 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Attamuk.

25

26 MR. SHIEDT: I think what we need to do  
27 is change those closures to a later date on the Federal  
28 lands at certain times, transporters aren't allowed to  
29 come. I think we need to move it, close it a little  
30 bit later, hopefully it will help the Natives, not only  
31 -- look Kiana, Noorvik, upper Kobuk, Shungnak, Selawik,  
32 Ambler, Buckland never get caribou yet this year, think  
33 about that. I feel for them. And if they try to get  
34 the females I hope they don't get cited on certain  
35 areas because they need to get the caribou, they need  
36 to get their diet. The diet, it's in our blood, it's  
37 caribou. We depend heavily on caribou. And I'm one of  
38 them, if I eat fish -- I like fish, but my body crave  
39 for caribou and who is -- that is listening to me  
40 that's Native that crave for caribou and you eat  
41 something else and you're still hungry inside, your  
42 body's trying to tell you. What we grew up on is  
43 caribou. We never did have this trouble before until  
44 the State of Alaska, sporthunters start coming in. I  
45 hate to say it but I think we need to get a group  
46 together to fight the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and  
47 the State of Alaska because of -- I'll tell you that  
48 right now. When I first put the closure on the caribou  
49 -- on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd when I was the

50

0109

1 Chair, State Troopers go outside my house and I said,  
2 why, why you guys are doing that, I hate to say it but  
3 tell you the truth I got concerned when they go outside  
4 my house and sit there almost five hours and they  
5 wouldn't tell me why, because I closed the sporthunting  
6 in the State of Alaska, the limit, I don't know, but I  
7 was the Chairman doing it for the people, not me.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.

12

13 MS. ATORUK: Okay, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

16

17 MS. ATORUK: I think that's what I was  
18 thinking on too, is bulls may be harvested, but I think  
19 Attamuk hit it to say to open that at a later time, the  
20 bull season. Because I don't know how much later,  
21 because they usually get here like about the mid, or  
22 last part of August and everybody is out for bulls.  
23 But then, you know, even if you make it later, that  
24 doesn't make a difference, though, because the hunters,  
25 the outside hunters will still fly in making a lot of  
26 ruckus up there for our hunters when our hunters are on  
27 the fall side. And there's got to be something,  
28 something that can be put up here on the closure.  
29 Maybe that can be discussed with that fawn harvest, I  
30 don't know.

31

32 Okay, thanks.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.  
35 So for this closure that we're looking at, it's just  
36 for the Noatak River corridor, which is year-round,  
37 year-round outside hunters are not allowed to hunt  
38 within that corridor but what conversation is moving  
39 towards of allowing non-Federally-qualified subsistence  
40 users, so basically outside hunters to hunt later in  
41 the season, we can address that later but.....

42

43 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....but this proposal  
46 is just on do we want to keep the Noatak corridor the  
47 same as it's been.

48

49 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Do we have Noatak

50

0110

1 online? We don't have Noatak online do we?

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: There's nobody online  
4 Barbara.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Robbin, do you  
7 know.....

8

9 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here. I'm the  
10 closets to Noatak.

11

12 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay. Okay. That's  
13 okay. But I like that, if this is just on the Noatak  
14 corridor, if we can make the bull season for the  
15 outside hunters later, not us, but the outside hunters,  
16 later, then that might work and we can act to modify  
17 this proposal.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So.....

20

21 MS. ATORUK: I don't know.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....this is Thomas.  
24 So what.....

25

26 MS. ATORUK: What do you guys think,  
27 come on Council members speak up.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So what I'm hearing  
30 now is, just correct me if I'm wrong, but the way that  
31 things are sounding is keep the Noatak National  
32 Preserve, keep the corridor the same, but after a  
33 certain date allow non-Federally-qualified subsistence  
34 users to hunt in the corridor. Because what the  
35 Council has been doing for several years with Mike and  
36 his endeavor and then last year trying to close the  
37 entire game unit, those have been shut down, but if  
38 there were a way to say hunters from out -- non-  
39 Federally-qualified users are allowed to hunt in this  
40 corridor after a certain date, we could modify this  
41 closure review, support modifying it and potentially  
42 that could be how we help solve the problem of these  
43 user conflicts where people are being taken far above  
44 the river to the east of the river to harvest caribou  
45 and they're not coming down to the river and crossing  
46 the Noatak like they typically do. Is that what I'm  
47 hearing.

48

49 MS. ATORUK: I think so, right,

50

0111

1 Attamuk.

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, and I'm going to ask  
4 for Hannah for corrections. On the later date, on that  
5 corridor, Noatak corridor, transporters and outfitters  
6 could drop off hunters after a certain date, right, or  
7 am I wrong. Correct me if I'm wrong. Hannah Atkinson.

8

9 MS. ATKINSON: Hi. Through the Chair,  
10 this is Hannah Atkinson. Attamuk, sorry, you caught me  
11 a little bit off guard, but you wanted me to answer a  
12 question about if the closure lifts after a certain  
13 date?

14

15 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I thought after a  
16 certain date transporters could drop off hunters at the  
17 Noatak corridor, that 10 mile corridor, correct me if  
18 I'm wrong.

19

20 MS. ATKINSON: Yeah, there's two  
21 different -- there's a delayed entry area for Noatak  
22 National Preserve and that goes by dates that we put  
23 into the commercial use authorizations with the  
24 transporters so that allows hunters to come in after  
25 September 22nd. Right now the dates are from -- it's  
26 closed from September 1st to September 22nd. And there  
27 is a page of your handout, someone from OSM will have  
28 to direct you to it but one of your handouts has all of  
29 the different closure areas on top of each other so you  
30 can see the areas if you want. The closure that you're  
31 reviewing right now it's a closure along the Noatak  
32 River, the Eli, Aggi and the Squirrel for the whole  
33 season, I believe.

34

35 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

36

37 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

40

41 DR. VOORHEES: Thanks to Hannah. And,  
42 yeah, I just want to clarify that the controlled use  
43 areas including both the Noatak National Preserve  
44 delayed entry area and the Noatak Controlled Use Area,  
45 those are separate from this closure, targeted closure  
46 on the Noatak corridor and surrounding areas that we're  
47 reviewing. The controlled use areas control access by  
48 air for certain activities, and I can go into that more  
49 if needed, but this closure pertains to actual hunting

50

0112

1 for caribou by non-Federally-qualified users and it is  
2 year-round already.

3

4

5 So in terms of adjusting dates on  
6 controlled use area, that, you know, would need to be  
7 taken up with individual agencies and it's -- I  
8 believe, and it's not -- not necessarily on the table  
9 now with this closure review. Although I understand  
10 that, you know, we may want to talk about options,  
11 alternatives, for solving this problem and that would  
12 come up later when I'm -- when we discuss WSA21-01.

12

13 I just wanted to clarify that  
14 difference, thank you. Lisa may have something else to  
15 add as well. Thank you.

16

17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks. Through  
18 the Chair, this is Lisa. If I could just add on to  
19 Hannah's explanation a little bit. Yeah, the Noatak  
20 National Preserve, there's a lot of different things  
21 going on there with the State, Noatak Controlled Use  
22 Area and the Park Service with delayed entry zone, and  
23 then the Federal land closure that we're considering  
24 right now with WCR22-45.

25

26 And so as I mentioned previously, you  
27 know, there's the three options with the closure  
28 reviews, maintain, modify or eliminate. So an option  
29 the Council could recommend would be to modify WCR22-45  
30 to close, you know, that targeted area the Noatak  
31 corridor, the Aggi, Squirrel and Eli River drainages to  
32 non-Federally-qualified users from, you know, September  
33 1st to September 30th, or whatever dates, I mean that  
34 is an option for this Council to consider to only --  
35 right now it is a year-round closure but you could  
36 recommend modifying the closure to only be part of the  
37 year.

38

39 MS. ATORUK: Okay, Lisa. Through the  
40 Chair. You know when we're talking about the corridor  
41 and part of it is still Park Service, I was going  
42 through my papers and I seen somewhere 26A, and they  
43 had a voice in that, which proposal is that?

44

45 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair, this  
46 is Lisa. Barbara, I think you're thinking of the  
47 special action request, so WSA21-01.....

48

49 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

50



0113

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: .....which is what  
2 we'll be discussing later, that includes Unit 26A.

3  
4 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. Okay.

5  
6 MS. GREDIAGIN: But the current closure  
7 review is just for Unit 23.

8  
9 MS. ATORUK: Yes. Yes, thank you.  
10 Thank you, that's where I seen it. Okay.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So at this time what  
13 is the wish of the Council, do we want to recommend  
14 maintaining the status quo, or do we want to modify  
15 this closure review that is just regarding the Noatak  
16 River corridor and the river drainages as shown on the  
17 map there.

18  
19 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Robbin.

22  
23 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, as I listen to  
24 your discussion I recognize how critically important  
25 caribou in your region is and I recognize also that  
26 after we move through all the other closure reviews and  
27 the crossover proposals we'll be taking up Agenda Item  
28 11B, discussion on Western Arctic Caribou Herd status,  
29 updates and management strategies and then we'll be  
30 taking up Agenda Item 11C, which is a discussion and  
31 update of Wildlife Special Action 21-01, and it sounds  
32 to me like there's a lot of crossover in regards to  
33 concern, and in regards to information. You might also  
34 want to hear from a representative of Noatak on this  
35 closure review. And so we're looking at two different --  
36 two different items, this Wildlife Closure Review 22-  
37 45, which pertains to a closure in Unit 23 along the  
38 Noatak River corridor and then Wildlife Special Action  
39 21-01, which was deferred and that's just a season  
40 closure through special action of Unit 23 and 26A.

41  
42 So, again, my question might be would  
43 you like to address those two action items together.  
44 They could.....

45  
46 MS. ATORUK: Yes.

47  
48 MS. LAVINE: .....so it may be easier  
49 for you to address one now and the other later, again,  
50

0114

1 they're not the same thing. One is already a closure  
2 already in place, the other is a special action. But  
3 I'm making a suggestion and I give the gavel back to  
4 you, Mr. Chair, thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Robbin.  
7 Yes, this is a tough one to wrestle with. Would the  
8 Council feel better about discussing this Wildlife  
9 Closure Review at the same time as the special action  
10 that was deferred, which would be the big closure for  
11 the whole season, at the same time, but at this point  
12 it would most likely be sometime tomorrow, and if it  
13 were tomorrow we'd also have a better chance of having  
14 someone from the community of Noatak to weigh in and  
15 have more of the Council members to weigh in and have  
16 their materials with them.

17

18 MS. ATORUK: Before -- excuse me,  
19 through the Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

22

23 MS. ATORUK: Before that happens --  
24 before that happens, maybe somebody from our Staff can  
25 call the village of Noatak and ask them to call in just  
26 for that discussion only, please.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MS. ATORUK: I guess not.

31

32 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair, I'd  
33 be happy to do that. This is Hannah.

34

35 MS. ATORUK: Thank you, Hannah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. Well, what  
38 would the Council like to do at this time, would we  
39 like to take a break, would we like to move on to a  
40 different proposal until we can circle back and have  
41 someone from Noatak on the phone, what would we like to  
42 do.

43

44 MS. ATORUK: Aren't we going to get  
45 done with 22-45 first.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Well, that's the one  
48 that we -- didn't we just say we want to hear from  
49 someone from Noatak for this?

50

0115

1 MS. ATORUK: I thought there were two  
2 other proposals that we're going to be discussing  
3 regarding Noatak corridor -- this one has Noatak  
4 corridor too, okay.

5  
6 MS. BALLOT: Mr. Chair, this is Tonya.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Tonya.

9  
10 MS. BALLOT: Wouldn't there be -- when  
11 you go through all of these WP22's closures, and are  
12 there opportunities for other tribes or other community  
13 people to voice their concerns on each item -- each  
14 agenda item or when I called -- I got cut off and I  
15 called back in and there were 50 participants but we're  
16 only hearing from four people probably at the most.  
17 Aren't there other opportunities for people to speak  
18 and just nobody's speaking up or are the 45 other  
19 people from the opposition that just aren't speaking up  
20 either. Just my thoughts, thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
23 Tonya. There are a lot of people on the call but the  
24 majority of people on are from the different agencies,  
25 whether it's Fish and Wildlife Service, I mean just  
26 looking at my notes, they had five people on the phone,  
27 the National Park Service had eight or 10 people  
28 calling in, BLM had five or six, so there are a lot of  
29 participants it's just that not all of them are members  
30 of the public or necessarily someone from one of these  
31 communities who might want to weigh in. But there is  
32 an opportunity on each of these, just like you got to  
33 share as a member of a tribal agency, and as Mr. DeWitt  
34 got to give some public testimony, there are  
35 opportunities on each agenda item for members of the  
36 public to weigh in. It's just that not everyone  
37 chooses to call in and share that testimony. Does that  
38 answer your question?

39  
40 MS. BALLOT: Yes, it does, and follow-up  
41 please.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please.

44  
45 MS. BALLOT: Has this been -- has public  
46 notice been put out there like on the radio, I mean  
47 because when -- and I even, as an assembly member  
48 representing Selawik, Buckland and Deering, I, you  
49 know, voiced the urgent need or encourage people to  
50

0116

1 call in and hear these and voice their concerns, you  
2 know, on mostly this specific closure for caribou and  
3 moose because like I said, earlier, we didn't put any  
4 caribou in our freezer and we're having to turn to  
5 other things and those aren't our traditional, you  
6 know, food sources, and we're also losing on cultural  
7 knowledge, and, you know, I can go on and on and on.  
8 And I just wish that other people from our other  
9 communities, especially the ones that get the butt end  
10 of the, you know, herd, to -- no pun intended, but we  
11 don't get the butt end but, you know, we get the scraps  
12 and I'm tired of getting scraps. I want to get the  
13 meaty, beefy, you know, parts too. And I will reach  
14 out to the tribal administrators and to other people in  
15 our community to try to voice their concern as well.

16

17 And then my question also goes further  
18 down the line, after these discussions happen in the  
19 next day and a half, what's going to become of it and  
20 when do we get to try to fight again to try to close  
21 this part because we're just going through another  
22 cycle, we're just talking and talking and talking and  
23 no action is taking place, when are we going to get to  
24 see some action. We'll come to spring, then we'll come  
25 to summer, and we're going to see all that camo gear  
26 come again and we're going to have to -- you know,  
27 we're going to have to get snarky, and be arrogant and  
28 try to (In Native) and be strong, you know, when are we  
29 going to take action and do something and not just talk  
30 about it.

31

32 MS. ATORUK: Right. Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

35

36 MS. ATORUK: Tonya.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. ATORUK: Hello, Tonya.

41

42 MS. BALLOT: Yeah, I'm here.

43

44 MS. ATORUK: Did OSM or did you receive  
45 any agenda items or a meeting book from OSM, or the  
46 agenda?

47

48 MS. BALLOT: I have -- I got the  
49 meeting notice and the agenda, and the call in

50

0117

1 information from Brittany Sweeney and my friends at  
2 Fish and Wildlife. I got this notice last -- a couple  
3 of weeks ago and so that's how I got the notice and I  
4 voiced my encouragement on the radio when we were  
5 having our Borough Assembly Meeting, you know, and so I  
6 just -- that's what I got.

7  
8 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Maybe if Eva comes  
9 back on we can ask her to include you and sending you  
10 the meeting booklet. Because we don't have anybody  
11 from Selawik either on this Council, nobody is  
12 applying. And the OSM opening applications are going  
13 to be again in February, I'm sure, usually all the  
14 agenda stuff and any information that is needed usually  
15 is set to each tribal office in the villages in this  
16 region. But right now because of this Covid and  
17 everybody have to work from home and not at the office,  
18 a lot of that stuff is slacking off, even more so. So  
19 maybe once we kick this Covid then we'll probably start  
20 get more. And then it's good to hear you being  
21 interested to listen and voice in your concerns for  
22 your people, so keep doing it.

23  
24 Taikuu.

25  
26 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is  
27 Michael.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Mike.

30  
31 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, in the past years of  
32 when I was Chairman and working with Melinda and Zach,  
33 you know I requested many, many times that our meetings  
34 be held over KOTZ radio, both days, because it's a  
35 very, very important matter. This is involving our  
36 food security. You know I hold a commercial services  
37 seat on this rural advisory council and I don't hear  
38 nothing from them, that's good, you know, because I  
39 don't hear any concerns from them at all, the  
40 transporters and guides, you know, I only look towards  
41 our needs because we live here year-round. You know  
42 I've talked with Eva to see if she could possibly send  
43 the booklet, or the agenda items to each IRA in the  
44 region and for the IRAs or the city office, for the  
45 phone and a table and many chairs where they could  
46 listen in on our meetings, they could call in, people  
47 could come and go, people could voice their concerns.  
48 You know during the hunting season and when all these  
49 camouflage people are here I see it all the time on  
50

0118

1 Facebook, these white hunters are -- you know, I see it  
2 all the time, but when it comes down to our meetings,  
3 where are they, they're not on the line.

4

5 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

6

7 MR. KRAMER: You know it's like if you  
8 want to speak your concerns, get on our meeting and  
9 speak your concerns. We need your help to help us make  
10 decisions with backbone. They're our backbone. We  
11 only advise. We are the region's backbone. So when  
12 each of these villages can start doing that and opening  
13 their doors for people to come in, whether it be 10  
14 feet apart or whatever, or in a gymnasium, or  
15 cafeteria, where they can be able go in there and sit a  
16 good safe distance apart and have the opportunity to  
17 speak their minds. You know and it's there, but are  
18 they going to do it, don't know. But my suggestion is  
19 is we start sending our agenda and the members on this  
20 Council, to each IRA to open their door, or for the  
21 city to open their door and allow safe distancing and  
22 all this other stuff, wear a mask, whatever it may be,  
23 but we need their voiced concerns. But I see it all  
24 the time on Facebook about their concern, but when it  
25 comes down to meeting time nobody's on the line.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you.....

30

31 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....Mike. Yes.

34

35 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, this is  
36 Hannah Voorhees for the record. And in terms of the  
37 Wildlife Special Action WSA21-01, which is for a wider  
38 closure for caribou and moose hunting to non-Federally-  
39 qualified users, that is on the agenda later and that  
40 was deferred in large part because the Board was  
41 seeking more input from various parties. And I -- OSM  
42 has been working hard to make sure there are many  
43 venues for input and I look forward to sharing all that  
44 information with you when this item comes up for  
45 discussion later.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah. So

50

0119

1 at this time I think if we haven't got the community of  
2 Noatak on the line, we should try to wrap up Wildlife  
3 Closure Review 22-45, which is the closure where it's  
4 the Noatak National Preserve along the Noatak River  
5 corridor, closed to all but Federally-qualified  
6 subsistence users, at this time, just from what I've  
7 heard I feel that the Council would be in favor of  
8 maintaining the status quo. And then with other  
9 wildlife special actions, such as WSA21-01, which we'll  
10 be talking about later that Hannah just referenced, we  
11 can go into doing the standing our ground and coming to  
12 the head of the problem. But for right now we just  
13 need to finish this one. So does anyone on the Council  
14 move to maintain status quo or modify or eliminate this  
15 closure.

16  
17 MS. ATORUK: Motion to move, to  
18 maintain status quo.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.  
21 Barbara motions to maintain status quo.

22  
23 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it, Attamuk.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.  
26 Seconded by Attamuk to maintain the status quo. And I  
27 would say that based upon our discussion the  
28 justification for the status quo would be that the  
29 practice of keeping this corridor closed is well  
30 defined and is already in place, it does what it can to  
31 protect the opportunities of people hunting along the  
32 Noatak River and the river drainages and involved  
33 therein. And that for the bigger picture of our food  
34 security we will be discussing those under different  
35 wildlife special actions. Is there any further  
36 discussion or justification that we'd like to bring up  
37 for this Wildlife Closure Review.

38  
39 MR. ARMSTRONG: Question.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So again to restate  
42 the final motion. This RAC moves to maintain the  
43 status quo on Wildlife Closure Review 22-45, all those  
44 in favor of maintaining the status quo on 22-45 please  
45 say aye.

46  
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And all those opposed,  
50

0120

1 same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, the  
6 Northwest Arctic RAC moves to -- carries to maintain  
7 status quo on Wildlife Closure Review 22-45. So we  
8 will now move on to Wildlife Proposal 22-47 regarding  
9 Unit 22 caribou and that starts on Page 79 in our  
10 books, Mr. Tom Plank, I believe the floor is yours.

11

12 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 Members of the Council. Again, for the record my name  
14 is Tom Plank and I'm a Wildlife Biologist in the Office  
15 of Subsistence Management and I will be presenting a  
16 summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-47  
17 submitted by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working  
18 Group requesting that calf harvest be permitted for  
19 caribou in Unit 22. And as was already stated this  
20 starts on Page 79 of your meeting book.

21

22 The proponent states that the intent of  
23 this proposal is to allow for the harvest of orphaned  
24 calves and that this regulation change would align  
25 Federal and State regulations.

26

27 In 2016 the Board of Game established  
28 the current registration permit hunt for caribou in  
29 Unit 22 with a harvest limit of 20 caribou per year.  
30 Then in 2018 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted  
31 regulations to require a State registration permit for  
32 Federal users in Unit 22. In January of 2020 the Board  
33 of Game adopted a proposal to allow calf harvest in  
34 Units 22, 23, and 26A. And also in 2020 the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board established a year-round bull season  
36 and allowed calf harvest in Unit 23.

37

38 Calf harvest was allowed to permit the  
39 taking of orphaned or injured calves. Caribou calves  
40 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd are typically born  
41 in May or June and weaned by October or November.  
42 Calves will usually stay with their mother for their  
43 first year of their life. If a calf is orphaned after  
44 they are weaned they have a much greater chance of  
45 survival than if they are orphaned before they are  
46 weaned. The current management level as stated by Alex  
47 and Hannah earlier, determined by the Western Arctic  
48 Caribou Herd Working Group, places the herd in the  
49 conservative declining category. Some harvest  
50



0121

1 recommendations at this level include encourage  
2 involuntary reduction of calf harvest and not allowing  
3 cow harvest by non-residents. Factors leading to the  
4 decline in population are not known for sure but is  
5 believed cow mortality and deceased calf recruitments  
6 are factors.

7

8 Residents of Unit 22 on average account  
9 for 17 percent of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
10 harvest and from 2016 to 2019 reported RC800 harvest  
11 averaged 377 caribou per year, of which 74 percent and  
12 26 percent were cows. It is unknown how many calves  
13 have been harvested as that is not a reportable  
14 category.

15

16 The majority of the Unit 22 harvest  
17 occurs in the winter when caribou inhabit the Seward  
18 Peninsula. If calf harvest is allowed, it may present  
19 a minimal conservation concern as most hunters do not  
20 specifically target calves, however, it would allow for  
21 harvest of orphaned calves who may otherwise die in  
22 winter.

23

24 One consideration for this  
25 justification is that it is difficult to tell if a calf  
26 is orphaned or not as caribou herds tend to be quite  
27 spread out, orphaned calves that stay with a herd are  
28 much more likely to live than a single calf on its own.  
29 Adoption of this proposal may also reduce wanton waste  
30 as it has been mentioned at other RAC meetings that  
31 rural residents have seen calves that have been shot  
32 and laid to lay in the fields. It is believed these  
33 were shot mistakingly by hunters who realized too late  
34 that they are illegal harvest and left it in the field  
35 rather than bring back an illegal animal and face  
36 repercussions. This would also align Federal and State  
37 regulations. Current Federal regulations are more  
38 restrictive than State regulations.

39

40 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
41 support Proposal WP22-47.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the  
44 Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom. Do we  
47 have any questions for Mr. Plank on Wildlife Proposal  
48 22-47.

49

50

0122

1 MS. ATORUK: Well, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

4

5 MS. ATORUK: You know that hurts. I  
6 grew up in the upper Kobuk and caribou was plenty then.  
7 Our grandparents, my grandparents and their parents did  
8 hunt fawns because they needed them for clothing. They  
9 used them for clothing for every part of their bodies.  
10 By the time I was growing up the elders were saying  
11 don't get fawns unless you accidentally shoot it, but  
12 you still take it home. Because they're the only ones  
13 that are going to survive and keep our population  
14 going. In Unit 22 is over there, that just started  
15 getting our caribou herd not too long ago, maybe in the  
16 last 10, 20 years. And now they're turning around to  
17 ask to see if they could get the fawns, even if they're  
18 orphaned or accidentally shot. If they're dead they're  
19 welcome to have them. But I wouldn't support this just  
20 to say okay you guys could because other things could  
21 happen when you're out there alone hunting, and I've  
22 seen that too. So I am not in support of this  
23 proposal.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.  
28 Do we have any other questions for Tom Plank.

29

30 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk here, through the  
31 Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Attamuk.

34

35 MR. SHIEDT: Yes, I am not in support  
36 of this proposal. Because we only use the calves, back  
37 when I was younger, for our clothing, they're not too  
38 warm like the male or female caribou. But I think this  
39 proposal needs to be amended that we're in Unit 23,  
40 that if they're accidentally shot and they're wounded  
41 that you finish getting them off their misery and put  
42 them away. And whoever talked earlier that when they  
43 lose their mom, sure, when we go after caribou, when  
44 they're disturbed and we're after them, they will get--  
45 they'll run all over and we don't know if that calf's  
46 mom was shot, and how do you know they're not shot  
47 because -- they might be running around looking for  
48 their mom and you say, well, when they lose their mom  
49 you could shoot them, how do you know they lose their  
50

0123

1 mom -- their mother. And either way you could see it,  
2 when it calms down they'll start looking for each  
3 other. Any mother will look for its babies, humans,  
4 bears, wolves, I will say that, that's what caribou do.  
5 When we disturb them, and we scatter them, when all is  
6 calm they look for each other. Sure we might be able  
7 to get their mom but we didn't know any better at the  
8 time when we shoot them. But still by November, end of  
9 November, December or so they're ready to be on their  
10 own but they will live with their mom for another year  
11 if possible, even if she's going to have another one at  
12 the time. And I will recommend highly that we don't  
13 harvest calves at all unless we do it accidentally and  
14 we see -- because I've seen one. Two years ago when  
15 young kids try to go hunt caribou, here in Kotzebue  
16 when they were coming across the bay, they were  
17 shooting them and they wounded a fawn, and I told those  
18 young boys, I said those are fawns you're shooting at,  
19 you need to shoot at the big ones. I say I'll take it  
20 out of misery and you could have it, and they said no  
21 we don't want fawns and I said then why you shooting at  
22 it. That's going to educational purposes right there,  
23 what I just said, for the public.

24  
25 But I won't support and I will just  
26 fight this until the day I go, that we do not get fawns  
27 because they're our stock for the future, I mean no.  
28 If you want to approve it I won't like it and I won't  
29 approve it.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.  
32 Do we have any report on Board consultations from any  
33 tribes or ANCSA Corporations.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any agency comments  
38 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

39  
40 MR. HANSON: Yeah, this is Alex Hanson  
41 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kotzebue.  
42 The State is neutral on this proposal. I would also  
43 indicate that we don't necessarily see any biological  
44 concerns with the proposal based on the intent and  
45 typically what we see is compensatory mortality  
46 harvest, folks as stated are not targeting these  
47 animals, so we don't see a major concern.

48  
49 Thank you.  
50

0124

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Alex. Do  
2 we have any Federal agency comments at this time.

3  
4 (Teleconference interference -  
5 participants not muted)

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any Federal agency  
10 comments.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any tribal agency  
15 comments.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any other  
20 Regional Advisory Council comments.

21  
22 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this  
23 is Lisa. And the Seward Peninsula Council supported  
24 this proposal, the Western Interior Council also  
25 supported this proposal and the YKDelta Council also  
26 supported this proposal. Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa.

29  
30 (Teleconference interference -  
31 participants not muted)

32  
33 MR. SHIEDT: Lisa, can.....

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any Fish  
36 and Game Advisory Committee comments.

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: What was that Attamuk.

41  
42 MR. SHIEDT: Could I talk to Lisa,  
43 please.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

46  
47 MR. SHIEDT: I know it might be out of  
48 -- but I need to say it again. The people that are for  
49 the -- on the other side of Buckland, it's very hard to  
50

0125

1 get any caribou and now they're getting caribou and  
2 they want to start opening it with our future stock, I  
3 think someone like you, Thomas, the Chairman, should go  
4 to their village and educate them that we don't harvest  
5 fawns, any kind of baby, of any resources we have. I  
6 know Nome, I'll give you an example. Nome got a lot of  
7 muskox and yet they listen to them and they can harvest  
8 the young ones, just because they're a Federal proposal  
9 they can harvest young ones, they shouldn't harvest our  
10 fawns completely. I mean I am touched. Why, just  
11 because they start getting caribou a few years, why  
12 should they say they could open it, we going to keep  
13 them closed in one area, it should be closed to all the  
14 migration route of the caribou from the beginning of  
15 the caribou all the way to Unalakleet, not different  
16 closures, different proposals and different regulations  
17 for the same caribou herd, completely for the migration  
18 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that  
21 Attamuk, duly noted. Do we have any Subsistence  
22 Resource Commission comments at this time.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any written public  
27 comments.

28

29 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, this is  
30 Tom Plank. There were no written public comments.  
31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom. Do we  
34 have any public testimony at this time.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So now when it comes  
39 to the Regional Council recommendation, do we hear a  
40 motion to oppose or support Wildlife Proposal 22-47.

41

42 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is  
43 Lisa.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Lisa.

46

47 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I just wanted to  
48 clarify that it's usually the most clear for the record  
49 and for the motions, if you always make them in the  
50

0126

1 positive. So if the intention of the Council is to  
2 oppose this proposal, then a Council member would say I  
3 motion to support but then everyone would vote against  
4 it, you know, so everyone would vote -- when you ask  
5 any opposition, everyone would say yes to that. So  
6 it's just usually how we try to keep things a little  
7 more clear on the record.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,  
12 Lisa. So the appropriate way to handle this would be  
13 if we move to support Wildlife Proposal 22-47, we all  
14 just say no basically when it comes to all in favor,  
15 all opposed, is what you're saying?

16

17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Exactly, yep, correct.  
18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that.  
21 So with that being said, if everyone on the Council is  
22 clear, do we have a motion to support Wildlife Proposal  
23 22-47.

24

25 MR. SHIEDT: Boy, Thomas, I don't think  
26 anybody want to say it. I know I -- I hear what you're  
27 saying that we could oppose it, vote it down  
28 completely.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

31

32 MR. SHIEDT: But I don't think a right  
33 Eskimo would say they want to support this proposal on  
34 calves. I'm not going to supp -- I mean I'm not going  
35 to be the one that support it -- or say it, but I will  
36 gladly oppose it, twice, I'll vote twice, I got two  
37 arms.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I am in the same kayak  
40 as you Attamuk, I completely understand.

41

42 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, this is Elmer.

43

44 MR. SHIEDT: I know, I'm just trying to  
45 get my point across.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Was someone about to  
48 speak.

49

50

0127

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, this is Elmer. I  
2 know I oppose it too, but I make a motion on WP22-47.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, moved to  
5 support by Elmer, do we have a second.

6  
7 MR. KRAMER: This is Mike, I second.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Mike. Do  
10 we have any further discussion at this time. I am  
11 gathering from the conversation that we've had so far  
12 that our justification to ultimately not support this  
13 is just because of maintenance of the herd and  
14 maintaining the stock and preserving the calves so that  
15 we can ultimately preserve the herd that we are all  
16 benefiting from. Is there any other discussion or  
17 justification at this time from the Council.

18  
19 MR. HOWARTH: Question.

20  
21 MR. SHIEDT: Question's been called  
22 for.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: To restate the final  
25 motion for the record, motion to support Wildlife  
26 Proposal 22-47 all those in favor of supporting 22-47  
27 please say aye.

28  
29 MR. KRAMER: Aye.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All those opposed to  
32 22-47 please say aye.

33  
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35  
36 MR. SHIEDT: To oppose this, I said  
37 aye.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, so if you oppose  
40 Wildlife Proposal 22-47 say aye now.

41  
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that, the  
45 Council votes to not support Wildlife Proposal 22-47.  
46 Lisa, I believe we did that correctly.

47  
48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
49 Chair, this is Lisa. Usually it's easier for people to  
50

0128

1 say no when they mean no versus saying yes when they  
2 mean no sort of thing. So I just wanted to make sure  
3 that it was clear for the record what the actual vote  
4 was. I don't know if we need to do roll call or just  
5 clarify the number of votes. I know Katya's online so  
6 if she needs to clarify, you know, what the actual vote  
7 was, you know, the number in support versus opposed  
8 but, yeah, definitely the motion failed.

9

10 Thanks.

11

12 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya Wessels,  
13 for the record, Council Coordination Division  
14 Supervisor. And I apologize that I was not in the  
15 meeting earlier today, you know, I was blocked coming  
16 back to my office computer by a landslide on Kenai  
17 Peninsula so I finally made it in. So nevertheless, so  
18 the motion was the motion to support WP22-47. So if  
19 you don't -- if the Council doesn't want to support  
20 this proposal, you just say when you're asked, do you  
21 support, you say no I do not support and I suggest that  
22 we do the roll call so it's clear so who is opposing  
23 and how many votes we have on record at the moment. Do  
24 you want me to do the roll call or Robbin is online as  
25 well so she is actually facilitating the meeting this  
26 afternoon. Maybe Robbin you could do the roll call.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you, Katya.  
29 Robbin, would you please do a roll call vote for  
30 Wildlife Proposal 22-47.

31

32 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
33 the roll call is to support, and if you do not support  
34 you say no. Katya, is that correct?

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, that's correct.

37

38 MS. LAVINE: Okay. So I'll start with  
39 Enoch, Attamuk.

40

41 MR. SHIEDT: Loudly, no.

42

43 MS. LAVINE: Michael Kramer.

44

45 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

46

47 MS. LAVINE: Calvin Moto.

48

49 (No comments)

50



0129

1 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Calvin Moto, do we  
2 still have you online.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Wilbur Howarth.

7  
8 MR. HOWARTH: No.

9  
10 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Robert Schaeffer.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 MS. LAVINE: And I believe, Mr. Chair,  
15 Mr. Robert Schaeffer was unable to join us today.

16  
17 Mr. Elmer Armstrong.

18  
19 MR. ARMSTRONG: No.

20  
21 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Brian Lee Jones.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, I do believe  
26 Mr. Brian Lee Jones was unable to join us today.

27  
28 And Barbara Atoruk.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 MS. LAVINE: Barbara Atoruk, do you  
33 support.....

34  
35 MS. ATORUK: I'm on mute. No.

36  
37 MS. LAVINE: And, Mr. Chair. Mr.  
38 Chair, Thomas Baker.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: No.

41  
42 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, the  
43 vote fails -- or the.....

44  
45 MS. WESSELS: Motion.

46  
47 MS. LAVINE: .....motion fails, thank  
48 you.

49  
50

0130

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Robbin, for  
2 guiding us through that and Lisa and Katya. So with  
3 that I would like to move on to Wildlife Proposal 22-01  
4 which is statewide and begins on Page 103 and it  
5 appears it would be Pippa Kenner that will speak with  
6 us on this one.

7  
8 (Pause)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is there someone else.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 MS. LAVINE: Pippa, are you online.

15  
16 MR. SHIEDT: Did you call Attamuk.

17  
18 (Laughter)

19  
20 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.  
21 Pippa is having.....

22  
23 MR. VICKERS: Hi, Robbin.....

24  
25 MS. LAVINE: Yes.

26  
27 MR. VICKERS: Sorry, go ahead -- go  
28 ahead and finish your statement, because I don't --  
29 this is Brent Vickers from OSM, I don't know what you  
30 were going to say so go ahead.

31  
32 MS. LAVINE: I was requesting -- I  
33 wanted confirmation as to who was presenting Proposal  
34 22-01.

35  
36 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Pippa is  
37 presenting. A note came that she is having trouble  
38 getting her phone off mute and so she's going to hang  
39 up and call back in a minute here, so just hold on.

40  
41 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair, can we take a  
42 10 minute break.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, I think that's  
45 well due. We will take a 10 minute break and reconvene  
46 at 4:15.

47  
48 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, and then she'll call  
49 in, thank you.

50

0131

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, it is now  
6 4:15 and before Pippa starts, Mr. Mike Kramer had a  
7 suggestion that we wanted to get on record. Mike, the  
8 floor is yours if you are still on the line.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mike Kramer, are you  
13 on the line.

14

15 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk's online.

16

17 MS. ATORUK: I'm online. I keep  
18 hearing beep, maybe he got dropped off.

19

20 MR. HOWARTH: I know I heard him call  
21 back in a while ago, maybe he got disconnected.

22

23 MS. ATORUK: Hi Pippa.

24

25 MS. KENNER: Barbara, hi, I was  
26 wondering if you remembered me. Great to hear your  
27 voice.

28

29 MS. ATORUK: Are you the only one left  
30 now from the past in that Anthropology Department.

31

32 MS. KENNER: Yeah, maybe from your  
33 past, maybe from your past I think I am. But that's  
34 okay. People have moved on -- do you remember Liz  
35 Williams.

36

37 MS. ATORUK: Yes.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Yeah, she used to work  
40 with us and she's doing great. And yeah -- yeah,  
41 everyone else has moved on but, you know, we've had  
42 some openings recently in Council Coordination Division  
43 did you apply.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MS. ATORUK: They wouldn't take me back  
48 in any way or how many applications I put in, I know  
49 they wouldn't take me back.

50

0132

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. KENNER: Oh, I don't know about  
4 that Barbara.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MS. ATORUK: Thank you anyway.

9

10 MS. KENNER: Yeah, I don't know about  
11 that.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. KENNER: It hasn't been the same  
16 since you left though.

17

18 MS. ATORUK: I bet, thank you. Okay,  
19 Mr. Chair, are you ready.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, we're still  
22 waiting for Mike Kramer to get back on the phone.

23

24 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay, I thought he had  
25 got back on, I thought I heard him.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Well, right now we  
28 should have.....

29

30 MR. SCHAEFFER: Hello.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....is that -- Bobby  
33 Schaeffer is that you.

34

35 MR. SCHAEFFER: Hello, this is Bob.

36

37 MS. ATORUK: Bobby.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Bobby.

40

41 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I'm online. I  
42 just couldn't unmute. I was listening to your  
43 conversation but it didn't work, I wasn't sure how to  
44 unmute this doggone thing so.....

45

46 MS. KENNER: Hey, you know, this is  
47 Pippa and what I just found out is that if I've been on  
48 mute for awhile I actually have to hang up, turn off my  
49 cell phone, turn it back on to get my mute off, so just

50

0133

1 letting you know.

2

3 MR. SCHAEFFER: Okay. Okay, yeah, I  
4 think I got it now to work. At least my phone works, a  
5 lot better than my cell phone. So I'm using my land  
6 line, it says right here, unmute so I tried it and it  
7 worked.

8

9 MS. KENNER: Excellent.

10

11 MR. ARMSTRONG: Welcome back, Bob.

12

13 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, hi, I had to fly  
14 back here, you know, just to try to catch the meeting.  
15 My camp phone didn't work worth a crap so I had to fly  
16 down.

17

18 MS. ATORUK: Hi Bobby.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Welcome Bob, it's  
21 Thomas Baker. So just for the record, RAC Member  
22 Robert Schaeffer has joined us. So at this time I'll  
23 just run down the list and see who, from the Council,  
24 we have on. I believe we have Attamuk, Bobby, Barbara,  
25 do we still have Wilbur.

26

27 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And Elmer Armstrong.

30

31 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Calvin Moto, are you  
34 still on with us.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And Mike Kramer, did  
39 you manage to get back on.

40

41 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I'm here.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thanks  
44 Mike. So before we start with the statewide proposals,  
45 Mike had a suggestion during the break that we wanted  
46 to get on record. So, Mike, the floor is yours.

47

48 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I wanted to see if  
49 the Board would be interested in writing a letter to

50

0134

1 Zach thanking him for his support. Through the last  
2 quite a few years he's been serving us and guiding us  
3 and helping us throughout. Maybe see if OSM or.....

4  
5 (Teleconference interference -  
6 participants not muted)

7  
8 MR. KRAMER: .....you know we could  
9 write a letter, draft it up from the RAC and sent to  
10 him.

11  
12 (Teleconference interference -  
13 participants not muted)

14  
15 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Robbin.

18  
19 MS. LAVINE: I'm taking notes and we  
20 will have your request on record and if anyone wants to  
21 say anything specific in regards to what they would  
22 like the letter to contain, OSM would be delighted to  
23 draft a letter to send to former OSM employee and  
24 Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson. Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Great, thank you,  
27 Robbin.

28  
29 MS. ATORUK: What are you guys talking  
30 about?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Barbara, we're talking  
33 about sending a letter to Zach Stevenson just saying  
34 thank you for his years working with the Council.

35  
36 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay, like a get well  
37 card.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Well, a get well card,  
40 but also saying thank you since he isn't with us  
41 anymore.

42  
43 MS. ATORUK: Yep. Yep. Our Chair can  
44 sign for us.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. So with  
47 that on the record, Pippa, if you are able to unmute  
48 without throwing your phone out the window the floor is  
49 yours.

50

0135

1 (Laughter)

2

3

4 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that. Good  
5 morning -- excuse me, good afternoon, Mr. Chair and  
6 Members of the Council. The analysis for Wildlife  
7 Proposal 22-01 begins on Page 103 of your Council books  
8 that were sent to you. And it hasn't been said in  
9 awhile so I will say and is also available at the  
10 Federal Subsistence Management Program web page at  
11 [dow.gov/subsistence/regions](http://dow.gov/subsistence/regions). Look for the Northwest  
12 Arctic region meeting materials. My name is Pippa  
13 Kenner and I'm an Anthropologist with the Office of  
14 Subsistence Management in Anchorage. I hear a few  
15 familiar voices and many new voices. We're moving to a  
16 different part of regulations having to do with  
17 community harvest systems. So quite a few people are  
18 not familiar with this part of the regulations but  
19 community harvest systems are a really neat part of the  
20 regulations and I'll help us get through it.

20

21

22 So first I'll describe community  
23 harvest systems in Federal regulations. Community  
24 harvest systems generally allow hunters to harvest  
25 animals up to a community harvest limit. So individual  
26 harvest limits, such as one moose do not apply to  
27 hunters in a community harvest system. Each hunter may  
28 continue to harvest until the community harvest limit  
29 is met.

29

30

31 All right. So these regulations  
32 generally describe what animal species may be taken,  
33 where they may be taken and who may take them. And  
34 currently there are no community harvest systems in  
35 regulation in the Northwest Arctic area.

35

36

37 So the general regulation describing  
38 community harvest system harvest limits is split  
39 between Page 106 and 107 in your Council book and it  
40 says: An animal taken under Federal or State  
41 regulations by any member of a community within an  
42 established community harvest limit for that species  
43 counts towards the community harvest limit for that  
44 species. And an animal taken as part of a community  
45 harvest limit counts toward every community members  
46 harvest limit for that species taken under Federal or  
47 State of Alaska regulations. But what the regulation  
48 doesn't say is that a person might not want to  
49 participate in their community harvest system for  
50 moose, for example. So this proposed regulation

50

0136

1 clarifies that a person can request a registration  
2 system where only people who register may participate  
3 in the community harvest system. So the proposed  
4 regulation would say: for the purposes of this  
5 provision all residents of the community are deemed  
6 participants in the community harvest system unless the  
7 Board approved framework requires registration in which  
8 case only those who register are deemed participants in  
9 that community harvest system.

10

11 (Teleconference interference -  
12 participants not muted)

13

14 MS. KENNER: So in implementing these  
15 regulations we've noticed there's been a little  
16 confusion and need for clarification and this is the  
17 clarification that OSM is proposing.

18

19 This proposed regulation will not  
20 affect existing community harvest systems in  
21 regulation.

22

23 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
24 support the proposal, WP22-01. We think that  
25 subsistence users and others will find this revised  
26 regulation less confusing and easier to use. Finally,  
27 I want to tell you that your Council is the ninth to  
28 hear this proposal. The proposal is requested to  
29 change a general regulation that affects all regions of  
30 the state so we're asking all Regional Advisory  
31 Councils to act on this proposal. So let's see five  
32 Regional Councils have supported the proposal, one has  
33 deferred the proposal to regions with community harvest  
34 systems, and one took no action because they ran out of  
35 time and they will take it up at their winter meeting.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the  
38 Board. That's the end of my presentation and I'll try  
39 to answer your questions.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Pippa.  
42 Does anyone from the Council have any questions  
43 regarding this Wildlife Proposal 22-01.

44

45 (Teleconference interference -  
46 participants not muted)

47

48 REPORTER: Hi, Thomas, this is Tina,  
49 the court reporter. Could I just make a quick little  
50



0137

1 statement here, if everybody could take a look at their  
2 phones and mute if you're not talking right now. We're  
3 getting a lot of static, background noise. I'd  
4 appreciate it. Thank you, Thomas.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tina. So,  
7 again, just make sure you're on mute if you're not  
8 speaking. Does anyone have any questions for Pippa  
9 regarding this Wildlife Proposal 22-01.

10

11 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

14

15 MS. ATORUK: Pippa, which Council  
16 supported and which tabled.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Barbara for the  
19 question. This is Pippa Kenner. Yeah, I think I made  
20 a mistake, I think one of the Councils dropped off to  
21 the next page. Okay, we have Kodiak/Aleutians, Yukon  
22 Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior Alaska, and  
23 Southcentral Alaska, Eastern Interior Alaska, and  
24 Bristol Bay Council supported this proposal. The  
25 Seward Peninsula Council deferred to regions with  
26 community harvest systems. And the Southeast Alaska  
27 Council took no action until its winter meeting,  
28 primarily because they ran out of time.

29

30 Thank you, Barbara.

31

32 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So Eastern  
33 Interior, they supported too?

34

35 MS. KENNER: Yes, they did.

36

37 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.

38

39 MS. KENNER: You're welcome. So we had  
40 six in support, one took no action and one deferred,  
41 yeah.

42

43 MS. ATORUK: How come I have four. I  
44 have Southcentral, Kodiak, Bristol Bay -- oh, Bristol  
45 Bay -- okay, I have six.

46

47 MS. KENNER: Sorry, I said that a  
48 little quickly didn't I.

49

50

0138

1 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, it went by fast and  
2 just passed my tired body. Anyway, we do have  
3 community harvest in our region and we use it. A lot  
4 of our hunters go out together and they bring back a  
5 bunch and then they always distribute, elders first and  
6 then to other households who need it the most. The  
7 hunters here in Kiana keep an eye on each other and  
8 help each other and so I would support this proposal.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Barbara, this is  
13 Thomas. I agree with you that we do have community  
14 harvest but I think specifically what this proposal  
15 refers to, let's say, the village of Unalakleet is only  
16 allowed 10 moose per year, whereas the village of Kiana  
17 is able to get as many as moose as there are  
18 permitholders, so it's just the actual quota for that  
19 village. Is that accurate, Pippa?

20

21 MS. KENNER: Thanks for the question,  
22 Mr. Chair. This is Pippa Kenner. Well, yeah, that's  
23 one way it could go. Kotzebue's a pretty big community  
24 so for instance if we're talking about caribou. One of  
25 the things the Federal Subsistence Board and Councils  
26 have done for caribou in your area is I think the  
27 harvest limit is already pretty high and so maybe these  
28 community harvest systems wouldn't be needed there, but  
29 in many areas of the state the harvest limit for moose  
30 and caribou is one and, you know, maybe two, and so  
31 this would allow those harvest limits to be community  
32 harvest limits so that when you have a handful of  
33 really good specialized hunters who have the resources  
34 necessary to go hunting and be efficient, this would  
35 allow them to hunt for the entire community.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Understood. Thank  
38 you, Pippa. Do we have any report on Board  
39 consultations from any tribes of ANCSA Corporations.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

46

47 MS. ATORUK: Did you say that  
48 Unalakleet is only allowed -- or the whole Seward Penn,  
49 10 for the whole region?

50

0139

1                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: I was just making up  
2 numbers for an example.

3  
4                   MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay. Okay. I'm  
5 good.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any agency  
8 comments from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

9  
10                  MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is  
11 Ben Mulligan from the Department of Fish and Game.  
12 Given the nature of the proposal we are not taking a  
13 position on it. Thank you.

14  
15                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Mulligan. Do we have any Federal agency comments at  
17 this time.

18  
19                               (No comments)

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any tribal agency  
22 comments.

23  
24                               (No comments)

25  
26                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: And Pippa you already  
27 mentioned that there were some comments, or some action  
28 rather, from other Regional Advisory Councils, but were  
29 there any comment specifically regarding this or was it  
30 just support or defer or no action.

31  
32                  MS. KENNER: On this.....

33  
34                  MR. SCHAEFFER: Thomas.

35  
36                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Someone said my name.

37  
38                  MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa.  
39 I was answering your question but I thought somebody  
40 else might need to speak. No, in general the Councils  
41 were supportive with justification that matched OSMs,  
42 that this would provide clarity and make the  
43 regulations easier to use. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44  
45                  CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Pippa. Did  
46 someone else have something they wanted to say.

47  
48                  MR. SCHAEFFER: Can you hear me, Tom,  
49 this is Bob.

50

0140

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Bobby.

2

3 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I can see where  
4 when a species that's as important to our subsistence  
5 is.....

6

7 (Teleconference interference -  
8 participants not muted - screeching)

9

10 MR. SCHAEFFER: .....because of over  
11 hunting or they had a bad year, you know, with  
12 predations, you know a number of issues that could  
13 affect a herd. For instance, our caribou, I know we  
14 had tremendous amounts of pressure from the outside  
15 hunters, the caribou came through just before rut for  
16 the first time up in the Kobuk and we were very happy  
17 about that, the first time in five years, I guess. But  
18 what I'm thinking about is somewhere down the line,  
19 down the road if something does happen that would even  
20 lower the amount of caribou that we have in our herd, I  
21 think something like this may take place where there is  
22 a harvest limit but, you know, the way things are going  
23 I could imagine that this may take place somewhere in  
24 the near future. So I think something like this would  
25 be okay.

26

27 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Pippa, go ahead.

30

31 MS. KENNER: Hi. Yes, that's exactly  
32 right. This provides an option to communities if they  
33 wish to take advantage of it. I'd also just like to  
34 remind people that the community harvest system and  
35 community harvest limits are already in regulation,  
36 what we're suggesting is that we make clear in the  
37 regulation that if you reside in one of these  
38 communities you can opt out of your community harvest  
39 system and thereby retain your individual harvest  
40 limit.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you, Pippa.  
45 And thank you, Bob, for your comments. Do we have any  
46 Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments at this time.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0141

1                   CHAIRMAN   BAKER:       Any   Subsistence  
2   Resource Commission comments.

3  
4                   (No comments)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN   BAKER:   Any   written   public  
7   comments regarding this.

8  
9                   MS. KENNER:   Mr. Chair, this   is Pippa.  
10   During   the public comment period there were no written  
11   public comments submitted. Thank you.

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Thank you, Pippa. And  
14   at this time do we have any public testimony from  
15   anyone not on the Council that would like to speak on  
16   this.

17  
18                   (No comments)

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN   BAKER:       All right, well,  
21   hearing none, we'll move on to the Regional Council  
22   recommendation, do we have a motion to support this  
23   Wildlife Proposal 22-01.

24  
25                   MR. SCHAEFFER:   Mr. Chair.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Yes.

28  
29                   MR. SCHAEFFER:   Yeah, this is Bob. I'd  
30   like to make a motion that we approve 22-01 for  
31   support.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN   BAKER:   Thank you, Bob. So a  
34   motion to support, do we have a second.

35  
36                   MR. HOWARTH:   Second.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN BAKER:   Thank you, was that  
39   Attamuk.

40  
41                   MR. HOWARTH:   Second by Wilbur.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN   BAKER:   Oh, sorry Wilbur --  
44   second by Wilbur. Do we have any further discussion or  
45   justification, Bob has already provided some discussion  
46   on this and so has Barbara. And since you weren't here  
47   for large portion of the meeting, Bob, on Page 12 of  
48   your meeting book there's a presentation procedure for  
49   proposals and closure reviews and this is just the  
50

0142

1 process that we need to follow. After a motion's made  
2 if there's any justification or discussion, say, is the  
3 recommendation consistent with established fish and  
4 wildlife management principles, just so that Staff has  
5 something on record that they can go back and say this  
6 is why -- this is what the RAC justified supporting  
7 this proposal with. So is there any further discussion  
8 at this time.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MS. ATORUK: Question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Question has been  
15 called. And for justification, just from what's been  
16 said it sounds like a sound clarification just to be  
17 consistent with other regions and other sets of  
18 regulations. So, again, to restate the final motion  
19 for the record, the RAC moves to support Wildlife  
20 Proposal 22-01, all those in favor of supporting this  
21 please say aye.

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And all those opposed,  
26 same sign.

27

28 (No opposing votes)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And so with that the  
31 Council votes to support Wildlife Proposal 22-01. And,  
32 Pippa, I believe you're just going to stay on the floor  
33 with us for Wildlife Proposal 22-02.

34

35 MS. KENNER: That's right, Mr. Chair.  
36 Thank you very much. This analysis for Wildlife  
37 Proposal WP22-02 begins on Page 121 of your Council  
38 books. And for the record my name is Pippa Kenner and  
39 I'm an Anthropologist of the Office of Subsistence  
40 Management in Anchorage.

41

42 So a minute ago we were talking about  
43 community harvest systems and now we're going to talk  
44 about designated hunter systems in Federal regulations.

45

46 So the Office of Subsistence Management  
47 submitted this proposal in order to clarify designated  
48 hunting regulations that currently prohibit the use of  
49 a designated hunter by a member of a community

50

0143

1 operating under a community harvest system. So I'll  
2 unpack that for you now.

3  
4 In the current statewide designated  
5 hunter regulation on Page 123 of your Council books it  
6 states: If you are a Federally-qualified subsistence  
7 user you may designate another Federally-qualified  
8 subsistence user to take deer, moose and caribou on  
9 your behalf unless you are a member of a community  
10 operating under community harvest system. So what we  
11 propose is to remove that language that says: unless  
12 you are a member of a community operating under a  
13 community harvest system. And the reason why is that  
14 if a person doesn't register to participate in their  
15 community harvest system, that person retains, he still  
16 has an individual harvest limit, one moose, for  
17 example, and should be able to designate that harvest  
18 limit to someone else to harvest for them through this  
19 designated harvester system.

20  
21 The OSM -- this is almost a  
22 housekeeping proposal, but still we are looking for  
23 approval from Regional Advisory Councils, the OSM  
24 preliminary conclusion is to support the proposal.

25  
26 And, finally, this is the ninth Council  
27 to act on this proposal because this proposal is a  
28 request to change a general regulation that affects all  
29 regions of the state so we're asking all Regional  
30 Advisory Councils to act on the proposal. So real  
31 quickly here we have four Councils have supported the  
32 proposal, two Councils have supported the proposal with  
33 modification and one, the Southeast Council took no  
34 action until the winter meeting, mainly because they  
35 ran out of time.

36  
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair, that's the end of  
38 my presentation. I'm available to answer questions.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Pippa.  
41 Does anyone have any questions for Pippa regarding  
42 Wildlife Proposal 22-02.

43  
44 MS. ATORUK: Pippa. Could you --  
45 through the Chair -- give us who supported these,  
46 please.

47  
48 MS. KENNER: Yes, Member Barbara.  
49 Through the Chair, this is Pippa Kenner. Okay. So  
50

0144

1 Kodiak/Aleutians, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Western  
2 Interior Alaska, and Southcentral Alaska Councils  
3 supported the proposal. The Eastern Interior Alaska  
4 and Bristol Bay Councils supported the proposal with  
5 clarific -- with modification that clarifies that  
6 participants in a community harvest system cannot  
7 designate another Federally-qualified user to harvest  
8 on their behalf. And the Seward Peninsula Council  
9 deferred to regions with community harvest systems.

10  
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Pippa. Any  
14 other questions for Pippa on this one.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any report  
19 on Board consultation from tribes or ANCSA  
20 Corporations.

21  
22 MS. ATORUK: I think this system has  
23 been used here in Kiana. When my husband was here he  
24 used it, he would send them out with his boat, buy the  
25 gas, give them his permit and the boys would hunt and  
26 they would bring some caribou back to us. So we used  
27 it here in Kiana. I know other villages have, or  
28 normally the hunters will just bring from their catch,  
29 they will just share with us because this has been  
30 instilled in us from way back, and this is now a  
31 regulation, but it's been our lives forever, and then  
32 just being put more in writing now.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.  
37 Do we have any agency comments from the Alaska  
38 Department of Fish and Game.

39  
40 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is  
41 Ben Mulligan again. Similar to 22-01, the Department  
42 is not going to be taking a position on this proposal.  
43 Thank you, Sir.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Ben. At  
46 this time do we have any Federal agency comments.

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50



0145

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any tribal agency  
2 comments on Wildlife Proposal 22-02.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any group comments  
7 from other Regional Advisory Councils besides what  
8 you've provided, Pippa.

9  
10 MS. KENNER: No, Mr. Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Any Fish  
13 and Game Advisory Committee comments.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any Subsistence  
18 Resource Commission comments.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any written public  
23 comments.

24  
25 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa  
26 Kenner. No written comments were received during the  
27 public comment period for this proposal.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Pippa. At  
30 this time do we have any public testimony.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, for the  
35 Regional Council recommendation, what is the wish of  
36 the Council. Does anyone move to support Wildlife  
37 Proposal 22-02.

38  
39 MS. ATORUK: I move to support.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Barbara. Any  
42 second.

43  
44 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it, Attamuk.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Attamuk.  
47 And for discussion, justification, does anyone have  
48 anything they'd like to add.

49  
50

0146

1 (No comments)

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So it seems like  
5 similar to the previous Wildlife Proposal, it's just  
6 keeping things to the point and in black and white as  
7 to how these systems work. Keeping the regulations  
8 clear. So I believe our justification for the record  
9 would be just to be in concurrence with other regions  
10 and keeping the regulations understandable. So, again,  
11 restating the final motion for the record is the RAC  
12 moves to support Wildlife Proposal 22-02, all those in  
13 favor of supporting Wildlife Proposal 22-02 please say  
14 aye.

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And all opposed, same  
18 sign.

19

20 (No opposing votes)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And the RAC votes to  
23 support Wildlife Proposal 22-02. Thank you, Pippa, for  
24 presenting those to us. So at this time we're getting  
25 close to the end of the day but according to our agenda  
26 we have the hot topic items of next, the discussion on  
27 Western Arctic Caribou Herd status, and then after that  
28 was going to be the Wildlife Special Action 21-01 which  
29 was deferred, that we've been referring to all day,  
30 this is something that I would prefer that we have as  
31 many Council members as possible, involved in. Mr.  
32 Kramer, you said you won't be able to attend tomorrow  
33 morning but you can attend tomorrow afternoon, correct?

34

35 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I could attend at  
36 about 1:30 in the afternoon.

37

38 MS. ATORUK: Okay. So why don't we  
39 defer that -- oh, excuse me, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara.

42

43 MS. ATORUK: Why don't we discuss 21-01  
44 at 1:30 in the afternoon. We can deal with the other  
45 items in the morning, on the morning session.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yep, that's what my  
48 suggestion was going to be, is if we wanted to defer  
49 Items B and C until tomorrow afternoon and then we can  
50

0147

1 start in the morning with the 2022 Fisheries Resource  
2 Monitoring Program. Does anyone have any problems with  
3 that.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If that will work for  
8 everyone what I'd like to, again, suggest is that we  
9 recess for today and we'll pick up in the morning at  
10 Item B, the 2022 Fisheries with Karen Hyer and then  
11 work through that in order, following the agenda from  
12 there, until the afternoon, and then we should also  
13 have RAC Members Moto and Jones on the line, and  
14 hopefully we can also get someone from the village of  
15 Noatak so we could have some input from that community  
16 as well in the afternoon, does anyone have any issues  
17 with that schedule?

18

19 MS. ATORUK: Motion to recess.

20

21 MR. SCHAEFFER: Sounds good.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Motion to recess made  
24 by Barbara and a second.

25

26 MR. SCHAEFFER: I'll second, Bob, here.

27

28 MR. ARMSTRONG: Second.

29

30 MR. HOWARTH: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I heard like three  
33 different seconds so.....

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: .....we will recess at  
38 4:53 and reconvene tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. Thank  
39 you everybody for a great day and lots of good  
40 information and look forward to hearing from everyone  
41 in the morning, have a good night.

42

43 (Off record)

44

45 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

46

47

48

49

50

0148

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 I taken electronically on the 1st day of November 2021;

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 22nd  
day of November 2021.

Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22