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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

INUPIAT HERITAGE CENTER  
Utqiagvik, Alaska  
February 28, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brower A. Frantz, Chair  
Leonard A. Barger  
Wanda T. Kippi  
Peter E. Williams  
Martha A.R. Itta  
Esther S. Hugo  
Jenysa L. Ahmoagak

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

Recorded and transcribed by:

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Utqiagvik - 2/28/25)

(On record)

MS. CHAPA: Good morning, everyone. My name is Gisela Chapa. I am the designated federal officer and Council Coordinator for the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. We're still waiting for our Chair, but I think it is appropriate to go ahead and get started with introductions. And I'm going to be asking people in the room to please go ahead and introduce yourselves.

MS. HUGO: Good morning. This is Esther Hugo from Anaktuvuk Pass and I'm glad to be here.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Peter Williams from Anaktuvuk Pass.

MR. BARGER: Hi, Leonard Barger. Good morning. I'm Leonard Barger from Point Hope.

MS. CHAPA: Good morning. Gisela Chapa Council Coordinator for North Slope RAC.

MS. KIPPI: Good morning. Wanda Kippi from Atqasuk, representing Atqasuk. Good morning, everybody.

MS. AHMAOGAK: Good morning. Jenysa Ahmaogak from Wainwright, representing Wainwright.

MR. TEGOSEAK: Gabe Tegoseak, tech director for Talking Circle Media.

UNIDENTIFIED: I am trying to get in touch with Brower Frantz.

MR. MCKEE: Good morning. Chris McKee, Acting Deputy Director, OSM.

MS. MORROW: Good morning. This is Kristen Morrow with the anthropology division at OSM.

MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. Kendra Holman, wildlife biologist with OSM.

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MS. DAGGETT: (In Native). My name is Carmen Daggett from Alaska Department of Fish and Game here in Utqiagvik.

MS. CHAPA: Okay, thank you all. And now we'll go ahead and start with introductions for people online. If you can please state your name. And if you represent an agency or group in the community, state that and the community you're from. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Good morning.

MS. ITTA: Good morning. Martha.....

UNIDENTIFIED: Go ahead, Martha.

MS. ITTA: Good morning. Martha Itta, Council member for Nuiqsut. Good morning, everyone.

(Pause)

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Martha. Introductions for people online.

MS. LA VINE: Good morning, everyone. This is Robbin La Vine, subsistence policy coordinator with OSM. It's great to listen in, I'm glad you're all there in person or as many of you as possible. Thanks.

MR. SFORMO: I'm Todd Sformo, North Slope Borough, wildlife.

MR. MERRILL: Good morning. This is Clayton Merrill, subsistence coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti, and Yukon Flats National Wildlife refuges.

MS. KLEIN: Good morning.

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. JOLY: Go ahead.

MS. KLEIN: Oh. Thanks, Kyle. This is Jill Klein. I'm the regional subsistence coordinator with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and I'm based at our regional office in Anchorage. Good morning.

MR. JOLY: Morning, everyone. This is Kyle Joly. I'm a caribou biologist for the Park Service

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1 Gates of the Arctic.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. Is that everyone?

6 We have anybody else online that needs to introduce  
7 themselves?

8

9 UNIDENTIFIED: I'm sorry, this is.....

10

11 (Simultaneous speech)

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED: (In Native).

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 MS. GREENE: (In Native) I'm Marie Greene  
18 with ICC Alaska in EIRAC, reside here in Kotzebue. Thank  
19 you.

20

21 UNIDENTIFIED: (In Native) Good morning.  
22 (In Native) Junior in English.

23

24 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, this is Katya  
25 Wessels. I'm the counsel coordination division  
26 supervisor with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
27 Everybody, welcome to the North Slope meeting. Nice to  
28 hear all of you.

29

30 MR. SMITH: Good morning, this is Cody  
31 Smith, law enforcement officer with the U.S. Fish and  
32 Wildlife Service.

33

34 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Good morning, this is  
35 Jordan Pruzenski, wildlife biologist for Alaska  
36 Department of Fish and Game, northeast area.

37

38 MS. COLD: Good morning, this is Helen  
39 Cold, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, division of  
40 subsistence, subsistence resource specialist for the  
41 Arctic.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 MS. OKADA: Good morning, this is Marcy  
46 Okada, subsistence coordinator for Gates of the Arctic  
47 National Park and Preserve, based out of Fairbanks. Good  
48 morning.

49

50 (Pause)

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MS. FLEURY: Good morning, this is Victoria Fleury, subsistence program analyst at the National Park Service down here in Anchorage.

(Pause)

MS. CHAPA: Thank you. Anybody else online with introductions?

(No response)

All right. Thanks, everybody, for your introductions. Again, my name is Gisela Chapa. I'm the designated federal officer for this RAC, and I am going to temporarily Chair the meeting to get us moving. And once our current Chair, Brower Frantz, shows up I hand the meeting over to him. So, before we officially call this meeting to order, I'm going to ask Mr. Williams to please provide an invocation.

MR. WILLIAMS: (In Native) this morning and bless everybody in the safe keeping in manner. In blessed Jesus name we pray. Amen.

ACTING CHAIR CHAPA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Williams. Again, for the record, Gisela Chapa and I'm gonna go ahead and call the meeting to order, and we'll start with a roll call. Leonard Barger.

MR. BARGER: Here.

ACTING CHAIR CHAPA: Ernest Nageak.

MR. NAGEAK: Here.

ACTING CHAIR CHAPA: Wanda Kippi.

MS. KIPPI: Here.

ACTING CHAIR CHAPA: Peter Earl Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

ACTING CHAIR CHAPA: John Quincy Adams. And apologize, he let me know that he was gonna be detained this morning. He might join later. Martha Itta.

MS. ITTA: Here.

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1 ACTING CHAIR CHAPA: Esther Hugo.

2

3 MS. HUGO: Yeah.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR CHAPA: Jenysa Ahmaogak.

6

7 MS. AHMAOGAK: (In Native).

8

9 ACTING CHAIR CHAPA: Thank you. And we're  
10 still waiting of Mr. Brower Frantz, and we do have a  
11 quorum. I am now going to proceed with meeting  
12 announcements, and I'll try to keep them brief. Again,  
13 thank you, everybody, for being here today, despite the  
14 many changes that we've had this week. I want to let  
15 everybody know that we have three new members appointed  
16 to our Council. And I want to welcome Jenysa Ahmaogak  
17 from Wainwright, Leonard Barger from Point Hope and  
18 Ernest Nageak from Utqiagvik. Welcome and thank you for  
19 volunteering to represent Subsistence users in the North  
20 Slope region. We're very happy to have you. For those  
21 attending the meeting in person, please make sure you  
22 sign at the entrance table. Meeting materials are also  
23 located at the same table. For those joining online, I  
24 want to remind everyone that you can find the agenda and  
25 meeting materials online for the federal, on the Federal  
26 Subsistence Program website. The address is  
27 [www.DOI.gov/subsistence](http://www.DOI.gov/subsistence), under the Regions tab, choose  
28 North Slope and then Meeting Materials. This is a  
29 regulatory meeting and the Council will be discussing  
30 wildlife proposals and close reviews. There will be an  
31 opportunity for public comment during those agenda  
32 items. We'll also have time for tribal and public comment  
33 on non-agenda items. And that is item ten in our agenda.

34

35 If you would like to address the  
36 Council, for those in the room, we have blue testifier  
37 forms at that table with all the meeting materials. And  
38 this helps us keep track of anybody who would like to  
39 speak to the Council regarding a specific agenda item.  
40 And we also ask those online joining through Teams to  
41 raise your hand or for those joining over the phone, you  
42 can press star five, and that will let us know that you  
43 wish to address the Council and we'll add you to the  
44 queue. Everybody calling in or online, your lines will  
45 be muted. So, you will have to unmute yourself to speak  
46 so that for those on the phone you would have to press  
47 star six to unmute yourself and -- or just use your mute  
48 button and the same for the people online. And I want  
49 to stress this, is gonna be very, very important, please  
50 state your name for the record before making a comment

0007

1 or presenting on a topic. This helps us get -- have  
2 accurate records for our meeting. And again, thanks  
3 everybody for being flexible. And that is the end of my  
4 meeting announcements. Okay, and we've also done welcome  
5 and introductions. And before moving on to the next  
6 agenda item, I want to take time to pay tribute to one  
7 of our Council members, Steve Oomittuk, who we lost  
8 unexpectedly this past December.

9  
10 We have included a small tribute to Mr.  
11 Oomittuk, and you can find that in your meeting book on  
12 page five. And it was a brief message to try to honor  
13 him and thank him for -- thank him and his family for  
14 being with us for nine years. And Mr. Oomittuk joins our  
15 meeting in spirit today. Taikuu for your service. Steve,  
16 you will be dearly missed. And our Chair has just  
17 arrived, so give us a few minutes to transition over.

18  
19 (Pause)

20  
21 Okay. Thanks, everyone. We are now on  
22 item six in our agenda. Election of officers. And again,  
23 my name is Gisela Chapa. And I wanted to state that in  
24 accordance to the Council charter, Council members elect  
25 the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for a one year term.  
26 The term usually starts at the beginning of the calendar  
27 year. And member Frantz is the current Chair, the Council  
28 does not have an elected Vice Chair or Secretary. At  
29 this time, I would like to open the floor for nominations  
30 of the Council's Chair. The nominations do not need to  
31 be seconded. Do I have any nominations on the floor?

32  
33 MR. NAGEAK: I nominate Esther Hugo Vice  
34 Chair from Ernest.

35  
36 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Ernest. Right now  
37 we are on nominations for Council Chair. And I just  
38 wanted to make sure that I understood your nominating  
39 Esther Hugo as Vice Chair.

40  
41 MR. NAGEAK: Yes, and Brower Frantz as  
42 Chair.

43  
44 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Thank you, Ernest.

45  
46 (Simultaneous speech)

47  
48 MR. NAGEAK: .....thank you.  
49  
50

0008

1 MS. CHAPA: So, member Frantz was  
2 nominated to serve as Council Chair.

3  
4 UNIDENTIFIED: (Indiscernible)  
5 nomination for Chair.

6  
7 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. So, we have member  
8 Frantz nominated to serve as the Council Chair. All of  
9 those in favor say, aye.

10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12  
13 (Pause)

14  
15 MS. CHAPA: All those opposed, say nay.

16  
17 (No response)

18  
19 Thank you. The -- Mr. Chair was - member  
20 Frantz was elected as Council Chair, congratulations.

21  
22 (Pause)

23  
24 Apologize, now, I'm gonna hand it over  
25 to our Chair for Vice Chair and Secretary nominations.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Good  
28 morning, everybody. All right, that's what I get for  
29 being late. So, looks like we are moving on to the  
30 election of Vice Chair. The Council does not have an  
31 elected Vice Chair. I would like to open the floor to  
32 nominations of the Council's Vice Chair. The nominations  
33 do not need to be seconded.

34  
35 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

38  
39 MS. HUGO: I nominate Leonard Barger.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Leonard Barger has  
42 been nominated for Vice Chair. Any other nominations?

43  
44 (Simultaneous speech)

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

47  
48 UNIDENTIFIED: (Indiscernible) close  
49 The nominations.

50



0009

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: There's a motion to  
2 close the nominations. All those in favor of -- oh,  
3 Ernest did nominate Esther Hugo. So, earlier does need  
4 to be seconded. Acknowledging that Ernest did nominate  
5 Esther Hugo for Vice Chair. So, there are two.

6  
7 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

10  
11 MS. HUGO: I guess I was going to say  
12 with unanimous vote for Leonard.

13  
14 MS. CHAPA: Gisela Chapa, for the record.  
15 Miss Hugo, do you accept the nomination as Vice Chair?

16  
17 MS. HUGO: No.

18  
19 MR. NAGEAK: Sounds good, I'll -- we'll  
20 leave it up to unanimous consent for Leonard Barger, per  
21 Esther's request. Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, so one  
24 rejected request for Esther Hugo. We do have one  
25 nomination currently valid for Leonard Barger. And we  
26 have a motion to close the nominations. All those in  
27 favor of closing the nomination say aye.

28  
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All those opposed,  
32 same sign.

33  
34 (No response)

35  
36 Hearing none. The Vice Chair nominations  
37 is closed. And it looks like Leonard Barger is the only  
38 active nomination in that. So, congratulations there,  
39 Leonard.

40  
41 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair.  
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right.

45  
46 (Pause)

47  
48 All right, so moving forward, we have  
49 Secretary. The Council does not have an elected  
50 Secretary. I would like to open the floor for nominations

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1 of the Council Secretary. The nominations do not need  
2 to be seconded.

3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

7

8 MR. WILLIAMS: I'd like to nominate Wanda  
9 Kippi.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Your name?

12

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. Peter  
14 Williams. Thank you.

15

16 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, this is Leonard.  
17 I'd like to close your nomination.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion to close the  
20 nominations. We have one nomination for Wanda Kippi. All  
21 those in favor of closing, say aye.

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same  
26 sign.

27

28 (No response)

29

30 Hearing none. Congratulations, Wanda.  
31 You are the new Secretary.

32

33 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, so it  
36 looks like we don't have any other elections to be made.  
37 We -- moving forward, going to item seven, review and  
38 adopt the agenda.

39

40 MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair, this is Gisela  
41 Chapa. I want to remind everybody in the room the latest  
42 version of our agenda can be found in your supplemental  
43 materials, which is the packet that has the -- stapled  
44 packet, and it's on page one. For those that are joining  
45 online, the latest version of the draft agenda is  
46 published online.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. I'll give  
49 everybody a minute, unless everybody has gone through  
50 it. But yeah, we'll give you a minute to overlook the

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1 agenda, see if you need any changes. If not, I'll need  
2 a motion here.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 So, I guess before we do that were there  
7 any modifications or changes that need to be discussed  
8 on this before moving forward or is this -- are these x  
9 marks all taken care of?

10

11 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Mr. Chair, this is  
12 Gisela Chapa. I just wanted to let everybody know or  
13 remind everyone that we are under a one -- we have a  
14 one-day meeting. And if the Council wishes to modify the  
15 agenda to ensure that we can address all our business  
16 today, that is certainly an option. Thank you.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, I make a motion to  
21 approve the agenda. Martha.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: There's a motion on  
24 the floor to approve the agenda. Any second?

25

26 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair. Leonard Barger,  
27 seconded.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by  
30 Leonard. Any discussion?

31

32 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

35

36 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been  
39 called. For all those in favor of approving the agenda,  
40 say aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same  
45 sign.

46

47 (No response)

48

49 Hearing none, the agenda pass. All  
50 right, moving on to item eight. Review and approve

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1 previous meeting minutes. This is on page six of your  
2 meeting materials.

3

4 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, Leonard. I would  
5 like to make a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion on the floor  
8 to approve the meeting minutes.

9

10 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

11

12 (Simultaneous speech)

13

14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Wanda.  
15 Sorry, what's that?

16

17 MS. KIPPI: I second the motion.

18

19 (Simultaneous speech)

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any discussion on  
22 the meeting minutes? If not, can I get a question.

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED: Call for question.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been  
27 called. For all those in favor of approving the meeting  
28 minutes, say aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same  
33 sign. Hearing none, the minutes have passed. Moving on  
34 to item nine, Council member reports. So, I guess we'll  
35 start with maybe Atqasuk.

36

37 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. This is Wanda,  
38 representing Atqasuk. We had a good spring, our weather  
39 was off and on, good and there was some blizzards even  
40 during the spring or actually fog. And the (In Native)  
41 were good. They were catching them as they come in, and  
42 they came in about the same time they normally come in,  
43 but later than -- earlier than usual, I think. But --  
44 and during the summer there were some berry picking, it  
45 was all right. I didn't get to pick cranberries or  
46 blueberries. They were too small around my area, and  
47 there was no blueberries around the camping grounds this  
48 time. I didn't go looking for any. And the caribou, they  
49 were still -- some around, but they weren't -- they were  
50 the real young ones with the females and the young

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1 yearlings and some real young bucks. Other than that,  
2 there was -- they had to go far -- a lot of people had  
3 to go far, far to go catch caribou, again. Some -- I  
4 didn't even catch one. I had a chance at one, but my  
5 rifle was in my (In Native) on top of my roof, so I  
6 missed out on catching a caribou this season.

7  
8 And there was owls, there were some owls  
9 around, there was ptarmigan around, but in my area there  
10 was a lot of wolves, again, in our community and around  
11 our surrounding community and within the radius of our  
12 camping grounds there is a (In Native). I even see one  
13 late at night, they come and when it get dark, we've  
14 seen a couple of them, quite a few, maybe three or four  
15 times while I was at camp. (In Native) would come around  
16 in the dark, but -- and then right (In Native) away. We  
17 wouldn't see it after we first flashed our flashlight  
18 at them. And we would see it again another day. If not,  
19 we wouldn't -- I think that's why we never see any  
20 caribou around that we had those (In Native) all over  
21 again. And I think one or two was caught this winter or  
22 -- yeah, after freeze up, I think or this spring, I  
23 mean, this winter, I think there was a couple of them  
24 that were caught, but I think there's still a pack out  
25 there. Part of that pack that they had caught. And  
26 there's been foxes around town, but none of them have  
27 been rabid, as far as I know. I just saw one going to  
28 the airport this morning, a red fox. And our fishing was  
29 all right, they were catching fish on during the summer  
30 with their nets and, rod and reel. But during the freeze  
31 up in October, which was supposed to be already frozen,  
32 we're still -- I fished on the edge of the ice during  
33 the -- entering the ice fishing time, when we couldn't  
34 even go on the ice and on the river yet. And for the  
35 first time in my life, I actually really noticed, I've  
36 noticed it before, but I've never seen the river go up  
37 and down within one month, during the time I was at  
38 camp. Cause I can tell when I was at camp, I saw the  
39 water rise. You know where you see ditches and holes and  
40 stuff and even the river. You can -- I really noticed  
41 when the ditches were filled with water, the river was  
42 high, not high, high, but high enough. And then when the  
43 river goes down, I noticed some of those ditches and  
44 those holes, the water seeped, seeped away. So, I watched  
45 -- that was interesting to watch the whole for four  
46 weeks I was at camp. The river rose and went down quite  
47 a few. And during the freeze up it actually -- when it  
48 finally froze, but it was only like one inch, it wasn't  
49 even frozen all the way through yet on the whole river,  
50 just on the edges. But the river was covered with ice

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1 on top. But there -- was it was very thin in the middle  
2 part of the river, but we were fishing as much as to 1  
3 inch to 1 inch and a half, not very far from the edge  
4 of the river, though or the mouth of the river.

5  
6 We were ice fishing on top, and I  
7 noticed one of the days before it really froze, when we  
8 still couldn't stand on top of the ice. There was a big  
9 loud noise, and then you could hear the ice moving or  
10 the water lowering or rising, and it rose right in front  
11 of me, and I was recording to try to see if I could hear  
12 it. And I caught a -- I hooked a (In Native), I said,  
13 oh, I caught a fish, and I just turned my camera off.  
14 So, it was interesting to hear and actually really see  
15 the river rose. How it did, that was interesting and I  
16 guess that's it. There's -- I've -- I didn't see any  
17 muskox around this time. And other than that, I don't  
18 have anything else to report other than -- thank you,  
19 Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that,  
22 Wanda. Yeah, there have been quite a few wolf in the  
23 area. I know of maybe six or seven that were caught just  
24 outside Atqasuk over the last few months. So, it's a  
25 high predator year in that area. And that's really  
26 interesting, though, that you got to observe the rise  
27 and fall of the river levels there, while ice was around.  
28 That's -- I don't know about rare, but it doesn't happen  
29 a lot. When it moves the ice like that, sometimes you  
30 drive over it and you can see it like a u-shape cause,  
31 it cut it so far. But no, that's interesting and I'm  
32 glad you got to be there long enough to observe that.  
33 But all right, moving forward let's go with Anaktuvuk  
34 Pass.

35  
36 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Peter  
37 Williams. Yeah, last fall there was a good,  
38 (indiscernible) people hunting caribous. And there was  
39 some bear around, but I don't know that it went back  
40 inside your contact. And I know the bear scares off the  
41 caribous or what but, you know, they're predators so,  
42 you know, they're out there for something. And there are  
43 a lot of (In Native) and we hunt them. Other than were  
44 doing pretty good, we're still fighting, you know our  
45 way up the ladder to be where we're at right now. And,  
46 really appreciate everybody that, you know, contacting  
47 our wildlife, as a ways of preserving. And one more  
48 thing is that we gotta keep working together as one and  
49 really appreciate it and we're still preserving our  
50 wildlife, you know, the way we're traditionally being

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1 prepared. So, I keep it at that, thank you.

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3 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, if I can add on to  
4 Earl.

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6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep. Go ahead there,  
7 Esther.

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9 MS. HUGO: Last summer we had a lot of  
10 south wind. It seems like every day 'til [sic] fall,  
11 just (In Native) I mean, one day it would calm down and  
12 then by -- they told the next stage just south wind and  
13 that was unusual summer. The bears weren't as abundant,  
14 the aqpiq and the blue and the black, it was so short.  
15 We had so much weather, it got cold and it was hard. And  
16 we just got one or two stragglers. We -- a lot of times  
17 we drive-out 20 miles, sometimes look for stragglers.  
18 So, what they -- what our young folks were doing is  
19 they're going up and climbing the mountains and catching  
20 sheep. And our migration was late so, we're catching  
21 cows as I speak. I know the cow has declined a lot too,  
22 but we have no choice but to catch the cows. And they're  
23 really, really healthy. And I intend to make a (In  
24 Native), it's the intestines of the caribou. I learned  
25 that from my mother-in-law, and so I'm going home, I got  
26 a caribou in a freezer, and I'm sure my son in law bring  
27 me (In Native). So, I gotta work on it. And, you know,  
28 I don't eat it myself, but I tend to bring some to my  
29 siblings or my grandkids that know how to eat that, and  
30 they appreciate that. It's work, but we get it done, I  
31 mean, I get it done.

32

33 There's been a been a lot of rabbits.  
34 Unusual, these should be down in the trees, but they're  
35 there. And a lot of squirrels under our homes and make  
36 me want to catch 100 of them so I can send some to  
37 Caroline or Lily and Lane there. And they had asked us  
38 to catch them 100 (In Native) and that was for my cousin  
39 Kenny, who passed. But, you know, these (In Native) are  
40 all over. They come to your porch and they can come to  
41 your house if they want. And fishing wasn't as good, we  
42 go out, I mean, I got an Argos, and I take my grandson  
43 or my granddaughter out, and they love to fish and reel,  
44 but they didn't catch as much as before. There were a  
45 lot of -- by fall time, as we speak too, there's foxes  
46 just across the street or they're roaming around. We saw  
47 a lot of sightings this fall of foxes. And then there  
48 were wolves coming into to the village. We figured  
49 they're looking for tuttu or something, they're hungry.  
50 We know that, when they come around to the village.

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Right now, since fall time, there's still open waters in our -- by the glacier area and East of us, Northeast of us. (In Native). It's not freeze, they never freeze, so we tell our young folks to be careful when they go out cause, we don't want them to (In Native) or you know, that's something that they need to learn.

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And when you're going to land, you can just see the open river. I mean, John River isn't the biggest river, you know, it's just open. So, that's unusual. A lot of times on clear days, I'll observe our mountains. I've been doing that for a long time now, just to make sure these boulders aren't coming down, you know. Especially (In Native). I observe that mountain a lot cause it's got a lot of cliffs, and there's been changes, but not a whole lot to be concerned. It just scares me cause how about if we have a little earthquake. Maybe all these rocks will come rolling down into the village, to the homes. But there's been changes. Well, the (indiscernible) is old, I believe my father in law back in 90 -- 82, he said our (indiscernible) is so old right now and I believe that it is old and tend to observe. I think that's about it. Oh, we saw a sighting of a lynx too last fall, just roaming around in between the willows or our houses. So, we were -- we tell our kids, you gotta be careful when you're out there. If they're sighting of lynx, the foxes or the wolves. So, they're hungry, they know, you know when -- we know when they come around they're hungry.

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But the year has gone so fast. And now we're looking forward for spring. And I noticed the past couple years our spring caribou start migrating north, like the second or the third week of March, in which -- in April, they migrate. They migrate in April, heading north. But these past two years, like right now, we've got caribou all over the foothills side, you know, we can see them from our windows. And I told the young guys, you guys should be out there catching caribou while they're just up real close, cause they'll be gone here in a couple, two or three weeks. So, that's another thing we've been -- I've been watching. They'll start ice fishing, we traveled to Chandler, I mean, they do. Hopefully they could just some chars or some lake trouts. And it's a day's travel, so everybody goes in the morning and come back late at night cause the daylight is more. It's been good to see our grand -- I got a couple of --



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1 a nephew and a grandson that do their trapping where  
2 they go out, and they've been really successful. And I  
3 go to my grandson and I -- every time I hear him come  
4 home and he takes a picture of his wolverine or his fox  
5 in his trap, I go see him and I start telling him, I  
6 told you now you need to run to -- run into a pack like,  
7 you know, a whole pack. And he said, one of these days  
8 I am. I said, I know you will. He lost a trap close by  
9 this wolf. He was so huge, he lost the trap. I said why  
10 don't you just keep going there and look for this wolf  
11 with your trap? And sure enough, within a week, he got  
12 that wolf with his trap. So, I'm not much of a trapper  
13 or anything, but I hear a lot from my in-laws, my father-  
14 in-law and my husband. So, I tried to pass out -- pass  
15 on whatever I knew to him. So, my nephew just got another  
16 wolf while I'm -- while we're -- while I'm here, and  
17 he's they're going down to the trees and they're wanting  
18 to go to the west of us to (In Native) area. And that's  
19 where it's probably lot of wolves, wolf packs. And I  
20 said, first you need to make a trail. So, probably  
21 sometime this week they'll be making a trail over. And  
22 I hope they just, you know, see all that. It's been  
23 untouched and nobody have been camping or going trapping  
24 in long, long time to the (In Native) area. So, I'm  
25 happy to see that it's coming back. The young people are  
26 -- the young men are taking the role to get us the  
27 wolverine or the wolves were rough cause I already got  
28 a wolf and a wolverine from my grandson, and I need to  
29 can and make (In Native) or (In Native) or you know. So,  
30 these two individuals, I'm sure more will come cause we  
31 got a lot of young men. So, they need to pick it up and  
32 they'll get going. That's all I have for now. Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that,  
35 Esther. Yeah, I was just showing everybody the, I don't  
36 know if that's what you're talking about, but JJ just  
37 got that wolf, and he's been pretty avid this winter.  
38 I've been really bugging him, trying to encourage him  
39 to get all the wolf there to help your guys put wolf or  
40 your caribou population. So, one thing I keep talking  
41 about in different meetings is hopefully at some point  
42 they come out with some kind of incentive program to  
43 help usher young ones along to learn and want to go out  
44 and maybe earn some bucks to go get some pelts and keep  
45 that tradition going. And, you know, you guys had a lot  
46 of loss in AKP this year. One of my cousins passed away  
47 and he was a pretty avid hunter, B3. He'd passed this  
48 fall over there. So, I always worry about the predator  
49 population once all the great trappers are, you know,  
50 starting to go away. But it's really good to hear there

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1 are fresh individuals over there that are following the  
2 same footsteps and trapping and hunting over there. So,  
3 it's really good to hear that. And I hope they have lots  
4 of friends that are gonna be exactly the same. Thank you  
5 for that though.

6

7 Oh, go ahead, Carmen. We have a question  
8 here.

9

10 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Esther. This is  
11 Carmen Daggett, for the record. And I just wanted to --  
12 I was listening to you talk about the change in the  
13 spring migration. And you said just within the last  
14 couple of years. So, like, last two years, rhree years.

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16 MS. HUGO: Last tow.

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18 MS. DAGGETT: Okay.

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20 MS. HUGO: The last two years.

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22 MS. DAGGETT: Okay, thank you very much.  
23 That's all.

24

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

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29 MR. WILLIAMS: Can I add on to that?

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31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes. Yeah, go ahead.  
32 I don't want.....

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34 (Simultaneous speech)

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36 MR. WILLIAMS: .....I just want to make  
37 it real quick. Anyway, I think due to, you know, it's  
38 been icing, you know, a lot of -- kind of wet too do  
39 that ice, I mean, the snow. So, that could be doing that  
40 too. Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, noted.  
43 Did I hear Martha on the line earlier? Maybe we'll go  
44 Nuiqsut.

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46 MS. ITTA: Yes, good morning, Mr. Chair.  
47 Good morning, everyone.

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49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning,  
50 Martha.....

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(Simultaneous speech)

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MS. ITTA: Sorry I couldn't be there in person. Good morning, I -- sorry I couldn't make it. I tried to make it yesterday, but the flight was full, so I didn't want to just be there for a couple hours. But anyways, a lot to report. Some concerns from years that you know, that has -- is an ongoing problem. I don't even know where to start. Let's start with our fishing. Our fishing has -- it was early this year, our cold weather hit early, so we were able to build our ice road. Our ice road to our fishing spot early this year. And they were catching fish, our (In Native) was good, people were catching those burbot, our (In Native) season was good. Not very many people going out as much. I don't know if it's because a lot of them are out on medical and traveling, but we don't -- we didn't get very many nets out, as we usually do. But those that went out fishing did get a good amount of fish in their net. I feel like we were short this year because we didn't have very many fishermen out there. And so, you know, having to share with families, we -- a lot of people didn't get to get their share of (In Native)

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With the caribou, there's you know, it's always been there, the caribou migration has been rerouted. They're scattered nowadays, they're not crossing the road. There's a lot of traffic in our village 24 hours. That has a lot to do with our caribou -- affecting our caribou migration. A lot of predators out there, a lot of kavik and (In Native) near our village. So, all the caribou are coming to town. We've had issues with hunting caribou out there because of industry. We've already had one hunter banned because - and he's a young hunter and they're learning. So, you know, there's -- it's heartbreaking to see our young people getting banned from our own land because of industry. And, you know we need more education being put out there for our young hunters. That learning -- because we have really young boys trying to hunt for families and, you know, we've lost all our elders here in our village. Most of our elders, our original elders are gone. Now we're depending on the next generation of elders. It's just really heartbreaking to see our young ones trying to learn and then they can't hunt anymore. There's too much industry control, controlling our lands. I was kicked off my own land trying to be out there last winter season, last summer, also. You know, even though they have permission to be out there, they're

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1 permitted to be out there. And it's just the industry  
2 itself, the land, the people that are leasing the land,  
3 trying to control and kick us off our own land, even  
4 though they have no authority to do that. We were --  
5 cops were called, we got threatened to get cited for  
6 trespassing on our own land.

7

8

(Distortion)

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10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds like we may  
11 have lost Martha. Maybe we'll give her a minute to call  
12 back.

13

14

(Pause)

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16

MS. ITTA: Hello, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead. Yeah, we  
lost you there. So, the last thing I heard was, they  
were trying to cite you on your own land.

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With our foxes, we've been under rabid  
quarantine. We've got a lot of rabid foxes coming into  
town fighting our dogs and then dogs biting people. We've  
had a couple of emergencies where a couple people got

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1 bit by a dog, and they got really sick. To find out that  
2 those dogs got bit by a rabid fox. So, we're dealing  
3 with that in our village.

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5                   Excuse me, sorry, I did have stuff  
6 written down, but I misplaced my notes. As far as  
7 everything else, whaling, we got one -- two whales this  
8 season. Better than last year. They're shorter this time  
9 -- the seasons are getting shorter due to weather. Always  
10 getting windy out there during our whaling -- fall  
11 whaling season. So, seems like our whaling is getting  
12 shorter. The weather is always a problem, every year it  
13 changes. So, other than that, I think those are my  
14 concerns for now. I hope I didn't miss anything, but I  
15 just wanted to state the important ones with our  
16 subsistence. As they build more and more to the west  
17 we're surrounded. So, we pretty -- you know, we're  
18 limited on our hunting. It's getting harder and harder  
19 as we get more restricted. And the other villages are  
20 gonna feel that, too. They're gonna -- as they go their  
21 way, they're gonna start seeing it in their backyard,  
22 and there's nothing that they can do about it. So, I,  
23 you know, I'd like to advise them to educate themselves  
24 on how they can handle so much impact that's gonna be  
25 coming to them. I think it's really important that they  
26 prepare themselves, opposed to not being prepared.  
27 Because we're still having to adjust from 25, 30 years  
28 ago, development and we're still trying to catch up on  
29 adjusting our way of life. Yeah, the animals are there,  
30 but it's getting harder. They're disappearing slowly,  
31 it's getting harder for us. And I think that's all I  
32 have. Well, besides, you know the animals, you know our  
33 health, I'd like to mention our health. It's all  
34 connected I've always said that and you know, if we lose  
35 all our subsistence, our health is -- we depend on our  
36 subsistence food 100%. And I'm worried, you know. It's  
37 already a problem. It's already a problem with our health  
38 and our children's health, with a lot of pollution and  
39 all that. And it's gonna go to all the other villages.  
40 So, thank you, Mr. Chair. And I'm sorry I couldn't be  
41 there in person, and I will try to make the next one.  
42 And that's all I have, thank you.

43  
44                   CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Martha.  
45 We do have some questions, I guess or I do. I know there  
46 was at least one or two permits that were issued over  
47 there from muskox, and I know one of them was successful.  
48 How are your muskox in the area this year?

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1 MS. ITTA: Well, oh, I forgot to mention  
2 about the muskox, I was gonna mention that. I hardly --  
3 I didn't see no muskox yet. Usually there's a lot going  
4 toward Prudhoe Bay on the west. And, you know, they're  
5 getting closer to town, right across the river. But I  
6 haven't seen any yet. And usually there's three permits,  
7 and I haven't heard of any of them catching a muskox  
8 yet.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. I think  
11 Delbert might have got one, but I don't know. Well,  
12 maybe I'll bug him and try to get location for that. But  
13 not so much for the regulatory side, but just to make  
14 sure that we're documenting them, because Carmen is  
15 going to do some flyovers here, and I don't know if she  
16 wants to touch base on that at some point but -- and  
17 another just a general for everybody here. If you have  
18 sighted muskox in any of the locations, we would like  
19 to try to get those locations so we can document them.  
20 And they're gonna do a census pretty soon. It looks like  
21 targeted census maybe narrowed down to specific areas.  
22 So, that's all I was asking for though. Thank you for  
23 your report, though, Martha.

24  
25 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I  
26 will keep a lookout and make sure I report it.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank  
29 you. Go ahead, Brian, you have the floor. Like we have  
30 questions or comments here.

31  
32 MR. PEARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Brian  
33 Pearson, North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife  
34 Management, for the record. Martha, I find it pretty  
35 concerning that you it sounds like you guys were kicked  
36 off your, you know, the land where you were hunting from  
37 the oil company. And I'd like to encourage -- they're  
38 not supposed to do that. And I wanna encourage you to  
39 report that to the Planning Department, North Slope  
40 Borough Planning Department. It's really important that  
41 that kinda interference doesn't happen. So, and I'm  
42 sorry to hear that it did. Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for your  
45 comments there, Brian. I did write that down as well.  
46 And I was gonna make sure to get those notes over. Go  
47 ahead, Carmen. Looks like we have another question,  
48 comment.

1 MS. DAGGETT: Martha, this is Carmen  
2 Daggett, for the record. Thank you for your very thorough  
3 report. Lots of good information in there, that's very  
4 helpful to know. I was also pretty shocked, as Brian  
5 said, to hear that you guys were kicked off land. And I  
6 hope that there's some pathways forward to help address  
7 those issues and keep that from happening in the future.  
8 In addition, I think one thing that we haven't talked  
9 about a little bit that I kind of heard you say was that  
10 there was some foxes that had bitten some dogs, and then  
11 maybe some people got sick. And that's a really  
12 concerning series of events. I guess -- I attended a  
13 workshop this week and have been talking with lots of  
14 people recently about disease transmission between  
15 wildlife and humans and particularly highly pathogenic  
16 avian influenza, rabies and parvo distemper. All of  
17 which fox can carry and so, if people are getting sick  
18 after these sorts of events, first of all, if there's  
19 any contact between a dog or a fox with a human and  
20 someone's been bitten, that should be -- that person  
21 should be going to the doctor right away. And also, that  
22 animal that's involved should be tested and quarantined.  
23 Foxes should probably be killed and tested and if there's  
24 a dog, it needs to -- for sure at least be quarantined  
25 so that it can be tested. And then it may be that if  
26 that dog was found to have rabies, it's going to have  
27 to be euthanized.

28  
29 So, I think, you know, it's a little  
30 concerning to me that this is the first I've heard about  
31 this. And I would really encourage you when these sorts  
32 of events to [sic] happen, that you take -- that  
33 community members, not just you, but community members  
34 take immediate action. Because if it's rabies the --  
35 first of all, those three diseases that I mentioned,  
36 rabies, highly pathogenic avian influenza and parvo  
37 distemper all look the same in a fox or a dog, okay.  
38 They're all caused by swelling of the brain, and they  
39 produce similar outward appearance. So, rabies is  
40 probably the most severe for us and can have really,  
41 really bad outcomes for humans and animals. Almost, you  
42 know, mortality is on the plate there and so, we need  
43 to deal with those immediately and get people  
44 vaccinations for rabies and those sorts of things  
45 immediately, if someone has been exposed to a fox that's  
46 rabid.

47  
48 Highly pathogenic avian influenza,  
49 we're doing a lot of work to try to understand how that  
50 interacts with people. And there's a lot of work being

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1 done. So, I would really encourage if there's any  
2 exposure -- I'd say parvo distemper is probably a little  
3 less concerning for people, but there might still be  
4 some interest in trying to disentangle that from the  
5 other one. So, I would really encourage anyone who has  
6 been bitten by a dog or a fox that is suspected to be  
7 behaving oddly to get to a doctor immediately. And that  
8 animal needs to be either dispatched or quarantined  
9 depending on if it's someone's animal that they really  
10 care about. If it's a dog, you know, quarantining that  
11 animal at a minimum is important. And that quarantine  
12 is 45 days long. To make sure that that dog is -- does  
13 not become fully infectious with it.

14  
15 And I know that there's been some issues  
16 with the presence of a North Slope vet and people getting  
17 vaccines for those animals. If people need to have help  
18 getting to those vaccines, we can talk about those sorts  
19 of things for their pets. But everybody should be  
20 vaccinating their pets for rabies in this region, it is  
21 really common. And it's good to vaccinate them for parvo  
22 distemper too. And usually, you can get all of those  
23 things from Cold Spot Feeds in Fairbanks. And you can  
24 try to access some of that stuff through North Slope  
25 Borough Wildlife Department. And I think we're talking  
26 about other avenues for trying to address the fact that  
27 there's not a regular vet here. But so that's a big  
28 concern and I really hope that -- and I absolutely agree  
29 with you on the one -- we're all in this together, you  
30 know, we're all living with wildlife and getting -- some  
31 of these diseases can pass between wildlife and humans,  
32 and some of them can't, or it looks different. But we  
33 all need to be communicating about what we're seeing and  
34 getting people to doctors when these things happen.  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that,  
38 Carmen. I've had to go through rabies vaccination stuff  
39 myself through all the shots before more than once,  
40 actually. So, that is a lengthy process, and the presence  
41 of a vet is definitely an issue up here. And thank you  
42 for the detailed information and hopefully we can get  
43 something worked out with our Health Department to fix  
44 our North Slope vet issue soon. A lot of us have our  
45 friendly pets that rely on that. All right, let's move  
46 on to the next agenda item, next village. All right,  
47 who are we going with. Let's go with Wainwright.

48  
49 MS. AHMAOGAK: So, Jenysa Ahmaogak, for  
50 the record, representing Wainwright. Last summer was



1 pretty hard on us. Due to weather conditions, we weren't  
2 really able to harvest our ocean animals like, seals,  
3 walrus. I know people got walrus, but it was a really  
4 hard year for our hunters to get seals. Personally, my  
5 family didn't get any last summer, which was really  
6 unusual. I know a lot of other families that usually  
7 catch at least three or more, only got one, and they had  
8 to share that one with their big family. And it was just  
9 a really hard year also for the berries, because it  
10 rained so much, it was rainy and cold. We didn't really  
11 have our berries sprout and it was a hard summer. But  
12 after that, our fall caribou hunt came around and it  
13 looks like a lot of families were able to stock up on  
14 the meat that they needed. We had a really good year for  
15 ice fishing, too. A lot of people that went and tried  
16 to go ice fishing for smelts ended up going home with a  
17 bunch of fish, enough to share with people that don't  
18 live in Wainwright either.

19  
20 Springtime we had a pretty good harvest  
21 with the bowhead. I believe we got five this year or  
22 last spring. And I noticed that we've been getting a lot  
23 of foxes around Wainwright. A handful of them were said  
24 to be rabid, but I don't think any tests were  
25 administered to actually say that they were rabid. It  
26 was just based off of observations from people who are  
27 hunters or people that normally deal with the foxes.  
28 From what I've been hearing, we've been also having a  
29 lot of predators around. And the caribou have been  
30 roaming really close to Wainwright, and recently they've  
31 actually been going into town and walking in people's  
32 yards and that's how we know the predators are around.  
33 They're coming here around our town for protection. And  
34 it seems like predator control is kind of stabilized. I  
35 noticed that there are people actively trying to get  
36 these predators so that our caribou population will  
37 still be stable. My dad is one of them, he got his first  
38 wolverine not too long ago. Shortly after that, another  
39 hunter got a wolverine. And these were all pretty close  
40 to Wainwright, they were all pretty close. I would say  
41 that, yeah, we had a hard summer, fall time caribou that  
42 all the people that had the opportunity to hunt caribou  
43 went home. And I'm pretty sure they all got enough meat  
44 to stock up for the winter. We had a really good bowhead  
45 whaling season last year and I'm hoping this year is  
46 just as good. A lot of predators, a lot of foxes, but  
47 we're handling them accordingly, and we're making sure  
48 that our caribou population is stable.

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that  
2 thorough and to the point report. One question for me,  
3 any muskox in the area sighted or around?  
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6 MS. AHMAOGAK: Yes. I've been told that  
7 the caribou are getting them mixed up with predators  
8 like bears, and the muskox are scaring the caribou. But  
9 that's something that I've been hearing recently, that  
10 they're getting -- the caribou are getting mixed up with  
11 muskox as predators.  
12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. All  
14 right, Point Hope.  
15

16 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank  
17 you. Good morning, everyone. Yeah, I just wanna let you  
18 know as of this morning one boat in Point Hope is having  
19 ladies sewing skins, right now as we speak. Finally,  
20 it's coming back. You know, the tradition of whaling and  
21 stuff there. Ladies are happy that they're sewing skins  
22 together for the skin boat. So, my wife is on that group  
23 sewing the skins, so. And also, caribou, we've seen some  
24 caribou and just talking with some friends and stuff,  
25 and I talked to -- Carmen is gonna help me on getting  
26 my license. But you know I -- before I came here to  
27 Barrow, my -- one elder told me to go get a caribou for  
28 him, and I told him, no, I don't have my license yet.  
29 But he said, no, you're gonna get the caribou for me, I  
30 need it now. So, I went and got one and got it, for him,  
31 so. and I talked to you guys earlier yesterday and stuff  
32 and you know, I stayed up all night cutting it for him,  
33 so. And you know that's an issue, you know some villages,  
34 you know, it's hard to get licenses. You know, I know  
35 we could get them on online, but I've been trying and  
36 trying and it's hard to get licenses and stuff to, you  
37 know, in the villages.  
38

39 So, you know, also hunting, you know, I  
40 sent a text to Lucy Leavitt, she works at Wildlife and  
41 I know you're gonna ask for muskox. So, after I get off.  
42 So, I texted her, showed her some sightings and stuff.  
43 So, on top of that, we're just getting ready for whaling  
44 now, Point Hope. And yeah, we're, you know getting ready  
45 and can't wait. So, you know, Lord willing, you know,  
46 all of us and you know that hunt the bowhead whale we  
47 feed the people, so. But other than that, I, you know,  
48 during the summer too, I emailed Billy and (In Native)  
49 about, you know, you guys were seeing some killed or  
50 dead birds and stuff, they're kinda black, blackbirds

00027

1 or something. And I saw over 110, I counted them 110,  
2 about seven miles going to my camp, my father in law's  
3 camp. I just counted up, they're all dead on the coast  
4 and stuff. And I drove from town to the point and I saw  
5 50 of them that were dead on the coast. So, I reported  
6 that so -- and gave it to (In Native), and Billy and  
7 showed them the pictures and stuff. So, I grabbed some  
8 samples, but you know, I know Martha was saying we had  
9 a lot of -- there's a lot of loose dogs, and the dogs  
10 ate them, those birds that I put outside and so, I  
11 couldn't get no samples from -- so, I was gonna send  
12 them to here in Barrow but dang dogs got the samples  
13 from me, so. But anyways, yeah. Point Hope, that's it,  
14 so.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you  
17 for that. We don't have to bug anybody at the end of it  
18 for muskox now. So, yeah. All right, any questions for  
19 Point Hope before we move on?

20  
21 (No response)

22  
23 Just spending an extra minute on it  
24 since we don't have Steve here, so Point Hope, going  
25 once.

26  
27 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Mr. Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, go ahead.

30  
31 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah I know. I don't know  
32 if I'm taking his spot, but you know, I got big shoes  
33 to fill. I know Steve is a really humble man, and you  
34 know, we're gonna really miss him out on the ice. You  
35 know, he was there all the time. You know, every time  
36 they catch a whale, you know, he's always telling  
37 everybody where they mark it. We mark the whale different  
38 from you guys in Barrow here. Any other place we mark  
39 it different. So, he's always there at the -- when  
40 somebody catch a whale, you know, he's always  
41 volunteering his time and effort even though he has you  
42 know, you see him, he wears a crutch, but he's always  
43 down there. He went to be there to show the younger  
44 people, you know, where to mark it, where to cut. And,  
45 you know, when we're pulling up the whale, you know,  
46 we're all holding the rope and could hear his voice (In  
47 Native), you know, that courage of strength when he --  
48 that voice, you know, it's gonna be missed, so.

49  
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
2 I really like the picture inside the packet here of Mr.  
3 Oomittuk. I think I'm gonna keep this whole packet. I  
4 normally try to keep the packets at home, but this one's  
5 special. I'm gonna miss Mr. Oomittuk. All right, let's  
6 move on to -- who else do we have online, do we have  
7 anybody from Kaktovik? No, nobody from Kaktovik. Ernest  
8 texted me. Ernest, are you back online yet or no?  
9

10 (No response)

11  
12 Ernest said he had to sign off for a  
13 bit. He'll call back after a meeting. I'm missing anybody  
14 online or here, no?  
15

16 (No response)

17  
18 So, Ernest did send me something. He  
19 said, hunting's been good, he just didn't fill his muskox  
20 permit. At least he gave us the muskox portion. I guess  
21 beings that we don't have anybody -- Council members  
22 reports to go through right now, maybe we'll give Ernest  
23 a minute later after he calls back. Chair report, so I  
24 guess that's me. Muskox has been -- we'll start with  
25 muskox. Muskox has been plentiful up here, both on the  
26 Chipp and the Kuparuk Rivers, they have been sighted at  
27 multiple locations throughout Chipp. Around Chipp 13 (In  
28 Native) area is consistent every year, almost on the  
29 same bend even. Chipp 4, we get muskox there every year  
30 now and lower caribou population in the areas that  
31 they're at.  
32

33 WC2 and PK13 area have been known for  
34 muskox over the last couple of years. They actually had  
35 muskox there while we ran into muskox at 13 and Chipp 4  
36 on the same day. So, we know they're in multiple  
37 locations in the same day. So, Chipp is abundant with -  
38 Chipp-Ikpikpuk is abundant with muskox. We have had a  
39 couple of families note that there was also muskox on  
40 the (In Native) River kind of about midway through the  
41 river. And they've been there for a couple of years now,  
42 consistently.  
43

44 Not sure of any other locations that  
45 were reported for muskox other than those two, but it  
46 seems like they're starting to move farther north. About  
47 five years ago or so they were consistent around Price  
48 River, (In Native), but now they're -- they've moved  
49 north all over the Chipp. So, they're expanding areas,  
50 and I'm happy to see that. But also, if they're around

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1 when we're supposed to have 2,000 caribou, I'm not so  
2 happy about that. They do confuse muskox for bear, they  
3 look a lot like bear. So, when muskox are around the  
4 caribou avoid the area. Fishing has been great, I haven't  
5 heard any complaints on fish, at least for whitefish.  
6 Whitefish fishing has been good. We have had a large  
7 number of pink salmon that I will complain about, I'd  
8 rather have char or chum salmon. I'll take chum over  
9 pink salmon any day of the week, but we have a large  
10 number of pink salmon coming up, and I didn't get as  
11 many other salmon types that I would've liked to get,  
12 but at least we have an abundance of fish.

13  
14 Grayling has been pretty good, duck  
15 hunting, I don't think anybody's complaining about duck  
16 hunting. Geese are abundant, snow geese I wish people  
17 would just go out to the Teshekpuk area and hunt the  
18 snow geese, that might help us with some tundra. But  
19 whaling has been great, I got another whale this fall.  
20 I haven't got one in a while, but I struck. I forget how  
21 many -- I don't know, maybe my fifth one, but whaling  
22 has been good.

23  
24 Predator population is high, almost  
25 everyone that has gone out has either just missed a  
26 wolverine or a wolf or gotten more than one. So, predator  
27 numbers are very high. And for Barrow -- for people  
28 going out from Barrow that is almost unheard of because  
29 normally you go out and it's like 1 in 5 or 10 chance  
30 that you're going to get something. But, it's almost  
31 everybody that went out has got something, more than  
32 one, actually. So, there was a -- I think, two wolf and  
33 a wolverine caught on a day trip, they were out for like  
34 eight hours. And for that to happen, normally you're  
35 checking for a couple of days before you run into their  
36 tracks. But, day trip, individuals are getting wolf and  
37 wolverine consistently, so there are a lot of predators  
38 in the area. So, there were -- in one day, wolf caught  
39 at Atqasuk on the Chipp and at Nuiqsut, within a couple  
40 hundred miles of each other. And you know, makes you  
41 wonder how many wolf are actually out there. I've heard  
42 stories of super packs before, and I think we might be  
43 close to something like that. At least that's my opinion.

44  
45 What else am I missing? Walrus has been  
46 good in Barrow, seals have been good. The ice conditions,  
47 though, it seems like when you see the ice starting to  
48 leave now, you have to go and hunt immediately.  
49 Otherwise, the ice will leave and not come back for the  
50 rest of the summer. It'll be 200 miles away. So, it

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1 seems like the ice hunting season is shorter than it  
2 used to be. It goes out farther and stays out. Once it  
3 leaves, it's gone and you might get it back once or  
4 twice, but it seems like the ice hunting season is  
5 getting shorter. So, that's one observation. Berries for  
6 us were, I guess they were okay this year. Blueberries  
7 were not as much in the areas that we went to -- aqpiks  
8 were almost non-existent in some areas, we have smaller  
9 patches than most other locations, but it seemed like  
10 the last two years, the aqpi did not sprout, the plants  
11 were there, but they did not sprout. Small observation,  
12 it's not a life threatening one, but it happens. And I  
13 think that's it for my report.

14

15 Oh, I also wish more people would catch  
16 beluga when they're here. And one thing I forgot to  
17 mention, we're getting a lot more porpoise in the area.  
18 So, porpoise, the small harbor porpoise, we're seeing a  
19 lot more. Normally I would see them once, maybe a year,  
20 but it's over the last six years now. Last year, I said  
21 five years consistently six years now that we have  
22 porpoise in the area. And before, five years ago, I  
23 didn't even know they were up here. And also, orca there  
24 are a lot of orca coming up. Killer whales being sighted,  
25 I've got videos of them from a couple years ago. And  
26 last year we were watching them off of (In Native).  
27 Right off the road system. They were chasing young whales  
28 and killing them and also, over the last couple of years,  
29 they were chasing a humpback whale that ended up dying  
30 here. We got video of that, it was still alive in front  
31 of town trying to get away on the beaches. It didn't  
32 make it very far after that. So, orca is [sic] getting  
33 more abundant and there was a possible sighting of a  
34 narwhal up here. Nobody went up to actually confirm it  
35 but what they did say was it looked like a pole was  
36 being -- like a flagpole was being waved around, like  
37 the narwhal was sitting there in the water. So, those  
38 are our observations for Barrow. Any questions for me?  
39 Yes, maybe, all right.

40

41 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead. Go ahead,  
44 Peter.

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: You know when I was  
47 working at Adak one time. We were building causeway.  
48 Anyway, (indiscernible) killed a porpoise. He ate the  
49 tail though. I was surprised you know, porpoise. The say  
50 it taste like a -- between whale and walrus, I heard

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1 it's soft. So, you know, you cook it, the way I heard,  
2 the way they had it, you know, the way -- I didn't eat  
3 it, but they were eating it. But, you know, it's  
4 traditional to them, and there's a lot of them around  
5 that coast there on the Aleutian Islands eat them, a lot  
6 of them there, with otters. Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, I've heard  
9 their meat is pretty good dried. And the (In Native) is  
10 different so, I'm real interested. I checked with Mr.  
11 (In Native) before he left on the legalities of taking  
12 them, said they're legal. You just have to document it  
13 similar to how you would with like a minke. But there,  
14 I guess there - he said it was fine. Should have gotten  
15 one, I think I will. But all right, moving on. So, we're  
16 done. Oh, go ahead, Wanda.

17  
18 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
19 curious about the (In Native). How come nobody never  
20 catch any at this time?

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: There were a few  
23 caught here and there. Unsure. I think maybe a transition  
24 in people's boats and maintenance might have been an  
25 issue. Also, this year it was a horrible weather year  
26 during the fall. The weather was so bad, everyone stayed  
27 in town during the fall season. Well, for the most part,  
28 they went out when they could, but it even resulted in  
29 about half of the number of rescues because nobody was  
30 going out. It -- our rescue numbers were down by half  
31 just because people were not able to go boating. It was  
32 so windy. It was consistently windy and there was only  
33 like a one- or two-day break in between. That didn't  
34 give people the opportunity to go out. And I think that  
35 may have contributed to the lower numbers.

36  
37 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was  
38 thinking about the weather. That's what you just  
39 mentioned, thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep. All right.

42  
43 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Mr.  
46 Barger.

47  
48 MR. BARGER: Yeah, I'd like to say I know  
49 you said you catch your fifth whale. And so, I just know  
50 you're (In Native), like, you know, in Point Hope when

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1 somebody catch their fifth wheel, now they're honored  
2 to be a (In Native). So, just let me know, so.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That's good to hear.  
5 Did not know that. Yeah, traditions are definitely  
6 different, I guess, between here and there. But that's  
7 awesome to know. I'll make that, maybe I'll put that on  
8 my resume, I will. Sign off, Leonard Barger. All right,  
9 maybe I'll call for a break.

10

11 MS. HUGO: Yeah, before your break.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

14

15 MS. HUGO: I'm just wondering, we've been  
16 seeing this muskox, this one lonely muskox going back  
17 and forth when we go to the foothills and pick berries,  
18 summertime. And my father-in-law always stated that the  
19 muskox usually scare the caribou the route and stuff.  
20 So, maybe that's what's been happening between years  
21 down north of us. And I know I'm tired of seeing -- I  
22 think it's the same muskox. But we were picking berries,  
23 and I said, we need to get rid of this, you know, if  
24 he's come -- going to charge, we're going to shoot it,  
25 we were ready. So, we watch out for them. They tend to  
26 come and attack you if you don't just leave it alone.  
27 But I know my father-in-law said -- and I'm glad most  
28 of the muskox are towards the north now, off my turf.  
29 Cause they do scare the caribou. It's been said by our  
30 elders a long time ago, they do scare our caribou. Maybe  
31 it's one of the reasons why we hardly have migrations  
32 besides the sport hunters. Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
35 I'll say one thing, they taste really good. So, if that's  
36 -- it was charging you. Go ahead, Carmen.

37

38 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair. This is  
39 Carmen Daggett, again, for the record. Esther, do you  
40 know when the last time that muskox was sighted. This  
41 fall?

42

43 MS. HUGO: By the airstrip, up the  
44 foothills. Yeah, it's -- I -- yeah, one lonely one. Just  
45 keep coming back and forth.

46

47 MS. DAGGETT: Okay, because I was aware  
48 of at least one that was shot in your region. Within the  
49 last couple of years. And so, I wasn't sure if it was  
50 the same one or not. So, I think there might've been



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1 more than one at some point, but it's good to know that  
2 that one is still around. And maybe we could talk later  
3 about -- maybe more details about exactly -- you said  
4 by the airport kind of? Okay.

5

6

7

8 MS. HUGO: Up the foothills, there's an  
9 airstrip in the foothills is yay-long over here. It's  
10 by the glacier area or anywhere in the valleys they're  
11 close to home, been sighted.

11

12 MS. DAGGETT: Okay, thank you. I  
13 appreciate it.

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll just add on to that  
16 real quick. You know, we had a lot of stories -- oh  
17 Peter Williams, RAC. Anyway, they say that muskox really  
18 smells. Got a smell to it and you know, you could smell  
19 it, you know, in distance. But that's the way I heard  
20 it, you know, they were all around and berries and stuff,  
21 and, you know, berries are sour and you smell it. That's  
22 the same thing that now people talk about.  
23 (Indiscernible) cause they don't bother with it. It  
24 tastes good though, the way I heard it. Yeah, thank you.  
25 Sorry.

26

27

(Pause)

28

29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. I would  
30 like to go on break, if everybody would agree to do so.

31

32 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, sir. Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, I think break  
35 is good. So, back in ten minutes.

36

37

(Off record)

38

39

(On record)

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, we're  
42 back online. So, we're back from our 10/20-minute break  
43 here. Up next on the agenda -- actually, is Ernest back  
44 on the line yet? Ernest, are you back online?

45

46

(No response)

47

48

49

No. All right, so we're moving on to  
Item 10.

50

00034

1 (Simultaneous speech)

2

3 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, first -- Leonard  
4 Barger. I forgot to state for Point Hope, berries and  
5 stuff. We had a real bad year. Rain, so it rained all  
6 summer, and I just pick only one quart of aqpiks this  
7 year and stuff. And normally I'd pick, you know, a 60  
8 to 70 gallons of aqpiks. So yeah, we had a bad year of  
9 picking up aqpiks over there. And belugas too, one of  
10 the guys got a beluga this summer, and I was here in  
11 Barrow when they were having a -- we have our F&G meeting  
12 and I was getting a whole bunch of texts and calls saying  
13 belugas, belugas on the beach in Point Hope. And I was  
14 like, man, man, I'm here in Barrow. Cause everybody will  
15 text me when belugas are close by Point Hope and stuff  
16 and, you know, get belugas. But I wasn't there, so one  
17 guy got one, summer, so. I just want to report that.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thanks for the  
20 addition to your report there. Yeah, it sounds  
21 consistent on berries, throughout a lot of the area here,  
22 low year, it's been a low year. Unfortunate that meetings  
23 happen during those times. So, very unfortunate, I feel  
24 your pain. All right, moving on to Item 10, Public and  
25 Tribal Comment on non-agenda items. This is available  
26 for each morning or only morning. So, anybody online or  
27 on the floor that has any comment on non-agenda items?  
28 We'll give them a minute to muster anybody that is  
29 around.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 I don't see anybody on the floor here,  
34 outside of Carmen or Brian. So, if you guys don't have  
35 any comments, nobody's online commenting. We'll move to  
36 Item 11, Council Member Training Kristen Morrow. You  
37 have the floor.

38

39 MS. MORROW: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 For the record, this is Kristen Morrow. I'm going to be  
41 presenting a very brief training on submitting Federal  
42 proposals. The slides are very brief, but if there are  
43 other questions after I get through the slides, we can  
44 go into more detailed discussion or questions at that  
45 point. We are currently in the open period for wildlife  
46 proposals. This call for proposals closes on April 4th.  
47 So, for the 2025 Winter Council training, we're going  
48 to briefly cover proposing changes to Federal  
49 Subsistence hunting and trapping regulations.

50

1                   There are two main ways to change  
2 Federal Subsistence regulations. The first is via  
3 special action request, and the second is by proposal.  
4 The key difference between the two is that special action  
5 requests are for temporary short-term changes, and can  
6 be submitted at any time, whereas proposal changes  
7 codified in regulations that can only be submitted  
8 during the open periods. Since we are currently in the  
9 open period, I'm going to walk through the process of  
10 submitting proposals for those types of changes. Next  
11 slide, please.

12  
13                   If the Council would like to submit a  
14 proposal, all we need is for one of you to make a motion  
15 and have a vote to submit the proposal on the record,  
16 and OSM staff will draft it up to submit. This can happen  
17 at any time during this meeting. Any member of the public  
18 can submit a proposal via mail to our office, hand it  
19 to any OSM staff during this meeting or submit it through  
20 the regulations.gov website. Next slide, please.

21  
22                   Proposals must include who is submitting  
23 the proposal, their contact information, which  
24 regulations you would like to change, in which unit those  
25 regulations apply, what you would like the regulation  
26 to say and why you want it to change, or any other  
27 supporting information you think would help the Board  
28 evaluate the proposal. Next slide, please.

29  
30                   Proposals are sometimes invalidated.  
31 This is most often because they pertain to things that  
32 are outside of the Board's jurisdiction. For example,  
33 issues related to harvest of halibut, marine mammals,  
34 migratory birds, or harvest on non-federal lands are  
35 things the Board cannot affect decisions on and so are  
36 outside the scope of federal jurisdiction. Next slide,  
37 please. For reference, the subsistence regulations that  
38 can be changed through regulatory proposals are found  
39 in the Code of Federal Regulations in Subpart C and D.  
40 Next slide, please. So, specifically this can include a  
41 wide variety of regulations from general regulations  
42 such as sealing requirements and definitions to more  
43 specific regulations like harvest limits, seasons,  
44 permit requirements and customary and traditional use  
45 determinations. Next slide, please.

46  
47                   Okay. Thank you, that is the conclusion  
48 of the brief slides. Please remember that we are  
49 currently in an open period for proposals and they need  
50 to be submitted by April 4th. If anyone has any questions

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1 or would like to see examples of specific types of  
2 proposals, we can do that now. Thank you.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for your  
5 presentation. I think, well I would recommend to our  
6 Council that I know that we have a couple things that  
7 we might want to turn into proposals here, but maybe  
8 we'll get with Brian and also maybe the rest of the Fish  
9 and Game Management Committee for some insight and I  
10 guess, consensus on what we want to move forward with.  
11 But I would say maybe we'll hold off on, maybe discussion  
12 on this during this meeting for the sake of saving time  
13 and moving along. We know we have to -- it's a long  
14 process, but I know there -- there's one item for AKP.  
15 And also, I would like to try to discuss maybe what  
16 happened with our caribou numbers for our region,  
17 without the use of the science for the area and  
18 justification behind subsistence priority. So, I think  
19 there's a couple of things that we would like to change,  
20 but I think maybe we'll discuss that at a later time,  
21 before April, though. So, thank you for your  
22 presentation.

23  
24 Yeah, those are -- yeah. All right,  
25 moving on. Action items, number 12. First one we have  
26 is a Deferred Proposal WP24-01 Statewide sale of brown  
27 bear hides. Kristen Morrow, go ahead, you have floor.

28  
29 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
30 the record again, this is Kristen Morrow, and I'm with  
31 the Anthropology Division at the Office of Subsistence  
32 Management. I will be presenting the Deferred Wildlife  
33 Proposal 24-01, which regards the sale of brown bear  
34 hides harvested under Federal Subsistence regulations.  
35 The analysis for WP24-01 is in your supplemental  
36 materials. You previously acted on this proposal at your  
37 fall 2023 meeting. The proposal is being brought before  
38 you again because new information is available, and the  
39 Board has requested that Councils provide an updated  
40 recommendation based on this new information. This is a  
41 statewide proposal, but we are only asking you to think  
42 about and provide a recommendation that would apply to  
43 your region. All other Regional Advisory Councils are  
44 doing the same, and each Council may inform the Board  
45 whether the regulation is culturally appropriate for  
46 their region. I'm going to briefly summarize the  
47 proposal and relevant information, since it's been a  
48 while since it was presented here at the Council.

49  
50

1           The proposal was submitted by a resident  
2 of McCarthy, who request that the Federal Subsistence  
3 Board allow for the sale of brown bear hides under  
4 federal subsistence regulations. The sale of brown bear  
5 hides is regulated by the Convention for the  
6 International Trade of Endangered Species, which is  
7 referred to as CITES. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
8 has delegated ADF&G the authority to provide permits for  
9 the international trade of brown bear hides in  
10 accordance with CITES. The State of Alaska limits sales  
11 of hides from brown bears because unlimited sales might  
12 incentivize legal and illegal harvesting in Alaska and  
13 elsewhere in North America. For this reason, the State  
14 of Alaska's purpose is to prevent the hides from entering  
15 commercial markets. ADF&G therefore issues a permit to  
16 sell the hide of a brown bear only if it is taken in an  
17 area with a two brown bear harvest limit. The initial  
18 OSM conclusion was to support the proposal, with the  
19 modification to only allow the sale of brown bear hides  
20 under federal subsistence regulations, if the bear was  
21 harvested in an area with a two brown bear limit. This  
22 conclusion would require hunters to adhere to state  
23 sealing requirements and to obtain a state permit if  
24 they wish to sell the hide. The Board deferred this  
25 proposal at their 2024 meeting, directing OSM to conduct  
26 further analysis to determine if there was a way to also  
27 allow for the sale of brown bears taken under federal  
28 subsistence regulations in an area with a one brown bear  
29 harvest limit, rather than just in areas with a two  
30 brown bear harvest limit. The Board's justification was  
31 that because a relatively low number of brown bears are  
32 harvested under subsistence regulations, there's less  
33 of a need to restrict the sale of subsistence taken  
34 brown bear hides to only those areas with a two brown  
35 bear limit. Since the Board deferred the proposal in  
36 2024, OSM has conducted further analyses and drafted an  
37 addendum to this analysis, which presents new  
38 information and a revised conclusion. The addendum  
39 begins on page 18.

40  
41           The new information in this addendum was  
42 presented to the Board at their recent 2025 meeting. The  
43 Board deferred the proposal again so that the RACs could  
44 be presented with this new information and provide an  
45 updated recommendation on the proposal. The revised OSM  
46 conclusion presented in the addendum is to support WP24-  
47 01 with modification that the hides of brown bears, with  
48 or without claws attached, may be sold within the United  
49 States for personal use, not to be resold. In order to  
50 sell these hides, the hunter must request an OSM

1 customary trade permit and must return the permit when  
2 a sale is made. Additionally, the modified regulation  
3 will align federal sealing regulations with the State  
4 of Alaska sealing regulations. This modification would  
5 allow for the sale of hides taken from brown bears under  
6 federal subsistence regulation, in areas with a one or  
7 a two brown bear limit. The modification would limit  
8 sales to purchases within the United States, because  
9 CITES only limits the international export and sale of  
10 brown parts -- brown bear parts, this proposed  
11 regulation would be in line with CITES requirements.  
12

13           The OSM modification will align federal  
14 regulations with the State of Alaska regulations and  
15 permit requirements first, by ensuring that the purchase  
16 of the hide would be for personal use and not to be  
17 resold, which is intended to prevent customarily traded  
18 hides from entering commercial markets, and also by  
19 ensuring the seal number is included in any  
20 advertisements of sales, which would allow law  
21 enforcement to identify that a brown bear hide  
22 advertised for sale was a legally harvested brown bear.  
23

24           The OSM modification would allow for a  
25 hide to be sold with or without claws attached, which  
26 will allow Federally qualified subsistence users who  
27 remove the claws for the purposes of handicrafts to then  
28 also sell the hide. Finally, the modification would  
29 remove some language from federal regulations pertaining  
30 to sealing requirements and the removal of this language  
31 would align federal and state sealing requirements.  
32 We're asking all ten Councils to provide a  
33 recommendation on this revised OSM conclusion. In your  
34 particular regions what this would mean is that in Units  
35 23 and Units 26A, hunters may currently sell the hides  
36 of brown bears harvested under state general hunts if  
37 they are sealed, and if a state permit to sell the hide  
38 is acquired, and if the claws are removed. Hides of  
39 brown bears harvested under state subsistence hunts in  
40 these areas may not be sold. If the revised conclusion  
41 is adopted in Units 23 and 26A federally-qualified  
42 subsistence users would be able to sell the hides of  
43 brown bears harvested under Federal subsistence  
44 regulations, with or without claws attached. Rather than  
45 obtaining the state sale permit, they would have to  
46 obtain the OSM customary trade permit. The hide would  
47 still have to be sealed by ADF&G and the permit would  
48 need to be returned if any sales are made. The sales  
49 would also be limited to domestic only sales within the  
50 United States. In Unit 26B and 26C, hunters are not

1 currently able to sell the hides of brown bears harvested  
2 under state general hunts, because the limit in these  
3 areas is only one bear. If the revised conclusion is  
4 adopted, federally-qualified subsistence users would be  
5 able to sell the hides of brown bears harvested under  
6 Federal subsistence regulations, with or without claws  
7 attached. They would need to have the hide sealed by  
8 ADF&G. They would need to obtain the OSM or the federal  
9 customary trade permit, and would only be able to sell  
10 the hide domestically. If you have any questions, I will  
11 do my best to answer them. I believe we also have Pippa  
12 Kenner online, who is the OSM analyst, who was the  
13 primary person working on this analysis. And that is the  
14 end of my presentation. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that  
17 presentation. I do have a question. Why are we trying  
18 to move in the direction of such regulation on this when  
19 it's not even a protected hunt? I mean, an animal, it's  
20 -- it seems like you're putting more regulation on the  
21 sale of a brown bear than what we require for polar  
22 bear, which is completely -- it doesn't seem right. Brown  
23 bear is not a protected animal up here. Why -- it doesn't  
24 make sense to me why we're trying to put such a  
25 regulation on a brown bear for -- and make it more so  
26 regulated just for the sale of a hide. Does not make  
27 sense to me. I mean, we have polar bear, if you look at  
28 the regulation for polar bear, I can go get a seal from  
29 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and do with more flexibility,  
30 what I will with the polar bear, as you know, as an (In  
31 Native) up here that, you know, it seems like I have  
32 more options in selling polar bear as a traditional  
33 hunter versus what you're trying to do with the State.

34

35 Why, why is that? I -- honestly, I would  
36 completely change this to -- my personal opinion, Brower  
37 Frantz, Chair of the North Slope RAC, that brown bear  
38 should not be regulated like this, it's not even a  
39 protected animal. So, using the sale of a hide to justify  
40 no like a less take, maybe for Kodiak might be something  
41 in their region, but up here it's like take as many as  
42 you want. They're -- I mean, we're in a bind on caribou,  
43 moose, muskox. I mean, I don't think we should be  
44 restricting the sale of a hide to this level at all. I  
45 mean, all of this is -- and to put a clause for one or  
46 like, how are you going to keep track of that? Like, if  
47 you -- only if you got, you know, an area that you can  
48 take two, can you sell -- why are we doing that? It's a  
49 brown bear, it's -- you know, it's not under the  
50 (indiscernible). It's actually kind of a nuisance up

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1 here. And it's affecting, like if you start regulating  
2 brown bear like this, then you're gonna have less caribou  
3 numbers for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. What are  
4 we doing here? So, that's my thoughts.

5  
6 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, Leonard Barger.  
7 Yeah, I agree with you on that. And also, you know, you  
8 watched the show that -- on National Geographics, you  
9 know, about Kodiak hunting brown bears. He's a guide  
10 hunter, and there's a lot of sport hunters going over  
11 there. And also, on top of that, the brown bears, you  
12 know, they mess up camps too, also. You said, you know,  
13 there's a limit of one. I don't see it, you know, up  
14 here like in Point Hope, you know, when we had our Fish  
15 and Game meeting, you know, exemption for brown bears  
16 catch as many as you want, you know, and we're trying  
17 to get rid of, you know, rid of them from up here. Up  
18 in the North Slope. So, I'll bring that up. So, thanks  
19 Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
22 So, also our take on this was, before this second  
23 modification to it, we were going to go with the you  
24 know, the moving forward with the sale of two brown  
25 bear, with the exception of the OSM modification. But  
26 now it's like we're getting too far into the weeds on  
27 this to even be acceptable. I -- honestly, I do like the  
28 idea of everybody having, you know, the chance to take  
29 two, but it's -- it seems like it should be open,  
30 unlimited up here anyways, for our region. I don't --  
31 we don't see enough of them. Other than one year, I went  
32 up the Ikpikpuk and ran into 10 in one day. So, if we  
33 got two, we're not even touching the population. It's --  
34 -- and that was one river. But honestly, I don't like  
35 overregulating something that is not even protected. I  
36 don't like that idea. And especially if it's just the  
37 hide, we're not talking about the whole bear. But for  
38 the hide, I think we're going way too far on this, and  
39 we're gonna spend way too much money on people trying  
40 to overregulate the sale of a hide. I mean, seals, stamps  
41 and then you got to know how many, like, what was the  
42 location. You're gonna spend all this time for a hide  
43 that's not even protected. So, it's -- yeah, I don't  
44 like it. And it's something that I don't see, at least  
45 from my standpoint, something that would be acceptable.  
46 Oh, go ahead.

47  
48 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
49 could perhaps clarify one point, and then I think Pippa  
50 Kenner online also has her hand up to provide some



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1 additional information. I will say that this proposal  
2 is not pertaining to the harvest limits. It would not  
3 affect current harvest limits. That is something the  
4 Council could submit proposals to change separately if  
5 they would like. But this proposal only pertains to the  
6 sale of brown bear hides, and the proposed modification  
7 would allow federally-qualified subsistence users to  
8 sell hides, regardless of whether there is a one or two  
9 brown bear harvest limit, which is the current limits  
10 in your area. And if it's okay, Mr. Chair, perhaps Pippa  
11 Kenner could chime in with some additional information.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Pippa. You  
14 have the floor.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,  
17 this is Pippa Kenner with OSM, for the record. Yeah, you  
18 are asking some great questions, and I think I'll start  
19 at the beginning. So, the proponent is from McCarthy,  
20 which is in Wildlife Management Unit 11, where there is  
21 a one brown bear harvest limit. And so, when we made the  
22 first conclusion that you would be able to sell the hide  
23 if the harvest limit in federal regulations was two bears  
24 per year that did not satisfy the proponent. And so, we  
25 began to look at how the proponent might be able to sell  
26 a hide. And one thing the Board asked us to do was to  
27 get together with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
28 and see if they would issue their permit in an area  
29 where there was a one brown bear harvest limit to  
30 accommodate federally-qualified subsistence users like  
31 our proponent, and they said they couldn't take on the  
32 administrative burden. And then we ran up against CITES,  
33 which is the international -- which is the Convention  
34 on International Trade in Endangered Species. So, in  
35 CITES there is an Appendix II, and in Appendix II are  
36 animals that if international trade was not limited,  
37 they may become threatened. And even though we have a  
38 lot of brown bears in Alaska, in the rest of North  
39 America, in most areas they are gone. The populations  
40 are much less. And under the Convention on International  
41 Trade, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was the agency  
42 established to regulate international trade, and they  
43 delegated that authority to the Alaska Department of  
44 Fish and Game. Therefore, to participate in  
45 international trade, you must have a permit from the  
46 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And that is why we  
47 are suggesting just using a federal permit in order to  
48 be able to sell the hide, and you would be able to sell  
49 the hide if the bear was taken in an area with a one or  
50 two bear harvest limit, which would satisfy the

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1 proponent. It would be for domestic trade only, which  
2 would satisfy CITES.

3

4 And my colleague Kristen is correct in  
5 that, it might be a good idea for you to put in proposals  
6 to increase harvest limits on brown bear. These  
7 proposals for customary trade, which is exchanging the  
8 hide for cash, does not have to do with harvest limit.  
9 I'll stop there and encourage you to ask additional  
10 questions. It is a little complicated. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the  
13 clarification. Yeah, I think that might be a discussion  
14 in itself. And we can probably move that and just  
15 document that for a later time. But just for the sake  
16 of the discussion we have some questions on it, but  
17 thank you for that. Go ahead, Peter.

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams, for the  
20 record. When I was growing up, you know, federal  
21 regulation brought attention to the table. They brought  
22 up a customary trade and trade. Reason why they did that  
23 is they didn't want Natives to involve into selling as  
24 a no-no, in our tradition. You might barter, yeah, you  
25 might trade, but you don't sell. You don't sell meat or  
26 nothing. It doesn't matter what it is, what kind of  
27 animal it is, it's a customary in our tradition. So, the  
28 way Brower explained it is that, you know, we've got to  
29 find a way, solution so we could do a way without selling  
30 because, you know, we didn't grow up that way. I just  
31 wanted to just clarify this on this record. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thanks, Peter, for  
34 your comments. And yeah, I think we'll maybe move past  
35 this conversation. We'll definitely document it and go  
36 through maybe more in detail at another point. But we  
37 have enough to move forward with, I think, what we want  
38 or need for our region for bear. Go ahead.

39

40 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to  
41 remind the Council that this is an action item, and it  
42 does require a motion.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, okay. So, it's  
45 not so easy. Trying to hurry up and go. No, I'm just  
46 kidding. All right so, does anyone have any motion or a  
47 way forward that we see fit for what we're asking right  
48 now.

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1 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa  
2 again. Yeah, yeah, I just wanted to add maybe some more  
3 information. And that is to say that the revised OSM  
4 conclusion in the addendum provides more subsistence  
5 opportunity. It opens doors for people to use brown bears  
6 in a way that before this proposal would've been illegal.  
7 So, just wanted to reiterate, it's not meant to limit  
8 what hunters can do. It's meant to increase their options  
9 if they wish to sell hides. Thank you.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that  
12 clarification. Could you read back exactly the proposal  
13 or the -- what you're recommending so that we can make  
14 a decision on it?

15  
16 MS. KENNER: Kristen, could you do that,  
17 please? The revised conclusion in the addendum.

18  
19 MS. MORROW: Yes, absolutely. For the  
20 record, this is Kristen Morrow. Give me just one second.  
21 I'm gonna pull the language up so I can read it verbatim  
22 and make sure everyone is clear.

23  
24 (Pause)

25  
26 Okay, so the revised OSM conclusion is  
27 to support the proposal with the modification that the  
28 hides of brown bears, with or without claws attached,  
29 may be purchased within the United States for personal  
30 use and not to be resold. The hunter must request an OSM  
31 customary trade permit and must return the permit to OSM  
32 and additionally the modified regulation will align  
33 federal sealing regulations with ADF&G sealing  
34 regulations, so the hunter would have to have the bear  
35 sealed by ADF&G. Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And that's without  
38 the limitation of how many were taken or what the region.

39  
40 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
41 Kristen Morrow, again. Yes, this would permit the sale  
42 of brown bears regardless of the harvest limit being one  
43 or two. Does that answer your question?

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, it does. I  
46 think I got confused earlier on that. Okay, well, if  
47 it's without that, then that makes it a little easier  
48 in my -- at least my opinion on it. So, what's the wish  
49 of the Council? Are you in support of that modification  
50 and the approval or another option is to push it back

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1 until a later date. Is there any deadlines for this?

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4 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,  
5 we are asking the Council to make a motion and take  
6 action on this. All Councils are doing that at their  
7 current meeting, and then it will be presented to the  
8 Board for action at their upcoming meeting.

9

10

11 MS. KENNER: And, Mr. Chair, this is  
12 Pippa Kenner, again. I just want to remind you that the  
13 Board is interested in hearing about what you would like  
14 for your region. Each Council will make recommendations  
15 for their own region and what they think is appropriate.  
16 Thank you.

17

18

19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, thank you for  
20 that clarification. So, for me personally, I would like  
21 to approve the sale of brown bear hides with no  
22 regulation up here. That's something that I would see  
23 fit for our region. And we don't have -- it's not an  
24 endangered species up here. And I don't think we're --  
25 there's some -- it's so vast up here, I don't think  
26 we're ever gonna run into an issue with brown bear  
27 population. It's -- I mean, we don't have roads to go  
28 to -- if you look at that map, there's probably  
29 cumulative, 200 miles of roads, maybe, maybe a little  
30 more than that. But for the whole Northern Alaska, I  
31 don't see an issue with brown bears. So, either -- well,  
32 at least that's what I think. What does the rest of the  
33 Council think, or do you have any recommendations?

34

35

36 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, this is Leonard  
37 Barger. Yeah, I agree with you and move forward with  
38 your proposal.

39

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, do you want to  
42 go outside the box and not go with something that's  
43 presented with us, but go with something that we are  
44 recommending instead for our region? The worst they're  
45 gonna do is accept what they already have and decline  
46 our offer. But I guess maybe we'll go with each. You  
47 know, if we don't have any other discussion on it, maybe  
48 I'll inquire with Brian. Brian, do you think that's  
49 something that would benefit the North Slope or be  
50 against, or do you think it would have a negative impact?  
For open brown bear hide sales.

48

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(Pause)

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1                   With you, so it has that stipulation  
2 though. Two, okay. No, I'm asking Brian. She mentioned  
3 it so I had to follow up.

4  
5                   MR. PEARSON: I'm gonna default this to  
6 you guys.

7  
8                   CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay.

9  
10                  MR. PEARSON: I -- you know I -- yeah,  
11 I'm gonna default to you I think it's up -- yeah. It's  
12 up to you guys, it's not up to me. Yeah, I don't see it  
13 as a conservation concern. I see mixed opinions on  
14 whether there should be the sale of hides altogether,  
15 according to Peter's comment. But I know that there's  
16 interest in selling hides. You know, I do think removing  
17 predators from the landscape, this is one way that might  
18 help promote that. And given caribou concerns, certainly  
19 with the Western Arctic Herd, I'm concerned about the  
20 Teshekpuk Herd, too, we take a lot of cows. So, in that  
21 sense, I -- you know, that's just my opinion, but I --  
22 it's up to this committee.

23  
24                  CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay.

25  
26                  MR. PEARSON: With respect.

27  
28                  CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the  
29 insight. All right, I was just brief that we have to  
30 follow our procedures for the proposals here. You got  
31 comments, Peter?

32  
33                  MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. Anyway,  
34 when I spoke with Edward Rexford, he brought up attention  
35 to me about polar -- I mean bears and polar bear problems  
36 in this area. And it's killing about 5-6 cows at one  
37 time, polar bear, I mean, bears just chasing it, killing  
38 and take off and killing it. You know and there's  
39 something that should be done, he said about it before  
40 and I just wanna address this. So, you know, let's put  
41 this proposal on here so we could, you know, make an  
42 attention here. Thank you.

43  
44                  CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
45 Alright, so, we went through the introduction. We got  
46 the report on Board consultation. So, I guess we'll open  
47 it to tribes or ANCSA corporations for comment. If anyone  
48 is online or in person here.

49  
50                  (Pause)

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Hearing none, I think we'll move on to agency comments. Looks like we kinda jumped the gun on some of it, but ADF&G do you have any comments or...?

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MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to the Council. This is Carmen Daggett for the record, with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, for Game Management Unit 26A. I'm not aware of official comments from the Department regarding this particular proposal. Like I mentioned, it is currently already legal to sell hides in this Game Management Unit that all of us live in, except for the 26B and C portions. I think the game -- the bag limit is one there. So, that would be different for this region. I have not seen any participation in that currently. I haven't had anybody express interest in selling hides and/or asked me for the permits that we -- that I currently have to sell those. So, just so that you have some information about the level of interest that already exists now. How much the general public is aware that that's a current regulation, is -- it's relatively new, I'd say in the -- within the last couple of years. So, I think maybe the general public isn't necessarily aware that it's an option, but it currently is and it is not being used very much here.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that. Any federal agencies have any agency comments?

(No comment)

Hearing none. Tribal entities, Native, tribal, village, other agency comments.

MS. HUGO: Here.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

MS. HUGO: This [sic] Esther Hugo. I think the tribe, (In Native) tribe would not agree and let the own region make their decision on the bear hides and you know, we don't have a problem with that, but then maybe a lot of bears that are hungry and are diverting the caribou north of us. So, I think it would be up to the regions. It's -- long as it doesn't affect our region up north. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the comments. Any other tribal entities, agency comments?

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1 (No comment)

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Hearing none. Advisory group comments, other Regional Councils? Were there any comments from any other region -- I don't know that we have any other regions that may have C&T or anything? Fish and Game Advisory committees.

(No comment)

Subsistence Resource commissions.

(No comment)

Hearing none. Summary of written public comments. Do we have any written public comments?

(No response)

No. With that we'll move it over to public testimony. Anybody online or on the floor open to comment on the proposal in front of us?

(No response)

Hearing none. Regional Council recommendation. I believe -- yeah. So, I guess I would make a motion to have -- how would we put that? To have the sale of brown bear hide unregulated or not have a limitation on the harvest limit for the region. Just to have, you know, open sales of the hide, without the limitations. So that it doesn't compromise or make it harder to go through regulation, to be able to sell something that it's not even a protected animal, so. Go ahead.

MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. For the record, Chris McKee, OSM. I would just like to remind the Council, that if the Council were to adopt as modified by OSM, it would actually provide more opportunities for federally qualified users, because you're not -- it's not beholden to the previous limits on, you know, the how many two bear -- brown bear per -- two brown bear harvest limit in the -- in units. And it also gets around the CITES limitations, which regulates international trade since this OSM modification is just for sale within the United States. So, this is actually opening up some opportunities for federally-qualified users that didn't previously exist. So, just wanted to put that out there as a reminder.

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(Pause)

MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so being the Chair, I can't make that motion, so it would have to come from the Council.

MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Martha.

MS. ITTA: I'd like to make a motion to approve proposal is it WP24-01 Statewide sale of brown bear hide.

MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, let me -- motion been made, seconded by Wanda. Do we have any discussion? I have some discussion, are you -- so, you have a motion to approve the statewide sale. Is that with the OSM modification?

MS. ITTA: Yes, Mr. Chair, with the modifications set forth. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so there's a motion that's been seconded to approve the statewide sale of brown bear with the OSM modification presented to us, as written.

MR. WILLIAMS: Here Peter Williams, question.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And the question has been called for it. All those in favor of accepting the statewide sale of brown bear with the OSM modification, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign. Aye.

UNIDENTIFIED: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Two ayes. Looks like the motion to approve passes -- or can -- well, maybe



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1 we'll have to do a count -- a roll call. How many ayes  
2 were there?

3  
4 MS. CHAPA: I think it was a unanimous  
5 vote. Sorry, I was looking at some of the discussion  
6 that -- our internal discussion with our staff just  
7 wanted clarification, if the Council's motion to support  
8 WP24-01 is with the new information that is presented.  
9 Because there's already been a modification on the  
10 original, and now OSM is presenting new information and  
11 wanted to ensure that the motion and the vote the Council  
12 just took is on the most recent information and  
13 modification.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, Martha,  
16 was that motion with the OSM modification, the most  
17 current, the one that was in the packet provided to us?  
18 Was that the motion to accept that?

19  
20 MS. ITTA: Yes, with your guys input to  
21 be on it.

22  
23 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair, just to say that  
24 -- you're -- what you're doing is voting to support this  
25 as modified by OSM in its February 2025 recommendation  
26 in the addendum. That's the latest recommendation from  
27 OSM. I hate to harp on this, but we just wanna make sure  
28 it's clear for the record. Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, I think there  
31 might be some confusion there, but that was what the  
32 action or the vote was for. And we made it pretty clear  
33 on that, so I.....

34  
35 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, go ahead.

38  
39 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. Is that  
40 requested or what?

41  
42 MS. MORROW: Mr. Chair, Kristen Morrow.  
43 We are just trying to have it clear on the record that  
44 the motion refers to the conclusion presented in the  
45 addendum, which is what I just presented to you, rather  
46 than the one you voted on in fall 2023. I could re-  
47 summarize that, if that would be helpful.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I got that part. I  
50 just think we might be off a little from the last comment

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1 with the -- yeah, I think we're -- well, I think it was  
2 pretty clear to us that what we had stated and clarified  
3 was that it was the motion to support with the  
4 modification. And I thought we were pretty clear on that,  
5 with the two opposed. So, I think we're -- I think it  
6 did pass, is what I saw.

7

8

(Pause)

9

10 Yeah, yeah. All right, so maybe we'll  
11 move forward to the next. And these ones -- were these  
12 the ones that we don't have to make a motion on? Wildlife  
13 Closure Reviews for Kendra and Kristen.

14

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(Pause)

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MS. HOLMAN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,  
members of the Council. So, my name is Kendra Holman,  
I'm the wildlife biologist with the Office of  
Subsistence Management. Before we get into these closure  
review analysis, I just want to provide a quick review  
of the process for these. So, these closure reviews are  
being presented as informational only. Through the  
closure review process, you can only decide -- when  
you're making a decision on the closure reviews at your  
fall meeting you'll be limited on what you're able to  
recommend. And the Board is limited on what they can do  
for the closure reviews. So, we're providing them to you  
as informational only, so that should you decide you  
want to do something outside the limitations of the  
closure review, you can submit a proposal at this  
meeting. So again, this is -- so, within the closure  
review process they can -- changes are limited to harvest  
limits seasons and seasons things like that. So,  
anything beyond that would need a proposal after you  
hear these. So, I will start with the first one here.  
So, WCR26-25 will be the first closure review I'll cover  
here. This closure review can be found starting on page  
15 of your meeting book, this closure review -- reviews  
the closure to federal public lands in Unit 26C to the  
harvest of muskox, except by residents of Kaktovik  
hunting under federal regulations.

So, in 1982, the federal Government  
assumed management of muskox in federal public lands,  
which are part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.  
The Board closed federal season hunting of muskox in  
portions of Unit 26B, and restricted the number of  
permits for 26C, and closed federal public lands to both  
except, by residents of Kaktovik. So, we're gonna jump

1 up to the 2003-2014, only one permit was issued for  
2 muskox, because the population was too small. In 2017  
3 and 2022, the harvest of muskox in federal public lands  
4 was close to everyone except the residents of Kaktovik.  
5 This closure was reviewed for that, as the population  
6 had not been counted and appeared to be very low under  
7 the current regulations. In 2024, the Board approved  
8 proposal WP24-38 with modification. This proposal  
9 requested removing regulatory language (distortion) and  
10 change the season to a maybe announced and delegated  
11 authority to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to announce  
12 season dates and number of permits issued, as well as  
13 setting (indiscernible) restrictions to the Wildlife  
14 Refuge.

15

16 So, muskox were reintroduced into Arctic  
17 National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain in 1969 to 1970.  
18 These introductions, introduced populations grew  
19 rapidly, expanding its range into the eastern Yukon,  
20 Canada, and west into Unit 26B after 1986. So, the annual  
21 pre-calving census on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
22 have not been done since 2009. However, there have been  
23 sightings when conducting flights for other purposes.  
24 In 2015, there was a small group of 18 to 20 muskox seen  
25 along the coastal plains in the summer, and then a small  
26 group of six were observed along the international  
27 border in March of 2016. Figure one on page 20 of your  
28 book has the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
29 information. Re-calving muskox population estimates from  
30 2007 to 2024 in Unit 26B, survey area was conducted by  
31 the State. This area does include small portions of  
32 Eastern 26A and Western 26C, information from the State  
33 on there. Those primarily 26B survey areas can be found  
34 in figure two on page 21 of your book.

35

36 So, legal harvest again of muskox began  
37 in 1982. There was only the one permit that was issued  
38 from 2003 to 2014. Since the changes made by the Board  
39 at their April meeting in 2024, Ambler has issued at  
40 least one permit. I don't know the specifics on if there  
41 were more than one issued. But I know that hunt is still  
42 on going. Historic numbers of muskox can be found on  
43 table two in page 25 of your meeting book. The State had  
44 issued their 12 permits for their hunt in that area, the  
45 Tier 2 -- 12, there were 12 permits issued in four  
46 different settings. The effects and justification if  
47 this closure is eliminated, muskox hunting in Unit 26C  
48 could occur under state regulations. While the state  
49 muskox hunt and Unit 26C is currently closed, the Board  
50 of Game would -- could approve a proposal to establish

1 one. Hunting of muskox under state regulations in Unit  
2 26 was closed from '91 to 2023, but recently reopened  
3 with limitation -- limited opportunities in 26A and 26B.  
4 Establishing other muskox hunt in 26C could -- could  
5 pose conservation concerns and diminish the limited  
6 muskox hunting opportunities for federally-qualified  
7 users. While the North Slope muskox population has  
8 increased to harvestable levels in the adjacent Unit  
9 26B, it is unknown how many muskox occupy Unit 26C.  
10 While muskox occur on the border of Unit 26B and 26C,  
11 no surveys have been conducted in 26C since 2009. It is  
12 possible that more muskox occur in 26C, but they haven't  
13 been documented. Though some preliminary conclusion at  
14 this point in time is to modify the closure regulatory  
15 language but maintain the closure itself. So, we're just  
16 clarifying that the hunt is open for Federally qualified  
17 users, which would be the Village of Kaktovik, but it  
18 is not an 804 restriction. So, we're just clarifying  
19 that by changing the wording.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, it will  
22 remain open to Kaktovik.

23

24 MS. HOLMAN: Yes.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Thank you for  
27 the clarification on that. This is not an action item  
28 from what I'm seeing. Thank you for the information. I  
29 think the first location I went to right on the boundary  
30 of the Canning which is right, just right on the boundary  
31 for ANWR and the State lands there on 26B. So, the very  
32 first location I stopped at, we were camped next to nine  
33 muskox right there, and that was a good sign. So, I  
34 mean, as soon as we hit the ANWR boundary, there was  
35 nine muskox. So, there -- that's I guess, good  
36 opportunity for Kaktovik. But any other questions for  
37 this WCR26-25 for Kendra? Go ahead, Peter.

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. When  
40 Edward spoke about muskox, he said there were nuisance  
41 around their area. So, you know, there's a  
42 recommendation there that -- we would appreciate, you  
43 know, what's going on there. Cause we need, you know,  
44 we need their support. So, we need them at the meeting,  
45 too. So, you know, that's a positive there. Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, quick question,  
48 I guess, for Gisela. Do we have any update for resident  
49 of Kaktovik? As far as Council members.

50

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1 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela  
2 Chapa. No, we do not have any Council members from  
3 Kaktovik.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Not even on the new  
6 upcoming list.

7  
8 MS. CHAPA: Not to my knowledge.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
11 We'll have to make sure to advocate for that. All right,  
12 moving over. Crossover WCR26-18 Unit 23, sheep harvest  
13 closure to non-federally qualified users in the Baird  
14 Mountains. Do we have anybody discussing that?

15  
16 MS. HOLMAN: Me.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, you have  
19 the floor.

20  
21 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, again, for  
22 the record, this is Kendra Holman, wildlife biologist  
23 with the Office of Subsistence Management. This is  
24 closure -- the summary of analysis for Wildlife Closure  
25 Review WCR26-18, can be found starting on page 34 of  
26 your meeting book. This closure is to sheep hunting by  
27 non-federally qualified users in Unit 23, south of  
28 Rabbit Creek -- Kiyak Creek if I said that right, hoping  
29 I did, Noatak River and west of the Cutler and Redstone  
30 Rivers. So, the initial federal subsistence hunting  
31 regulations in 1991 were established by adopting the  
32 existing state harvest limit of one ram with 7/8 curl  
33 in the fall and one sheep with the harvest quota of 30  
34 animals in the winter. In 2016, the Board adopted  
35 proposal WP16-25 with modification to establish a may  
36 be announced season in the Baird and De Long Mountains  
37 hunt area of Unit 23, and to delegate authority to open  
38 and close the seasons, determine annual harvest quotas  
39 and limits to the superintendent of the weir [sic].

40  
41 And so, no federal sheep hunts in the  
42 Baird and De Long Mountains have taken place. My notes  
43 got cut off, sorry about that. In 2022, the Board voted  
44 to maintain the status quo for the closure review WCR22-  
45 18, which is the same one we're discussing now. It was  
46 maintained due to continued conservation concerns. The  
47 Board stated that the sheep population in the Baird  
48 Mountains remained low and declined by 17 -- 73% in  
49 2011, with few large rams and no harvestable surplus.  
50 Further, the state sheep season had been closed since

1 2014, and the National Park superintendent had delegated  
2 authority to announce a federal sheep season to close  
3 sheep to hunting non-federally qualified subsistence  
4 users was necessary. However, no Federal sheep hunting  
5 season has been announced since 2014 due to conservation  
6 concerns.

7  
8 Sheep densities in Unit 20-23 are  
9 historically low compared to other areas of the State.  
10 Severe winters in the 1990s resulted in high mortality,  
11 dramatically reducing sheep areas in the numbers, and  
12 caused the closure of the general and subsistence hunts  
13 between 1991 and 1995. ADF&G management objectives for  
14 sheep in Unit 23 and Western 26A are to monitor sheep  
15 with the National Park Service within each area at least  
16 once every three years, to detect changes in population  
17 status. In addition. ADF&G will monitor harvests through  
18 harvest tickets, permits, and community-based harvest  
19 surveys. Between 2011 and 2019, the lamb to ewe-like  
20 sheep ratios ranged from 1 to 52 per lambs per 100 ewe-  
21 like sheep. This can be found in figure two on page 41  
22 of your meeting book. The low lamb productivity in 2014  
23 was partially attributed to long and cold winters of  
24 2012-2013, and the late spring and record cold  
25 temperatures in May 2013. The preliminary established -  
26 - so, the lamb to ewe-like sheep ratio from the 2024  
27 survey is slightly less than the 2019 survey. This can  
28 be found on figure two on page 41 of your meeting book.  
29 The federal subsistence hunt was opened in 1998-99  
30 regulatory year and harvest occurred through 2014,  
31 except in 1999, 2000 and 2001, when numbers of full curl  
32 rams were observed during the survey and the hunt was  
33 closed in the Baird Mountains. Only federally-qualified  
34 subsistence users could harvest sheep, since the hunt  
35 reopened in 1998. No sheep harvest has occurred in the  
36 Baird Mountains under state or federal regulations since  
37 2014, when seasons were closed due to conservation  
38 concerns. The sheep population in the Baird Mountains  
39 remains low, with estimates declining approximately the  
40 73% since 2011, with few rams and no harvestable surplus.

41  
42 If this closure were lifted, non-  
43 federally qualified users would be allowed to hunt on  
44 federal public lands in the Baird Mountains. However,  
45 the state sheep season has been closed since 2014, and  
46 the National Park superintendent currently has delegated  
47 authority to close sheep hunting to non-federally  
48 qualified users if necessary. So, therefore rescinding  
49 the closure would currently lift -- would currently have  
50 little effect on the sheep population, as hunting by

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1 non-federally qualified users could be curtailed by  
2 other means if the State did open a hunt. So, the OSM  
3 preliminary conclusion is to rescind this closure. If  
4 the harvestable surplus becomes available and a season  
5 is announced, the superintendent has the authority to  
6 close federally public -- federal public lands to non-  
7 federally qualified users if necessary. So, the  
8 federally qualified subsistence users would be assured  
9 a limited but meaningful opportunity and subsistence  
10 priority. Therefore, rescinding the closure would have  
11 no impact on the sheep populations or subsistence users,  
12 but would reduce the regulatory and administrative  
13 burdens associated with the closures and would align  
14 management in the Baird Mountains, along with the De  
15 Long Mountain and other hunt areas in Unit 23. So, if  
16 you have any questions, Mr. Chair, I'd be happy to  
17 address them.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, in short, you  
20 wanna open that area to sheep hunting.

21  
22 MS. HOLMAN: So, not necessarily, through  
23 the Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, you want.....

26  
27 MS. HOLMAN: So, we're going to rescind  
28 -- our preliminary conclusion is to rescind the closure.  
29 However, there maintains a delegation of authority to  
30 the National Park Service who can close to non-federally  
31 qualified users if the State opens a season. So, there  
32 has not been any seasons announced by the National Park  
33 Service at this point. There is no known plans to open  
34 it by the Park Service. So, essentially what it comes  
35 down to is by having a closure and having the delegation  
36 of authority, you're overlapping two different things  
37 that do the same. So, by rescinding the closure, we're  
38 still leaving that delegation of authority in place for  
39 them to have it closed. So, we're just -- we're  
40 recommending to remove one of the two regulatory items  
41 that does the same thing.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, you're giving  
44 the State the option?

45  
46 MS. HOLMAN: No.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Or who.....

49  
50 (Simultaneous speech)

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MS. HOLMAN: The National Park superintendent will still have -- will still be able to have it closed to non-federally qualified users. So, that closure -- if the season were to open in the future, the closure to non-federally qualified users could still be in place if it's needed.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, but we're removing one of the barriers that would keep them out.

MS. HOLMAN: Yes, but it's the same barrier that we're leaving in place, just administratively different. So, right now with the closure in regulations, we have to review this every four years, there's no hunt happening, the population is very low. So, what we're proposing to do is to remove that portion of it that's in regulation and just depend on the portion that's in the Delegation of Authority Letter. So, that in the future, if a hunt becomes available, the superintendent with that delegation can open it to federally-qualified users only, if we get to that point with the sheep. And maintain the closure to non-federally qualified users, or if it gets to a point somewhere in the future where everybody can hunt, it can be open to everybody without having to have this additional process of review every four years.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, once again this is not an action item. But thank you for the clarification on that. Any other questions for Kendra on this?

MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Peter.

MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. Anyway, I remember when Steve Oomittuk brought up attention about -- planes are always -- he said, their distance from the mountains. They're a long-ways from the mountains, he said. But you can see a lot of planes activity around there and, you know, it's around sheep season. So, you know, I'm just kinda curious what he said about that. And when you said it was froze [sic], you know, I was kind of confused on that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. So, if I'm not mistaken, it doesn't show the North Slope boundary on



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1 here to well. It looks like Point Hope is affected by  
2 this. Does this -- do you know if in the De Long  
3 Mountains this enters the North Slope, near AKP or is  
4 this on the boundary?

5

6 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair. It's over  
7 on the 26A and the 23 boundary. It's over on that side,  
8 not on the eastern side over by AKP.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. No, I'm just  
11 asking if this enters into the North Slope to the West  
12 of AKP, but to the East of Point Hope.

13

14 MS. HOLMAN: I'm looking for a map right  
15 now, give me just a.....

16

17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Page 34. So, right  
18 where it says De Long Mountains, right above where it  
19 says De Long Mountains.

20

21 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair. You  
22 can kind of see over on the left-hand side, there is the  
23 North Slope-Northwest Arctic Borough line. So, it does  
24 kind of run along that long -- that line. But I think  
25 most of where we're looking at the crossover for would  
26 be.....

27

28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It [sic] kind of in  
29 the purple section there, right above where it says Long  
30 does that enter into the North Slope? It -- I don't  
31 know, it kind of looks like it might, but.....

32

33 MS. HOLMAN: It may run over a little  
34 bit, unfortunately.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So.....

37

38 MS. HOLMAN: It may run actually kind of  
39 right along that Unit 26 boundary line. If you look at  
40 comparison to where Red Dog Mine is, it may run over a  
41 little bit, but it looks like it runs pretty close to  
42 that.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay.....

45

46 MS. HOLMAN: To the Unit 26 line.

47

48

49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Just additionally  
50 that, that is also where we're running into these

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1 stranded hunters that get left out there. So, I mean,  
2 we're -- it's almost like we're enabling more of that  
3 to happen by removing one of the barriers. But you're  
4 saying they still have the option, but.....

5

6 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair. The --  
7 excuse me, the State hasn't had their season open either.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah.

10

11 MS. HOLMAN: State and federal seasons  
12 for sheep have been closed, so those hunters should not  
13 be there hunting sheep.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Okay, thank  
16 you for that. Once again, not a motion. So, no other  
17 questions. Anybody else have questions on this? Go  
18 ahead, Peter.

19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Peter Williams.  
21 Anyway, when Steve Oomittuk brought that tension up, he  
22 said that Noatak people should be the one that be, you  
23 know, under this. Cause he said it's just in away from  
24 his area, you know, and, you know the way he explained  
25 it is that a lot of activities around there and it should  
26 have been closed and, no one sey why, you know, there's  
27 nothing, you know, observing on this. Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thanks, Peter. All  
30 right, up next, we have WCR26-45. You have the floor.

31

32 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,  
33 this one is -- again, for the record, Kendra Holman,  
34 wildlife biologist with OSM. So, this is a summary of  
35 the analysis for Wildlife Closure Review WCR26-45. It  
36 can be found starting in page 52 of your meeting book.  
37 This closure reviews the federal public lands closure  
38 to the harvest of caribou by non-federally qualified  
39 users on federal public lands within a portion of Unit  
40 23 remainder, which can be found on map one on page 54.

41

42 So, this closure is located along the  
43 Noatak River from the western boundary of Noatak  
44 National Preserve, upstream to the confluence of the  
45 Cutler River within the northern and southern boundaries  
46 of the (indiscernible) Rivers, I'm sorry if I did not  
47 say that right -- respectively and within the Squirrel  
48 River drainage so, the Unit 23 Noatak corridor. So, this  
49 closure -- this year-round closure applies to a limited  
50 area of Unit 23 remainder and predates the unit wide

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1 closure to caribou for non-federally qualified users  
2 from October 1st to October 21st, which was implemented  
3 in 2024. The Unit 24, or excuse me, the unit wide closure  
4 is not reviewed in this analysis, this is just that  
5 small portion.  
6

7 In April of 2024, in deference with the  
8 Northwest Arctic, North Slope, Seward Pen, Western  
9 Interior Councils, the Board adopted WP24-29 -- 28 and  
10 29 with modification to exclude the eastern portion of  
11 Unit 26A from the harvest limits reduction, and to change  
12 the harvest limit to 15 caribou per year, only one of  
13 which can be a cow. The Board stated that this  
14 modification balanced the need for conserving the  
15 declining Western Arctic Caribou Herd with subsistence  
16 uses, and had support from Board, from a broad swaths  
17 of local users. It also aligned current -- it aligns  
18 current state and federal regulations.  
19

20 In April 2024, the Board also adopted  
21 WP24-30 and 31 with modification to close Unit 23 to  
22 caribou hunting, by non-federally qualified users from  
23 August 1st through October 31st. This modification would  
24 -- also, included a stipulation that the closure only  
25 applies to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd if it's less  
26 than 200,000 caribou. Caribou abundance naturally  
27 fluctuates over decades. Reports that mean doubling rate  
28 -- although the underlying mechanism causes these  
29 fluctuations is unknown, climactic oscillations may play  
30 an important role. Climactic oscillations can influence  
31 factors such as snow depth, icing, forage quality and  
32 quantity, wildfire occurrence, insect levels, and  
33 predation, which all contribute to caribou population  
34 dynamics. Density dependent reduction in forage  
35 availability, resulting in poor body condition and may  
36 exacerbate caribou population fluctuation.  
37

38 Caribou calving generally occurs in late  
39 May through mid-June. Weaning generally occurs in the  
40 late October, early November before the breeding season.  
41 Calves may stay with their mothers through their first  
42 winter, which improves their access to food and body  
43 condition. Calves orphaned after weaning or so around  
44 October have a greater chance of survival than those  
45 that are orphaned before weaning. Between October 9 --  
46 or excuse me, between 1982 and 2011, the Western Arctic  
47 Caribou Herd population was within the liberal  
48 management level described by the working group. On  
49 figure two of page 69 shows the population, and table  
50 one on page 68 shows the management levels that the

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1 working group uses. Figure three on page 69 shows the  
2 bull-cow ratios of the herd from 1970 to 2022. Figure  
3 four, shows the survival rate of ratio-collared cow  
4 caribou from 1988 to 2023 with.....

5

6

(Pause)

7

8 So, the 2023 bull-cow ratio was 50 per  
9 100. Figure five shows the calf-cow ratios of 77 per 100  
10 for 2023, and the short yearling-adult ratios of 17 per  
11 100 for 2023. Short yearlings are considered to be 10  
12 to 11 months old, both of these figures can be found on  
13 page 70. In 2024, they were unable to get full surveys  
14 conducted for the herd.

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The working group provides  
recommendations on herd management, including harvest  
levels. Currently, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is  
within the perspective declining levels, which  
prescribes a harvest of 6 to 10,000 caribou per year.

Of particular concern is the overharvest  
of cows, which may have occurred since 2010 to 2011.  
During the 2023 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, Working  
Group meeting, an ADF&G biologist suggested that the  
current harvestable surplus of cows was close to zero.  
Registration permits have been required to hunt caribou  
in Unit 23 under state and federal regulations since  
2017 and 2018, respectively, but compliance with the  
permit required by local hunters is thought to be low.  
Comparison of caribou harvest by community from  
household surveys found in figure one on page 67 of your  
meeting book, demonstrates that local community harvest  
parallels Western Arctic Caribou Herd availability  
rather than the population trends. In figure five on  
page 77 of your meeting book. The report -- shows  
reported caribou harvest in Unit 23 since 2018. Those  
hunting caribou under federal regulations have also been  
required to have a state registration permit, which is  
likely contributes to increased reporting by federally  
qualified subsistence users. Between 1998 and 2020,  
annual reports of caribou harvest in Unit 23 ranged from  
168 to 814 caribou. Over the same time period, reported  
harvest by non-federally qualified users ranged from 131  
to 657, the lowest being 2016, when federally -- federal  
public lands in Unit 23 were closed to non-federally  
qualified users, but before harvest reporting was  
required by federally qualified subsistence users.

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1                   If the closure is lifted, non-federally  
2 qualified users would be able to hunt caribou on federal  
3 public lands along the Noatak River and within the  
4 Squirrel, Eli, and (In Native) River drainages except  
5 from October 1st to -- excuse me, from October -- August  
6 1st to October 31st, when a separate closure to caribou  
7 hunting on non-federally -- by non-federally qualified  
8 users, applies to all federal public lands in Unit 23  
9 as long as the Western Arctic Caribou population remains  
10 under the 200,000. If the Noatak corridor closure is  
11 lifted while the unit wide closure remains in place,  
12 there would be no immediate effect from August 1st to  
13 October 31st because the federal public lands would  
14 remain closed to non-federally qualified users. However,  
15 from November 1st to January 31st there would be no  
16 specific closure to non-federally qualified users in  
17 place in the Noatak corridor. Although the competition  
18 and user conflicts would likely be small, as most non-  
19 local hunting activity occurs in early fall with no  
20 resident -- with non-resident season, excuse me, when  
21 no resident season is open. However, if the Noatak River  
22 closure is rescinded and the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
23 population exceeds the 200,000-population threshold,  
24 federal public lands throughout Unit 23 would become  
25 open to non-federally qualified subsistence users year-  
26 round. So, the OSM preliminary conclusion is to retain  
27 the status quo. The current closure is still necessary  
28 to continue subsistence users -- uses of the Western  
29 Arctic Caribou Herd for federally qualified subsistence  
30 users, specifically Noatak residents. Since the closure  
31 has been enacted, user conflicts within the closure area  
32 have been reduced, and the hunt experiences and harvest  
33 success for federally-qualified users has improved. So,  
34 thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll address any questions, if you  
35 have any.

36  
37                   CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the  
38 information. Any questions for Kendra regarding the  
39 caribou for 23, Unit 23 or any questions for the intent?  
40

41                   (No response)  
42

43                   Hearing none. I think, that one I think  
44 we might have talked quite a bit about before. So, I  
45 think we're pretty well in tune with what's going on,  
46 for there. Call for Wildlife Proposals. You're good to  
47 continue or should we take a break?  
48

49                   All right, so, yeah. Let's continue. You  
50 up for, Kendra.

1

2

MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 Members of the Council again, this is Kendra Holman with  
4 -- wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
5 Management. Now is the call for wildlife proposals and  
6 the Council's opportunity to submit proposals to change  
7 federal subsistence wildlife harvest regulations. An  
8 informational flyer on how to submit proposals to change  
9 federal subsistence regulations can be found on page 55  
10 of your supplemental materials. As mentioned during the  
11 training, Councils must make a motion, excuse me and  
12 vote to maintain, to submit proposals.

13

14

15 Also, the opportunity for Councils to  
16 submit proposals is available during the entirety of  
17 your meeting today. If a Council member thinks of a  
18 proposal later or in response to another agenda item,  
19 they are welcome to suggest submitting a proposal then.  
20 Of course, anyone could submit a proposal, as any  
21 individual can, before the submission window closes,  
22 which is April 4th of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
23 I'd be happy to address any questions. If you do wish  
24 to submit any proposals, we need to include the  
25 regulatory language which you would like to change, the  
26 specific changes you are proposing and an explanation  
27 of why, and we can have that discussion on the record.  
28 And then your Council Coordinator and I can work together  
29 to submit Council proposals. Individual proposals would  
30 have to be submitted on your own.

30

31

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Kendra.

32

33

Any questions for the Call for Federal Wildlife  
Proposals?

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

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MR. WILLIAMS: This is Peter Williams.

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When you went to a subsistence meeting and when Seward  
Peninsula spoke up Nome area, they said they go 70 miles  
out to get caribou and they said they have problems with  
muskox. I know there's a lot of muskox there, so. And  
you know, they're not involved into that too much, I  
guess. But that person named Donnelly, wait Don? Anyway,  
he brought up that attention about caribous [sic] there.  
And he said, like caribou but this distance, he had to  
go miles to go look at caribou so, you know, he's just  
trying to see if they could -- he brought attention at  
the meetings to see if they could get you know,  
recommendation that they could supplement from another  
village, you know, so they could -- but they brought to

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1 attention at that Peninsula meeting, you know, when  
2 we're at the subsistence meeting, they brought that  
3 attention up at the. So, you know what you said on that,  
4 I think that proposal should help them out in their  
5 ways. That's what I would recommend. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that,  
8 Peter. Go ahead.

9

10 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, Mr.  
11 Peter Williams. So, the Seward Peninsula will be  
12 provided the same opportunity to submit proposals as a  
13 Council at their meeting. I don't believe theirs has  
14 happened yet, I believe it's coming shortly, the  
15 beginning of April. So, they have not been presented  
16 with the information to be able to submit proposals, but  
17 they will have that opportunity. If that was something  
18 that this Council wanted to do, that would be a decision  
19 that you would need to make. But at this point they --  
20 their meeting is still coming, so they will still have  
21 the opportunity to submit their own proposals.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: You're on the North  
24 Slope RAC, Peter. Thank you though. No, noted. We do  
25 share a concern for other regions, and it's great to  
26 make sure they're informed. Thank you.

27

28 (Pause)

29

30 All right, so you guys are still good  
31 to continue, while we moved to item D, Council Charter  
32 review? Gisela.

33

34 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela  
35 Chapa, for the record. And I think this should be a  
36 pretty brief item. The Council's current charter can be  
37 found on page 88 of your meeting book. And all  
38 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils were chartered  
39 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, also known as  
40 FACA. So, under the act each Council charter needs to  
41 be reviewed every two years. So, approximately a year  
42 ahead of that each Council can have a discussion on  
43 changes that the Council would like to recommend. Most  
44 of the language in the charter is required by FACA and  
45 cannot be changed, but we can request to make minor  
46 modifications with detailed justification. If the  
47 Council is good with the charter as is and request no  
48 changes we can simply vote to move forward the charter  
49 to the Board. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Any  
2 questions for Gisela? This is an action item, requires  
3 a motion and a second.

4  
5 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

8  
9 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. William -- Peter  
10 Williams. Anyway, we had this meeting (indiscernible)  
11 appointing one member on the Gates of the Arctic and  
12 Park Resources Commission. Well, we recommended see if  
13 we could put for village tribe on the Board. Cause there  
14 are too many non-natives on that Board, and we recommend  
15 that. And I don't know if it went through, but we brought  
16 that attention up at Anaktuvuk meeting too. So, I just  
17 want to put that on the table. Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Go ahead.

20  
21 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also  
22 -- I would need some clarification on whether that is a  
23 change that the Council could make. Again, because a lot  
24 of this language is on FACA. And I do know that some of  
25 the changes that the Council has -- or Councils have  
26 requested in the past are technically like the number  
27 of seats on the Council, the frequency of the meetings  
28 the name of the Council. And I also know that recently  
29 there was a change to all Councils to add the non-voting  
30 youth seat to the Council. But wanted to point out that  
31 for that specific request, I would need to double check  
32 and see if that's something the Council can actually do.

33  
34 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

37  
38 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Peter Williams.  
39 Reason why we brought that attention up is because  
40 there's Ambler mining coming on, and we're having  
41 conflict with these hunters. That's why we brought this  
42 attention up, cause we have a big park and Gates of the  
43 Arctic, it's pretty big, too. So, I just want to bring  
44 this attention up. Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
47 So, I guess reviewing this, is there anything in here  
48 that -- so if we don't have a position filled for  
49 Kaktovik, I mean, is there anything in here that states  
50 we have to get another from that location or is it just



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1 another member of the region that would satisfy that?  
2 Because, if we don't find one that has or is from that  
3 location, you know, they have direct dealings with ANWR  
4 and locations that we're speaking of and making changes  
5 too. Is there anything that states that we have to get  
6 another one from that location, or is it just for the  
7 region in general?

8  
9 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela  
10 Chapa, for the record. I don't believe that the charter  
11 specifies the specific composition of the Council. I  
12 think the charter just specifies that we have ten seats  
13 available in our Council, and then we fill those  
14 positions based on interest. And through the nominations  
15 process, we might be able to identify or work through  
16 the geographic composition of the Council members if  
17 they were like more than -- like we had an excess of  
18 applicants over positions available. So, does that --  
19 did that answer your question?

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It does, but I don't  
22 know if it might make sense doing that or modifying it  
23 to where 20 -- somebody from 26C is present throughout  
24 the nominations process or mandatory because a lot of  
25 us don't see what happens in ANWR. I know we have 26B  
26 as well, but I don't even think we have any resident  
27 locations in there other than Deadhorse, which is not  
28 technically a place that people live. But for 26C that  
29 that's kind of a large area that we have. I mean, we  
30 have some pretty highly looked at stuff nationally. We  
31 might put something in there to where -- that we have  
32 to have somebody from Kaktovik to satisfy the needs of  
33 our RAC. Is that something that would be possible? I  
34 don't know, Gisela, did you have something first?

35  
36 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, I can speak to that. I  
37 think that I will have to get clarification on whether  
38 we can have specific language in the charter about  
39 recruiting membership from Kaktovik or the eastern part  
40 of the region. And I do know that internally, with our  
41 processes, I might be able to assist during the RAC  
42 recruitment and nominations process and specifically do  
43 more outreach for that region in an effort to try to  
44 recruit more members that represent the whole region.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. I would be  
47 fine with that, just to not overcomplicate what we're  
48 trying to do today. Just to have maybe a general  
49 consensus that we should have somebody from there if we  
50 lose our members from that location. Go ahead, Peter.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Chair. Peter Williams. Reason why I stated that earlier about having representatives from there, is cause we get better information, cause there we need better support. Another thing is that on ANWR now. So, you know, that's tickling them, they said, and we need some you know, representatives that speak up for their people. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, so get somebody from Kaktovik or else.

MS. CHAPA: Understood.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that. Any other questions for the charter review? This -- the review of the charter information here does require a motion and a second. I'm asking for a motion.

(Pause)

MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, Leonard Barger. I make a motion to approve the approve charter.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, we have a motion to approve the charter as it sits, without modifications.

MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Wanda. Do we have any discussion on this, before we move on to the question? We did have some discussion of possibly changing or at least making sure we have somebody from Kaktovik due to information that is being passed from ANWR and also regarding their closures and reviews for 26C. But for now, we are leaving that unchanged and just working with our guys to make sure that we have or at least start looking at having somebody from their unit to be able to speak for themselves. But for now, we'll -- we're leaving it as is. With that, do I have a question? Questions been called, for all those in favor of approving the charter as it's written, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign.

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1 (No response)

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Hearing none, the motion passes. All right, item E, review and approve FY2024 Annual Report. Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And again, Gisela Chapa, for the record. Your Council's draft 2024 Annual Report can be found on page 93 of your meeting materials. And all of these Annual Reports ensures the Board is aware of issues, concerns or current events that impacts the subsistence way of life of the people at the region. And with your report and recommendations, the Board can make informed decisions on regulatory and policy actions. At our last meeting in August, the Council identified three different topics to include in our report. Topic one related to funding to conduct muskox monitoring in the region. Topic two requested funding to study the effects of transported and guided hunters on subsistence in caribou in the North Slope Region, and topic three requested to -- or inform the Board of the desire to establish a caribou commission for the North Slope Region. At that meeting, I mentioned that I would work on a draft report and I will bring it back to the Council for review. We can make edits or include any information that may be missing from that report. If there -- but I wouldn't be able to add additional topics to the report. I could make note of additional topics and bring it back at our fall meeting, as a reminder to the Council of what was discussed. But anyway, this is an action item and does require a motion, and a vote.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the review of the 2024 Annual Report. Like she said, it requires a motion and a second.

MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, Leonard Barger. I make a motion to approve the 2024 Annual Report.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Leonard. There's a motion on the floor to approve the annual report as written.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

MR. WILLIAMS: Second, Peter Williams.

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Peter  
2 Williams. Any discussion on the Annual Report?

3  
4 UNIDENTIFIED: Question.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been  
7 called, for all those in favor of approving the Annual  
8 Report 2024, say aye.

9  
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same  
13 sign.

14  
15 (No response)

16  
17 Hearing none, the Annual Report has  
18 passed, FY2024. All right, so item F, it looks like  
19 Brian is not present right now. He had to step out for  
20 a meeting. Oh so, Alaska Board of Game Statewide  
21 proposals. Brian Person -- Pearson, Carmen Daggett.  
22 Carmen, you have the -- go ahead, Carmen, you have the  
23 floor.

24  
25 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair, to the  
26 Council, this is Carmen Daggett for Alaska Department  
27 of Fish and Game, for the record. And just as a  
28 disclaimer, I know Brian was partially thinking about  
29 talking about this because I think he was going to talk  
30 about it in the context of what happened at the Advisory  
31 Committee meeting that we held last week regarding these  
32 particular proposals as well. So, I can let you know how  
33 that Advisory Committee voted, I feel confident -- we  
34 only talked about three proposals. So, you're talking  
35 about the exact same three proposals. And I can give you  
36 the context for the moose proposal as well. You can feel  
37 free to verify any of these things with him when he  
38 comes back, if you'd like. He's got a meeting that  
39 started at 1:00 p.m. he informed me, so. The first  
40 proposal, proposal 86, is about sea ducks and having sea  
41 duck reporting. And I had initially flagged this  
42 proposal because I know that sea ducks are a really  
43 important part of everyone's diet here. This is part of  
44 the statewide proposal, it was really initiated out of  
45 kind of the southwest part of Alaska, so Kachemak Bay  
46 sort of area. And basically, they were requesting to  
47 have harvest tickets and reporting for sea ducks, and I  
48 thought this region might have something to say about  
49 that. So, the Advisory Committee voted on this proposal  
50 and they opposed it, the North Slope Advisory Committee

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1 opposed this proposal so, I can give you more information  
2 from that, but that's the skinny.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That -- I think  
5 that's good enough for me, that they opposed it. So, we  
6 did have a short discussion about this. Is this still  
7 an action item? Because we were unaware that the AC at  
8 the time had gone through it. Now that they -- now that  
9 we know this region has gone through this, through the  
10 AC, is this still an action item for us?

11

12 MS. CHAPA: I think that's up to the  
13 Council to make that decision. If the Council wants to  
14 submit recommendations on behalf of the North Slope RAC,  
15 then yes, it would be an action item. Otherwise, no.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, do we want to,  
18 in short consolidate all of the ones that have been gone  
19 through by the AC to mirror the AC's recommendation?  
20 Because technically we're not the same, but we kind of  
21 are, in a sense. Fish and Game Management Committee is  
22 something that we will probably follow because they have  
23 representatives from most of the region, I think. So,  
24 is that something that we wanna do, or are we going to  
25 itemize these and do them one at a time to approve them  
26 or are we going to -- I would probably recommend  
27 following the ACs because they are individuals from our  
28 same region and our communities, some -- we might have  
29 some, I don't know, I haven't looked at the ACs  
30 composition yet. Go ahead.

31

32 MS. DAGGETT: I believe -- through the  
33 Chair, this is Carmen Daggett, for the record. I believe  
34 that the Advisory Committee is almost at full capacity  
35 and has representation for all of the communities except  
36 for maybe Wainwright. So, you know, they have a solid  
37 composition from each of the communities. Just from how  
38 the AC acted sort of perspective, I will say that  
39 proposal 165, they did some amendments on that, and I  
40 just wanted to make you aware of those. So, do what you  
41 will, it's your choice. But you may be interested to  
42 know the details of that one just a little bit more. If  
43 you want to mirror what they want to do.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, being said  
46 there's change, that's reason enough for us to  
47 individually go through these. So, all right. Proposal  
48 86, 5 AAC 92.010 harvest tickets and reports. What is  
49 your wish for our Council, on the sea ducks. Requires a  
50 motion and a second.

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MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

MS. HUGO: This [sic] Esther, where are we at in this page 97 or..... oh, I'm in the wrong page.

MR. BARGER: Sure (indiscernible), Esther situated real quick.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

MR. BARGER: Leonard here, for the record. And I -- we just had a meeting last week with the committee, and I'm on that Board, also Wanda is. And we discussed this and, you know, like Carmen said, you know, on our committee, there were really -- each village had their voices concern and stuff. So, everybody talked about it. So, you know, I really recommend that we follow what, you know, they have recommended, so.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Do you make a motion for that?

MR. BARGER: I make a motion to.....

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, a motion to -- can you provide the details on that.

MR. BARGER: To approve the Alaska Fish and Game last week, we had to their capacity of their boat. They had.....

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, I think he is making a motion to oppose the harvest tickets and reports for the North Slope Region. Is that sound right? Motion to oppose for the sea ducks.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. KIPPI: Second the motion. Wanda.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Wanda Kippi. Any discussion on the matter?

MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. Question.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been called, for all those who oppose harvest tickets and

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1 reporting proposal 86, 5 AAC 92.010, say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same  
6 sign.

7

8 (No response)

9

10 Hearing none, we have opposed harvest  
11 tickets and reports on sea ducks. All right, proposal  
12 151. Go ahead, Carmen.

13

14 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair. This is  
15 Carmen Daggett, again, for the record. This proposal  
16 151, it would continue to allow this region to be exempt  
17 from a \$25 tag, that would be otherwise required for  
18 brown bear. So basically, we have to re-vote on this  
19 every year and it's part of a statute. So, we have to  
20 confirm every year that we still don't want to have a  
21 \$25 fee for brown bears. And of course, the Advisory  
22 Committee supported this, as Leonard confirmed, so. And  
23 they have confirmed and voted to keep this tag -- the  
24 exemption for many years.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, so I  
27 guess just the wording, how did the AC vote?

28

29 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair, Carmen  
30 Daggett again, for the record. They supported this  
31 proposal.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so kind of  
34 similar to the last one we're following. We would like  
35 to -- my recommendation we follow the AC, and they  
36 approved the proposal to get rid of the brown bear fee,  
37 is that it? Okay, so any motion?

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

42

43 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I make a motion on  
44 this, thank you.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, is that a motion  
47 to approve proposal 151 to get rid of the brown bear,  
48 tag fee exemption?

49

50 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay.

(Simultaneous speech)

UNIDENTIFIED: Question.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been called for. So, no discussion on this. All those in favor of accepting Proposal 151 by getting rid of the brown bear tag fee exemption or I don't know, by getting rid of the brown bear tag fee. So, all those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign.

(No response)

Hearing none, Proposal 151 passes. All right, Proposal 165. Go ahead, Carmen.

MS. DAGGETT: Again, this is Carmen Daggett, for the record. Proposal 165 seeks to reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt that occurs in the western part of 26A. This hunt was briefly closed for a period of time, but needs to be reauthorized every year, similar to the brown bear tag fee exemption. And the Advisory Committee has supported this proposal historically. This year, they offered an amendment to increase the length of the season. Currently, the season goes from July 1st through September 14th, and the North Slope Advisory Committee requested that it go July 1st through September 30th instead of the 14th, so they wanted to add two weeks to the season.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Somebody online if you could mute your microphone, please. We're getting some feedback. Star six. All right, was that the end of the information you had?

MS. DAGGETT: I'm happy to entertain any questions you might have, but I think that's the gist of it.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay so, this excludes the Valley of the Willows.



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1 MS. DAGGETT: The boundary for the  
2 antlerless moose hunt is defined as western, of the  
3 eastern shore of Admiralty Bay, where the Lakutaq River  
4 enters to 155 west longitude. So.....

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: 155?

7  
8 MS. DAGGETT: West of Admiralty Bay, and  
9 I know you are way more familiar with the landscape as  
10 far as where the Valley of the Willows is. I have it  
11 generally in my mind, but I can't remember exactly where  
12 it falls. However, I will say that -- oh, that's so  
13 close. I think I'd have to look at the map to look at  
14 where 155 west longitude lies, that far south.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. No that's all  
17 I had for now. But I like the change, and I would be in  
18 support of that, my opinion. So, requires motion. It  
19 sounds like the only change is extending the season for  
20 antlerless moose hunt, west of 155.

21  
22 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, Leonard Barger.  
23 I make a motion to proposed 165, to approve.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: To approve, motion  
26 to approve proposal 165 and extending the hunting  
27 season.

28  
29 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Wanda.  
32 Any discussion on the matter? I did have some words of  
33 maybe moving that a few degrees over, but I know Geoff  
34 put it there for a reason. But if they could add the  
35 Valley of the Willows at some point. But I'm not sure  
36 if that would impact anything else, but that's just a  
37 discussion. Oh, yeah. Go ahead, Carmen.

38  
39 MS. DAGGETT: So, that boundary has moved  
40 in both the federal subsistence regulations and also in  
41 the state regulations. It used to be 156 west longitude,  
42 and it now is one further degree eastward. So, it has  
43 changed recently. And at the request of both Gordon  
44 Brower from this RAC, as well as the Advisory Committees  
45 on the State side supported that change. So, that has  
46 recently been updated, just so that you're aware.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Thank you for  
49 that. All right, so under the -- we're under discussion.  
50 It's been seconded. Any further discussion, if not, can

00074

1 I get a question?

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair. Peter Williams.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

6

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been  
10 called, for all those in favor of accepting proposal  
11 165, extending the hunting season to the end of  
12 September, September 30th, say aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All those opposed,  
17 same sign.

18

19 (No response)

20

21 Hearing none, we have a longer moose  
22 hunt season. Yeah. Okay, looks like we have future  
23 meeting dates to go through. Gisela.

24

25 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay,  
26 so, our calendar for the fall 2025, can be -- sorry, can  
27 be found on page 111 of your meeting materials. Our fall  
28 25 meeting dates are set for Tuesday, September 16th  
29 through the 17th in Utqiagvik, and this is an action  
30 item and requires Council vote to confirm the meeting  
31 date and location.

32

33 (Pause)

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, do you  
36 guys like the meeting dates as they are? Well, for the  
37 fall time meeting September 16, 17 in Utqiagvik, do those  
38 work for you guys? If so, it requires a motion.

39

40 (Pause)

41

42 MS. ITTA Mr. Chair, I make a motion for  
43 September 6, 7 fall meeting.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sorry, was that  
46 September 6 and 7 or 16 and 17?

47

48 MS. ITTA: I heard 6 and 7.

49

50

00075

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It's 16 and 17 on  
2 the calendar, September 16 and September 17.

3  
4 MS. ITTA: I make the motion for the  
5 September 16 and 17 fall meetings.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion on the floor.

8  
9 MR. BARGER: Seconded, Leonard.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, motion by Martha  
12 and seconded by Leonard. Any discussion?

13  
14 (No response)

15  
16 Hearing none. Any question?

17  
18 (Pause)

19  
20 Question has been called for, by Esther.  
21 All those in favor of accepting September 16 and  
22 September 17, 2025 for the fall time Regional Advisory  
23 Council North Slope meeting, say aye.

24  
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same  
28 sign.

29  
30 (No response)

31  
32 Hearing none, we're coming to a Kaktovik  
33 right before whaling in September. All right, next.

34  
35 MS. CHAPA: Okay. The next one is the  
36 Winter '26 meeting date and location. You will note in  
37 your seats, I added a new calendar just because the one  
38 that is in your books has like, the dates are messed up.  
39 So, if you do not have one of those handouts at your  
40 spot, let me know, and I can give you the latest one.  
41 It's over there for you. That one, yeah. Okay, so the  
42 window for the 2026 Winter Council meeting cycle starts  
43 February 16th and closes March 31st. Our Council has  
44 approved hub community is Utqiagvik, and if the Council  
45 would like to request to meet somewhere else outside of  
46 the approved hub community, I think it requires  
47 approval. And we -- I can work on submitting that for  
48 you, if the Council decides they want to meet outside  
49 of the hub community.

50

00076

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: What's the wish of  
2 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council for 2026 fall  
3 meeting in February? Between February 16 and March 31  
4 Any recommendation?

5  
6 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

9  
10 MR. WILLIAMS: For respect of Steve  
11 Oomittuk, I was wondering if Leonard would accept that  
12 in his home area, Point Hope.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I leave that to the  
15 discretion of you guys.

16  
17 MR. BARGER: Yeah, that would be nice,  
18 you know, to honor him and, you know, his family is  
19 there in Point Hope. And you know, we got some  
20 accommodations over there that (indiscernible) guys. So,  
21 yeah.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any particular date  
24 in mind?

25  
26 MR. BARGER: Chair, Leonard again, I  
27 forgot. But yeah March is our whaling time, as you know,  
28 (indiscernible), you know, we get ready and stuff. So,  
29 be early some, you know, be nice to have it in February,  
30 you know. So, I was gonna recommend Wainwright cause I  
31 haven't been there. I land there, put my feet there, but  
32 I had to go back in the plane. Only place in the North  
33 Slope, I never looked around and stuff is Wainwright.  
34 So, you know, but you know, he put a recommendation for  
35 Point Hope in honor of Stevie, so.....

36  
37 (Simultaneous speech)

38  
39 MR. BARGER: ..... February.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we got a list  
42 of open dates here. Looks like -- well, anything past  
43 February 16 is open. Maybe selection of two dates for  
44 the motion.

45  
46 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

49  
50

00077

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. What if  
2 we have the same date as we did here, 26 and 27.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, motion to have  
5 a winter meeting in Point Hope, February 26 and 27.  
6 Motions on the floor, or was that a motion? Okay. Motion.  
7 Seconded by Esther. Any discussion, Gisela any objection  
8 to that?

9  
10 MS. CHAPA: I don't believe so.

11  
12 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

15  
16 MR. BARGER: Leonard, again. I want to  
17 help (indiscernible), I know we have airlines flying  
18 into Point Hope on Thursdays from the North Slope. So,  
19 you know, you might want to look into that and stuff and  
20 see, cause it might be cheaper. Cause if you're gonna  
21 have people flying, like from AKP, they have to travel  
22 all the way to Anchorage. Anchorage to, you know,  
23 Kotzebue. Kotzebue to Point Hope. So, you might want to  
24 look into, you know, having these dates, you know, by -  
25 - you know, on a Thursday cause rideshare flight to  
26 Point Hope from here, Barrow, from Barrow to Point Hope.  
27 So, you know, you might want to look into that and stuff  
28 that might be a little cheaper. Instead of having them,  
29 like Brower, had to go all the way to Anchorage,  
30 Anchorage to Kotzebue, Kotzebue to Point Hope. So, you  
31 know, that's how I do it. So, but yeah, I just want to  
32 put that out for you guys.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Recommended dates  
35 then, maybe. I'm fine with flying around the long way,  
36 either way, long way or -- yeah, it's gonna get it. My  
37 daughter lives in Kotzebue, so I don't mind.

38  
39 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes.

42  
43 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Yes, that is something  
44 that I wasn't thinking about. The logistics (distortion)  
45 of flying in and out and getting to Point Hope. I do  
46 remember for a fall meeting, we had the meeting on  
47 Monday, and I know that Mr. Williams, member Williams  
48 had to start his travel on a Saturday. And so, it was  
49 somewhat chaotic for that reason, and I -- might be  
50 better to consider having the meeting either Tuesday to

00078

1 Thursday, like you said. I'm not 100% familiar on all  
2 of the logistics for how everybody would get to Point  
3 Hope. The other reminder as well, is that we can set the  
4 meeting dates right now, but then in our fall meeting,  
5 we're gonna to have to confirm the meeting dates and  
6 location. And I also received information that we can -  
7 - we should -- since Point Hope is a non-hub community  
8 for us, and we need to get special approval to meet  
9 there, we should have a second location as a backup.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ Another non.....

12

13 MS. CHAPA: And Wainwright is another  
14 non-hub community.

15

16 UNIDENTIFIED: Anchorage.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, all right, so  
19 what dates are your main flights going in and out of  
20 Point Hope from Barrow.

21

22 MR. BARGER: Chair. Leonard. Thursdays,  
23 every Thursday out of Barrow.....

24

25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Every Thursday. So,  
26 how about -- I can't make the motion, but I can recommend  
27 February 27-28, Friday-Saturday. That way, I have -- at  
28 least a couple of us might have a direct flight to save  
29 a little bit of the hassle, but it's still gonna be  
30 rough travel either way from AKP, I think, but at least  
31 that would alleviate some of it. Yes.

32

33 MS. CHAPA: And I was told no, on a  
34 Saturday. We do not meet on Saturday.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, you can't meet  
37 on Saturday. 25-26, Wednesday-Thursday. And maybe that  
38 way if we end early, we can fly out still on that day  
39 too. Wednesday-Thursday. Motion?

40

41 MS. CHAPA: And sorry, Mr. Chair. At what  
42 time does the flight leave on Thursday?

43

44 MR. BARGER : It comes into Point Hope  
45 at 12:30.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, one-ish.  
48 thirty.....

49

50

00079

1 MS. CHAPA: Maybe Tuesday-Wednesday.  
2 And.....

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, yeah. Yeah,  
5 yeah.

6  
7 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Would - we could also  
8 meet Tuesday-Wednesday. And that would give us enough  
9 time to fly out on Thursday. And again, these are  
10 recommended dates, in our fall meeting we can confirm  
11 the dates, and I might be able to report more information  
12 on logistics for travel.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I said I'm open to  
15 going the long way. I'll make that sacrifice.

16  
17 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair. Leonard. I make  
18 a motion to on February 24-25 of 2026.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so motion with  
21 modification to the date from the original motion. So,  
22 February 24-25. Do we have to rescind the first motion  
23 or no?

24  
25 (No response)

26  
27 Or is the modification on the discussion  
28 good enough?

29  
30 (Pause)

31  
32 MS. CHAPA: Yeah.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so modified  
35 motion February 24 through 25 due to logistics. Seconded  
36 by -- was it Esther?

37  
38 MS. HUGO: Yeah.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. And we had the  
41 discussion. Any question?

42  
43 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

44  
45 (Simultaneous speech)

46  
47 Peter Williams.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been  
50 called for by Peter Williams. All those in favor of

00080

1 having a winter Regional Advisory Council meeting in  
2 Point Hope. February 24, February 25, say aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same  
7 sign.

8

9 (No response)

10

11 Hearing none, we're going to Point Hope.  
12 Oh, did we have a backup location?

13

14 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair. Leonard, again.  
15 I know my seat's gonna be over in 2026, so I don't know  
16 when, what month and stuff, but yeah.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Still going to Point  
19 Hope. So, should we put a note in there, what is the  
20 secondary location? Wainwright is the second location?  
21 Do we have to re-motion that? Just put it in the notes.

22

23 MS. CHAPA: I'm looking at our LT for  
24 Robert's Rules of Order procedures. And I also, to point  
25 out Wainwright it is another non-hub community. So,  
26 for.....

27

28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, is it default  
29 Barrow then, at that point? Because the rest of them are  
30 non-hub too.

31

32 MS. CHAPA: I will ask for clarification.  
33 But it would be my assumption that yeah, our default  
34 backup might be Barrow.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay so, I don't  
37 think we need to change that then. If we got -- so, if  
38 we can't make a selection because it has to be a hub. I  
39 don't think we have the option do we.

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It's like default  
44 Barrow. Yeah. Anyways, I don't know if that's written  
45 anywhere, so yeah, default Barrow, just to make it  
46 easier, yeah.

47

48 MS. CHAPA: Okay, then I'll just state  
49 for the record. Our first option for the fall 2026 --  
50 no, sorry, winter 2026 meeting is Point Hope, and our



00081

1 backup location will be Utqiagvik.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And we didn't have  
4 a choice in that, so. Okay, all right, next. Fall 2026.

5

6 MS. CHAPA: That is still me, again.  
7 Gisela Chapa, for the record. And on page 113, you have  
8 the window for the fall 26 Council meeting cycle. And  
9 similar exercise as the previous one. It's an action  
10 item, requires a Council vote to confirm meeting date  
11 and location.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, so we  
16 have the dates set in front of us. Can I get a  
17 recommendation for fall 2026 dates and a motion.

18

19 (No response)

20

21 Date, location and a motion, default  
22 Barrow.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 So, I don't know if you guys want to try  
27 this or not, but I would always be interested in you  
28 guys being here during the whaling season. Especially  
29 for the ones that might be able to load up their coolers  
30 with (In Native) on the way home. But October 1 and 2  
31 is generally a good start date for whaling here, an  
32 option to have the weekend if they were nice enough to  
33 open up your arrangements. But that would be  
34 interesting, we normally open whaling, it's been either,  
35 September 25 through October 1 somewhere start date in  
36 there. So, just putting that out there if you guys are  
37 interested. What's that?

38

39 MS. AHMAOGAK: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Jenysa.

42

43 MS. AHMAOGAK: I think that would be a  
44 good time to have our -- I would think that would be a  
45 good time frame to have our fall meeting, considering  
46 that we do have fall caribou hunting. And I know there's  
47 a couple of us on the Council that would like to have  
48 that chance to continue hunting in the fall before freeze  
49 up.

50

00082

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, October 1st is  
2 generally an in-between time, So, it's like the tail end  
3 of the tuttu hunting season, the very beginning of  
4 Barrow's whaling season, anyways. And there's not a  
5 whole lot going on other than whaling October 1st. Almost  
6 everyone's putting their boats away, except for the  
7 whalers, and it's icing up so, it is an ideal time. Not  
8 so much for the whalers, but if you want to be here  
9 during whaling and see what's being done and actually  
10 go out and see some of the whales be -- being cut up,  
11 there's a really high chance of that October 1 and 2  
12 here. So, motion on the floor, anybody?

13  
14 MS. AHMOAGAK: Motion to have the fall  
15 meeting October 1 and 2, here in Barrow.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: There's a motion on  
18 the floor for Barrow, October 1st and 2nd, 2026.

19  
20 MR. BARGER: Second it, Leonard.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by  
23 Leonard. Any discussion on the matter, other than where,  
24 we like the dates. It's avoiding the caribou hunting  
25 season in September, and would give opportunity for our  
26 Council to possibly partake in checking out the whales  
27 here.

28  
29 (Simultaneous speech)

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

32  
33 MR. WILLIAMS: (Indiscernible) question.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been  
36 called, for all those in favor of having a meeting here  
37 October 1 and 2, 2026, say aye.

38  
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same  
42 sign.

43  
44 (No response)

45  
46 Hearing none, you guys are going  
47 whaling. All right, so that's it for today. So, what do  
48 you recommend, going on a break for now? And I don't  
49 know if we want to do a lunch. Are we trying to finish  
50 it all today? Okay, so maybe a 15-minute break. 15-

00083

1 minute break, and we'll come back and start on tomorrow's  
2 agenda. 15-minute break.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (On record)

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, welcome  
9 back everybody. Everybody online, Martha, are you there?

10

11 MS. ITTA: Yes, I'm still here.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, so we're  
14 back online from break, and let's see. Who do we have  
15 next? So, on item 13 -- are we skipping these? No.

16

17 (Pause)

18

19 Okay, so it looks like we have -- let's  
20 see, reports. Time limit of 15 minutes, unless approved  
21 in advance. Tribal governments. Do we have any tribal  
22 governments giving reports today, that we know?

23

24 (No response)

25

26 So, no tribal government. Native  
27 organizations? None provided to date. Anybody online for  
28 a Native organization giving a report?

29

30 (No response)

31

32 Hearing none. We have Office of  
33 Subsistence Management, but it looks like they're giving  
34 us an option if we want to skip these. So, Fisheries  
35 Resource Monitoring Program update and Partners for  
36 Fisheries Monitoring Program update. I'll leave that up  
37 to the Council if you want to skip these or would you  
38 like to hear their updates? These are not action items.  
39 Skip them? So, we're saving you some time.....

40

41 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, Leonard. I wanted  
42 to make a motion to skip them.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I don't think we  
45 need -- we need a motion to skip them? No, we don't need  
46 amotion. So, general consensus, we are skipping  
47 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update, Partners  
48 for Fisheries Monitoring Update, and is there -- do we  
49 want to keep the OSM one? All right, OSM general update,  
50 Chris McKee. Is that how you say your last name, McKee?

1 McKay, McKee? All right, you have the floor.

2

3 MR. MCKEE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
4 members of the Council. My name is Chris McKee. Just a  
5 quick introduction about myself, my day job is the --  
6 as the statewide subsistence coordinator for the Bureau  
7 of Land Management. But for the next few months, I am  
8 gonna be stepping in as the acting deputy director for  
9 OSM. So, I'll be giving you the OSM report. Mr. Chair  
10 and members of the Council, on behalf of OSM, I want to  
11 thank you for your service and exceptional work that you  
12 do on behalf of your communities and the user groups.  
13 We value your expertise and volunteered contribution of  
14 your knowledge, experience and time to the regulatory  
15 process. As many of you know, Congress administratively  
16 moved OSM from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
17 directly to the Office of the Secretary, Policy,  
18 Management and Budget. This move became effective on  
19 July 15th, 2024. This move was one of many efforts that  
20 the Department of Interior made to strengthen the  
21 Federal Subsistence Management Program, and to ensure  
22 that federally-qualified subsistence users and Alaska  
23 Native peoples have an opportunity for meaningful  
24 engagement in our public process, implementing the  
25 federal subsistence priority.

26

27 This January, President Trump returned  
28 to the White House and with him a new team of political  
29 appointees. Doug Burgum was sworn in as Secretary of  
30 Interior. Shortly after that, Charlie Dankert was  
31 appointed Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising  
32 the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for  
33 the Office of Policy, Management and Budget. OSM has  
34 been getting Charlie up to speed with the Federal Program  
35 and its importance to rural Alaskans. Meanwhile, it's  
36 been business as usual at OSM, we continue to work with  
37 many of the same people within the Office of Secretary  
38 in Washington, D.C., who helped us with our transition  
39 as well as with new political appointees.

40

41 In February, we welcome new Public Board  
42 members, Raymond Oney of Alakanuk, Benjamin Payenna of  
43 Nome and Frank Woods of Dillingham, and completed  
44 another successful Board meeting. We hope to have  
45 updated federal regulations for subsistence fishing  
46 published in the final rule soon. The proposed rule for  
47 the 2026 Wildlife Regulatory Cycle published on February  
48 7th, and we are now accepting proposals through April  
49 4th.

50

00085

1                   Just an OSM staff update. I'd like to  
2 thank -- I would like to provide you with the most recent  
3 staffing updates for the Office of Subsistence  
4 Management. In December 2024 OSM officially welcomed our  
5 new director, Ciisquq Crystal Leonetti. She has been  
6 acting in that role for over six months until she was  
7 formally hired. Previously, she was Alaska Native  
8 Affairs Specialist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
9 Service. Among regular OSM director responsibilities,  
10 Ciisquq continues to lead OSM through its administrative  
11 move and has done an exceptional job. And I can for one  
12 can testify to that.

13  
14                   Since last fall's Council meeting,  
15 several OSM staff acted in different roles to help us  
16 through the transition to the Office of Secretary.  
17 Starting in February, I came over to OSM from BLM to act  
18 as a deputy for the next four months. As I told you, I  
19 am the subsistence coordinator for BLM and I'm also a  
20 member of the Interagency Staff Committee. Previously I  
21 worked for OSM as the Wildlife Division supervisor and  
22 before that as a wildlife biologist until 2020 when I  
23 went to BLM. So, I'm really happy to be back, with OSM  
24 for a brief period of time. With me stepping up to help  
25 other OSM staff have been able to return to their  
26 permanent OSM positions.

27  
28                   We would like to continue to remind  
29 Council members about the change in requirements for  
30 U.S. travelers who must be Real ID compliant to Board  
31 domestic flights and access certain Federal facilities.  
32 Beginning May 7th, 2025, every air traveler will need  
33 to present a Real ID compliant identification to fly  
34 within the United States, even when you fly in a small  
35 commercial bush carrier. For our program, you will need  
36 to have your Real ID and time to travel to your fall  
37 2025 Council meetings. You can find more information  
38 about Real ID requirements on the State of Alaska  
39 Division of Motor Vehicles website.

40  
41                   Councils have received a handful of  
42 responses earlier this year in terms of their Council  
43 correspondence from the secretaries, based on issues  
44 raised during individual Council meetings and the All  
45 Council meeting this past winter. OSM has also  
46 integrated a correspondence review standing agenda item  
47 in the Federal Subsistence Board meetings to keep them  
48 appraised of all ongoing and completing correspondence  
49 to and from the Councils. We are aware of concerns that  
50 have been raised on timely responses and are continuing

00086

1 to work on ways to help expedite things to move forward.

2

3 Now for a litigation update. An update  
4 was provided to the Councils during the fall 2024 Council  
5 (indiscernible) meeting. Since then, the Kake Emergency  
6 Hunt Matter with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
7 v. the Federal Subsistence Board briefing has been  
8 completed before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and  
9 a three-judge appellate panel heard oral arguments on  
10 February 7. We expect a decision sometime this summer.  
11 On the Kuskokwim, the district court found in favor of  
12 the U.S. on all claims and enjoined the State of Alaska  
13 from taking any further actions in violation of Title  
14 VIII on the Kuskokwim River. The State has appealed, and  
15 briefings before the Court of Appeals are now complete,  
16 with oral arguments scheduled for April 11th. So, with  
17 that, that's all I had. I'd be welcome to answer any  
18 questions if I can. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Chris.  
21 Any questions for the OSM general update?

22

23 (No response)

24

25 Hearing none, looks like we have ADF&G.  
26 Unit 26A update, Carmen Daggett.

27

28 MS. DAGGETT: Good afternoon, again. My  
29 name is Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department of Fish  
30 and Game, wildlife biologist, for the record, I'd like  
31 to orient you to page 56 of the stapled packet. That is  
32 my update that we have for Game Management Unit 26A and  
33 my 26B and C counterpart, Jordan Pruzenski will be  
34 talking in the next section. So, if there are questions  
35 related to 26B and C, I would hope that you would reserve  
36 those questions for her because she is the expert in  
37 that area and I am not. So, just to kinda do a quick  
38 rundown so that you guys are familiar with the key  
39 species that we're looking at in 26A. The Teshekpuk  
40 Caribou Herd obviously is within Game Management Unit  
41 26A, our most recent survey was done in 2022. We had a  
42 photo census estimate of 61,600 animals during that. We  
43 are planning on putting our backs into trying to get a  
44 survey again this summer. Typically, those photos census  
45 efforts, if they happen, take one day and -- one day of  
46 photography, anyways and then we need to bring all those  
47 photographs back, and we actually count those animals  
48 on those pictures back in the office. So, if you happen  
49 to see a large orange Beaver flying around in July,  
50 usually, end of July, that is the photo census plane.

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1 And we're working to get you photo counts and there may  
2 be smaller planes that are assisting with that. So, just  
3 kind of be aware that we're really working on that. It's  
4 completely weather dependent. So, essentially, for those  
5 of you that aren't familiar with how we do photo census,  
6 we're looking for large aggregations to happen with the  
7 caribou. (Indiscernible) pushing all those animals  
8 together into tight, dense groups and then we photograph  
9 those groups. So, this is a method that has proven to  
10 be most effective and is used circumpolarly for  
11 evaluating caribou herds throughout the world and is how  
12 we do it in Alaska. So, does anybody have any questions  
13 about the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd and the photo census  
14 plans for this year? If not, I'm going to move on.

15

16 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

19

20 MS. HUGO: This is Esther. So, the  
21 Teshekpuk Herd, the numbers are -- they're not declining  
22 or they're stable at this time?

23

24 MS. DAGGETT: So, this -- the most recent  
25 estimate is actually the second highest population that  
26 the Teshekpuk has ever been at historically. So, they're  
27 at a population high right now, according to our most  
28 recent survey. Things might have changed between now and  
29 then, but the most recent data that we have from the  
30 photo census suggests that they're at a population high,  
31 okay.

32

33 Speaking of other information that we  
34 collect about the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. We do short  
35 yearling spring surveys, typically. Usually, we try to  
36 do those every year, in April. This year we will not be  
37 doing them because we will be putting our backs into the  
38 muskox survey. So, normally we would do a moose and a  
39 caribou survey in spring at the beginning of April. But  
40 all of the energy and funds and everything that we have  
41 is going into this muskox survey to get it done. So, we  
42 are forgoing doing this short yearling recruitment  
43 survey this spring. However, in 2024 we observed 3,600  
44 animals, 3,600 caribou, and 20% of them were short  
45 yearlings, which is actually very high. And last year  
46 around that time period, I was in the middle of having  
47 my second son. So, I didn't do that survey. And  
48 typically, what happens is, the animals that are down  
49 in the mountains have a different recruitment rate than  
50 the animals that are up on the slope. For the animals

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1 that migrate in the Teshekpuk Herd versus don't migrate.  
2 And so, pretty much all the animals that were surveyed  
3 were in the mountains last year. And typically, I would  
4 normally say that, that means that, that's a  
5 overestimate of the whole representation. I think the  
6 animals that are further north often have a lower  
7 recruitment rate. The yearlings don't make it through  
8 the spring quite as well. And I think last spring, a lot  
9 of us observed that there were actually quite a few  
10 yearlings in the area that didn't make it. So, I think  
11 that, that's -- that number needs a caveat. So, that's  
12 my caveat. On average it's about 15% recruitment, so  
13 basically, the animals that are making it from the  
14 previous summer, making it through the winter and are  
15 going to be born into the herd. That is what this number  
16 is. Are there any questions about that?

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, are there any  
19 observations that are different than last year for this  
20 year? I haven't seen as many dead for no reason. Kind  
21 of like we did the starvation ones that were close to  
22 town here. But has there been any observation or  
23 consensus of what's happening for this year?

24  
25 MS. DAGGETT: Excellent question, Mr.  
26 Chair. Again, Carmen, for the record. I haven't heard  
27 anything from hunters, and I haven't seen anything on  
28 the landscape myself that would suggest that we are going  
29 to experience similar things. I will say just looking  
30 at the weather. Last spring versus this spring, last  
31 spring, we had some pretty severe wind chills throughout  
32 the spring. I wouldn't say that the ambient temperatures  
33 were particularly bad, but the wind chills were notable.  
34 This year it's a much warmer year, and the wind chills  
35 haven't been nearly as bad so, I would expect that, that  
36 would favor survival. But that's all speculation, of  
37 course.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
40 I also have observations from caribou being caught.  
41 They're a lot fatter this year. So, it seems like even  
42 though we had early rains throughout the winter season,  
43 the caribou are generally, from the ones being caught  
44 slope-wide actually, not just one location, have been  
45 caught over the last few days and still have plenty of  
46 back fat on them, which is surprising. So, it's a good  
47 sign that I see anyways. But hopefully not nearly as bad  
48 as the starvation from last year.

49  
50



1 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for those  
2 observations. I can continue on here quickly. Adult  
3 female mortality, we try to keep tabs on adult female  
4 mortality throughout the year. The long-term average for  
5 adult female mortality is 15%. The survival of adult  
6 females is paramount to understanding the -- how the  
7 herd is doing, it's a good indicator on the pulse of how  
8 the herd is doing. If you have a lot of females who are  
9 dying, then you have less young coming into the herd and  
10 your herd isn't gonna be growing or it might be  
11 stabilizing, but it ain't gonna be growing, right. And  
12 if you have a low adult female mortality rate, then your  
13 herd is gonna keep doing well so, that's why we keep  
14 track of that. We do it through collars. So, you know,  
15 we look at the number of collars we have, how many make  
16 it through, how many are dying and how many are living,  
17 and that's how we evaluate that number. Any questions  
18 about that? We're at 16% for '23 and '24, and it's always  
19 gonna be a year behind because it takes a whole full  
20 collar year to evaluate that, so.

21  
22 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. You know,  
23 I notice a lot of caribou coming around closer to the  
24 village, you know, and just kind of curious about that.  
25 Whether there are rules that's, you know, impacting them  
26 or, you know, like what Brower said earlier about wolves  
27 or, you know, like, around Atqasuk area. I'm just kinda  
28 curious about that cause sometimes when a wolverine come  
29 around, it's worse, so. They don't eat their food, they  
30 just stash them. Wolverine, they don't eat their food,  
31 they stash them. So, I'm just kind of curious about  
32 that. And they have, like wolverine problems too.

33  
34 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to member  
35 Williams. This is Carmen, again, for the record. These  
36 are all excellent observations, Earl. And you know, I  
37 think in a lot of ways you guys understand those  
38 interactions better than we do. Because we're not on the  
39 landscape constantly, like you guys are. And so, what I  
40 heard from everybody's reports is that they're seeing a  
41 lot of wolves, and I'm hearing from the hunters who are  
42 out in the landscape and seeing it on Facebook and all  
43 these different ways that there are more wolves around.  
44 And I do know from my experience, you know, that wolves  
45 can push animals around, it's pretty common. And you  
46 guys all alluded to that too. So, I think those are  
47 great observations and I would say, you know, we have  
48 collared caribou, but we don't on the North Slope have  
49 collared wolves and we don't have collared wolverines.  
50 So, trying to evaluate that is far better done with TEK

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1 at this point. It's hard for me to evaluate that from a  
2 scientific perspective.

3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair. Peter Williams.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep. Go ahead,  
7 Peter.

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Reason why I said that is  
10 cause you said observation, okay. I'm just kinda curious  
11 about that, that's why I'm just asking you. Thank you.

12

13 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. I'm not entirely sure  
14 what you are indicating there, and I'm happy to talk  
15 with you more on the side if you want to talk about it  
16 in more detail. But I'm not exactly sure where you're  
17 headed with that statement.

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, you stated that, you  
20 know, you're observing, right? Okay, you're observing.  
21 So, that means you're studying something. Doesn't mean  
22 you're just standing there watching with binoculars and  
23 looking around. Okay, that's I'm just asking you.

24

25 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Thank you for  
26 clarifying that. Okay, so just a few details so that you  
27 guys are familiar with what's happening. So, annually  
28 we do a caribou collaring project. Part of that collaring  
29 project currently is to do a caribou health assessment  
30 for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. So, we're looking at a  
31 variety of different things in more detail for the  
32 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd, specifically measurements and  
33 body condition, internal and external parasites, trace  
34 minerals, stress hormones, and we're also keeping tabs  
35 on a wide range of possible diseases. So, that's ongoing,  
36 it's a three-year project. We're kind of in the middle  
37 of it right now. So, just so that you're aware that  
38 we're looking at these things in more depth right now  
39 for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. And there will be more  
40 to come with information from that study.

41

42 I talked about the recent caribou  
43 mortalities last spring, and I'm not going to get into  
44 that again. All right, muskox. Brower did a fantastic  
45 job talking about -- getting information from people for  
46 muskox, let's talk about why. So, if you look at this  
47 map that I handed out this is our survey area. This is  
48 what our survey plans are for evaluating muskox this  
49 spring. And like I said, we're putting all of our time  
50 and all of our money into this survey this spring. So,

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1 we're gonna do a solid effort. Looking at this map, it  
2 can be a little bit confusing. There's some lines that  
3 go North-South and East-West and they're like straight  
4 lines. Alright, and then there's circles. So, what do  
5 those things mean? The circles are reconnaissance areas.  
6 So, there are areas that we're gonna go in an airplane  
7 and we're gonna fly the features on the landscape. And  
8 those features are chosen based on muskox sightings that  
9 I've heard from you guys, muskox sightings that I've  
10 heard from other researchers on the landscape, muskox  
11 locations from former biologists that have experience  
12 in the area, i.e. I talked to Geoff Carroll about it.  
13 And a bunch of other hunters who are currently out in  
14 the landscape. If you guys have more information to add  
15 to this, and you think there's something missing on here  
16 for where you know, there might be muskox, I want to  
17 know, okay. And I mean like recent, okay. Cause we're  
18 gonna go look in April, okay. So, and muskox, I think  
19 move between spring and summer too, some, so you know,  
20 keep that in mind. But I think knowing what's happening  
21 this spring is going to be really helpful for us to try  
22 to get an accurate count.

23  
24 So, for these reconnaissance areas, I'm  
25 kind of relying on TEK and historical sightings, okay.  
26 The rest of these areas down here where the lines are,  
27 are part of the traditional count that has been done in  
28 this region historically. This is gonna be done through  
29 distance sampling. So, we're gonna fly every one of these  
30 lines with an airplane, and we're gonna count the number  
31 of muskox we see along these transects, okay. So, this  
32 means that in April there are going to be -- there's  
33 gonna be a fleet of airplanes out, okay. And I wanna be  
34 clear about it, I've had a lot of discussions with the  
35 staff that's gonna be involved with it, that this is  
36 going to be a potential whaling time period, and we need  
37 to be mindful of that. So, we have some mitigation  
38 measures. During this survey typically, what would be  
39 done is if we saw a muskox group from 1,000ft, we're  
40 gonna be traveling at 1,000ft looking for muskox over  
41 the landscape to start with. If we see a muskox group,  
42 we're going to come down, fly down, descend in altitude  
43 and try to take pictures of that group. We're trying to  
44 figure out how many little ones are in the group, how  
45 many bulls and how many cows, and about how old they  
46 are. And we can tell all these things just by looking  
47 at their horns, okay.

48  
49 So, we're taking pictures to get good  
50 images of their horns so we can figure all these things

1 out and try to get you more permits. That's what it  
2 boils down to. However, I do not want to disrupt you  
3 guys whaling, that's not the goal. I do not wanna disrupt  
4 that in any way. So, around the communities, pilots and  
5 observers in Game Management Unit 23 and 26, they are  
6 being instructed to not descend in elevation near  
7 villages where they might be whaling. And they're gonna  
8 take pictures at 1,000ft, but they're not gonna take  
9 pictures from 300 to 500ft, for example, okay. So, I was  
10 talking with Leonard earlier, we're gonna compensate for  
11 that by trying to talk with local people on the ground  
12 that might know where these groups are and try to get  
13 images of them that way that are more closer up, okay.  
14 So, I wanna work with you guys, not against you, okay.  
15 And so, that's what this survey is about and we're trying  
16 to do the best we can so, but we need cooperation.

17  
18 So, you can call me at my office, you  
19 can call me on my cell phone, you can Facebook message  
20 me, you can email me, I don't care, just talk with me,  
21 please. Cause we need to make sure we get this  
22 information out. And I also want the hunters on the  
23 ground to know what's happening, cause they're gonna see  
24 airplanes that they're not used to seeing. So, we're not  
25 trying to push people off of their hunting in any way.  
26 We're just trying to count the muskox. So, there will  
27 be posters going out to all of the communities. They  
28 will be going through the North Slope Liaisons office,  
29 they will be going through Tribal Councils, city offices  
30 and corporations, and you guys. I will get information  
31 out to as many people as I can so that it can be shared  
32 with your communities so that there's 100% transparency,  
33 okay. All right, questions about the muskox survey or  
34 thoughts? Yes.

35  
36 MS. AHMOAGAK: Mr. Chair, this isn't a  
37 question, but rather a comment on when you guys plan on  
38 doing these observations. From my understanding, whaling  
39 starts the earliest, the more western you go. So, like  
40 the first place in the North Slope that would start  
41 whaling usually is Point Hope. I can't speak on when  
42 they usually start whaling because I'm not a resident  
43 of Point Hope, nor have I participated in any sort of  
44 whaling there. But just from my own observations, two  
45 communities East. In Wainwright, we usually start, I  
46 would say we usually start breaking trail towards mid-  
47 April, and we start going out whenever the lead opens  
48 up, which is usually towards the middle to ending of  
49 April and usually lasts until the very end of May.  
50

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Doesn't look like  
2 from the map you're gonna have any issues with Barrow.  
3 So, Wainwright, Point Lay if they're whaling and Point  
4 Hope is probably gonna be your most focused for the area  
5 of impact, but it sounds like you have good communication  
6 already going. So, I don't think we have a huge thing  
7 going here, but as long as we give them notice  
8 beforehand, I don't see any real issues. As long as  
9 you're talking with like AEWEC or their local village  
10 whaling organization, I don't see any impacts other than  
11 -- especially being an aircraft, you know, we have Alaska  
12 Airlines flying in directly where we're catching whales  
13 every day. It's not like you're flying a 737, although,  
14 smaller aircraft are a little loud. But yeah, I think  
15 as long as you have open communication and know who the  
16 liaisons are, you should be okay.

17  
18 MS. DAGGETT: Just thank you for that,  
19 Mr. Chair. Again, Carmen, for the record. I will say  
20 that I didn't mention where we're gonna base. So, there's  
21 gonna be four bases. We have some Fish and Game staff  
22 that's gonna work out of Dahl Creek. So, that's kind of  
23 -- if you look at your map, it's kind of in this area  
24 over here. And then we have some Fish and Game staff  
25 that are gonna work several days out of Umiak, and then  
26 we're gonna have a couple of days where we're gonna be  
27 based out of Barrow. So, even though we're not flying  
28 surveys around Barrow, there might still be a couple  
29 airplanes that go in and out for a couple of days, but  
30 it won't be for an entire month. So, just so that you're  
31 aware of that, full disclosure.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That sounds good. We  
34 even have (indiscernible) that flies in at midnight. So,  
35 they're -- we're inundated with aircraft. So, I don't  
36 think it's gonna be a huge impact on us.

37  
38 MS. DAGGETT: All right.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay.

41  
42 MS. DAGGETT: Good. One last thing, and  
43 then I'll get out of your hair. I handed out this flyer  
44 that's got pictures of caribou parts on it. But if you  
45 open it up, it's got a summary of all the current Fish  
46 and Game hunting and trapping regulations. And it's  
47 meant to be a user-friendly accessible thing. Everybody  
48 should've gotten one of these in their mailbox. But in  
49 case you didn't, or you threw it away, here's another  
50 one. They're a pretty useful reference, and it saves you

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1 from trying to have to read through the entire regulation  
2 book. So, please use those, take a look at them. If you  
3 have questions about them, let me know. And other than  
4 that, I will be done.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any other questions  
7 for Carmen while she's still in the seat?

8

9 (No response)

10

11 Hearing none. Thank you very much for  
12 your presentation and updates. Find all the Muskox. All  
13 right, so it looks like we have a second portion to  
14 this, Unit 26B and 26C update Jordan Pruszenski.

15

16 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Hello, through the  
17 Chair. My name is Jordan Pruszenski, I'm the assistant  
18 area biologist for northeast Alaska. And yeah, I can  
19 give you guys a quick update on some of the key factors  
20 in our area. The -- one of the herds that we manage are  
21 the Central Arctic Herd. So, this herd is usually in  
22 Unit 26B and then migrates in for the summer and calving  
23 season and migrates down to the Coldfoot area for the  
24 winter. And so, this herd in -- we got a photo census  
25 in 2022, and this herds right around 35,000. And we  
26 believe this herds to about probably stable to maybe  
27 slightly increasing based on survival rates and calving  
28 which have all been sort of on point with long term  
29 averages. And so, this herd, the last Board of Game  
30 meeting for our area. March 2024, the Board of Game  
31 increased the bag limit for this area for residents and  
32 non-residents. And so, that is something that we're  
33 monitoring. So, for residents now, it's -- any caribou  
34 and then for non-residents it's two bulls. And so yeah,  
35 that's something that we're monitoring and hopefully  
36 allowing people to sort of take advantage of this herd  
37 as they're doing well.

38

39 The other herd in our area is the  
40 Porcupine Caribou Herd. This herd, we haven't gotten a  
41 photo census on this herd since 2017. At that point in  
42 time, they were at over 200,000. And we believe that  
43 based on parturition rates and survival rates, that this  
44 herd is most likely stable to even potentially starting  
45 their decline. So, this is one that we're really focusing  
46 on trying to get a photo census for this year. So, that's  
47 been a priority, but as Carmen said, it's really weather  
48 dependent and really -- yeah, really dependent on how  
49 the caribou are aggregating. And so, hopefully this year  
50 they'll be bunched up and so we can get good photos of

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1 them in order to get a good count, because we do need  
2 to have a good pulse on exactly where they are, sort of  
3 in their population trajectory. Yeah, and then I guess  
4 I wanted to also update you on muskox, you already sort  
5 of had a good summary of muskox in 26B, which is our  
6 survey area. This population has been above 300,  
7 currently, our minimum count as of 2024 was 320. And so,  
8 we did reinstate those muskox hunts, which there are a  
9 Tier 2 hunt, a drawing hunt and a registration hunt. And  
10 I did just want to say that those -- that registration  
11 hunt, I went to Kaktovik and Nuiqsut, both in the fall  
12 of 2023 and 2024 to hand out those registration permits.  
13 And I would love to get any advice on sort of how to  
14 make sure that I'm connecting with local, like the local  
15 community in both Nuiqsut and Kaktovik to make sure that  
16 people know when we're coming. So far, I've been reaching  
17 out to the hotels there and asking them to print out  
18 flyers and the schools as well. But I would love if  
19 anybody has advice on how I can just make sure that  
20 local communities there know when I'm coming so that  
21 they can be aware of that this year. In Nuiqsut, we just  
22 ended up sort of walking around town until we found  
23 somebody to hand out the permits to, and that ended up  
24 working out okay. But it would be nice if people kinda  
25 -- we gave people a better heads up. So, yeah, other  
26 than that, I'm happy to answer any questions, but that's  
27 just my quick update.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for your  
30 update. Any questions on 26B and C, muskox or anything  
31 discussed?

32  
33 (No response)

34  
35 Hearing none. Thank you very much for  
36 your presentation. Up next on the agenda, item E, U.S.  
37 Fish and Wildlife Services Arctic Refuge update. Paul  
38 Leonard, are you online?

39  
40 (No response)

41  
42 Paul Leonard, are you online? Star six  
43 if you're muted.

44  
45 (No response)

46  
47 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

50

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1 MS. CHAPA: I'm going through the  
2 participants that are on online, and I do not see Paul  
3 Leonard.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, we're  
6 skipping U.S. Fish and Wildlife Arctic Refuge update.  
7 If we see him online, we'll check a little bit later.  
8 And it looks like -- are we keeping any of these, the  
9 Gates of the Arctic?

10  
11 MS. CHAPA: Yeah.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so, item F,  
14 National Park Service, Gates of the Arctic National Park  
15 and Preserve. Marcy Okada, are you online?

16  
17 MS. OKADA: Yeah. Good afternoon, Mr.  
18 Chair and Council members. I'll just provide a really  
19 brief update. My name is Marcy Okada, I'm a subsistence  
20 coordinator for Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
21 Preserve. And I'd like to refer you to your supplemental  
22 meeting packet. Just have a short-written update that's  
23 in that supplemental meeting packet. And, want to share  
24 a little bit of information for the new North Slope RAC  
25 members. We have a Subsistence Resource Commission for  
26 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Park and  
27 Preserve spans three different regions, the Northwest  
28 Arctic Region, North Slope and the Western Interior  
29 Region. And there's now nine members on the SCR,  
30 Subsistence Resource Commission and two of the nine  
31 seats are reserved for Anaktuvuk Pass. And so, our  
32 current members on the commission are Esther Hugo, who's  
33 appointed by the North Slope RAC to our Commission. And  
34 we also have the other seat filled by an Anaktuvuk Pass  
35 resident. And so, our Commission met last November in  
36 Fairbanks, and we had various presentations ranging from  
37 Carnivore Local Knowledge Project and a Brooks Range  
38 Fish Research Project both conducted by the Wildlife  
39 Conservation Society. There's a presentation on resting  
40 rivers by the National Park Service and the U.S.  
41 Geological Survey. And then Alaska Department of Fish  
42 and Game also shared -- gave a presentation about their  
43 Dall Sheep Ecology and Health Assessment Project. We  
44 continue to have staff updates on the Western Arctic  
45 Caribou Herd and our annual dall sheep surveys. And our  
46 next meeting is scheduled for middle of April. Hopefully  
47 in the community of Ambler, which is in the Upper Kobuk.

48  
49 And also, within your meeting packet  
50 from pages 114 through 203, there's various articles



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1 about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. And I don't think  
2 we have Kyle Joly our wildlife biologist online, but  
3 included in my written update is his contact  
4 information, if folks would like to follow up with Kyle.  
5 And so, that's my update for today. If there's any  
6 questions.....

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for your  
9 -- oh, thank you for your update. Any questions for  
10 Marcy Okada? Gisela, go ahead.

11

12 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
13 just to follow up on what Marcy mentioned, Kyle was only  
14 available until 2:00 p.m. today and because of all the  
15 changes to our meeting, he was just not able to stick  
16 around after 2:00 p.m. But I did check with him and  
17 asked if he could provide all of these updates in our  
18 fall meeting, and he said that he -- yes, if it's  
19 available at that time, he will provide updates to the  
20 Council.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
23 All right, any other questions for Marcy?

24

25 (No response)

26

27 Hearing none. Thank you for your  
28 updates.

29

30 MS. OKADA: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, it looks  
33 like -- all right, we have an addition being requested  
34 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. Clayton Merrill,  
35 you have a report you would like to present?

36

37 MR. MERRILL: Hi, this is Clayton  
38 Merrill, the subsistence coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti  
39 and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges. I have some  
40 very brief notes from Paul about collared moose project.  
41 I'm hoping that's most of what he had planned to provide  
42 today, but I'd like to share that with the Council. In  
43 2022, there were 24 cow moose collared around the Canning  
44 drainage, 16 of those are still collared. From 2022 to  
45 2024, adults survival was 94% and first year calf  
46 survival was 28%. The average calving rate over the past  
47 three years was 79% and, twinning rate of 37%. Budget  
48 providing flights to check the 16 moose for calving will  
49 happen in late May and early June of this year.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sorry I didn't  
2 catch. What area was this for?

3  
4 MR. MERRILL: This was for Upper Canning  
5 and the Kongakut Rivers.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. All right, so  
8 that kinda goes along with their muskox portion that we  
9 had in the last meeting, too. Thank you for your report.  
10 Any questions for Clayton Merrill on his report?

11  
12 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair. Leonard.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

15  
16 MR. BARGER: Just -- Leonard Barger. Do  
17 you guys -- do you have any issues with, I know the  
18 collars, you said. I know hunters and stuff get some  
19 caribou and they got some collars. And up in Kotzebue,  
20 a guy's been trying to get a collar from Point Hope, but  
21 that person in Point Hope didn't work with him. So, I  
22 just want to check if you have any, you know, issues  
23 with people, you know, you guys getting collars back or  
24 something, so?

25  
26 MR. MERRILL: I haven't heard of any  
27 issues. I'm sorry, I can't provide more information. I'm  
28 not directly tied-into this project. These are just some  
29 notes that Paul had sent over, in case he wasn't able  
30 to make it. I can check with Paul and get back to the  
31 Council, but I haven't heard of any issues in retrieving  
32 the collars.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
35 Looks like we have Carmen, that has some insight maybe  
36 on collars. Go ahead, Carmen.

37  
38 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
39 Council. Carmen Daggett, for the record. So, if anyone  
40 knows of anybody or happens to get an animal with a  
41 collar you're not in trouble, first of all, it's not a  
42 bad thing. We do like to get those collars back if we  
43 can. And you can choose the pathway that you would like  
44 to get them back to us, if you so choose. Most of the  
45 collars that Fishing and Game puts out, we put a name  
46 and contact information written on the inside of the  
47 collar. But sometimes that gets worn off. Either way,  
48 if you get it back to myself or Brian or the Kotzebue  
49 Fish and Game office, we'll figure out where the collars  
50 need to go and get them there. So, if you can just get

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1 it to Barrow or Kotzebue. And typically, what I tell  
2 people is if you can send it here, we'll pay for the  
3 shipping to get it here, too. It shouldn't cost you  
4 anything. But it is really good to get those collars  
5 back, sometimes they have data that we can't retrieve  
6 from the satellites, and sometimes we can refurbish them  
7 and reuse them, and it's good to get them off the  
8 landscape. So typically, we try to retrieve them if we  
9 can from the landscape, but sometimes they end up in --  
10 with hunters, and that's fine. We'd just like to get  
11 them back, if we can.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
14 And also, I was gonna add, sometimes they offer gas  
15 cards depending on which ones they are and whose project  
16 it is. But, they at some point through NSB Wildlife,  
17 anyways, we're handing gas cards out to the return of  
18 some of the collared animals, the collars, so there may  
19 be some incentive behind it. Depends on which ones and  
20 whose project they are, but there have been instances  
21 to where that has happened, not saying they all do, but  
22 there may, there may be. Go ahead, Leonard.

23

24 MR. BARGER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, just  
25 Leonard, again. I brought it up because this guy I know,  
26 Alex Whiting up in Kotzebue, and he's been calling this  
27 person in Point Hope. He's got the collar, he's keeping  
28 it for a trophy. So, that's why, you know, Alex kept on  
29 bugging him and bugging him, but he's not pushing. So,  
30 he kept on telling Alex that's his trophy. So, I just  
31 want to bring it up and so, yeah.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Wanda.

34

35 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Wanda,  
36 for the record. I wanted to ask you about -- while you're  
37 still there, I wanted to ask you about the planes, are  
38 you gonna -- when you're sending those posters to each  
39 village, are you posting with the plane you will be  
40 flying in? That was my question. Thank you.

41

42 MS. DAGGETT: Carmen Daggett, for the  
43 record, to Wanda. Excellent question. Yes, we will have  
44 images of the aircraft that are gonna be used and the  
45 tail numbers on those posters. And recognize that  
46 there's a couple of aircraft that are going to be used  
47 north of the Brooks Range that I'm going to be helping  
48 coordinate. And then there's a second crew of people  
49 that are going to be working from the Kotzebue region,  
50 and they're going to have a whole different fleet of

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1 people. So, it's possible that there might be a couple  
2 sets of information there. But for the vast majority of  
3 the North Slope, we're gonna have about three planes  
4 that we're gonna be working with, with three tail numbers  
5 for north of the Brooks Range, largely, so. Answer is  
6 yes, but there might be a few more that might have a  
7 little bit more -- there might be a few more than what  
8 is on the poster than -- depending on what your  
9 perspective is.

10

11 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

12

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

16

17 MR. WILLIAMS: I was going to address  
18 something. Anyway, this was kind of funny. Well, it's  
19 just this pilot was flying around looking for that  
20 collar. And guess what? It was on a tree somewhere.  
21 Someone just threw it up there, and he landed on it, and  
22 he said, you know, that there's a reward for these  
23 collars, he said. You know, like you said, and you know,  
24 this person was kind of scared to turn it in, I guess,  
25 you know, cause, you know, back in the day, you had all  
26 the rumors about collars. You know, you get collar that,  
27 you could get fined. And so, I just want to bring that  
28 attention up the way it sounded, you know, because I see  
29 them always flying around with a little beeper sound,  
30 and it's kind -- yeah. Thank you, that's funny.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: As long as you're  
33 not shooting them to get the collar.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to member  
38 Earl. So, we do radio track -- we have a couple different  
39 ways of finding those collars. They have a GPS unit in  
40 it, usually, so we have coordinates for them, until the  
41 collar dies. And then we also can -- there's a VHF  
42 frequency on it, so it's kind of like a little radio  
43 that you can hear if you have the right equipment, it  
44 beeps. If you can have -- if you have the receiver with  
45 the right frequency on it. So, we can find those collars  
46 a couple of different ways and there's nobody issuing  
47 fines for those. I've not heard of anyone doing that.  
48 Maybe it was done historically, but I have not had any  
49 experience with that happening. So, yeah.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, thank  
2 you, you guys for the discussion. If no further questions  
3 are on the matter, we have other business. Item 14,  
4 section 8 Council correspondence update. Go ahead,  
5 Gisela.

6  
7 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela  
8 Chapa, for the record. And I will provide an update to  
9 the Council about all the correspondence that has gone  
10 out since the fall 2024 meeting, and these are not action  
11 items. I wanted to reference on page 204 of your meeting  
12 materials, the book that is bound. You will see a  
13 response letter from the Alaska Department of Fish and  
14 Game Commissioner in response to the four Council letter  
15 sent by the Western Interior, Seward Peninsula,  
16 Northwest Arctic, and North Slope Councils, regarding  
17 concerns over the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. This  
18 response we received -- was received after our fall 2024  
19 meeting, and I just wanted to share it with the Council  
20 so you could see the response. In case you haven't read  
21 it, and I can answer any questions if there are any.

22  
23 (Pause)

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions or  
26 comments on the correspondence?

27  
28 (No response)

29  
30 Hearing none. The information is  
31 provided to you on 204, 205, 206. And I don't know if  
32 we want to give him a minute or not, but if not, then  
33 you guys okay with the correspondence update?

34  
35 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, its Leonard. I  
36 make a motion or.....

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, we don't need a  
39 motion for these.....

40  
41 MR. BARGER: ..... approval or.....

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Stamp of approval.

44  
45 MR. BARGER: Approval.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Approved.

48  
49 UNIDENTIFIED: (Indiscernible).

50

000102

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, and we  
2 haven't adjourned yet, so item B, young leader seat  
3 update. Can you give us an update on young leaders there,  
4 Gisela?

5  
6 MS. CHAPA: Yes, and I do have another  
7 update on correspondence, but it's very, very quick. On  
8 page 63 of your supplemental materials. I just wanted  
9 to point out the response that -- response letters from  
10 the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Policy,  
11 Management and Budget. These letters address the  
12 concerns that were elevated by several Councils, on  
13 three matters, Council member compensation, fisheries  
14 management and Council correspondence. So again, I  
15 believe all of these have been shared with Council  
16 members by email. But we do have new Council members and  
17 I also wanted to reference them to those response  
18 letters. And if there are no other questions, I could  
19 move on to the next item, which is a young leader seat  
20 update.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, in short, it  
23 looks like this correspondence was pushed back due to  
24 the new administration -- presidency. And it looks like  
25 we're gonna have to either, restart or wait for a better  
26 answer later. But as for now, they pushed back the  
27 request for compensation for our efforts. Any questions  
28 on this correspondence update for compensation for the  
29 RAC?

30  
31 (No response)

32  
33 Hearing none. I guess we can move to the  
34 young leader's update.

35  
36 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
37 referenced this earlier when we were talking about the  
38 Council charter that -- in the previous revision of the  
39 charter, there was language added to it to include one  
40 non-voting youth leader seat for each Council. And my  
41 update in that regard is that the Board advertised the  
42 open period for the non-voting Young Leader Membership,  
43 and it recently closed on February 16th. We did not  
44 receive any applications for young leaders within our  
45 region. But I will share more information for an upcoming  
46 cycle. I think the expectation is that if we don't have  
47 a full seat, we're gonna recruit, try to recruit and  
48 advertise with every RAC Council member nomination  
49 cycle.

50

000103

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

2

3 MR. BARGER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Leonard. I  
4 know, Nissa, you sent me an email. I was trying to, you  
5 know, go to the school, and I'm pretty, you know, forth  
6 for kids and stuff. And, you know, I brought it to some  
7 of the kids and stuff that like to go hunting and stuff,  
8 but -- and I brought it up to them and, you know, they're  
9 worried about, you know, cause, you know, basketball  
10 season and, you know, gonna miss practice or we're gonna  
11 be traveling. But you know, they kept on asking, are  
12 they gonna have it during our basketball season or  
13 volleyball or all these sports. And I told them, you  
14 know, even during the summer you could, you know, put  
15 your request and learn. And so, I'm really for, you  
16 know, our younger generation in the school, so.

17

18 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

21

22 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Thank you for that,  
23 Council member Barger. And I thank you so much for  
24 sharing that information with your contacts. I would be  
25 happy to follow up with anyone that has questions about  
26 timing and what it means to be on the Council and kinda  
27 like the expectations. I'd be happy to speak with anyone,  
28 regardless of the time of the year. I have heard from  
29 many Councils on the desire to work with the younger  
30 generations and recruit them and look for the new  
31 leadership, new and upcoming leadership within the  
32 region. So, I'd be happy to do that and hope to be able  
33 to provide more information, in enough notice for the  
34 next cycle. And if I may also add, if you have ideas or  
35 suggestions on who I can reach out to, I would be happy  
36 to follow up.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, this is all  
39 great discussion. I do kinda have some comments about  
40 where we should be looking right now though. I know we  
41 have Esther, she's, you know, she's verbally at least  
42 told us that she's looking to possibly, at some point  
43 retire her position. So, Anaktuvuk Pass is definitely  
44 one of those locations. We don't have anybody from  
45 Kaktovik right now, so that is definitely -- should be  
46 on our radar. I'm grateful we have somebody from  
47 Wainwright right now, but that is also kind of a general  
48 hub location for us between Point Lay, Atqasuk, Barrow.  
49 So, they're kind of a central location as well. So, it  
50 would be really great to have additional support,

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1 although I'm glad to see Jenysa step up here. We do have  
2 Point Lay that we don't have anybody. We used to, in  
3 that area. It seems like we have a fairly active role  
4 in Point Hope, but just to (distortion) maybe look for  
5 a secondary for Point Hope at some point. Those are all  
6 good starting points and Atqasuk I don't think Wanda is  
7 going anywhere, but it would be really good to get  
8 somebody out of these locations and Martha as well.

9  
10 I think Barrow we have kind of a  
11 centralized -- we have the Fish and Game Management  
12 Committee here, we have Regional Advisory Council here,  
13 and we have members from the Federal Subsistence Board  
14 in Barrow, Charlie. So, we have a good kind of a  
15 stronghold in positions here in Barrow, but it's always  
16 good to keep an eye out. So, I think we're okay in Barrow  
17 for now, but Kaktovik, AKP and Point Lay and maybe  
18 Atqasuk, those ones I think are kind of on the higher  
19 end that we need to start looking into. Just to keep  
20 everybody active and looking in the right direction and  
21 to not bypass them and -- we need them on our Council  
22 so we can have active representation for the areas they  
23 serve, especially for ANWR. I think Kaktovik is one of  
24 the bigger ones in AKP for your guys caribou, lack of  
25 caribou and issues with not getting what you need over  
26 there. So, those two I would put on the top of the list,  
27 is AKP and Kaktovik. The rest of them, we should look  
28 into a backup position and just not let it go. So,  
29 advocate for them, thank you. Carmen, did we have  
30 something? No. Are you sure? Okay. Brian we -- Carmen  
31 took your spot earlier. Go ahead.

32  
33 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair. Peter Williams.  
34 Talking about youth, last year, when I went down to  
35 Anchorage way. I came in a couple of days early, and I  
36 observed that youth delegates with elders. They brought  
37 attention up about youth representative on these kind  
38 of matters. And I came up to the podium and I told them,  
39 they know, we need to encourage these kids to step up  
40 to the plate cause we can't be here all the time. You  
41 know, we're not going to be (indiscernible) but what I'm  
42 saying is that, you know, when I went there, these kids  
43 were encouraging to see if they could, you know, cause  
44 they wanted to travel too some of them kids, you know,  
45 and plus that. I was just wondering, you know, in  
46 summertime, do you guys still hiring these kids as  
47 monitors when they study fish and stuff. You know, I  
48 remember I used to see that in Anaktuvuk, right? Yeah,  
49 but I don't see that anymore. You know, that's some kind  
50 of encouragement cause these kids talk about it when



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1 they do that. So, you know, we need to look forward to  
2 something like this, thank you.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
5 Go ahead, Gisela.

6

7 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a  
8 little bit of extra information on that. I think Mr.  
9 Williams is referring to the delegation of youth that  
10 were present at the All Council meeting in Anchorage,  
11 right? Okay. I do know that there is a partnership  
12 between the University of Alaska Southeast, a not -- a  
13 nonprofit organization that I think is Sitka  
14 Conservation Society, Mt. Edgecumbe High School and the  
15 Forest Service. And together they provide a practicum  
16 class on the Federal Subsistence Board processes. And I  
17 do not know the exact details of that, but that is a  
18 partnership that was created in collaboration with the  
19 Forest Service. And the youth that are recruited in that  
20 process are invited to participate in RAC meetings and  
21 also provide testimony during the Federal Subsistence  
22 Board. And if the Council is interested in exploring  
23 opportunities like this, I think it requires to have a  
24 federal sponsor or it does involve money, but I don't -  
25 - OSM does not have, so. It's a partnership that I think  
26 works outside of outside of the RAC. But, you know, the  
27 kids are encouraged to participate in the RAC meeting  
28 process.

29

30 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. Anyway,  
35 reason why I just discussed cause I went to that meeting,  
36 I didn't see no Arctic North Slope, no kids. I mean,  
37 that's why, you know, we need to put something up on the  
38 table. Not just some money talk, I'm talking about  
39 representing cause they want -- the gotta learn this  
40 matter. Cause we can't be here, sitting there, pointing  
41 fingers at each other. Okay, thank you.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for your  
44 concern there. I do think -- what I've seen actually out  
45 of the southeast location that Gisela was discussing was  
46 phenomenal. Every student that came up and talked over  
47 at this Federal Subsistence Board meeting was concise  
48 to the point. And they make the kids over there discuss  
49 kind of like how they're coming up and presenting, they  
50 make every one of their students go up and present to

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1 the Federal Subsistence Board. And you can tell it's  
2 really challenging for them to go up and talk to a group  
3 of people, even though we're just people, you know, it's  
4 -- but to have something like that would be awesome for  
5 the North Slope. And what she was saying is there is an  
6 opportunity if we pursue it to join them and have maybe  
7 a connection with North Slope children to do the same  
8 thing. So, we may be looking at that at some point in  
9 the near future. So, to have that connection and maybe  
10 have them go in line with their instructor and to do  
11 something similar to this, but I think maybe a discussion  
12 with the Borough would also be a good connecting point  
13 as well. Any other discussion on the youth leader seat  
14 update? If not, do we have anything else on the list  
15 that we skipped that we may need to go over again, before  
16 we move on to the next one? I don't wanna say it yet.

17

18 MS. CHAPA: I don't believe so. I do have  
19 one other update on item C, but I can -- it's super  
20 short and it requires me to follow up with each of you  
21 after the meeting.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, yeah. So, item  
24 C, per diem update.

25

26 MS. CHAPA: Okay. And this is also a  
27 follow-up to part of the discussion that was brought up  
28 during our fall 2024 meeting. I think at that point we  
29 call them declining balance cards and it's basically a  
30 different way in which Council members can receive your  
31 per diem stipend for traveling on official business,  
32 official Council business. So, now we have two options,  
33 and each member has the option to choose from. And this  
34 is a process that will be implemented at the fall 2025  
35 meeting. The option one, is a stipend card with advance  
36 payment. So basically, rather than getting a check as a  
37 form of a travel advance, you will get a card, and the  
38 advance is loaded on that card. And then at the time --  
39 at the end of your travel, we issue the final payment  
40 to that card. And the second option is a direct deposit  
41 of the entire trip at the end of travel and when we  
42 complete the travel voucher. With that option -- so,  
43 basically, we'll just deposit your per diem straight  
44 into your bank account. The only issue, or perhaps a  
45 potential drawback with that is that when we do direct  
46 deposits it's only done at the end of travel and not  
47 necessarily a travel advance with that, but I will follow  
48 up with each Council member individually to see what is  
49 your preference. And yeah, that's the end of that update.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, I'm guessing  
2 they'd be prorated if like one was to miss a day and  
3 modified. I see the direct deposit being a good source,  
4 but I -- that would also mean you have to wait 'til  
5 [sic] all their signatures throughout the meeting was  
6 met. So, it might not be in the best interest of the  
7 travelers. But I don't know, that's up to the jury here.  
8 Go ahead, Gisela.

9  
10 MS. CHAPA: And also, a clarification,  
11 this is just an update. There's no motion needed or  
12 anything like that. And like I said, I will follow up  
13 with each of you and we'll sign the right form, depending  
14 on what you prefer.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the  
17 update. So, it sounds like if you have any questions,  
18 we'll discuss afterwards. Ernest, are you online? Do we  
19 have Ernest back? We skipped Ernest earlier.

20  
21 MR. NAGEAK: Hello.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hey. All right, you  
24 saved us from adjourning. But so, go ahead with your  
25 report. We skipped you earlier.

26  
27 MR. NAGEAK: Oh, yeah. I had to make sure  
28 I was clear and I just heard from the ethics cause I'm  
29 a federal employee, and I decided that I want someone  
30 else to get involved after the next term cause -- so  
31 I'll be -- just be filling in until December, and that's  
32 why I was trying not to vote too much, cause certain  
33 stuff might, you know, be work involved. But yeah, other  
34 than that, no real updates in Barrow. I got my muskox  
35 permit, but I didn't see any muskox, they were around  
36 end of July, beginning of August. And the Fish and  
37 Wildlife Service had just -- we just finished our Native  
38 relations course, we provide federal employees cultural  
39 orientation of Alaska, elders from all over the State.  
40 And this summer, we'll still have volunteers come to  
41 Barrow and do their yearly migratory bird studies. And  
42 shorebird crew, they had a open house last year, we'll  
43 probably team up and do that again this summer. But  
44 other than that, for Barrow, that was just my update in  
45 being part of the new member of this Board for time  
46 being. Hello everyone.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Ernest.  
49 Was that your update?

50

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1 MR. NAGEAK: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay.

4

5 MR. NAGEAK: No, you provided a good  
6 community update for Barrow and thank you.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you very much.  
9 All right, with that, if we don't have anything else, I  
10 think we're gonna move to closing comments from the RAC  
11 members. We'll go along with the Atqasuk here. Wanda,  
12 you have any closing comments?

13

14 MS. KIPPI: No, not at this time. But I  
15 enjoyed our day together with all of you. Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Wanda.  
18 Anaktuvuk Pass, Esther or wow, yeah.

19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. I will  
21 make it short and sweet. I just hope you all have a good  
22 March. Because the new hunting is coming up, springtime  
23 is coming, so you all be safe cause, a lot of open water.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.  
26 Esther.

27

28 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't  
29 have nothing [sic] to say, but it's been frustrating 18  
30 years, and I get -- I do get frustrated. And I just want  
31 to apologize for those people that heard me when we were  
32 eating dinner and, you know. And I just wanted to say  
33 I'm sorry and it just frustrates me so bad, and meeting  
34 after meeting and we're still in the same boat. I mean,  
35 nothing really changed. If only the people can listen  
36 to what we say, 'cause we live in that area, and we  
37 survive with tuttu. But it's always good to come and  
38 listen people [sic] and listen to the other villages  
39 with their concerns. And that's it, thank you. And I  
40 wanted to say I'll get home, and I'll be looking for  
41 somebody that will be interested or committed to the  
42 position that I'll be stepping down on. It might not  
43 happen 'til maybe this fall. I don't know, we'll see.  
44 I'll keep in touch with Ms. G, here. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.  
47 We always have a saying when we're whaling. Rule number  
48 one, you never say sorry. Rule number one, never say  
49 sorry. But, we thank you for your dedication to the RAC.  
50 Although you're not retiring or anything, I'm just gonna

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1 go out and say, I hope that anybody for that position  
2 in Anaktuvuk Pass goes through training. You guys will  
3 have training for their upcoming members, and they got  
4 to go through you and Peter. All right, who do we have  
5 up next? Wainwright.

6  
7 MS. AHMAOGAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
8 is Jenysa Ahmaogak, for the record. I'd like to thank  
9 the Council for welcoming me yesterday and today. I'd  
10 say we had a pretty good meeting today. Given that we  
11 decided to condense everything all into one meeting, I  
12 think we did a good job. We had some good comments, good  
13 questions. I think today went fairly well. And thank you  
14 for welcoming me onto the Council.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Jenysa.  
17 I'm glad you're here, welcome aboard. And you had a very  
18 productive meeting for your site on Wainwright and a lot  
19 of good insight. I'm very glad that you're aboard with  
20 us. And hopefully we find another one just like you.  
21 But, all right, thank you for your closing comments. And  
22 up next, we'll go with Point Hope.

23  
24 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
25 is Leonard Barger from Point Hope. Thank you, everyone  
26 for inviting me here, again to Point Hope and I'm happily  
27 to be representing Point Hope, an honor. And you know,  
28 I miss Stevie and all I hear his voices sometimes and  
29 stuff. You know, his good stories. And, you know, can't  
30 wait 'til next year for, you know, cause I'm gonna try  
31 to get his family. I know most of his family lives in  
32 Point Hope, so, you know, they'll be -- if we do have  
33 that meeting. So, I'm gonna let them know. I know Ms.  
34 G, I'll call you G. So yeah, I know you're gonna give  
35 that plaque to Grace and I told my wife to, you know, I  
36 took pictures of it last night, and my wife sent it to  
37 Grace. And so, she's real happy to see it and can't wait  
38 to receive it from you. So, yeah, they called it my (In  
39 Native) cause I had a daughter named Grace. We lost her  
40 seven years ago and she had a seizure disorder. But, you  
41 know, New Year's Eve, she passed away and she had a  
42 feeding tube. But, you know, anything can happen, like  
43 I said, you know, anything could happen to us, you know.  
44 And my two kids were real close to my daughter when I  
45 lost her, so. But, yeah, you know, Grace is real happy  
46 for me to call her, (In Native) you know, cause she knew  
47 my daughter, too, that we pass -- she passed away. So,  
48 you know, I was happy that her classmates honor her,  
49 when they graduated, they put a picture of her on a  
50 chair, we didn't know nothing about it. Excuse me.

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3 We were so happy, me and my wife, when  
4 they told us. Whenever the boys came to me, we're gonna  
5 honor your daughter. What? We put a chair for her, she  
6 would've graduated with us. That was three years ago.  
7 So, you know that kind of commitment to those kids that  
8 they respect, you know. And my wife cried, and my father-  
9 in law, he adopted her cause we, you know, I named her  
10 Grace after his wife that she passed away. You know, got  
11 killed by a car in Anchorage. And when we had her, my  
12 wife asked, I say, what are you gonna name her? I said,  
13 Grace. Cause, she's got the opportunity to, you know, I  
14 told her she's gonna name the boy with the boy. And she  
15 told me, you know, if it's a girl, I'm gonna name her,  
16 and she was crying and I'm gonna name her after your  
17 mom.

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One time I had a dream about her mom. I  
had a dream with her, her husband called her. Her kids  
don't know what it is, only him and her know. When I had  
that dream, she told me to say this to him, move on. And  
that words was what she said to me and he started crying.  
Oh, you know, I only say that to my wife. None of my  
kids know, only me and her know. He started crying, I  
told him, I said I had a dream of you and your wife, she  
told me to say that. To tell you to move on, and he  
cried, and I just said that dream, my daughter was right  
there standing, no pain or anything. And she was talking,  
and she pulled her hand out to me in my dream. My  
daughter grab it, dad grab it and in my mind, my great  
grandpa, he's a pastor and he passed on, if you have a  
dream like that, if anybody say, grab it, get up and  
pray. Cause if you grab that hand, you'll never wake up.  
You'll never wake up. When she grab her hand. And I woke  
up and I started praying and I told my wife. But I didn't  
tell her about what she said. It was only between me and  
her dad that you know, that dream when I told him. And  
that word, what you know, he's always said to her, he  
started crying and really hurting. Who told you? I said,  
I had a dream last night, about your wife. They wanted  
you to move on. He hasn't moved on for 40-something  
years, so he's still faithful to her, miss her. But I  
just want to bring it up. And sorry for taking so long,  
but, you know, like I said, anything could happen to  
anybody and all these kids. That's why I fight for these  
younger generation to work hard, cause, you know, we're  
getting old, like, you know, Esther, all of us. I'm  
really forcing these younger kids to speak up. Some of  
them are shy, we gotta help them in our communities. And  
I try to push my daughter. I told her, I said, baby, I

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1 want you to be the first in our family to graduate  
2 college. Me, I just graduated one year. I didn't  
3 graduate, but I went to school in UA for a year. And my  
4 wife, she went to Fairbanks for two years and we had  
5 family. You know, that's how it is, but I told my  
6 daughter, I want you to be the first one in our family  
7 to finish school and work. I'm pushing forward for all  
8 these younger kids in other community -- I -- you know,  
9 Esther, I was real, you know, when I was watching (In  
10 Native), I see a lot of Kaktovik, Anaktuvuk Pass and  
11 stuff all young kids, man, holy cow, that's a blessing,  
12 you know. It's fun to see all those young kids out there.  
13 You know, right now it's basketball season and  
14 everybody's, you know, looking at basketball, who's  
15 winning, who's losing and you know they want their teams.  
16 All those kids that I used to coach, they want me to go  
17 coach their kids and I told them, nope I'm done coaching  
18 basketball. I don't want no more white chairs. I don't  
19 wanna buy you guys anymore pads. But thank you and bless  
20 you all. And, you know, we're all heading home and, you  
21 know, Lord willing, we have a safe home. And, you know,  
22 going back home and thank you, Mr. Chair,  
23 (indiscernible) and everyone. Thanks.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that  
26 heartfelt message there, Mr. Barger. Yep, and yeah, I  
27 hope everybody has a yeah, a good season. But, up next  
28 we have Martha, you still online? Closing comments.  
29 Nuiqsut.

30  
31 MS. ITTA: Yes, Chair, I am here. Just a  
32 few comments. I wanna welcome the new Board members.  
33 Welcome to the Council and I hope to meet you guys in  
34 person at the next meeting. And I commend all the Council  
35 members for their efforts and being here on this Council  
36 representing their villages. This is really important,  
37 sitting on these Boards -- Subsistence Board and working  
38 with all the agencies to let them know, you know, our  
39 issues that we face on a daily basis. And I just wanted  
40 to for Carmen, who's doing the caribou studies, I forgot  
41 to mention about another issue that we're having with  
42 our caribou is our dogs are killing the caribou. And you  
43 know, around our village there's been at least three  
44 caribou that was found dead and partially eaten. And I  
45 believe they were reported that dogs were getting those  
46 caribou. So, I just wanted to let them be aware of that  
47 because there was a lot of questions being asked by  
48 community members in regards to that. I know they called  
49 VPSO but, you know, it's an issue that we're having with  
50 these agencies, like, you know, who's responsible? Cause

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1 we're being told different agencies and organizations  
2 are responsible, so it's not really getting addressed  
3 the way it should be. So, I just wanted to put that out  
4 there, on our caribou. And safe travels to you guys, all  
5 who's traveling back home, and prayers to all who need  
6 it. And we'll see you guys at the next meeting. Thank  
7 you, Mr. Chair.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Martha.  
10 We'll make sure to write down those notes. But thank you  
11 for your closing comments, and hopefully you guys have  
12 a good season there as well. I think the only other one  
13 we have left is Kaktovik. I don't think we have anybody  
14 online for Kaktovik, don't have any current members. Oh,  
15 Ernest. Ernest, do you have any closing comments? We did  
16 have your update I forgot, we need to do your closing  
17 comments as well.

18  
19 (Pause)

20  
21 Still online, Ernest?

22  
23 (No response)

24  
25 Nope, all right. Well, I guess that  
26 leaves me. I'd like to thank everybody for attending  
27 here and I'm glad we have some new membership here. It's  
28 really refreshing to have people that are interested in  
29 the discussion on subsistence and are there to support  
30 us for our region and especially ones that are  
31 knowledgeable and are willing to take on the  
32 responsibility and move forward with it. So, it's -- I  
33 like what I'm seeing right now, and you know, we did  
34 lose a member, but we did gain a few members. And the  
35 end result, hopefully, is the same to where we're helping  
36 out the subsistence community of the North Slope, that  
37 is our objective. And I look to try to strive to be  
38 better for our communities and making sure we're there  
39 to fill our freezers and have subsistence priority and  
40 subsistence priorities should be the objective, and we  
41 shouldn't falter from that. And I like to keep moving  
42 forward with that, that general train of thought. So,  
43 it's been a good day. Unfortunately, not a couple days  
44 but we did squeeze it down pretty good to where it fit  
45 within the day. And yeah, with that I'll hand it over  
46 to OSM if they have any closing comments before we smack  
47 the gavel here. Go ahead.

48  
49 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela  
50 Chapa for the record, and I wanted to also thank



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1 everybody for your flexibility and your understanding  
2 with all these changes. Also, for the flexibility in  
3 trying to make it work and cram all of the discussion  
4 into one day. I am also very happy to finally meet our  
5 new Council members and I know that everybody was excited  
6 that this Council was almost entirely back to a full  
7 Council. I always enjoy coming to Utqiagvik, and I enjoy  
8 hanging out with every one of you, getting to know you.  
9 And I also wanted to thank everybody for spending time  
10 together yesterday evening to honor Mr. Oomittuk, and I  
11 know that everybody is gonna miss him. So, I think on  
12 behalf of OSM, thank you all for your time and for your  
13 commitment.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for your  
16 closing comments. And, yeah, I guess we should dedicate  
17 this one to Mr. Oomittuk. We do have his picture in the  
18 packet, I think I'm gonna keep this one. So yeah, well,  
19 I'm glad we got the plaque done and I guess this one,  
20 we should end by saying Steve Oomittuk. But up next on  
21 the agenda, we have item 16, which is adjournment.

22

23 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, I make a motion  
24 to make Steve Oomittuk to close the meeting to order.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any second.

27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah.

31

32 MR. WILLIAMS: Can we just have a moment  
33 of silence for him? I would appreciate it.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, before we  
36 adjourn, requested a moment of silence.

37

38 (Moment of silence in honor of Mr.  
39 Oomittuk)

40

41 MR. WILLIAMS: I make a motion to adjourn  
42 the meeting.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion on the floor  
45 to adjourn. Seconded by Esther.

46

47 MS. KIPP: Question.

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49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been  
50 called for. All those in favor of adjournment, say aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign. Going once. Just kidding. We are adjourned. Thank you, guys for participating, all those online. And everybody have a good day.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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I, Rafael Morel, for Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 114 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 28th day of February;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Isabela, Puerto Rico this 14th day of March 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael Morel  
Chief Project Manager