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NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II
TELECONFERENCE
February 15, 2022
9:03 a.m

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Baker, Chairman
Barbara Atoruk
Elmer Armstrong
Vern Cleveland
Wilbur Howarth
Michael Kramer
Robert Schaeffer
Hazel Smith

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton (Acting)

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

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(Teleconference - 2/15/2022)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning everyone,
9 this is Chair Thomas Baker, it's now 9:03 a.m. I
10 figure we'll get started for the morning. I'd like to
11 call to order our second day of our winter meeting of
12 the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council. Hazel,
13 as the Secretary, would you mind doing a roll call see
14 if we can establish a quorum.

14

15

MS. SMITH: Enoch Shiedt, Sr.

16

17

(No comments)

18

19

MS. SMITH: Hello.

20

21

22

(No comments)

23

24

MS. SMITH: Can you folks hear me?

25

26

REPORTER: Yes.

27

28

29

MS. PATTON: Yes, Hazel. And I believe
Enoch was on the line.

30

31

MS. SMITH: Okay.

32

33

Thomas Baker.

34

35

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Here.

36

37

MS. SMITH: Okay.

38

39

Hazel Smith Harris, I'm here.

40

41

Michael Kramer.

42

43

(No comments)

44

45

MS. SMITH: Calvin.....

46

47

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair

48

and.....

49

50

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1 MS. SMITH:Donald.....

2

3 MS. PATTON:members of the
4 Council.

5

6 MS. SMITH:Moto.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Michael will be joining us
9 in the afternoon. He wasn't available this morning but
10 he'll be back at 1:30. Thank you.

11

12 MS. SMITH: Calvin Donald Moto, II.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MS. SMITH: Wilbur Howarth, Sr.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MS. SMITH: Robert Joseph Schaeffer.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. SMITH: Elmer Armstrong, Jr.

25

26 MR. ARMSTRONG: Good morning, present.

27

28 Vern Cleveland, Sr.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MS. SMITH: Barbara M. Atoruk.

33

34 MR. CLEVELAND: I'm here, Vern. Good
35 morning.

36

37 MS. SMITH: Okay, Vern, thank you.

38

39 Barbara M. Atoruk.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, we have five
44 Council members present.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. We'll go
47 ahead and just get started then. Eva, should we go
48 through introductions again or how should we proceed
49 for the agencies present that were just introducing
50

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1 themselves before we started.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
4 Council. We can go ahead and do a call for folks who
5 have joined us on teleconference and walk through the
6 agency reports order, that's helpful to establish who's
7 joined us for the record.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted)

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. And just a
15 reminder for everybody if you're not speaking go ahead
16 and put your phones on mute. So we'll go down the
17 line, do we have anyone from any tribal governments,
18 organizations this morning on the call.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any Native
23 organizations.

24

25 MR. SCHAEFFER: Good morning. This is
26 Damon Schaeffer with NANA.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning, Damon.
29 Thanks for joining us again. We'll move on to U.S.
30 Fish and Wildlife Service.

31

32 MR. WIESE: Good morning. Will Wiese,
33 Acting Manager with Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
34 here in Kotz.

35

36 MS. HYER: Good morning. Karen Hyer,
37 OSM.

38

39 MR. HANDER: Good morning. Ray Hander
40 with the Fairbanks Field Office, Fisheries.

41

42 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
43 Klein with the Regional Office, the Regional
44 Subsistence Coordinator in Anchorage. Good morning.

45

46 MS. CRANE: Good morning. This is
47 Penny Crane from the Genetics Lab in Anchorage.

48

49 MS. DOOC: Good morning, this is

50

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1 Evangeline Dooc from the Genetics Lab in Anchorage as
2 well.

3

4 REPORTER: I'm sorry, I didn't get your
5 name.

6

7 MS. DOOC: Evangeline or Eve Dooc.

8

9 REPORTER: Thank you.

10

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

13

14 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. This is
15 Kendra Holman with OSM.

16

17 MR. LIND: Good morning, This is
18 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
19 Subsistence Management. Good morning everyone.

20

21 MR. PLANK: Good morning. This is Tom
22 Plank, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

23

24 MS. LAVINE: Good morning. This is
25 Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator for OSM.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, welcome
28 everyone. We'll move on to the National Park Service.

29

30 MS. ATKINSON: Good morning, this is
31 Hannah Atkinson with Western Arctic National Parklands,
32 the Cultural Anthropologist in Kotzebue.

33

34 MR. FRONSTIN: Good morning. This is
35 Raime Fronstin, Wildlife Biologist with Western Arctic
36 National Parklands.

37

38 MR. PAIZ: Good morning, this is Carlos
39 Paiz, Integrated Resource Manager, Western Arctic
40 Parklands.

41

42 MR. JOLY: Hello, everyone. This is
43 Kyle Joly. I'm a Wildlife Biologist for Gates of the
44 Arctic National Park and Preserve.

45

46 MR. YOUNG: Good morning, this is
47 Justin Young with the National Park Service in
48 Kotzebue.

49

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1 MS. HUGHES: This is Letty Hughes,
2 National Park Service, Acting Subsistence Program
3 Analyst for the Regional Office.
4

5 MS. FRONSTIN: Hello. This is Martha
6 Fronstin, Compliance and Research Permit Coordinator
7 for Western Arctic National Parklands.
8

9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)
11

12 MS. OKADA: Hi. Good morning. This is
13 Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the
14 Arctic National Park and Preserve.
15

16 MR. DOWDLE: Good morning. Mark Dowdle
17 Acting Superintendent for the Western Arctic National
18 Parklands.
19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you.
21 Welcome everyone. We'll move down to Bureau of Land
22 Management.
23

24 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. This is
25 Chris McKee, Subsistence Coordinator out of Anchorage.
26

27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participants not muted)
29

30 MR. SEPPI: Good morning. This is
31 Bruce Seppi with Anchorage Field Office, BLM.
32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning.
34 Welcome. Next will be Alaska Department of Fish and
35 Game.
36

37 MS. EDMISON: Good morning, Mr. Chair
38 and Council members.
39

40 MR. SCANLON: Good morning, this
41 is.....
42

43 MS. EDMISON: Oh, sorry, go ahead.
44

45 MR. SCANLON: No, I'm sorry, please
46 finish.
47

48 MS. EDMISON: Hi. This is Nicole
49 Edmison, Regional Biologist up here in Kotzebue.
50

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1 MR. SCANLON: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
2 This is Brendan Scanlon, Department of Fish and Game,
3 Northwest and North Slope Area Fisheries Biologist.
4

5 MR. SPENCER: Good morning. This is
6 Joe Spencer with ADF&G Sportfish in Fairbanks.
7

8 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch
9 with the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.
10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning. Welcome
12 everybody. Do we have anyone from Ambler Metals on
13 this morning.
14

15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
16 Council. They will be calling in this afternoon to
17 provide the Council with a presentation. Thank you.
18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva.
20 Anyone we missed. Anyone who called in while we were
21 going through introductions.
22

23 MS. VOORHEES: This is Hannah.....
24

25 MS. GREDIAGIN: Good morning, this
26 is.....
27

28 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Mr.
29 Chairman. This is Greg Risdahl, the USDA Forest
30 Service Subsistence Program Leader and InterAgency
31 Staff Committee member out of Anchorage. Thank you.
32

33 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, this is Lisa
34 Grediagin, the Wildlife Division Supervisor with the
35 Office of Subsistence Management.
36

37 MS. VOORHEES: And good morning. This
38 is Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist with OSM.
39

40 MR. HOWARTH: Morning, Mr. Chair, it's
41 Wilbur.
42

43 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair
44 and.....
45

46 MR. HOWARTH: Sorry. Good morning,
47 it's Wilbur Howarth calling in.
48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning, Wilbur.
50

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1 Any other members of the Council manage to call in.

2

3 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, good morning,
4 this is Bob.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning, Bob.

7

8 MR. SCHAEFFER: Good morning.

9

10 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
11 This is Glenn Chen for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning. So I
14 believe at this point that's everyone on our list.
15 We'll now go on to the opportunity for public and
16 tribal comment on non-agenda items. It was brought to
17 the Council's attention last night there was someone
18 who was hoping to speak during this portion. Eva, do
19 you know if they managed to get on the line.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
22 did not hear them introduce themselves. They did send
23 an email indicating that they had hoped to address the
24 Council at this time under public comment. I can send
25 an email quickly and see if they're on, otherwise the
26 floor is open to everyone for public and tribal
27 comments on non-agenda items.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MS. ATORUK: Good morning.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. Yeah,
34 if you could go ahead and send that email.

35

36 MS. ATORUK: Good morning.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning, who is
39 that?

40

41 MS. ATORUK: Barbara.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning, Barbara.

44

45 MS. ATORUK: On mute.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any public
48 or tribal comments on anything not on the agenda at
49 this time.

50

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1 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, this is Kyle
2 Joly.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Good morning, Kyle.
5 What's -- what's going on.

6
7 MR. JOLY: Yeah, I was just wondering
8 if the Council would be interested in hearing about a
9 caribou conference that's going on in Anchorage in May
10 of 2023, we could add that to the agenda.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Would that be
13 something that could be said under agency reports?

14
15 MR. JOLY: Yeah, that's fine, if that
16 works for you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, just since
19 you're already lined up in the agenda under agency
20 reports, if you want to add that in when we get to it
21 that'd be good information to inform the Council on.

22
23 Last call for public and tribal
24 comments on non-agenda items.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I believe we'll just
29 move on to the new business and if the individual who
30 was hoping to speak to us calls in, and once we have a
31 break in the action we can have them say their peace or
32 give another opportunity for public comment. So with
33 that we can move on to new business and first thing is
34 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program information
35 update, Karen Hyer.

36
37 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
38 and Council members. Can you hear me?

39
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, we can.

41
42 MS. HYER: Okay. Well, for the record
43 I'm Karen Hyer and I'm a Fisheries Biologist with the
44 Office of Subsistence Management. And today I'm joined
45 by my colleague Dr. Hannah Voorhees, she's the
46 anthropologist that I work with in the northern region.
47 I'm going to provide you an update on the Fisheries
48 Resource Monitoring Plan, and this is just an update,
49 it's not an action item.

50

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1 So for those of you who are new to the
2 Council I'm going to give you a quick overview of the
3 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program before I begin my
4 update because the update is pretty short and sweet.
5 So just for a little bit of history, the Office of
6 Subsistence Management implements a program called the
7 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and that program
8 funds research and monitoring projects that provide
9 information to Federal subsistence managers. These
10 projects are funded on a two year cycle. This cycle
11 starts when we meet with the Councils to determine the
12 research needs of the area. We call these needs the
13 priority information needs. And developing the
14 priority information needs are the Council's
15 opportunity to direct the research that's going on in
16 their area. So for you it would be Northwest Alaska.
17 And then once those priority information needs are
18 developed, investigators develop proposals based on
19 those lists of needs and then those proposals are
20 submitted to Fish and Wildlife Service and they're
21 reviewed by Fish and Wildlife Service Staff, the
22 Technical Review Committee and your Council. All the
23 input generated from these reviews then are presented
24 to the Federal Subsistence Board and the Board makes
25 the recommendations on which projects to fund. And
26 then the Office of Subsistence Management then funds
27 the projects according to their budget.

28
29 And so in February, early February the
30 Federal Subsistence Board met and they approved the
31 projects for funding in 2022, which will be this
32 summer. And currently the Office of Subsistence
33 Management is reviewing their budget to identify their
34 final budget and once that final budget is identified,
35 our Assistant Regional Director will approve the
36 funding plan based on the budget and then we will be
37 announcing to the investigators what projects are
38 funded and then those projects will start collecting
39 data this summer.

40
41 And so that is where we are in the
42 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

43
44 So, now, the cycle for 2022 is coming
45 to an end and we're actually beginning the call for
46 2024.

47
48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted)

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1 MS. HYER: And so today I'm asking the
2 Council for volunteers to help develop the draft
3 document for which we will be working off of at your
4 fall meeting. So this fall we're going to be gathering
5 together to develop the 2024 priority information needs
6 which will drive the next funding cycle over the next
7 two years.

8
9 So today I'm asking if there's anybody
10 that's interesting in volunteering to help develop some
11 draft ideas that we can bring before the Council this
12 fall.

13
14 So I will take any questions that the
15 Council may have and, again, I'm asking for anybody
16 that's willing to volunteer to help us develop those
17 draft 2024 priority information needs.

18
19 So are there any questions.

20
21 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, this is Bob
22 Schaeffer.

23
24 MS. HYER: Hi, Bob.

25
26 MR. SCHAEFFER: I've got a couple. I'm
27 kind of curious as to the activity when it comes to
28 fisheries because there's no fishing that's really
29 important, there's a lot of -- a lot of external events
30 that happened, mostly due to global warming on
31 fisheries. We talked about, you know, the -- not only
32 the -- the huge influx of beavers that have been
33 affecting all the streams up here and lakes and cutting
34 off the usual spawning for the whitefish and other
35 species of fish that spawn in the lakes all through
36 Northwest Alaska. So I'm not sure exactly where that's
37 going but I know that when you cutoff a creek because --
38 because there's so many dams that, you know, the fish
39 cannot go back up to their usual spawning grounds and --
40 and spawn so they have to spawn somewhere else and a
41 lot of time it's not an ideal place to spawn and you --
42 and you lose a lot of the -- a lot of the eggs and then
43 the little -- you know, the fish -- the fry that --
44 that comes out during the spawning cycle. But -- and
45 that's one of the concerns that we had.

46
47 The other, of course, we had a salmon
48 die-off in 2014 which was one of the hottest years we
49 had up here on record and dry and then the water just
50

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1 got too warm and when the Fish and Game did a little
2 study up on the Salmon River they found that the waters
3 up there was -- was almost hot and that the -- and that
4 the -- you know, the spawns in one of the major
5 spawning streams up in the Kobuk so they said that the
6 waters, you know, had very little oxygen and it could
7 not support fish life.

8
9 So when you have situations like that,
10 we had two die-offs of herring this year along -- well
11 2021, One happened in October and the other one
12 happened in December and so -- you know, I know like
13 Alex over at the tribe has been trying to get samples
14 and he did get samples of the first one -- die-off, but
15 I don't know if he ever got any samples from the second
16 die-off, it happened in December, but -- but just kind
17 of curious to how you -- you talk about collection of
18 data and, of course, you got to be doing some more
19 collection of information and the possibility of
20 funding more studies that could be done on our fish for
21 2024 so I'm just kind of curious as to your process of
22 the -- of the -- gathering some information so that you
23 could prioritize what fish you're going to study.

24
25 I know we're all worried about what's
26 going to happen this summer because last summer -- the
27 last two summers we had massive amounts of rain which
28 also affected, you know, had to have affect the
29 spawning, especially on the salmon and the char that's
30 gone up in the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers because the
31 rivers were so high all summer and so we know that when
32 the rivers are high like that many of the salmon will
33 spawn on sandbars tha -- that the water just flows in
34 late fall are showing -- they -- they show up --just --
35 that was -- somebody mentioned that, I wonder how many
36 of those sandbars had salmon --or eggs on them there --
37 they are going to become dry and like -- and the other
38 part, of course, is this massive wash off of the salmon
39 when they spawn in their streams because rivers and the
40 creeks are so high. So salmon might be a problem. You
41 could that with -- especially with the salmon with the
42 North Pacific Management Council's lack of care about
43 Alaska salmon and so -- so when we have the trawlers
44 out there taking -- catching the usual bycatch -- what
45 do you call that, bycatch fish, you know, we lost --
46 they threw overboard a half a million of our chum
47 salmon this year and no one even -- you know, these are
48 massive amounts of pink salmon and red salmon, in their
49 bycatch -- in -- in the trawler bycatch effort.
50

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1 So I think, you know, what I'm saying
2 basically is that we have to make every effort to try
3 to protect our fisheries especially with the salmon
4 fishery, is really an important subsistence resource.
5 But I -- anyway, I just thought I'd throw that out, you
6 know, you'll probably bring it back out later on and
7 try to get recommendations from the Council on what we
8 should do with the high seas catch -- bycatch of our
9 salmon coming up to spawn up in our rivers.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
14 members. There were a couple different things that I
15 heard there and some of that is on the bycatch work for
16 the Council but Bob also had the start of some ideas of
17 for some priority information needs. So if I
18 interpreted that right, is Bob my first volunteer?

19

20 MR. SCHAEFFER: Do you have a question
21 for me?

22

23 MS. HYER: Yeah, I was wondering are
24 you going to volunt -- did you just volunteer to help
25 with the development of the priority information needs?
26 You just provided a lot of information that could help
27 direct where we need to do our research.

28

29 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I wouldn't mind
30 seeing it, you know, if -- if I can help in any way, I
31 guess as an individual I could probably take a look at
32 it because I do have some really serious concerns.
33 Because, you know, as global warming takes hold you
34 talk about food security and I mean it's been mentioned
35 on and off by different tribe -- tribal members about
36 what are we going to do when we can't get certain
37 foods, are we going to replace them with something
38 else. How is that resource going to be affected with
39 global warming as time goes on. So the discussion has
40 been there, we've talked about it, you know, and I --
41 and I just -- I just feel that when it comes to food
42 security we have to start planning ahead as to what the
43 inevitable might be down the -- down the road. So I
44 just thought I -- if I -- if I can be of help in any
45 way I'd participate.

46

47 MS. HYER: Yes, absolutely. That kind
48 of information is exactly what we need to kind of start
49 developing where we want to be looking next for more
50

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1 information. So that kind of -- that's exactly what we
2 need help with so I really appreciate that.

3

4 Is there anybody else that would be
5 willing to help.

6

7 MS. ATORUK: Good morning.

8

9 MS. HYER: Good morning.

10

11 MS. ATORUK: This is Barbara.

12

13 MS. HYER: Hi Barb.

14

15 MS. ATORUK: Hi. This is my last
16 meeting and then after this I would not be in with the
17 Council, my term has been up in 2021 but then as a
18 person in regular living I wouldn't mind being involved
19 in this concerning salmon on the Kobuk too to give some
20 information if I should know any of it.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. HYER: Thank you, Barb. That would
25 be great because you have a tremendous amount of
26 knowledge and we certainly are open to anything that
27 you'd be willing to share with us.

28

29 MR. HOWARTH: Good morning.

30

31 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair and Council memb
32 -- oh, yes, go on.

33

34 MR. HOWARTH: This is Wilbur Howarth,
35 Noorvik.

36

37 MS. HYER: Hi, Wilbur.

38

39 MR. HOWARTH: We -- our IRA
40 environmentalist been working with Fish and Game and
41 doing water sampling. This summer he'll be taking care
42 of most of the Delta for -- or the Delta area where all
43 the -- from the Kobuk River all the drainages going
44 out to the Kobuk Lake, he's going to be doing some
45 studies or sampling the waters and I think that'll be a
46 lot of help towards what you're planning on funding,
47 maybe. So if you could get the number down for our
48 IRA, if you want I could give it to you and we could
49 keep in touch.

50

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1 MS. HYER: Wilbur, that would be great.
2 Maybe after the meeting I can follow up with you, Eva
3 and I can follow up with you and get that information.
4

5 MR. HOWARTH: Okay, thank you.
6

7 MS. HYER: That would be super. All
8 right.
9

10 MS. ATORUK: Is this Karen?
11

12 MS. HYER: This is.
13

14 MS. ATORUK: Oh, hi, Karen. In fact,
15 it would be an ideal idea like Wilbur just said to get
16 a hold of the village IRAs. I'm sure they would be
17 willing to assist. They each have an environmental
18 coordinator. So that would help.
19

20 MS. HYER: Great. Yes. Yes.
21

22 MS. ATORUK: Thank you. Okay.
23

24 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
25 members. I think we've got a good start and we can
26 always follow up when we have specific questions with
27 the Council members and have the Council members help
28 us make specific contacts. so at this point I'm going
29 to move on and introduce our next speakers. They are
30 researchers that have actually done work in your area
31 with funds from the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
32 Program. So they're going to give us a presentation of
33 where they are with their work. But this is an example
34 of what the money is being used for in your region. So
35 at this point I'm going to go ahead and introduce
36 Brendan Scanlon and Penny Crane and Eva Dooc and Joe
37 Spencer and I'm going to let them tell you a little bit
38 about the work they've been doing.
39

40 MR. SCANLON: Great, thank you, Karen.
41 Great discussion. I'll be glad to talk some more about
42 the beaver and water temperature and fish work later in
43 agency reports. But like Karen said, right now I'll
44 just speak to the project that we're currently doing.
45 So, again, for the record, this is Brendan Scanlon, I'm
46 the Northwest and North Slope Area Fisheries Biologist
47 for the Department of Fish and Game. I'm here today
48 with Joe Spencer. Joe works for us as a technician,
49 he's also a graduate student at UAF. He's going to
50

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1 talk about a research project that was funded through
2 the FRMP that directly addresses a priority information
3 need identified in 2020 by the Council concerning life
4 history and movement information on Dolly Varden, or
5 trout as they're known up there and particularly how it
6 relates to the subsistence fisheries in Noatak and
7 Kivalina.

8

9 This project is designed to use
10 chemical analysis of otoliths, the fish earbones, to
11 determine such information as ocean movements and
12 frequency of ocean travel, age and length at first
13 spawning, spawning frequency, maximum age and et
14 cetera. And in addition we're collecting fin clips for
15 genetic analysis to help determine the stock of origin
16 of fish captured in the subsistence fisheries in Noatak
17 and Kivalina as well as in the chum salmon commercial
18 fishery at Kotzebue where there's several hundred
19 captured each year as bycatch.

20

21 So first Joe will describe the impetus
22 of this project and go into detail regarding the
23 sampling methods and otolith analysis. And Penny Crane
24 and her ANSEP student Evangeline will describe the
25 genetic component of the project. So feel free to ask
26 questions any time. Karen and Joe, are we ready.

27

28 MR. SPENCER: Yeah. Yeah, this is Joe
29 Spencer, you guys -- Eva, could you maybe direct people
30 to the presentation in the booklet, it's entitled Dolly
31 Varden Life History and Mixed Stock Analysis.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair
34 and members of the Council. You'll find in your
35 meeting books under Tab 6 the first FRMP project report
36 coming up. So if you turn to Tab 6 it'll be your first
37 presentation.

38

39 MR. SPENCER: Great, thank you, Eva. I
40 don't have numbered slides but hopefully I can keep
41 everybody on the same slide that I'm on. So I'll just
42 go ahead and start here. So, hey, everybody, my name
43 is Joe Spencer. I work with the Alaska Department of
44 Fish and Game, I'm also a graduate student in the
45 Fisheries Department at the University of Alaska-
46 Fairbanks and I'm here to talk about a joint project
47 that we're doing with the Department of Fish and Game
48 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the
49 University of Alaska-Fairbanks. And we're going to be

50

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1 looking at the life history and migrations and stock
2 mixing of Dolly Varden populations in Northwestern
3 Alaska. And like they said this project is being
4 funded by OSM.

5

6 So I'm going to move to the next slide
7 here which is titled Objective. So this project was
8 developed to address the priority information need that
9 I have listed here on this slide. So we're looking at
10 Dolly Varden, which maybe people are a little more
11 familiar calling trout or char, which are one of the
12 more important subsistence fish resources in certain
13 parts of the Northwest region. You know, they
14 constitute the majority of the fish harvested in
15 Kivalina and they're also heavily harvested in Noatak
16 and Kotzebue. However, there's still quite a bit we
17 don't know about the general life history and migratory
18 habits of the Dolly Varden in this region and that's
19 kind of what this project is trying to address.

20

21 I'll move on to the next slide here
22 which also says Objectives. Our general objectives for
23 this project are to characterize the age at length and
24 the age at first seaward migration, the frequency of
25 seaward migration and the maximum age and the
26 overwintering locations that are used by Dolly Varden
27 in Northwestern Alaska. And for this project we're
28 specifically going to be focusing on, mostly on Dolly
29 Varden that spawned in the Noatak River drainage, which
30 is where we believe most of the Dolly Varden in this
31 region originate from.

32

33 So we'll move on to the next slide here
34 which is entitled Dolly Varden Life History and I'll
35 just give an overview of what we know about Dolly
36 Varden life history already. So Dolly Varden spawn and
37 rear in rivers and then they migrate to the ocean to
38 feed, however, because the ocean is too cold for them
39 to survive in the winter they have to come back every
40 winter and overwinter in rivers. Most of the Dollys
41 will enter the ocean during break up in May or June and
42 then they go to the ocean, they feed all summer and
43 then they return and start overwintering in September.
44 But the fish that spawn will actually not go to the
45 ocean to feed, they'll spend all summer in the river.
46 And so in the spring when all the fish are going to go
47 out to the ocean to feed the spawners will head
48 straight for their spawning grounds which are usually
49 in the headwaters of the rivers, in spring areas. And

50

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1 then they'll hang around there, they'll spawn in August
2 and then they'll drop back down to the main river and
3 overwinter again, and then the following year they'll
4 go out and go to the ocean and feed again. So what
5 this means is they skip a whole feeding migration in
6 the year that they're going to spawn. So we think they
7 have pretty strong homing abilities and they spawn in
8 the same river that they were born in. But we don't
9 think they have strong fidelity to specific
10 overwintering areas. So sometimes they'll overwinter
11 in the river that they're going to spawn in but
12 sometimes they'll overwinter in other rivers and in
13 that case in the spring, during the out migration, they
14 will also out migrate into the ocean but instead of
15 going to feed they'll just make a bee line straight for
16 the river that they're going to go up and spawn in and
17 they'll just swim to the headwaters and wait for later
18 in the summer when it's time to spawn. So we think
19 that many of the Dollys that spawn in the Noatak River
20 drainage actually overwinter in the Wulik and the
21 Kivalina Rivers and really Dollys from all over the
22 region and as far away as Russia come to the Wulik and
23 the Kivalina and Noatak Rivers to overwinter. There
24 may be as many, in any given year, as 100,000 Dolly
25 Varden that are overwintering in the Wulik and Kivalina
26 Rivers. And so these overwintering habits create a
27 situation where folks are switching to mixed stock
28 aggregations of Dolly Varden. And what I mean by that
29 is, you know, a fish caught in Kivalina or Noatak or
30 Kotzebue could belong to one of dozens of different
31 spawning stocks from across the region. So how often
32 do the Dollys from these different stocks spawn, how
33 often they migrate, where they migrate, what rivers
34 they use, all of these things kind of determine which
35 fisheries they're going to be harvested in and how
36 often they're going to be harvested in the fisheries.
37 So that's kind of what we're trying to look at with
38 this project is how their migration habits affect which
39 fisheries they're harvested in.

40

41 So I'll move on to the next slide which
42 is entitled What We Don't Know. You know the last
43 comprehensive work that was done on these Dolly Vardens
44 was done in the early 1980s and our methods of studies
45 have come quite a long ways since then. So in this
46 study we plan to investigate basic life history
47 characteristic such as what age fish make their first
48 ocean migrations, how often they spawn and how often
49 they skip migrations, whether different spawning
50

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1 populations are more likely to overwinter in different
2 places or have different movement patterns than other
3 spawning stocks and we're also looking to see if there
4 have been changes since what was originally documented
5 in the '80s. We're very interested to see if there are
6 any major changes since then because the climate has
7 changed considerably since this work was originally
8 done in the '80s. So this baseline data is also
9 important to establish so that we can see changes going
10 forward with climate change and longer growing seasons
11 that we're experiencing.

12

13 Okay. So I'll move on to the next
14 slide. This is just a map that shows the Kivalina,
15 Wulik and Noatak Rivers. This shaded area that I have
16 on the map on the lower sections of the river, these
17 are where we think most of the Dolly Varden in the
18 region overwinter and then the next map, which is a
19 map, it's a satellite image of the Noatak River, these
20 dots along the Noatak River, they represent the
21 overwintering location of Dolly Varden that were
22 implanted with radio tags in another project funded by
23 OSM back in 2012 and 2013. And you can see they
24 overwinter in a pretty large section of the lower
25 Noatak River, about 60 miles of the lower Noatak River,
26 and while the Wulik and the Kivalina are clear enough
27 typically to get a good aerial survey count in the
28 fall, the Noatak is just too big and deep and we don't
29 know exactly how many Dolly Varden overwinter there but
30 it's definitely a lot. And then this next map, which
31 is a map of Northern Alaska and Northern Russia and the
32 Chuckchi Sea, this map is kind of interesting. It's
33 showing what we've learned about the ocean migrations
34 of Dollys in the last 10 years or so so these are the
35 locations of Dolly Varden that were tagged with
36 satellite tags in 2012 and 2013. These fish were
37 tagged in the Wulik River right before break out -- or
38 right before break-up. They had radio -- or sorry,
39 satellite tags put on them, and these dots on the map
40 are the last known locations of those fish a few weeks
41 or a few months after those tags were put on them. So
42 you could see a number of those fish went out to the
43 ocean, went out to the open ocean and they fed off the
44 coast off of Russia, but a lot of them didn't do that,
45 a lot of them went to the Upper Wulik or they went
46 straight down to the Noatak and went straight up to
47 their spawning grounds. And then the next map in this
48 series is this is a map of the Noatak River drainage
49 and I just have highlighted the major spawning areas in
50

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1 red. There's probably other spawning areas in the
2 Noatak River drainage but we think that these are the
3 major ones. And we think that in any given year, there
4 may be between 10 and 20,000 Dolly Varden that spawn in
5 these tributaries of the Noatak River and then there's
6 also probably several thousand that spawn in the Wulik
7 and Kivalina drainages.

8

9 So that's a little background. I'll
10 get to what specifically we're going to be doing now.

11

12 This next picture, which is a picture
13 of some Dolly Varden on a gravel beach. These are
14 Dolly Varden that we collected this past summer in the
15 Kelly River, which is one of the major spawning
16 tributaries of the Noatak, and what we're doing is
17 we're taking otoliths, which are these ear -- these
18 bone-like structures in the ear and we're going to use
19 those to determine their ages and their migratory
20 histories and we're also collecting genetic samples and
21 weight and length information from them.

22

23 So the next slide, which is a picture
24 of my hand with an otolith in it. This is a picture of
25 an otolith, or an ear bone, it's not actually a bone
26 but it's a bone like structure, and there's two of them
27 in the fish's head. They're only about two millimeters
28 long. On the right you can see a picture of them on my
29 pinkie nail, they're very small. But what is so useful
30 about otoliths is that as a fish grows the otolith also
31 grows and so we can take these otoliths and we can cut
32 them in half and then we can read them like you can
33 read the rings on a tree to see how old they are and
34 how fast they grow.

35

36 So this next slide, which is a picture
37 of an otolith, it has some numbers on the left side of
38 it. This is a Dolly Varden otolith from Northern
39 Canada, it's been sectioned so you can see the rings
40 and you can see on the left side there's these rings
41 that form over the course of the fish life and I have
42 them numbered here. So those numbers correspond to the
43 overwintering period on this fish otolith so this fish
44 has overwintered five times, and we call it a five year
45 old fish. And, in addition to age and growth, what we
46 can tell from an otolith is how -- so when a fish is
47 living in certain water bodies, the micro -- the
48 chemical composition of that water, so the elements in
49 it, and the minerals in it become incorporated into the
50

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1 chemical structure of the otolith. And so we can use
2 the otolith to tell the migration path of that fish
3 over its life span.

4
5 So I'll move on to this next slide,
6 it's kind of complicated but I'll walk us through it.
7 It's a picture of an otolith with a red graph
8 superimposed on top of it. So the idea with our
9 research here is that saltwater and freshwater have
10 very different elemental compositions so we can tell
11 when fish are living in freshwater and living in the
12 ocean because of this. So in this picture we have a
13 picture of a Dolly Varden otolith and then on top of it
14 is a graph and so these white lines show the
15 overwintering areas of the otolith and the red line
16 shows the concentration of strantion(ph), now,
17 strantion is an element that's found at very high
18 levels in the ocean but fairly low levels in
19 freshwater. So this fish, you can see the strantion
20 level was very level and at a low level and not very
21 much for the first three years of the fish life but
22 after its fourth winter you can see that strantion
23 level goes way up and that's because that was the first
24 year that it went to the ocean. So it went to the
25 ocean and fed and then you can see the strantion level
26 comes back down and that's where it came back to the
27 river to overwinter and then the next year the
28 strantion level went back up and that's because it went
29 back to the ocean and then it came back down because it
30 came back to overwinter in freshwater. And then in the
31 upper righthand corner you can see these two arrows
32 that I've circled and those are pointing to years that
33 the fish grew but it didn't go -- the strantion level
34 never increased so that means it never left freshwater
35 that year. So that probably means that that fish
36 spawned in that year. So in this example, of this
37 otolith, this fish spent three years in freshwater, in
38 its fourth year and fifth year it migrated to the ocean
39 to feed, in its sixth year it spawned, in its seventh
40 year it went out to feed again, and then in its eighth
41 year it also spawned. So we're going to be doing a
42 very similar micro-chemical analysis to what I have
43 shown here with our work. We're going to be looking at
44 all these fish that we've collected and see when they
45 first go to the ocean, when they first start spawning,
46 and how often they spawn, how many times they spawn and
47 those migratory habits.

48
49 So now I'll just give you a little
50

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1 update on how far we've gotten with this project. This
2 next picture is a map of the Noatak River drainage
3 again. Last summer we were able to collect otoliths
4 and genetic samples from the Kelly and the Kugururok,
5 Nimiuktuk Rivers which are major spawning tributaries
6 of the Noatak. We hope to come back this summer and
7 collect spawner samples from three more tributaries,
8 those are the Ely River and the Kaluktavik and the
9 Kugruk River, those are circled in orange on this map.
10 And then in addition to that we'll also be collecting
11 samples from fish that will be harvested in subsistence
12 fisheries in Noatak and Kivalina and then also from
13 Dollys caught in the bycatch of the commercial chum
14 fishery in Kotzebue.

15
16 So we hope to be able to compare the
17 migratory and life history strategies between the fish
18 spawning in these tributaries and the fish captured in
19 the fisheries and see if there's any differences
20 between these different tributaries as well as any fish
21 that are more or less likely to be caught in the
22 subsistence fisheries.

23
24 So -- and then the next slide, which
25 just says, Next Steps. The next steps for this project
26 are, we would like to come collect samples from the
27 Noatak in early April of this year. We're going to
28 make a trip and collect some fish from the Lower Noatak
29 to get otoliths from them and then we would also like
30 to come to the lower Wulik in May, late May or early
31 June and collect samples from fish that would be
32 harvested in that fishery and then, again, we'll be
33 collecting samples from the commercial fishery in
34 Kotzebue coming up. And we have the otoliths that we
35 collected last year, they're ready to go in Fairbanks,
36 we're just waiting for time to get on the analysis
37 machines at UAF and so in April we'll have some data to
38 work with.

39
40 And if anybody has any questions or
41 thoughts or suggestions about our sample collections in
42 these places we'd be happy to hear them. And in the
43 next presentation we'll hear from Eva, who's the ANSEP
44 student, and she's working with the Fish and Wildlife
45 Service down in Anchorage and she'll talk about the
46 work that they've been doing on the genetic side of
47 this project.

48
49 So thanks for your time and I welcome
50

0173

1 any questions or comments.

2

3 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

6

7 MS. ATORUK: Good morning. This is so
8 interesting. The last time I heard a report on the
9 studies here was from Fred DeCicco and I hear some of
10 what he says here, if you want to his report, he.....

11

12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14

15 MS. ATORUK:was from the
16 fisheries biology. And at the time he did his studies
17 and gave a report he said that all the trout that came
18 in went over to Russia in all the rivers and then
19 congregate in the Wulik, on the Wulik River. And then
20 never mentioned Kivalina. And at that time he said
21 that he advised the locals in Kivalina to only fish for
22 what they need because they do a lot of seining and
23 fishing over there for trout. And I'm surprised to see
24 -- to hear that they are healthy and doing good. And I
25 didn't know they -- and then Noatak wasn't mentioned at
26 the time, the Noatak River was not mentioned at the
27 time when he was studying it, unless I missed it, to be
28 the area where they overwintered. But then you see a
29 lot when they -- Noatak always does fish for Noatak in
30 the wintertime.

31

32 So this is very interesting and I
33 enjoyed the report.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. SPENCER: Yeah, thank you. I
38 appreciate the comment. And, you know, one of the
39 things that we're going to try to get at with this
40 study is, you know, we don't really know what
41 proportionate of the fish overwinter in the Noatak or
42 the Wulik or the Kivalina in any given year so we're
43 hoping that we might be able to figure that out with
44 the micro-chemical signatures of these otoliths. So
45 that's definitely something that we're looking into.

46

47 MS. ATORUK: So do you think.....

48

49 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chair, this is

50

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1 Brendan Scanlon from Fish and Game. All right, this is
2 Brendan Scanlon, Department of Fish and Game.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

5

6 MR. SCANLON: I just wanted to clarify
7 that the Department has not issued any advisories on
8 when you can and cannot eat fish in the Wulik or any
9 other river up there. That didn't come from us. We
10 have had a long-term monitoring program in conjunction
11 with Red Dog since the mine's been open to look at fish
12 health, fish abundance, how clean the water is, how
13 much (indiscernible - cuts) and stuff is going on and
14 to our knowledge right now, based on the water sampling
15 and metal analysis and aerial surveys conducted on the
16 Wulik as part of this program with Red Dog, the
17 population appears healthy and fishery sustainable. We
18 do not have any restrictions on when or where you can
19 harvest Dolly Varden in Northwest.

20

21 Also we don't -- we know -- all fish
22 don't go to Russia but back in the '80s we did find out
23 just through some simple spaghetti tagging of fish in
24 the Wulik River that three of them had gone up the
25 Yenadir (ph) River, two of them over a thousand miles
26 away from the Wulik. So we know now between that study
27 and the satellite tagging that Joe mentioned earlier,
28 that they spend some time in Russian freshwaters and
29 marine waters.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Barbara,
34 were you -- did you have a question?

35

36 MS. ATORUK: I was going to mention, or
37 ask if the trout were born in Noatak, Kivalina or
38 Wulik, would they be -- I know they would probably go
39 back to the

40

41 (Teleconference interference -
42 participants not muted)

43

44 MS. ATORUK:same river they were
45 born at to have their eggs, is that what you have
46 studied on or learned of this and that's what happens.

47

48 MR. SPENCER: Yes, so.....

49

50

0175

1 MR. SCANLON: Again, this is Brendan
2 Scanlon of Fish and Game. Yeah, that -- that's exactly
3 what we're trying to do and we have pretty good
4 information that they only spawn in the streams that
5 they're born in but they typically only spawn every
6 other year once they become sexually mature at age
7 seven or so. So for the first three years or so they
8 stay in freshwater, when they turn three they start to
9 go to the ocean in the summer to feed, they must come
10 back into freshwater to spend the winter because the
11 water under the sea ice can actually get below zero and
12 Dolly Varden don't have antifreeze proteins in their
13 body that, say, cod do, they cannot handle that super
14 cold water, so they come back in every winter and the
15 winters -- the years that they don't spawn they can
16 overwinter in other rivers. The Wulik is the really
17 important one. There's really only maybe 2,000 fish
18 that spawn in the Wulik, it doesn't have a lot of
19 spawning habitat but for some reason it's a really
20 important overwintering stream for fish up and down
21 Northwest Alaska from Unalakleet, St. Lawrence Island,
22 Norton Sound, Kobuk drainages, all these fish can be
23 found in the Wulik River in the winter including
24 Russian fish.

25
26 So with Joe's work we're going to get a
27 little more detail on how often they spawn, how old
28 they are when they spawn, and when they go to sea. All
29 the information we have on that is, at least, 30 years
30 old. So as the climate changes, and the ocean gets
31 warmer we anticipate some changes and we're just trying
32 to measure those right now.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions
37 from the Council before we continue on.

38
39 MS. ATORUK: I'm sorry, I was -- I
40 forgot to hit my mute system. I was asking to see if
41 any of the Dolly Varden -- I notice that you checked
42 the Kobuk River out and so we don't get any tagged
43 Dolly Varden on the Kobuk and the trout that we do get
44 on this river are Arctic Char, because Kiana, when (In
45 Native), Henry, Sr., puts his net out in the fall they
46 start getting trouts around here in Kiana. He knows
47 where to get some because he brings me some. But then
48 they're different than the ones from these pictures so
49 they must be different -- different trout than what you
50

0176

1 get over in Kivalina and Noatak; is that about right?

2

3 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. This is
4 Brendan Scanlon, again, Fish and Game. That's a great
5 question. A couple years ago we had another project
6 funded through the FRMP to collect genetic information
7 from Dolly Varden in the Kobuk River drainages, there
8 are some, they don't appear to be nearly as many as in
9 the other streams. And what we did was we went into
10 some of the smaller tributaries of the Kobuk, Noatak
11 and Squirrel (Indiscernible - breaking up).....

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15

16 MR. SPENCER:and a few other
17 streams, but we went there to catch juveniles and
18 collect genetic information from them. What we found
19 is that some of these populations in these streams are
20 so small is we were catching brothers and sisters even
21 though we were sampling a 20, 30 mile stretch of these
22 creeks. The Kobuk component of the Dolly Varden
23 population in Northwest Alaska appears to be pretty
24 small but they are, particularly in the -- appears to
25 be just the streams that drain out of the north and go
26 into the Kobuk River, they seem to be cold enough. The
27 main stem Kobuk seems to be too warm for sustaining
28 Dolly Varden spawning. So they're found in the creeks
29 but they're just -- there's just not that many of them.
30 But they're all the same species.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. ATORUK: Okay, thank you. That was
35 very interesting and then having heard some of it
36 before and now seeing pictures this time. This is
37 good. And probably in the near future another study
38 needs to be done on the grayling. I know Fred DeCicco
39 did some studies in that area including the Point Hope
40 River on the grayling, and how long it took for
41 grayling to get that large and it takes a long time,
42 probably like 30 years, or 12 years or something like
43 that. I forgot what he said. But then we need to have
44 another study like this one, too, with pictures, on the
45 grayling sometime in the future.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 Good morning.

50

0177

1 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. That's a
2 great question. We've done a lot of grayling work. In
3 fact we have a grayling project being done on the
4 Colville River right now that's also funded by the FRMP
5 for the priority information needs developed by the
6 North Slope RAC. And what we did there was we put out
7 radio tags near Nuiqsut where there's a lot of fish
8 caught through the ice in the fall and the wintertime
9 and then we tracked their movements up and down stream
10 to see where the important spawning and feeding and
11 overwintering areas are. And you're right, an old
12 grayling, particularly around Nome, can get 30 years
13 old. They don't even spawn until they're about 10 so
14 Northern Arctic grayling are really interesting. They
15 have a pretty interesting life history. And if it's
16 something that you'd like to submit a proposal or talk
17 about a research project on Northwest grayling, I'd be
18 glad to talk with you about it.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other Council
23 questions for anyone.

24
25 MR. SCHAEFFER: Just -- just one, I'm
26 kind of curious. This is Bob. I know this is the
27 first I've heard a -- a good report on Arctic char, I
28 had no clue that this was going on. And I -- of course
29 I sat on the Council for one, one term, three years and
30 we know what Alex is up to because he gives an
31 excellent report but we never heard anything on char.
32 So do you share this information with the tribes as you
33 get the information. That's my question.

34
35 MR. SPENCER: Hey, Bob, yes, we
36 certainly will. So we don't actually have any -- we
37 don't have any data yet, we've been waiting on machine
38 time here at the University to get our micro-chemical
39 analysis done so we won't have any results for this
40 until sometime in the summer next -- this coming summer
41 probably. But once we do get some results we'll
42 definitely disseminate it across all of the interested
43 parties, for sure.

44
45 MR. SCANLON: Thanks Joe. This is
46 Brendan again with Fish and Game. We usually do a
47 pretty good job, or try to with outreach and education
48 and traveling to the villages, with Covid, the
49 restrictions on travel have been on so tight we haven't
50

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1 been able to do as much as would like. Typically I --
2 one of us will go to the RAC meeting in Kotz, once or
3 twice, and also try to do some kind of educational
4 component with one of the schools up there but the
5 restrictions of travel in Noatak and Kivalina, with the
6 lack of housing and the quarantine time we're not able
7 to do quite as much as we normally do or would like.
8 So hopefully this will all be over soon and we'll come
9 up and give a great bit presentation.

10

11 Thank you.

12

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

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Wilbur.

16

17 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, I'm glad you guys
18 are doing studies because with our environmentalist in
19 the past seven years or so, him and the Fish and Game,
20 they did studies on our sheefish and where they go and
21 how old they are. Some of the sheefish are over 40
22 years old. And I'm glad the Fish and Game are doing
23 studies like that. What I would like to see about that
24 -- at least about Kobuk, is water samples being done
25 and how far up the sheefish might go, and the same
26 thing with the whitefish. With this Ambler Road coming
27 up, I would like to see some studies on the sheefish
28 and the whitefish and how far up they go above Kobuk,
29 and the water sampling is real important. We tried to
30 start a watershed with Kiana, Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk
31 so we are -- our environmentalist here in Noorvik
32 started doing water samplings and he's got equipment to
33 do that. So next summer -- he finally got a boat and
34 motor, so next summer he'll do a lot of sampling. My
35 worry is how's our sheefish and whitefish.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. This is
40 Brendan Scanlon again with the Department of Fish and
41 Game. That's a great question. We do have pretty
42 detailed information on spawning locations and
43 estimates of spawning abundance both work that the Fish
44 and Game did on the Kobuk and Ray Hander, who I think
45 is on the line, with Fish and Wildlife Service, had
46 done a concurrent project on the Selawik River. So we
47 think we have good information on spawning locations,
48 timing, rough, but not terribly recent information on
49 spawning abundance. It appears that based on those two
50

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1 projects these fisheries are healthy and sustainable.

2

3

4 I talked to Bill Carter a little bit at
5 the Selawik Refuge about water sampling. I'm not able
6 to be up there that much but I know he was the one
7 working with Alex Whiting on the water quality and
8 algae bloom in Hotham Inlet and I think he was going to
9 continue to do some work on the Kobuk River, too. If
10 I'm wrong, and somebody can correct me, I'd appreciate
11 it.

11

12

Thanks.

13

14

MR. HOWARTH: Thank you.

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MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, this is Vern, I'm
sorry. About the water sampling on the Upper Kobuk,
with Ambler Metals doing a year-round water sampling as
we speak. I mean right now they're doing water
sampling year-round. At wintertime they do water
sampling on all the creeks, everywhere, Kobuk River,
all the outlying creeks that are near Ambler, near

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1 Bornite*, and they do it year-round, as we speak. So
2 that should be well taken care of, the water sampling
3 part.

4
5 But my question was, first time I seen
6 this fish -- this fish thing, and that's pretty
7 interesting. I'm glad they're doing it and with the
8 development going on in our area, especially the Upper
9 Kobuk, maybe the water sampling, what they're doing
10 will help you out in the long run with Fish and Game
11 and Ambler Metals getting together on what they're
12 doing with the samplings of the waters in the areas
13 near the mine, or the proposed mine Bornite, so they're
14 well ahead of us. They've been water sampling now for
15 quite a few years, around Bornite, Kobuk River. all the
16 outlying creeks that are going out Ambler River,
17 Shungnak.

18
19 So thank you.

20
21 Good morning.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,
24 Vern.

25
26 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, this is Hazel.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Hazel.

29
30 MS. SMITH: As long as -- before we
31 move on I want to share that I worked for the Maniilaq
32 environmental program 20 years ago and as the State
33 environmentalist was showing us how to do our own water
34 sampling on the mouth of the Squirrel River he asked us
35 -- he was puzzled and looked at us and said, has there
36 ever been any mining done here and we said, yeah, a
37 hundred years ago so it was showing up in the water. I
38 just wanted to share that.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. Thank you,
43 Hazel. Now, we'll move on to our ANSEP student project
44 report so Evangeline, if you're ready you can give that
45 report now.

46
47 MS. CRANE: Mr. Chairman and Council.
48 This is Penny Crane speaking, I'm a geneticist with the
49 Conservation Genetics Lab with Fish and Wildlife
50

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1 Service in Anchorage where I've been working with
2 Evangeline Dooc for the last couple of years. We had
3 hoped that Evangeline would be able to work on the
4 project that Brendan and Joe have just been discussing
5 with Dolly Varden in the Noatak River and fisheries
6 analysis using genetic data but because of Covid and
7 access with lab scheduling and field work we've
8 assigned Evangeline another project looking at a
9 genetic inventory of Arctic char in the Togiak National
10 Wildlife Refuge for her to work on because we were
11 unable to work on the Dolly project. So with that
12 little introduction I will turn it over to Evangeline.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. DOOC: Thank you, Penny. Hi, my
17 name is Evangeline Dooc and I'm the ANSEP student with
18 the Conservation Genetics Laboratory with Fish and
19 Wildlife. Good morning, and I hope you guys are all
20 having a wonderful.....

21

22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted - on hold)

24

25 MS. DOOC: It sounds like everyone's
26 enjoying it so I'm happy. So let's see I was born and
27 raised (indiscernible - cuts out)

28

29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted) - on hold)

31

32 MS. DOOC:and I graduated from
33 UAA with a bachelors in Science and Mathematics and
34 Natural Sciences. And in the future I hope to become a
35 medical doctor that also does biomedical research or
36 public health research.

37

38 So I will be presenting -- like Penny
39 said I will be presenting on the progress to date on a
40 project about Arctic char in the Togiak National
41 Wildlife Refuge. But first I'm going to discuss a huge
42 component to why I'm here, the Alaska Native Science
43 and Engineering Program.

44

45 So I'm moving on to Slide 2 which has
46 three photos of me on it. So the Alaska Native Science
47 and Engineering Program began in 1995 with the mission
48 to improve occupational outcomes for Alaska Natives by
49 encouraging and guiding ANSEP students in educational

50

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1 and leadership opportunities, especially in STEM
2 fields. For my ANSEP history, I've been with ANSEP
3 since 2015 for three sessions. I participated in their
4 summer high school program, Youth Celebration Academy,
5 which is a five week program when students throughout
6 the state are housed at UAA taking a university course
7 typically in math or science and engaging various STEM
8 exploration activities. Then after I graduated high
9 school I was part of Summer Bridge, this is for
10 students the summer before college to do a five week
11 summer course and then a five week internship with a
12 partner of ANSEP. And I have to thank Beth Spangler
13 every day because I was matched with the best
14 opportunity I could have had. I was paired with,
15 pretty much this internship, I was paired with the Fish
16 and Wildlife Service with Penny in the Conservation
17 Genetics Lab. And then one year ago, so pretty much
18 after -- so one year ago I became a university success
19 graduate and I've continued to work with Penny and the
20 Conservation Genetics Laboratory while I take care of
21 my mother, who became ill, and I'm preparing to maybe
22 go into graduate school afterwards.

23

24 Next slide has some photos of me in the
25 lab with some of the equipment. So first I'm going to
26 talk about some of the lab work that underlies the
27 project. We started by first taking smaller pieces of
28 the tissue samples with a biopsy punch which looks like
29 a blue mechanical pencil in the slide. It's the middle
30 photo. And saving what we did not punch out for future
31 studies. Then we add some (indiscernible) agents and
32 put it through a preliminary chain reaction in a
33 thermal-cycler so that specific segments of DNA are
34 isolated and copied with a fluorescent dye, this is so
35 that -- and then moving on to the next slide.

36

37 On a sequencer, the machine in the
38 picture to the left and center, when the genes are
39 separated by size, the fluorescent dye attached to the
40 DNA is red and the data is showing in electropherogram,
41 which is like the picture in the graph like the one on
42 the right. So a line shows the sizes of the genes we
43 isolated for one fish.

44

45 The next slide has some code on it and
46 two graphs. So then using the data from this fish DNA
47 I would try to analyze the data to produce figures like
48 the ones on the slide, predominately in a program
49 called R. It's a very common language used by
50

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1 researchers in many disciplines.

2

3 Yes.

4

5 MS. ATORUK: That's okay, I just got
6 back online, I think I cut off, this is Barb.

7

8 MS. DOOC: Hi, Barb.

9

10 MS. ATORUK: Hello. On mute.

11

12 MS. DOOC: All right. Let's see, I've
13 been -- so a lot of the work that I've been doing has
14 been in R so a lot of computer coding and statistics.
15 And I honestly think that this has been really exciting
16 for me, just in part, before this I thought that
17 computers and I did not get along but then Penny has
18 introduced me to this and has really has gotten me
19 excited about coding and statistics and made sure --
20 and made me feel like I can actually do this kind of
21 work but also it's super exciting because it's such a
22 popular coding language and it's very applicable and
23 accessible to everybody in the science community. So
24 hopefully in the future -- so not only with this work
25 it should be accessible to other researchers in the
26 future but also for my work in the future, I should be
27 able to make methods that are accessible to other
28 people.

29

30 The next slide has two fish on it and
31 it's a map of Alaska. So the project I am presenting
32 today focuses on Dolly Varden and Arctic char. Both
33 are used for subsistence communities of -- let's see --
34 so both are used for subsistence. I know you guys know
35 that so I'm not going to, you know, I'll keep moving
36 on.

37

38 So being able to correctly identify
39 species would help conservation agencies to know where
40 each species occurs so that conservation agencies can
41 better monitor harvest. Currently Dolly Varden and
42 Arctic char are managed as the same species despite
43 having very different life histories as Joe talked
44 about because it is so hard to tell them apart. Chars
45 are generally identified by their light spots with
46 Arctic char having fewer, larger and blurrier edged
47 spots than Dolly Varden but this is not always clear to
48 tell. Other distinguishing physical features such as
49 (indiscernible) and gill(indiscernible) have

50

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1 overlapping as well. So there's a lot of variance to
2 make it difficult to tell apart. And actually -- let's
3 see -- so because of that confusing nature of not being
4 able to tell them apart, in a future slide there's
5 going to be a picture of either a Dolly Varden or an
6 Arctic char on a slide and at the end I'll tell you how
7 many Dolly Varden and Arctic char are at the end so if
8 you wanted, like, while I'm presenting if you want to
9 try to make your guesses, you know, make your best
10 guess.

11

12 So it can also be difficult to identify
13 Arctic char or Dolly Varden because there are many
14 different names for the two species. We mentioned
15 earlier that Arctic char -- or Dolly Varden can be
16 referred to as trout earlier, but more so -- but there
17 are many different names for the two species and
18 they're more often descriptive of where the fish are
19 caught rather than the species type.

20

21 And then let's see so I'll be going to
22 the next slide, which has two electrotheragram pictures
23 of a few different loci. So the good news is that we
24 can use genetics to tell Dolly Varden and Arctic char
25 apart. Arctic char and Dolly Varden often are a part
26 of this lumping and splitting debate so pretty much are
27 they two different species or are they two different
28 forms of the same species. However, somewhat recently
29 about 2008 when Eric Taylor studied Arctic char and
30 Dolly Varden living together in Wood River and Iliamna
31 systems of Bristol Bay, he found two microsatellite
32 loci that can differentiate the two species. There's
33 Sfo18 and Smm21. For Sfo18 Dolly Varden had smaller
34 alleles, most commonly the 152 alleles whereas Arctic
35 char had allele sizes greater than or equal to 158 and
36 for Smm21 Dolly Varden had larger alleles typically
37 greater than 113 whereas Arctic char had the 105 or 107
38 alleles.

39

40 The next slide has a map with a bunch
41 of dots and our first fish for you to make your guess
42 at. So there are 27 known -- 27 lakes known to contain
43 Arctic char and as part of test two component. To
44 develop a model that predicts if a lake may contain
45 Arctic char based on characteristics like geography,
46 lake morphology and water chemistry and then the second
47 component is to sample Arctic char in the Togiak
48 National Wildlife Refuge to determine genetic
49 population structure, species composition of lakes, if
50

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1 there is evidence of hybridization with Dolly Varden
2 and what (indiscernible) characteristics including
3 hybridization influences levels of genetic variation.

4

5 Next slide. So let's see, to date char
6 has been sampled from 12 lakes in the Togiak National
7 Wildlife Refuge through this and other projects. We
8 assayed the fish at 13 microsatellite loci including
9 Sfo18 and Smm21. And then we assessed within and among
10 population variation. So we will focus on a comparison
11 of genetic variation in the Togiak National Wildlife
12 Refuge to Arctic char in lakes from four other regions,
13 which we have called Arctic, Southwest, Kodiak and
14 Swanson in the Kenai Peninsula -- or Kenai for short.
15 And just for time I'm going to skip over naming
16 specific lakes unless you guys would like me to name
17 them, give the region information.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. DOOC: So I'll be going to the next
22 slide which is it says Preliminary Results: Presence
23 of Dolly Varden in Lake Samples at the top. So Dolly
24 Varden present. In testing for species identification,
25 two lakes, Sunday Lake and High Lake, were entirely
26 comprised of Dolly Varden, and, therefore were removed
27 from further analysis so that we could focus on Arctic
28 char. One to several Dolly Varden were found in
29 Ongivinuk Pond, East Kulukuk Lake in the Togiak
30 National Wildlife Refuge. And then from Becharof and
31 Ugashik Lakes, which are not shown in this map, there
32 were also a few Dolly Varden which were then removed.
33 We found no evidence of recent hybridization. In this
34 case we would see both Dolly Varden and Arctic char
35 (indiscernible) at the diagnostic -- at both diagnostic
36 loci. And then so from the 12 lakes we started -- 12
37 Refuge lakes we started with, nine were used for
38 further analysis because -- so we removed Sunday and
39 High because they only contained Dolly Varden and then
40 we removed one additional lake because we -- Ongivinuk
41 because we had bad genotype ratings, it just didn't
42 turn out too well.

43

44 Next slide. So there is a lot of
45 genetic variation within the lake samples from the
46 Refuge and the Refuge contributes tremendously to lake
47 diversity of Arctic char and -- throughout the state.
48 Allele richness is the average number of alleles
49 observed at the 13 loci for each lake sample, this is

50

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1 corrected for variation and sample size and then we
2 used it as a measure within population variation. The
3 higher the bars the difference of allele richness
4 observed in that lake from the average allele richness
5 overall lake samples. So Refuge lakes are in black,
6 all other regions are in green. Notice lakes sampled
7 in the Kwethluk River and Middlefork Goodnews River had
8 less than average allele richness while the Refuge
9 lakes and rivers draining into Bristol Bay and one lake
10 in the Goodnews had more than average allele richness.

11

12

13 Next slide. It has a graph that has a
14 little bit of rainbow colors. So then we used a
15 program called structure to determine the number of
16 genetic clusters supported by the data and assign what
17 fraction of each fish geno originates from that genetic
18 cluster. This is similar to how Ancestry.com
19 determines a person ethnic makeup, from their DNA. So
20 we ran multiple simulations where all the fish genotype
21 data was separated and assigned into two, three, up to
22 20 clusters. And we evaluated which number of cluster
23 settings was most accurate. The Refuge data has seven
24 clusters. Then I graphed the results of one of the
25 simulations resulted in that color bar graph. Each bar
26 of the graph represents a fish sampled with the name of
27 the collection lake listed below. The results of this
28 analysis are very consistent with other patterns of
29 observed genetic variations in this project. First,
30 similar to a heat mass that is not shown in this
31 presentation showing genetic differentiation, the
32 samples from Kukaktlim Lake and Point were assigned
33 mostly to a single cluster, the orange one. Similarly,
34 samples from Togiak and Upper Togiak Lake were assigned
35 to one cluster in pale green. This suggests that there
36 are no barriers to gene flow between these lakes
37 perhaps because these lake pairs are connected by
38 comparatively short waterways, the rest seem to make up
39 their own cluster. Also notice that Kwethluk Lake in
40 red and the Kukaktlim Lake and Pond in orange are the
41 least mixed with other cluster colors in their section.
42 These are also the populations that contained the least
43 amount of within population variation in allele
44 richness bar chart on the previous slide. Populations
45 in these lakes appear to have little historic or gene
46 flow among these and other lakes and reduce within
47 population variation.

48

49 The next slide has a tree graph. And

50

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1 then our last finding is that the genetic population
2 structure of these lakes follows geographical
3 expectations. So the tree is built from paralyzed
4 genetic distance, or genetic distance is a value that
5 summarizes the allele frequency differences at all loci
6 between each population pair with a longer branch
7 signaling a more divergent population. Populations
8 connected by nodes share a common ancestor. You can
9 see there are four genetic aggregates following
10 geographic region, Arctic, Kenai, Kodiak and the
11 Southwest/Bristol Bay with the Togiak National Wildlife
12 Refuge; Kwethluk and Kukaktlim Pond and Lake are the
13 most divergent group (indiscernible).

14

15 And this concludes my presentation. In
16 the future we hope to obtain more lake samples to begin
17 assessing the effects of (indiscernible) variables and
18 possible Dolly Varden integration on genetic variation
19 in the Togiak Refuge -- like Togiak Refuge Arctic char.

20

21 Thank you very much. And let's see --
22 oh, on the last slide it says there are -- let's see 4
23 Arctic char and 3 Dolly Varden. I can tell you which
24 slide have which kind of fish if you are specifically
25 dying to know which -- if you had a fish you were
26 pretty certain about.

27

28 And that's it, thank you very much. Do
29 I have any questions.

30

31 MS. ATORUK: Thank you for your report.
32 You are well versed in your studies, thank you very
33 much.

34

35 MS. DOOC: Thank you.

36

37 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you, young lady,
38 keep it up and stay safe.

39

40 MS. DOOC: Thank you very much. You
41 too.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, it doesn't
44 sound like we have any other questions but thank you
45 Evangeline for a very detailed report. It was an
46 interesting nitty gritty lab kind of information that
47 you don't typically see every day so thank you for all
48 your work and good luck moving forward.

49

50

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1 MS. DOOC: Thank you very much, it was
2 great being here.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: We are very happy to
5 have you. So at this time it's now 10:30, how does the
6 Council feel about a 10 minute break.

7

8 MS. ATORUK: Okay, thank you.

9

10 MS. SMITH: This is Hazel, I so move
11 for a break.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, Hazel moves
14 for a break, do we have a second.

15

16 MR. HOWARTH: Second. Wilbur.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Wilbur.
19 All those in favor of a 10 minute break please say aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Opposed, same sign.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you
28 everyone. It's now 10:32 so about 10:42 we'll come
29 back and we will go to Karen Hyer on the call for
30 Federal fish and shellfish proposals.

31

32 Thanks, everyone.

33

34 (Off record)

35

36 (On record)

37

38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, we have Barbara
39 on, do we have Vern Cleveland, Sr., back on.

40

41 MS. ATORUK: I'm here, this is Barb.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Barbara.

44

45 Vern Cleveland, Sr., back on.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MS. PATTON: Elmer Armstrong.

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. PATTON: Robert Schaeffer.

4

5 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Bob.

8

9 Wilbur.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. PATTON: Wilbur Howarth, Sr.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MS. PATTON: And did we get Calvin Moto
18 on, I know he was having some challenges with his phone
19 earlier.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. PATTON: Hazel Smith, are you back
24 on with us, Hazel Smith Harris.

25

26 MS. SMITH: Yes, I'm back on.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thank you
29 Hazel.

30

31 Enoch Shiedt, Sr., Attamuk.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. PATTON: It sounds like we're
36 waiting for just a couple more Council members here.
37 Up next on the agenda we still have Karen Hyer to
38 provide the overview call for fish and shellfish
39 proposals.

40

41 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, it's Wilbur
42 Howarth, I'm back.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Wilbur. I'll
47 turn it back over to the Chair while other Council
48 members are trying to call in here. I got to text, and
49 hopefully they'll join us here soon.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, it's 10:46,
2 we'll get rolling along and Karen Hyer the floor is
3 yours.

4
5 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
6 members. Can you hear me?

7
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, we can.

9
10 MS. HYER: Great. So in addition to
11 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, which we saw in
12 action, we also have a regulatory component of the work
13 we do. And so I'm going to talk to you today about the
14 call for Federal fish and shellfish proposals.

15
16 So the Federal Subsistence Board will
17 be accepting proposals this winter and into the spring
18 to change Federal regulation for the subsistence take
19 of fish and shellfish on Federal public lands and
20 waters for the time period of 2023 to 2025. The Board
21 will consider proposals to change Federal fish and
22 shellfish seasons, harvest limits, methods and means
23 and customary and traditional use determinations. The
24 current window of opportunity to submit proposals is
25 not quite ready yet. However, as a Council, since
26 you're meeting together you may vote on any fisheries
27 proposals that you are interested in and submit the
28 proposals to the Council Coordinator, which would be
29 Eva Patton. The Council Coordinator will hold on to
30 the proposals until the window for the fisheries
31 proposal is officially opened and then submit the
32 proposals. The general public will need to wait until
33 the window is open -- is officially open to submit
34 proposals and we're expecting that to be sometime soon.
35 Proposals need to be submitted to our website by going
36 to www.regulations.gov. There will be a news release
37 from OSM announcing the call when the window is open
38 and announce the open date. Once the proposals are
39 submitted they will be analyzed and presented to the
40 Councils during the upcoming fall 2022 meeting and they
41 will be submitted for Council recommendation. Proposal
42 analysis and Council recommendations will be presented
43 to the Federal Subsistence Board for their actions at
44 their January 2023 fisheries regulatory meeting.

45
46 Now, in addition to conducting reviews
47 -- in addition to this cycle, the Office of Subsistence
48 Management is also conducting reviews of closures for
49 the Federal Subsistence fisheries regulations, and it's
50

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1 similar to what we do with the wildlife cycle. And
2 currently there are 20 closures statewide under review
3 for the upcoming fisheries regulatory cycle but none of
4 the closures are within Northern Alaska and none of
5 them then will be under review by your Council, but
6 these will also be part of the process.

7

8 That concludes my presentation on the
9 regulatory cycle. Are there any questions, or are
10 there any proposals that you care to put forward.

11

12 MR. CLEVELAND: Hello, Vern's back on.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Vern. Any
15 questions for Karen regarding the call for Federal fish
16 and shellfish proposals.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, do you
21 have anything else, Karen.

22

23 MS. HYER: No, Mr. Chairman, that
24 concluded my brief update.

25

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

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Eva.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
31 Council members. And just wanted to reiterate that
32 Karen had mentioned that the official call for
33 proposals has not yet been published but when it is
34 then we'll be sending that out widely to all the
35 communities in the region and any proposals that are
36 submitted for the Northwest Arctic region then will
37 come before the Council at your fall meeting. So any
38 proposals that do come in will come back before the
39 Council for your review at the fall meeting. And if
40 any Council members think of any proposals after the
41 meeting that you would be interested in pursuing, OSM
42 Staff are available to assist with that and anyone can
43 submit a proposal from the public.

44

45 So we'll keep everyone posted when that
46 is announced.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, great,
2 thank you, Eva. Thank you, Karen, for that. So we'll
3 move on to next with Hannah Voorhees, the call for
4 nonrural determination proposals.

5

6 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
7 members of the Council. This is Hannah Voorhees,
8 Anthropologist at Office of Subsistence Management.

9

10 So Karen just gave you the call for
11 proposals for the Federal fish and shellfish proposals,
12 for proposal development in anticipation of that call
13 -- official opening for call for proposals, and on a
14 similar note I'm here to provide you with a brief
15 overview of the current call for proposals for nonrural
16 determinations in Federal regulations. These materials
17 are not in your Council book.

18

19 This is an action item, if the Council
20 chooses to develop a proposal. A nonrural
21 determination is the process for formally changing in
22 Federal regulation a community's status from nonrural
23 to rural or from rural to nonrural. This is the second
24 call for proposals for nonrural determination since
25 2018. Any valid nonrural determination proposals
26 submitted this year will be acted on by the Board in
27 2025. The call for nonrural determination proposals
28 occurs every four years concurrent with every other
29 fisheries regulatory cycle. The next call for
30 proposals for nonrural determinations will be in 2026.

31

32

33 As you just heard from our colleagues
34 in the Fisheries Division, the call for proposals has
35 not yet published due to the lengthy clearance process
36 in Washington. When it does get published the public
37 comment proposal to change -- sorry -- when it does get
38 published there will be an open period for accepting
39 proposals which will last at least 30 days.

40

41 There's a flier on our website
42 regarding how to submit proposals to change nonrural
43 determinations. The flier includes information on
44 where to submit a proposal and lists items a proposal
45 must contain to be accepted for consideration by the
46 Board. The website address is
47 doi.gov/subsistence/faqs. This flier can be found near
48 the bottom of the frequently asked questions page.
49 Additional information may be found in the soon to be

50

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1 published proposed rule for the 2023 to 2025
2 subsistence fish and shellfish proposed rule.

3

4 Thanks for your attention and I'm happy
5 to answer any questions.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah.
8 Does anyone have any questions regarding the nonrural
9 determination proposals.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions or
14 comments for Hannah at this time.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think it's safe to
19 say that we won't be making any proposals at this time
20 beings that we live in communities that are as rural as
21 rural gets and no call or reason to make the change to
22 being nonrural but thank you for going over this with
23 us, Hannah. If there's no questions we'll move on to
24 review and approval of the annual report with Eva.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay, then.....

29

30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
31 members of the Council. This is Eva Patton, Council
32 Coordinator. And you'll find your annual report to the
33 Federal Subsistence Board behind Tab 8 in your meeting
34 book binder. And the annual report -- for our new
35 Council members, the annual report is communications
36 for the Council. It's actually in Title VIII of ANILCA
37 for the Council to be able to communicate with the
38 Federal Subsistence Board and relay subsistence issues,
39 concerns or recommendations to the Federal Subsistence
40 Board. Bring issues to their awareness. And also make
41 recommendations on any changes or avenues to address
42 any issues of concern for subsistence in the region.

43

44 And the Council developed this draft
45 report at your fall meeting and it's coming before you
46 now for a final review and if there's any edits or
47 additions you would like to make to this report. So if
48 you can take a moment to take a look at it, the
49 subjects that the Council wanted to bring to the
50

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1 Board's attention. And some of these are subjects as
2 well that are requests for the RAC meetings and so we
3 are working on addressing those interests and requests
4 for presentation or research or engagement for the
5 Council. And in the meantime this report will also go
6 to the Board and you will receive a reply from the
7 Board at your fall meeting.

8

9 So the topics that the Council had
10 identified at your previous fall meeting was:

11

12 No. 1. The lack of success in
13 harvesting caribou in Unit 23 by Federally-qualified
14 users.

15

16 No. 2. The need for Arctic grayling
17 and salmon research in Unit 23.

18

19 No. 3. Request for updated reports on
20 population change in moose and beaver.

21

22 No. 4. Need to have representation to
23 be able to attend the Ambler Mining Access Road
24 meetings.

25

26 No. 5. Request for RAC representation
27 on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.

28

29 No. 6. The concern about Council
30 membership and the need for representation from Upper
31 Kobuk River villages and from Selawik.

32

33 No. 7. The request for engagement with
34 elder support and subsistence programs conducted by the
35 Maniilaq organization.

36

37 And I did reach out to Maniilaq, we
38 were hoping we might be able to address the Council at
39 this meeting but for certain we will work with them for
40 the Council's fall meeting. And the same with any
41 other RAC request that we weren't able to get
42 information or presentations for for this meeting,
43 ongoing work to ensure that we do get that for the
44 Council at your fall meeting.

45

46 So please do take a look and see if
47 there is any additional details you would like to
48 include, are there any edits to any of these subject
49

50

0195

1 matter.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
4 members.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. Does
7 anyone have any questions, comments or edits for the
8 annual report.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions or
13 comments, anything you'd like to add, edit at this
14 time.

15

16 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Bob.

19

20 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I'm just kind of
21 reading over it the last couple of days and I thought
22 it was pretty -- you did a good job, there, Eva, you
23 covered all the bases but I -- just reading -- still
24 concern about the potential -- with the drastic decline
25 of caribou and I was hoping to put in there, because of
26 their action this past year, and not to do anything, I
27 told you so but that probably wouldn't say it. It's
28 just one of those things where the caribou are so
29 important to us and we saw the decline and the decline
30 was what the trend was showing, and, I, you know, just
31 looking at the numbers I just figured that, you know,
32 the decline was going to continue but I -- I had it up
33 at 200,000 and then when the real numbers came out I
34 was a little shy but I -- you know, it seems like the
35 Advisory Board is, of course just advisory, we're all
36 volunteers, we don't get paid for nothing, they do, you
37 know, and it's just one of those things where I just
38 felt we're -- you know (indiscernible - cuts out) and I
39 just felt that they didn't do their jobs. I felt they
40 were influenced by sportsmen's lobbyist, sportsmen --
41 with request to not do anything with it and I just felt
42 that something like that should have been placed within
43 -- but then -- within the comments with the caribou.
44 The rest of it looks pretty good.

45

46 I like what's happening and I like the
47 involvement of the RAC here.

48

49 But just based on what I saw I just

50

0196

1 felt that, you know, that they should have been held
2 accountable and they should have at least listened to
3 us on something as important as caribou, you know. But
4 that's just my comment.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you
7 for.....

8

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you for that
10 feedback.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER:that Bobby. You
13 bring up a good.....

14

15 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER:point regarding
18 the decline of the herd. And I think that is
19 something, Eva, that we should consider at this time
20 adding in towards the end of that first point on the
21 lack of success of harvesting caribou, just noting that
22 more recent information since the time that this was
23 drafted, of the most recent herd number and the count
24 being 188,000 animals as opposed to what it was several
25 years ago at the last count and how it's continuing to
26 decline. And how other organizations such as the
27 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and other
28 entities in the state that deal with these things have
29 protocols in place and are recommended to be put into
30 place once the herd dips below certain numbers and
31 having that information noted in this report will go --
32 I think it would go pretty far just in stating our
33 case, that there is an issue at hand and that like the
34 people that have been opposing WSA21-01 and our efforts
35 to help the caribou herd that argued that we have no
36 science backing our fears up here, well, now the
37 science is showing there is a problem, there is a
38 decline so actions must be taken. So if that's
39 something that we can add in, I think, this entire
40 Council -- I shouldn't speak for the entire Council,
41 but I feel like it's something that we would benefit
42 from having added into this report.

43

44 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
45 thank you Bob. Absolutely. As you note, you know,
46 there was development of new information that wasn't
47 available at the time the Council was developing this
48 report in the fall so I will draft up these additions
49 to the section with the notes from both what Bob had

50

0197

1 relayed and what you have relayed here and get that
2 draft back to the Council for your final review and
3 approval. And as far as for this meeting, the Council
4 can make a motion to submit this report with the
5 amendment as discussed here and then a vote from the
6 Council to support that amendment. And, again, I'll
7 draft that up and get that back to the Council for your
8 final review before it is submitted.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. So
13 with that are there any other comments, discussion on
14 the report that we'd like to have at this time.

15

16 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, this is Hazel.
17 As an elder who uses the Subsistence Program through
18 Maniilaq, in our request for program information from
19 them I'd like to know how much Federal dollars they
20 use, you know, to provide elders, you know, for food.
21 I'm a heavy Facebook user and I hear reports of our
22 communities having a hard time keeping their freezers
23 full and how the stores are empty and I know some of it
24 has to do with Covid but I would like for Maniilaq to
25 provide dollar amounts that are needed to support the
26 elders in the region.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Thank you for that Hazel.
31 And, yes, I can add that detail in as well and in
32 outreach to Maniilaq a request from the Council. Thank
33 you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other comments,
36 questions, things that we would like to add into the
37 report.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, do we
42 want to -- does anyone want to make a motion to approve
43 the FY2021 annual report with the amendments that we've
44 discussed already.

45

46 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I so move.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Hazel, do we
49 have a second.

50

0198

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Second by Vern.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Vern.

4 Hazel, can you please do a roll call vote.

5

6 MS. SMITH: Wait, I got to find my page

7 first. Okay, Enoch Shiedt, Sr.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. SMITH: Thomas Christopher Baker.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

14

15 MS. SMITH: Hazel Smith Harris, yes.

16

17 Michael will join us this afternoon.

18

19 I believe Calvin is still having

20 problems with his phone, have you heard otherwise Eva.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Hazel. I

23 haven't heard back from Calvin if he was able to

24 connect. I know his phone had died and he was trying

25 to get to a land line.

26

27 MS. SMITH: Okay, thank you.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

30

31 MS. SMITH: Next is Wilbur Howarth.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. SMITH: Robert Joseph Schaeffer.

36

37 MR. SCHAEFFER: No.

38

39 MS. SMITH: Elmer Armstrong, Jr.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. SMITH: Vern Cleveland, Sr.

44

45 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.

46

47 MS. SMITH: This is to approve the

48 annual report with the amendments.

49

50

0199

1 Vern, yes.

2

3 Barbara Atoruk.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MS. SMITH: I have three yes and one
8 no, Mr. Chair.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Thank you, members of the
11 Council. I think we might have gotten some Council
12 members dropped that were on earlier. And so I can try
13 to reach them and make sure they're on and we can touch
14 base again with them once we have everyone back on.
15 But Council members that were participating in this
16 discussion had supported it. And, Bob, did I hear
17 correctly was that a no in support of the annual report
18 with amendments.

19

20 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I voted no
21 because I haven't seen the wording and I don't like to
22 put myself in the position of voting on something in
23 concept. I just don't feel comfortable.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Oh, okay, so sure, so
26 you'd like to see the edits made to the report prior to
27 support.

28

29 MR. SCHAEFFER: That's just -- you
30 know, because it might be completely different.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Okay. Absolutely. I just
33 wanted to confirm if there was something else you
34 wanted address in the annual report. So absolutely we
35 will get the edits back to the Council for your final
36 review and approval before it gets submitted.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
39 members. And I'll try to check in and see -- we had a
40 bunch of folks on that might have gotten dropped so I
41 will check back in with our Council members here.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
44 members.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, Eva. And
47 thank you everyone else for the discussion on the
48 annual report. While we're waiting for some more
49 people to hop back on we'll just move on to the Federal
50

0200

1 Subsistence Board annual report reply process review
2 and revision discussion with Lisa Grediagin.

3

4 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,
5 Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. For the record my
6 name is Lisa Grediagin and I'm the Wildlife Division
7 Supervisor for OSM and I'll be presenting on the
8 Federal Subsistence Board annual report reply process
9 review and revision guided discussion and this is an
10 action item.

11

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

24

25 As you are aware, ANILCA Section .805
26 authorizes the Councils to prepare an annual report
27 containing information related to important subsistence
28 resource issues within their regions. These reports
29 are invaluable as they provide the Board with a broad
30 holistic picture of local resource conditions and the
31 most up to date subsistence issues facing communities
32 across rural Alaska. With this knowledge the Board can
33 make informed decisions.

34

35 Historically, the Board has strived to
36 provide responses to every topic listed in annual
37 reports regardless of its authority to address the
38 issues raised. However, it is unclear if Board
39 responses on all annual report topics are helpful to
40 the Councils while also taking considerable Staff time
41 to complete. The ISC has suggested process revisions.

42

43 1. To maintain annual reports as a way
44 to inform the Board of local conditions, issues and
45 needs, and

46

47 2. To propose letter writing as a way
48 to request a response from the Board on topics of
49 concerns.

50

0201

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

14
15 So these suggested revisions are not
16 intended to diminish the ability of the Councils to
17 communicate with the Board. The Board relies on your
18 knowledge and expertise and annual reports are a way to
19 ensure the Board remains up to date on important
20 developments in your region.

21
22 To that end, we are asking you to think
23 about what you want from the Board in response to your
24 annual report. To help guide your discussion I suggest
25 we; 1, review the ISC's suggestions; 2, we can open the
26 floor to questions and Council discussion, and, then;
27 3, we can ask you to take action developing your
28 comments to forward to the Board.

29
30 So, again, the steps I outlined under
31 No. 1, the ISC suggestions are that annual reports are
32 a means to keep the Board informed of important
33 conditions, issues and needs and letter writing as a
34 way to request Board response on important topics and
35 concerns. And then -- yeah, if you guys have questions
36 or clarifications on this topic and guided discussion.
37 I think there are some members of the ISC on hand to
38 answer questions and I'll do my best to answer your
39 questions as well and then this is an action item so
40 you will need to make a motion and vote on what
41 comments and recommendations you'd like to forward to
42 the Board on how to make the annual report replies more
43 efficient and responsive to the Councils needs.

44
45 So thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
46 Council, that concludes my presentation.

47
48 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, this is Hazel.

49
50

0202

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Hazel.

2

3 MS. SMITH: Hello.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Hazel.

6

7 MS. SMITH: I'm not prepared to give a
8 vote of any kind. I did not find anything in my packet
9 to what this lady is requesting from me so I'm not
10 prepared to vote in any way, shape or form, to act on
11 what she's requesting.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara.

18

19 MS. ATORUK: I'm sure she's talking
20 about the annual report, how the Council writes it in,
21 sends it in and Federal Board replies. They just make
22 comments. The biologist that just reported here does
23 all -- most all the answers to these annual reports we
24 do send in because they are -- these annual reports
25 come up first with the Staff Committee and then they
26 put their input in. The biologist, the fisheries
27 biologists, everyone in OSM is involved in this, in
28 answering our annual reports, and all the Federal Board
29 does is read them and make their comments and make the
30 changes before they are sent back to us. So this is
31 really in-house, that these annual reports don't go
32 anywhere and the answers do come from OSM Staff because
33 they are researched out, they talk with the State side,
34 they talk with anybody that's involved in and for our
35 request that we do make. Some of them are not always
36 answered the way we want the answers to be because
37 that's how they have control, in writing. I know, I've
38 been there. I've been the coordinator to ask
39 biologists, fisheries, of any sort that I need answers
40 to the questions that the Councils reported in, or want
41 answers for.

42

43 So if we want anything done and making
44 any requests -- I don't know if this is the letter that
45 we have right now in our folder on the annual report
46 request? We need to look at what seriously need to be
47 changed, like if we want anything to be changed and
48 stuff we need to follow it through ourselves and keep
49 at it and not just take what is written to us, what is
50

0203

1 written back to us as gold because it's not. We have a
2 lot of enemies in there. We have a lot of people in
3 there that don't like to listen to us, or will just say
4 things in passing, and it starts right from the Staff
5 Committee. The Staff Committee is made up of each
6 person -- a person from each agency, they're usually
7 the ones that do the first review and it's the sole
8 work from the coordinators -- it puts a lot of pressure
9 on the coordinator to get all these answered -- all the
10 annual reports that do come in to get answered, and
11 they put a lot of pressure into it and if they don't
12 like it they tell you, and you have to sit there and
13 take it to see what they want and then even if you try
14 to voice your concern to say that is not how we live,
15 this is not how we do things, they will look the other
16 way.

17
18 So we really have to take this annual
19 report thing very seriously and to see if we have any
20 back support to getting what we want.

21
22 A lot of times fisheries is real good
23 in getting answers for us. They do come back.
24 Fisheries is right on a lot of times because they're
25 willing to work with us with a lot of FRMP studies.
26 And I've heard some good reports this time -- from the
27 State -- because I've heard a lot of -- because almost
28 the same reports as far back as maybe 20, 30 years ago.

29
30
31 So that's why I'm not so in tuned with
32 the annual report today because I've been there and
33 I've done it and there is no really big concern for
34 them, it's just a protocol that they have to follow and
35 get it from us and telling us how serious this is.
36 That's why I abstained from voting.

37
38 Thank you, sir.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.
41 Any other questions or comments at this time.

42
43 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
44 is Lisa.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Lisa.

47
48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks, Mr.
49 Chair. I just wanted to clarify and make sure the
50

0204

1 Council is aware that the ISC is not suggesting any
2 changes to the annual report. So the document you all
3 just reviewed previously and, you know, are voting on
4 with amendments, that process and that report there's
5 no changes suggested to that. The issue at hand now is
6 the responses to that report that you receive from the
7 Board, which as Barbara pointed out it's really the OSM
8 Staff, you know, compiling those responses on behalf of
9 the Board and whether any changes to the responses from
10 the Board would be useful to the Councils. Because as
11 Barbara pointed out, you know, a lot of the responses
12 aren't really what the Councils are looking for,
13 they're not very satisfactory and sometimes not very
14 useful to the Council. Sometimes because the Board
15 just doesn't have authority over certain issues. But
16 whether it would be better to write letters to the
17 Board on certain issues that the Council really wants
18 more timely and better response from the Board on,
19 versus just including topics in your annual report.

20

21 So basically the focus is on the
22 responses and how to make that process work better for
23 the Council. So hopefully that helps clarify the
24 discussion and what we're trying to get some feedback
25 on.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. Does
30 anyone have any questions or comments based on what
31 Lisa just clarified.

32

33 MR. SCHAEFFER: I.....

34

35 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, you see what.....

36

37 MR. SCHAEFFER:yeah, I.....

38

39 MS. ATORUK: Go ahead, Bob.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Was that Bob trying to
42 say something.

43

44 MR. SCHAEFFER: I've got a comment. I
45 think after sitting for a few years on the Council, the
46 IRA Council, the tribal council, we really are
47 concerned about the future of our subsistence resources
48 and, of course, the Federal -- we're inundated with
49 Federal lands around here so, you know, it's important
50

0205

1 that we got to work with the Federal that we discuss,
2 you know, the condition of some of our subsistence
3 resources. And, you know, the three years I was on the
4 Council, we never really heard from the Subsistence
5 Board but there was discussion because I was around
6 when ANILCA was passed and, you know, I know what the
7 law said and we started discussing it at that Council
8 level because we never -- for -- that agenda item was
9 never ever brought to us about what the Subsistence
10 Board was doing. And, of course, we knew about the
11 RACs and how important they were, you know, to try to
12 get our voices, the voices heard up here, but I think
13 after -- after time, you know, the -- the subsistence
14 portion of ANILCA is forgotten. As people retire and
15 go -- as Barb retired and go -- so very little
16 knowledge is out there about what the responsibility is
17 based on the law. We talked about that at one point in
18 the Council, because Alex was very astute on issues
19 like this.

20
21 And I just wanted to say that I think
22 we're at that point where with new people on the
23 Councils, and some of the provisions in ANILCA creating
24 the Subsistence Board have been lost. When I got here
25 -- this is my second -- second meeting, you know, and
26 I'm still trying to piece together where I stand on
27 this thing because I haven't thought about this since
28 1980 for godssake and no one has ever told anybody
29 about their role and responsibility as time went on.
30 So I think in 1980 it was fresh in everybody's mind but
31 after that it sort of -- the regional corporations have
32 gotten more into making money rather than trying to
33 think about the land and subsistence and everything
34 else and so it sort of all got lost in the shuffle as
35 time went on. But I think a refresher for, at least,
36 this Council, would be a nice thing to look at the law
37 and look at what it says and look at what it really
38 means, you know, just to give us a fresher.

39
40 And something like the annual report,
41 we know how important they might -- are, and, you know,
42 but yet on the other hand, you know, I've forgotten
43 what's in the law, I haven't seen that thing since 1980
44 so I don't know.

45
46 So anyway I just thought I'd bring that
47 out as a point of interest and I'm not sure what Eva
48 can give us but I just thought I'd bring that out.

49
50

0206

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you, Bob.
4 Any other questions or comments.

5

6 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

7

8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is
9 Lisa, I was.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Lisa.

12

13 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I was just going
14 to quickly respond to Bob's comments about having a
15 refresher and training and, yeah, there's been a lot of
16 turnover in OSM Staff and also new Council members and
17 usually there is more of an onboarding process with new
18 Council members but, of course, teleconferences and the
19 pandemic have made it really difficult to do that as
20 well as with OSM Staff shortages so we certainly
21 apologize that we haven't been able to provide as much
22 training to new Council members as is typical. But
23 hopefully we've got some new Staff on board, coming on,
24 and hopefully we can meet in person again so that will
25 improve soon in the future.

26

27 And as far as what ANILCA requires by
28 law, the annual reports are part of ANILCA so ANILCA
29 requires Councils to submit annual reports to the Board
30 every year but it does not require the Board to respond
31 to the Councils so that's why, you know, there's no
32 changes proposed to the annual reports, that's part of
33 the law, but how we respond there is some flexibility
34 there to make it the most useful to the Councils
35 because nothing in ANILCA requires responses to those
36 annual reports.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. ATORUK: Hello.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara.

47

48 MS. ATORUK: Doggone, I must have cut
49 off again -- oh, can you hear me?

50

0207

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara, can you
2 hear me?

3
4 MS. ATORUK: Now I can. Thank you.
5 Thank you, Bob. That's where it is. And that's how it
6 is. And for Lisa to be smirking when she's talking
7 about this, and that's how it is over there. It's not
8 that serious. It's not taken serious. They don't know
9 us. They've never been in this region and a lot of
10 them don't like to travel out here to meet us because
11 they don't know how we live, they don't know how we
12 survive, they don't know what they do, but they surely
13 can talk to us like that on teleconference. I heard
14 that when I gave my first talk here and then Lisa came
15 on and smirking and laughing about what I said, and
16 that's the kind of people we have working for us over
17 there although they are our back support, our back
18 bone, our Staff. We want to hear more respect towards
19 us when we speak about our.....

20
21 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair.

22
23 MS. ATORUK:our feelings. Thank
24 you. Bye.

25
26 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin
27 LaVine.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, for that,
30 Barbara. Go ahead, Robbin.

31
32 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
33 thank you Council Member Barbara. I'm very -- I'm very
34 sorry that you hear tones that is disagreeable.
35 Everyone at the Office of Subsistence Management
36 tremendously values your knowledge, that's why we --
37 that's the whole purpose of our time here today is to
38 learn from you, to listen to you, and when you craft
39 your annual reports we all review them, the entire
40 office. It goes through -- as you know, multiple
41 stages of review, all of the reports that you make, and
42 including the replies, and then your annual report goes
43 before the Board -- the Board members now made up of
44 the five agency heads and our three public members
45 including the Board Chair, who are rural residents and
46 subsistence users, will read your annual reports.

47
48 We're informed by you. Your
49 knowledge, when you report -- when you give your
50

0208

1 Council member reports during these meetings and when
2 you craft your annual report, that is the most up to
3 date information that helps inform our process and we
4 are grateful because we know -- we know that you all
5 are volunteers and your time is precious.

6
7 So I -- I just want to share again how
8 grateful we all are, how much we value you, and -- and
9 I guess that's it, Mr. Chair -- and, again, thank you
10 for your knowledge, your expertise and -- and, again,
11 we're grateful for your knowledge.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Robbin. So
16 at this time, based upon what I've heard from Council
17 members who are speaking there doesn't seem to be any
18 action that we would like to take regarding the annual
19 report reply process. Does anyone else from the
20 Council have any other questions or comments they'd
21 like to make at this time.

22
23 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is Lisa.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Lisa.

26
27 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thank you. I
28 just wanted to apologize if I somehow came across
29 smirking or laughing at anyone or -- that certainly was
30 not my intention and I, again, sometimes tonalities can
31 just be interpreted different ways so I really
32 apologize to Barbara if I somehow came across offensive
33 to you. So just to clarify on the record that was not
34 my intention and I profusely apologize for any
35 misunderstanding there.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MS. ATORUK: Apology accepted.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you.

42
43 MS. ATORUK: Although it was not
44 misunderstood, apology accepted.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay. Is there any
47 further discussion on this topic.

48
49 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chair.

50

0209

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

2

3 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, just one more. I
4 know -- I know there's -- I just felt that there is a
5 huge disconnect between the Federal Subsistence Board
6 and us when it came to discussion and the actions taken
7 by them on our caribou. You know had they taken the
8 action then we would probably have had a lot more
9 caribou, you know, so I think the trust factor is just
10 not there. I just -- I mean I was so mad when I --
11 after I -- I felt so good when everybody was commenting
12 and it was an almost unanimous feeling up here from
13 every Council, the tribe and people, that we have to do
14 something because we've been dealing with the.....

15

16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted)

18

19 MR. SCHAEFFER:late migration so
20 I just -- I just felt that we were not listened to by
21 those boys and they were -- and they were reacting to
22 public pressure, you know, and I think that that
23 shouldn't be. I was very disappointed in the four
24 Federal systems, those representatives that were on
25 there and I know they had to influence the others that --
26 that there's not a problem, you know, because I mean
27 it was quite clear to me.

28

29 Anyway, I just wanted to say, because I
30 think there is a disconnect, and I'm not putting
31 anybody down, I think the Staff are doing a good job, I
32 -- I read a lot of reports and they're well put
33 together -- Eva, you guys are doing a fantastic job and
34 you must have a good crew, you're putting things in
35 there that I felt should be placed in the reports,
36 especially the annual report, that was just a -- anyway
37 I just thought I'd mention that because I think there
38 is a disconnect and it's due to I think some of those
39 things that I mentioned, you know, and the Federal
40 Subsistence Board disconnects with the tribes is one of
41 the biggest reasons. So anyway that's -- I have to say
42 thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
45 Bob.

46

47 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Hazel.

50

0210

1 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, this is Hazel.
2 I just want to thank you for your leadership on this.
3 Just a recommendation to Staff, if you're going to ask
4 for my vote on something, I'd like to see it in the
5 packet and not just read off somewhere and say, oh,
6 we're looking for this and we want that, I want to see
7 it in the packet so I have time to review it, so I have
8 time to think about it before I present my vote.

9
10 Thank you, Chair, for your leadership
11 on this. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hazel. And
14 Hazel brings up a good point, Eva, is this something
15 that was sent to the Council electronically that we
16 might have in our emails or was it supposed to be
17 included in the packet just so people would be able to
18 review it because based on the conversation that we're
19 having I feel that this something that we'll have to at
20 the very least table until our next meeting in order
21 for people to get an idea of what they would like to
22 see from the report reply process, if there is any
23 change.

24
25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
26 members of the Council. There was not any written
27 information provided for the Council for this
28 discussion. There were talking points for the LT,
29 which is what Lisa presented to you, but we can
30 certainly provide the Council with those questions and
31 background of the discussion. It initially came up at
32 the Council's fall meeting and there was a request of
33 the Council at that time, in writing, to consider these
34 things, but for this packet there wasn't any meeting
35 materials included with this discussion but we will
36 certainly send you the information, the talking points
37 that were provided and also the initial letter that was
38 sent out in the fall with your fall meeting.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
41 members.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I would like to know
44 what the Council would like to do regarding this. Lisa
45 did mention that it was an action item. The
46 overwhelming feedback that I'm getting is it's
47 something that we're not really able to act on today
48 given that we had people, before the vote was even
49 called saying they'd like to abstain, people saying
50

0211

1 they're not quite ready to make a decision at this time
2 -- how would the Council feel like considering tabling
3 this item until we have more information presented to
4 us.

5
6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8
9 MS. SMITH: I move that we have this
10 tabled until the next meeting.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hazel moves to table,
13 do we have a second for that.

14
15 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara.

18
19 MS. ATORUK: We can't table this. This
20 needs to go in, it's a yearly report that we've been
21 discussing in the past about what we want on our annual
22 report and this needs to go in, that's written right
23 now. If you want to make changes to it, you can do it,
24 you can't table it until the fall meeting, it needs to
25 go in now so it's -- it's got to follow through with
26 the channels.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for.....

31
32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.
35 We're not voting on tabling the report, we're just
36 tabling how we want the reply from the Subsistence
37 Board to come to us when they reply to our annual
38 report. So the annual vote has been voted on, we're
39 going to send that in once we get our amendments made
40 and everything and we can review that, this is separate
41 to the report.

42
43 MR. SCHAEFFER: Point of order, Mr.
44 Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Bob.

47
48 MR. SCHAEFFER: You cannot discuss an
49 item unless it's seconded.

50

0212

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So Hazel moves to
2 table the Federal Subsistence Board annual report reply
3 process review, do we have a second.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing no second,
8 what is the wish of the Council at this time regarding
9 this reply process.

10
11 MR. SCHAEFFER: The motion dies due to
12 the lack of a second.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, I understand but
15 what do you want to do about it. What would we like to
16 do.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
19 this is Eva.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Eva.

22
23 MS. PATTON: If I may make a
24 suggestion, the Board is looking for feedback from the
25 Council and the Council has expressed clearly that you
26 would like to see the request for this information of
27 what might change in writing in order to fully consider
28 it and so we can certainly relay that to the Federal
29 Subsistence Board that the Council had wished to make
30 further recommendations with more information to
31 consider in advance. The Council also expressed
32 concern about the connections with the Federal
33 Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Program
34 and conveying and really bringing about an
35 understanding to subsistence and your way of life and
36 that also can be conveyed to the Board. The concerns
37 that the Council has expressed today and a request to
38 be able to followup, again, at your next meeting with
39 advanced materials to consider.

40
41 So we can certainly relay all of that
42 feedback from the Council to the Board at this time and
43 request that the Council have additional opportunity at
44 your fall meeting to fully consider these questions and
45 potential changes to the reply process from the Board.
46 And that wouldn't require a vote, the Board is looking
47 for feedback and I think the Council has shared some
48 very valid points at this meeting that would be
49 valuable to share with the Board.

50

0213

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
4 Eva. Does anyone from the Council have any questions
5 or comments on that.

6

7 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

10

11 MS. ATORUK: Now, that the Council has
12 an idea of what goes on behind this annual report thing
13 we can send this in and then you guys will see the
14 responses when they come back and then you can pose
15 some questions to see who answered them, then you will
16 know. You will see for yourself to see how it goes.

17

18 There's a question, what Hazel brought
19 up earlier before, on this request for engagement with
20 elder support subsistence program conducted by the
21 Maniilaq Association. They -- I don't think they will
22 answer that because that's in-house, up here in the
23 Northwest Arctic. We would have to make a request to
24 the Maniilaq Association ourselves to find out. And
25 just out of curiosity, you know, send it in and find
26 out what kind of answers you have, what kind of answers
27 you get and then you will know who answered them for
28 you, how the answers came, if the Federal Board had any
29 say in it, if they didn't then you will see for
30 yourself.

31

32 I'm just saying.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 Back on mute.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
39 Barbara. Is there any other discussion that.....

40

41 MR. SCHAEFFER: Just one -- just one
42 more thought, Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

45

46 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, because I've been
47 wondering about jurisdiction. You know I'm kind of
48 hazy on that, I haven't looked at the bill for 42 years
49 so I guess I better get on my computer and Google it.

50

0214

1 But I -- because I know a little bit about the
2 jurisdiction based on the past but I think when it
3 comes to us as a RAC, a RAC that's supposed to make
4 advisory or suggestions for the Federal Subsistence
5 Board for their actions, I think we should look more at
6 what their jurisdiction in. Because I'm really hazy on
7 that, I kind -- sort of jumped into this kind of cold
8 and maybe it's my fault that I -- and, yet, you know,
9 we talk about the caribou, the influence that the
10 Subsistence Board has on the four Federal systems, you
11 know, to -- to comply with the intent of ANILCA, for
12 provisions of subsistence protection -- or rural
13 preference I guess you could say, but it's still kind
14 of hazy in my mind. But yet on the other hand I could
15 see where Barb is coming from, you know, we're kind of
16 in the clouds pretty much because we've sort of forgot
17 what all this other stuff is out there so far as ANILCA
18 and the intent of what the Subsistence Board is doing
19 or not doing.

20

21 I think I'd like to see us make a real
22 strong recommendation on what we'd like to see them do
23 and to comply with ANILCA, the intent of it.

24

25 Anyway, that's what -- I thought I'd
26 mention that.

27

28 Thanks, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
31 Bob. Any other discussion, comments, questions.

32

33 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara.

36

37 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, Bob is right, we
38 have that duty to the ANILCA to send this report in and
39 they do look at this very hard and sometimes, some
40 regions -- when I was there -- did not send a report
41 in, they didn't have anything to make any changes to
42 their -- to the -- or make any requests, so it's either
43 or.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 Back on mute.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that

50

0215

1 Barbara.

2

3

MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair.....

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is there any other discussion.

7

8

MR. HOWARTH:it's Wilbur.

9

10

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Wilbur.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, Barb and Bob are right on this. And I guess we need to probably sit down, you know, face to face with the Board some day and go over these policies on making decisions, or just putting one right into the agenda if possible but it shouldn't be happening so I would let this rest until our next meeting.

19

20

Thank you.

21

22

23

24

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that Wilbur. Any final discussion on this reply process review.

25

26

27

(No comments)

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

CHAIRMAN BAKER: So hearing none, I think it would be best to go with the summary that Eva gave awhile ago relaying our discussion that we've had regarding this and getting some more information for the next time that we meet together. Send in our annual report with the amendments we've discussed and then once we have a reply to that report maybe then we'll be able to see how we would like to handle future replies.

38

39

40

41

So if there's no further discussion, thank you Lisa for guiding us in this portion of the agenda.

42

43

44

45

It is now 11:54, I would like to suggest we break for lunch until 1:00 p.m, unless anyone has any issues with that.

46

47

48

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

49

50

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Eva.

0216

1 MS. PATTON: Just a quick question for
2 the Council. So when the Council went to vote on your
3 annual report and the amendments we had just lost
4 quorum at that time. A few of our Council members got
5 disconnected, some weren't able to get connected back
6 in. We do have Wilbur back on with us. And we will
7 have Michael joining us in the afternoon, and hopefully
8 we'll be able to get folks reconnected over lunch. So
9 just wanted to make sure that we revisit the annual
10 report and a final vote on that when we do have quorum.
11 I believe we have quorum now if the Council wanted to
12 revisit that with a full vote with quorum or after
13 lunch when hopefully we'll be able to get more folks
14 reconnected again.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. It
19 might be a bit of a big ask considering we have the
20 meeting going on still, but would there be any way to
21 get the two amendments into the report so that we can
22 see how they're worded and then get to a final vote
23 rather than getting it done later and then calling each
24 person and do a poll vote or something, would there be
25 any way to get those two points in this afternoon
26 before we do a final review of it.

27
28 MS. ATORUK: Okay, so you're requesting
29 that we defer it until this afternoon when Mike comes
30 in, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, since we didn't
33 have everybody online already and there's some things
34 that need to be added to it, it still needs to be
35 finalized.

36
37 MS. ATORUK: Okay, whatever the Council
38 want to do.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Would that be doable,
41 Eva.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Did Eva get dropped
46 from the call.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Sorry, I was on mute
49 there. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council members. Yes,
50

0217

1 absolutely I can.....

2

3 MR. CLEVELAND: Break for lunch until
4 1:30.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Eva, did you put
7 yourself back on mute.

8

9 MR. HOWARTH: I lost her completely too
10 so something's going on.

11

12 MS. ATORUK: If that's what we want to
13 do the Council can do it. If you guys want to defer it
14 until this afternoon, let's do it and go break for
15 lunch.

16

17 Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you,
20 Barbara. Does anyone have any issues with that from
21 the Council.

22

23 MR. HOWARTH: No.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Apologies Council members,
26 I got.....

27

28 MR. CLEVELAND: You got to a -- you got
29 to let us know what tab we're in with the agenda, or
30 whatever you're talking about -- you got to go to the
31 tab number and let us know where you're at. Thank you.

32

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, will do,
35 Vern. Right now we're under Tab 8 talking about the
36 annual report still but what was that Eva.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
39 Council members. Apologies I got dropped again there.
40 So just back on, I missed a little bit of discussion
41 that just occurred there. When I got dropped we were
42 talking about I most certainly can make those edits to
43 your annual report over lunch so that it's available
44 for the Council's review this afternoon. And for those
45 that don't have access to email during the meeting, we
46 can read those edits into the report that you do have
47 in your books for the Council's review that way if that
48 will work for the Council.

49

50

0218

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,
4 Eva. I think we can go with that. If you can get
5 those edits in and then this afternoon we'll pick up
6 the discussion at some point on the annual report.

7

8 So it's 12:00 o'clock, is everyone in
9 agreement to break until 1:00 p.m., for lunch.

10

11 MS. SMITH: Yes, let's break for lunch,
12 I so move.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Hazel.

15

16 MS. ATORUK: We don't need to move.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have a second.

19

20 REPORTER: Someone second it for lunch.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, everyone,
23 we will see each other back at 1:00 p.m.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: It is now 1:01. I'm
30 going to bring the meeting back to order. Before we
31 get rolling with the other agenda items I wanted to
32 provide an opportunity for public comment. Is it
33 Martin, are you on with us for a non-agenda item.

34

35 MR. ROBARDS: I am. You'd like me to
36 go ahead now?

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Martin,
39 do you want to introduce yourself for the record and
40 then you can present on what you've got.

41

42 MR. ROBARDS: Thank you so much and
43 good afternoon, and thank you all for a moment of your
44 time. My name is Martin Robards and I am regional
45 director for WCS, we're a science-based NGO. Much of
46 my prior work has been in support of marine mammal
47 subsistence such as with the Eskimo Walrus Commission.

48

49 I'm interested now in your feedback for

50

0219

1 a project we are proposing that emphasizes current,
2 scientific and traditional knowledge about large
3 predators, wolves, wolverine, bears and lynx. All
4 these are important to hunters and trappers and to the
5 population dynamics of prey species. We've been
6 engaged in wolverine research on the North Slope and in
7 Northwest Alaska for about 10 years and a big shout out
8 of all of the local support we've had from hunters and
9 trappers in that region. And more recently with
10 Federal partners such as NPS and BLM on research of
11 other predators such as bears and wolves.

12

13 When Covid-19 conditions allow we'd
14 like to conduct focus groups in Northwest Alaska and on
15 the North Slope about these predators. We would share
16 previously documented information about predators in
17 the region, both scientific and traditional knowledge,
18 the results of current surveys and research efforts and
19 hear back from local hunters and trappers about their
20 perspectives on predators and importantly any topics or
21 questions they'd like more information on.

22

23 Any feedback at this early stage is
24 much appreciated and thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay, thank you,
27 Martin.

28

29 MR. ROBARDS: Thanks.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Does anyone on the
32 Council have any questions or comments.

33

34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is that Bob.

38

39 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, this is Elmer,
40 I'm back online too.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Oh, hi, Elmer, thank
43 you for joining us. Anyone have any.....

44

45 MR. ARMSTRONG: This is Elmer, I have a
46 question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

49

50

0220

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: I know we -- predators
2 are really having their take on the caribous and I
3 think it would be nice if we could get.....

4
5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7
8 MR. ARMSTRONG:control on the
9 bears and wolves. Thank you.

10
11 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, there was a
12 lot of feedback from some place and I couldn't hear
13 Elmer.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So for those that
16 couldn't hear Elmer, I'm pretty sure that noise was
17 coming from his line, but his statement was that we
18 need to keep a handle on the predators such as the
19 bears and wolves in the region. Unless I missed
20 anything Elmer.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Does anyone have any
25 other questions.

26
27 MS. ATORUK: Hello.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hello, Barbara.

30
31 MS. ATORUK: I am just signing in,
32 thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay, thank you,
35 Barbara. Does anyone else have any questions or
36 comments regarding this predator study.

37
38 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara.

41
42 MS. ATORUK: What was in discussion, I
43 just caught the tail end of it and I don't know why
44 you're asking or what you're asking. Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mr. Robards, could you
47 give a brief summary of what you had stated already
48 please.

49
50

0221

1 MR. ROBARDS: Yeah, thank you, Chair.
2 Absolutely. So we would like to conduct focus groups
3 in communities about predators to share previously
4 collected information to report out on current research
5 that's going on and to hear from hunters and trappers
6 about topics that they feel are important, and looking
7 for any feedback from you at this point on those
8 topics. This would be for something after Covid allows
9 travel, obviously.

10

11 Thank you, Chair.

12

13 MS. ATORUK: Are you asking.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Martin
16 for.....

17

18 MS. ATORUK:for pref -- oops,
19 sorry. Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Barbara.

22

23 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, are you asking us
24 for names that who you can speak with that are trapping
25 currently or what are you asking

26

27 MR. ROBARDS: No, I'm looking more for
28 just if this is a topic that is of interest to the
29 committee.

30

31 MS. ATORUK: In?

32

33 MR. ROBARDS: In Northwest Alaska or on
34 the North Slope, if there's any sort of input that you
35 would like to put in for the planning of this project
36 at this very early stage.

37

38 MS. ATORUK: Okay, what kind of project
39 now please.

40

41 MR. ROBARDS: The report out on the
42 information that's known about predators both from
43 local knowledge and from science, to report out on
44 current predator surveys and then also to hear from
45 hunters and trappers about interests, you know, they
46 have and new questions being answered.

47

48 MS. ATORUK: Hum.

49

50

0222

1 MS. ATKINSON: This is Hannah Atkinson,
2 Mr. Chair. Can I add to that?

3
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Hannah,
5 go ahead.

6
7 MS. ATKINSON: I am working with Martin
8 on this project as the cultural anthropologist in
9 Kotzebue and I have been involved with the wolverine
10 project that's going on in the last couple of years.
11 And I wanted to add to this. Martin's seeking feedback
12 on this project design that's still in its early stages
13 and as Barbara was asking, like are you looking for
14 names, I thought maybe one thing that could be -- if
15 you have -- if you have people that are active in
16 trapping and like interested in this type of study then
17 we have been discussing like local contacts to
18 facilitate the workshop so that might be like one
19 person in each community that's involved and they would
20 help us set up the workshops. But we're not looking
21 for participants in the workshop at this point.

22
23 MS. ATORUK: So you're looking for
24 people who are doing it out there and then you want
25 information on how some predators are acting or how
26 much more predators they're getting on their trapline.

27
28 MS. ATKINSON: Yeah, I think the
29 workshop would engage people in discussion on the
30 traditional ecological knowledge of predators and it's
31 focused on the distribution of predators, if that's
32 right, Martin, and so that would be -- yes, that would
33 be the workshop but we're not looking for the
34 participants at this moment.

35
36 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay, thank you. On
37 mute.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. Does
40 anyone else have any questions for Martin and/or
41 Hannah.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing nothing else,
46 thank you for taking the time to speak before the
47 Council today. This is something that I think would be
48 a good asset, information in our region. I'm sure you
49 heard of the state of our caribou herd, the Western
50

0223

1 Arctic Caribou Herd, and one of the large proponents of
2 the welfare of that herd is the presence of predators
3 such as wolves and bears and it's one of those things
4 that we hear more and more about every year. There's a
5 prevalence of bears in this area that's preventing
6 possible caribou crossing the river and so on and so
7 forth and wolves hunting calves or sections of
8 predators. So the more that we can learn about
9 predator behavior the better for the overall
10 understanding of our ecosystem.

11

12 So thank you, Mr. Robards, Hannah, for
13 presenting on information and I'm sure we'll be happy
14 to hear more at a later day.

15

16 MR. ROBARDS: Thank you, Chair,
17 we'll.....

18

19 MS. ATKINSON: Thank you. I.....

20

21 MR. ROBARDS:be sure.....

22

23 MS. ATKINSON: Can I clarify one more
24 thing just about this project, as we're putting it
25 together and some things that might come out of it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please.

28

29 MS. ATKINSON: I definitely think that
30 the distribution and how predator populations may be in
31 the same area as caribou or moose, that all of that
32 could come out of the workshop and the TEK that are
33 sharing. And I hear at subsistence meetings that
34 people, as you were saying, Thomas, are -- are
35 observing things about how the predators are affecting
36 caribou. But I just want to put out the reminder that
37 while we're interested in this information and getting
38 a better understanding of things, that it's not in the
39 Federal -- it's not how we manage Federal lands that we
40 would be using that information to do any predator
41 control or anything like that, that's not within the
42 NPS management mandates.

43

44 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Understood, thank you.
47 Yes, Hazel.

48

49 MS. SMITH: Just to add, I heard

50

0224

1 something about somebody seeing a vulture on the Noatak
2 River and to add eagles going after calves, not only
3 wolves and wolverines, but also the flying birds that
4 are also predators.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,
7 Hazel.

8
9 MR. ROBARDS: Good comment, thank you
10 so much for that.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if there's nothing
13 else. Mr. Robards, thank you for speaking with us
14 today and if there's nothing else we'll move on now.

15
16 MR. ROBARDS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I believe where we
19 left off was the receiving public testimony protocols
20 with Lisa Grediagin.

21
22 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
24 Lisa Grediagin and I'm the Wildlife Division Supervisor
25 with OSM. And I'll be presenting a guided discussion
26 on receiving public testimony at Council meetings.

27
28 So all 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory
29 Councils were formed under Title VIII of the Alaska
30 National Interest Lands Conservation Act, or ANILCA and
31 chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
32 ANILCA gives each Regional Advisory Council an
33 authority to provide a, forum for the expression of
34 opinions and recommendations by persons interested in
35 matters related to subsistence uses of fish and
36 wildlife within the region. And, b, authority to
37 encourage local and regional participation pursuant to
38 Title VIII of ANILCA in the decisionmaking process
39 affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on public
40 lands within the region for subsistence uses.

41
42 The Federal Advisory Committee Act
43 stipulates that any member of the public is permitted
44 to file a written statement with Advisory Committee and
45 may speak to or otherwise address the Advisory
46 Committee if the agency guidelines so permit.

47
48 During each regulatory cycle there are
49 several opportunities for the public to provide their
50

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1 oral and written comments to the Federal Subsistence
2 Board and to the Councils.

3

4 The first opportunity comes after the
5 call for the proposals, officially known as the
6 proposed rule and this is published in the Federal
7 Register. This is the opportunity to submit proposals,
8 or any significant comments to the Board. The first
9 comment window is open anywhere from 45 up to 90 days
10 or longer. And this is what was addressed at the call
11 for fisheries proposals earlier in the meeting as the
12 first opportunity for comments.

13

14 The second opportunity for public
15 comments on submitted proposals begins when the
16 proposal submission window closes and validated
17 proposals are published on the Federal Subsistence
18 Management Program website.

19

20 The third opportunity for public to
21 comment on proposals and it is during the Council
22 meeting.

23

24 And the fourth opportunity for public
25 comments on proposals during the Board regulatory
26 meeting. These comments are used by the Board in their
27 decisionmaking process.

28

29 I will explain the third opportunity
30 for public comments on proposals during Regional
31 Advisory Council meetings in more detail because this
32 is the subject of our guided discussion today.

33

34 The public comments on proposals
35 accepted at the Council public meetings are for use by
36 the Councils in making recommendations to the Board.
37 The Council Chair or your Council Coordinator presents
38 the Council recommendations and any supporting data to
39 the Board at its regulatory meeting. This round of
40 public comments and proposals are part of the record
41 for the Council meeting, not the Board of meeting. So
42 any comments that would be submitted to you in the fall
43 of each regulatory year, that will be just the Council
44 record, not the Board record, except if the Coordinator
45 and the Chair presents some of these comments to the
46 Board because they're in support of the Council
47 position. Public comments on proposals are accepted
48 after the presentation of each proposal analysis.
49 These include oral comments provided by the public

50

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1 attending the meeting and written comments provided by
2 the public during the meeting. Public comments on
3 proposals are accepted after the presentation of each
4 proposal analysis. These include oral comments
5 provided by the public attending the meetings and
6 written comments provided by the public during the
7 meeting. The latter will be read or summarized to the
8 Council -- the written comments will be read or
9 summarized to the Council. Again, these comments are
10 for the Council and will not be not be included in the
11 Board proposal analysis. Public comments on non-agenda
12 items are accepted at the start of each day of a
13 Council meeting. In the past when the Councils
14 meetings were held in person, the public brought their
15 written public comments to the meeting to be
16 distributed to the Council members and other meeting
17 participants. During the fall 2021 meeting cycle since
18 all the meetings were held via teleconference, the OSM
19 leadership deemed it necessary to establish a temporary
20 procedure for the submission of written public comments
21 during the Council meeting. The public was directed to
22 submit written comments to the centralized OSM email
23 during the meeting as it was indicated in that years
24 proposed rule published in the Federal Register. The
25 OSM Staff read these comments into the record verbatim
26 during the meeting. This was an interim procedure.

27
28 Now, prior to the Councils fall 2022
29 meeting cycle, when the Councils are going to discuss
30 fisheries proposals and closure reviews we are
31 requesting the Councils input on how the Councils would
32 prefer receiving written public comments submitted to
33 them after the proposed rule deadline. These are
34 comments the Council may want to consider in
35 formulating their recommendations to the Board. Once
36 OSM receives input from the Councils on permanent
37 guidance we will then update the written framework
38 accordingly. And this is not an action item but
39 Council discussion is encouraged.

40
41 And for the Council's feedback we
42 developed a number of questions that we would like the
43 Council members to respond to. Remember, that we are
44 talking about the written public comments submitted
45 only to the Council. These comments are used by the
46 Council to make their recommendations to the Board.
47 The comments themselves will not be shared with the
48 Board. The questions that we hope the Council will
49 answer are:

50

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1 No. 1. In the Council's opinion, what
2 are the best ways to encourage public feedback to the
3 Councils.

4
5 No. 2. Would the Council prefer to
6 receive comments from the public orally or in writing.

7
8 No. 3. Would it be helpful to the
9 Council if OSM requests written public comments
10 submitted to your Council Coordinator prior to the
11 meeting within a certain time period and the
12 Coordinator, in turn, will summarize the comments and
13 present them to the Council during the meeting.

14
15 No. 4. Is it better for the Council if
16 received public comments are read verbatim into the
17 record or summarized.

18
19 No. 5. Do you have any other
20 suggestions regarding the ways of improving written or
21 oral public testimony procedures during the Council
22 meeting.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes
25 my presentation. I'm happy to repeat any of those
26 questions or just provide more clarification on this.
27 I know that was probably a lot to listen to and take in
28 and, again, I apologize, I don't think there's anything
29 about this topic in your meeting materials binder. But
30 again I'm happy to answer any questions and hopefully
31 the Council can provide some feedback that OSM will use
32 moving forward in receiving public comments at Council
33 meetings.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, thank you, Lisa.
38 I think it would behoove everyone if you -- if we could
39 go through them again one by one, so would you mind
40 just reading the first of the five questions over,
41 please.

42
43 MS. GREDIAGIN: Sure. So the first
44 question is:

45
46 In the Council's opinion, what are the
47 best ways to encourage public feedback to the Councils.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Would anyone like to
50

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1 respond to that.

2

3 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, go ahead,
6 Barbara.

7

8 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. That's why our
9 phone numbers need to be out there. I'm always get
10 phone calls to say what's his number, what's her phone
11 number and I always don't know. Our phone numbers need
12 to be public, we're a public official, so people can
13 reach us and talk to us about things they are concerned
14 about. And I do get phone calls because my phone
15 number, the home land line is in the phonebook, and I'm
16 sure a lot of us are on the land line phonebooks, too,
17 besides our cell phones and Facebook. And that's why I
18 was asking on that trapper thing because there's one
19 local up river that is a transplant from the North
20 Slope who is trapping and getting -- trapping some
21 wolverines and that's the first time we have seen the
22 wolverine being abundant up there. So right now here
23 in Kiana, the one who traps here says there is nothing,
24 he put out traps last year and nothing. And so that
25 kind of information should be generated somehow and
26 they need to call -- they need to know who is on the
27 Council and their phone numbers need to be available.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.
32 Does anyone else want to respond to the question about
33 how do we get people more involved with the Council.

34

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think definitely
39 having some kind of presence on social media, or even
40 just on the different websites saying, if you have
41 questions you can email here, you can discuss this or
42 we can put you in contact with so and so but having
43 those options like Barbara mentioned where people know
44 who to talk to, who is on the RAC in their region and
45 how to get a hold of them, whether it's through OSM or
46 it's getting a hold of a person directly, just
47 broadcasting who is available for people to talk to is
48 the biggest thing. Whether it be online, on social
49 media, or just putting out public notices, whether it's
50

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1 with the local radio stations or what have you.

2

3 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, this is Hazel.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

6

7 MS. SMITH: I would like people to also
8 approach the Advisory Committees of Fish and Game.
9 There's Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk, Northern Seward
10 Peninsula, the Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory
11 Committee. But there are committees out there who also
12 work on the same kinds of issues that we deal with so
13 that would be a good place to work with them.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hazel. Any
16 other feedback for this first question for Lisa.

17

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

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

21

22 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, for them -- I mean
23 these, like the Board, or this guy speaking, I would
24 rather have them call over to the IRA. Our
25 administrator is real good at taking down notes and he
26 would let me know, or send documents to the IRA.

27

28 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, Wilbur.

29

30 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah.

31

32 MS. ATORUK: You can let our
33 Coordinator know to use Noorvik IRA number, for you
34 three there at Noorvik and if you guys go through your --
35 the person who works and they will find you so that's
36 a good route to go too.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you, Barb.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur and
43 Barbara. If there's nothing else we can move on to the
44 next question, Lisa.

45

46 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,
47 Mr. Chair and thank you, Council members for that good
48 feedback on the first question.

49

50

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1 The second one is: Would the Council
2 prefer to receive comments from the public orally or in
3 writing.

4
5 MR. HOWARTH: It's Wilbur.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Wilbur.

8
9 MR. HOWARTH: I would like in writing.
10 I would like to see any of these, if it's real
11 important in writing would be the nice, best way to go.

12
13 MS. ATORUK: This is Barb. I would
14 like both -- oh, no, never mind, I'm not going to be
15 here, but then that would -- that would have been my
16 feeling to hear from the Coordinator, sometimes in
17 writing is different than how it is voiced, and so I
18 would suggest or -- for myself I would like both, I
19 mean verbally said to me and in writing.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.
22 Thank you, Wilbur.

23
24 MS. SMITH: This is Hazel.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead.

27
28 MS. SMITH: I agree with Barb, it
29 should be both. We have hunters and fishers out there
30 who don't care about paperwork, don't know how to
31 write, that have very important views we should listen
32 to so we should have both.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hazel. Any
37 other feedback.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think a combination
42 of both written and oral information would be good for
43 the Council kind of similar to Mr. Robards last night
44 we received an email with relative information in a
45 hard copy and then today he was able to present it
46 orally to the Council having some -- I understand it's
47 not going to be like that for everyone, that they'll be
48 able to write something up and send it in and speak
49 over the phone or in person, but some combination
50

0231

1 therein is typically the best to cover the angles.

2

3 If there's no other feedback we can
4 move to the next question.

5

6 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,
7 Mr. Chair and Council members.

8

9 This next one's a little bit of a long
10 question so: Would it be helpful to the Council if OSM
11 requests written public comments submitted to your
12 Council Coordinator prior to the meeting within a
13 certain time period and then the Coordinator, in turn,
14 will summarize the comments and present them to the
15 Council during the meeting.

16

17 And so I think this is whether the
18 Council would prefer the public submit -- has a window
19 before Council meetings to submit comments and then the
20 Coordinator will summarize them before the meeting
21 versus having the public submit comments during the
22 Council meeting. So whether it's submitting comments
23 before the meeting or during the meeting and, you know,
24 if they're submitted during the meeting there's limited
25 time to summarize them but -- and anyway any thoughts
26 on that question.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa.

31

32 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

33

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

36

37 MS. ATORUK: It's better when they came
38 before the meeting, like a month before because the
39 Coordinator has to go out to the Staff to get those
40 answers and then the summaries written up. That way we
41 are ready and prepared to answer the Council questions.
42 So it's better for them, the comments to come in sooner
43 than before the meeting. And that's always helpful for
44 the Coordinator because you are busy. You are real
45 busy in there to try to prepare and set up all this
46 paperwork, I notice there's a lot more paperwork now
47 because that's expected. So I would prefer that the
48 written comments come in earlier, ahead of time, so the
49 Coordinator will have time to get answers and prepare.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

6

7 MS. SMITH: This is Hazel. Sometimes
8 it's real difficult to get public comments so I prefer
9 both to be -- to submit your written comments ahead of
10 time and to submit public comments during a meeting
11 because sometimes it can be really difficult to receive
12 public comments because there's no public that wants to
13 talk.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hazel. Any
18 other feedback.

19

20 MR. ARMSTRONG: This is Elmer. I just
21 want to add to Hazel's comment. I think we could use
22 Facebook as a tool to spread the word that way we can
23 get people to call in and give their comments because
24 our fall meeting was orchestrated to where all the
25 transporters and their clients called in opposing.

26

27 So, thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer.
30 Anything else anyone would like to add.

31

32 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara.

35

36 MS. ATORUK: The other thing, what the
37 Councils of the past did was they were so zeroed into
38 everything that was going on in the region because that
39 was part of the -- one of the hats that they are on the
40 Council, besides being on other boards in the region.
41 A lot of the questions that do come in, if any came in,
42 they had to -- if they needed to take action they took
43 action on it at the time of their meeting. So it can
44 work either way depending on what kind of question it
45 is.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara.

50

0233

1 Anything else for this question for Lisa.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, this is
4 Michael Kramer, I'm online. I just wanted to let you
5 guys know.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, welcome to
8 today's meeting Mike. Right now we're under new
9 business Item F, receiving public testimony protocol,
10 just so you know where we're at on the agenda.

11

12 So with that I think we can move on to
13 the next question, Lisa.

14

15 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,
16 Mr. Chair.

17

18 No. 4. Is it better for the Council if
19 received public comments are read verbatim into the
20 record or summarized.

21

22 MS. ATORUK: You mean during the
23 meeting?

24

25 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes, Barbara during the
26 meeting.

27

28 MS. ATORUK: Okay. A summary is
29 better. It worked faster before because the Council
30 will understand, they will understand a summary and
31 they will know what region is asking this question so
32 summary is better than reading the question first and
33 then discuss it. So I would prefer a summary.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anyone else.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: No other feedback we
42 can move on to the next question.

43

44 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,
45 Mr. Chair. And this is the last question and thank you
46 so much for all your feedback so far, and it's mostly
47 open-ended.

48

49 Does the Council have any other

50

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1 suggestions regarding the ways of improving written or
2 oral public testimony during the Council meeting.

3

4 MS. ATORUK: I would believe.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think it's been
7 covered already but I.....

8

9 MS. ATORUK:it's -- Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead,
12 Barbara.

13

14 MS. ATORUK: We are serving the people
15 here. We're sitting at their board and they have the
16 floor at any time that they do come into request, the
17 Chair's always acknowledge participants, they always
18 acknowledge new at their meeting there and usually the
19 people that do come in already have spoken to the
20 Chair. They have time to say something and then that
21 time will be provided. I think that's always worked
22 good with us when the people are introduced at a
23 meeting and they're there for a reason. Sometimes they
24 will move the agenda around to have them speak earlier
25 while they're there, they are busy people, or if they
26 do call in they give them the time. So I think that
27 has always been preferable in the Northwest region, and
28 I still applaud it.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
33 Barbara. What I was going to say is just putting
34 emphasis on encouraging people that if they would like
35 to send in any written comments, to make sure they have
36 them sent them in advance of the meeting so there's
37 time to review it and get it into the materials
38 disseminated out to the Council, just so that way it's
39 not a scramble the morning before or evening before to
40 get something to the Council and everything's working
41 on wrapping things up and preparing for the actual
42 meeting.

43

44 Is there any other feedback.

45

46 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead,
49 Barbara.

50

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1 MS. ATORUK: When that happened,
2 because I am bilingual, a lot of times in the past I've
3 had people who didn't speak English and I interpreted
4 for them, I spoke to them in Inupiaqand (In Inupiaq) --
5 I know you guys don't speak Inupiaq but then that's
6 how I spoke to the people, the ones that did not speak
7 English, I translated for the agency to them on what is
8 written on that paper. I know now that is gone and
9 usually the Coordinator gets a hold of the person who
10 asked that question and do the summary with them over
11 the phone and then ask them if they're there in
12 Kotzebue -- usually we have our meetings there in
13 Kotzebue, to come in and attend, and the Chair will be
14 notified about the person's attendance and then try to
15 get that issue done earlier on if you change your
16 agenda around to make it presentable and make that
17 person comfortable so they don't get pushed off on the
18 side. That's always been very important because we're
19 their servants and we need to work with them.

20
21 Taikuu.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
24 Barbara. Any other feedback for Lisa.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, was
29 there anything else under this portion Lisa.

30
31 MS. GREDIAGIN: No, Mr. Chair, that is
32 all and thank you so much to the Council members for
33 your great feedback on this agenda item.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you.
36 We'll move on to the next item which is, again, with
37 Lisa, the briefing and Council comments on proposed
38 actions to automate Federal subsistence permits.

39
40 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes, thank you, Mr.
41 Chair. Again, for the record my name is Lisa Grediagin
42 and I'll be providing an update to the Council on
43 proposed actions to automate Federal subsistence
44 permits. This is not an action item, it's primarily an
45 update and briefing.

46
47 One of the many governing statutes that
48 cover the Federal Subsistence Management Program is the
49 Paperwork Reduction Act, formerly referred to as the
50

1 PRA. This law requires all Federal departments and
2 agencies to gain approval through the Office of
3 Management and Budget prior to the collection of
4 information from the public. In regards to our
5 Program, this collection of information can be the
6 information you provide on your permits, the data
7 supplied to be nominated to serve, or to continue your
8 service on the Regional Advisory Councils, but it also
9 covers the signage used for fishwheels, nets and buoy
10 markers. Even the requirements to submit a lower moose
11 jaw, the sealing of untanned animal skins, and other
12 biological submissions are covered under this statute.

13
14 This law was designed to protect you,
15 the public, from unreasonable requirements to provide
16 data and/or personal information without justification.
17 The process to gain approval to collect information
18 from OMB generally takes a year, but can be as long as
19 18 months. An agency must, in short, provide the
20 reasons this information will be collected, what it
21 will be used for, how it may be used outside of the
22 original intent, who will have access to the
23 information, and how it will be stored. This clearance
24 is valid for three years and must be resubmitted prior
25 to the expiration date.

26
27 Another governing statute that covers
28 our Program is the E-Government Act. The purpose of
29 this law is to improve the management and promotion of
30 electronic government services and requires using
31 Internet-based information technology to improve
32 citizen access to government information and services.
33 You see this is in our Program, in our webpage,
34 providing news releases, meeting materials, and other
35 information, and in the use of social media which
36 allows for the swift notifications regarding special
37 actions, meetings, and submissions of regulatory
38 proposals. Our webpage and social media sites are
39 monitored by DOI, the Department of Interior, 24/7 to
40 ensure we meet all requirements of the law and
41 departmental policies.

42
43 After the most recent OMB clearance to
44 collect information from the public, OMB contacted our
45 office and tasked us with exploring the use of
46 automated permits within our Program. Many issues
47 would accompany the use of automated permits and must
48 be addressed before any attempt is made to use internet
49 permits.
50

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1 OSM is asking the Councils and the
2 public for ideas as to how the issuing of permits might
3 look in the future. Any and all ideas are welcome.
4 There are several overriding factors that must be
5 understood. All Federal permits must be issued by a
6 Federal agency and cannot be delegated to a non-Federal
7 entity, such as a local or State entity or a tribal
8 government. The cost must be considered, the Program
9 has a limited budget and excessive costs cannot be
10 absorbed to the detriment of Board and Council meetings
11 or the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. A paper
12 permit will still have to be carried into the field for
13 proof when addressing law enforcement or field Staff.

14
15 Some of the issues that must be
16 addressed.

17
18 How can we verify a person is a
19 Federally-qualified user.

20
21 How do we address the lack of or
22 substandard infrastructure in rural communities if
23 internet permits are issued.

24
25 How will managers address quotas,
26 and/or limit the amount of permits issued in the case
27 of conservation concerns.

28
29 How will managers deal with the lack of
30 reporting of harvest results in the case of power
31 failures or lack of the internet. Especially when
32 reporting requirements are listed as 48 or 72 hours due
33 to severe conservation concerns.

34
35 How would this possible change affect
36 subsistence users.

37
38 What method of issuing permits would be
39 preferred by subsistence users.

40
41 While this is not a formal request for
42 comments, we ask that any comments be sent to
43 subsistence at fws.gov by November 15, 2022. More
44 information will be provided to the Councils as this
45 process moves forward.

46
47 So, thank you, Mr. Chair. That
48 concludes my formal presentation and happy to try to
49 address any questions the Council may have on this
50

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1 process. I'm certainly not an expert on this issue.
2 And it sounds like if the Council would like to provide
3 comments they may do so or if they'd like to provide
4 comments as an individual or let other people they
5 could provide comments on this issue, you can email
6 those comments to our general email address subsistence
7 at fws.gov.

8

9 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. Does
12 anyone have any questions or comments on that.

13

14 MR. ARMSTRONG: This is Elmer.

15

16 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Elmer first, and then
19 Barbara.

20

21 MR. ARMSTRONG: We are the Advisory
22 Council, they have to listen to us, we are the ones
23 subsisting off the land. They have to understand what
24 lifestyle we live. If they don't understand it, tough
25 luck. Because we live off the land, we go through the
26 seasons. How many of them could check off walrus
27 hunting, beluga hunting, bearded seal, seals, caribou,
28 moose, whitefish, sheefish, ducks and birds, ptarmigan,
29 check that off your list before you try to tell us and
30 not agree with us.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer.
35 Barbara, did you have something.

36

37 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, I have a question to
38 whoever just spoke about this. You know when you reach
39 60 you get these forever hunting licenses and I have
40 one. But the new thing came out to say that I need to
41 get a permit for caribou or moose if I want to harvest
42 one. How did that come about? And the other question
43 I have is, and I've seen it done, somehow, is the
44 person outside, not living in the region, gets a permit
45 and sends it to a person in the region to harvest
46 either a moose or a caribou and that is sent to them;
47 is that permissible? I thought the permit would be in
48 your person as you are out there trying to harvest a
49 caribou or a moose.

50

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1 Please answer, thank you.

2

3 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks, Barbara.

4 Through the Chair, this is Lisa. And your first
5 question about how the moose and caribou permits came
6 about is basically just through proposals, both to the
7 Board of Game to require the permits under State
8 regulations and then the Federal Subsistence Board for
9 the Federal side. And so it was just a matter of
10 people submitting proposals to require those permits
11 and then the proposals being adopted by both the Board
12 of Game under the State regulations and the Federal
13 Board under the Federal regulations to require those
14 permits.

15

16 And then the other question you had
17 about someone from outside the region getting a permit
18 and sending it to someone within the region to use,
19 that sounds like a law enforcement violation to me.
20 You know, people can't just transfer permits around
21 when they receive a permit, it's in their name and you
22 have to show your ID when you get the permit so I'm not
23 sure if anyone from law enforcement is on to speak more
24 to that question but that sounds like a violation and,
25 you know, something illegal to be sending permits -- or
26 using someone else's permit unless, I mean you have a
27 designated hunter proxy hunting permit, so I don't know
28 if that might have been the case in the example you're
29 using, if someone was proxy hunting or being a
30 designated hunter for someone else then they would need
31 to have that other person's permit in their possession
32 along with the proxy or designated hunter permit.

33

34 MS. ATORUK: Okay, so.....

35

36 TROOPER CANTEEN: Good afternoon. This
37 is Trooper Canteen with the Wildlife.....

38

39 MS. ATORUK: So if you were.....

40

41 TROOPER CANTEEN:Troopers up
42 in.....

43

44 MS. ATORUK: So it can work with a
45 designated hunter because these people said they signed
46 papers for the hunter to hunt for them, is it
47 possible.....

48

49 TROOPER CANTEEN: Hi Barb.

50

0240

1 MS. ATORUK:for them -- hi.

2

3 TROOPER CANTEEN: Hi, this is Trooper
4 Canteen up in Kotzebue. If I may speak to your
5 question, I'm the Wildlife Trooper up here. There is a
6 process and she just alluded to it earlier. We do have
7 what we call proxy hunting, which is where, let's say
8 you're 85, you can't go out and hunt no more but you
9 still want some caribou, you can get your grandson or
10 whoever to go do some paperwork with the State and he
11 hunts for you as your proxy, in your place. So we do
12 have a process for that. But it wouldn't involve him
13 necessarily just receiving your permit. There's a
14 little bit of paperwork that has to go into that. And
15 if I contacted him in the field he has to have that
16 paperwork to prove that it is proxy hunting.

17

18 A lot of people up here don't
19 necessarily need to do that because you can get five
20 caribou per day. The proxy hunter is really
21 designed.....

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25

26 TROOPER CANTEEN:for areas where
27 you could get like one moose, so he could get a moose
28 for his family, he could get a moose for you. Does
29 that answer your question?

30

31 MS. ATORUK: Yes, it does. So that's
32 what went on then because there was some paperwork
33 signed before that harvest went out.

34

35 TROOPER CANTEEN: Okay.

36

37 MS. ATORUK: And I was just curious.
38 You know these permits that have come up, because I
39 know when those license -- those 60 year license that
40 you don't need to get anything else were honorable and
41 by the time I got mine all these permits perk up and
42 stuff and then I was told you have to go get a permit
43 to get caribou and I said, how come and who says, and
44 then that makes my license, you know, kind of useless.
45 Then why.....

46

47 TROOPER CANTEEN: Well, no.....

48

49 MS. ATORUK:give it if they're

50

0241

1 saying you have to get a permit.

2

3 TROOPER CANTEEN: So we got two things
4 here, Barb. You got to have the license to go hunt,
5 anybody that hunts has to have a license and then for
6 specific animals a lot of time we have permits. The
7 permit in this case for the caribou came about because
8 Fish and Game, in large part, realized they didn't have
9 good numbers on the caribou and they were having a hard
10 time managing the herd well. So a big part of Fish and
11 Game's job is to make sure 20 and 50 years from now
12 your grandkids and great-grandkids still have caribou
13 to hunt. They can't do that if they don't know how
14 many caribou are harvested every year.

15

16 So on a permit right now, about 400
17 caribou get reported every year, plus or minus a
18 couple, Fish and Game estimates doing some calling
19 around and surveying that about 12,000 animals are
20 harvested from the Western Arctic Herd, so that's a
21 pretty big disparity, less than 1,000 are getting
22 reported and about 12,000, they think are taken, but
23 they're not sure. And especially as we edge into a
24 time when the herd is declining, it's not panic stage,
25 but it's getting a little smaller, they need to know is
26 this decline because of human pressure, because of
27 predator, because of climate, they don't know right now
28 because they don't have good reporting. And the permit
29 is the way that they can get good enough information,
30 so that they can manage that herd better so that 20
31 years from now we still have a good herd unlike the --
32 for example, the Mulchatna Herd down around Bristol Bay
33 was at a quarter million and now it's about 12,000
34 because it wasn't managed particularly well. So Fish
35 and Game up here is trying to stay ahead of the curve
36 so you have a good herd 20 and 50 years from now.

37

38 MS. ATORUK: I hear you and I
39 understand you. But it's overwhelming to these young
40 hunters up here to get because they don't have the
41 dollars to get the permit but I think.....

42

43 TROOPER CANTEEN: Well, the
44 permits.....

45

46 MS. ATORUK:it's given out for
47 free, right, or is it \$25 for a permit?

48

49 TROOPER CANTEEN: Yep, it's free. So

50

0242

1 you could get it either in person, at Fish and Game and
2 we're working on getting more Fish and Game vendors in
3 the villages because I know it can be a pain in the
4 village. What I tell people a lot of time is go down
5 to the IRA or NANA, both of whom are there to help out
6 folks in the village with technical stuff, they always
7 got a computer with internet, you can get your hunting
8 license right there, you can get your caribou permit
9 right there and you're good for a whole year. So it's
10 a fairly streamlined process. Fish and Game is working
11 on some ways right now to make it more streamlined, so
12 it's user friendly. But the flip side of this is we're
13 a lot more efficient at hunting today than we were 100
14 years ago. A hundred years ago on dog sled or on foot
15 you didn't take as many animals as you do now on a Sno-
16 Go or a boat with a high power rifle. So as we get to
17 use these higher technologies we are a lot more
18 efficient at hunting and history has shown over and
19 over, people really easily hunt an animal out of
20 existence. So as we get more efficient we have to have
21 more rules, it's an unfortunate trade-off, but I think
22 everybody's probably the better for it. It beats going
23 out on a dog sled with a bow and arrows, because that's
24 the flip side, if we don't manage well we're going to
25 run out of animals.

26

27 MS. ATORUK: But the license that you
28 are getting, that you do go and get, you have to pay
29 \$25 right?

30

31 TROOPER CANTEEN: If you are low
32 income qualified and there's some numbers that
33 actually say yea or nay on qualification, you can get a
34 \$5 license, otherwise it's like a \$29 hunting license,
35 which compared to the price of gas these days isn't too
36 much.

37

38 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

39

40 TROOPER CANTEEN: You figure the first
41 caribou you shoot, you save that much in meat over at
42 the AC store.

43

44 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, that's where we're
45 getting hung up here. Because a lot of these young
46 people, some of them don't even have the \$5. And.....

47

48 TROOPER CANTEEN: And by young
49 people.....

50

0243

1 MS. ATORUK:and a lot.....

2

3 TROOPER CANTEEN:the.....

4

5 REPORTER: Okay, hang on a second. I
6 just need one person to talk at a time.

7

8 Barb, continue.

9

10 MS. ATORUK: And a lot of these kids
11 don't have even \$5 to get their license, and they're 16
12 and 17 year olds and they're the ones that are hunting
13 for their grandparents. And that's us, elders, too,
14 that they do go out and I said -- and I'll ask them,
15 did you get a license, he said, no, I can't, I could
16 give you some and they say, no, no need, you know, that
17 kind of attitude. We need, like somebody suggested
18 earlier, this pandemic is holding off a lot of things
19 from getting to the younger people, to the younger
20 generation. We need to talk and speak with their
21 parents, if we must, and try to help them get licensed
22 even at a young age, even if they're not hunters, you
23 know, just so they have it in their pocket, but that's
24 a long time coming in some of these villages. The boys
25 will just get together and go out and run into some
26 animals and harvest them and bring them back and then
27 share them within the village. And that's where a lot
28 of the count is not being counted, the harvesting out
29 here in the villages. I'm sure it's not only here,
30 it's got to be everywhere else.

31

32 So that's where I'm coming from, you
33 know, the license is good but us elders are just
34 holding these license for nothing, actually, because we
35 don't go out and that proxy thing that you just spoke
36 about brings in a lot of paperwork and a lot of these
37 Natives out here don't like to do paperwork. They can
38 override paperwork any time of the day, it's not
39 important to them although it is to us even if we want
40 it complete it the way we want it, we need to work with
41 them.

42

43 Thank you for answering my questions.

44

45 On mute.

46

47 TROOPER CANTEEN: Yes, ma'am. And to
48 speak to -- to your last point, your youth don't need a
49 license until they're 18, that's one way we've kind of
50

0244

1 streamlined it so that you can go out and provide for
2 your family and it's one less thing that they have to
3 deal with. So thank you for your input today, Barb.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you,
6 Barbara. Thank you, Trooper Canteen for all that
7 information. If there's no other feedback or comments
8 for Lisa on the proposed actions to automate Federal
9 subsistence permits, I believe we can move on to
10 the.....

11

12 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman, Michael.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER:Se -- yes, Mike.

15

16 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, you know, we've had
17 a lot of issues in the past regarding permits and
18 animals being seized -- sealed, you know, I don't know
19 if it's gotten any better. I mean I've -- I've been up
20 there in the Kobuk Valley in the river and had like six
21 caribou on the beach and Park Service drives up and
22 says, hey, you got your hunting license and caribou
23 harvest tickets, yeah, they're right there on the bow
24 of the boat and he goes over there and looks at the
25 caribou ticket and says this is not a legal ticket,
26 you're hunting illegally in the Park. I said, well, I
27 suggest you get back in that little boat of yours, go
28 down to Kiana, get reformed and you can come back up
29 here and see me and then we'll be able to straighten it
30 out but until then I'm busy trying to put meat away
31 before it spoils. You know, those kind of issues.

32

33 I've even seen a guy from Kiana who got
34 a wolverine and got his seal, temporary seal put on the
35 animal in the villages and he handed it to somebody to
36 take down and get a regular seal to put on it to send
37 it to a tannery, which he ended up getting it
38 confiscated. You know it caused a lot of paperwork, a
39 lot of phone calls, a lot of explaining, it's just a
40 hassle.

41

42 Things got to get easier on the people
43 that are out there trying to put meat in their
44 freezers. You know we shouldn't have to be questioned
45 about a caribou harvest ticket that we got at Fish and
46 Game and it's good for both Park, Refuges and, you
47 know, monuments and all this other stuff, BLM lands,
48 you know, we should be able to hunt anywhere we know,
49 and the problem is is that these law enforcement
50

0245

1 officers aren't familiarized with what type of harvest
2 tickets we have and I've seen that problem in the past.
3 I've even seen an issue where these people were out
4 hunting and they brought a family member who didn't
5 even want to hunt but just wanted to follow and spend
6 some time with family members and came up, went up the
7 river with them, they were up there in the Kobuk Valley
8 National Park and the only thing the guy had was a
9 camera and binoculars and then they got approached by a
10 Park Ranger and he was questioned, did you look at
11 caribou through your binoculars, yes I did, well,
12 that's intent to harvest. Did you take pictures of
13 those caribou, yes, I did, well, that's with the intent
14 to harvest. He don't even have a gun. Come on now,
15 it's time to get real.

16
17 I've even heard of an issue the other
18 year about a guy that was following some people pulling
19 traps and a guy on a Sno-Go had a rifle, he was told to
20 go back down to the village and go get a hunting
21 license. He was just following. And that rifle,
22 that's for survival. Survival is way more important
23 than a hunting license. If I'm out there in the
24 country and I break down, that's my life line is my
25 rifle, that shouldn't even be questioned, you know,
26 it's kind of a -- how would you say it, discrimination.
27 Requiring us to have all this paperwork, all this stuff
28 on us out in the field.

29
30 There's got to be an easier way regard
31 -- you know, I was even told that people can, you know,
32 possibility of -- let's just say I wanted to get a
33 hunting, trapping, fishing license for the whole year,
34 you know, for the month of January you could go there
35 and you could get whichever ones you have and it looks
36 kind of like a credit card, you know, and you have your
37 harvest tickets and that way it's not questioned
38 anymore. Because trying to keep a piece of paper dry
39 when you're out there in some of the harshest weather
40 harvesting animals, yeah, it's tough. i've had a
41 hunting license in my back pocket that got wet because
42 I fell in the river and when I got questioned about my
43 hunting license they said, well, this isn't good
44 anymore. I don't know any more, man.

45
46 You know I've seen a lot of people get
47 hosed and discriminated against because just simply
48 being out there. You know this person hasn't seen a
49 caribou in 20 years and was taking pictures of them
50

0246

1 crossing a river, that's with the intent to harvest,
2 that's nuts man. It's time for this to get real. It
3 needs to start -- the people needs to be protected.
4 And we got to come up with something easier such as a
5 card that you're issued, that way if it gets wet it
6 doesn't get denied. That kind of a, you know,
7 something -- that's really something we should start
8 looking at. Because it's making our people look like
9 criminals and this is not what we're here to do. We're
10 here to make regulations for people to follow and
11 protect people.

12

13 It's got to get real soon. No more
14 harassment. No more discrimination. You know in those
15 ways that I've explained.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. Any
20 other feedback from Lisa on the proposed actions to
21 automate Federal subsistence permits.

22

23 MR. DALLEMOLLE: Hello, Mr. Chair, this
24 is Joe Dallemolle, District Ranger with the Park
25 Service. If I may just have a moment, I wanted to
26 clarify or address Mike's comments.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Joe.

29

30 MR. DALLEMOLLE: I'll be quick. Yeah,
31 this is more directed to Mike. Some of what you're
32 describing certainly troubles me a lot especially if
33 the Park Service was involved in some of these
34 circumstances, I'd love the opportunity to talk to you
35 maybe one on one about some of those incidences, we
36 want to make sure that those kind of circumstances
37 aren't occurring, if, indeed they are, by Park Service
38 Staff. Really, and just to be clear, there's two
39 Rangers up here and we're pretty well familiar with the
40 laws, the hunting permits, the local population and our
41 patrol patterns. So I hope you're not seeing that from
42 any of us, if this has occurred in the past, but I'd
43 still love to chat with you and make sure that we're
44 avoiding that in the future. So I think you have my
45 contact information, if not, I can get that to you and
46 perhaps we can have a conversation off line after this
47 meeting, or whenever is convenient for you.

48

49 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, that sounds good.

50

0247

1 Just a concern because, you know, these people are just
2 out there spending time with their family and they get
3 accused with the intent to harvest and that's kind of
4 wrong. But, yeah, when I get a chance I will. I'm
5 pretty busy at work lately but I will get a chance to
6 stop by and say hi.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you
11 Joe and thank you Mike.....

12

13 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER:for those. Yes,
16 Barbara.

17

18 MS. ATORUK: When that does happen out
19 there I've been told to get their badge number, you ask
20 for their badge number and they have them in their
21 records to see who that would be. Sometimes names are
22 hard to say but if you get their badge number that will
23 work for their agency that you are going to file a
24 complaint for. And I've seen some citations that did
25 happen in the past and nobody did anything about them
26 because the law enforcement people thing they are right
27 doing that. In the past my boat in Kotzebue was almost
28 confiscated until I went into the law enforcement
29 people in Anchorage at OSM and Fish and Wildlife
30 Service to go and ask to see, okay, what regulation are
31 you using, I said that's my boat you guys are talking
32 about in Kotzebue where my brother-in-law was cited for
33 walrus and they showed me one little line of regulation
34 that they were using, I took that out and my brother
35 was represented by Alaska Legal Services in Fairbanks
36 because a couple law enforcement agency people flew up
37 to Kobuk, went to his house, had him open his freezer,
38 had him open his buckets of storage and took two pieces
39 out. That's evidenceto them. And then they went and
40 left. When they were done with that they tried to
41 bring them back and give them back to him, my brother
42 just gave them to the dogs. But at the end he won that
43 case. That case was won. And these are the kind of
44 things that did happen in the past. And so if you are
45 out there getting any kind of problems with the law
46 enforcement or agencies and you're being overwhelmed
47 or, a lot of times intimidated, you get their badge
48 number, and that's where you will turn that number in
49 and it will get everything started.

50

0248

1 Thanks.

2

3

Back on mute.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you for that Barbara. Any further discussion on this topic.

7

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, we'll move on to briefing on the Secretarial regulations proposing the inclusion of identified submerged lands in the Tongass National Forest, again, with Lisa.

15

16

17

18

19

MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record this is Lisa Grediagin. This is an informational brief only and no action is required on the part of the Council.

20

21

22

23

24

This is the second rulemaking on this subject. The first taking place with the publication of a proposed rule in June 2016 and the final rule in May 2018.

25

26

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41

To comply with a court order, Peratrovich, et al., versus United States and the state of Alaska. The Secretaries were directed to initiate regulatory proceedings to identify those submerged lands within the Tongass National Forest that did not pass to the state of Alaska at statehood, and, therefore, remain Federal public lands subject to Federal subsistence provisions. This task was forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board by the Secretaries. This proposed rule would add to the list of submerged parcels in the Federal subsistence regulations that have been identified through agency review. The purpose of this proposed rule is to complete regulatory proceedings addressing submerged public lands within the Tongass National Forest, as directed by the court.

42

43

44

45

46

The majority of these submerged lands are low-water lines, reefs, rocks and very small islands, 100 yards to a half a mile in length.

47

48

49

50

This document is expected to be published in the Federal Register in February 2022 and will have a 60 day comment period. The exact dates

0249

1 will be announced news release and social media.

2

3 If you or the public desires to comment
4 on this proposed rule you may submit comments by one of
5 the following methods:

6

7 And I apologize, bear with me here,
8 these are pretty long addresses.

9

10 Electronically. Go to the Federal
11 erulemaking portal <https://www.regulations.gov>. In the
12 search box enter the docket number FWS-R7-SM-2018-0013.
13 Then, click on the search button. On the resulting
14 page, in the search panel on the left side of the
15 screen, under the document type heading, check the
16 proposed rule box to locate this document. You may
17 submit a comment by clicking on comment.

18

19 And you can also submit your comment by
20 hard copy. Submitted by U.S. mail or hand delivery:
21 Public comments processing, attention FWS-R7-SM-2018-
22 0013; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, 5275 Leesburg,
23 Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church Virginia 22041-
24 3803.

25

26 As a Council, if you desire to comment
27 on this proposed rule you may submit your comment to
28 your Council Coordinator.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
31 Council. And, yeah, I apologize for those long
32 addresses, that's just what I was given to read, but,
33 again, this is for the Tongass National Forest and we
34 were asked to just present this as a briefing update to
35 all the Councils but the, Tongass, of course, is in the
36 Southeast region of Alaska.

37

38 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. If
41 there's no questions or discussions on this, I'd like
42 to ask that if it could get sent out electronically for
43 anybody interested in learning more about it.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there's no
48 discussions, questions or comments or anything we could
49 move on to the last item under new business; the

50

0250

1 Wildlife Special Action Request WSA22-01, Unit 22 and
2 23 Federal Muskox permit system with Kendra Holman.

3

4 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair, can you
5 hear me?

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, I can hear you.

8

9 MS. HOLMAN: So, hello, Mr. Chair,
10 members of the Council. My name is Kendra Holman and
11 I'm a Wildlife Biologist for the Office of Subsistence
12 Management. I will be presenting the request for a
13 temporary wildlife special action WSA22-01, which
14 pertains to the Seward Peninsula muskox population in
15 Unit 22 and 23 and WSA22-01(b) which pertains to the
16 Cape Thompson muskox population in Unit 23.

17

18 This special action request was emailed
19 to the Council members and can be found on the OSM
20 website under No. 16 for the Northwest Arctic meeting
21 materials.

22

23 So temporary special action WSA22-01
24 and WSA22-01(a) and (b) submitted by -- were submitted
25 by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land
26 Management request the Federal Subsistence Board change
27 the Federal muskox permit in Unit 22 and 23 from a
28 registration permit to a drawing permit system for the
29 2022 through 2024 regulatory cycle. This is a
30 housekeeping request as these permits have been
31 distributed via a draw since 1998. The proponents of
32 this also request to standardize the language in the
33 delegation of authority letters and to change the in-
34 season manager from the Western Arctic National
35 Parklands Superintendent to the Anchorage Field Office
36 Manager for the Federal muskox in the Southwestern
37 portion of Unit 23.

38

39 The Seward Peninsula and Cape Thompson
40 populations of muskox have been managed under a shared
41 quota system with the state of Alaska since 1998. The
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has issued permits
43 under a Tier II restriction and Federal permits have
44 been issued using a drawing system since about the same
45 time. The Federal in-season managers use a draw system
46 to distribute permits because unclear language in the
47 delegation of authority letters led them believe that
48 they could. The Federal in-season managers considered
49 a draw permit to be the best management strategy for
50

0251

1 conserving natural and healthy populations while still
2 allowing for subsistence use by Federally-qualified
3 users. If this request is approved there will be no
4 change to the process of awarding Federal permits since
5 it is a draw system it's how it's been since 1998. The
6 only change will be the language in the delegation of
7 authority letters and the in-season manager.

8

9 The Office of Subsistence Management
10 will be holding a public hearing regarding WSA22-01(a)
11 and WSA22-01(b) on March 15, 2022.

12

13 The Seward Peninsula and North Slope
14 Regional Advisory Councils will both be acting on this
15 special action at their winter meetings as well.

16

17 The Federal Subsistence Board will be
18 acting on these proposals at their April 2022 meeting.

19

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

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Kendra.
24 Does anyone from the Council have any questions or
25 comments on this wildlife special action request.

26

27 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara.

30

31 MS. ATORUK: I tried to find you, 22-
32 01(a) and 22-01(b), I never found you on our booklet,
33 did you say we didn't have it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: This one got emailed
36 to us a week ago and then again last night from Eva,
37 there, Barbara.

38

39 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay. I don't check
40 my email so that's where it's at then. But whoever
41 just reported, could you summarize for us, please, what
42 we're supposed to do on the muskox.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. ATORUK: Please.

47

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

49

50

0252

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Wilbur.

2

3 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, thanks for that
4 info on the permitting and stuff on the muskox, but
5 it's probably one of those that I probably questioned
6 and stuff about getting permits. There's probably so
7 much people that goes in and fills out an application
8 for these permits, it's because I did it a couple times
9 and never got drawn. But the reason I was so
10 interested in the permit is that's real good eating
11 stuff, even barbecued. To be honest, I like that. But
12 I still would like to get a permit. I won't go and
13 shoot them even though they're right there, until I get
14 my permit. So this one I would like to -- and I guess
15 they give out applications for those permits year-
16 round, is that correct, or is there a certain time you
17 need to get the permit.

18

19 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra
20 Holman, can you can hear me? Sorry, I tried to answer
21 Barbara a minute ago but.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes. Yes, we can hear
24 you.

25

26 MS. HOLMAN: So I think somebody from
27 either the BLM or the National Park Service should be
28 on to answer that RAC question as far as when they
29 permit.

30

31 For -- for Barbara's question this --
32 this special action we are looking for a vote on it
33 similar to what you do with the wildlife proposals in
34 the fall from the Council. To support, modify --
35 hopefully that answers your question.

36

37 REPORTER: Kendra, this is Tina, the
38 court reporter. You're cutting in and out so I'm not
39 sure if you're like on a speaker phone or what, but I
40 just wanted to let you know that. Thanks.

41

42 Go ahead, Barb.

43

44 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, that answers my
45 question and then with Wilbur's input right there it
46 makes it clearer.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0253

1 MR. FRONSTIN: Through the Chair, this
2 is Raime Fronstin, Wildlife Biologist for Western
3 Arctic. I can answer Wilbur's question about the
4 timing of the muskox permits and drawings.

5
6 So the National Park Service has a
7 separate drawing process or different permitting
8 process than the State does for muskox, however, in
9 Unit 23 we do split the permits that we give out
10 because we give them out depending on the size of the
11 population, the number that we give out, and upon the
12 size of the population. And for the Park Service we
13 usually announce the -- we usually announce the drawing
14 in June and we will collect names, people just call in,
15 you can call in, you can email us, you can come in when
16 we're open and just give us your name and contact
17 information and in July we do a random -- completely
18 random drawing and that's how we determine who gets the
19 permits for the year.

20
21 And then -- yeah, does that answer all
22 your questions.

23
24 MR. HOWARTH: Yes. This is Wilbur.
25 Thank you so much. I'm going to keep this little note
26 now. Thank you.

27
28 MR. FRONSTIN: Yes, Wilbur, keep
29 trying, please, because it is random and you never
30 know.

31
32 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, the reason I'm
33 doing this, for myself anyways, because, we didn't
34 really get enough caribou and I know muskox during the
35 late fall were nice and fat and good eating.

36
37 MR. FRONSTIN: And I agree that.....

38
39 (Laughter - cuts out)

40
41 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you.

42
43 MR. FRONSTIN: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you
46 for those clarifications Raime, and Kendra. Are there
47 any other questions or comments from the Council
48 regarding this wildlife special action request.

49
50

0254

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there's no further discussion, what is the wish of the Council regarding this wildlife special action request, in order to act upon it we would need to have a motion and a vote and everything, so how -- would anyone like to make a motion, is there any more discussion.

9

10 (No comments)

11

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0255

1 MS. SMITH: I was on mute, sorry about
2 that.

3
4 MS. PATTON: No worries, happens to
5 everyone.

6
7 MS. SMITH: I was really talking away.

8
9 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

10
11 MS. SMITH: I believe Attamuk has left
12 us already, Attamuk, are you there?

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MS. SMITH: He's probably.....

17
18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Hazel.

19
20 MS. SMITH:gone.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Yes, I was able to talk to
23 Attamuk earlier so he is attending to family so he
24 won't be on this afternoon. Thank you.

25
26 MS. SMITH: Okay. Next on the list to
27 approve this is Thomas Christopher Baker.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

30
31 MS. SMITH: Hazel Smith Harris, yes.

32
33 Michael Chad Kramer.

34
35 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

36
37 MS. SMITH: Calvin Donald Moto.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MS. SMITH: Probably not on.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Yes, he was not able to
44 reconnect. Thank you, Hazel.

45
46 MS. SMITH: Okay. Next one is Wilbur
47 Howarth, Sr.

48
49 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

50

0256

1 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

2

3 Robert Joseph Schaeffer.

4

5 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.

6

7 MS. SMITH: Elmer Armstrong, Jr.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I believe Elmer is
12 going to have to leave us due to traveling this
13 afternoon.

14

15 MS. SMITH: Oh, okay.

16

17 Vern Cleveland, Sr.

18

19 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.

20

21 MS. SMITH: Barbara M. Atoruk.

22

23 MS. ATORUK: Yes.

24

25 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, we have seven
26 yea's.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
29 Hazel. So with that the Northwest Arctic Regional
30 Advisory Council approved the Wildlife Special Action
31 Request WSA22-01 with the justification of following
32 the housekeeping language proposed in the special
33 action request to make things concurrent with the way
34 things are done and the reflection of land status in
35 the region.

36

37 And with that we can move on to
38 something from this morning, the annual report. Eva
39 emailed out the edits that were made to the annual
40 report per our discussion this morning. Eva, would you
41 be able to read off what the changes are that you were
42 able to make so that we can further discuss this.

43

44 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair
45 and members of the Council. Yeah, we left -- a couple
46 Council members phones got dropped right as we were
47 working on the final review of the annual report and
48 then we do have Michael Kramer on with us this
49 afternoon as well. So I'll refer you back to Tab 8 in
50

0257

1 your meeting book binders to the annual report.

2

3

4 And the discussion earlier this morning
5 was in overall support of the annual report as written
6 but substantial addition to Topic No. 1. And I will
7 read that insertion of edits into the annual report, so
8 if you'll look at Topic No. 1. The lack of success in
9 harvesting caribou in Unit 23 by Federally-qualified
10 subsistence users. And two paragraphs down, these are
11 long paragraphs -- so underneath the second paragraph
12 we have inserted an additional paragraph reflecting the
13 Council's comments, in particular Bob Schaeffer
14 expressed concerns about the recent caribou census
15 data.

15

16 So currently this new addition will
17 read:

18

19 The recent caribou census shows a
20 dramatic decline in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
21 This confirms our worst concerns about our own
22 observations of the declining trend in caribou in
23 recent years. The population is now so low that the
24 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group has
25 recommended preservative management actions. The
26 Council remains greatly concerned about lack of action
27 by the Federal Subsistence Board in response to
28 Wildlife Special Action WSA21-01 that we submitted last
29 year citing lack of substantial evidence. Now the
30 scientific data clearly shows the herd is in critical
31 condition and all actions must be taken to sustain it.
32 The caribou sustains us. It is so important to our
33 community. The Board is accountable to and should have
34 listened to local subsistence users and not be
35 pressured by the sportsmen lobby. Council
36 recommendations to the Board are to ensure the
37 viability of the caribou herd and continuation of our
38 subsistence way of life and subsistence priority when
39 conservation requires harvest restrictions. Current
40 scientific data supports our observations and requests.

41

42 And, Bob, in particular, and other
43 Council members, your feedback on if that adequately
44 addresses your concerns that you wanted to include here
45 or if there are further edits you would suggest.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. Does
50

0258

1 anyone have any discussions on that edit to the annual
2 report.

3

4 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chair, this is Bob.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Bob.

7

8 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I think she
9 nailed it on the head because that was all of our
10 concern, the lack of action and I think she very nicely
11 put it, you know, in a way that's non-offending. I
12 think it's good.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,
15 Bob. Any other discussion on the annual report, or the
16 other edits that we'd like to put into it before we
17 approve it. How does the Council feel.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
20 did have one additional edit as well, did you want to
21 just address support for that one edit first and then
22 the second one or take it altogether.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: We can just take it
25 altogether if you want to read the next edit.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Okay. And thank you, Bob,
28 for your feedback and from all on the Council. We did
29 have a second request for edit from Barbara regarding
30 the request for engagement with elder support and
31 subsistence programs conducted by the Maniilaq
32 Association, and that was under Topic No. 7. And
33 Barbara had requested to add:

34

35 That the Council members hear frequent
36 reports of people having difficulty getting food and
37 store shelves are empty so support in getting healthy
38 subsistence foods are even more important now as ever.
39 Many elders to get support through the Maniilaq Healthy
40 Foods Program and the Council is further interested to
41 know if Federal dollars help support these important
42 programs.

43

44 And so as Barbara noted, that would be
45 also a request to the Maniilaq Association requesting a
46 report to the Council.

47

48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted)

50

0259

1 MS. PATTON: But these are important
2 for the Federal Subsistence Board to remain aware of
3 this as well.

4
5 Did that capture your request Barbara.
6

7 MS. ATORUK: Hello. I didn't request
8 that, I read it off the annual report. I think Hazel
9 was the one that brought it up earlier today though
10 about that Maniilaq stuff and I just read that just off
11 the wall to.....

12
13 MS. PATTON: Oh.

14
15 MS. ATORUK:let you guys know
16 that really we don't have anything to do with that,
17 whatever
18 Maniilaq Association does. And so that's where I was
19 coming from on it.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Oh, yes, thank you for
24 that feedback Barbara. And my apologies, that was
25 Hazel that had requested to include additional request
26 about Federal dollars and to bring awareness to the
27 Board, of the difficulty that people are having getting
28 food and lack of availability of store bought food. So
29 reemphasizing that the healthy subsistence foods in
30 support is really important.

31
32 So, Hazel, my apologies. Did that
33 address the additional detail you wanted to add.

34
35 MS. SMITH: Yes, it does. And
36 Barbara's correct earlier too. Most likely the funds
37 that Maniilaq gets is not to all tribes because not all
38 tribes give their resolutions to Maniilaq. Some run
39 their own programs and some are run by Maniilaq. So
40 it'll be interesting to find out what kind of report
41 they will give us on the Federal dollars they spend on
42 the elders support program.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you for that,
45 Hazel. And, yes, hopefully we will be able to have a
46 report from them at the Council's fall meeting. So
47 we'll be working on that in the meantime.

48
49 MR. HOWARTH: Can I say something, this
50

0260

1 is Wilbur.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Wilbur.

4

5

MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, this program that
6 gas and hunting supplies which is gas, maybe a quart of
7 oil and a box of shells, since they're so expensive,
8 but anyways we give those out at the IRA here in
9 Noorvik and the hunters do go out and when they do,
10 well, it's for the elders. They bring them back and
11 they fill out the piece of paper, how much you get, how
12 many caribou, and stuff like that. Which was a big
13 help. Because there's so many elders that -- and
14 families that can't really go up and hunt all the way
15 up to Onion Portage and so that program really helps
16 with the caribou or the moose hunting.

17

18

So I like that.

19

20

Thank you.

21

22

23

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
Wilbur. Are there any other comments on the annual
report and the edits that have been made. Is there
anything else we would like to look at or add in before
we go to approve this report.

27

28

29

30

MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chair, so just the
inclusion of the one paragraph would be sufficient,
right, for consideration to pass?

31

32

33

34

35

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Bob, I believe
that's based on what we discussed this morning, having
that paragraph that Eva added in should be good, if
everyone agrees that it's sufficient.

36

37

38

39

40

If there's no further discussion and
everyone is happy with the way the annual report looks
at this time, we could entertain a motion to approve
the amended FY2021 annual report.

41

42

MR. HOWARTH: So move.

43

44

45

MR. CLEVELAND: So moved, this is Vern,
to approve.

46

47

48

49

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Vern. Do we
have a second.

50

0261

1 MR. HOWARTH: Second, Wilbur.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Wilbur.

4 Hazel, can we please get a roll call vote to approve

5 the amended annual report.

6

7 MS. SMITH: Okay. Thomas Christopher

8 Baker.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

11

12 MS. SMITH: Hazel Smith Harris, yes.

13

14 Michael Chad Kramer.

15

16 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

17

18 MS. SMITH: Wilbur Howarth.

19

20 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

21

22 MS. SMITH: Robert Joseph Schaeffer.

23

24 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.

25

26 MS. SMITH: Elmer Armstrong, Jr., or I
27 believe -- oh, he's not there. Vern Cleveland, Sr.

28

29 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.

30

31 MS. SMITH: Barbara M. Atoruk.

32

33 MS. ATORUK: Yes.

34

35 MS. SMITH: Mr. Chair, we have seven
36 yea's.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hazel. So
39 with that we have approved the amended FY2021 annual
40 report. Thank you everyone for that. It is now 2:45,
41 I'd like to suggest that we take a 10 minute break
42 before we start with the agency reports unless there's
43 any final discussion on anything.

44

45 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Barbara.

48

49 MS. ATORUK: I probably won't call back

50

0262

1 in after this break. Thank you for everything, you
2 guys have a nice meeting, you have a quorum. Okay,
3 bye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right.

6

7 REPORTER: Bye Barb.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Barbara,
10 appreciate your time.

11

12 MS. SMITH: Thank you, Barb.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there is nothing
15 else we can go ahead and take a 10 minute break and
16 come back together at 2:55 and then we will begin with
17 the agency reports at that time.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (On record)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right everyone,
24 it's now 2:55. If we have everyone back online we
25 could go ahead and get started with the agency.....

26

27 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER:reports. I'd
30 just like to remind everyone -- yes, Eva.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Oh, sorry, I didn't want
33 to interrupt you there. Mr. Chair, if I may ask for a
34 friendly amendment to the order of the agency reports.
35 We did have a request for the Ambler Mining District
36 report and they are squeezing in the Council's
37 presentation in between a couple other meetings they're
38 attending today and needed to leave for another meeting
39 at 4:00. Would there be any opportunity to squeeze
40 them in first after we check in with our tribes and
41 Native organizations to provide their presentation, if
42 that's okay with the rest of our agency Staff
43 presenting today as well.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
48 Eva. I don't see any issue with it if it's fine with
49 the reset of the Council. I'm sure we can accommodate

50

0263

1 that. Is there anyone with issues of adding the Ambler
2 Metals presentation up towards the top after the tribal
3 governments and Native organizations reports.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there's no.....

8

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

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, go ahead
12 Wilbur.

13

14 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, I would like to see
15 this go before any other report. I was ready to scream
16 at Barb because I think she was the one that wanted to
17 hear something on this Ambler Mining.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you
24 for that Wilbur. Any other comments about moving the
25 reports around.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, we'll go
30 ahead and do that. We'll still start off with the
31 tribal governments and Native organizations and then
32 Ambler Metals can give their presentation. We'd just
33 like to remind everyone that there will be a time limit
34 of 15 minutes for each group just in consideration of
35 time if everyone took 15 minutes it'll take about an
36 hour and a half not including time for questions and
37 what not, it's 3:00 o'clock now. So with that we'll go
38 ahead and get started.

39

40 Do we have any tribal governments that
41 would like to make a report at this time.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there are no tribal
46 governments we can move on to Native organizations,
47 Damon, does NANA have anything they'd like to report at
48 this time.

49

50

0264

1 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chair, we do not
2 but we did want to share with the Council today to show
3 our appreciation for the wildlife special action
4 proposal that you guys submitted. NANA, we did call in
5 to the public testimony and provided testimony in
6 support of that proposal as well as they did a tribal
7 consultation and then we also spoke in support of that
8 as well. We just wanted to share that with the Council
9 today. But no reports today.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
14 Damon. Does anyone have any questions for NANA at this
15 time.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none,
20 then.....

21

22 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, maybe a thought
23 -- I have a question for NANA.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, go ahead,
26 Vern.

27

28 MR. CLEVELAND: Vern.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Vern.

31

32 MR. CLEVELAND: Okay. On hunting
33 season we watched over our NANA lands during hunting
34 season, what about the rest of the year on -- on the
35 NANA lands. What do we do the rest of the year, do we
36 just let them hunt on NANA lands and then come hunting
37 season there's no more permitted on NANA lands. Can we
38 get some kind of answer or is it a year-round thing or
39 is it just during the hunting season.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. SCHAEFFER: Thank you for that
44 question, Vern. We do run the trespass program, it is
45 around the hunting season when we're running a full
46 program. But in the off season if there are
47 trespassing issues we can address those. We don't have
48 officers employed during the off season but if somebody
49 -- or if there is an issue with trespassing and someone
50

0265

1 contacts us here at the NANA office, we can work with
2 lawenforcement to get that addressed. And then I can --
3 my contact information is just the local number here
4 for anyone that -- if there is an issue and it needs to
5 be reported, you can contact me directly at (907) 442-
6 3301.

7
8 And just to share more information on
9 the trespass, I mean we do report normally at this
10 meeting, we haven't completed our end of season report,
11 we're still working on it. But this is typically the
12 meeting we'll share the results of the past season but
13 we're still working on the report so that'll be shared
14 at the next meeting. Apologies for that delay.

15
16 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

17
18 MR. SCHAEFFER: Thank you for the
19 question.

20
21 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Wilbur.

24
25 MR. SCHAEFFER: This is Bob.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Oh, sorry, go ahead,
28 Bob.

29
30 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I've been
31 thinking about this for a long time because you know
32 dealing with non-shareholders going up to our lands and
33 pretty much stripping -- most of them are already
34 stripped by them so there was no trespass -- we
35 complained and complained and it never got nowhere so
36 basically we pretty much lost our land. Whatever
37 valuable resources, which is timber on those lands,
38 most of the wood is gone, and I'm talking about most of
39 it (indiscernible) wood but they're still doing it,
40 even today. You know they're still going over there,
41 crossing our lands, going over to the timber side on
42 the Sisolik side and they're still hauling piles of
43 wood out of there and these are non-shareholders, you
44 know. And I'm proud when I see a shareholder come by
45 with wood, at least they're making use of it. But
46 there is no management up in NANA land and that's so
47 unfortunate because the only real value to most of the
48 lands that we own across there are -- is timber and
49 they're stripping it as fast as they could. But not
50

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1 only that, you know, some of the allotment holders were
2 quite concerned about them going into their allotments
3 and then taking out timber from the allotments. In
4 fact, one allotment holder told me that he had to wait
5 to -- on his allotment because they had a trail going
6 through his allotment and he waited until night, and
7 the dark and he saw some snowmachines coming and there
8 were four big Ski-Doos loaded with their chainsaws on
9 them and all packing rifles and he had to stop them and
10 say this is private property but, you know, so they're
11 taking all the chances they want. Because that was
12 just about four years ago now, and it's just open,
13 nobody's doing anything and nobody -- we just gave up
14 on it and so there is no management of NANA lands here,
15 none whatsoever.

16
17 So just trying to tell you what the
18 facts are. Talked to a few guys that went out and got
19 wood, and it's the same thing, he said that he just
20 gave up himself because it's like barking -- barking
21 into the wind and no one's listening. So I just
22 thought I'd -- if I could get a response from NANA on
23 that one.

24
25 MR. SCHAEFFER: Well, thank you for
26 that Bobby. We've received a number of concerns
27 brought forth about some of the wood harvesting in that
28 area. Unfortunately NANA, the lands that are owned up
29 in the Sisolik area, it's really just around the
30 Sisolik shoreline and then the lower mouth of the
31 Noatak, there's some NANA lands, but the lands that
32 were in question about people harvesting wood on NANA
33 lands, you know, we did go out there and do some
34 patrols when we got some of those concerns brought
35 forward to us and those were in Parklands and then also
36 in KIC. A large majority of that area is owned by KIC.
37 And what I will share with the group is I did have a
38 meeting with KIC to talk about the possibility of KIC
39 partnering with NANA to help patrol some of those
40 lands, KIC owned lands, and we're still kind of working
41 through some of those details. But, yeah, a lot of the
42 issues that we see from across Kotzebue, that Sisolik
43 area and behind there and off of the Jones Trail, a lot
44 of that's going to be Federally-owned and as well it's
45 going to be KIC lands.

46
47 But we are aware of the issues out
48 there and any time -- regardless of whether it's our
49 lands or not, we do -- we do make an effort to try to
50

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1 go out there and determine, you know, who's lands it is
2 and I was aware of the harvesting on someone's Native
3 allotment and we informed the allotment owner and as
4 far as I know they addressed it. We don't have any
5 authority on Native allotments but we try to get that
6 information out to those people.

7

8 I hope I answered your question or
9 concern.

10

11 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, there's not only
12 just across here, you know, there's the land that
13 follows the Noatak River up towards -- you know, up
14 towards the Aggi, I'm not sure how much NANA owns up
15 there but I know there was one instance where Michael
16 Lee followed some snowmachines into one of the creeks
17 on the left-hand side going up and he wasn't sure if it
18 was NANA lands or not. But they went up there and they
19 started -- what they did -- what he did -- when he got
20 there is they weren't there but they took a chainsaw
21 and made a ring around the bottom of a bunch of big
22 trees so that the big trees would die, you know, once
23 you ring them they will die and later on he'll come and
24 harvest them. So no one -- it seems like no one cares
25 who's land they go to or, you know, what lands are
26 available, you know, for the public and so I think
27 that's where the confusion is. And, you know, they're
28 just going anywhere right now and they're harvesting
29 wood -- wood from anywhere, and I think that's the
30 problem, is that you got people that aren't
31 shareholders that are going out and doing this and
32 they're basically breaking the law when they do go and
33 trespass on NANA or KIC lands and start stripping them
34 and then taking the only valuable resource that's on
35 that land.

36

37 So I don't know, I'm not even sure
38 where to go with this. Like same thing, all over,
39 happened on Noatak, I just ran into a couple years ago,
40 nine snowmachines that came out and there was four big
41 loads of wood and so I started following behind and
42 then some of those guys took off, you know, full blast
43 they were getting the lands -- getting the trees on --
44 apparently they knew they were getting trees on
45 somebody else's lands because they went full blast even
46 though the wood was falling off their sleds, they kept
47 going full blast, I couldn't catch them. Just to give
48 you an example, it's happened twice when I was up
49 there, up by the Noatak. And so I'm not sure what
50

0268

1 lands NANA owns there or what lands -- like the mouth
2 of the Noatak, that's where -- that area -- but I know
3 a lot of it is allotments but the lands in the back,
4 I'm sure are either NANA or KIC's, right.

5
6 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, the Lower Noatak
7 is -- the majority of it is KIC owned. Yeah, it's just
8 -- it's south of Noatak is where -- and there are some
9 lands on the Aggi that are NANA -- owned by NANA. And
10 if they're marking trees like that and we're made
11 aware, we can -- we can go out there and we will go in
12 and investigate and if it's not on lands, marking trees
13 like that -- so I know -- I know like wood harvesting,
14 even on Federal lands, I think, you're required to go
15 over to the Park Service, you have to apply for a --
16 I'm almost positive it's a permit, it doesn't cost you
17 anything to get that permit but you're still required
18 to do it. And we talked to Maija when she was here,
19 obviously she's moved on. But I think what you
20 mentioned about people harvesting wood, would just go
21 out there -- you get out in the country and you assume
22 that you're just out in the country but the reality is
23 you could be on NANA or KIC or a Native allotment for
24 that matter, so I -- what we need to do and what I will
25 do is I'll reach back out to the Park Service who
26 issues these permits for wood harvesting and then I can
27 put together a map and then I think that will help
28 increase the awareness for people that are going to go
29 out and get wood, of, hey, there are private owned
30 lands out there and without a permit -- and speaking
31 for NANA, like if you are going to harvest wood on
32 NANA's land it requires a permit unless you're a
33 shareholder.

34
35 So I can put together a packet to share
36 that with the Park and if they're willing to share that
37 for the people that apply for those harvesting permits
38 to make them more aware that there are other land
39 owners out there and they need to be aware of it.
40 Hopefully that'll address some of the issues that we
41 see out there.

42
43 MR. DALLEMOLLE: Mr. Chair, this is Joe
44 Dallemolle again with the Park Service, may I address
45 this for just a moment as well.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Joe.

48
49 MR. DALLEMOLLE: Yes, let me know if
50

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1 anybody's having a hard time hearing me. The Park
2 Service is well aware of some of these issues, too, at
3 least on the Parklands and holdings kind of within the
4 Parklands and those private lands, so this was
5 something that has been brought to our attention
6 several years ago. We currently have a project, a
7 funded project, that we're working with the Native
8 Village of Kotzebue and the U.S. Forest Service, we're
9 planning to do more work on that this spring to look
10 into and explore this issue in a greater context. So
11 we're aware of it as well and we're continuing to look
12 at it. Given that there are concerns with NANA lands
13 and NANA's involvement and what I've heard from Damon,
14 I'll work with Damon directly and bring him into this
15 project and we can definitely work a little closer with
16 NANA. If anybody has any further concerns or questions
17 about this, and what's occurring on Parklands and the
18 program that we're doing, please feel free to reach out
19 to myself and love to hear more about the issue and
20 talk to more folks as we continue to explore this.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that Joe
23 and Damon. Are there any other questions for NANA
24 before we move on.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, thank
29 you again Damon for representing NANA today. And I'd
30 like to thank NANA for the support of WSA21-01 and
31 these ongoing issues here in the region regarding
32 subsistence and making sure while working together and
33 on the same page supporting each other.

34

35 And, with that, if there is nothing
36 else we can move on to the Ambler Metals presentation,
37 it looks like Charlene Ostbloom, are you with us.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anyone from Ambler
42 Metals on today.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council
47 members. It sounds like maybe she hasn't connected yet
48 to the teleconference. Charlene, are you on
49 teleconference with us?

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3

4 MS. PATTON: Okay, sounds like she
5 hasn't connected quite yet, Mr. Chair and Council
6 members. Perhaps if we'd like to move on to the Fish
7 and Wildlife Service report that is up next and I'll
8 try to get connected with Charlene and make sure she's
9 able to call in.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,
14 Eva. We'll plan to have Ambler Metals on deck. So up
15 next we have U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If
16 there's no other reports it looks like we have the
17 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge report from Will
18 Wiese.

19

20 MR. WIESE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
21 Council members. This is Will Wiese. I am currently
22 the Acting Manager for Selawik National Wildlife
23 Refuge.

24

25 I didn't submit any written materials
26 so this will be a quick verbal report but if there are
27 questions or the Council would like written materials I
28 can send those out to everyone afterwards.

29

30 To start with I should explain why I'm
31 giving this report, sort of big news for Selawik
32 Refuge, Susan Georgette retired last week. She was our
33 long-time manager and I just can't say enough about, in
34 the short time I've known her, how big an impact I've
35 seen in this region and what she's done for sort of
36 bridging the gap between the Fish and Wildlife Service
37 and local people here. And, so, yeah, she'll be sorely
38 missed. But she's not going anywhere, she's staying in
39 Kotzebue. You all might actually see her more now that
40 she's not going to the office every day and more of a
41 chance to be out on the trail and at camp. But anyways
42 so congratulations to her, that's the big change. And
43 she's in the phone book if anybody wants to get in
44 touch with her.

45

46 So I'm going to be acting as manager
47 for the time being. I don't have an update on when a
48 new full-time manager will be hired, likely several
49 months before that occurs.

50

51

1 So a little bit about me. I know I
2 introduced myself at the last meeting but quick
3 introduction again. Again, my name is Will Wiese, I've
4 only been here a year and so I'm still learning about
5 all these issues. I've been with the Fish and Wildlife
6 Service about 10 years. Most recently I was at Arctic
7 Refuge for about five years and I was living in the
8 village of Kaktovik for the last few years before I
9 came down here. So I'm a little familiar with Arctic
10 issues and sort of caribou and some of the big things
11 we deal with here now but certainly have a lot to
12 learn.

13
14 So first on my list to report is
15 transporter numbers. Hannah Atkinson gave a big report
16 yesterday on the transporter numbers into Parklands in
17 the area. Selawik Refuge, we don't have a lot of
18 transporters and we get a report from our hunter
19 transporters at the end of the year. Last year we had
20 four permits that we issued but only one of those
21 businesses used a permit and they transported two
22 groups of hunters into the Refuge and those hunters
23 harvested a total of three moose. So not a lot of
24 commercial transporters. We do know that there's other
25 people who aren't -- who go into the Refuge to hunt,
26 who have private airplanes, we don't really have a good
27 handle on how many but we don't think it's a whole lot.

28
29 Next on my list is there's a proposed
30 project by OTZ Telephone to bring high speed broadband
31 to the region and the broad overview of their project
32 is they're hoping to put microwave repeater towers from
33 the Dalton Highway all the way to Kotzebue and try and
34 supply high speed internet to the villages in the area.
35 They submitted a permit application to Selawik Refuge
36 to put two towers on the Refuge and we took a look at
37 that permit, asked them for more information, sent that
38 back, and are waiting for them to respond with the
39 updated permit application. Here at the Refuge, I
40 think, we're all understanding of how important high
41 speed internet is here, and I certainly am and I think
42 it's something that we all need, and so what will
43 happen next when we get that application back is
44 there'll be some sort of NEPA process, either an
45 environmental assessment or environmental impact
46 statement and opportunity for public input, public
47 comment. We'll also be reaching out to all the IRAS
48 for formal consultation on that project and try to get
49 a lot of input on what effects those towers might have
50

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1 on the resources and also the people and subsistence
2 opportunity and that kind of thing. So I guess kind of
3 stay tuned on that, when that becomes a formal
4 application we'll be working on that.

5
6 The next thing I wanted to report on
7 was the herring die-off. I think Bob Schaeffer -- I
8 think this was talked about a little bit before but
9 Alex Whiting has kind of been taking the lead on
10 investigating on the cause of the herring die-off last
11 fall and winter, in October. I did see a report that
12 came back from a lab that showed that there were algae
13 blooms at play in the die-off of those herring. There
14 were saxitoxins found in those herring, I think, all of
15 them, I believe. And then there was also algae found
16 in the gill tissues of those herring too and apparently
17 the toxins and the sort of abrasiveness of the algae in
18 the gills, probably both contributed to some of that
19 die-off. I think the big question is, to me, anyway,
20 are those herring safe to eat and I don't have a really
21 great answer to that. I do know that the toxin levels
22 that were found were below what would be considered
23 harmful in shellfish but of course these are herring,
24 they're different animals, and so I don't have a real
25 good answer for that. I think Alex Whiting at the
26 Kotzebue IRA would be the one to talk to more about
27 that.

28
29 Next on my list, projects we're working
30 on this winter. We continue to do ice measurements and
31 monitoring water temperatures where we can find water
32 and doing a lot of planning for next summer.

33
34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36
37 MR. WIESE: So next summer we've got a
38 water temperature monitoring project. Excuse me.

39
40 (Teleconference interference -
41 participants not muted)

42
43 MR. WIESE: I'll continue on. We've
44 got a water temperature monitoring project on the
45 Selawik River and Tag River and Kugruk River and we're
46 going to continue those, expand them a little bit.
47 We're going to try and put in some flow rate monitors
48 on those rivers so that we can not only get daily water
49 temperature but also understand exactly what the water
50

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1 levels are and actually we'd be interested in expanding
2 that too to the Kobuk River and elsewhere and make it
3 more of a regional project and I think I'll follow up
4 after this with Wilbur, perhaps, and others, to see how
5 we can partner on that.

6
7 We've also been discussing ideas for
8 projects looking at pike in the Selawik area for this
9 coming summer, possibly doing a pilot there.

10
11 Finally, I'll just say I'm looking
12 forward to the day when we can have these meetings in
13 person and I can meet folks in person and hopefully
14 that day is coming soon. But in the meantime our door
15 here at the Refuge Office in Selawik is open, we do ask
16 that people wear masks. But if there are any questions
17 you're welcome to ask them now or stop in here any time
18 or get us on the phone 442-3799 and hopefully we'll be
19 able to partner more and work together in the future.

20
21 That's all I have, thank you.

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

25
26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Mike.

27
28 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I'm Member Kramer.
29 I would like to suggest that we write a letter from the
30 Advisory Council to Susan Georgette for thank you for
31 her service and, you know, the years she's worked hand
32 in hand with us on a lot of issues. And I think that
33 would be a great thing, you know, to have a -- send her
34 a card or something for retiring and having her
35 support.

36
37 The other thing I have a question for
38 and that we -- one thing we worked very closely with
39 Susan Georgette, was that sluff up on the Selawik
40 River. It's -- the last I heard -- last year that
41 Susan said it was emitting some mud, not very much, and
42 it may have come down a little bit more and gotten
43 slightly larger. That is a big concern because of the
44 fact that we have sheefish that spawn up there and
45 we've been putting forth continuing monitoring of the
46 sheefish in the Selawik River because of that sluff,
47 because of the fact that the mudd and stuff can
48 suffocate the eggs and kill them. So that's one other
49 thing that we really like to hear from the Selawik
50

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1 River so if you could, you know, continue to inform us
2 as to how that sluff is doing and monitor it and it'd
3 be very greatly appreciated.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MR. WIESE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, if I may.
8 Thank you for that. Yeah, we fully intend to keep
9 monitoring that thaw slump. Last year it was active.
10 It -- there was some sediment sloughing into the river
11 but it didn't appear like a lot. We did fly over it.
12 And then we also are monitoring it with satellite
13 imagery. We plan to continue to keep monitoring that.
14 And also there are other outside researchers who have
15 developed some proposals to do some more in-depth
16 monitoring of that and if that comes to pass and they
17 get funding there'll be more in-depth monitoring there
18 but we'll certainly be paying attention to it.

19
20 As far as the sheefish, too, that is a
21 priority of ours to be paying attention to sheefish.
22 We hope to get out this year and look around in the Tag
23 River a little bit for sheefish. We got some reports
24 of people catching sheefish up in the Tag during the
25 spawning season so we're interested to see if there's
26 some sheefish are going up there. And also I know
27 there's a proposal in right now to do sort of an in-
28 depth sheefish spawning study again starting in 2023,
29 so we really need to pay attention to those. I'm not
30 super familiar with the details but because they're
31 long-lived and they don't spawn every year, getting a
32 picture in the next few years of what the spawning's
33 like it's really important to see what those long-range
34 impacts of that swamp are.

35
36 MR. KRAMER: Okay, thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, thank you for
39 that Will. And good questions you brought up Mike, and
40 for sure on the card or letter for Susan, that's
41 something that definitely will need to be done given
42 all the time she's put in to working on these projects
43 and a good partner to all the different organizations,
44 she will definitely be missed.

45
46 Are there any other questions for Will,
47 the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.

48
49 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, it's Wilbur.
50

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

2

3 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, thanks, Will and

4 Mike. Anyway the sheefish, in one of our last meetings

5 we had, one of the tagged sheefish was found up the

6 Yukon, was that the Yukon River, since that big

7 sloughing of the around by Selawik, I hope they're not

8 going to turnaround and spawn somewhere else. But I

9 hope it's close here because we do always like to hear

10 about our sheefish. I know they're long-lived right

11 into the 40s and beyond probably because we did studies

12 on them here. Anyways I'm glad that there will be more

13 studies done on the sheefish.

14

15 And I would like to see studies getting

16 done with the whitefish because we practically get the

17 same whitefish. And the ones I'm worried about, what

18 we eat all the time, with the (In Native), which is the

19 blunt nose I believe, and they get really big.

20

21 So thanks a lot, Will. We'll be

22 listening out for the next study you guys do on the

23 sheefish.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MR. WIESE: Thank you for your

28 comments, Wilbur. And, yeah, we'll certainly let you

29 know what we find and it's good to hear about the

30 whitefish too, that's also a real priority species of

31 ours, or group of species for us to be paying attention

32 to whitefish.

33

34 And we did go through, this past year,

35 a resources of concern exercise where we sort of

36 identified our priority resources on the Refuge and

37 that's a report that we just kind of finished up,

38 actually, last week. It's one of the last things Susan

39 signed and I'll provide that to the Council for the

40 next meeting, but it kind of lists our priority

41 resources and sheefish and whitefish and caribou,

42 Northern pike, scoters -- I'm trying to think if I'm --

43 what else I'm missing here, geese, I think that might

44 have been it, but seven or eight species that we're

45 really going to try to focus on monitoring and studying

46 into the future because they're all important

47 subsistence species and just really regionally

48 important.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
2 Will. any other questions, comments for Selawik
3 National Wildlife Refuge.

4
5 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman, this is Ray
6 Hander with the Fairbanks Field Office.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Ray.

9
10 MR. HANDER: Yes, thank you for your
11 time. Through the Chair to Mr. Wilbur. I'd be
12 interested in understanding potentially where you got
13 the information regarding a tagged sheefish up the
14 Yukon River that would have come from the Kotzebue
15 Sound area. I'm also the lead investigator for the
16 project that went on between 2011 and 2018 so we were
17 able to spend about eight years up there trying to do
18 some post-slump -- permafrost slump research and we
19 also happen to be the same ones that currently have the
20 OSM proposal in hopefully to be funded here and we'll
21 find out here in the next few weeks, hopefully, about
22 that. But as far as the eight years that we spent up
23 in the Selawik River there looking at sheefish after
24 the slump had happened, there's certainly sheefish that
25 are -- plenty going back to spawn. The reason we're
26 going back in to conduct more work is that we just need
27 some more information, age information specifically to
28 help us really hone in to understand if there was an
29 effect from the slump -- the permafrost thaw slump that
30 happened on the sheefish spawning population so trying
31 to understand to see if there's missing age classes, or
32 weak age classes, things of that nature that would help
33 us get a better idea of what the slump did.

34
35 The slump happened in 2004 so it's been
36 quite a long time with a long life so it takes patience
37 and persistence and the -- the Council is certainly
38 part of the patience and persistence part of the
39 program and we really appreciate all the support that
40 you've give us and the interest over the years from not
41 only your communities but the Selawik Refuge.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you for
46 that Ray. In the interest of time, if there are no
47 other questions for Will we will move on.

48
49 (No comments)
50

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1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
2 members of the Council, this is Eva. If I may, I did
3 hear a request to write a thank you letter to Susan
4 Georgette and certainly we can help organize an
5 informal letter, a card and put the Council's wishes in
6 there to send to Susan. But if the Council would like
7 to write a -- you know a thank you letter, a formal
8 letter from the Council to Susan, that is also nice to
9 do to recognize her relationships with the Council and
10 the communities. If we could, just if the Council
11 would like to do a formal letter, just a quick vote,
12 all in favor say aye and we can put that together as
13 well with the Council's wishes and comments in a formal
14 letter as well.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Eva. Would
19 anyone like to make a motion to send a formal letter to
20 Susan Georgette.

21
22 MS. SMITH: I so move.

23
24 MR. KRAMER: This is Mike, I make a
25 motion.

26
27 MS. SMITH: I second.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Motion by Mike,
30 seconded by Hazel. All those in favor, please say aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any opposed, same
35 sign.

36
37 (No opposing votes)

38
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So the aye's have it.
40 If we could have a formal letter drafted to send to
41 Susan that would be wonderful, thank you, Eva. And I
42 believe earlier on while Will was speaking someone
43 called in, was that Charlene Ostbloom.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Charlene or someone
48 from Ambler Metals. Eva, do we know if they managed to
49 call in.

50

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1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
2 Council. And I've been monitoring my email and sent
3 her a number of updates, I haven't gotten a response
4 from her, I think we may have just missed a connection
5 with her. She had a meeting at 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., and
6 we may still be on at 5:00, I can check and see if
7 she's not able to join us in the next little bit here,
8 if she might be able to present to the Council at 5:00
9 p.m. But I'll keep checking to see if she's able to
10 connect and call in and keep the Council posted.

11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you
15 for that, Eva. So with that we can just stick to the
16 agenda, next would be the National Park Service, first
17 being the Western Arctic Parklands and it looks like
18 Hannah Atkinson, do you have a report for us.

19
20 MS. ATKINSON: Hi. Good afternoon.
21 Mark Dowdle, the Acting Superintendent was going to
22 talk about some overall Park stuff. Mark, are you on
23 the phone.

24
25 MR. DOWDLE: I am currently connected,
26 can you hear me?

27
28 MS. ATKINSON: Yes, great, we can hear
29 you, go ahead.

30
31 MR. DOWDLE: Well, thank you, Mr. Chair
32 and Council members. I am Mark Dowdle, I'm the
33 National Park Service Acting Superintendent for the
34 Western Arctic National Parklands. It's a pleasure to
35 be with you this afternoon. I'm acting in this role
36 and I've been in this role for about two months and
37 eventually a permanent superintendent will be filled.
38 I expect that to be done hopefully in the next month or
39 so which will be great news. I also want to mention
40 that we have (indiscernible - cuts out) joined our
41 (indiscernible - cuts out) team, (indiscernible - cuts
42 out) from Kotzebue and (Indiscernible - cuts out).....

43
44 REPORTER: So excuse me. Excuse me.
45 Mark, excuse me, this is the reporter, Tina. So you're
46 coming in quite garbled and I'm not being able to pick
47 up what you're saying, like most of it. So I don't
48 know what kind of a phone you're using, I just wanted
49 to let you know that.

50

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1 MR. DOWDLE: Thank you. It might just
2 be my cell service.

3
4 REPORTER: Sure, I understand that.

5
6 MR. DOWDLE: Hannah, if you can hear me
7 can you just take over.

8
9 REPORTER: Well, you're coming in
10 better now, I just wanted to let you know that, and I
11 do understand that about the service.

12
13 MR. DOWDLE: Okay. Well, if it comes
14 in poorly just please let me know.

15
16 I was mentioning China and Joe, two new
17 members of our interpretation team, and then also Jim
18 Hans, who has joined our team permanently as a law
19 enforcement Park Ranger. We're very happy to have Jim
20 with us permanently now. And Nicole Shepperd who has
21 returned to us after a one year assignment down in
22 Arizona, and we're very happy to have Nicole back as
23 well.

24
25 I also want to share that our facility
26 manager, Jay Torres (ph), has taken a new job with the
27 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He'll be leaving us at
28 the end of March. Jay has been a -- he's done a great
29 job for us, we're going to really miss him but I do
30 plan to begin recruitment for that job permanently.

31
32 And then something that I've very happy
33 to report on is that the Northwest Arctic Heritage
34 Center will be reopening on March the 1st. This will
35 be what we call a soft opening and it'll be open for
36 about four hours a day to the general public and our
37 exhibit space will be open as well. It's been closed
38 because of the pandemic for almost two years now so
39 this is very exciting. And then around March 21st we
40 plan to open it full-time.

41
42 I'm happy to answer any questions that
43 you have and then I will turn it over to Hannah for
44 some additional reporting out. Any questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions
49 from.....

50

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1 MS. ATKINSON: Mark.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER:the Council for

4 -- go ahead.

5

6 MS. ATKINSON: This is Hannah. I
7 thought about the question that we got yesterday about
8 the permanent superintendent position, I wondered if
9 Mark could also speak to when the permanent
10 superintendent will be -- when the superintendent will
11 be replaced.

12

13 MR. DOWDLE: Yes, thank you, I may have
14 cut out during that part. That position, our regional
15 office is, I think very close to a selection for that.
16 I expect that there'll be an announcement on that in
17 the next month for the permanent position and that's
18 very exciting.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that.
23 Any questions from the Council for Mark and/or Hannah.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none,
28 then.....

29

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

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER:Hannah did you --
34 yes, Mike.

35

36 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I had questions for
37 Hannah. You know did they do any studies, you know, we
38 haven't received anything as to the commercial services
39 report or, you know, the sheep counts, that's one thing
40 I usually really like to get into and keep tabs on
41 them, and, also, you know, I like to listen to Marcy
42 Okada out of the Gates of the Arctic regarding the
43 sheep because I continually monitor -- so I'm only here
44 to 4:00 so, you know, if I miss it I'll read it on the
45 meeting minutes the next time we get it sent out.

46

47 MS. ATKINSON: Thanks for your
48 question, Mike. I'm trying to figure it out was it two
49 questions, were you asking for reports on the

50

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1 commercial services and the sheep or are you looking
2 for reports on the sheep including commercial services,
3 or were they two different questions?
4

5 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, two different
6 questions. Yeah, I just.....
7

8 MS. ATKINSON: Okay.
9

10 MR. KRAMER:wanted a census on
11 the sheep, or whether you guys did one this year. And
12 then the other thing was, you know, what was your guys'
13 commercial services report for last fall.
14

15 MS. ATKINSON: I'll answer the
16 commercial services report question, which Joe also
17 mentioned in his report yesterday is that we're still
18 getting the 2021 report analyzed and like submitted and
19 -- and then -- into our system and so we don't have the
20 2021 numbers for this meeting. But we will bring them --
21 we will bring that information to the RAC at the next
22 meeting. And then I just got a message from Raime
23 Fronstin pointing out that the sheep -- the sheep
24 survey information is in the wildlife update that is in
25 your packet and if you have any further questions,
26 Raime is a good contact, or Will Deacy, Gates of the
27 Arctic office.
28

29 MR. KRAMER: Okay. Yeah, I'll go ahead
30 and look into my booklet. I've got some of it here,
31 I'm at work right now waiting to clock in. But when I
32 get a chance I'll go ahead and read up on it more, I've
33 been pretty busy.
34

35 MS. ATKINSON: Raime, do you have like
36 a brief summary of what's in the wildlife survey -- or
37 wildlife report on sheep?
38

39 MR. FRONSTIN: Hi, Mike, this is Raime.
40 So Will Deacy should be on the call also, he's our
41 sheep biologist. We did not do -- get to do a survey
42 last year. We've had issues with Covid and doing
43 surveys so we have no new numbers for you on that. So
44 we're still at, you know, a really low population
45 within the Western Arctic area. I'm not sure -- Will
46 would know more about the Gates of the Arctic area.
47 And for the historical surveys and numb -- survey
48 numbers, if you look at the wildlife update that was
49 sent to you there's -- there are the numbers, like a
50

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1 graph from 2011 along with the spring and fall updates
2 and then potential reasons for the declines that we
3 have seen.

4

5 MR. KRAMER: Okay, thank you.

6

7 MR. FRONSTIN: Yeah, you're welcome.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hannah, did you have
10 more that you wanted to report on.

11

12 MS. ATKINSON: Yeah, I have more to
13 share with the Council.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay, the floor.....

16

17 MS. ATKINSON: And I can continue.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER:is.....

20

21 MS. ATKINSON: Sorry, go ahead.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I was just saying, the
24 floor is yours.

25

26 MS. ATKINSON: Okay, thank you.
27 Teleconferences. So just to draw attention to the
28 reports you have in your packet, Raime spoke about the
29 wildlife report. There's a cultural resources report
30 from Justin Young, and he's the person to ask questions
31 on cultural resources. And then there's a visitor
32 resources protection report. And (Indiscernible - cuts
33 out) and Joe Dallemolle are the people to ask
34 questions, and Joe has already spoken and he's not
35 going to be on the call later this afternoon but he has
36 made himself available to everybody. And then Nicole
37 Shepperd is the person to ask on any interpretation and
38 visitor center things.

39

40 So just to share that with you -- oh,
41 and then I have reports in the packet on the Kobuk
42 Valley and the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource
43 Commission. And so one of the items on your agenda is
44 that I would -- I'm coming to the Northwest Arctic
45 Regional Advisory Council because we have a vacancy on
46 the Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Commission that
47 has been open for more than a year now. It's a vacancy
48 from Louie Commack passing, he was the representative
49 that was appointed by the Regional Advisory Council,
50

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1 and so if the Commission is able to, this afternoon,
2 I'd like to present some information, introductory
3 information and then talk to you about who I know is
4 interested in the vacancy and see if we can get a
5 member -- a new member appointed.

6
7 So the background information is that
8 the Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Commission is a
9 nine member advisory committee and it was created by
10 Congress under provisions in Section .808 of ANILCA,
11 and it requires that all National Park and National
12 Monument subsistence resources -- the management of it
13 be done with the council of local subsistence users
14 through the Subsistence Resource Commission. So that
15 group, they meet twice a year, similar to the RAC, and
16 they participate in the Federal Subsistence process.
17 And the membership of it has three appointing sources.
18 There are three members appointed by the Secretary of
19 the Interior, three appointed by the Governor of Alaska
20 and then three members are appointed by the Northwest
21 Arctic Regional Advisory Council. And the requirement --
22 well, SRC members serve a three year term at the
23 pleasure of their appointing source, so they stay on
24 the Commission until they are replaced, and RAC
25 appointees have special appointment requirements. The
26 charter requires all RAC appointees to be either a
27 member of a Federal Regional Advisory Council, such as
28 your Council, or to be a member of the State local
29 Advisory Committee within the region and qualified to
30 engage in subsistence uses within the Park. So that's
31 what makes someone eligible for appointment by the
32 Regional Advisory Council.

33
34 So prior to this meeting I did some
35 looking around at who is eligible for appointment by
36 your Council to fill this vacancy and I can share that
37 information with you but the Council can appoint
38 whoever you would like to appoint, you don't have to
39 consider my information on it but I just did that for
40 ease. Would you like for me to share with you the
41 application that I have.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Hannah.

44
45 MS. ATKINSON: Okay. So I have an
46 application from Carmen Monigold and the applications
47 are not required, it's just to gather information so I
48 can present it to you, as I said you all can appoint
49 anyone who is eligible. And -- but the application I
50

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1 do have is from Carmen Monigold. To get information
2 from her, I have, you know, a couple statements on her
3 background. She's done subsistence on her family's
4 allotment all her life and helped harvest natural
5 resources such as fish, berries, roots, caribou and
6 seal. Carmen is involved in the subsistence process
7 from preparation to preserving to hunting and she has
8 done hunting around the region, mostly on Kobuk Lake,
9 but also up the Noatak River and Kobuk River. And she
10 is on the Kotzebue Sound Subsistence Advisory Committee
11 and has been for awhile and plans on continuing to be a
12 part of that Subsistence Advisory Committee. So that's
13 what makes her eligible to be appointed for this term.
14 And I think that's the relevant information on the
15 application.

16
17 And I also have the Kotzebue -- I have
18 the Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee roster, the Upper
19 Kobuk Advisory Committee roster and the Lower Kobuk
20 Advisory Committee roster if you would like me to
21 share, you know, any people from those Advisory
22 Committee rosters that would be eligible, I can do that
23 as well, if you're interested.

24
25 And we -- so on the Commission -- so
26 it's the Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Commission
27 and the membership currently -- I'll share it with you
28 so you know kind of the distribution of those
29 representatives. We have Shield Downey as the Chair,
30 he's from Ambler. We have Gordon Newlin from Noorvik.
31 Enoch Mitchell from Noatak. Bennie Westlake from
32 Kiana. Nellie Greist from Shungnak. Merrill Custer
33 from Shungnak. And Rosa Horner from Kobuk. So we have
34 most communities represented that use the Kobuk River.

35
36 And, yeah, let me know if you have any
37 questions.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MS. ATKINSON: If there's anyone on the
42 Council who is interested in serving on the Kobuk
43 Valley Subsistence Resource Commission, I'll just point
44 out that all of you are eligible to serve on it so you
45 can nominate yourself.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
48 information, Hannah. I'm not sure that we're able to
49 make any decisions at this time, but for sure would you
50

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1 be able to send us the complete rosters of the SRCs and
2 then we can kind of look at them and make a more
3 informed decision at a later date unless the Council
4 has any other questions or comments about that.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions or
9 comments for Hannah on the SRCs at this time.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: You did mention that
14 Louie Commack's seat has been open for a better part of
15 a year now, is there any hard deadline of when that
16 seat should be filled, just because the RAC doesn't
17 meet very often it's.....

18

19 MS. ATKINSON: Uh-huh.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER:hard to get all
22 of us together. Is there any timeline that that
23 position is looking to be filled by?

24

25 MS. ATKINSON: No. It's -- it's open
26 until it's filled. So we can just revisit at the fall
27 meeting, that's fine. We've been able to continue our
28 meetings because we have seven members and I can fill
29 the State seat -- yeah, so it's fine, we can do it at
30 the fall meeting.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,
35 appreciate that. If no one has any followup on that, I
36 believe we can move on. Appreciate your reports,
37 Hannah and Mark.

38

39 Next we have Gates of the Arctic
40 National Park and Preserve. Anyone from that section
41 have anything they'd like to report at this time.

42

43 MS. OKADA: Hi, Mr. Chair and Council
44 members. This is Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator
45 for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.
46 You should have a written update in your meeting
47 packet. I'm not sure what page number that should be.
48 There is a.....

49

50

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1 MS. PATTON: Thank you.....

2

3 MS. OKADA:written update in.....

4

5 MS. PATTON: Thank.....

6

7 MS. OKADA:your meeting packet.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Marcy. This is
10 Eva, and Mr. Chair and members of the Council. You'll
11 find under Tab 9 was the Western Arctic Parkland
12 reports and then under Tab 10 in your meeting packet
13 is the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
14 report.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. OKADA: Thanks, Eva. So I'll just
19 provide a quick supplemental information to what is on
20 your written update.

21

22 Gates of the Arctic National Park also
23 has a Subsistence Resource Commission and it meets
24 twice a year. Our most recent meeting was in November
25 2021. The SRC continues to receive updates about the
26 Ambler Mining District Road Project and also to have
27 discussions about Park management and wildlife and also
28 hear wildlife updates from our Park Staff. Most
29 recently, the SRC submitted a letter to Secretary
30 Haaland requesting that their SRC charter be revised.
31 And then lastly the SRC submitted a comment letter to
32 the Board of Game on proposals that affect the Dalton
33 Highway Corridor Management Area. The next meeting is
34 scheduled for April or May this year.

35

36 Following that, Kyle Joly provided an
37 update on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd yesterday,
38 and so there's some written information pointing you
39 towards some articles that have come out recently about
40 the Western Arctic Herd.

41

42 Also there's a moose survey that's
43 scheduled to happen in Gates of the Arctic in late
44 March. The last survey that was conducted on moose was
45 in 2015. This survey is primarily going to be based
46 out of Bettles and it shouldn't take more than a week
47 to conduct.

48

49 And then lastly, I know Michael Kramer

50

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1 had to leave, there was a sheep survey that was
2 conducted last year in 2021, but it primarily focused
3 on the northeastern and eastern portion of Gates of the
4 Arctic. I know Mike is mostly interested in the
5 western portion of Gates of the Arctic. And a full
6 Park and Preserve survey is scheduled for this year in
7 July, and so we should have updated information on
8 what's going on in the Schwatka Mountains portion in
9 the Gates of the Arctic in regards to sheep.

10

11 So that was just a real quick update if
12 folks have any questions.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Marcy.
15 Does anyone from the Council have any comments or
16 questions.

17

18 MR. KRAMER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is
19 Michael, I'm still here for a few more minutes. But I
20 just wanted to say thank you, Marcy, for your -- you
21 know the studies that you guys do on the sheep. I just
22 like monitoring them because they're adjacent to
23 Kotzebue.

24

25 But that's what I wanted to say.

26

27 Thank you. Signing off. Have a good
28 evening everybody.

29

30 MS. OKADA: Thanks, Mike.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike for
33 joining us this afternoon. So with that is there any
34 other questions or comments for the good folks over at
35 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, this is Kyle
40 Joly.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Kyle.

43

44 MR. JOLY: Yeah, if there are no more
45 questions I think this would be the time I could talk
46 about the caribou conference we mentioned earlier.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, go ahead.

49

50

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1 MR. JOLY: Thank you. I'm Kyle Joly.
2 I'm a Wildlife Biologist with Gates of the Arctic
3 National Park and Preserve. I'm also on the organizing
4 committee for a caribou workshop. It's also going to
5 include other Arctic ungulates which includes muskox,
6 moose and dall sheep.

7
8 So we're bringing this conference to
9 Anchorage, Alaska in May of 2023 so next May. It's the
10 largest gathering of caribou biologists, managers, and
11 researchers. We'd like to expand the conference. It
12 hasn't been to Alaska since 2004, when it was in
13 Girdwood, we'd like to expand the conference to include
14 more rural and Native knowledge holders, stakeholders.
15 And, so one, I just want to let you know that the
16 conference is happening but, two, we're looking for
17 people that would be interested in sharing their
18 knowledge with the conference, also helping organize
19 the conference so it's more relevant to rural
20 stakeholders. And if you know of somebody that would
21 be interested in either helping out or speaking, that
22 could talk about their knowledge of caribou or their
23 concerns with caribou management, I'd really appreciate
24 if you could contact me and Hannah's also on the
25 organizing committee, there's a bunch of other folks
26 as well but you could probably get a hold of us pretty
27 easily.

28
29 And, lastly, I just want to also say
30 that we're having a logo contest, and so if you know
31 any artists that would be interested in creating a log
32 with the logo contest is open for another week and
33 we're offering a \$250 prize.

34
35 And, with that, I'll be happy to answer
36 any questions.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,
39 Kyle. Does anyone have any comments or questions for
40 Kyle at this time.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I don't hear any
45 comments or questions right now but for sure if we
46 could make sure that that information for that
47 conference is disseminated then we can be sure to reach
48 out to people in different communities and see if
49 anyone would like to help organize or interested in
50

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1 being involved in some way shape or form.

2

3 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 I'll make sure Eva has that information. And if you
5 have any names or anyone on the Council who might be
6 interested in coming to talk to the group, just let me
7 know and hopefully we can make that happen.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Great, thank you,
12 Kyle. Is there any other questions or comments for
13 Kyle Joly.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And anything else from
18 folks at Gates of the Arctic.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, thank
23 you all, Kyle and Marcy for the reports and the
24 information. We could move on to the Bureau of Land
25 Management, do we have Tom Sparks on the line.

26

27 MR. SPARKS: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
28 Mr. Sparks.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sparks.
31 If you have a report now, the floor is yours.

32

33 MR. SPARKS: Well, we put in a small
34 report, a four page report, I'm not sure what page it's
35 on in your packet, but I'd be happy to entertain any
36 questions.

37

38 I guess the only thing I could point
39 out to you folks is there's some realty work in your
40 area that's being planned. We did receive an
41 application from OTZ Telephone for improving the
42 broadband services out of Kotzebue. We're in the
43 preliminary stages of processing that application.
44 There are over 30 towers being proposed and about a
45 half dozen or so are on some of the BLM managed lands
46 in Northwest up there.

47

48 So other than that we have been
49 planning to do some Squirrel River flights. We didn't

50

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1 get up there last year due to Covid, but we're hoping
2 this year we can get up there. As you all know the
3 closure of caribou has really stopped almost all the
4 activity that we've had with guides and outfitters
5 there.

6

7 But other than that, I just wanted to
8 keep it short and brief and be available to answer any
9 questions that any members may have.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom. Do we
14 have any questions or comments for the BLM and Mr.
15 Sparks at this time.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, and Council
18 members, this is Eva. You do have that BLM report in
19 your meeting materials under Tab 11 if the Council had
20 any questions.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you
25 for that Eva. Any questions or comments for the BLM at
26 this time.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions for the
31 Bureau of Land Management.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay, hearing none,
36 thank you, Mr. Sparks, for the brief report. And if
37 anybody does have any questions or anything they'd like
38 to followup on we'll point them in your direction or
39 get a hold of someone from BLM. So thank you for
40 joining us. We can move on to the Alaska Department of
41 Fish and Game.

42

43 MR. SPARKS: Yep, thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 MS. OSBURN: Mr. Chair, this is
46 Christie Osburn with the Alaska Department of Fish and
47 Game.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hi, Christie, go

50

0291

1 ahead.

2

3 MS. OSBURN: Hi, Mr. Chair and Council
4 members. I don't have too much for you here today. As
5 I mentioned yesterday, we haven't had much new
6 information come in since the last time I spoke with
7 you all.

8

9 So the biggest thing that we've got on
10 the horizon is a upcoming moose survey at the Lower
11 Kobuk. I mentioned this briefly yesterday in regards
12 to Mr. Kramer's question. This will be an abundance
13 survey. So we're hoping to start at the beginning of
14 April. The survey will use about four Cubs hopefully,
15 if we've got good weather, we're looking to finish it
16 out in about five days or so. When we do this survey
17 we're primarily just getting an abundance number but
18 we're also getting recruitment information so we're
19 looking at the number of calves still present in spring
20 so who have survived their first winter life. If
21 everything goes as planned, hopefully we'll have an
22 abundance estimate for that Lower Kobuk area towards
23 the end of April.

24

25 We've also got a muskox abundance and
26 composition survey. This will be done in partnership
27 with the National Park Service. It may be mentioned
28 already in your NPS materials, but this will hopefully
29 be starting up next week. This would be an abundance
30 estimate on Cape Thompson muskox and this will just be
31 in the core area. So this is the muskox population
32 that is essentially north and west of the Kobuk River.
33 We'll be following that up with a composition survey a
34 little later in March. And as we get more information
35 on that we'll hopefully get some fliers put out and
36 distributed to the public with a little bit more
37 information.

38

39 Really, that's all the news I have.
40 Everything else is the same as last year.

41

42 The only other comment I might have is
43 we've had a lot of discussion this meeting regarding
44 permits and reporting. Just to followup on that we
45 finished out our moose hunting season, that closed
46 December 31, so for anyone who picked up an RM880,
47 registration moose permit for Unit 23, reports on those
48 are now due, so please, please, please, as we've talked
49 about, that information on harvest is incredibly
50

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1 important for us, so if you picked up a permit, please
2 remember to report on it. You can do that by giving us
3 a call here at the office, going online and reporting
4 or just mailing in the permit. And we want to hear
5 from you whether you hunted or not. So please, please
6 get a hold of us, we're happy to get your report and
7 get you all signed out so that you're good to pick up a
8 new permit this upcoming June.

9
10 And with that, I'll close, unless
11 there's any questions.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,
14 Christie. Any comments or questions for Fish and Game,
15 Christie Osburn.

16
17 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chairman, this is
18 Brendan Scanlon, Sportfish Biologist for Department of
19 Fish and Game. If the Council is interested I could
20 give a quick summary of the commercial fishery from
21 2021.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, go ahead,
24 Brendan.

25
26 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. So in 2021 it
27 was very far off our projected harvest and there was a
28 chum salmon, essentially a crash on all of Western
29 Alaska but it hit Kotzebue pretty hard as well. The
30 season started on July 11th and ended on August 27th.
31 There were two buyers throughout the season, Copper
32 River and (Indiscernible - cuts out) Seafoods, and
33 Arctic Circle wild salmon started August 11th. But the
34 below average catches in the fishery as well as below
35 average of catches in Kiana at the Department test site
36 fishery, resulted in the Department limiting commercial
37 periods to eight hours a day throughout the season.
38 The 2021 commercial catch was 96,000 fish, this is well
39 below the 10 year average of 395,000 fish. Fishers
40 earned \$332,000 in 2021 and this is well below the
41 recent average of \$1.3 million.

42
43 And as I mentioned, low chum
44 escapements are not solely a Kotzebue problem, Yukon,
45 Kuskokwim, and Bristol Bay salmon escapements are all
46 below average as well. The Yukon was about 90 percent
47 off the recent average for chum escapements, for the
48 summer chum population.

49
50

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1 And similarly, in Japan and Russia and
2 Canada, chum salmon runs were also low.

3

4 In 2022 the forecast for the commercial
5 harvest in Kotzebue is 150 to 200,000 fish and right
6 now there are two buyers committed to come up.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you
11 for that Brendan. Any questions or comments from the
12 Council regarding the commercial fishery.

13

14 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, it's
15 Wilbur.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, go ahead.

18

19 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, Brendan, are they,
20 the salmon changing migration, you know, when they go
21 out to the ocean are they hanging around the Russian
22 side like they did one year and then a whole bunch of
23 them died off because of the warm weather, I believe,
24 or low on oxygen. The monitoring of the salmon, are
25 they okay, or we're just low on salmon.

26

27 MR. SCANLON: This is Brendan Scanlon
28 again. I'm not a salmon expert but in addition to
29 escapement being a lot lower, fish seem to be getting
30 smaller, all species except pink salmon. And when that
31 happens, it really suggests that there's a gross
32 problem in the ocean. There's some research going on
33 through the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. The
34 scientist named Peter Wesley. He found that salmon are
35 maturing in the ocean at an early age and returning to
36 freshwater younger and smaller than in the past. And
37 that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
38 Administration estimates that 99 percent of the non-
39 chinook salmon bycatch in the trawl fisheries is chum
40 salmon and only about 16 percent of those are from
41 Western Alaska and most of that is hatchery fish from
42 Japan. So it appears that in the Southern Bering Sea,
43 where the trawl fishery occurs, there's lots of salmon
44 from both Asia and North America are mixing together.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you, sir.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions or
2 comments for Brendan regarding the commercial fisheries
3 at this time.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If not, thank you for
8 that Brendan. Anything else from the Department of
9 Fish and Game at this time.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If nothing else from
14 Fish and Game and no other comments or questions from
15 the Council for Fish and Game we can move on. Eva, you
16 haven't heard back from Charlene have you?

17
18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Members of the Council. Unfortunately, no, i haven't
20 heard back from Charlene. She had that brief window in
21 the afternoon between meetings and we somehow didn't
22 connect at that time. She was going to be in meetings
23 again from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., so I'm afraid we may have
24 missed her. We have a few more things on the agenda
25 here but I'm not sure that's going to bring the Council
26 to 5:00 p.m., I'm not sure she would be available at
27 that time. If we don't connect with her today, I will
28 certainly reach out and see if there's additional
29 information she may be able to provide to the Council
30 in the interim before our next meeting and make a
31 request for a report at our fall meeting as well. The
32 Council did receive a PowerPoint presentation from her
33 in your supplemental materials, so there is some basic
34 information in there and I will reach out and see if
35 she may be able to provide more reports in the interim
36 that would help inform the Council of what the status
37 is with the Ambler Mining Access Road and-- and also --
38 also I know the Council was interested in how they
39 formed or developed their subsistence committee.

40
41 I know frequently that our National
42 Park Service Staff with Gates of the Arctic, they're
43 involved in just that portion of the road that is
44 slated to run through Park lands and they have been
45 helping to provide updates on what the status of the
46 road is and also the EIS process and -- and engaged
47 with the Parks on that. So I don't know if Marcy or
48 Jeff Rasic might be on and have, I guess, any basic
49 updates on the status of the Ambler Road that you might
50

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1 be able to provide. I know you stepped in at the fall
2 meeting to help respond as well.

3
4 MR. RASIC: Yeah, hi, this is Jeff
5 Rasic, I'm tracking this. I'm the Acting
6 Superintendent at Gates of the Arctic right now. And
7 we've followed the Ambler Road, we're one of the
8 agencies permitting the right-of-way, the BLM is the
9 other major permitting agency. But I'm not prepared to
10 speak on behalf of AIDEA here, this their slot to
11 describe their activities with the road and their plans
12 for the summer. What I can tell you from the Park
13 Service perspective, is that we've issued the right-of-
14 way permit to construct the road to proceed with the
15 overall project and on an annual basis we're reviewing
16 specific project plans for some of the design and
17 preliminary work they're undergoing. They're
18 conducting geotechnical work, for example, and cultural
19 resource surveys and we permit access on Park Service
20 lands for those specific activities at this point.
21 They're still in a pre-development stage and the -- the
22 permitting review that we undergo at this point does
23 take into account potential impacts on subsistence
24 activities. So we communicate with the local
25 communities about scheduling and means for access for
26 some of these activities and try to make the, you know,
27 local subsistence users aware of what's unfolding.

28
29 As far as the Subsistence Advisory
30 Committee, we don't have much information to supply
31 about that other than there's a seat on that committee
32 for a member of the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
33 Resource Commission so there will be some cross-
34 fertilization among the different subsistence bodies
35 here. But AIDEA's been in charge of constructing that
36 advisory committee specific to the Ambler Road.

37
38 And I'll leave it there, that's all I
39 have unless there's questions I can answer.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you
42 for that Jeff. And, Eva, unfortunately we weren't able
43 to have them present today but whatever supplemental
44 information they may have or that might answer some of
45 the FAQs and their presentation that was sent over to
46 us would be pretty beneficial in the meantime just so
47 that members who are curious or are getting questions
48 regarding this project might have at least a basis of
49 what's going on, who's involved and things along those
50

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1 lines. So hopefully we can at least hear from them at
2 our next meeting, if not, hear officially from them
3 sooner.

4

5 So, with that, if there's no more
6 discussion we can just keep plugging along to the last
7 agency under agency reports, which is the Office of
8 Subsistence Management. Does anyone from OSM want to
9 kick us off here.

10

11 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, can I say
12 something, this is Wilbur.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Wilbur.

15

16 MR. HOWARTH: On the Ambler Mining. We
17 are scheduled to meet and you guys are probably
18 supposed to be -- or us, the same Council right here,
19 this committee, April 6th, we're supposed to meet in
20 Kotzebue and I think I heard Larry, he's our co-Chair
21 for the NANA area, that it was brought up that I
22 believe you'd raised -- or our Committee right here,
23 this Council, would be sitting in on the April 6th
24 meeting coming up in Kotzebue, and that's just Ambler
25 Road access folks.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
28 Wilbur. I think I may followup with Larry personally
29 and see if there's any plans or if there's been
30 anything sent over to our Coordinator. It would be
31 good to have someone there and I should be available to
32 at least sit in and see what's going on and thank you
33 for that update.

34

35 MR. HOWARTH: And then another contact
36 is Liz Cravalho or something for NANA.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay. Liz Cravalho,
39 got it, thank you Wilbur.

40

41 MR. HOWARTH: Yes, thank you.

42

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

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Eva.

46

47 MS. PATTON: All right, thank you, Mr.
48 Chair. And, yes, thank you for that update Wilbur and
49 please do, if there's any further information that
50

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1 you'd like to share with the Council, since you were
2 selected to serve on that subsistence committee for the
3 Ambler Mining District Road, feel free to share
4 anything with the Council. And I will followup with
5 our contact there, it was a request of the Council in
6 your annual report, to have more engagement with the
7 meetings that occur with the Ambler Mining District
8 Road. So it's great to hear that there will be a
9 meeting planned to be held in Kotzebue that people may
10 be able to attend so I will also followup with their
11 primary contacts to inquire about the dates of that
12 meeting and location and attendance from public, if
13 Council members are able to attend -- other Council
14 members are also able to attend that meeting.

15

16 But appreciate your feedback. You had
17 provided some information at the beginning of the
18 meeting in your reports to the Council on attending
19 that Ambler Mining Road meeting and if there's anything
20 further you'd like to share with the Council at this
21 time, and thanks for the head's up on the April meeting
22 and I'll follow up on that as well.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you, Eva. So
27 anyway, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. HOWARTH: If there's any questions,
32 and if I can't answer them I am sorry but I believe
33 that on this Ambler Mining District Access Road we
34 should have invited Liz from the NANA. But -- yeah, so
35 that's all.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you,
38 Wilbur.

39

40 MS. PATTON: Oh, hey, I'm sorry, Mr.
41 Chair. I just got an email from Charlene with AIDEA
42 and she said she just concluded her other meetings and
43 could call in now if the Council wishes.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Sure, since we're
46 still on the topic.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Perfect timing.

49

50

0298

1 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you for the
4 information. So it sounds like she'll be calling in
5 shortly here.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, way to go
8 Wilbur for answering our questions and getting some
9 time in there.

10

11 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, no problem.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: As just a reminder
16 we'll have the 15 minutes for Charlene once she gets on
17 the line with us and then OSM will have 15 minutes and
18 then we can move on to the closure of the meeting with
19 the future meeting dates discussion, closing comments
20 and then adjournment.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 MS. OSTBLOOM: Hello, this is Charlene
25 Ostbloom.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hello, Charlene, this
28 is Thomas Baker, the Chair of the Northwest Arctic
29 Regional Advisory Council. Thank you for taking the
30 time to join us today.

31

32 MS. OSTBLOOM: Oh, thank you. I
33 apologize for the delay in my getting on. I had back
34 to back meetings.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Not a problem, we're
37 happy to have you on. So we've been going through
38 other agency reports and we'll give you your 15 minutes
39 and the floor is yours.

40

41 MS. OSTBLOOM: All right. Well, again,
42 thank you for having me. My name is Charlene Ostbloom
43 and I am the Communications Manager for the Ambler
44 Access Project. I am originally from the village of
45 Nulato where I am a shareholder of Doyon Ltd, and a
46 tribal member of the Nulato Tribe.

47

48 I have been with the project since July
49 and I'm learning a lot still and really excited to be
50

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1 able to share some information about what we have going
2 on.

3
4 So right now the project is going
5 through the field work report from last summer and
6 giving that information in a couple different forums.
7 Based on the presentation that I sent a few weeks ago,
8 the project activities conducted during the 2021 field
9 season fell within the pre-construction phase. It's
10 the front end engineering and design phase. Over the
11 2021 summer, cultural resources, hydrology, fish
12 habitat and land surveys were conducted at many
13 different sites, mostly related to water crossings.
14 And field work was completed. And nearly 700 acres
15 were surveyed. There were 22 hires for the project
16 including 22 Doyon Ltd shareholders, one NANA
17 shareholder and one ASRC shareholder. And total wages
18 paid at the end of that season were approximately
19 \$190,000.

20
21 So the annual work plan was submitted
22 to the BLM just last week and so we are -- we have
23 plans developed for the 2022 field season and just
24 waiting approval to get started for 2022.

25
26 Some of the work that I have been
27 heavily involved in is creating a subsistence advisory
28 committee. And so we have been working diligently to
29 ensure we have representation from each of the
30 communities along the access route and so we do have
31 representation from each of the 10 communities that
32 were identified, with the exception of Evansville. And
33 we are still seeking someone to fill that seat, as well
34 as identifying alternates when the designee cannot
35 attend the meetings. We have 10 -- we currently have
36 nine committee members and we are also awaiting the
37 appointment of someone from the Gates of the Arctic
38 Subsistence Advisory Council. The process and
39 selection of the seats started with first the
40 appointment by Governor Dunleavy of the two co-Chairs
41 of a subsistence advisory working group, and those two
42 co-Chairs were Fred Bifelt of Huslia and Harry
43 Westlake, Sr., of Kiana. And the working group then --
44 so after the appointment of those two individuals, the --
45 NANA and Doyon then selected individuals from most of
46 the communities along the route to serve on a working
47 group to set up the policies and procedures for the
48 working group as well as the criteria for membership.

49
50

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1 The membership does consist of
2 individuals from Alatna, Allakaket, Ambler, Hughes,
3 Huslia, Kiana, Kobuk, Noorvik and Shungnak and, of
4 course, the representative from the Gates of the Arctic
5 Council. We do have two ex officio members including,
6 and they're from NANA and from Doyon.

7
8 The purpose of the subsistence advisory
9 committee is to provide recommendations to the Ambler
10 Access Project regarding development activities and the
11 project will be responsible for responding to the SAC
12 on all formal recommendations. And, in fact, we had
13 our first meeting on January 11th in Anchorage, and the
14 purpose of that meeting was meeting was really to
15 introduce the policies developed by the working group
16 and also to -- really for the committee to get to know
17 one another and, you know, talk about the membership
18 and alternates. Our upcoming meeting is going to take
19 place on April 6th in Kotzebue and the third and fourth
20 quarter meetings are still to be determined.

21
22 In addition, the project has also
23 created a work force development working group based on
24 the recommendations of the subsistence advisory
25 committee working group and it is because it is very
26 difficult in today's -- today to have subsistence
27 activities without having some type of cash economy and
28 it is important for those communities along the route
29 to have employment and training opportunities and this
30 other working group are going to look at the different
31 phases of the project, identify -- the project itself
32 will identify the contractor functions and job types
33 and -- so that we can deliver a prepared work force for
34 the project. And part of that is that we will continue
35 community outreach and building awareness of project
36 activities and other jobs and empl -- employment and
37 training opportunities and to work with partners such
38 as unions, and school districts, training centers so
39 that we do have a prepared work force.

40
41 Our working group members include Fred
42 Bifelt, Larry Westlake, Wilmer Beetus, Stanley Ned,
43 Nellie Greist, Henry Horner, Liz Cravalho, Jamie
44 Marunde, Dave Heimke, and Kevin Torpey, and they are
45 all looking at the bullets I had just outlined.

46
47 In addition, because of some of the
48 difficulties of access to technology and being able to
49 go to websites and have those that live in rural Alaska
50

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1 apply for jobs, the project decided that it is best to
2 host job fairs in the communities along the route and
3 so we are currently conducting job fairs and so we have
4 a list of nearly 50 jobs and our priority is to hire as
5 many of the residents from those communities as
6 possible so we are bringing the jobs, the list of jobs,
7 applications, we are helping with completing the
8 applications, with writing resumes and also identifying
9 other potential applicants. And so far we've held the
10 job fair in Allakaket, which was combined with Alatna
11 and also in Hughes. And we're working on trying to set
12 up a job fair in Huslia. For the NANA region, we are
13 working to come up with an alternate way to communicate
14 the job fair to the residents in that region because of
15 the current Covid protocols they have in place, we
16 aren't able to travel to that region until early April.
17 So we're just identifying an alterna -- to identify
18 alternate plans to present information to them -- to
19 provide them with the opportunity to apply for those
20 jobs.

21
22 The current schedule is we were in
23 Hughes and Allakaket and Alatna so currently the
24 schedule is in flux. We are going to make followup
25 trips to Hughes, Allakaket and Alatna to collect more
26 resumes and applications.

27
28 And so that does conclude my
29 presentation and I wanted to provide you with the
30 opportunity to ask any questions. So thank you so much
31 for having me.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you for
34 that presentation Charlene. Does anyone from the
35 Council have any questions or comments at this time.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing no questions
40 or comments, we -- just before you came on we were
41 talking about the upcoming April meeting that will be
42 held here in Kotzebue and discussing whether someone
43 from this Council will be invited to attend or if it
44 will be open to the public, do you know much about that
45 at this time Charlene.

46
47 MS. OSTBLOOM: Yes, the meeting is open
48 to the public. Any request to participate in the
49 meeting would have to be run through the two co-Chairs
50

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1 and could be added to the agenda. And, you know, it'll
2 be up to them based on what other agenda items we have,
3 but, yes, definitely guests are welcome to attend.

4
5 MR. HOWARTH: Charlene. Mr. Chair,
6 it's Wilbur.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Wilbur.

9
10 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, Charlene, if you
11 remember, or we brought up meeting with this
12 Council.....

13
14 MS. OSTBLOOM: Uh-huh.

15
16 MR. HOWARTH:this Subsistence
17 Council. Were they going to put that in writing for
18 them to attend or sit with us because there's going to
19 be lots of questions on this access road.

20
21 MS. OSTBLOOM: Yes, we can -- I will
22 mention this -- I will talk to the co-Chairs about this
23 and we can ensure that there is an invitation for
24 participation.

25
26 MR. HOWARTH: Yes. And I was just
27 telling Mr. Baker here that contact -- would it be just
28 Larry or with Liz from the NANA?

29
30 MS. OSTBLOOM: Contact for -- to get in
31 touch with the subsistence advisory committee, it would
32 be.....

33
34 MR. HOWARTH: To attend.....

35
36 MS. OSTBLOOM: Okay, the
37 invitation.....

38
39 MR. HOWARTH: Sorry, to attend this
40 meeting.

41
42 MS. OSTBLOOM: Okay. The invitation
43 would go to Fred Bifelt and to Larry Westlake, Sr.

44
45 MR. HOWARTH: Okay, thank you.

46
47 MS. OSTBLOOM: You're welcome.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, thank you for
50

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1 that clarification, Charlene. Any other questions or
2 comments from the Council at this time.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Charlene, it doesn't
7 sound like we have anything else right now but, again,
8 we appreciate you joining us. We were afraid we were
9 going to miss you until our fall meeting, which
10 wouldn't be until at least October.....

11

12 MS. OSTBLOOM: Oh, wow.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER:so, you know,
15 thank you for getting back with us and we hope to hear
16 more from Ambler Metals and the subsistence council --
17 advisory council. Do you have anything else for us, go
18 ahead, if not, thank you for joining us today.

19

20 MS. OSTBLOOM: Okay, thank you. And,
21 Eva, does have my contact information if there are any
22 followup questions and I will work with her on the
23 invitation to get the two committees or -- you know,
24 for participation at our next committee meeting.

25

26 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you, Charlene.

27

28 MS. OSTBLOOM: All right, thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you. With
31 that we can move on to our last set of reports, Office
32 of Subsistence Management. Does anyone from OSM want
33 to kick off this round of agency reports.

34

35 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
36 Chair, this is Lisa Grediagin, and I'll be giving the
37 OSM report. Again, for the record, Lisa Grediagin, the
38 Wildlife Division Supervisor with OSM.

39

40 On behalf of OSM, I would like to thank
41 all Council members for your exceptional work on behalf
42 of your communities and user groups during these trying
43 times. We value your expertise and the contribution of
44 your knowledge and experience to the regulatory
45 process.

46

47 It has been very difficult for all of
48 us dealing with the Covid-19 environment.

49

50

0304

1 We are holding all 10 winter 2022
2 Regional Advisory Council meetings via teleconference.
3 The DOI guidelines advises that people avoid travel and
4 refrain from meeting in person to minimize risk and
5 help prevent the spread of Covid-19. OSM received
6 directions from the Department of Interior that no
7 Federal Advisory Committee meetings would be held in
8 person in the fiscal year 2022, and all Regional
9 Advisory Councils are FACA committees. The Federal
10 Subsistence Management Program recognizes that in-
11 person meetings are preferable, however, until we can
12 ensure the safety of all participants, we will follow
13 the current guidance and hold all meetings via
14 teleconference. We thank you again for being willing
15 to participate in the lengthy teleconference and
16 appreciate your patience as we deal with the various
17 technical issues that arise from the poor telephonic
18 connections, the vast distances involved, and differing
19 communication systems throughout Alaska.

20

21 Some updates on OSM Staffing.

22

23 We are pleased to announce the
24 following OSM Staffing changes that have occurred since
25 your last Council meeting in fall 2021.

26

27 Scott Ayers was hired as the OSM
28 Fisheries Division Supervisor in January. Scott worked
29 for three years as a Fisheries Biologist for OSM
30 several years ago before he took a job with the U.S.
31 Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish
32 Restoration Program. We welcome Scott back to OSM.

33

34 Jarred Stone and Cory Graham have both
35 been promoted with the Fisheries Division. Two
36 additional Fisheries Biologists Kevin Foley, and Justin
37 Koller have just been hired and will be starting later
38 in February.

39

40 In January, Sherri Gould-Fehrs, OSM
41 Administrative Support Assistant was temporarily
42 promoted to the ARD Secretary position.

43

44 Kayla McKinney stepped up to
45 temporarily serve as Subsistence Outreach Coordinator.

46

47 In December and January, Liz Williams
48 and Jason Roberts were hired as OSM Anthropologists.
49 Liz worked for OSM about 12 years ago and is returning.

50

0305

1 Welcome back Liz.

2

3 OSM is pleased to welcome three newly
4 hired Subsistence Council Coordinators, Nissa Bate
5 Pilcher, Leigh Honig, and Brooke McDavid, all with a
6 wealth of knowledge and experience in working with
7 rural users and communities as well as Alaska
8 subsistence issues.

9

10 We also had departures at OSM through
11 retirement and new opportunities.

12

13 We bid a fond farewell to
14 Administrative Staff Catherine Avery and Ricky Cabugao.

15

16 The OSM Team continues to work on
17 rebuilding our capacity and hope to advertise positions
18 in our regulatory and administrative support functions
19 soon.

20

21 The U.S. Departments of Interior and
22 Agriculture conducted virtual listening sessions and
23 Tribal consultations on January 10th, 20th, 21st and
24 28th 2022 on Federal Subsistence Policy. The
25 Secretaries requested input from Tribes, Tribal
26 consortia, and Alaska Native Organizations and
27 Corporations. The DOI Senior Advisor for Alaskan
28 Affairs and Strategic Priorities met with Federal
29 Subsistence Board members prior to the consultations to
30 introduce Board members and Department of Interior
31 leadership and to provide Board members with an update
32 on DOI activities related to subsistence management.

33

34 Over the past two years we have been
35 reminding Council members about the change in
36 requirements for IDs at airports. Beginning May 2023,
37 every air traveler will need to present a RealID-
38 compliant driver's license, or other acceptable form of
39 identification, such as a passport, to fly within the
40 United States. This is applicable even when you fly on
41 small Bush carriers. Please note that all Council
42 members will need to make sure that they have the
43 required RealID for travel prior to the fall 2023
44 Council meetings.

45

46 And lastly an update on the lawsuit
47 from the State of Alaska.

48

49 As you were previously briefed, on

50

0306

1 August 10th, 2020 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit
2 against the Federal Subsistence Board after it adopted
3 Emergency Special Action WSA19-14. This special action
4 allowed the Village of Kake to engage in a community
5 harvest of up to four bull moose and 10 male Sitka
6 black-tailed deer. Also included in the lawsuit was
7 temporary special action WSA20-3 which closed Federal
8 public lands in Units 13A and 13B to moose and caribou
9 hunting by non-Federally-qualified users for the 2020-
10 2022 regulatory cycles. As part of the lawsuit the
11 State asked the court to issue two preliminary
12 injunctions. One to prevent the Unit 13 closure from
13 taking effect and another vacating the Kake hunt and
14 prohibiting the Board from allowing any additional
15 emergency hunts related to the impacts of Covid-19.

16
17 On December 3rd, 2021, the U.S.
18 District Court denied the State's request for a
19 declaratory and permanent injunctive relief finding in
20 favor of the Federal Subsistence Board on both matters.

21
22 The court found that, one, it lacks
23 jurisdiction over the issues associated with the Kake
24 hunt because that portion of the State's claims are
25 moot. And, two, the Federal Subsistence Board's
26 decision to close Unit 13 and 13B to non-subsistence
27 was both legally permissible and supported by the
28 information on record. The State recently filed an
29 appeal of the District Court's decision but the Ninth
30 Circuit has not yet set a schedule for briefing.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
33 Council. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Any
36 questions for OSM at this time.

37
38 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, it's Wilbur.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Wilbur.

41
42 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, ma'am, the RealID
43 to travel within the U.S. will be effective when?

44
45 MS. GREDIAGIN: According to my report
46 it says beginning May 3rd, 2023.

47
48 MR. HOWARTH: May 3rd, thank you.

49
50

0307

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Uh-huh.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other comments or
4 questions for OSM.

5

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

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Eva.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair
11 and Council members. And just wanted to followup as
12 well on the RealID. We had planned to make sure to
13 provide an opportunity of when we gather for our
14 Council meetings, if it's in a regional hub, most
15 villages don't have access to get an ID within their
16 community and so we were hoping to take advantage of
17 our Council meeting to provide an opportunity for
18 Council members to go to Department of Transportation
19 and get their RealID for when they're traveling for
20 meetings so our hope is we'll be able to meet in person
21 come this fall meeting and -- and would help facilitate
22 that opportunity for Council members. And it did get
23 deferred. Lisa Murkowski was helpful in deferring that
24 due to the challenges of rural Alaska members being
25 able to access locations to get an ID and so if not at
26 our fall meeting we still have our winter meetings
27 available to be able to help facilitate Council members
28 in getting to DOT and getting a required RealID.

29

30 So just wanted to mention that,
31 hopefully we'll be able to meet in person come fall.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
36 Eva.

37

38 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair,
39 it's Wilbur.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead, Wilbur.

42

43 MR. HOWARTH: I think there's myself,
44 Vern, and Elmer, we probably have our RealID. We have
45 a system set up at our IRA, we got our RealID made here
46 in Noorvik. Most of our members of Noorvik got their
47 RealID.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0308

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is that a tribal ID or
2 just the regular RealID, Wilbur?

3
4 MR. HOWARTH: It's the regular RealID
5 that you need.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Wow. Way to go
8 Noorvik IRA.

9
10 MR. HOWARTH: Yep, we're stepping up
11 there.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: You can't even get a
16 driver's license in the Kotzebue DMV so that's great.

17
18 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions or
21 comments for OSM at this time.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I don't have anything
26 and it doesn't sound like we have anything else. If
27 there's no closing comments or anything else from OSM,
28 I'd like to thank everyone from the office for their
29 ongoing support of the Council and everything that goes
30 into putting these meetings on. Is there anything else
31 before we move on to our next item on the agenda.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, we can
36 move down to Item 14, future meeting dates, and we can
37 go to the confirmation of the fall 2022 meeting date
38 and location. Eva, what tab would that be under in our
39 book, 13?

40
41 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Under Tab 13 you'll find your winter -- I'm sorry your
43 fall 2022 Regional Advisory Council meeting and your
44 winter 2023 meeting. And currently the Council has
45 October 31st.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: October 31st, November
48 1.

49
50

0309

1 MS. PATTON:and November 1
2 scheduled for your meeting. So it's up to the Council,
3 if that timeframe works still for the Council to
4 reconfirm. I'll just note that the Program is only
5 able to host two Council meetings per week. We're
6 anticipating we'll be back in travel again and have the
7 Staff support to conduct two in-person meetings per
8 week so there are a few weeks available within the
9 meeting window timeframe that the Council can select if
10 you want to reschedule, and the window does start
11 August 8th, so it opens up pretty early. We're
12 accommodating for the fall whaling season -- prior to
13 the fall whaling season for the North Slope region. So
14 there's plenty of time in advance of September and then
15 any week that doesn't have two Council meetings already
16 scheduled is also open to the Council. But currently
17 the Council had selected October 31st and November 1,
18 that's a Monday/Tuesday, at the bottom of your calendar
19 there.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: This is Thomas. I
22 think it would be good to stick with that just since
23 the hunting season is usually done by the beginning of
24 October so it will give people time, if they are
25 harvesting caribou or moose, or anything, to get that
26 put away and kind of gather reports and get everything
27 ready on the local side, so if there's no objection I'd
28 say we keep October 31st, November 1st as our fall
29 meeting date with a big push to have the meeting in-
30 person of course.

31
32 Does anybody on the Council have any
33 objections or alternatives to those dates for the fall
34 meeting.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Are these action items
39 that need to be voted on, Eva, I don't recall.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Yes, technically they are,
42 it's a simple motion to support October 31st and
43 November 1st as the Council's meeting dates, all in
44 favor say aye, it's a pretty simple one. But just want
45 to reconfirm with the Council that those dates work.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,
50

0310

1 Eva. So with that do we hear a motion to keep the
2 meeting dates for October 31st, November 1st.

3

4 MR. HOWARTH: So moved, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Wilbur, do we
7 have a second.

8

9 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Vern. All
12 those in favor please signify by saying aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And those opposed,
17 same sign.

18

19 (No opposing votes)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: The aye's have it, so
22 we will go ahead reconfirm October 31st, November 1st
23 for the fall meeting. And then the next page we have
24 the entire calendar open for the winter 2023 meeting.
25 How does the.....

26

27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER:Council feel
30 about.....

31

32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
33 Council. Just to note there were two Councils that
34 have already met last week, Bristol Bay and the
35 Southcentral RAC region Councils met last week and they
36 both selected that week of March 13th and March 17th to
37 hold their meetings. So the calendar's wide open from
38 the beginning of the meeting cycle, February 21st
39 through April 7th. We're extending it further into the
40 spring this year, based on Council feedback, to provide
41 more time into the spring to meet as well. So it's
42 wide open except for that week March 13th to March 17th
43 is already booked with two Council meetings.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
48 clarification Eva. Does anyone have a preference
49 beginning or late February versus into early April,
50

0311

1 what would the Council like to do for the winter
2 meeting.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: How does March 6th and
7 7th sound.

8

9 MS. SMITH: I would be agreeable to
10 March 6th and 7th.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hazel. Any
13 other comments or different dates anyone would like to
14 put on.

15

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, can we
20 hear a motion for March 6th and 7th.

21

22 MS. SMITH: I so move.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Hazel, do we
25 have a second.

26

27 MR. HOWARTH: Second, Wilbur.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Wilbur.
30 All those in favor of March 6th and 7th please signify
31 by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And those opposed,
36 same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, with that
41 the aye's have it. We will pick March 6th and 7th of
42 2023 for our winter meeting.

43

44 And, with that, we can move to closing
45 comments and I shall go down my list here. Elmer
46 Armstrong, were you.....

47

48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.

49

50

0312

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

2

3 MS. GREDIAGIN: Sorry, this is Lisa
4 Grediagin and I apologize if I missed it, but did the
5 Council say a location for their fall meeting?

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: No, we did not.

8

9 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I think we're
10 hoping it's in person and I don't think the Council
11 would have another chance to specify a location but,
12 Eva, correct me if I'm off base here.

13

14 MS. PATTON: All right, thank you,
15 Lisa. Yes, and I know the Council had requested
16 Kotzebue as the regional hub previously and we're still
17 hoping to get back to Kotzebue in person. But, yes, if
18 the Council could make a recommendation for this fall
19 meeting for a location, and we have an opportunity for
20 the winter meeting too, our best wishes to be able to
21 travel and we'll be revisiting the winter meeting as
22 well. So some Councils have left it to be determined
23 in the future. The Council had requested to meet in
24 Kotzebue previously but we can update that request for
25 this fall meeting.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for bringing
30 that up, Lisa, and clarifying Eva. Does anyone have
31 any conflicts if we choose the meeting location as
32 Kotzebue for the fall meeting in October/November.

33

34 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move on that for
35 that meeting in October.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Vern.
38 Motion to have the meeting location in Kotzebue, do we
39 have a second.

40

41 MS. SMITH: I second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Hazel.
44 All those in favor please say aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you
49 everyone. And those opposed, same sign.

50

0313

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3

CHAIRMAN BAKER: So, with that, we will go ahead and stick with Kotzebue being the meeting location for the October 31st, November 1st fall meeting. And then at the fall meeting we can determine the place, location of the winter meeting when we get to that bridge. So without further adieu, if there's nothing else we'll go on to closing comments.

10

11 So I'll go down my list here, Elmer
12 Armstrong, are you still not with us.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hazel Smith Harris,
17 would you like to give a closing comment.

18

19 MS. SMITH: I really enjoyed listening
20 to everybody's reports and this is the first meeting
21 for me and thank you, everybody, for all your time into
22 this.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
27 Hazel. Again, welcome to the Council, we're glad to
28 have you on board with the RAC and look forward to
29 having you attend more meetings with us.

30

31 Calvin Moto, were you able to join at
32 all this afternoon.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Attamuk was unable to
37 join us this afternoon. So next, Vern Cleveland, Sr.
38 Vern, if you're on the line do you have any closing
39 comments.

40

41 MR. CLEVELAND: You said Vern?

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, Vern.

44

45 MR. CLEVELAND: Oh, okay, yeah, I
46 haven't been in one of these meetings in awhile. But I
47 would suggest that we do Robert's Rules of Order on the
48 meetings. We look at our agenda and we do the agenda
49 then we can keep track of where you guys are at. I was
50

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1 completely lost in our agenda earlier today.

2

3

4 Other than that, with the agencies and
5 their reports, it's been good, good to hear, and not to
6 run the meeting -- but I'm completely lost. But it was
7 good to listen to other feedback from our people here
8 in our region and we need more input from -- like you
9 said, from up river. We need more guys that need to
10 submit names from Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk, submit their
11 names in for the -- Selawik, for this Regional Advisory
12 Council. We need to push that a little more because of
13 this Ambler Metals, Ambler Road is coming up and we
14 make a decision without them knowing or they never hear
15 and then, you know, we'll get into a big ruckus. Other
16 than that we should try to appoint or try to get more
17 guys from up river to sit on this Regional Advisory
18 Council.

18

19 Other than that, man, it was good.
20 Good to listen and input on other things.

21

22 Thank you. Thank you, very much, Mr.
23 Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Vern, and
26 same to you. Welcome, good to have your input and look
27 forward to having you on the RAC and hearing more from
28 you and having you involved.

29

30 The next, Wilbur Howarth, would you
31 like to make a closing comment.

32

33 MR. HOWARTH: Where are we at, Tom -- I
34 mean sorry, my phone just went out on me, I had to
35 redial.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: We're down on the end,
38 closing comments. Do you have any closing comments
39 you'd like to make.

40

41 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah. Thank you, Eva,
42 for setting this all up and you, Mr. Chair. And all
43 our agencies, real nice reports. I like what just
44 happened this past two days. So nice job, and thank
45 you all Council. You guys all be safe and we'll see
46 you sometime.

47

48 Taikuu.

49

50

0315

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you,
2 Wilbur, for all the input and bringing your knowledge
3 of the whitefish and all your experience on board.

4
5 Bobby Schaeffer, do you have any
6 closing comments.

7
8 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I do. Well, I
9 took on this thing because I'm concerned about
10 subsistence and trying to preserve this way of life
11 that we've had for hundreds and hundreds of years. I
12 look around and I see a lot of different events that
13 are affecting it, and one of them, of course, is the
14 Ambler Road, the development up here. You know, it's
15 going to bring in thousands and thousands of folks once
16 that road is open and like I can see a culture that was
17 a thousand year old culture up there in the Upper Kobuk
18 pretty much die-off because of what's happening but
19 that's progress, that's what's happening, that's what
20 the State's priority is.

21
22 The other point I wanted to bring out
23 was I -- I wanted to bring it out when we were talking
24 about fisheries but, you know, when it comes to
25 subsistence and I look at the numbers of salmon that
26 we've had the last two years dwindle and there's a lot
27 of reasons for it. A lot of it -- we're not the only
28 ones that are feeling the crunch, the Yukon and
29 Kuskokwim Delta and the rivers and the villages up in
30 both the Yukon and Kuskokwim already are having a real
31 difficult time because there's no salmon going up those
32 rivers anymore. And many are blaming the high sea
33 fisheries, the trawlers that are scooping up a lot of
34 fish out there but the main thing, of course, is the
35 bycatch is that we're part of that -- I'm sure we are
36 when nearly a half a million chums were caught and then
37 thrown overboard by the trawlers, you know, that's a
38 lot of fish that we've lost that could have come up to
39 the Yukon, to the Norton Sound and then probably even
40 to our area. Yeah, so I just wanted to present that
41 and maybe in the near future talking about putting a
42 resolution together to lessen the bycatch of the
43 trawlers and -- and just another -- another part of the
44 reason that we're just having such huge declines as
45 well.

46
47 But, anyway, I thought it was an
48 interesting meeting, I -- we got a lot done, everybody
49 have a nice spring.
50

0316

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bob. And
4 always appreciate having you attending the meetings,
5 you're such a wealth of knowledge and experience,
6 everything. Appreciate everything that you attribute
7 to the Council.

8

9 Barbara signed off. Mike had to sign
10 off and go back to work. I believe that leaves myself.

11

12 So thank you everyone on the Council
13 for participating and being able to be here and be a
14 part of these big decisions that have to be made, the
15 whole process. Thank you to all our different agency
16 folks from around the state that were able to call in
17 and help prepare for this meeting and attend. It just
18 means so much to have people helping, make sure that
19 we're responding to these issues that are happening in
20 our region. Say thank you to Eva for being there to
21 coordinate everything and the rest of the OSM Staff in
22 getting things ready.

23

24 Hope to see people in person in the
25 future and have a good, safe spring.

26

27 If there's nothing else that's my
28 closing comments. And does anyone want to make a
29 motion to adjourn.

30

31 MS. SMITH: I so move.

32

33 MR. SCHAEFFER: I make a motion to
34 adjourn.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Hazel and
37 seconded by Bob. All those in favor please say aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

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

43

44 (No opposing votes)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And, with that, we
47 will adjourn at 5:16 p.m. Thanks again everyone for
48 attending and hopefully all have a good rest of our
49 spring.

50

0317

1

MR. HOWARTH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3

4

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Council members. Everyone take good care, stay safe
and we'll be in touch to followup and thanks to
everyone for joining us today. Take good care.

5

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7

8

(Off record)

9

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(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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0318

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through
12 ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
14 MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 15th day
15 of February 2022;

16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd
27 day of March 2022.

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Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22