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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

ILISAGVIK COLLEGE
Utqiagvik, Alaska
September 16, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brower Frantz, Chair
Esther Hugo
Wanda Kippi
Leonard Barger
Ernest Nageak
Peter Williams
Martha Itta

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

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

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(Utqiaġvik - 9/16/25)

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(On record)

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8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. It's 9:04
9 a.m., and it looks like we'll get started. Item 1,
10 invocation. Esther, would you lead us in a beginning
11 prayer, please?

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MS. HUGO: (In Native Invocation),
family. Family (In Native Invocation). Amen.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.
All right, so item 2, call to order. It's 9:06 a.m. So,
welcome, everybody, to the North Slope Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council for September 16 and 17, 2025.
All right. Item 3, roll call and establish quorum. Wanda.

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MS. KIPPI: Good morning. Thank you, Mr.
Chair. Leonard Barger.

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MR. BARGER: Here.

MS. KIPPI: Ernest Nageak.

MR. NAGEAK: Here.

MS. KIPPI: Wanda Kippi here. Peter
Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

MS. KIPPI: Quincy Adams, excused. Martha
Itta, are you calling in? Do we have her online?

(No response)

I'm just going to go on and finish the
call. Esther Hugo.

MS. HUGO: Here.

MS. KIPPI: Brower Frantz.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: (In Native).

MS. KIPPI: And Jenysa Ahmaogak.

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1 MS. AHMAOGAK: (In Native).

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3 MS. KIPPI: Martha Itta, if you are
4 online, can you let us know?

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6 (No response)

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8 MS. CHAPA: If I can chime in, Mr. Chair,
9 if you're online and -- your lines are automatically
10 muted. So, you might need to unmute yourself if you're
11 joining through Teams or press star six if you're joining
12 over the phone. Thank you.

13

14 MS. KIPPI: We'll just wait to see if
15 she'll call in or...? okay. And then, Mr. Chair, we have
16 a quorum.

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18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Wanda.

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20 MS. KIPPI: You're welcome.

21

22 (Pause)

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24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Looks
25 like we'll move on to item 4, meeting announcements.
26 Gisela.

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28 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also
29 want to welcome everyone to the North Slope Subsistence
30 Regional Advisory Council meeting. For the record, my
31 name is Gisela Chapa. I mentioned earlier, I'm the
32 Council Coordinator for this Council, and I'm also the
33 designated federal officer for the meeting. I want to -
34 - again, I mentioned this earlier, but I want to remind
35 everybody to please sign in. There's a sign in sheet at
36 the back of the room. If you are joining us in person
37 again, meeting materials are in the back of the room.
38 And for those that are joining us online or over the
39 phone, you can find the agenda and meeting materials
40 online at www.doi.gov/subsistence, under Regional
41 Advisory Council tab you will choose North Slope and
42 then Meeting Materials. This is a regulatory meeting,
43 and the Council will be discussing wildlife proposals
44 and closure reviews. There will be an opportunity for
45 the public to comment on each of these agenda items
46 starting on 13A of the agenda. On page 19 of the meeting
47 materials, we've outlined the presentation procedures
48 for proposals and closure reviews presented to the
49 Council. and the public will have an opportunity to
50 comment under item 6 of that procedure. There will also

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1 be time for tribal and public comment on non-agenda
2 items. This is item 11 of our agenda, and the Chair will
3 announce this each morning so that everybody will have
4 an opportunity to share and -- information and those
5 also participating over the phone, you can get a chance
6 to speak on non-agenda items. In the back of the room,
7 you will also find some blue sheets of paper. If you
8 would like to address the Council during the meeting I
9 ask that you, please fill one of these blue testifier
10 forms. It's in the back of the room. Once you fill it
11 out, you can give it to me, and I will hand it over to
12 our Chair. And this helps us keep track of anybody who
13 would like to speak regarding a specific agenda item.
14 For those joining through Teams, you can go ahead and
15 raise your hand for a turn to speak and for those calling
16 in press star five, and that will let us know that you
17 wish to address the Council, and we'll add you to the
18 queue.

19
20 For those participating over the phone
21 or online, you should be automatically muted. So, you
22 will need to unmute yourself to speak and for us to be
23 able to hear you. Over the phone again, press star six
24 to unmute yourself. This is -- this meeting is being
25 recorded. We keep all these records for later reference,
26 and I ask that you please state your name before
27 addressing the Council or making a comment. This helps
28 us keep an accurate record for our meeting. Our meeting
29 is -- our meetings are conducted by Robert's Rules, and
30 we expect everybody to be courteous and respectful in
31 all interactions as a matter of meeting etiquette and
32 please, those in the room, please silence your phones.
33 This will minimize disruptions. And lastly, I want to
34 thank everybody for joining us today. Happy to have you.
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes my announcements.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
38 It looks like we're moving on to item 5, welcomes and
39 introductions. We'll start with introductions for people
40 in the room. So, once we get started, please state your
41 name, your agency or group you represent, or the
42 community that you live in. So, we'll start maybe with
43 Kayutak.

44
45 MS. GREDIAGIN: I don't think people on
46 the -- online can hear you, so.....

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48
49 MS. OLEMAUN: Chastity Kayutak Olemaun,
50 Director of Planning and Community Services for the

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1 North Slope Borough. Born and raised here in Utqiaġvik.
2 Also, the North Slope Borough Land Management
3 Administrator.

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5 MR. CASTELLANOS: Hi, everyone. Good
6 morning, Chair. Gilbert Castellanos, International
7 Affairs Specialist U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, out
8 of Anchorage, Alaska. I'll be presenting later. I look
9 forward to it.

10

11 MR. SFORMO: Todd Sformo, Wildlife
12 Biologist, North Slope Borough.

13

14 MS. CARROLL: Good morning. Holly
15 Carroll. I'm the acting Northerns -- Northern Field
16 Office Supervisor. I'm based in Anchorage, and I'm with
17 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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19 MS. TAYLOR: Hello, I'm Sara Taylor. I
20 work for the Secretary of the Interior. I am in
21 Anchorage, Alaska, in his -- in the Secretary's
22 Anchorage office.

23

24 MS. LOR: Good morning. I'm Soch Lor,
25 Deputy Regional Director of Fish and Wildlife service
26 in Anchorage. Nice to be here. Thank you.

27

28 MR SPRAU: Good morning, Matt Sprau. I'm
29 the Branch Manager of Ecological Services and Fish and
30 Wildlife Service in the Fairbanks office.

31

32 MR. GRAFF: I'm Nathan Graff, Wildlife
33 Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.

34

35 MS. RODDY :(In Native) Qinugan Roddy
36 with North Slope Borough Planning, the assistant to the
37 LMA.

38

39 MR. AQPIK: Good morning, Frank Aqpik,
40 Jr., Land Management Specialist, Planning and Community
41 Service. Excuse me.

42

43 MS. DAGGETT: (In Native). My name is
44 Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
45 Welcome, everyone.

46

47 MR. KALEAK: Good morning. Ralph Kaleak,
48 Lead Field Inspector -- Acting, shall I say.

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1 MR. AQPIK: Good morning, Robert Aqpik,
2 Jr., Field Inspector for North Slope Borough.

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4 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Good morning. My name
5 is Jordan Pruszenski. I'm with the Alaska Department of
6 Fish and Game. Thank you for having us.

7
8 MR. LIND: (In native), everyone.
9 Chairman, Council members, good to be back in Barrow.
10 My name is Orville Lind. I'm the Native liaison for the
11 Office of Subsistence Management. Quyana.

12
13 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, Lisa Grediagin, the
14 Wildlife Division Supervisor for the Office of
15 Subsistence Management and also, the Leadership Team
16 Representative for this meeting.

17
18 MS. MORROW: Good morning. I'm Kristen
19 Morrow. I'm an Anthropology Pathways intern with OSM.

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

23
24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning,
25 everybody. All right so, that was everybody in the room.
26 And I guess we'll proceed with introductions for people
27 online and looks like we'll proceed by agency, and number
28 one OSM. Is anybody online for OSM?

29
30 MS. LEONETTI: Good morning. This is
31 Crystal Leonetti. Ciisquq is my Yup'ik name. I'm the
32 Director for Office of Subsistence Management. Good to
33 be here and join you all.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning.

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37 MS. WESSELS: Good morning. Katya
38 Wessels. Was saying I'm Acting Deputy Director for
39 Operations but, my regular position is Council
40 Coordination Division Supervisor. Joining you here from
41 actually good weather, Cold Bay, Alaska.

42
43 MS. LA VINE: Good morning, everyone.
44 This is Robbin La Vine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator
45 with OSM. It's wonderful to be online. Sorry I'm not
46 there in person.

47
48 MR. FOLEY: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
49 members of the Council. This is Kevin Foley, Fisheries
50 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. Happy

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1 to be here. Thank you.

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3 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
4 members of the Council, this is Brooke McDavid. I'm
5 Council Coordinator for the Eastern Interior and YK
6 Delta regions.

7

8 MS. PILCHER: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
9 This is Nissa Pilcher. I'm the Council Coordinator for
10 Northwest Arctic, Western Interior and South-Central
11 Councils for OSM.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning,
14 everybody. Is that everybody for OSM? And I think this
15 is the first meeting in Barrow without Katya there.

16

17 (No response)

18

19 All right, looks like we'll move on to
20 National Park Service. Anybody online for NPS there?

21

22 MS. PATTON: Good morning. This is Eva
23 Patton with the National Park Service, Subsistence
24 Program Manager based in the regional office in
25 Anchorage. Really good to hear everyone's voice this
26 morning. Wish I could be there. I'll be listening online
27 today. Thanks so much. Good morning.

28

29 (Simultaneous speech)

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31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning.

32

33 MR. JOLY: Hello, Mr. Chair. This is Kyle
34 Joly. I'm with Gates of the Arctic National Park and
35 Preserve. I'm a Wildlife Biologist.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning.

38

39 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is Marcy
40 Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic
41 National Park and Preserve. It's good to be here this
42 morning. Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Good
45 morning.

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47 (Pause)

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49 All right. Hearing no more from National
50 Park Service, we'll move on to BLM. Anybody online for BLM?

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MS. WIXON: So, good morning. This is Donna Wixon with the Arctic District of BLM, and I am filling in for our manager, Stephanie Kuhns.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning.

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MS. MIKOW: Good morning. This is Beth Mikow. I'm the Anthropologist for the Arctic District Office for BLM.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning, Beth.

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MS. KASAK: Good morning. This is Jamie Kasak in the Nuiqsut Office for the Arctic District Office for BLM.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning.

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(Pause)

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All right. If that's it for BLM, we'll move on to us Fish and Wildlife Services online.

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26

MR. YASKA: Good morning. This is George Yaska, Indigenous Knowledge Liaison, northern refuges. Good to be here. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning, George.

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MR. MERRILL: Good morning. This is Clayton Merrill. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for Arctic and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges.

35

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning.

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MS. KLEIN: Hi, good morning. This is Jill Klein. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator for U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Interagency Staff Committee member, and I'm based in Anchorage at our regional office. So, I'll be listening in to the meeting virtually today. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, good morning. All right. Hearing no more from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, we'll move to BIA. Anybody online for the BIA?

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(No response)

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All right, hearing nobody from BIA.
ADF&G online.

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MS. HEPLER: Good morning, Mr. Chair.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. PEOTTER: Good morning.....

MS. HEPLER: This is -- oh, sorry. This
is Joelle Hepler, a Wildlife Biologist based in the
Fairbanks office. Happy to be listening online today.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Morning, Joelle.

MR. PEOTTER: Aaron Peotter, I'm the new
Federal Subsistence Liaison with the Department of Fish
and Game. Working with Mark Burch as we transition him
out and myself as the point of contact. Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning,
Aaron.

MR. PERRY: Yeah. Hi, I'm Philip Perry.
I'm the Management Coordinator for Region 5 for Fish and
Game. Good to be with you this morning.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Morning, Philip.

(Pause)

All right, hearing no more from ADF&G.
Looks like we have tribes or Native corporations.
Anybody online from any additional tribes or Native
corporations?

(No response)

Hearing none of tribes or Native
corporations, any other organizations online?

(No response)

All right, looks like we've concluded
the list for online. But we did have some folks that
just showed up in the room, and we're still on
introductions. So, if you would, please come up and state
your name, agency or group you represent or the community
that you live in.

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2 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. All right. Well,
3 right on time, I guess. Well, good morning. (In Native)
4 Standing Rock (In Native), Buffalo boy, Davis (In
5 Native). Good morning, relatives. My name is Scott
6 Davis. My Lakota name is Oksate' Tawa', which means 'his
7 celebration', and my Anishinaabe name (In Native), which
8 means 'many visions' or 'sees a lot'. My government name
9 is -- I'm the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Secretary
10 Burgum. Special advisor to him -- Senior advisor. Been
11 in this role since March 13th, and [sic] Secretary and
12 I go back a number of years working together when he was
13 Governor for our state, North Dakota, where I'm from.
14 And so, reluctantly, I came to DC to work for him but,
15 more importantly, to work for you as a relative. So,
16 when I travel across (indiscernible) country in
17 particular, my first time being up here, which is -- I'm
18 just amazed by your lands up here. So, blessed to be
19 here the last day or -- day and a half here.

20
21 I just want to let you know that first
22 and foremost, I'm your relative, as a Lakota from
23 Standing Rock and a friend. And, you know, I come up
24 here to help you with your tribal nations, your villages
25 to, you know, to see forth your vision, your plans, your
26 ideas, and see how we can help you. Whether it's
27 education and this college. My dad was a tribal college
28 president as well. So, being in this college is special
29 for me as well. I was out in -- on your shorelines last
30 night, got to see a polar bear. So, thank you for the -
31 - I forgot the gentleman that works here, but he drove
32 us out there, and so, that was special. And just the
33 water, mní wičhóni, as we call it, the prayers. Been a
34 powerful couple of days for me, and I've been lucky,
35 I've -- probably like you, I've been around the
36 neighborhood a little bit, but this is by far my top two
37 favorite places to be part of. So -- but, most
38 importantly, I look forward to working with you and
39 working with us and seeing how we can help you fulfill
40 your goals and your missions for your people, your
41 relatives, and your community. So, (In Native). Thank
42 you for having us today.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Welcome,
45 and you started on my birthday. So, that's a good sign.
46 Good morning.

47
48 MS. JOHN: (In Native). My Yup'ik -- my
49 name is Arnaquulluk. I am from Nunakauyaq, which is out
50 in Toksook Bay, Alaska, and my late parents are

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1 Kangrilnguq Paul John and Anguyaluk Martina John. My
2 name is Jolene John. I do represent the Department of
3 Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Federal
4 Subsistence Board, for which you advise as the North
5 Slope Regional Advisory Council. And it's great to see
6 everyone in your home grounds. I've never been to
7 Utqiaġvik or this region before so, it's been a wonderful
8 pleasure and an honor seeing the community speaking to
9 the local leaders. And so, I really appreciate you taking
10 time out of your busy schedules. During this time, it's
11 always amazing to listen to the actual real-life
12 encounters that you experience as whaling communities
13 and harvesters of this region. So, quyana cakneq, thank
14 you very much for always sharing your lives with us, and
15 it's important that we continue to listen to you.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you and good
18 morning. That's the -- probably the best pronunciation
19 of Utqiaġvik I've heard. Good job. All right, anybody
20 else? Oh, go ahead.

21
22 MR. PARRELL: (In Native). My name is Wes
23 Parrell. I am the Principal Director of External Affairs
24 for Indian Affairs so, I oversee the Office of
25 Congressional Affairs and Public Affairs and I'm an
26 enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Very
27 happy and honored to be in your lands and I'll turn it
28 over to you. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you and good
31 morning. All right, is that everybody in the room here?
32 Looks like we have one more.

33
34 MS. MUMFORD: Good morning, everyone. My
35 name is Katie Mumford. I'm with Voice of the Arctic
36 Iñupiat. I've had the pleasure of hosting these guys the
37 last few days. So, happy to be here this morning and
38 just listen and learn. Thanks.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning. Okay,
41 was there something else you guys wanted to address the
42 Council with?

43
44 MR. DAVIS: No, I think, Mr. Brower, just
45 more meet and greet and, you know, let them know who we
46 are, who I am and looking forward to working with you.
47 As a tribal member, hunter, fisher myself, I know the
48 value of trying to understand fully your connection to
49 your whaling. To me I can only relate to our buffalo
50 back home. You know, I hunt a lot of buffalo, and it's

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1 our sacred animal. It's our sacred way. It's ceremonial.
2 It's our treaty right. You know, it's our way of life.
3 I think I see the same thing how you whale up here. So,
4 hearing the good news, I'm hearing up and down your
5 shorelines about who's getting whales and so forth, it's
6 -- and they're coming your way, from my understanding,
7 so, I can't imagine how excited you are. I got a little
8 jealous last night because when we were out towards the
9 point, I think it was, we stopped at one of the docking
10 areas, and I seen [sic] all the boats, and I said,
11 where's everybody? Oh, they're fishing and they're
12 hunting caribou. I'm like, I want to go. So, I was a
13 little jealous last night that I was sitting on the
14 shoreline, just kind of watching but -- so, super excited
15 for your time because we were just at elk hunting in
16 Montana with my son over the weekend and of course, we
17 missed two bulls. But, you know, that's hunting too,
18 right. But I definitely want to come back and work with
19 you and just know you have support from my office on
20 your whaling, and your subsistence and your way of life
21 up here, because I live the same life. I got to feed my
22 family and, you know and share my -- the -- my harvest
23 with my family and my relatives, my elders, you know,
24 and we use those things for ceremony as well. So, really
25 want to support you but, for the most part, just meet
26 and greet and look forward to working with you in the
27 future. So, wóphila.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. All
30 right, well, I guess we do have a lot in common there.
31 We don't have any elk up here, but I sure went out a
32 moose hunting over the last couple weeks and we were
33 successful. It's a long journey for a lot of the stuff
34 that we do here. We're kind of far from a lot of our
35 migrating animals, but we're -- we don't stick to one
36 location, though. We go pretty far out and put a lot of
37 effort into our hunts and yeah, I was just visiting
38 Carmen's office a few weeks ago in hopes to catching a
39 moose, and we came back successful, and it was 600 miles
40 round trip for us by boat and roughly \$2,000 worth of
41 fuel. Maybe a little more. Actually, it was around 2500
42 bucks just for the gas to go and so it -- we put our
43 lives into this, you know, we plan it out for the entire
44 year. I'm already planning for next year. So, it's a
45 never-ending process, especially for whaling as well.
46 You know, whaling is always there for me. So, I -- but
47 my moose hunting is -- it's something that nobody else
48 really does here. And that, you know, we pride ourselves
49 in making things happen and making sure that our freezers
50 are full. And you're in luck, all my processed meats

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1 just came in so, I think this afternoon I'll bring a
2 bunch over and cut it up and share it with everybody.
3 So, you'll get to have some of the nutritional values
4 of the North Slope, I guess. Welcome, though.

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MS. JOHN: Chairman Franz, if I may.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, go ahead.

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MS. JOHN: Jolene John here again with the BIA. Hello, Ernest. I just want to say a couple of things here. First, it's always a pleasure being at the Federal Subsistence Board meetings but, it's the amazing team of the Department of Interior employees who make it possible for us to know the fine details of what is discussed during these meetings. So, I just want to share my appreciation to the DOI staff that are all represented in the room and taking notes and whatever it takes so, quyana caqnek. Secondly, we're aware that due to the unfortunate passing of a previous RAC member there is a vacancy on this RAC. And so, I just wanted to throw it out there to urge, whether it's people in the audience that know people or you are on the table that you're familiar with, to please urge your fellow Iñupiaq harvesters and hunters to consider applying to fill that vacancy, because it's important for the Federal Subsistence Board to hear from a full membership and so, if you can throw that encouragement out in your region, quyana (In Native), that would be very appreciative.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. We will take that advice. And we've been in discussions as well with the -- some of our Board here to make sure that we -- we do have a good, you know, a pulse on the selection process or at least trying to get people to apply. So, it is something that we're looking into, and it's really great to have folks from all over our North Slope region because it's so vast. You know, population wise, it -- it's -- it seems low, but it's a vast location that we have here, and a lot of my hunting spans over 6 or 7 villages. So, it, -- even though I'm from Utqiaġvik, I have a lot to do with Atqasuk, Wainwright, Nuiqsut, Anaktuvuk Pass, Prudhoe Bay and, you know, other halves of our families are from different communities as well. So -- but it's good to have folks from each of the respective communities here so that we can collect local information from all of them and make it effective and useful. So, thank you for that.

(Pause)

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1
2 Well, yeah, we're forgetting ourselves.
3 Maybe we'll go around our own table. So, I guess we'll
4 start off with Ernest here.

5
6 MR. NAGEAK: (In Native) Yukon (In
7 Native). So, I got (indiscernible) from Point Hope all
8 the way to Kaktovik. Hello, everybody.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Ernest.

11
12 MS. AHMAOGAK: Uvlaalluataq. My name is
13 Jenysa Ahmaogak. I'm from Wainwright. This is my second
14 meeting with the RAC, and I really enjoyed the last
15 experience and the meeting that I had before this. It's
16 pretty good to be attending meetings like this more
17 frequently. So, thank you all for coming and welcoming
18 me here.

19
20 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. My name is
21 Wanda Kippi. I represent Atqasuk, Meade River, and my
22 parents are Ronald and Mary Lou Kippi Sr. My grandparents
23 are Phoebe and Abraham Kippi and Stalker (In Native)
24 from Kotzebue area. Daniel Stalker and Eunice Gibson.
25 (In Native), good morning.

26
27 MR. BARGER: (In Native). Good morning.
28 My name is Leonard Barger. I'm from Tikigaq, Point Hope,
29 and I represent Point Hope, and I'm the Co-Chair for
30 this RAC committee. So, thank you, welcome and good to
31 see a lot of people, new people, you know, federal and
32 state people that are here from BIA and welcome my
33 brother from -- yeah. So, thanks.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Good
36 morning, everybody. My name is Brower -- Brower Frantz.
37 My Inupiaq name is (In Native) and also (In Native). I'm
38 from Utqiaġvik. I was born and raised here in Barrow.
39 Born on Barrow side, lived in Browerville. My name is
40 Brower, and I live in Browerville, and yeah, I've been
41 Chairing for a little over a year. Maybe two -- a year.
42 Yeah. For this position on the North Slope Regional
43 Advisory Council, and it's been a blessing. It's been
44 great to share the communications and just having all
45 the dialogue of the North Slope put forth for discussion
46 and modifications as well. So, it's great to be out
47 there and be active for the subsistence communities and
48 also share that information with all of you. So, I did
49 grow up here all my life. I, you know, I snuck away last
50 year so, we'll look forward to this year. Moose hunt,

1 caribou hunt, walrus, seals, you name it. It's stuff
2 that we do. A little early for the fishing yet, but we
3 got roughly 50 of them so far, and we're looking for
4 about 50 more sacks to go here before whaling starts.
5 So, we're pretty active here in the community, even if
6 we're working. I do work for the North Slope Borough
7 Search and Rescue as well, outside of this. And I'm the
8 search and rescue coordinator for the entire North
9 Slope. So, I do have a lot to do with the communities,
10 even regardless of what I do for the North Slope RAC.
11 It's pretty heavy discussions with all of the local
12 communities. So, I pride myself with having good
13 communications all over the North Slope and making sure
14 that we're being effective in more than one way. But,
15 in short, that's what I do here. Glad to be here and I'm
16 glad that you're here as well. Esther.

17
18 MS. HUGO: Good morning, (In Native)
19 Esther Hugo and I'm from Anaktuvuk Pass. (In Native).
20 I'm happy to be here just to represent our village and
21 the community. We live so far inland. We're the only
22 community that's way inland in the Brooks Range and I'm
23 here to represent and I'm happy to be here. Right now,
24 we're -- it's migration time, but there's no caribou to
25 be catch [sic]. We have a lot of hope, but, then they're
26 not coming so, we'll probably have to catch some females,
27 probably in October, if the caribou don't migrate this
28 month. It's been happening for years now, and we're
29 fighting and we're going to have to get to the point
30 where we really need to do something about it because
31 it's our main diet. It's something to put food on the
32 table during the harsh winters, and its heartbreaking
33 right now, to tell you the truth, because we're all
34 waiting for the animal and I'll just say that for now.
35 I'm just happy that I'm here to represent my people, who
36 -- I was born and raised in Anaktuvuk Pass and that's
37 all I have to say. We're just waiting for a game,
38 (indiscernible) tuttu. Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.

41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: All rise. Good morning.
43 Peter Williams, Peter Earl. Anyway, I'm ready and happy
44 to represent Anaktuvuk Pass. I'm originally from Fort
45 Yukon, Athabaskan Gwich'in. I live with these people
46 since '85. The way the story goes is the Eskimos stole
47 my engine. My sister -- my sister-in-law here, and really
48 happy to be here and, you know, participating in these
49 kind of things that deals with our subsistence way of
50 life. It's very important the way she set up our

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1 caribous. That's the reason why I tried to bring up that
2 caribou commission to support our needs, cause [sic] a
3 lot of these (indiscernible) and meetings I go to,
4 there's a lot of caribou people that speak up and they
5 told me maybe, we have -- have Anaktuvuk Pass to stand
6 up for that attention because we're the only one, our
7 livelihood and on living on that. So, I would really
8 appreciate, you know, support our community. Thank you.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Peter.
11 Just to point it out, that that's the year I was born.
12 So, you're -- yeah, you've been here a while, and I just
13 turned 40 this year. So, that's a wealth of information
14 that we have with you. Thank you. All right, it looks
15 like we'll move on to item 6, review and adopt the
16 agenda. It looks like the latest draft is a handout and
17 requires a motion and a second.
18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Make a motion.
20

21 MR. BARGER: Second.
22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion's been made.
24 It's been seconded. That was made by Peter Williams,
25 seconded by Leonard Barger. Any discussion on the
26 matter?
27

28 MR. BARGER: Question, call for.
29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
31 called. All those in favor of accepting the agenda? The
32 handout? Do so by saying aye.
33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.
35

36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
37 sign.
38

39 (No response)
40

41 Hearing none. Looks like we have our
42 agenda. All right, item 7, report from the Secretary's
43 Office. Looks like we have Sara Taylor. Sara Taylor.
44

45 MS. TAYLOR: Hello, Mr. Chair. Hello. As
46 I said before, my name is Sara Taylor. I work in the
47 Secretary's Anchorage Office. So, the Secretary of the
48 Interior has two offices, one in Washington D.C. -- oh,
49 man, and one in Anchorage and that is where I work. And
50 I work for the Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska

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1 Affairs, and most of my work in the office is on ANILCA.
2 So, I do a lot of the same work, and I work a lot on the
3 Federal Subsistence Program. I work a lot on other issues
4 that ANILCA deals with, and I wanted to come today and
5 talk to you about a subsistence review that the Secretary
6 is undertaking of the program. So, I know I don't have
7 to tell all of you that the past few years, we've gotten
8 a lot of feedback on the program and its efficacy and
9 its ability to deliver for rural subsistence users and
10 its ability to make, you know, good decisions that work
11 and that are easy, and that we can have good discussions,
12 and we can interact with the communities that we serve.
13 And we received a lot of letters from Regional Advisory
14 Committees, we received a lot of letters from
15 subsistence users that told us that there were issues
16 with the program, and it seemed like that -- something
17 that we can definitely fix. And this is not the first
18 time this has been done, in 2009, a review of the
19 subsistence program came about very much the same way.
20 After a lot of communication with the Secretary's
21 Office, they initiated a review, and from that came a
22 series of regulatory improvements. But all of that took
23 several years. So, this is the start of that process.
24 And what's really important for us in this review is
25 feedback, is input. Not just what we've been given so
26 far, but we listed out and we're going to be publishing
27 a notice that will list more of this information. It
28 just hasn't been published yet. When that notice
29 publishes, you will see all of the information that you
30 need about how to comment and about what we're looking
31 at.

32
33 From the correspondence that we've
34 received so far, and from some of our internal
35 conversations, we identified several topics that might
36 be worthy of our discussion, right, and worthy of looking
37 at. And so, one of those was the move of the Office of
38 Subsistence Management from the Fish and Wildlife
39 Service into the Assistant Secretary for the Office of
40 Policy, Management and Budget. And if you guys want to
41 ask me what that person does, I'll be here all day, and
42 we can talk about it and what that office is about. But
43 that was how we chose to take Congress's direction to
44 move this program into the Office of the Secretary. So,
45 there could be that more direct line of communication.
46 And so far, I think it's been working fairly well, but
47 it did take quite a while to get in place. I want -- I
48 think we want to really talk about how is that going,
49 right. So, we can really have a good conversation about
50 whether that was a good move or whether there's somewhere

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1 else that might be better. Another issue we're looking
2 at is the criteria for RAC membership and that's -- this
3 is a good time to -- most of you know, more than any of
4 us, what makes a good RAC member, right. You guys have
5 the discussions, you talk to each other, what are we
6 missing in terms of what we should be looking at, right,
7 in terms of recruitment. And how can we be better at
8 recruitment, right. So, we can make sure that there's
9 no vacancies and we can make sure it's easy for people
10 to join when they want to contribute.

11
12 Another issue we're going to be looking
13 at is the membership of the Federal Subsistence Board.
14 How does that -- the Federal Subsistence Board started
15 out as a Chair, and then the regional directors of the
16 land managing agencies here and the Bureau of Indian
17 Affairs. Over time, we added two public members, and the
18 Chair has also been a subsistence -- is a subsistence
19 user. So -- and then we also last year added three
20 additional public members. And so, I think the question
21 is, is that -- does that look good or should we be
22 thinking about it in other terms, or do you want to try
23 to do this for a while? So, that is a good conversation
24 to have. Also, we want to look at regulations, right.
25 There's a lot, there's a lot of booklets on the back
26 table I noticed, right. Is there a way we could make
27 that one booklet or is there a way we could make it
28 easier for people to use and have to hunt using both,
29 right. Is there a way we can make that easier? Another
30 issue we're looking at is the regulations that govern
31 special actions. Are those working? Right, and is there
32 anything we need to add? And we'd also like to look at
33 the role of the State in the program. Do you feel that
34 the State has a seat at the table? Do you want to hear
35 more from the State? Or do you want to hear less?
36 Whatever the case may be let us know the State's
37 participation, and our level of participation in the
38 program, how does that resonate into results.

39
40 And lastly the process for making non-
41 rural determinations. So, that's a process we've kind
42 of had to work out, because the program -- when the
43 program was created, we kind of had to work out what
44 that would look like. We did it in kind of a hurry. So,
45 now that we have a lot of experience with that how did
46 that -- how does that working? Does that work -- or
47 should we have more process? So, these are the types of
48 things that we're really interested in exploring. But
49 also, we'd like to know what else we should be looking
50 at, right? So, it's not just these topics. What other

1 topics are critical for our review at this time? And
2 after we get all of this feedback, we will publish a
3 report that documents all of it. This also happened in
4 2011 from the 2009 review and then we will have that
5 report and we'll be able to have a conversation about
6 what comes next. So, it won't be regulations, it won't
7 be -- and it'll be review, report and then we can talk
8 about next steps. So, I'm here to answer any questions
9 that you might have. This is really the start. This is
10 the first time I've presented this to a RAC, so this is
11 an opportunity for you to ask me any questions. But
12 also, I'm always available if you want to ask me
13 questions. I'm just down that way a bit. And I'm always
14 available to talk and to get feedback and to incorporate
15 that feedback into the process. So, thank you very much
16 for your time and for all of your service.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Sara. Any
19 questions or comments for Sara? Go ahead, Ernest.

20
21 MR. NAGEAK: I have a question. We had a
22 Special Action for AKP for that -- the no-fly zone from
23 Umiat up this time of the year. We brought that up so,
24 I don't know if the Federal Subsistence Board or State
25 when they had the caribou issue, but for those such
26 action as boundary for flying for this time of the year,
27 who's going to regulate those actions? Like who's going
28 to keep track of who's flying out of Umiat or the sports
29 hunters in the area so, we could try and help the village
30 of Anaktuvuk Pass. They've been waiting for years and
31 years for the migration to reach them, and they've taken
32 actions to -- these Boards to close some flying.
33 Especially this time of the year so, the caribou could
34 reach them in migration. I'm just curious who's going
35 to take action of these flying areas, the State, the
36 federal government, the North Slope Borough? It's just
37 it's just a question of concern. Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Ernest,
40 for that. That's definitely a state.

41
42 MS. TAYLOR: That's a state one.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, that one's good.
45 I'm sure we'll have to require a lot more dialogue and
46 specifics on that but definitely want to move forward
47 with doing something of that nature. But any other
48 questions for Sara specifically here? Peter.

49
50

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams
2 (indiscernible), Anaktuvuk Pass. Can I ask a lot of
3 attention to Anaktuvuk, the way the guide hunters come
4 through. First, they started off in Bettles, now they
5 started off in Coldfoot. They used to hunt around BLM
6 state area. They wrote a letter to them, and they finally
7 got them off back in early 90s. Now they're flying past
8 Anaktuvuk. They're going up by Chandler in the pack. I
9 think it's ASRC area. I'm not sure, but the way the
10 pilot were telling me, they've been landing on gravel
11 bars because there was an airport that's off limits
12 there. So, that's the number one thing that's, you know,
13 how they're -- like they're teasing us. And I talked to
14 35 hunters that -- right here and ask them, you know,
15 questions about those and what they do with their, you
16 know, their food and stuff, the meat. No answer. You
17 know, what does the pilot -- ask the pilot what do they
18 do with it? Oh, we give it out. To who? But, you know,
19 there's questions. You see what I'm saying?

20
21 MS. TAYLOR: Yeah.

22
23 MR. WILLIAMS: Now to me, I think that,
24 you know, we should be teaching you guys how to adapt
25 in our country because, you know, (indiscernible) want
26 us living on it. And all these people that's representing
27 Alaska, they don't come to our village meetings. They
28 have it outside of our village, and we got the biggest
29 park in Anaktuvuk. So, you know why I'm supporting this
30 is cause we need to get better attention, better
31 (indiscernible) cause, you know, I wouldn't mind
32 standing to Congress, and explaining them the details
33 that you're speaking of. That's why I'm speaking up on
34 behalf of -- the Game Board too, that need attention,
35 that we need a representative on there, too, from AKP.
36 And another thing is that, when we're speaking about
37 subsistence, we're not only speaking about, you know,
38 we're talking all the way down to rabbits and stuff.
39 Everything that comes on the table, we eat. And they ask
40 us -- they ask me, what's the difference between the
41 states and Alaska? Well, downstate, you know, you don't
42 see no more [sic] hunting because there -- what? They
43 ate them all. You know, there's two different things
44 about living and livelihood. And I worked at Ellensburg
45 in Washington, I was cleaning up cattles [sic].
46 Disrespect the way I've seen it. They shoot that cattle
47 right in the head, right there instantaneously and, you
48 know, we didn't grow up that way, I told them at the
49 meeting. So, there's some things that we considered
50 seeing this kind of Board meeting too. So, one thing

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1 that we need representatives on there from [sic] tribal.
2 Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Ernest.

5

6 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you. I'm glad you're
7 bringing this up and getting input because -- especially
8 for AKP, there's state, federal so, many different land.
9 You know, if they're going after muskox or moose or any
10 kind of animal when it passes a boundary, it's different.
11 Like even around here, when they open the muskox hunt,
12 there's a state hunt, there's a federal hunt. One starts
13 over here, one starts the other side of this river. You
14 know, you guys are the higher ups. Secretary's Office
15 should start talk with the state governor's office,
16 because too many times there's discrepancies in hunting.
17 You know, this area, you can't go this way. Oh, that's
18 the federal land. You gotta [sic] stop right here and
19 cause it's -- feel -- I feel for the Anaktuvuk people
20 because that's -- their main food is the caribou, and I
21 know that's a state and or, you know, managed by the
22 state, but it's also, the federal and the state need to
23 continue to try and work together because one might be
24 for a hunt in the federal, you know, it's too many
25 different open and closed, state and federal. And so,
26 just try to get on the same page and I'm glad you guys
27 are getting input, and you know who's going to regulate
28 the special action and all these bullet points. It's a
29 good start. Thank you.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

36

37 MS. CHAPA: Gisela Chapa, for the record.
38 I just wanted to maybe provide a little bit more
39 clarification to the Council about what's on the table
40 right now. This is an opportunity for the Council to
41 formally provide comments on it -- on the programmatic
42 review. And if the Council would like to submit formal
43 comments on this programmatic review, then this would
44 technically be an action item, and the discussion
45 doesn't have to be held right now. You have a copy of
46 the report and what's being considered in this
47 programmatic review. So, if the Council chooses, we can
48 save the discussion for later in the agenda. So, you
49 have a little bit more time to think about it, and you
50 still have an opportunity to provide formal comment as a

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1 Council through an action item. Did that help?

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That does help, but
4 I just don't have any dialogue in front of me about
5 specifics on changes. So, a little bit -- I think that's
6 where the confusion came in a little bit ago. So, I
7 think having that and maybe a little bit more specific
8 on what's going on just so that it spells it out to
9 everybody here and what you're asking for. Because you
10 know, what I see on the paper is just a report from the
11 Secretary's Office, but yet you're asking for a
12 programmatic review and changes from us. So, it's -- I
13 mean, if there are specifics on that and options
14 available to us then it might be a little bit more clear
15 cut here. So, it's not an action item, but if we want
16 it to be we can move to do something a little bit later,
17 but, I don't really have any dialogue to move anything
18 on right now is the thing. That's kind of why we were
19 going in circles a little bit. So, do we want to have a
20 bigger discussion on this later and a little bit more
21 dialogue, or is this something you want to just approve
22 and think about later, is what they're asking for? So,
23 if we want to make any changes to the project or to the
24 -- to their process. But I don't see the process here,
25 is the thing. So, maybe if we had the initial process
26 in front of us, then maybe we can make changes to it.
27 But, I think essentially that's what they were looking
28 for is making changes to the process. Anyway, so what's
29 the wish of the Council here on that? It's not an action
30 item, but do you want to move or have a bit more
31 discussion on this later and keep it on the agenda? Or
32 do we want to push it back to get more dialogue?

33

34 MR. NAGEAK: Motion to approve. It's you
35 know, it's good intent to, you know, try and get input
36 on, you know, Federal Subsistence Board or on their
37 thoughts of the move. So, it looks like it's in like --
38 approve their open comment period, sounds like, or
39 what's the action? What kind of action are you trying
40 to -- motion to approve their comment period?

41

42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It's not an action
43 item, but I mean, if we want more information on this,
44 then we can maybe have another discussion specific to
45 the process and if we want to change the process later.
46 Go ahead, Peter.

47

48 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair. Reason why I
49 brought this attention up is because we've been dealing
50 with this for the last 30 years, and there's no paperwork

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1 standing here, and we're just making this action item
2 just that goes on and on the way I tell her. You know,
3 this thing has been going on for years, and there's a
4 lot of people that's standing up for our actions. That's
5 why I put under action item. There's three main subjects
6 I got here: criteria, federal regulation, regulation
7 given action. That's why I brought this up to her so she
8 could get that attention that we're not sitting here
9 just gambling our thoughts. We're talking about our
10 people surviving on this matter. So, that action item
11 should be accepted and I second that motion.
12

13 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, can I...?
14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, yeah.
16

17 MS. CHAPA: Okay. So, I'm gonna [sic] try
18 to go over the handout that in front [sic] of you --
19 that you have in front of you. And so, I'm going to look
20 at Sara, just in case I am not sharing the correct
21 information, but -- so, while the department is going
22 to go through this programmatic review, they're looking
23 at very specific things that they would want the Councils
24 to provide input on. One of those is the move from the
25 office -- the move of OSM from Fish and Wildlife into
26 the Office of the Secretary. And that is something that
27 if perhaps the Council might not see, kind of like what
28 that implies, what that move has implied. So, perhaps
29 that's something that the Council doesn't necessarily
30 want to provide input on. The next thing that they want
31 the Council to provide specific input on is the criteria
32 for Regional Advisory Council membership. Every three
33 years or at the end of your term, I will come in and ask
34 if you want to reapply or if you know anybody that would
35 like to apply to become a member of the Regional Advisory
36 Council. And we have an application process and there's
37 some eligibility criteria for somebody to -- well be
38 able to be appointed into the RAC. And I could provide
39 a little bit more detailed information on that, on what
40 the -- what that criteria is. If that would -- you think
41 that would help generate some more discussion. The next
42 is a membership of the Federal Subsistence Board. The
43 Federal Subsistence Board, and I'm looking at Lisa just
44 to confirm that this is true so, we -- the Federal
45 Subsistence Board is composed of five -- the regional
46 directors for five agencies and then we have six public
47 members sitting on the board -- on the Board. And I
48 believe it was last year that the composition of the
49 Federal Subsistence Board changed to incorporate the
50 three additional public members now sitting on the

1 Board. Federal regulations and state regulations for
2 duplication and consistency, I think -- I mean Mr. --
3 member Williams and member Nageak brought this up
4 already that it it's difficult for the user to know who
5 manages what and the intricacies of state managed lands
6 versus federally managed lands. So, yeah, that could be
7 something that the Council could also provide more
8 specific feedback on. Regulations on special actions, I
9 -- I'm not super familiar with that so, I couldn't give
10 you more information. But, if the Council wants to get
11 more information, I can prepare some more topics for you
12 all to potentially discuss. And the role of the state
13 in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the Federal
14 Subsistence Management Program. Throughout the whole
15 process, I believe that the state is involved in
16 providing comments. But I could also provide you more
17 details on that whole process so that you might be able
18 to share comments if you have any. And then the last is
19 the Board procedures for non-rural determinations and
20 again, I could try to get more information on the details
21 for that.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you
24 for that clarification. Go ahead, Peter.

25
26 MR. WILLIAMS: You know, I added this
27 under action because, you know, we need a ASAP. Not
28 immediately. We need some action on this. This week has
29 been stalling too long and, you know, I'm just sitting
30 there talking over and over, every year about the same
31 subject. So, let's get some better attention. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. It sounds
34 like you want to go over some of the regulations
35 governing special actions. And so, we should put that
36 in there.

37
38 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
39 record. And I just wanted to emphasize to the Council
40 that A: this is a really big deal. I mean, this is
41 existential to the program, you know, so -- but this is
42 your only opportunity to provide comments on this
43 programmatic review. And the timing of it is really
44 difficult because there aren't a lot of details. And you
45 guys are the first Council and the -- it's not even
46 published in the Federal Register yet. And the official
47 comment period won't be till later after it's officially
48 published. But, also, I mean, it might be worth waiting
49 till tomorrow. It might be worth waiting at least till
50 after lunch. Sara is only here today, and she's the one

1 that has the most details, you know, there's not a lot,
2 but for as much -- you know, you might consider maybe
3 postponing it till later this afternoon to give
4 yourselves a little more time to think about it, have
5 some off the record discussions and clarifications with
6 Sara and revisit it after lunch. Because if you push it
7 off till tomorrow, Sara will not be here. She's going
8 to the Kodiak/Aleutians meeting and will be a little bit
9 even more the blind leading the blind on this. But,
10 again, it's extremely important, you know, existential
11 programmatic review. And your only opportunity is this
12 meeting to provide comments.
13

14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, that's a
15 little unfair to us because we have half a page of
16 information in front of us. It's -- I don't think there
17 was any real due diligence on this to give us, you know,
18 one day especially for, I mean, this is a laundry list
19 right here. This is pretty big. And it's not just one,
20 you know, one subject. This is, like, all thrown -- you
21 got the move for OSM, criteria for Regional Advisory,
22 Council membership, membership for the Federal
23 Subsistence Board. And you know, comments for -- this
24 is a lot. And we have how to how to, you know, comment
25 publicly, how to comment on RACs and SRC, and we have
26 one paragraph of input as requested on these topics. And
27 then you say this is a very big burden for your RAC, but
28 we're only here till tomorrow, here's half a page, deal
29 with it. You know, it's a little unfair to us, honestly.
30 But, if you're only here for that and, you know, that's
31 the deadline and that's it, then then maybe this should
32 have been an action item and a little more detail brought
33 over to us. Because we're kind of going in circles on
34 what this is, what this means. But, okay, now have a
35 little bit better understanding of what you're saying
36 now. And I guess -- well, we're on item 7 so, report
37 from -- I mean, we're on it right now so, maybe we should
38 discuss it right now.
39

40 MR. WILLIAMS: Reason why I brought this
41 attention up if she going to leave tomorrow, I was going
42 to say, you know what you haven't -- have it right now,
43 discuss this matter. Because it was very important item
44 that now we're sitting to. And that lady talking, talking
45 over there. We got a big whole ablet book here about
46 understanding from your federal side and better
47 understanding is we need to stand up and do this
48 immediately. I said -- like I said earlier. So, my
49 contention is that when we're talking about something
50 like this, where it always come here once a year in fall

1 time, in springtime. So, I need this on the table. Thank
2 you.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

5

6 MR. BARGER: Can I speak, Mr. Chair? This
7 is Leonard Barger, for the record. I see on your paper
8 here, regulation governing special action. This is an
9 action item that you guys are discussing now. You got
10 it on paper. They're bringing up actions now so, we
11 should take action on what we're talking about and it's,
12 you know, I love to help AKP and Ernie to what he's
13 saying. So, take this action. So -- but anyways,
14 membership for Federal Subsistence Board, you know, I'm
15 willing to be on that Board, you know, and we -- I see
16 it -- when I look into the website and stuff, and I see
17 a lot of sport hunters in that Board. We need Natives
18 in that Board that represent our people and Ernie talks
19 -- you know, other people talk about these sport hunters.
20 Noatak, they stop these sport hunters going to their --
21 that community, now they're hunting caribou right now.
22 They're hunting, they're getting all the caribou right
23 now because they stop. Their tribal members took action.
24 That's how powerful it is. The BIA, you know, the tribal
25 members over there, now they're hunting caribou. They're
26 getting all the caribou. My nephew, he got a caribou for
27 me. He had to go 131 miles to get caribou, and those
28 kinds of things. And I'm going to bring up to you know,
29 animals we talk about, but nothing's been talked about,
30 the animals that are medicine. It's not being taught.
31 You know, my brother over there, you know, on the land,
32 you know, the Indians, you know, the food on the ground
33 is medicine. Animals are medicine. It's not being
34 taught. The animals we get is not [sic] being taught to
35 a lot of people, you know, beluga, muktuk, aged. I'll
36 bring it up later. But thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thanks, Leonard.
39 Alright. So, what I would recommend, I mean, I want to
40 move through this and go through it one by one. But I
41 don't think we have enough of any of this. We would need
42 the regulations for all of this, and all of the
43 information set forth in front of us and all of the
44 dialogue and go through these one by one in order to
45 make any effective changes because we don't know
46 specifically what they are. So, my recommendation would
47 be to request to have a working group for our RAC lining-
48 out all of these specifically with the regulation and
49 what we are, you know what we have the ability to change
50 or what's not working because, I mean, it's asking for

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1 input on all of these. But, yet, you know, each one of
2 these has their own set of, you know, criteria and we
3 don't have any of that in front of us today and we're,
4 you know, we only have a day for this comment. So, that's
5 my comment or at least my recommendation to our RAC, is
6 that we need all of the dialogue for each set of, you
7 know -- what you're asking, may need changes. So, I
8 mean, regulations, governing special actions is probably
9 going to be the biggest one on this. Not too much worried
10 about membership on the Federal Subsistence Board. Not
11 too much worried about the OSM move, management and
12 budget. Maybe the money side, you know, if that -- if
13 the money portion ever came out because everybody got
14 raises basically due to the hardship of all the economy
15 and, you know, cost of living analysis were done and
16 everything was bumped up, but yet we're -- yeah none of
17 us are getting paid to be here and even maybe adjustments
18 for anyone traveling to make their per diems higher to
19 match what's actually, you know. I'm sure all of you
20 here, if you go to AC right now and go buy something,
21 you won't have enough in your per diem to do anything
22 effective. So, I'm sure the budget can be fixed because
23 we're all rural here. You know, it's if you guys are
24 going somewhere else and looking at prices and Anchorage
25 or Fairbanks or wherever you may be, double it. It's
26 because when you come up here that's what it's going to
27 be. So, seeing the change here, the differences.

28
29 Criteria for the RAC, you know, I think
30 we can work with that pretty good. I think it's alright.
31 But I'm sure few changes, especially for streamlining
32 it, may be good. But, yeah, once again, I think we should
33 have a working group on all of this and bring out all
34 the regulations and specifics so that we can see what
35 we're able to change because it's not transparent right
36 now. And the role of ADF&G, I'm sure we can have some
37 discussions on this as well, because especially for up
38 here, the North Slope is so different up here. It's --
39 we have different ways up here. So, having some input
40 on that I think will be pretty heavily involved with
41 maybe the Borough. Board procedures for nonrural
42 determinations. So, we have 8 items here, 7 items here
43 that they're requesting possible changes on with no --
44 none of the dialogue. So, I would say let's -- before I
45 get any, you know, any other feedback or discussions or
46 stories going, I think we should have a working group
47 with all of the information for all of these bullet
48 points provided to us, so that we can discuss them and
49 make the changes. Because right now, it's like we're
50 going blind.

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1

2

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

3

4

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

5

6

7 MS. CHAPA: Okay. I initially brought up
8 the idea of the working group so, the working group
9 would work if we were to regroup tonight. But then we'd
10 have to bring it back to the Council for approval of the
11 discussion or whatever would be put forth in comments.
12 And then, I also wanted to ask Sara if she could provide
13 us maybe an overview of the timeline of the review.

13

14

15 MS. TAYLOR: Certainly. Mr. Chair. The
16 review is going to be -- the comment period is going to
17 be 60 days long, and it will start when the Federal
18 Register notice publishes and that's going to be in the
19 next couple of weeks, I think. So, fairly soon, but not
20 by now. So, then when the notice publishes, it will not
21 have a whole lot more information than what you see
22 here. It will explain how to submit comments, and it
23 will outline these topics, and it will talk about the
24 Federal Subsistence Management Program, which you guys
25 don't need to know very much about because you already
26 know it. So, that's what the Federal notice will say.
27 We will take comments for 60 days from the public. But
28 the RACs can submit us comments whenever they like. The
29 RACs advise the Secretary so, on these issues as well
30 as many, many other issues. So, you're able to send us
31 letters when you like. As Gisela mentioned, it is
32 difficult because the conversation has to be had on the
33 record and that is the first thing I'm going to add to
34 what I would like to change about the process. So -- but
35 that is actually a statutory fix. That's not a process
36 fix for us, but that's something I can work on, and I
37 want to also note that the transcripts from this meeting
38 are going to be used in the record. So, all of the
39 comments today, I'm going to be putting into summary
40 myself and then I will use the transcripts in making the
41 final products for this report. So, anything that you're
42 able to read into the record tomorrow, I will be able
43 to see. Yes.

43

44

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

45

46

47 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. The reason why I
48 brought the attention up and before that, I read in this
49 tablet one time that they had 60 days to comment on this
50 kind of procedures, because that's why I want to see if
we could add up making the working group or something

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1 to work together so that we could discuss this matter
2 immediately. Thank you.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay so, I think
5 what we're going to do is push this back until later
6 today and collect information. We're not going to be
7 able to get any of the information here to make anything
8 useful until after we have all the regulations in front
9 of us. So -- but we -- it looks like we're going to have
10 a discussion on this and hopefully get at least some of
11 the main points out before your deadline. So, we'll work
12 on that. Go ahead.

13
14 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
15 record. Sorry, just for clarification, are you
16 interested in forming a working group?

17
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I mean, we're being
19 forced into having a working group. It's like.....

20
21 MS. GRADIAGIN: If you -- if you're going
22 to have a working group, you need to have a motion and
23 like, have it on the record that you're forming a working
24 group.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah.

27
28 MS. GREDIAGIN: And it's kind of up to
29 you. Councils do it differently whether you appoint
30 certain members or just say, we're going to have four
31 members present and then.....

32
33 (Simultaneous speech)

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah.

36
37 MS. GREDIAGIN:decide the exact
38 membership later. But, if you're going to have a working
39 group, you might want to just have the motion now and
40 then you can decide if you meet over lunch or in the
41 evening and come back later.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. What's the
44 wish of the Council? Looks like we have to.....

45
46 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll make a motion on
47 this.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, you make a
50 motion to form a working group to go over the discussions

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1 of the report of the Secretary's Office and
2 modifications to the process set forth in front of us
3 on the form provided.

4

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you for the
6 modification.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. All right.
9 That's a motion. Yep. Do I have a second?

10

11 MR. BARGER: Seconded.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded. So,
14 motion made by Peter Williams. Seconded by Leonard
15 Barger. Any discussion on this? Maybe a timeline?

16

17 MR. NAGEAK: How many people in the
18 working group or is it the whole Board?

19

20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It's the RAC.

21

22 MR. NAGEAK: The whole RAC.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. Under
25 discussion.

26

27 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin. For
28 the record, it doesn't have to be the whole Council.....

29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah.

31

32 MS. GREDIAGIN:but it can be. I
33 mean, so it's up to you whether you want to say or just
34 have four members, we'll have these particular people.
35 We'll have -- you know, it's open to everyone. If you're
36 all interested, you can participate in this working
37 group off the record.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay.

40

41 MS. GREDIAGIN: But usually it's not the
42 whole Council if some members aren't particularly
43 interested in participating.

44

45 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

48

49 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya Wessels. I
50 would like to add something to this discussion. So, the

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1 Council needs to select several members in the working
2 group. All Council cannot meet off the record because
3 that will constitute as the meeting of the whole entire
4 Council off the record and that's against the fact. So,
5 you will need to select several members from your Council
6 to be on that working group. A working group will discuss
7 all of these issues off the record, and then they will
8 bring their findings back to the entire Council, where
9 you'll need to discuss it some more. And that will be
10 on the record, if the entire Council meets off the
11 record, that is not permissible. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay so, with that
14 being said, we're definitely having AKP in on this. So,
15 Anaktuvuk Pass. Janyasa, are you willing to be portion
16 of this for Wainwright? Ernest, you yay or nay?

17
18 MR. NAGEAK: Nay. Okay. My last meeting
19 and I'm a federal (indiscernible).

20
21 (Simultaneous speech)

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay.

24
25 MR. NAGEAK: Federal (indiscernible).

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I'll be here for
28 (indiscernible). So, we'll have maybe four of them.
29 Leonard, are you interested, or no?

30
31 MR. BARGER: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, Leonard. It's
34 up to you. One or two? Two, you want both? Okay.

35
36 MR. NAGEAK: Can I ask a question on one
37 of the bullet points? Because federal regulations and
38 state regulations for duplication and inconsistency.
39 What will you guys be presenting like in the comment
40 period? Is that all that's going to say. That's just too
41 broad. It's too many state regulations and federal
42 regulations, especially for Anaktuvuk Pass. But we don't
43 have that problem too far up here in Barrow where we got
44 state and federal boundaries. It's just --that's just -
45 yeah, too much. Thank you. Who's going to govern who?
46 Federal or the state? Who's got the upper hand? I'm just
47 curious.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: They --
50 unfortunately, they have a -- just for the discussion

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1 on it, they have a split on state and federal lands
2 there. So, both of them are going to be a portion of it,
3 just like they're trying to minimize duplications if
4 necessary. But, unfortunately for that area, they have
5 both lands right next to each other. So, they're both
6 going to be in on it. Wanda, are you wanting to be in
7 this working group or are you okay with sitting out?

8

9 MS. KIPPI: I'm interested.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay.

12

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

14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it looks like
16 we'll have Esther, Peter, myself, Brower, Janysa, Wanda
17 and Leonard Barger. And we have two that are not online
18 with us that are out as well. And Ernest will not be
19 participating. Does that -- would that meet the
20 criteria, Katya?

21

22 MS. WESSELS: I believe so, thank you,
23 Mr. Chair. Yeah, but somebody needs to make a motion
24 stating that that's what the Council wants to do, and
25 somebody needs to second that motion. And I also want
26 to remind the Council there was some earlier motion made
27 by someone, and somebody seconded it. So, you first need
28 to withdraw that motion, and then you need to make that
29 second motion over. You know what -- you know, the
30 Council wants to do, that form the working group that
31 will meet tonight, and that will bring the results of
32 that discussion back to the Council.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. I think I
35 remember what that was about. Thank you for the
36 clarification. All right. So, it looks like we need to
37 rescind the motion made to approve the notes that are
38 in front of us because it wasn't a motion earlier, but
39 a motion was made. So, we need a motion to rescind the
40 -- yeah, go ahead, Peter.

41

42 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I gotta rescind my
43 motion and the second one I make a motion on and this
44 is going back and forth. Don't make sense. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, a motion to
47 rescind was made.

48

49 MR. BARGER: Second.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
2 Barger. Any discussion on this?

3
4 MR. BARGER: Question.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
7 called. All those in favor of rescinding the motion say
8 aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 Those opposed, same sign.

13
14 (No response)

15
16 Hearing none. Motion passes to rescind
17 previous motion or the notes approval. All right so,
18 there was a motion on the floor to have a working group
19 meeting, and it was seconded, and we were under
20 discussion on that. Is that still okay to use? Is it
21 viable there?

22
23 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, this is Gisela.
24 If you can remind -- was it member Williams who made the
25 motion and seconded by Mr. Barger, and the intent of the
26 motion was to create a working group composed of member
27 Barger, Ahmaogak, Hugo, Williams, Frantz and Kippi to
28 meet tonight, further discuss what's on the table and
29 report back to the Council tomorrow.

30
31 (Pause)

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, go ahead.

36
37 MS. WESSELS: Oh, this is Katya Wessels.
38 You know, the -- currently the Council has nine seated
39 members. If I'm not mistaken, you need to have less than
40 a quorum on your working group. I think you have now
41 more people on your working group than, you know, that
42 constitutes a quorum. The working group needs to be less
43 than the quorum. I'm sorry about it.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay so, we need
46 four people.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Correct.

49
50

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1 MS. ITTA: Good morning, Mr. Chair. It's
2 Martha on the line. I just got on. Sorry I'm late today.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning,
5 Martha. Okay, so, it looks like we'll have Esther, Peter
6 Brower, and Jenysa. Four individuals, four of the
7 Council members. Five for a quorum. So, okay we're under
8 discussion, and we have enough to meet the legalities
9 of having this discussion in a working group. Any
10 question called on this motion.

11
12 UNIDENTIFIED: Question.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been
15 called for all those in favor of having a working group
16 tonight with four individuals from the Regional Advisory
17 Council say aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 Those opposed, same sign.

22
23 (No response)

24
25 Hearing none. Motion passes. We'll have
26 a working group. All right, let's move away from this
27 one. For now. For now, anyways, thank you very much,
28 Sara.

29
30 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
31 sure you had plans this evening.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I haven't slept yet,
34 fyi. I'm on rescue calls. So, item 8, will review and
35 approve previous meeting minutes.

36
37 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

40
41 MR. BARGER: For the record, Leonard
42 Barger, for the record. Make a motion to approve the
43 meeting minutes.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right so,
46 there's a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Does
47 anybody need any time to go over them or are we just
48 okay with...?

49
50 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

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1

2

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

4

5

MR. BARGER: Question.

6

7

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
called for all those in favor of approving the previous
meeting minutes say aye.

10

11

IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13

Those opposed, same sign.

14

15

(No response)

16

17

Hearing none. Previous meeting minutes
have been approved. All right. Oh, okay. So, we do have
one of our other RAC members online. So, we did miss
your introduction, Martha. Go ahead.

21

22

MS. ITTA: Hi. Good morning, everyone.
Martha Itta, born in Barrow, raised in Nuiqsut all my
life. 47 years Subsistence hunter, and I serve on a
whaling crew, I work as a cultural special specialist
for IHLC. I work for the Borough. Nice to meet you all.
Sorry I'm not there in person. I -- helping my aunt with
her crew and hunting and fishing here while they're out
at the island. Stocking up on our (distortion)
subsistence food for the winter. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Hello to everybody. Good morning.

32

33

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Martha,
and good morning. All right. Do we want to take a five-
minute -- five, ten-minute break? Five ish, 7.5-minute
break. Just in time, Martha. Just in time for the break.
All right, taking a break.

38

39

(Off-record)

40

41

(On record)

42

43

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right,
everybody. Looks like we're all back in just about ready
to go. So, we'll get back online and get the meeting
going, again.

47

48

MS. CHAPA: And if I can remind -- oh,
you can give me that. Thank you, awesome. We're getting
more interest in being part of the RAC, which is great.

50

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1 And Gisela Chapa, for the record, I just wanted to remind
2 people online that your lines are automatically muted.
3 So, if you wish to address the Council, if you're joining
4 on Teams, you can press the button to raise your hand
5 and that puts you on the queue. If you're calling in,
6 you can press star five and that puts you in the queue.
7 To unmute yourself, if you're calling, press Star six
8 to unmute yourself. Thank you.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
11 All right. So, it looks like we are on item 9, and we'll
12 get started with the regional subsistence reports. All
13 right, so we'll start off with Council member reports
14 and we'll start off with Mr. Williams over here. Go
15 ahead, Peter.
16

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Peter Williams.
18 Anyway, like Esther addressed about, you know, caribou
19 and a lot of people when I go to meeting.....
20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Just for reference.
22 Anaktuvuk Pass, Peter Williams.
23

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh, yeah. Anaktuvuk Pass,
25 Peter Williams. Anyway, I just wanted to say, I've been
26 to a lot of meeting about caribou, and the way I heard
27 it is, you know, there are a lot of them back up between
28 Nuiqsut and Arctic Village, and now they're moving
29 toward Beaver and not going our way. And we haven't had
30 nothing [sic]. There were no reports yet so, I'm just
31 going to keep it as that and I'm just praying that, you
32 know, we get something going. Thank you.
33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Peter. I
35 also hear you guys had a pretty successful moose hunt
36 this fall. Is that true?
37

38 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. There's two of them.
39 Two of them, right? Yeah.
40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Esther,
42 we'll move on. Same community, Anaktuvuk Pass. Esther
43 Hugo.
44

45 MS. HUGO: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Esther Hugo for the record. The summer went by real
47 fast, and we even hardly had any mosquitoes, yay! -- in
48 years. But in July, we had some pretty hot weather for
49 a couple of weeks. We were getting to 92s or over 80s,
50 and that was really hot weather for us and like I said,

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1 the mosquitoes weren't there, and that was a relief. A
2 lot of our people been going [sic] out day trips since
3 June with our vehicles, and we traveled north, south
4 looking for sheep and the stragglers. Nobody got
5 stragglers this summer. That was heartbreaking. There's
6 some sheep that was caught and they shared a lot of the
7 meat. Our young hunters went up mountains and they catch
8 sheep, which was good. The Arctic char and the graylings
9 weren't as much as we thought this spring, due to a late
10 breakup. And it's usually in July after the fourth that
11 we go catch some fish and we hardly catch any chars or
12 any trout or grayling and that was different. And yes,
13 our berries grew in a matter of a month. We had some
14 aqqik but, we didn't -- we couldn't go north because
15 they didn't grow this year where it was a lot of aqqik
16 up north and that was heartbreaking. Because we travel
17 a lot these trip to just to pick them aqqiks, but not
18 this year. We were so happy when the blues started to
19 grow. Now we were getting ready to pick cranberries and
20 blackberries, but we we've got some snow up there and
21 it's cold and that wasn't something we were looking
22 forward to because the berries are good for us, too.

23
24 It's just that right now, we're just
25 waiting for the caribou, and we've got a lot of -- our
26 residents are really -- it's really tense up there right
27 now. A lot of them want to go north, like travel north.
28 Not this time to Nuiqsut, like we always send our hunters
29 to Nuiqsut in the fall. Tuttu -- the elders said needs
30 -- they want nutaaq. They want fresh caribou and that's
31 where we've been sending them the past just five years,
32 but not this year. So, we're hurting as I speak. Cause
33 growing up, we seen these herds and they did migrate on
34 both sides of that -- of the the pass. But, after the
35 pipeline and all that through the years, hardly any
36 migration. But, for one thing, I just wanted to tell you
37 and repeat again, is our old folks started to realize
38 that we've got a lot of sport hunters in the vast area
39 of the NPRA, and they do migrate to there, and we were
40 always told we shouldn't (indiscernible) them, we
41 shouldn't go to them. They'll come to us, and we did
42 that throughout the years, and we listened to our elders
43 and told -- because they said we shouldn't go to them,
44 we should. They'll come. So, we wait patiently, and they
45 will come by thousands. I mean, this is a lifetime of
46 something that we've seen, but no more. I just wanted
47 to stress that this is a critical part where you have
48 your main diet and where is it now? We've been waiting.
49 Our people, our young guys are wanting to go to the
50 Dalton Highway, and we kept telling no. Maybe they're

1 here soon. But no, we found out they turned back. They
2 went for Shainin Lake, Willow Lake about 25 miles
3 northeast of us, and they all headed back to Itkilyariak
4 or to (In Native) or to Umiat. That was really close.

5
6 I just want you all to know this is
7 really critical. This is what we depend on for our lives,
8 for the harsh winters and it's not there anymore and
9 we're fighting the issues, the concerns. My father-in-
10 law and the other older men used to say, we have a
11 problem here. We know it's a sport, hunters, but nobody
12 believes us. We want to see if we can stop the -- all
13 the activities. At least a month of September, starting
14 in the August. But that hasn't happened yet and a lot
15 of it -- a lot of us traveled to Fairbanks for medical
16 or just to go shopping. Right now, when we go there,
17 when we're heading back, we see a lot of these hunters
18 with big racks, just the racks, where's the meat? I flew
19 in with one guy, two guys, actually, and he forgot his
20 box. It was a little box. But, anyway, he said, oh, I
21 forgot my meat and I'm going, is that it? I mean, what's,
22 you know, if you catch caribou, there's the head. I
23 mean, you name it, we'll take and preserve and put away.
24 And he said, where the -- I mean, where's my meat? And
25 he goes, oh, it's here. And I looked at it and it wasn't
26 much. It was a small box of his meat, he -- his catch
27 these things are going on right now and we were told by
28 Rights Air that we shouldn't harass or tell these sport
29 hunters off. That's -- that was a couple -- less than a
30 couple of weeks ago. One of our young ladies who started
31 to ask him, where's the meat? Where's you know where you
32 been? And they were around our area, north of us. And
33 that's disappointment. And we've been going through that
34 for years and years. It's like giving up something you
35 had all your life and now it's not there. Old folks are
36 hurting, and so are we, because that's the only main
37 thing we eat up there. Besides the sheep and the fish.
38 Our diet for the whole winter. I remember when I was
39 between 21 and 25, me and my father-in-law and my father,
40 we caught 25 of them and that made us live through the
41 winter. We made paniqtuq, we did everything to preserve
42 and put away for the winter and it's not there anymore.
43 It's very heartbreaking. This is our home. That's the
44 only way we survive to put food on the table. And this
45 is a very sensitive issue for me because I seen it. It's
46 there and like there's nothing being done much about it.
47 And, I always believe my old folks about the sport
48 hunters, they're the problem. They are the problem.
49 They're catching what we are waiting for. They want the
50 big racks. They don't really -- I don't know if they

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1 really -- what they do with the meat out there. Maybe
2 they dig a hole and or put it in a ditch. I don't know.
3 We don't know. But I thank you, Mr. Chair.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther,
6 for your report there. I do have a couple questions on
7 muskox sightings. So, have you -- or even Peter, have
8 any of you had any recent sightings of muskox or any
9 reports come in from hunters about muskox in the area?

10
11 MR. WILLIAM: Last time I think we've
12 seen it was in '89 or something.

13
14 MS. HUGO: No. (Indiscernible). There's
15 been one muskox this summer. Last month, just roaming
16 in the valley. That was probably the same muskox we've
17 been seeing over the years, picking berries in the
18 foothills.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Yeah, no I did
21 see something about muskox in the area, so, I wanted to
22 get it from you guys to make sure it's in the report.
23 Thank you.

24
25 MS. HUGO: Okay and the moose they had
26 caught a couple of moose couple weeks ago, and we had a
27 death in the village, and that was the only fresh meat
28 we had was moose. We tend to cook and feed our people
29 till our loved one is put away, put to rest. But we do
30 cook every day till that happens and they bring a whole
31 moose over and nobody went there. I wish a lot of people
32 would just go eat, but they didn't. They had no interest.
33 Maybe it was caribou. I suppose we'd had a whole
34 community full, but it was good for us because we've got
35 a lot of in-laws, my nieces, nephews, they're married
36 to (In Native) like him, my brother-in-law and it's good
37 for them. They share, they give us ideas how to cook,
38 you know, instead of -- they put a lot of seasoning, a
39 lot of onions, all that crap. I mean, which I don't do
40 with caribou a lot of times and it was good for them.
41 We -- they shared, they share us what they do, and I'm
42 happy for that. But we don't really catch sheep or eat
43 moose unless there's no caribou. Maybe our old folks
44 came and ate, but I knew a lot of us didn't. Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.
47 Go ahead, Peter.

48
49 MR. WILLIAMS: Anybody else can see that?
50 My buddy said he'd seen one muskox on Tulugak Lake,

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1 around there. It came not too far but, you know, it
2 disappeared. And this guy from (indiscernible) area in
3 two days seen about, what, four muskox around there. So,
4 I don't know if it's chasing the caribous away or what.
5 We don't know, because a lot of people always talk about
6 muskox because they smell. Okay. Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Peter.
9 All right. Up next we'll go with Point Hope.

10
11 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
12 is Leonard Barger from Point Hope. We had a good season
13 this year. Whaling springtime, we got 13 whales, and we
14 could have got 14. We got one whale, we -- they put it
15 on top of the ice, and the crew members and stuff took
16 a picture. And when they're doing that, they start
17 hollering and they start opening up behind them. So,
18 they had to rush to cross before the crack opened up and
19 they lost everything, the whale and the block and tackle
20 and stuff. And so, thank you for North Slope Borough,
21 the, you know, your search and rescue helicopter came a
22 few hours later, but everybody was okay. There was some
23 crews going out that way, and there was another three
24 crews straight out from Point Hope, and we had to cross,
25 and I was one of them. And I felt like an elder, my
26 cousin told me, hey, we gotta go up, let these younger
27 guys go with the snowmachines and sleds and the boat.
28 No, I could help, I could help. So, you know, I have to
29 listen to your elders. My cousin, Jacob, he told me
30 let's go up, let's go to town, go after we cross. And I
31 said, no, no, I'm going to help him, help these guys and
32 I went in to water skip. But, my uncle said, no, no,
33 we'll put you snowmachine in the boat. I said, I've
34 water-skipped before. But, anyways but yeah, it was a
35 good, successful season in Point Hope. Besides the water
36 skip, hauling boats and stuff, everybody made it safely.
37 Everybody was worried, and everybody prayed for us and
38 stuff that day and stuff. But everybody was okay, nobody
39 got hurt. But it was hard to lose that whale, you know,
40 all that hard work and after everybody went on the beach
41 and stuff and like an hour later, it just opened up
42 right on the beach in Point Hope. And so, the last five
43 whales we got, and we use loaders and dozers to put them
44 like we're like, oh, it's like Barrow. It's like pull
45 whaling, easier, way, way easier, you know. Normally we
46 would, you know, be real tired when we're cutting, you
47 know. But, after that, you know, we used the loaders and
48 dozers putting it up. We had all that energy to cut the
49 wheel, and we're cutting the wheel real quick, faster
50 than we normally do. But anyways, good whaling there.

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1 And also, the belugas, we got 63 belugas during
2 springtime total for all the crews that caught.

3
4 So, and also, you know, my nephew just
5 -- I said earlier, my nephew just went hunting. He had
6 to go 131 miles just to catch a caribou and, you know,
7 that's a lot of work and stuff. But I told him, if you
8 go on a long trip, catch a bull. Don't get a small one.
9 Sure enough, you know my sister-in-law called me and
10 told me my son just Snapchat, you know, he had on his
11 phone so, he called his mom. And so, I asked her, where
12 is he? She told me where he was, and I was like, oh,
13 okay. Better take a nap and -- take a quick nap, and I
14 guess you'll be home about 1 or 2:00 in the morning.
15 Sure enough, he was at Point Hope about 2:00 at night
16 and so, my wife wanted to let me sleep, but I told her,
17 no, no, no, I'll stay up and I'll cut the caribou. I
18 like it a certain way, you know. She always leaves a lot
19 of meat on the bone. So, I kind of told her she's fired
20 from cutting animals. So, I'll put it away myself. Put
21 everything in the freezer. So, she said, okay, good. I
22 said, you gotta go work tomorrow. I'll let you sleep,
23 but I'll stay up and my flight was coming in at 9:00 in
24 the morning to come here. So -- but, you know, those
25 kind of things -- but, you know, I -- my nephew just
26 called two yesterday and said, oh, state troopers are
27 in Point Hope giving citations to those hunters that
28 caught caribou because they don't have licenses. And
29 it's hard in a small village to have somebody, you know,
30 some people don't have access to, you know, phone or
31 internet to get these licenses for these people and it
32 hurts, really hurts. Our people are getting citations
33 for, you know, hunting for people. They were hunting for
34 elders.

35
36 And, one time, you know, those elders
37 that passed on before, you know, before they would go -
38 - tell me, hey, go get me a polar bear because they know
39 where I would get a polar bear for 'em [sic]. But they
40 passed on. And some of the elders would tell me, hey,
41 go get me a caribou. I'll say, hey, I gotta wait till I
42 get my license. I gotta get my license first. Never
43 mind, you're going to get -- you know, you're gonna get
44 me the caribou, I'll go to jail for you. I said no,
45 they're just going to give me a citation. I have to pay.
46 Pay a fee, and then probably on my record. No, I'll pay
47 for it. And like no, no, no, it's -- it doesn't work
48 that way. It's the person that shoots the caribou. You
49 know, those (indiscernible), I said it'll take me a day,
50 but thank Carmen, you know, this year I got a -- Carmen

1 gave me back me license this year, and I had to go hunt,
2 but my nephews and stuff, uncle, go get me gas. Go get
3 me gas, you're getting old. I'm still young, I want to
4 go out. I want to go hunt. I got my license and they
5 like no, no, we want to go hunt for you, uncle. Like
6 okay, but those kind of things, you know, it hurts. And
7 you know, those things hurt a lot of people in our way
8 of life, of hunting. But, you know, for berries and
9 stuff and we had a good season. Last year we hardly
10 picked up aqpiks and blueberries and because it was
11 raining, raining, raining. But now this year -- I finally
12 last year showed my sister-in-law my hot spot picking
13 berries. It's about 65 miles out of Point Hope, and
14 nobody don't go there [sic]. And there's, you know, I
15 finally gave up and gave it to her, my aqpik spot. So,
16 she's been going there this year, and she picked about
17 30 gallons from there. So, she's -- I tell her don't
18 tell nobody, don't tell nobody, don't let nobody follow
19 you [sic]. So, there's two spots. So -- and this year
20 I'm slacking.

21
22 This year I haven't picked berries this
23 year and my grandson, he went and picked so, that was
24 fun. I've been busy doing other things, you know, kind
25 of retire from work after I told my wife and I said,
26 man, once I pay up the house, I'm going to retire from
27 working. I've been doing transportation for so long,
28 writing grants and stuff, and I told my wife, I said
29 that once I pay off your house and I'm going to buy a -
30 - payoff that house and buy you a real expensive sewing
31 machine. So, I did that and back in 2020, I bought --
32 you know, paid the house off, and I bought her a \$9,000
33 sewing machine. So, she likes to make parkas and make
34 atkaluit and stuff. So, yeah, I'm doing more hunting
35 nowadays because when I was working at, I would save my
36 time for hunting, whaling time. That's the only time I
37 would take time off work, is whaling time. And one time,
38 I got a grant for Point Hope, transportation, and I'm
39 going to tell you this, it's true. I got a, you know, I
40 got a whale for my captain. It was his first whale, and
41 then I got a call from the -- when Obama was President,
42 his Secretary called asking me, the President want to
43 meet you on want to congratulate you on your tiger grant
44 and the tiger grant was pretty competitive. And I was
45 the only one in the state of Alaska or Point Hope that
46 got that grant. And she called me and said, Obama wants
47 to meet with you and I said what day? And she said, June
48 11th. So, I called, I grabbed my wife's phone. I call
49 my captain, and he was the first -- what we do in Point
50 Hope is whoever catches the first whale, that captain

1 will set the date for the whaling feast. He'll decide
2 the whaling feast to start. So, I called him up. I said,
3 hey, captain, yeah, did you decide when are you going
4 to have the whaling feast? Because June 11th and 12 and
5 13. I said, okay, thank you. So, I hang up. So, I talked
6 to that lady, and I said, hey, I'm sorry, but I can't
7 meet Obama. She said, why? I said, I'm -- my tradition,
8 I've got to be here for my captain. I said -- she goes,
9 oh, this is the President, I don't care. My priorities
10 are my captain. I gotta be there for him on my whaling
11 festival, to help him. So, I said, okay, fine. That's
12 okay. Sorry, but I can't make it. So, I'm going to be
13 here for my captain. I told my captain, he was really
14 upset. Really mad at me. I was like, nope, I gotta be
15 here for you, I caught you the first whale. And he, you
16 know, and Point Hope, whoever catches, you know, a whale
17 -- this captain, he lost two snowmachines, four-wheeler,
18 a lot of guns, a lot of elders -- this is the only place
19 in Point Hope that does that. If you catch your first
20 whale become a whaling captain, an elder will go over
21 there and grab anything from you, could grab your car,
22 your Snowmachine, phone, or anything because you cut
23 your first whale. And my captain moves to Anchorage, and
24 he's been bugging me to be a captain. He said he would
25 give me all this whaling equipment. I said, f-no, I
26 don't want to be a captain. I said, we got these, you
27 know, young, greedy elders nowadays. They went grabbing
28 my wife's car, my snowmachine, my four-wheeler. You
29 know, anything. Back then they used to just get coffee
30 pots, pans and stuff. Back then, but now nowadays they
31 get snowmachine, (indiscernible), and my captain just
32 got done last year, paying off that (indiscernible) six
33 years ago when we caught his first whale. Well, he just
34 got done picking up that (indiscernible) that elder
35 caught.

36
37 So -- but, those kind of things, you
38 know, it's history of Point Hope, you know, that we're
39 pretty traditional and we love -- we like to help our
40 community here in the North Slope. And I'm -- how I get
41 to know these people here in Point Hope. Like Lucy's
42 dad, Jacob. You know, real good friends of him. You
43 know, one year we didn't catch no whales [sic] in Point
44 Hope. And after they got done here, Barrow, their fall
45 whaling, they sent a few of us guys here at Point Hope
46 to catch a whale for Point Hope. So, we came here, and
47 we got a couple whales. First whale -- the first whale,
48 we got you know, we thought we were done. And so, you
49 know Billy and those guys, hey, Point Hope, Point Hope
50 let's go catch another whale. You know, those kinds of

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1 things. That's how I get to know a lot of people here
2 in Barrow, like Billy, and especially Jacob and Henry
3 (indiscernible) and those guys that really helped. Those
4 are the two people that, you know, helped us cut the
5 whales of Point Hope so thanks for Point Hope -- Barrow
6 for, you know, give us this opportunity. You know, that,
7 you know, Point Hope, you know, it's not being taught
8 or talked about. But I still say thanks to Barrow for
9 helping our community, you know, to help one another.
10 And we love to help our community. And like AKP, you
11 know, they're hurting, we like to support them, you know.
12 We back up our people. So, like Nuiqsut, Wainwright,
13 Barrow, AKP, Point Lay, you know, Nuiqsut and all the
14 other places, you know, Atqasuk and, you know, we're all
15 -- we all have to work together as one. We can't just,
16 you know, say I, we gotta say we. There's no I, like
17 it's always in whaling. We have to work together as a
18 team. Not -- I always hear people say, I, I. I don't
19 like to hear that, I, we have to work together as one.
20 We have to fight for our people. But, anyways, you know,
21 I don't want to talk too much, Mr. Chair. So -- but I
22 just want to bring, you know, bring up that, you know,
23 thank you all for coming. Especially, you know, you
24 people and I see the Interior, took off, you know, hoping
25 you would stay here and, you know, listen more. Good to
26 have somebody that was here with, you know, I didn't
27 know he was going to be here, but good to see somebody
28 really that's, you know, listening in. So, thank you Mr.
29 Chair.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Mr.
32 Barger, for Point Hopes' report. Alright. Maybe before
33 we forget, we'll get Martha and Nuiqsut. Go ahead with
34 your report if you're still online.

35
36 (No response)

37
38 Star six, Martha. If you're online. Star
39 six.

40
41 MS. ITTA: Good morning. Can you hear me?

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep. I can hear you.
44 There you are.

45
46 MS. ITTA: Good morning, everyone. Where
47 to start? So, much going on all at once during the fall
48 time. Moose hunting going on, whaling, caribou hunting
49 while they're fat. We're doing good. We had caught our
50 second whale just a few days ago. They finally served

1 late last night so, I apologize if I was late. Stayed
2 up late waiting for them to serve us. But we had --
3 we're having, I guess you can say it's a good whaling
4 season. We had a couple of close calls, our whaling crew
5 is going out to the island. The way we whale is really
6 different and really dangerous. We had a boat almost
7 sink on the way out to the island. So, thank God our
8 whalers are safe and made it out there. Some whaling
9 crews had to return early because of boat problems. There
10 was, yeah, we had one boat almost sink, and they barely
11 made it out trying to make it out to the island. The
12 wind picked up on them out of nowhere, and they hit
13 four-foot seas. Two boats hit each other and ended up
14 with a hole in the boat. But they're safe. We have --
15 we had a couple of losses. So, we have a couple more
16 strikes to go, and we're praying so hard that they can
17 fulfill those two strikes to last us for the rest of the
18 winter and be able to share with our neighbors.

19
20 A couple of hunters -- there's two moose
21 that was caught so far [sic]. The latest one was
22 yesterday. So, they're serving moose in the community.
23 They're being successful with that. A lot of changes to
24 the land. I don't know where to start, but it -- there's
25 so many changes from 30, 40 years ago. You know, the
26 rivers that weren't open for so many years are now open.
27 They're filled with water now. We had to make our own
28 trails on the GPS because our old trails are now filled
29 with nuna, land. A lot of land popping up out of the
30 water. Our rivers are shrinking. Hardly any water
31 nowadays. We had a whaling crew trying to (In Native)
32 and got stuck coming into the Nechelik channel. So, we're
33 spending more time getting stuck getting our boats out
34 of the shallow areas, wasting more gas on that, trying
35 to get out of those shallow areas, having to get search
36 and rescue to help.

37
38 As for our fishing. Our fishing was
39 good. Everybody was able to get a share. Not everybody
40 but, you know, we could share what we got. So, with the
41 land and stuff there's just a lot of changes. Our hunting
42 road that we utilize, the (indiscernible) road. It has
43 a big hole in it. We can't no longer [sic] drive out
44 there. That's where we usually go caribou hunting or go
45 to the river where it's deep and go fishing. A lot of
46 erosion. Stuff are popping out of the ground going into
47 the rivers. A lot of changes that are happening that
48 we're seeing up and down the river.

49
50

1 Our caribou, I hear you guys on the
2 caribou issues, and I know that we are catching caribou.
3 Whenever we -- you know, when they're out in the open.
4 But the migration is changing. They have been changing
5 since these infrastructures are going up and with the
6 Willow Project now going all the way down to where, you
7 know, getting close by Atqasuk and Teshekpuk Lake, the
8 caribou are now following the pipelines on the other
9 side. They usually cross -- after crossing the river at
10 Nechelik, they usually come right through town and then
11 around going toward AKP, but they're not going their
12 usual routes anymore. They're following the pipeline and
13 going all the way down to Willow, and that's where
14 they're not crossing. There's a few that cross, but the
15 ones that do, they're sick. There's some sick caribous
16 that's been getting caught, cut up and buried out there.
17 But they're just going -- they're following the pipeline
18 all the way down and then finally going on the other
19 side. Some are just staying on the other side of the
20 pipeline. So, some of them -- a lot of them are not
21 crossing like they're supposed to be doing on their
22 migration route. We're seeing that. Or -- other than
23 that, there -- they are catching them right now. They're
24 trying to get them while they're fat before the winter
25 season and filling up their freezers for Christmas and
26 Thanksgiving feast. I just wanted to state that, you
27 know, for those that are in the other villages to prepare
28 for changes now that the Willow Project is up and more
29 infrastructures are going up, you guys will start
30 feeling the impacts of your animals, your berries, the
31 land. It's going to change. You guys are gonna deal with
32 the lot and I advise, you know, get involved with these
33 community meetings, your leadership meetings. Voice your
34 concerns to BLM. The legislature, the senators, wherever
35 you can voice your concerns at because the impacts are
36 going to be great and it's going to hurt. It's going to
37 hurt your communities. So, other than that, you know,
38 we're just praying our last two whales are going to get
39 caught and our whalers come home safely. I think that's
40 all I have about for now. Thank you, Mr. Chair, Council.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Martha.
43 I do have a question on muskox. I know I've heard of a
44 few sightings that were numerous. So, how are muskox in
45 your area?

46
47 MS. ITTA: Oh, yes, the muskox. We've had
48 a few muskox, and there was one right in town, right in
49 our, right behind our (In Native) shop, our camp that
50 was there for a while and that one might have went toward

1 Anaktuvuk Pass. So, they could be seeing that one loner
2 muskox that went started walking toward that way. But
3 they're here. We do have muskox in there. I've seen one
4 so far, but I've heard that they're across the river.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Thank you for
7 that. I just wanted to make sure that addition was in
8 there. And as far as caribou migration, maybe we'll start
9 discussing historic migration versus some of the newer
10 GPS collaring to see if it correlates with what you're
11 saying. So, we'll definitely tie some of that into any
12 of the future discussions now that you have that on
13 record. So, we will follow up with that. Thank you.

14
15 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, well, I'm
18 gonna jump back to Leonard, real quick. I forgot to ask
19 how muskox is in your area.

20
21 MR. BARGER: Yes. Yeah, we saw some just
22 last winter, and I think I talked with Carmen, and she
23 said she was going to do some checking in, in Point Hope
24 area, and I, you know, I've been keeping close contact
25 with Carmen and stuff on muskox and stuff. There was a
26 few, but not as much as previous years, so.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
29 Alright. That being said we'll move to Atqasuk. Wanda
30 Kippi. Oh, go ahead, Ernest. Sorry.

31
32 MR. NAGEAK: I had a question about the
33 state trooper. You had mentioned trooper coming around,
34 and I heard there was a, you know -- it's disheartening
35 to see some caribou at the end of the Nuiqsut area and
36 I heard there was some cut -- young ones were left by
37 some (In Native), but obviously that's a state issue
38 with caribou, but they have their own state troopers.
39 We have state trooper office here. I was just curious
40 if that state trooper was like their own plane or if
41 they flew from Kotzebue, because if we have waste issues.
42 I don't think our state trooper here only takes care of
43 inmates going in and out. But that's my question on
44 whether the state trooper flew in on his own with their
45 own personal, I mean, state planes. Thank you.

46
47 MR. BARGER: Yeah. The thing is they put
48 on Facebook and that's how they found out in Kotzebue.
49 They came in from Kotzebue. They flew from Kotzebue, the
50 state troopers, so.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.

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All right. Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk.

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MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Wanda Kippi, for the record, representing Atqasuk. We -- I had an interesting -- it's interesting springtime and freeze up time with amagugs around my camping grounds. One came up to my camp just as we were pulling up from nigliq hunting down the river. We just pulled up to our cabin -- to my cabin, and there was amaguq, just how many? Few yards away. You could barely see it in the light, but you could see the -- you could see it was a gray wolf and as soon as my other son came up, it took off. And my son tried to go see which way it go, it was gone in an instant. And there was the springtime, which was interesting, my youngest son and my two grand grandchildren, they were down by the rocks, and it's not very far from our cabin and they saw a black wolf and the medium sized wolf and the younger wolf, and it was on the other side of the river, on top of the hill. And the -- I think that was the omega wolf, the black one, because it was a big one, he said. And he just stood on top of that hill and just watched him. And the other two were down low on the other side, on the lower part on the same side. And -- or he might have said on a certain part, I don't know what part he actually said, but it was on the same side, I think. And they just watched my grand -- my grandchildren, and my son and my grandkids were so scared. They almost ran and my son said, don't run, they're just going to chase you. And they just stood there with their eyes open and just staring at the wolves. And then they came back to our cabin and told us. And my son was, I've never seen a wolf that big before. Holy cow! He couldn't get over it for days. And, spring -- during that spring he parked his Honda a little ways away from our cabin, up on the ridge almost, where there's a lot of those mounds and tufts. And there was caribou anaq right there, maybe like seven, ten feet away from his Honda where he parked, amaguq poop, and that was just this spring. And they did pretty good, though, with hunting. (In Native), everybody did good with nigliq. And our spring was -- it was different from last year. It's like we had more snow that, it sort of not -- didn't melt fast as it usually did. Not as fast, but it melted, though. But it was sort of a little bit different from I remember then. Our summer was okay. They caught a fish in their nets. Kids were catching sulukpaugaq at the creeks. And during the fall time -- well, from August through September, since I was at camp,

1 there were no caribou around that area for over two
2 weeks. It felt eerie. Not even the birds. There weren't
3 even the birds. Just maybe one raven and a nauyaq or
4 two. And then finally, we found out that there was a big
5 aklaq, a huge one. It looked -- it went - it's paws on
6 top of the cabin and his head looking over the cabin.
7 And there was another -- they saw that the bear prints
8 from it, it was huge and they saw another smaller set
9 of bear print, and it was smaller and it went south. And
10 the other one went sort of like a westerly direction
11 past (In Native). And I think that's what scared all the
12 caribou. And the wolves, too, I think have been scaring
13 the caribou, too, because it they weren't anything for
14 the August I was there and even part of September some
15 days would be eerie and -- because there was no noise
16 and then finally the ptarmigans came and I think I've
17 been seeing rock ptarmigan and my son came to camp after
18 he went to town, he came back and he caught ptarmigan
19 just right on -- right outside our cabin. And I cooked
20 them. But the -- they look like rock ptarmigan, and they
21 taste different. They actually tasted really good, and
22 the meat was soft, softer than our Arctic ptarmigan that
23 we catch up here. And they sounded different, but they
24 stayed around -- I think they're still around my camping
25 grounds. They stayed even right behind my cabin. They
26 were right behind my cabin that they stayed right by a
27 bush hiding from the seagulls and the ravens, I think
28 and that was interesting. What else?

29
30 The caribou finally came, but -- and
31 there was just mostly females, young ones and young bucks
32 that came around most of the end of August and first
33 part of the September. You would see a bull or -- one
34 bull or two, but we hardly saw. I usually watch --
35 growing up, there used to be a whole herd coming from
36 the west all the way back from back there, as far as you
37 could -- our eyes can see nothing but black caribou
38 coming right past the cabins. They don't do that no more
39 [sic]. I wanted to point that out because he had
40 mentioned that, and we don't see that no more. They used
41 to be by the hundreds coming past through our cabin.
42 Even while we're ice fishing, hundreds and hundreds of
43 them would go past our cabin. We don't see that no more.
44 It has changed dramatically since then. I've seen so
45 many changes since I've been going to camp, since I've
46 been living up there in Atqasuk, since we moved after
47 we moved from Utqiaġvik and I think the -- and I think
48 I saw qavvik not too far, just a few bends away from our
49 cabin because it was on top of the ridge and it was
50 going sort of like a southward westward, something that

1 way maybe more southward. And that was not too long ago
2 two like couple of weeks ago, maybe three, maybe a couple
3 of weeks ago. And I think that was one of the reasons,
4 too, that we're not seeing a lot of the caribou around
5 our area. But there were some small herds, real small.
6 I'm not talking about huge. I'm talking about like only
7 8 to 10 to 12, maybe 15, maybe the highest I've seen was
8 20. But they're really scared. They're jumpy, every time
9 they see a person. I mean, they were very jumpy. I think
10 the amaguq, the qavvik, the wolves, I think they got them
11 scared. That's why they're so jumpy, they just take off
12 as soon as they see something and that's what they've
13 been doing since I've been watching them. Even from my
14 window, I watch them. They come like the young -- the
15 females, the young ones and some of the young bucks they
16 come through the -- through our cabin area. But, as soon
17 as they see you come outside, because you're not going
18 to hunt the young ones. I don't hunt the young ones and
19 they just ran off, as soon as they see somebody, they're
20 that scared of probably all the animals that are trying
21 to harvest them. So, I'm worried about our hunting
22 grounds, too, about our caribou. Because we're --
23 they're starting to go farther and farther out to catch
24 caribou and that's been going on for so many years
25 already, I've -- as I've been reporting all these past
26 years and they're just going farther and farther. And
27 our river -- I've been watching our river very closely
28 and compared to last year, it was so, different. It has
29 risen as high, springtime, I've never seen that since
30 way back in the day after we moved there. I never seen
31 the river so high like that before. It was almost to my
32 father's cabin. It went up to the ridge right where our
33 ridge stops at the (In Native), and it goes all the way
34 out around and that's where the creek is and that was
35 flooded completely. I've never seen it like that,
36 springtime. It was -- even my family went out there to
37 go watch it, my nephews and my daughters. My sons, we --
38 -- they all came, and they watched the river rise and
39 we've never seen it like that for a long time. And it
40 slowly -- all of a sudden it went low for a while. It
41 finally went down to the normal after, how many weeks?
42 And then this summer, while I've been there, I've watched
43 the river rise from the rains. But the rain was coming
44 mostly from way up south, way down south. And we'd get
45 the rains, but not as much as it would fill it up, like
46 how high as it's been going and I watch it all this --
47 all that time I was there how high it -- it gets high,
48 gets low, go up, go down, go up, all the way down to the
49 lowest almost. But you still can't cross the river and
50 then it come back up again. Which it did and it went

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1 down a little bit again. But it's still not passable
2 with ATVs but I'm sure the boats can get up there. But
3 anyhow -- and I haven't seen any foxes, only one fox
4 just three weeks ago -- a couple weeks ago and there's
5 -- I don't know what else to report, but muskox. I don't
6 think I -- I heard of them -- seeing them way south. I
7 don't know how many they saw. I heard of them reporting
8 it, I mean, people talking, they seen some way down
9 south, past Topagaruk or around that area, but I never
10 saw it. So -- but it's been pretty eerie. There's those
11 animals that are harvesting the caribou out there,
12 scaring them, too. So, I don't know if -- I guess that's
13 it if anybody has it -- have any questions. Thank you,
14 Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Wanda,
17 for the thorough report and the addition of muskox.
18 Carmen. ADF&G, Carmen Daggett.

19
20 MS. DAGGETT: Oh, I feel so, busted now.
21 Again, my name is Carmen Daggett, for the record with
22 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Wanda interesting
23 observations along with everybody else, as always. I'm
24 kind of curious about your migration comment, migration
25 timing. You mentioned kind of a historical memory of a
26 time period where you remember seeing lots of caribou
27 coming through, and now can you -- do you have an idea
28 of like when, like timing, when it used to be that way
29 and, and when it changed roughly?

30
31 MS. KIPPI: I think it comes about the
32 late -- or the early-2000 or the late -- or the mid-
33 2000. We used to still see him coming, but after that
34 it has changed dramatically. After those years, they --
35 I would see patches of the young ones with a female --
36 with the female, with the young and the young bucks. But
37 we've never seen the herd like that in a long time. Only
38 on the other side of the (In Native) and that's where
39 some of it has changed. They go they go to the other
40 side of the (In Native), because when the river rises,
41 the creek rises, and the ATVs can go across and I think
42 they started coming from the west and started going
43 through there. But I don't know if that's the same herd
44 that usually came through here, but it's not as big as
45 I remember seeing them at one point.

46
47 MS. DAGGETT: Just a quick follow up
48 question to that, do you think -- do you remember the
49 caribou being bigger then like, do you remember seeing
50 larger caribou during that time period, or do you think

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1 that they were like what you're used to seeing now, or
2 -- I'm just sort of curious because the -- the reason
3 why I'm asking is West Artic Herd is often -- those
4 animals can be bigger, bigger bodied, whereas the
5 Teshekpuk Caribou their body size is sometimes smaller.
6 And so, I'm kind of trying to figure out because you
7 kind of get them from both directions, right?

8
9 MS. KIPPI: Yeah. There's some that are
10 big, like you're talking about, but there are some other
11 ones that are smaller and there are reindeer. I can tell
12 the difference between a reindeer and a caribou and
13 there's reindeer up there, too. Not only the herds that
14 you're talking about. There's the reindeers up there
15 too, but they're mixed. Some of them are mixed, which I
16 have seen and (In Native) seeing the differences between
17 that and the mixed from caribou and reindeer mix, I call
18 them carideers or reinbous [sic].

19
20 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Wanda. I just
21 had a few more questions. I've kind of been saving them
22 up for other people too, just a few things here and
23 there, because there were a couple of questions that
24 came up that I didn't come up to answer. So, as far as
25 Ernest, I think you were talking about trooper
26 questions. So, there's two kind of trooper stations that
27 troopers work off of in the region. There's the trooper
28 that gets based out of Coldfoot, and then there's
29 Kotzebue wildlife trooper. So, if you ever need to get
30 a hold of them, like, if you're concerned about wanton
31 waste, you know, if you're concerned about people not
32 bringing all their meat back, they're supposed to bring
33 their meat back before their antlers, and they're
34 required to harvest all of it. So, if you have concerns
35 about that, please report that to troopers. There's
36 troopers in Fairbanks, too, wildlife troopers in
37 Fairbanks. So, I would encourage people to report that
38 when they see it. There was a wanton waste case that was
39 reported a couple weeks ago on the Inaru River here. And
40 so, we had an individual report that, and I talked with
41 them and then work with them to try to report that to
42 the troopers at their request. So, if people don't feel
43 comfortable talking directly to the troopers, I can help
44 facilitate some of that, if people want. I'm happy to
45 do that. And I had one question for Martha. She was
46 talking about caribou walking along the pipeline and
47 following the pipeline, and I was curious if those were
48 big bulls that were following the pipeline or if it was
49 a mixed group, or if that pipeline was part of the older
50 pipeline or if it was newer pipeline. I'm just sort of

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1 curious how the infrastructure is impacting caribou and
2 their movement and if they're kind of segregating them
3 because I think I've heard people mention that before.
4 So, I'd be curious to know a little bit more detail
5 about that.

6
7 MS. ITTA: Okay. I heard part of your
8 question. You kind of got cut off. I was trying to unmute
9 myself, but.....

10
11 MS. DAGGETT: Would you like me to repeat
12 it?

13
14 MS. ITTA: No. It's a mixture of caribou
15 that are out there, mostly females and calves. But there
16 are a few bulls that were out there so, it's a mixture
17 of caribou.

18
19 MS. DAGGETT: Okay, thank you. That is
20 all, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Martha, Wanda,
21 (indiscernible), everybody.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, and the other
24 question she asked was if it was old or new pipeline
25 area. Everything that's over there right now is brand
26 new pipeline and she was talking about the Willow
27 Project. So, those are within the last five years. So,
28 is that correct, Martha?

29
30 MS. ITTA: Yeah. Yes. Ever since all
31 those projects have been going up, it started with CD5,
32 and then now it's all the way down to Willow so, yeah.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you
35 for that. Looks like we're -- we'll move to Wainwright.
36 Jenysa.

37
38 MS. AHMAOGAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Jenysa Ahmaogak, for the record. I'm representing
40 Wainwright. This year our spring was a little different.
41 We only got three bowhead. But leading up to that,
42 shortly after with the walrus, the seals, we had a pretty
43 good summer. I know people were more successful this
44 year than last year when it came to hunting ocean
45 mammals, and I'd say we have a pretty good year for
46 beluga, too. We ended up getting 35 in 1 day, and that
47 was the only day we went out to go harvest beluga and
48 that was -- that gave pretty much each household a big
49 share. I know I had to work on two shares. So, it was a
50 lot of work. I'd say this year was a good year. People

1 had a good summer with the sea mammals, the beluga. I
2 know they were pretty good this year, too, with the
3 summer caribou. Right now, we're starting to get our fat
4 fall caribou, and it's been going pretty good with
5 caribou, too. But majority of the big bulls that I've
6 been hearing are way up on the hills and you gotta walk
7 far to them. But besides that, people are harvesting
8 caribou. I would say for the last week and a half,
9 though, it's almost a guessing game on where they're
10 popping up, but they're around. I know they're around.
11 It's just a matter of figuring out where they are.

12
13 And we're also getting into fishing. We
14 just had our fishing derby in Wainwright. The city of
15 Wainwright hosted a fishing derby for grayling. I don't
16 know who the winner was, and I don't know the
17 measurements of the biggest grayling, but we did have a
18 fishing derby this year. I know people are still sitting
19 out nets, and they're still catching some good-sized
20 fish too in their nets. And I would say this year was
21 pretty good too for the people that get predators. I
22 know my dad got his first wolverine this winter, and I
23 would say it's been a pretty good year for Wainwright.
24 We're also preparing for our fall bowhead hunt since we
25 only got three this spring. It looks like our crews are
26 determined to get the rest of the six that are within
27 our quota for the year. And yeah, I'd say it was a pretty
28 good year for Wainwright. We had definitely a lot better
29 summer, I would say our -- we had it warm. It was warmer
30 this year, last couple years it was pretty cold in
31 Wainwright, but this summer was pretty warm we're we
32 actually did have a few 60-degree days, and majority of
33 the days were at least over 40 so, it was pretty warm
34 compared to the last couple years. Our aqpiq did take a
35 little while to sprout because the rain would -- it
36 would rain for like a week and then get sun shine for a
37 few days and then rain again. But they did -- they did
38 bloom this year. It was a lot better for our berries
39 too. There were abundant blueberries too so, I would say
40 this year's a pretty good year. We'll see how the fall
41 whale hunt goes. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that
44 and I'll ask I guess as well too. How are the muskox
45 sightings in your location this year?

46
47 MS. AHMAOGAK: I haven't heard anybody
48 bring up any muskox. Not that I've heard of. But since
49 they did -- since they did allow some permits to go out,
50 I know there was only, like a couple people that tried

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1 to get permits to get muskox. Not a lot. Just a couple.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.

4 And with that, we'll move on to Ernest with Utqiaġvik.

5

6 MR. NAGEAK: Good afternoon -- morning.
7 Ernest Nageak from Utqiaġvik. This winter, I noticed
8 there wasn't that many young killed the caribou as they
9 were last year. I heard they had pneumonia going on or
10 some sort of -- because, you know, we have the Seawatch
11 Trail and you take a drive up this winter, you know,
12 little ways out of town. And it was a good sign that you
13 see -- because the winter last year we were driving and
14 see yearlings or young caribou curled up like they're
15 froze to death. And also, it was good to hear not many
16 bird die offs of bird flu this year that I heard of from
17 our office. There was a lot of fox attacks in town. This
18 winter, a few people got bit. So, that's been more
19 concern for our Community of Barrow, a lot of foxes in
20 town. But also, worried about the people in Kaktovik
21 that, you know, I know they're not here to report the
22 polar bears. It's going to be a lot more polar bears
23 going around and we just need to make sure that there's
24 polar bear patrols, especially with the whales being
25 caught over there. I'm thankful, but I'm -- my family's
26 from there, and I'm seeing polar bears all over town,
27 and sometimes it's not enough help for patrolling their
28 community. And, you know, I know their state and federal
29 people here and there, they do them, polar bear
30 deterrence and such.

31

32 But there's a -- we had a good whaling
33 season, not as much as Point Hope, but we got a dozen,
34 about 12. And our season opens up again, October 4, for
35 the remainder, 12 or 13. Late snow, we had late snow
36 that was thawed out, too. I was geese hunting first few
37 days of June, the last few years. So, because we've been
38 whaling late and I think we'll be able to go out and get
39 our -- enough geese because that's the only season we
40 hunt geese in our area, because by the time September
41 1, opened fire for birds is there. They're not as good.
42 But, thankful the Barrow, been working with the
43 migratory bird management to extend the 30-day closure
44 of the last few years because we've been having late
45 thaw in the usual bird hunting closure and egg gathering
46 is June 15th, but we've been having late thaw and they're
47 able to extend that to other birds. So, that's been
48 working for migratory bird hunters in the North Slope.
49 And the ice stuck around so, I was able to get our family
50 a oogruk compared to last year, where they didn't get

1 any for my family because ice took off fast. After we
2 got oogruk, we were able to get an aiviq, walrus for
3 those people that don't know animals. So, a handful of
4 people got their walrus and seals and a good amount of
5 seals. And caribou they -- up here, they say, let them
6 pass. But I've always wondered where do we let them
7 pass? I guess they pass the pipeline over there and so
8 that's our area. And I noticed because I observe them
9 too all year and when they go along that pipeline, it's
10 kind of old and in some spots are higher than usual. And
11 those caribou with big antlers, they walk along that
12 pipeline until they look up and down very carefully. And
13 if they could duck under it, they duck under it, or if,
14 you know, they jump over, but when those caribou reached
15 the pipeline over here in Pass, town for people to get
16 in, that's just my observation on that. So, people were
17 able to catch caribou right here, right behind our back
18 door near the road system. So, the caribou didn't migrate
19 all the way here to Barrow, and now that our coast is
20 closed up for the monument, more people are going out
21 every weekend to get caribou now down the coast and
22 gotta get up early now to compete with the people. And
23 people are going up rivers right now. They're getting
24 their fish. Usually the last few years, the -- our
25 river's been high and just gotta find little cooks or
26 whatever streams we call them, with little, little
27 ravines where water is to set net, but people have been
28 getting -- starting to get their fish. We have -- a
29 bunch of people have dried whitefish. With that extended
30 period of ice in the ocean, not much salmon, I noticed.
31 In the north of town, (In Native) we set our net right
32 when the ice retreated from the lagoon. Usually the
33 beginning of the summer, broad whitefish before they hit
34 the rivers and the pinks and -- more pinks than chum.
35 Some years, a lot of pinks. So, a lot of -- a lot of
36 little char, kind of like chars my uncle been fishing
37 and rod and reeling in front of town on the ocean side.
38 Haven't seen people do that in a long time because
39 usually don't get anything. But they've been trying that
40 in front of town, rod and reeling. So, when the ice
41 comes out up north here, the point, we don't -- we
42 haven't been getting those -- much of those little fish
43 that people like to go out October, November when that
44 slush starts forming up.

45
46 (In Native) were by, a lot of -- haven't
47 heard too much concerns about any other wildlife in the
48 Barrow area. I'm sure Brower will fill in on other
49 happenings, and I happen to get a muskox permit last
50 year, and it took a break from my cabin from when I --

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1 it was their first few days of August, but it was too
2 hot. And then, you know, I know there's a -- state allows
3 a few in, the federal allows five a year, and I know
4 it's been going on a few years, but I know Lucy was
5 lucky to get one fulfill her muskox, but maybe
6 recommendations to leave it open for the first five
7 people to come across the muskox because we're
8 opportunistic people, you know, if there's no caribou
9 around and if moose comes up, we'll get a moose or --
10 but, I don't know who got picked this year, but it's,
11 you know, it's good that we're able to -- because they
12 introduced muskox so many years ago, they finally able
13 to hunt them. And I know the government likes to -- that
14 guy that was hunting bison, they're starting to
15 introduce bison to Alaska the last handful of years. If
16 you're, you know -- bring some bison because our Chairman
17 over there wants muskox.

18
19 But, yeah, for the Barrow it's been
20 good, Barrow area. You just gotta, you know, the gas is
21 6.90. I know it's AKP \$9-10. Gotta work it enough to --
22 have enough to go hunt nowadays. So, I know some villages
23 in town are -- the industry people, and they're starting
24 to help people with gas. And I hope other tribal or
25 entities here, you know, to help some of these people
26 in AKP, whether with freight for caribou from Nuiqsut
27 or help monitor the airlines. I know there's, you know,
28 social media now, there's a lot of people going up the
29 Haul Road, all the cars parked over there. I seen
30 somebody videoing caribou crossing the road, and there
31 was somebody running behind them with the bow and arrow
32 trying to get a good, you know, it's -- they're all
33 coming up north because everything's closing for those
34 sports hunters and those federal lands down, down here,
35 up North Slope, Point Lay, Wainwright, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut,
36 they're all broad, and there's nobody (indiscernible)
37 them. People who's coming in. Nobody -- I don't know how
38 to count -- nobody overseeing -- overseeing them,
39 because we're, you know, we're in a part of, really the
40 refuge, the Arctic. There's Arctic wildlife refuge over
41 there. There's all kinds of different -- basically,
42 who's regulating who? We ask for, who's regulating who?
43 They say state, and then we go there. They say feds,
44 they, you know, need get on the same page. So, I guess
45 to combat the duplication and inconsistencies of the
46 state and the feds, and if the Office of Subsistence
47 Management is their own branch, will they butt heads
48 with the Fish and Wildlife Service now or will we, you
49 know. So, many groups, regulators and working groups,
50 every animal basically got their own working group, task

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1 force. There's beluga task force, polar bear task force.
2 Now we got our Board, task forcing the Board people. So,
3 I don't know. That's why I'm -- yeah, that's my report.
4 It's a little bit better than last year because, you
5 know, with the die offs of sick caribou or bird, and the
6 bird flu and the bird flu even made it into polar bears
7 or -- heard the polar bear meeting last month. Good
8 report from the North Slope Borough. And yes, thank you.
9 You could fill in the rest of the Barrow area Board.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Ernest,
12 for your report. I'll cover the muskox portion of Barrow.
13 Alright so, looks like that's it for the Council members'
14 reports. We'll move on to item b of that, the Chair's
15 report, my report. And I'm based out of Utqiaġvik. So,
16 a lot of it, Ernest has covered already. The whaling was
17 pretty good over this last spring. It was decent, not
18 as you know -- it wasn't too high or wasn't too low, but
19 it was kind of a medium for the year or for the norms
20 of Barrow. Sometimes it's upwards of 20 in the spring.
21 But 12 is a good round number for sustainability up
22 here. Kind of on the low end. And it might be good
23 because like Jenyssa was saying, it brings out the
24 (indiscernible) in the fall time. So, now I think more
25 folks are definitely going to be happy to be going fall
26 whaling. Over the next couple weeks, we should be
27 starting a lot of the other locations have already
28 started such as Nuiqsut and Kaktovik have caught
29 already. So, we're up next for Utqiaġvik, and generally
30 we'll get about 20-ish during the fall. So, that's
31 talking future though. Over the past year 12 whales.

32
33 Caribou have been somewhat abundant. Not
34 as much as last year. I think that might attribute to
35 the fact that we're not seeing as many die offs. But we
36 haven't seen as many around town locally, not -- at
37 least not as many as the last few years to where they
38 were walking all over, through town. So, that might be
39 somewhat of a factor in there, but the numbers have
40 still been, you know, above average for the location and
41 the number of sick ones that I've seen or heard about
42 anyways has been down. So, caribou have been pretty good
43 for the location. The geese have been abundant. No real
44 complaints on that end. A lot of people have been kind
45 of on edge about all the news and media and the
46 outspokenness of all this bird flu happenings. But, in
47 reality here we don't see much of it. Lots of snow geese,
48 lots of white fronted geese. I've probably seen more
49 Canadians this year than I have in a while. Crane numbers
50 are really high, up from what they used to be, that's

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1 for sure. We see a lot of cranes, sandhill cranes
2 nowadays. Swan numbers are really high this year. I have
3 seen spectacle and Steller eiders around so, they're --
4 they are, I won't say abundant, but they're definitely
5 here still. So, that that's kind of a good leading factor
6 in their nesting. Even though our -- like they were
7 saying, our springs have been extended this year, it was
8 almost to July to where we had snow and that, that's
9 really saying something. They did push it back, it was
10 at least I want to say it was two weeks further into the
11 year that we've had snow this year. Decent snow. Like
12 you can still go snow machining and camping on snow
13 machines in June which was, you know, a lot different
14 over the last few years than it has been just to point
15 that out. I mean, they're saying it's -- you know, we
16 had an extended spring but, in reality, being able to
17 Snowmachine that late into the season is phenomenal. I
18 mean, it's great, but it really holds off the egg
19 picking. It throws off all our -- I mean, if you extend
20 the 30-day closure that they ask for, that also means
21 we have to wait additional days to start hunting them
22 in the fall -- in summer, which is not good. So, it's
23 good that they allowed us to extend it, but it's also
24 bad that it also cut into our hunts a little further
25 into the year. So, I think there should be some
26 discussion about that and maybe not extending the back
27 end of that. Because then it's just cutting us off.

28
29 MR. NAGEAK: Just to add on that, there's
30 two different closures. So, June 6 or 7 is a closure for
31 seabirds like the king and common eider. So, that's the
32 one that opens up on July 6 or 7. So, people could go
33 to (In Native) the first -- after July 4th. But the
34 closure is mostly for geese. So, people that want to
35 hunt geese in July, they would have to wait till July
36 20. But traditionally a lot of people in Barrow don't
37 hunt geese. Maybe your family does, but that's the
38 closure, 30-day closure. We don't close the king eider
39 because we want people to be able to hunt at (In Native)
40 on after the 4th of July. So, just to clarify, that 30-
41 day closure just for geese and other birds and.....

42
43 (Simultaneous speech)

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah.

46
47 MR. NAGEAK: So, that's just.....

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49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Two different
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MR. NAGEAK:extends the extends the egg picking for people that want to get geese eggs and such.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, so.....

MR. NAGEAK: But if they want to hunt naglaq or brant or other bird, they would have to wait until July 22nd or.....

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah.

MR. NAGEAK: So, just to clarify that.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep. Thank you for that clarification, but it does extend the back-end date of that. So, potentially putting people in and waterfowl, you know federal stuff. So, you're potentially putting people in a bad situation for pushing the dates back. So, there -- I'm -- I would say there should be some kind of modification or variance in that so that we're not shooting ourselves in the foot. And so, it's -- I mean, if you do have to move dates further back then you're putting somebody, you know, legalities at stake if they didn't know that they moved the date. But we haven't run into that issue, but it exists. So, that can be probably modified or should be discussed. Anyways, moving on from that.

Fish has been great, whitefish. I have not heard of any fish mold this year, at least for our location or any other locations for that matter. And over the last ten years or so, we have heard of fish mold existing in whitefish in certain locations. But this year I have not heard any reports or seen any that I've caught that were -- that had any type of the discrepancies there. Salmon has been lower this year, but we have seen some. And, you know, I think a couple possible kings already, which is great. We don't want to see more kings here, but the majority of them are chum and pink salmon up here. We do see an occasional maybe a red in some silvers, but not so, much salmon this year reported or even that I've caught. Normally, I've got a bunch of pinks and chum by now, but the only -- I haven't caught one salmon. We did catch tiktaalik and whitefish, though, or burbot. Sorry, a lot of these -- so, maybe I should back up a little bit. Aklaq, she was talking about, that's a brown bear. Silupaaq that she was talking about catching, that is a grayling.

1 Qavvik, that's a wolverine and amaruq that is a wolf.
2 So, just for clarification, a lot of this stuff that
3 we're talking about, you may not know we're talking about
4 but, and make sure to feel free to speak up if you have
5 questions on them. So, wolf though, it's been a high
6 wolf year for a lot of our locals and actually even some
7 of the other communities in and around Barrow, it's been
8 a amazingly high wolf year. Basically, anybody that went
9 out either caught a wolf or a wolverine. So, predators
10 have been really high this year, which I think is a
11 factor in the caribou moving around. And also, brown
12 bears are kind of on the rise, not substantially, but I
13 went on one moose hunting trip and we ran into 5 in 1
14 day. But it was in specific areas. So, it looks like
15 they're back on the rise as far as brown bears.

16
17 Now, what else have I got to talk about?
18 So, muskox though, we have seen muskox in the area. Some
19 reported around (In Native), others around PQ-13 area.
20 And this is the first year I haven't seen any. Actually,
21 I have seen some this year in -- around the
22 (indiscernible) 13 or Simutuk up area, before breakup.
23 But I did not see any on the moose hunting trip there.
24 They were a lot further north, but moose were abundant.
25 And, what else did we see? I think that's about it,
26 really. Bearded seal hunting was really good. I've seen
27 a couple really large ones that were -- didn't seem to
28 have any issues with them. The fat was really good.
29 Didn't have a lot of the orange-colored ones pop up this
30 year. Walrus has been great. We did see once again
31 sightings of porpoise. So, porpoise, you know, I think
32 for the last close to ten years or so, have been sighted
33 here every summer. Which is great. It might be another
34 source of food here.

35
36 Other than that, it's been a good year
37 for Barrow, and no real complaints on any of the hunting
38 for up here or subsisting. A lot of food put away for
39 the year. We had to actually buy another freezer this
40 year. So, that's a good sign. Oh, that's right. Yeah,
41 we're - we -- killer whales once again have been on the
42 rise up here, and we've got plenty of documentation for
43 that, too. It's something just like everybody else.
44 They're -- they want to go through the Northwest Passage
45 there they want to travel the routes just like everybody
46 else. All right, that's it for the Chairs report. So, I
47 think what we're going to do is move to lunch. Oh, go
48 ahead, Leonard.

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1 MR. BARGER: Yeah. I just wanted to bring
2 up to each village, you know, I was -- I'm trying to
3 encourage -- we got a lot of these young hunters now,
4 and I know some of them don't really know, like, you
5 know, (In Native) or, you know, those kinds of things
6 out there. And when you go hunting, you know, I always
7 try to tell my sister-in-law, you know, try to give her
8 a map, you know, where to go and where, you know, what's
9 that spot? And she was like you know, nowadays, you
10 know, get a map and, you know, in your area and the
11 villages and stuff, teach your younger generation where
12 all these spots are because, you know, once they get
13 stuck, they don't know where, you know, I know you're
14 in search and rescue. You know, it's a good thing to
15 have these younger generations that go out hunting.
16 Teach them where the land is, where all these Native,
17 you know, things, places that have. So, I just want to
18 bring that up. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It's a good
21 recommendation. Thank you, Leonard. Ernest.

22
23 MR. NAGEAK: Quick question. He brought
24 up search and rescue. Has there been any rescues of
25 hunters out there this past year or other than, you
26 know, like game hunters or...?

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Well, I can't speak
29 for the NSB, but there have been reports of out-of-
30 compliance hunters that are -- that did end up needing
31 rescue again, out of the Brooks Range that were not
32 permitted in the area. So, that I can speak on because
33 it's a different -- different but the same. So, they --
34 I mean, there have been hunters that were in need of
35 rescue because their planes could not go and pick them
36 up and they were guided hunts out of Kotzebue, in the
37 Brooks Range on the North Slope, and they were not
38 permitted to be there. So, that, you know, the state and
39 troopers can definitely chime in on those ones. Even if
40 they have state permits, it lists under their permits
41 that they shall abide by all state, federal and local
42 regulations. So, that right there, stipulation puts them
43 out of compliance for their state permit as well. So,
44 just an FYI. Look into that, please. Thank you.

45
46 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you. Because, you
47 know, we people talk, hunters talk around town and thanks
48 for informing the Board of such happenings because, you
49 know, typically we don't really hear about it, but just
50 inside talk. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Ernest.
All right, everybody all in favor of going to lunch, say
aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. NAGEAK: Till what time. 2:00?

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Its 12:20, we'll
come back at 1:30. An hour and ten.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right
everybody, I think we're back. And do we have -- do we
have Martha, online? Just double checking.

MS. ITTA: Good afternoon, yes, I'm here
Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, all right.
We're all back and back on to, item 10. Oh wait -- Oh,
yeah item 10. So, Council member service awards and looks
like Sara Taylor. You have the floor.

MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
would like to recognize three members of the Council for
their service with us and to thank them very much for
your service, to the Council and to all of us. Esther
Hugo has.....

(Applause)

Esther Hugo has -- please -- yes, Esther
has -- Esther has eight years. She's been here since
2016, but that's not all. She's been here before and
she's been on many other Councils. As you may know, the
North Slope Borough Wildlife Committee, the Gates of the
Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission, she's also had
prior service here on the RAC. She spent her life in
Anaktuvuk Pass, I'm sure you all know that. And she has
a deep and abiding knowledge of customary and
traditional activities. When she was appointed to the
RAC, some of her references pointed out that she is
grandmother like, and kind, and giving, and

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1 understanding, and sharing, and she carefully monitors
2 all caribou migration patterns and shares her wisdom
3 with her family and her community. She's a trusted expert
4 and advocate who will always voice her concerns and say
5 exactly what needs to be heard. And she's always looking
6 to work with others, and she's passionate about passing
7 on her traditional knowledge. Thank you so much for
8 sharing that with us.

9

10 MS. HUGO: Oh.....

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12 MS. TAYLOR: I know.

13

14 MS. HUGO: Wow. Look.

15

16 MS. CAHAPA: We need to find a better
17 spot later.

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19 MS. TAYLOR: Okay yes, I we'll take a nice
20 picture. And if I could ask you all to join me again in
21 standing to thank Peter Williams.

22

23 (Applause)

24

25 Mr. Williams also lives in Anaktuvuk
26 Pass, but not originally. He married into the community
27 there and grew up on the Yukon River. He's been a
28 lifelong subsistence harvester who uses his knowledge
29 to obtain food, stay healthy and keep his community
30 strong. He does that and he's quite an accomplished
31 artist I am told, he has shared his knowledge and guided
32 the next generation at summer camps for over 40 years.
33 And he's teaching -- he's taught at -- I had a one of
34 his references, said he's great at teaching kids how to
35 skin geese. So that's a very helpful skill. Thank you.

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37 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh, I (indiscernible).

38

39 MS. TAYLOR: Okay. It's Okay. He has --
40 his other references also said he has an extensive
41 knowledge, he's very passionate about protecting the
42 subsistence way of life. And he has served on other
43 subsistence councils, regional planning commissions,
44 tribal councils, school councils. He has a passion for
45 stepping up to help people and speak out. He's fluent
46 in multiple languages and a great communicator with a
47 lot of wisdom to share. Thank you so much, Mr. Williams,
48 for being with us.

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50 (Simultaneous speech)

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MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

MS. TAYLOR: Yes.

MR. WILLIAMS: Oh! Whoa! Hey.

MS. TAYLOR: Yeah.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

MS. TAYLOR: And I have one more. I'd like you all to virtually stand and virtually thank Martha Itta, who's on the phone. Yay!

(Applause)

And Martha, we're all standing for you. Martha is a lifelong resident of Nuiqsut. She grew up learning her traditional practices from her family and her grandparents. She harvests just about everything. She participates in whaling, seal hunting, caribou hunting, fishing. She is also Inupiaq history, language and cultural specialist at the Nuiqsut Trappers School. She's a very strong voice for subsistence in the National Petroleum Reserve. And she's been a tribal administrator, a vice mayor, a city council member. She's been on the WACH Working Group with Esther. She spent many years on the RAC, over ten I think, at this point. Her references said that she is the -- one of the most professional and inspiring speakers they've ever heard, with an extensive knowledge of her customary and traditional practices. And she works with the state, and the borough, and the federal government to help us care for fish. Martha, thank you so much for your six years of service to the Council.

MS. ITTA: Thank you all so much for that.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. TAYLOR: And, Martha, if you can.....

MS. ITTA: Thank you all so much. Can you guys hear me?

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep, we can hear you.

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MS. ITTA: Okay, all right. It's an honor to represent Nuiqsut and I'm proud to sit in this seat representing Nuiqsut and my people. And I think it's really important that we keep up this Board as long as we can, so that we all know and understand each other's issues within subsistence and fishing. I thank you all so much. It's an honor. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Congratulations, everybody. That was very good. What's up, Peter? Yeah. Go ahead. Peter.

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MR. WILLIAMS: I was going to tell you about geese. When I first went up to the (In Native) -- to (In Native) Lake is Thomas Gordon, and Pat (indiscernible), Raymond, (indiscernible), all others. Anyway, also they're doing fire and I'm plucking geese and they're all looking at me, they said -- they skinned theirs, anyway I was sitting over there, all of a sudden they see me stuck that geese in the fire. What the heck they doing burning that thing? You know, what I was doing -- what I was doing is, I was singeing it and getting a small hair off of it. And later on, I was cooking geese there. All of a sudden a nice, good smoke, like geese. He came over and they ate that geese. They were really happy. They go, wow, man, this guy know what he's doing. And ever since then, you know, they've been doing that, you know I surprised them. And thank you very much and everything. Another time too, they was -- we were fishing. I built a fire, and I move all the wood out of it. I just put a two fish in there. What the heck is fish in there for? I covered it cover it up, later on I said, oh, I totally peel that skin off. Ate the fish head, said, well, you know, it's just natural that's the way we grew up. And I really thank you for the, you know, accomplishments. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Congratulations all for all your years of service. This is a wealth of knowledge we have here, and we are happy to have you. All right. Up next on the agenda, we have item 11, public and tribal comment on non-agenda items. And this is available each morning. This is an opportunity for the public to share their regional concerns, not included in the agenda. Public comments received during the Council meeting are for the Council's consideration and are not shared with the Federal Subsistence Board. So, do we have anybody? Well, looks like we do have -- we've got one in person. Lucy Levitt, you have the floor.

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(Pause)

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MS. LEVITT: Good afternoon, my name is Lucy Levitt, I'm resident of Utqiaġvik, born and raised subsistence lifestyle. Brower kept asking about muskox all around. That's what I'm going to talk about. Ernest kind of touched on it earlier about the muskox permit. So, 2023, I got a federal muskox permit, I was successful in fulfilling that permit last year. I got a state permit, but I wasn't able to fulfill it. This year, I applied for state and federal permits, I was unsuccessful. I know in the federal regulations 26-E, it says the -- it's a federal drop permit and then Kaktovik, it has -- federal registration permit. I know throughout the years I've talked to people, some people, they get permits, they're not successful, in you know, the percentage of not harvesting those, versus like if you came across a muskox, you want to get it, but you can't because you don't have a permit. And just not knowing the number of successful harvested permits, that's a handful, probably maybe less than 50%. I know even one person, they had a permit, there was no way in my perspective that they would even hunt or harvest it. And kind of like the idea that Ernest brought up, and he said it before me, like, set a quota, get your hunting license. If you harvest, report it within, I think when I got my federal permit, it said report within two days. But I was still out at camp, so I wasn't able to do that. I don't know what it would take to change the regulation, if you know, set a quota of like ten. People get their hunting license permit for it, and if they harvest report within two days, it can be tracked as to how many are harvested. And once that quota is met, to stop the hunt. I think -- I work for the local wildlife department and seeing how state regulations are changed, I don't think -- it would be tough to change the state regulations versus the federal. To me, that's the way I see it. And the state has issues only 2 or 3 per unit, and the federal has five at the moment, so.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, I think something of that nature is warranted here. You know, that's my own personal opinion. You're right, it's very hard to go the distance that we have to go, in order to find them, just to find them. And if we do find them, chances are we don't have our permit. You know, we'll find somebody that does or you know, hopefully we'll get it ourselves. But, you know, that's the other thing. And the other thing I haven't been successful with is having

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1 nuisance per muskox permits fulfilled, like I've never
2 had one and I've asked for them, you know and it's --
3 they're always walking around our camp and they're
4 always going up the distance that I go, you know, past
5 13, I think one of them was pretty close to where you
6 guys were. But and -- I mean, just the sheer effort you
7 have to put in to go this distance and to have such a
8 low success rate of trying to get a permit is
9 disheartening. I mean, we've kind of shared the same
10 expressions because some of the hunts that are near
11 Barrow, you know it -- there were opened up permits for
12 different areas. It just didn't make sense for how far
13 they were going to have to travel just to get in the
14 area and where they were handing out these permits. So,
15 it -- you know, the distance just wasn't going to happen.
16 And, and the folks that are accessible to these locations
17 weren't selected. So, it's -- you know, I think there's
18 some growing pains with this. And you know, it is a
19 fairly new hunt, but yeah, I think you're right. I think
20 we should look into a different method, even if that one
21 is not the answer. Something different than what's
22 happening right now needs to be implemented to fulfill
23 these. You know, otherwise, we're just throwing away all
24 this time and effort and -- into, you know what? A 20%
25 success rate out of out of the permits. So yeah, I think
26 these discussions need to be had.

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28 MS. LEVITT: So, just to follow up on
29 that. What is the process or what is needed to change
30 that? I know springtime, Carmen said they the state was
31 doing a population count. I don't know if she has the
32 results yet of the current population in the North Slope
33 region and so forth. I mean it, I guess on these permits
34 you can't -- there's no discrimination. Anybody could
35 apply, anybody could get it. But do they actually hunt,
36 do they actually harvest? And have the opportunity, when
37 the opportunity arises, like you said, it comes to your
38 cabin and you're there and you just have to watch it. I
39 mean it's really good meat and it's a lot of meat. And
40 you know, being a whaling captain, I have to provide for
41 my entire crew, and that's 25 to 30, maybe 40 people.
42 And when you're successful, that's a lot of people to
43 feed for like days on end.

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45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It looks like we
46 have a couple different folks in line here. Go ahead.

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48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin. And I'll
49 just speak for the federal side. I'm guessing Carmen can
50 speak on what can be done on the state side. So, for the

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1 federal muskox hunt in Unit 26A, the Arctic BLM district
2 manager has delegated authority to manage that hunt so
3 they can set the harvest quotas and the number of permits
4 to be issued. So, it sounds like in the past couple of
5 years they've decided to just issue five permits. And
6 right now, it's a draw permit hunt. And so, if you want
7 to change it to a registration permit hunt, that would
8 take a proposal. You would need to submit a proposal to
9 say, we want to change this from a draw permit to a
10 registration permit, or there's a few hunts in the state
11 now that they have the option to just be by federal
12 permit, and the in-season manager can make a decision
13 on an annual basis to be draw permit or a registration
14 permit. And there's, you know, pros and cons to both.
15 But anyway, as far as another option you might want to
16 think about is designated hunters. In Units 23 and 22,
17 you can designate a hunter for muskox. And so that might
18 be a good opportunity here where there's a harvest quota
19 and maybe a limited number of permits. But if you're
20 able to designate someone to hunt and fulfill that permit
21 because you know they're going to be going out somewhere
22 where muskox might be or have that opportunity, then
23 that's another option too. That would take a proposal
24 to be submitted to allow designated hunters for muskox
25 and Unit 26A.

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27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Does that
28 answer any of your questions? Do you have any further
29 questions or comments or...?

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31 MS. LEVITT: I move you submit a
32 proposal. So, I don't know that process. Is it similar
33 to the state, on how proposals are submitted? I know the
34 state process but not the.....

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36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. We'll work on
37 our end. But it would also benefit you to push that
38 proposal through the FGMC with Brian. Would it be Brian?
39 Yeah. Brian Pearson would be a perfect selection for
40 that. So, we'll definitely try to work on it on this end
41 as well though. So that -- at least, that way we can
42 have it within two different wildlife bodies. Carmen.

43
44 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair, this is
45 Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
46 So, just to clarify a few things. First of all, if you
47 wanted to try to change anything on the state side, the
48 one thing that we could think about doing is increasing
49 the number of permits issued. But we would -- we would
50 have to like, think about how many permits really would

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1 be needed in order to ensure a certain number of harvest.
2 And we're looking at a quota total for 26A -- western
3 half of 26A, a of six muskox at the moment between both
4 state and federal permits. So that's the numbers that
5 we're looking at right now. The population hasn't really
6 changed a whole lot. I think, you know, as populations
7 grow, we can think about getting -- increasing the number
8 in the quota. But until the population changes, at the
9 level that we're at, we're trying to still harvest
10 relatively conservatively to ensure that growth is
11 continuing to occur. Now, as far as the nuisance permits
12 go, there were there was a nuisance permit issued for
13 Anaktuvuk Pass. And so, you know, that's a current --
14 that hunt is actually currently open until October, I
15 think the end of October is what we put on there. And
16 nuisance permits take a while to initiate. They have to
17 be approved by the Commissioner in order to get them
18 open, and they often take a week or longer to be able
19 to open them. So, when people want to opportunistically
20 harvest, that's not really an ideal situation because
21 usually they want to harvest it the same day. That's not
22 how those work. So, when we originally opened the hunts
23 in western 26A, the goal was to try to get people who
24 might be interested in harvesting muskox to apply for
25 permits ahead of time and think about it ahead of time.
26 Now, I recognize that muskox are -- muskox are not evenly
27 distributed and difficult to predict exactly where
28 they're going to be. That's just the reality of the
29 species, especially up here. So, we certainly try to
30 make the permits that we have available. We try to make
31 that publicly announced to people, I try to assist on
32 the federal permit side to let people know. I have an
33 email list and mail people letters letting them know
34 when those hunts are -- the application periods are open.
35 The application period for the Tier II hunt is open in
36 November. It opens November 16th and goes through mid
37 December. So, if anybody's interested in applying for
38 the TX-108 or TX-109 hunts in 26A -- western 26A, and
39 then the eastern part of 26A into 26B, west of the Hall
40 Road. We welcome people to apply for those permits. And
41 the federal side there's -- there'll be two permits
42 available this next year, I believe. So, that's where
43 we're at with those. And it is tricky to kind of deal
44 with the system. It sounds like there might be some
45 interesting ideas for how to change it on the federal
46 side. But on the state side, you'd have to go through
47 Board of Game process. Other than, I could consider
48 possibly issuing more permits to try to increase the
49 number of people who might have an opportunity with a
50 permit. But the quota is not going to increase for a while.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we're going to have to predict a nuisance permit far enough in advance to get it. Like...?

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MS. DAGGETT: So, I understand the conundrum there, but the reality is, is that I can't just issue it out of my office. I can't do it in a day. I literally have to go through this huge process going all the way up to the Commissioner. And I know it's not ideal, which is why opening a hunt where people could apply is more favorable, because at least people who are really interested in muskox can apply to get a permit if they want to and not have to wait a week, they -- we would have it in hand ideally, but I recognize they each have their own problems right, I get that.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. No, I -- so, I mean, if it took a week and we had a -- let's say in reality, none of us are going to have more than one week, maybe two weeks of hunting per year. And if we get to our cabin and, you know, it's a long ways [sic] to get there and there's this muskox just squatting there, sitting there the whole time, and nothing's coming around it because it looks like a bear. And I mean, by the time we apply for it and get that nuisance muskox permit, it's a moot point after that. You've already burned your leave out there and you know, you've had to go elsewhere to go get these things. So maybe something or a change in that process to -- I mean, if there is an actual nuisance muskox in the area maybe find a way to expedite that process to where it's, I mean -- and also, I mean, I won't stick to that one too long because it -- we've talked about it before, but the other one is -- I just lost it.

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37

So, with muskox, are we -- yeah. I completely lost it now. One of them was kind of a like a jurisdictional thing, to where some of the applicants for a certain area were maybe 200 miles away from this location and couldn't actively get to the location. But, you know, all the folks that were able to hunt for these locations were on either Atqasuk, Barrow or Wainwright area. But you know, if you're putting them far enough away to where they can't even get to the location or handing them out in different areas, you know, that would be one way to minimize your lost permits or unused permits for the year. So, this one happened to be an AKP, that was handed out a couple of years ago, but it was for the areas that were on the -- I think it was the

50

1 federal one though. So, it was on the western side of
2 the other side or so they handed out that one to there.
3 So, they would have had to wait till wintertime and
4 traveled over 200 miles just to get to the location. So,
5 it didn't make much sense then. So, I'm not sure if that
6 section. I guess that's, you know, you're not federal
7 side. So, yeah, but I guess the nuisance one is more
8 over my -- I mean, we had video of it. He was walking,
9 like, 50ft from our cabin this year, and we're just
10 sitting there like, there it is again, but yeah, yeah,
11 I guess those are my concerns. Anyways, so this was
12 Lucy's portion. Maybe I'll quit getting off into the
13 weeds here.

14
15 MS. LEVITT: Can I say one more? But it's
16 more of a state question than a federal. So, TX-108, TX-
17 109, the boundary is within the Chipp River. I was on,
18 110 miles out from Barrow, on the Chipp River. And that
19 imaginary line, we don't have imaginary lines when I
20 mean, you're on the river, right? And like, Nuiqsut has
21 difficulty, you got to be on one side of the river to
22 hunt. You can't get it on the other side. And I think
23 that was reported a year or two ago. I mean, when you
24 hunt, there's no boundaries that we use, and that's a
25 difficult situation. So, I actually looked at those 108,
26 109 and the boundary. And I'm like, I could be on either
27 side and get a permit for one side but can't hunt it
28 because it's on the other side. That's.....

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, I remember
31 that year, I actually talked with Carmen about this
32 because the exact location where I had for spotted
33 muskox. I mean, I went and spotted some I was sitting
34 there and I took the GPS coordinate and it was sitting
35 between this -- so there was a gap between the state and
36 the federal lines, and it was in there. It's like nobody
37 would be able to, you know, and it was a very small
38 location, too. It was like two miles or something, like.

39
40 MS. LEVITT: Nobody's gonna know.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: But, you know, it's
43 like you get out there and like you said, it's over a
44 hundred miles away from town. That's -- discrepancies.
45 Yeah. Go ahead, Carmen.

46
47 MS. DAGGETT: I know it's frustrating to
48 be out of the landscape. We've actually changed that
49 boundary several times over the last couple of years on
50 the state side of things, trying to make it better for

1 hunters. So initially, the first boundary that the Board
2 of Game put in was 156 west longitude, which is worse
3 than a river because you can't see it on the landscape.
4 So, that's part of the reason why we switched it to the
5 Chipp River, on the suggestion of this rack, to move it
6 to the actual Chipp River and follow the Admiralty Bay
7 down to the Lakutaq River, following the Chipp River
8 down to 155 west longitude is to the southern 26A border
9 is how it reads. So, we switched it to that, thinking
10 that at least there would be a physical boundary., that
11 could divide 26A in half, because the reality is that
12 we have two different muskox populations up here that
13 have very different numbers and very different
14 parameters associated with them. One of them is on the
15 eastern side of 26A, more over by Nuiqsut, and utilizes
16 the Sag River more, which is kind of in the area that
17 Jordan manages in 26B most of the time, but they
18 sometimes come over a little bit to eastern 26A. And
19 then we have another population that's coming up from
20 the south, that originated in Unit 23 and has now grown
21 northward. So, we're trying to find a division within
22 the game management unit, that we can manage both of
23 these herds differently from each other. And that's why
24 the boundary exists, because we have these two different
25 herds at different population levels that we're trying
26 to manage. So, I know it's hard as a hunter on the
27 landscape to deal with the frustration behind all that.
28 We at least address the gap between the boundaries. We
29 close that. So, that's one bit of progress. But as far
30 as trying to address, you know, being on one side of the
31 river or the other I think I -- I don't know what the
32 answer is because we're, we probably want to use a river
33 as the boundary. And that river is one of the longest
34 river sections that cuts 26A in half, which is one of
35 the things that makes it desirable and identifiable to
36 hunters on the landscape. So, there's no mountain ranges
37 that we could use out there that I'm aware of to divide
38 26A into an east, west sort of thing. Might work in
39 Esther's world, maybe a little bit but not so much up
40 here. So, that's the long story about why we are where
41 we are with boundaries right now, so that people
42 understand the realities of trying to manage those herds
43 in an effective way.

44
45 And not everybody -- you were talking
46 about jurisdiction. Not everybody can apply for these
47 permits in the sense that, well, you could apply for it,
48 but you would have, at least on the state side there's
49 the Tier II process asks a series of questions about,
50 you know, where you live, where you get most of your

1 food, how much money you spend on gas, how many people
2 in your household? How much have you used Muskox? All
3 these sorts of things. And it and it gives people a
4 points -- points associated with answering those
5 questions. And the people who have most points rate
6 highest in the ability to draw one of those permits. So,
7 and there's like a -- that's within the state, right.
8 The federal side is just federally qualified subsistence
9 users. So, users that live within the range of where the
10 muskox are. So that's, you know, how someone in Anaktuvuk
11 Pass got a permit for muskox, that are mostly over here.
12 Because they're still within the range of where these
13 muskox might go. And so that's part of it how we define
14 who can actually apply for those permits. So, I'm going
15 to stop talking now.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the
18 clarification. Ernest.

19
20 MR. NAGEAK: Quick question. You
21 mentioned boundaries, and I came to the meeting previous
22 years, throughout the years. And Kaktovik, they weren't
23 able to hunt muskox for many years, and that's where I
24 got my first taste. Growing up, we would get muskox from
25 my family members and Kaktovik. But they weren't able
26 to hunt in that refuge area. But the people across the
27 other border in Canada, they have hunts over there --
28 tier hunts, guided hunts. Are people in Kaktovik able
29 to harvest muskox yet?

30
31 MS. DAGGETT: I'm going to punt to Jordan
32 and let her answer those questions, cause [sic] that's
33 her area and she's here.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So maybe to just to
36 answer your question real quick, we will touch base with
37 Brian over at Wildlife Department and we'll push on our
38 comments that you gave to us. And I think we will also
39 look into some form of modification, suggestion or push
40 for a change or at least an attempt to change the
41 regulation.

42
43 MS. LEVITT: Just a follow up on that.
44 Can you walk me through the process on how the federal
45 regulations are changed?

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Which one are we
48 doing first? Actually, maybe, yeah, we'll do the process
49 first because she was first. And then we'll get to your
50 question, Ernest.

1

2

3 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
4 record. And so federal regulations are changed on --
5 it's a whole year long process where proposals are
6 submitted, usually in like January through March of each
7 year. And then they go through a lot of review, you
8 know, staff write an analysis. Multiple people at
9 different agencies review the analyses, and then they
10 come before the Councils at their fall meetings, and the
11 Councils review the proposals, make a recommendation
12 that then goes to the Federal Subsistence Board. And the
13 Federal Subsistence Board meets in January for fisheries
14 and April for wildlife. And they make the final
15 determination, you know, take the final action on that
16 proposal. And then it's published in the Federal
17 Register becomes codified regulations. And so, we're
18 currently in the middle of a wildlife cycle. And then
19 next year will be the fisheries regulatory cycle. And
20 so, the -- you know, your suggested change for the Unit
21 26A muskox regulations will not be able to be submitted
22 until, I guess, probably February of 2027. And then the
23 Board would act on that in April of 2028. So, it's a
24 pretty long process. And just the timing of, you know,
25 where you're at in the cycle that since we're currently
26 in the middle of a wildlife cycle, you're not going to
27 -- we're not going to accept new proposals to change
28 regulations until like a year and a half from now. But
29 I did make a note of this. And, you know, I have a
30 running list that's already quite long for a few
31 proposals for next cycle. So, this is on the list. So,
32 I guess that your all's winter 2027 meeting, you know,
33 will bring this back to the Council and say, hey,
34 remember these public comments to address the 26A muskox
35 hunt, you know, do you want to submit a proposal at that
36 time?

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, like the
call for proposal stuff will be a little later than we
hoped, but I would suggest, though, that maybe some
really heavy documentation on success rates for that
hunt up until then. So, maybe we'll at least have a
chance to document it pretty well until that proposal
gets pushed through and, you know, at that point it'll
tell us if they're doing well or not with the draw system
and the method being used.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair, Lisa
Grediagin, again. I guess something that could be done
now, more immediately is to contact the Arctic District
be -- the BLM Arctic district manager who has authority

1 to manage the hunt. And so, there's some things that are
2 outside the scope of their authority, like changing it
3 from a draw hunt to a registration permit hunt, but they
4 currently have authority to set the harvest quota and
5 the number of permits issued. And so, I'm -- my
6 understanding right now is they just issue five permits.
7 And that's the same as the quota, so you don't have to
8 really worry about reporting. But you could talk to them
9 and say, hey, our preference would be to issue a lot
10 more permits, and then people just have a reporting
11 requirement where they have to report within a few days
12 so we don't go over the quota because as Carmen
13 mentioned, you know, we kind of have to maintain a quota
14 on this population right now. So, that could be something
15 if you really just want more permits available, but then
16 a stricter reporting requirement that you could follow-
17 up with the BLM Arctic district manager.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That's a good
20 suggestion or even just a quota without even giving the
21 -- well, I guess you'd have to change that through the
22 -- but to have the number of the quota, you know, with
23 a designated individual or, you know, U.S. Fish and
24 Wildlife person up here. And you know, if one gets
25 located, they make that communication within a certain
26 time frame and allow that you know, one at a time, might
27 be the best way. Because these things are not next door.
28 They're a very long ways away. And if it was like the
29 whaling system that we had to where, you know, we don't
30 hand permits to whalers, we just have a set number. And
31 once we hit that number, we stop, everybody stops. So,
32 we do have a very -- I mean, we've used that system
33 since before I was born. We're used to it. It's very
34 effective. And, you know, we use it for a lot higher
35 numbers. And, you know, once the cease fire is called
36 effectively, that'd be pretty neat to have a cease fire
37 for muskox. And, you know, that might be -- I mean, it's
38 a system that we already use, every single one of us
39 here knows how to use it. And it's what we have and what
40 we don't have is -- you know, draw hunts are almost
41 foreign to us up here. They might be normal everywhere
42 else, but we don't -- none of us use that up here. This
43 is, you know, this is news to us. So maybe that method
44 might be a good suggestion. Because it's something that
45 we follow. It's something we're used to. And the current
46 system's not working. Thanks.

47
48 MS. GREDIAGIN: And through the Chair,
49 if I may, just quickly, since I'm up here in response
50 to the -- on the federal side for a muskox hunt and Unit

00077

1 26C by Kaktovik, there is a federal hunt that's open.
2 The federal public lands, which is most of 26C. You
3 know, most of it's the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
4 So, federal public lands in Unit 26C are closed to non-
5 fully qualified users. So that kind of precludes a state
6 hunt in the area. And that's actually a closure review,
7 that will be -- you guys will be considering and making
8 a recommendation on later on in this meeting. Thanks.

9

10 MS. LEVITT: Can I just follow up on
11 that?

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. Go ahead.

14

15 MS. LEVITT: It sounds like it's going
16 to be a while for change to be made, but you know, with
17 the time that we have, I know this Board recommended a
18 population count. You mentioned that last year. Carmen
19 said they did one springtime, you know, gather -- do the
20 state and federal work together on their statistics and
21 you know, gathering actually how many permits issued,
22 how many harvested. And maybe at that time, maybe get a
23 increase in permits. I think I'm done. Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
26 And Carmen, did we have any -- I didn't hear anything
27 about the end result. I know it didn't sound too
28 promising at one point, but how is the methodology going
29 on that or is that something later in the agenda that
30 we can share?

31

32 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair. This is
33 Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
34 I do plan on talking about it in my report. But there
35 was a minimum count of -- or 572 muskox in the survey
36 this spring. The last minimum count in 2020 was 620
37 muskox. So, it's gone down a little bit. But there will
38 be more information to come, in details on that. But I
39 would not say that that population has gone up from what
40 I can tell.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. But the
43 methodology has changed on that. Is that correct?

44

45 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. So, we changed how
46 we did our surveys and tried to adapt. And I don't want
47 to get too much into the weeds with this right now. So
48 how about I talk about it more during my update, and not
49 get caught in the weeds right now?

50

00078

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. I just
2 wanted to make sure everybody knew the method has
3 changed. And there's -- there are reasons behind this.
4 Thank you.

5
6 MS. DAGGETT: Yep.

7
8 MS. PRUSZENSKI: And through the Chair.
9 My name is Jordan Pruszenski. I'm the assistant area
10 biologist for Unit 26B and C. And so, we do just answer
11 the question of state hunts for available for Kaktovik.
12 In 26B, we do do a minimum count. And as of 2024, we had
13 a minimum count of 320 muskox which is above our
14 regulation minimum of having at least 300 muskox to open
15 that hunt so that for the past two years we've been
16 giving out the opportunity for registration hunt. And
17 in those we give out for registration permits and we go
18 and give two in Kaktovik and two in Nuiqsut. And so,
19 this last season for 2024, all four permits were
20 fulfilled for bulls being harvested. And I would love
21 to get any feedback on how we can better make sure that
22 we're announcing to the communities when we come and
23 give those, because that's just been the two years that
24 I've been up there. That's been definitely a bit of a
25 challenge of just making sure that people knew when we
26 were coming. And I want to make sure that we're doing
27 our best to get the word out there. And then there's
28 also two -- and then there's also a draw, as -- a draw
29 permit as well. Which allows for four bulls to be
30 harvested as well. We are going to be doing another
31 minimum count this spring. And so, this population,
32 since it is so close to that 300 muskox requirement,
33 that is something that we are looking at. So, we just
34 do want to make sure that people are aware that we're
35 pretty close. We're hoping that it is still above that.
36 But we'll let you know once we get our minimum count
37 this spring. So, thank you.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
40 Did that answer your questions?

41
42 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. But these muskox were
43 introduced to the North Slope. If there's not enough,
44 bring some more from Nome or something, you know. But
45 I'm glad they're able to hunt over there. But it's just
46 curious. Hopefully those are for locals and not from
47 people from way down south Lower 48. And these hunts
48 should be for the people that are living up here and be
49 only for the permit applications for people on the ground
50 and living in these areas. And I hope Anaktuvuk Pass has

00079

1 all the draws and open huts where they, you know, if
2 another muskox come, they could easily try to harvest
3 that to accommodate their shortage of meat if the caribou
4 don't make it. Because, you know, we're able to -- if
5 we don't get enough caribou, we could go to the ocean,
6 but they don't have no ocean and all they depend on is
7 caribou. But if the muskox comes around, they should be
8 able to get it, and even a moose. I'm glad they got a
9 few moose to get them by, but I just think about my
10 (indiscernible) in the Brooks Range that don't have
11 other food resources. But if other resources show up in
12 their area, they should have a number to call any time
13 and ask for a hunt, because I know they have special
14 hunts in other areas that have closures of moose or
15 other animals, but they -- for ceremonial or potlatches
16 or funerals, they allow a special hunt. So, thank you.
17 I'm glad that, you know, I heard from my elders that,
18 you know, a lot of these muskox or even reindeer, they
19 were all brought up here to accommodate the food shortage
20 but, thank you.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

25

26 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I just want to make
27 this short. Anyway, back in the early 90s, there were
28 about five of them around there for a long time. And
29 Johnny Roland went up there and tried to chase them
30 away. Shoot at -- shoot out above them and stuff. They
31 didn't, but they scratch and they're ready to attack. I
32 just want to tell you that you know, a couple people try
33 to get somebody, you know, and that deadline of season
34 so, you know, we gotta [sic] watch where we're at. Thank
35 you.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
38 All right. Is there anybody else online or anything that
39 has any public comment? We don't have any other forms
40 filled out for in person. So, if -- is there anybody
41 online that has any public comments?

42

43 (No response)

44

45 Hearing none. I'll double check in the
46 room again if there's any other further public comment.
47 Public and tribal comment, non-agenda items.

48

49 MR. NAGEAK: Just public comment for
50 those -- the herd that's trying to go to AKP, if anybody

00080

1 from the state or the feds could keep track or to Borough
2 to make sure they're not disturbing the migration
3 routes, because a lot of times they try to go to Umiak
4 and block the migration. But, I know that they had
5 proposals to these no fly, I don't know, just different
6 issue. I know where federal but state they're all
7 intertwined one way or another. Who runs what. So, thank
8 you.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that,
11 Ernest. All right. Hearing no other public comments,
12 we'll move on to the next agenda item. And that is
13 Council Training. Looks like Gisela has the floor.
14

15 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
16 is Gisela Chapa, for the record, and I'm going to try
17 to share a PowerPoint presentation. I am really going
18 to try to be brief with the presentations because of
19 time and if there's any questions, of course, feel free
20 to ask them, but I just wanted to share that. Okay. I'm
21 going to try to share my screen. So, give me a minute.
22

23 (Pause)
24

25 Okay. Nope, that didn't work. Give me a
26 second. I'm staring at the screen back there, but now
27 you can't see it back there, so I need to see if I can
28 move this. Nope. Okay. Well, I'm just going to direct
29 everybody to the back of the room so that you can see.
30

31 (Out of record conversation)
32

33 MS. CHAPA: Yes. There we go. Okay so,
34 the first training is going to be the Regional Advisory
35 Council duties and Council member responsibilities. And
36 again, I'm going to try to be brief about
37 responsibilities of the Council and the Council members.
38 This is meant to be an overview. But again, feel free
39 if you have questions, let me know. So, you have been
40 appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the
41 concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture. And first
42 and foremost, because this is kind of like a volunteer
43 job for you, we want to thank you for your interest and
44 for actually serving on the Council. Some of this
45 information is going to get a little bit technical. But
46 I think it's intended to give you like, an overview of
47 why we do some of the things that we do. And here comes
48 the technical part. Regional advisory Councils were
49 established under the mandates of Title VII of ANILCA,
50 and the Council's primary role is to be advisors to the

00081

1 Federal Subsistence Board on matters that are related
2 to the management of subsistence resources on federal
3 lands and waters in your region. And the Council plays
4 a very vital role and it's a vital link between users
5 and the Federal Subsistence Management Program. Another
6 technical tidbit. Since the Councils are an advisory
7 body, they're chartered under the Federal Advisory
8 Committee Act, or FACA. And you mentioned -- you heard
9 Katia earlier chime in and giving us the details of how
10 many people could serve on a working group. These are
11 some of the fine print dictated by FACA. And this act
12 is meant to promote transparency and accountability of
13 advisory bodies to minimize the influence of special
14 interest. I am your designated federal officer, and as
15 such, I am one of your FACA experts. Katya Wessels, my
16 supervisor is the other FACA expert. And so, we are the
17 ones that -- there's a reason why we do the things we
18 do and ask for Council Chairs to review the draft meeting
19 minutes for their certification because they get
20 approved. So, there's the stuff that we know, that we
21 need to follow through FACA. And that's why we do some
22 of the things that we do, when I reach out to y'all
23 [sic]. Each Council must have an active charter to meet
24 and take action. In fact, it mandates that your charter
25 be renewed every two years. On page 187 of your meeting
26 materials, you -- I -- we normally include a sheet of
27 paper with the expectations and the duties of advisory
28 committees and their members. So, we include it in there
29 for your reference. And in this meeting book, it's on
30 page 187. And, FACA is also the reason why we hold
31 elections for officers every year. And yeah, every year.
32 FACA also requires a diverse representation of interest
33 and points of view on each advisory committee.

34
35 Oh, and before I move on, all Council
36 meetings are open to the public and therefore, like all
37 of the Council documents are part of the public record
38 and they're available for public viewing. So, because
39 public meetings are -- sorry, because our meetings are
40 public, they are announced and published in advance on
41 the Federal Register. Okay, Council duties. The Council
42 as a whole has a number of duties, and you will see that
43 every year the Councils provide recommendations to the
44 Board on regulatory wildlife or fish proposals,
45 enclosures under consideration. So, this meeting we're
46 going to be going over wildlife proposals and closure
47 reviews. And give you recommendations to the Board. Most
48 often the Board gives deference to the Council
49 recommendations because the users in the region possess
50 the greatest knowledge of the resource, the conditions,

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1 and the user's needs. Something else that we'll see later
2 in our agenda is the section -- the 805(c) report. And
3 so, the Board may not choose to follow a Council
4 recommendations on the take of fish. And there's very
5 specific reasons for that. And discussed later in the
6 agenda on the 805(c) report.

7
8 Okay. The Councils can also provide
9 recommendations to the Board on special action requests,
10 policies and management plans, monitoring plans,
11 customary and traditional use determinations,
12 determinations of rural status prioritization and
13 subsistence user groups. Okay. Councils can submit an
14 annual report. Again, something that is later in our
15 agenda. And in this annual report, we use it to express
16 the regional subsistence needs or recommendations on the
17 management of subsistence resources to the Board. And
18 your Council meetings also provide an opportunity for
19 the public to share information that is related to
20 subsistence and public participation is encouraged. In
21 our -- for Council in our region -- this Council also
22 appoints members to the National Park Service
23 Subsistence Resource Commissions. And the Councils,
24 since you have the best knowledge of resources and uses
25 in the region, you can also develop regulatory proposals
26 to the Board on the take of fish and wildlife on federal
27 lands and or establish customary and traditional use
28 determinations for subsistence resources on federal
29 lands in your region. Again, something that we also
30 talked about earlier during the public comment on non-
31 agenda items. Okay, Council member responsibilities.
32 Well, when you applied, you stated that you were willing
33 to attend and participate in Council meetings, and you
34 are here, and we hold our meetings twice a year. We also
35 expect your participation and exchange of views on
36 perspectives because it ensures that the representation
37 of the regional interests during the Council discussions
38 are included in your individual knowledge is
39 instrumental in providing robust recommendation and
40 justification on the Council's position. Also vital is
41 the exchange of information with members of your
42 community. So, part of your role is to kind of be that
43 liaison that shares information from the Council to your
44 communities and other regional contacts, and by also
45 bringing that local input into your Councils
46 discussions. And this open and constant dialogue allows
47 that -- that this Federal Subsistence Management Program
48 be successful in meeting the needs of subsistence users.

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00083

1 Let's see. Okay. As I mentioned earlier
2 I am your designated federal officer, and I can answer
3 any more questions on FACA. But if you have any
4 information, request you have to route those requests
5 through me. And then when you participate in other
6 meetings, such as Board of Fish or Board of Game, you
7 should represent the views of the Council. If the Council
8 has appointed you to participate in those meetings as a
9 representative on the Council so, you refrain from
10 sharing your personal views. Rather you share the
11 position of the Council's recommendations. Okay. At
12 meetings, you're representing the Federal Subsistence
13 Management Program. And again, your -- you hold your
14 seat because you've been appointed by the Secretary of
15 the Interior. So, we expect high standards of conduct
16 and integrity. And even when a topic of discussion is
17 of concern, for you and your community, we ask that
18 everybody remain respectful and courteous.

19
20 And lastly, since all Council members
21 are expected to comply with the ethical standards and
22 are required to recuse themselves in the event of a
23 conflict of interest. Okay, being the Council Chair
24 bears additional responsibilities. And it's a position
25 of great trust and responsibility. And I'm looking at
26 you, Brower. And I know that you spend countless hours
27 performing other duties outside of regular Council
28 meetings because there's all of these additional
29 requirements that you have to -- that we have to meet
30 because of FACA. But our Council Chairs work with the
31 coordinators to develop the meeting agendas. The Council
32 Chairs are also knowledgeable about Robert's Rules of
33 Order and run the meetings in accordance to those. The
34 Council makes sure that everybody who wants to speak has
35 an opportunity to do so and facilitate the discussion
36 to make sure that we are taking the appropriate actions,
37 as a result of these discussions. Council Chairs -- this
38 happens behind the scenes, but Council Chairs review and
39 certify the Council meeting minutes. So, after our
40 meeting is concluded, I'm going to draft the first
41 version of Council minutes. Then I send them to Brower
42 for his okay. And that has to be done within a certain
43 time requirement because of FACA. And then that version
44 that is certified by the Chair, is brought back to our
45 Council meetings for you all to review and approve and
46 finalize those. And Council Chairs also play the crucial
47 role of being advisors to the Board, during their Board
48 meetings and represent the Council's interest at those
49 meetings. Also, they share the Council's positions on
50 the recommendations that the Board is about to review.

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1 Okay. And this was a very speedy way to try to give you
2 all an overview of your Council's role and your
3 responsibilities as Council members, and I'd be happy
4 to answer any questions if there's any.

5

6

(Pause)

7

8

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
11 you, Gigi. Good, good information. I'd like to propose
12 or request for, you know, our pay increase on the per
13 diem rate. That would be nice. Like, you know, a lot of
14 us here, you -- like you said, we volunteer. But it's
15 pretty expensive to come, you know, to here and stuff.
16 And you know, like for me instance [sic], you know, I
17 got stuck in Kotzebue for five days and, you know, like
18 you said, I have to wait until I reach at home to get
19 my, you know, voucher and stuff. So, it's kind of hard,
20 you know. Lucky thing I had some friends and stuff. I
21 go eat some soul food, you know, native food and stuff
22 there. So. But yeah, that's my.....

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Leonard.
Yeah. You always need money to go to Empress. Empress
is the (indiscernible) of Kotzebue. All right so, on to
the -- on to the next item. We have action items, and
it says Chair. Oh, wait. Oh, how to make, amend and
rescind a motion. Some reason I thought we were through
all of these. Okay, Gisela, you have the floor again.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you. And I'm going to
reference page 17 of your meeting materials. For Council
members, I gave you a handout to follow as well. But I
think the Council is pretty familiar with the motion --
the process of a motion or the steps of a motion. This
-- I'm going to jump to step 3. And again, I'm referring
to page 17 of the meeting materials. Let me see if I can
share my screen before I keep going.

41

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(Pause)

That's not the one. Yeah, yeah yeah. I'm
coming.

MR. NAGEAK: Make a motion to talk about
motioning.

MS. CHAPA: Okay.

1 (Simultaneous speech)

2
3 MS. CHAPA: There you go. Here, here you
4 have your handout. Okay. So first we have a Council
5 member that proposes the motion and we have a second.
6 Then the Chair restates the motion, and the motion to
7 the Council back for debate. Again, this is on page 17
8 of the meeting materials. And it's the usual process of
9 a motion. On page 18, which is in the back of your
10 handout, you have how to amend a motion. And Council
11 members also have a little flowchart for reference that
12 can hopefully by visualizing it and become easier to
13 follow along. So, during the Council's discussion of a
14 motion that is already in progress, the Council may
15 choose to amend or modify the motion. So, a Council
16 member can propose a motion to amend the main motion.
17 And another -- it also needs a second from another
18 Council member to continue into the amendment. The Chair
19 states the motion. And then the Council enters into the
20 discussion. The discussion of -- that the Council will
21 enter will be around the amendment. The Chair puts the
22 motion to amend to a vote, and if the motion to amend
23 passes, then the Chair puts the main motion, as amended,
24 to a vote. If the motion to amend fails, we go back to
25 the discussion of the original motion and we go through
26 this whole process again. Again, I'm using -- sharing a
27 little flowchart in here for reference. And so, as the
28 Council is discussing a motion, if there is a need to
29 amend, then we have to enter into a motion to amend that
30 also requires a second and that also requires
31 discussion. Clear as mud?

32
33 Okay. Okay. I am now -- if it's okay
34 with you, Mr. Chair, I'm gonna move to the proposal and
35 closure review procedure.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep. Item c.

38
39 MS. CHAPA: Okay, I'm going to stop
40 sharing this. Okay, this is also information that can
41 be found on page 19 of your books. This is basically the
42 flow of the discussion or the presentation procedures
43 that will allow the Council to obtain all the information
44 gathered up to a point of a proposal or a closure review.
45 So, if you look at steps one through five in your meeting
46 materials, I think that is page 20. 19, page 19. Okay.
47 Our staff will come and present the information to the
48 Council in state -- in steps one through five. Then
49 during step six, the Council will hear additional
50 testimony from the public on the subject. And at that

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1 point, the Council can go ahead and entertain a motion.
2 On page 20 -- yes, exactly. On page 20 of your meeting
3 materials there -- there's a list of questions we --
4 that are used for reference for the Council. And the
5 Council can use them to guide the discussion on the
6 different types of proposals that they are providing
7 recommendations on. And again, these are guidelines that
8 Councils can follow, other additional factors that
9 they'd want to bring into the discussion. And I also
10 wanted to point out that you have little (indiscernible)
11 cards right here with options for proposal motions, just
12 based -- sorry, options for motions just based on
13 proposals and for closure reviews as well. So, hopefully
14 that can give you another little guideline on what
15 motions to make for each of the action items that you're
16 going to be reviewing. And that is the end of my
17 training.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Gisela.
20 Any questions?

21
22 MR. NAGEAK: I make a motion to approve.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All these motions.
25 We're going to have to rescind them all. All right, so
26 -- all right. So, we're done with item 12 Council
27 training. And now item 13 action items through the Chair.
28 Item a, developing recommendations on wildlife proposals
29 and wildlife closures. The Council will develop their
30 recommendation on wildlife proposals and wildlife
31 closures. Statewide proposals, Tom Plank. Is that next?
32 You have the floor.

33
34 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
35 Council members. My name is Tom Plank and I'm a wildlife
36 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. And
37 I will be presenting a summary of wildlife proposal WP26-
38 01, regarding Delegation of Authority letters statewide,
39 and this can be found on page 21 of your books. This
40 proposal is from the Office of Subsistence Management,
41 and it seeks to move authority for managing federal hunt
42 -- hunts out of delegation of authority letters and into
43 unit specific regulations. And, if adopted, the 61
44 delegation authority letters currently in use across
45 Alaska would be rescinded. Now, an example of one of
46 these delegation authorities is already in your book for
47 another proposal that we'll see later on. And that's
48 going to be on page 55 in your supplemental books. And
49 feel free to take a look at that if you have questions
50 on -- this is basically what our delegation authority

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1 letters look like. And then we'll get more into the
2 discussion on this one.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 All right. It looks like most of y'all
7 are there. So, the delegation of authority letters were
8 originally meant to provide management flexibility, but
9 over time they have created inefficiencies. Any action
10 taken under delegation of authority letter counts as a
11 special action which triggers requirements for public
12 hearings, tribal consultations, and Regional Advisory
13 Council recommendations. These processes are important
14 for unusual or emergency situations, but they add
15 unnecessary burdens when applied to routine in-season
16 management actions like closing a hunt when a quota is
17 met. As a result, federal in-season managers and OSM
18 staff spend several -- spend significant time on
19 procedural requirements for decisions that are already
20 expected every year. High staff turnover also makes
21 consistency difficult, and on top of that, OSM must
22 maintain 61 delegation of authority letters, some of
23 which overlap conflict or contain outdated guidance. By
24 moving these authorities into regulations, in-season
25 management actions would no longer trigger the special
26 action process. Approximately four pages of boilerplate
27 Delegation of Authority Letter requirements would be
28 replaced with one clear paragraph in regulations in your
29 books. Public transparency improves since changes to
30 delegation authority would go through the standard
31 regulatory proposal process. And oversight becomes
32 simpler, with clearer responsibilities and reduced
33 administrative workload. And importantly, the Board
34 retains authority over emergency closures and broader
35 decisions but, in-season managers would be able to still
36 act quickly within the parameters set by the Board. This
37 proposal is not expected to affect wildlife populations
38 or subsistence opportunities, is primarily
39 administrative, streamlining how reoccurring decisions
40 are made. It increases efficiency, strengthens
41 coordination with the state and local users, and makes
42 the process more transparent for the public. Now, one
43 alternative to consider is replacing the phrase
44 coordination with, in regulation, with seeking input,
45 and considering feedback from. This clarifies the
46 expectations for in-season managers to communicate their
47 actions and consider feedback when adding -- without
48 adding the confusion that has developed around the word
49 coordinate. OSM preliminary conclusion is to adopt WP26-
50 01 with modification to replace coordination with, and

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1 -- with seeking input and considering feedback from, and
2 to modify WP-6-01A and WP26-01B with region specific
3 regulations. Adopting these changes would reduce
4 administrative burden, resolve inconsistencies, and
5 improve efficiency while maintaining transparency and
6 accountability in Federal Subsistence management. Thank
7 you and y'all have any questions, I'll be happy to help.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
10 Looks like well, we'll move on to item 2 of that report
11 on Board consultation, tribes, ANCSA corporations.

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
16 record. We held consultations on all the wildlife
17 proposals in August, and there was only one comment on
18 26-01 and that was from the Ahtna Intertribal Resources
19 Commission, and they expressed they supported this
20 proposal.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: With the
23 modification or just supported in general?

24
25 MS. GREDIAGIN: At that time. Yeah, just
26 supported in general because these consultations were
27 on the proposals that submitted. So, they weren't even
28 aware of the modification during that consultation.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Thank you.
31 Agency comments, ADF&G.

32
33 MR. NAGEAK: Are we going to have action
34 or later?

35
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Well, that's after
37 we go through the list here.

38
39 MR. PEOTTER: Mr. Chair. This is Aaron
40 Peotter, for the record. No comments on this proposal
41 at this time. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
44 Federal agencies?

45
46 (No response)

47
48 So, no federal agency comments? Going
49 once.

50

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1 (No response)

2

3 All right. Hearing none. Tribal
4 entities, native, tribal village or other?

5

6 (No response)

7

8 All right. Were there any advisory group
9 comments? Other acts? Fish and Game Advisory Committee,
10 Subsistence Resource Commissions?

11

12 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, this is the first
13 Regional Advisory Council meeting of the fall cycle.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Summary
16 of written public comments.

17

18 MR. PLANK: Tom Plank, OSM. There was one
19 written comment in the and it was for in support.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Were there any
22 public testimonies?

23

24 (No response)

25

26 All right. Item 7, Regional Council
27 recommendation. Sounds like as stated, there was a OSM
28 preliminary -- you know, their recommendation was
29 support with the modification. What is the wish of the
30 Council?

31

32 MR. NAGEAK: Motion to support. Sounds
33 like they're overwhelmed. And if they could defer their
34 like, around here, they could defer their regulations
35 to the Borough or because, you know, so many times they
36 say there's not enough stuff of these. Are we still on
37 move authority delegation? Yeah. So, because if they're
38 too busy to -- they could delegate authority to like the
39 Borough if there's issues with polar bears or caribou.
40 And like with the 30-day closure, we talked with the
41 Borough and then, you know, defer recommendations on --
42 if they should extend the closure period. I'm just trying
43 to show examples on, you know, because it's good to have
44 a say on the people that's in the designated area,
45 whether it's on rules and regulations or anything in
46 general. So, anything -- any other comment on -- I don't
47 know.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So that -- okay, so
50 that was a motion to support with a modification. Do I

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1 have a second.

2

3 MR. BARGER: Second.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And under
6 discussion, so just to clarify this likely won't affect
7 anything subsistence related.

8

9 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,
10 OSM. What this is doing is basically -- we'll right now
11 that we have them in delegation authority letters. These
12 are going to move them into regulations. So instead of
13 -- like right now you have to go through the local
14 manager to find that letter or go through us to get that
15 letter, or this would actually put it in regulations.
16 So, when you open the book, you see who has it, where
17 it's at and what they have. Is that kind of help a little
18 more on that.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, it does. Any
21 other discussion on the matter? If not. Do I have a
22 question?

23

24 MS. KIPPI: Question.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been
27 called. All those in favor to support WP26-01 with the
28 modification, say aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
33 sign.

34

35 (No response)

36

37 Hearing none. Motion passes with
38 modification.

39

40 (Pause)

41

42 All right, moving on to item 2 under
43 action items WCR26-25, Unit 26C muskox harvest closure
44 except by Kaktovik residents. And you have the floor.

45

46 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
47 members of the Council. My name is Kristin Morrow. I'm
48 an Anthropology Pathways intern here at OSM, and I'm
49 going to be presenting the analysis for Wildlife Closure
50 Review 26-25, which starts on page 35 of your meeting

1 book. This closure review is a standard review, one that
2 we do every four years. So, it wasn't initiated by a
3 proposal or a particular request. And it reviews the
4 closure to muskox hunting on federal public lands and
5 Unit 26C to everyone except for residents of Kaktovik.
6 So first, I'll go through a bit of an overview of the
7 analysis and then present our preliminary conclusion.
8 So, to begin with, this closure has been in place since
9 1992. As we've discussed today a lot, the muskox
10 population has been low in Unit 26C since the early
11 2000s, so harvest was initially liberalized in the mid-
12 90s as the population grew but was reduced in the early
13 2000s as the population declined. In 2003, the number
14 of permits was capped at 3% of the spring pre-calving
15 population count and harvest was limited to bulls only
16 at that time. This change very recently in 2024, when
17 the Board adopted a proposal to change the season to a
18 may be announced season and delegated authority to the
19 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge manager to announce the
20 season dates, number of permits and sex restrictions on
21 hunting. This closure has been reviewed in 2017 and 2022,
22 and the Board voted to maintain the closure each time,
23 stating that the population of muskox in Unit 2016 [sic]
24 still remain too small to allow for any additional
25 harvest opportunities. Prior to their extirpation in the
26 region, muskox were a very important resource for
27 residents of the North Slope, as you all know very well,
28 particularly when caribou were scarce or were lean. And
29 as we've discussed throughout the day, this continues -
30 - this species continues to be very important and is
31 shared widely when it's available to harvest. Residents
32 of Kaktovik were heavily involved in the reintroduction
33 of muskox in Unit 26C, with the understanding that their
34 community would eventually benefit from a subsistence
35 hunt. Muskoxen were reintroduced to the Arctic National
36 Wildlife Refuge coastal plain in 1969 and 1970. The
37 population grew rapidly and expanded its range east into
38 Canada and west into western Unit 26B. The reintroduced
39 population is typically divided into two groups those
40 found in eastern Unit 26C that move into Canada, and
41 those found in Unit 26B, a small portion of eastern 26A
42 and Western 26C.

43
44 Figure 1, on page 41 of your meeting
45 books shows the decline in the muskox population in Unit
46 26C since the early 2000s. This decline was likely caused
47 by low calf survival in some years, increased adult
48 mortality, and changes in distribution of the
49 population. Annual pre-calving censuses on the Arctic
50 National Wildlife Refuge lands have not been conducted

1 since 2009, so we don't have very robust recent
2 population data. However, there have been sightings when
3 conducting flights for other purposes, including in
4 2015, a small group observed on the Kennicott River
5 drainage, and in 2016, a small group observed just west
6 of the international boundary. And of course, more
7 recently, as we hear at these meetings, and as I'm sure
8 you all are hearing at the community level, local hunters
9 are reporting seeing muskox year round, suggesting that
10 they're likely residing in Unit 26C year-round. Legal
11 harvesting of muskox and Unit 2016 began in 1982. At the
12 time when permits were initially being issued, residents
13 of Kaktovik had a lot of trouble accessing permits, and
14 there was a lot of contention between local and non-
15 local hunters throughout the 1980s for access to
16 permits. Beginning in the 1990s, residents of Kaktovik
17 were allocated the majority of permits, and then when
18 this closure was instituted in 1992, only residents of
19 Kaktovik were permitted to harvest on federal public
20 lands. However, as you all know, ever since the early
21 2000s, there's been very limited per harvest allowed
22 because the population reduced so rapidly.

23
24 From 2002 to 2023, only two permits were
25 issued. As Jordan was mentioning earlier, in the past
26 two years there have been four permits issued each year.
27 Due to low population numbers, there's been no state
28 season for muskox in Unit 26C since 1991. However, the
29 population is now growing and as Carmen was describing
30 earlier, the state recently opened a hunt with limited
31 opportunities for Unit 26A and Unit 26B, where the
32 population of muskox has been more stable and has been
33 growing since 2017. Muskox groups have routinely been
34 observed in the Unit 26B, 26C boundary area during ADF&G
35 tracking flights since 2021. Kaktovik is the only rural
36 community with a customary and traditional use
37 determination for muskox in Unit 26C, and because of
38 that, if this closure were eliminated, they would still
39 be the only users able to harvest under federal
40 regulations. So, in order for other communities to
41 harvest under federal regulations, they would need to
42 have a customary and traditional use determination for
43 muskox in Unit 26C. So, if this closure were eliminated,
44 only residents of Kaktovik would be able to harvest under
45 federal regulations. But the state theoretically could
46 open a hunt under state regulations that would be open
47 to a broader set of users. Currently because we lack
48 good population data, and it seems like the population
49 remains relatively small, it seems like there -- we
50 couldn't really sustain additional harvest opportunities

1 at this time. Federally qualified subsistence users,
2 which means here the residents of Kaktovik have had very
3 limited harvest opportunities over the past 30 years.
4 And we still don't know precisely how many muskox occupy
5 Unit 26C. Currently, the regulations provide the Arctic
6 National Wildlife Refuge manager some flexibility in
7 issuing permits as harvest opportunity arises. And so,
8 because of all of this, our preliminary conclusion is
9 to retain the closure. However, the conclusion is to
10 clarify some of the regulatory language.

11
12 Let me go to the next slide. There we
13 go. So, currently the language as you see on the screen
14 says that the closure applies to federal public lands
15 and Unit 26C, except by residents of Kaktovik. With that
16 regulatory language, it implies that there are other
17 federally qualified subsistence users that are being
18 excluded from the hunt. But because Kaktovik is the only
19 community with a customary and traditional use
20 determination, there are no other federally qualified
21 users of muskox in this subunit at this time, and so
22 we'd like to revise the language to maintain the closure.
23 The situation in terms of access would remain the same,
24 but the language would say that it would be closed to
25 all users except federally qualified subsistence users
26 hunting under these regulations. Modifying this language
27 makes it more consistent with all of the other federal
28 subsistence regulations and also provides some more
29 flexibility. If any other community were to ever be
30 determined to have customary and traditional use of
31 muskox in Unit 26C, we wouldn't then need to revise the
32 regulations to include them as a community with access.
33 So, I know that part's a little bit complicated. If you
34 have any questions about that or the rest of the
35 analysis, I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So effectively, the
38 only thing that you're changing is the language on the
39 description or on the title of it because there are no
40 C&T for that area.

41
42 MS. MORROW: The -- under federal
43 regulations, residents of Kaktovik have a C&T
44 determination for muskox in 26C. And so, because that
45 C&T is in place, this change we're proposing would have
46 no effect on subsistence access. It would still, in
47 effect, mean only residents of Kaktovik could hunt
48 muskox on Unit 26C federal lands.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, that's what I
2 meant. Other than Kaktovik. So -- but changing that would
3 allow if there were somebody else to get C&T at some
4 point would be allowing them to -- okay. How long does
5 that process take, though?

6
7 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair. That
8 process follows the same timeline as the other wildlife
9 proposal processes. So, when the next call for a wildlife
10 proposal is announced, a proposal could be submitted
11 requesting that the Board recognize the customary and
12 traditional use of muskox in Unit 26C by a particular
13 community.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Were there any
16 intentions for that, that you know of?

17
18 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair. This is
19 Kristen Morrow. Not that I'm aware of, but if others are
20 aware, please speak up.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
23 So, it's just for consistency, is what this is. Ernest.

24
25 MR. NAGEAK: Oh, just for clarification,
26 do they have to apply for one federal registration permit
27 or anybody from Kaktovik hunting, they don't have to get
28 picked. They could go -- if a mascot comes to the island,
29 they could get it without a permit.

30
31 MS. MORROW: Thank you. This is Kristen
32 Morrow. My understanding is they do have to register and
33 have a permit in hand and that there are a limited number
34 of permits available based on the best estimate of the
35 population at that time. I think we may hear a little
36 bit more about that later when we have agency reports.

37
38 (Pause)

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And what was the
41 recommendation on this again?

42
43 MS. MORROW: The recommendation is to --
44 sorry, this is Kristen Morrow. The recommendation is to
45 maintain the closure and modify the regulatory language.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Any other
48 questions for now before we get started on the
49 consultations? Good ahead, Peter.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: When we're down in
2 Anchorage on ICAS Summit, Edward (indiscernible) brought
3 attention about what you just said a few minutes ago
4 about limitation on what (indiscernible) said about --
5 the same subject he said that, about, you know, it's a
6 C&T, you know, consulting the villages too, he said. And
7 why are we limited to our to our hunting on muskox?
8 Because, you know, there's a certain time that muskox
9 come around. So, he brought that up to attention. I was
10 just wondering, does that occur with that same -- that
11 customary you're recommending?
12

13 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Williams.
14 Through the Chair, this is Kristen Morrow. The customary
15 and traditional use determinations do not influence
16 whether you have a permit or access to hunt. It is a
17 recognition from the Board that that community has
18 customarily and traditionally harvested that resource
19 in a certain area. So once the Board has determined that
20 a community has C&T of a resource in a particular area,
21 it means that they are federally qualified users that
22 can harvest under federal subsistence regulations. But
23 when it comes to harvest limits, permit numbers, that
24 is separate from the C&T itself. I can go into more
25 details if that's still not clear but, thank you.
26

27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, oh, go ahead,
28 Peter.
29

30 MR. WILLIAMS: Reason [sic] why I asked,
31 is when you were speaking about that customary service.
32 You know, he said that you know, why are they limited?
33 And then when the sports hunters come around, they don't
34 got no limitation. That's what I'm trying to get to.
35 Thank you.
36

37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, on the C&T
38 portion of it. Just a question on like if there was a
39 harvest limit, it just stays the same though it's taken
40 out. So essentially would be taking -- if somebody did
41 come over from the C&T, even though there's none for
42 Kaktovik right now other than Kaktovik. There was
43 another location that had C&T, it would be essentially
44 taking from that pool.
45

46 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair, Kristen
47 Morrw. That is correct. Unless there were other changes
48 put in place to influence the number of permits or to
49 limit harvest in some other ways.
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, thank you.
2 Now, if no other questions, I'll move on to report on
3 Board consultation, tribes or ANCSA corporations.

4
5 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair. Lisa
6 Grediagin. There were no comments received on this
7 closure review during the tribal consultations.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
10 Agency comments, ADF&G.

11
12 MR. PEOTTER: Yeah, Aaron Peotter,
13 through the Chair, again. As far as federally qualified
14 communities that could harvest in this area, that's a
15 federal process. We don't have any comments related to
16 that. With regards to the muskox population and
17 opportunity, I defer to any area staff that might be
18 interested in speaking of that. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Federal
21 agencies.

22
23 MR. MERRILL: Mr. Chair, members of the
24 Council, this is Clayton Merrill subsistence coordinator
25 for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I just wanted to
26 clarify a couple of things. So, we did issue permits to
27 Kaktovik this year for a short season with a quota of
28 one animal. We sent up ten permits, and the way those
29 are handled is we send blank permits up to a village
30 administrator, in this case, the mayor of Kaktovik. And
31 they distribute them in the community. So, community
32 members have to go to the local administrator to put in
33 for a permit. Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Any other
36 federal agency comments?

37
38 (No response)

39
40 Hearing none. Tribal entities, Native,
41 tribal village or other?

42
43 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Esther.

46
47 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I'm going to take
48 my hat off and -- because it's just tribal, native
49 tribal. My question is what's the population on the
50 muskox at 26C and why are they limited to catch?

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MS. MORROW: Thank you, Ms. Hugo. This is Kristen. Just to clarify, when you say limited to catch, do you mean in terms of the number of permits that are issued?

MS. HUGO: Yes.

MS. MORROW: Thank you. So, the permits numbers are determined based on the best population estimates that are available. I'm not a wildlife biologist, so I don't want to speak to those details. I'm not the best expert to answer that question, but the -- it is based on the available population size. In terms of the population surveys, they haven't done a formal survey in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge land since 2009. So, if you give me just a moment, I can see if there is a more recent. Thank you. Go right ahead.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Didn't they just give this in the last -- okay. Yeah.

MS. PRUSZENSKI: Through the Chair, my name is Jordan Pruszenski, assistant area biologist for 26 B and C. So, yes, there has not been a federal survey for muskox in 26C, we do a minimum count in 26B and the population as of 2023 was at 320. And we'll do another formal survey this next spring. We expect the population to probably be about the same, but we have seen that there are some predation events on these muskox, so it'll be really informative to get an updated number. I believe that the -- based on this proposal, it seems like they're using the minimum count from 26B to extrapolate that 26C population is about the same. But it would definitely need to have a survey, an actual survey to inform the actual numbers. And so that's a really good question I think needs more research. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

MS. HUGO: The reason why I asked because I was looking at page 46, and since 2003 to 2024, they have no permits issued or no bulls harvested, cows harvested or zero on harvested muskox. And these were all zero. I'm sure the population of the muskox is way higher than what was given last time, on the count.

MS. PRUSZENSKI: Do you mean in 26C? Yeah. Yeah, I think that that's a really great question. And in 26B, we have seen the population has increased

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1 since it crashed in the early 2000s. But again, they
2 have not done a recent survey in 26C. So, I would -- I
3 would agree, I think that they need to get an updated
4 number.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It sounds like
7 that's coming real soon. So, we'll hear about it next
8 spring.

9

10 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
11 record. Up until last cycle so, up until 2024, there was
12 language in the Unit 26C muskox hunt that they couldn't
13 have a hunt unless it was like 3% of the population. Do
14 you remember that? There is like that specific language
15 about it had to be you could only harvest 3%. And so,
16 it's like if you don't have -- you don't know.....

17

18 (Simultaneous speech)

19

20 what the population is, you can't
21 have a hunt because you don't -- and so we removed that
22 language. And so, I'm -- Clayton's online, he can
23 probably speak to this better than I can. But my guess
24 is they're able to have a hunt and issue permits now
25 because we eliminated that language from regulation.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Essentially
28 you couldn't just give a number, for the number that you
29 didn't have. Yeah.

30

31 MR. MERRILL: This is Clayton Merrill,
32 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. That's exactly correct.
33 That language prevented us from having -- issuing any
34 permits without having the survey, which we haven't been
35 able to get since, I think it was 2009. Once that
36 language changed, that's why we opened a hunt with a
37 quota of a single animal. We talked with some of the
38 state biologists and our arctics biologists made the
39 determination that the removal of a single animal
40 wouldn't have a major impact on the population. And so,
41 that's why we opened a hunt for a single animal. Thank
42 you.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
45 So, it sounds like after their springtime count, then
46 we should -- they'll definitely have a ballpark of what
47 they can change it to. And hopefully it's more. All
48 right. Any other tribal entities, native, tribal,
49 village or other?

50

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1 (No response)

2

3

4 All right. We'll move on to advisory
5 group comments. Were there any other RAC Committees,
6 Fish and Game Advisory Committees, or Subsistence
7 Resource Commissions?

8

9 MR. NAGEAK: To -- oh, sorry. Ernest
10 Nageak. We're not part of our refuge but if they could
11 give out ten permits like if do that here like, hey,
12 we're going to issue these ten. And, if whoever gets the
13 first one, bring it back, and that's the quota. But
14 Barrow has five on the federal side. Hand out 50 permits
15 to people that want it, and the first five that turn
16 them in, cease fire. But that's just if they could do
17 it in the Arctic Refuge in Kaktovik, give -- go to the
18 town and give them ten permits and like there's one open
19 for harvesting and they should do that for 26A and B
20 instead of just picking five people. And that's just my
21 recommendation. And I -- I'm happy to hear they're able
22 to catch one muskox and sounds like I'll tell my family
23 to put all their whole families permit application and
24 tell them the whole village to put in their application
25 and let them know that they could harvest them. Thank
26 you.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thanks, Ernest. All
29 right. The RAC Committees or Advisory Groups.

30

31 MS. CHAPA: Mister Chair, this is Gisela
32 Chapa. Well, this is the first RAC meeting of the fall
33 cycle so, we have no other RAC comments at the at the
34 moment.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: We're gonna have to
37 come up with a shorter response. Similar to the OSM
38 provides it, their -- the original comment. I forgot how
39 they worded it before. Summary of written public
40 comments.

41

42 MS. MORROW: Mr. Chair, this is Kristen
43 Morrow. There were no written public comments submitted
44 for this closure review.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Any
47 public testimony?

48

49 (No response)

50

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1 All right. Hearing none. What is the
2 wish of the Regional Council recommendation? What is the
3 RACs rec -- or what do you -- what do you want to do
4 with this? So, the recommendation was to support with
5 the modification, correct?

6
7 MS. MORROW: Kristen Morrow, through the
8 Chair. That's correct.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, to retain
11 the closure.

12
13 MR. NAGEAK: Motion to retain the closure
14 for non-federally -- federalized users and only have
15 exceptions for the Kaktovik residents.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, to support with
18 the modification though? Yes? So, there's motion on the
19 floor to retain the closure supporting with the modified
20 closure. Is that worded correctly-ish [sic]. Motion on
21 the floor.

22
23 MS. AHMAOGAK: Seconded.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Jenysa.
26 The motion was by Ernest. Any discussion on this?

27
28 MR. BARGER: Question.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
31 called for. All those in favor of retaining the closure,
32 supporting with the modification, Say aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
37 sign.

38
39 (No response)

40
41 Hearing none. Motion passed to retain
42 closure with the modification. Go ahead.

43
44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, if you
45 could just put some justification on the record, and it
46 could be as simple as we agree with the OSM
47 justification. But just to have something on the record
48 that we can put and recommend to the Board.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Any wording
2 suggested to go with the motion there.

3
4 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

7
8 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, I'd also like to remind
9 the Council that there are some questions that can guide
10 the discussion towards justification so that it's on the
11 record. And it's on your meeting materials. Again, the
12 Council is not required to follow these but might help
13 to generate that justification on the record. And it's
14 on page 20 under Close Reviews.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it looks like
17 there's a pretty clear justification right there. So, I
18 guess the justification would be that it would only apply
19 to the federally qualified users, and it wouldn't really
20 hamper the ability or lose any of the quota for Kaktovik.
21 It's just -- it was just a name change. So, I think that
22 was the main motive behind it was to -- that it wasn't
23 going to hurt anything for the Kaktovik residents, and
24 it was only a name change. And there are no other C&T
25 locations other than Kaktovik in that change. So, I think
26 that should be justification enough. Agreed? All right.
27 Does that satisfy -- the addition? All right. Moving on
28 to the next proposal. WP26 -- Oh. Go ahead.

29
30 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, I believe that you
31 had a motion and a second, but I don't believe the
32 Council went through a vote.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No. We did.

35
36 MS. CHAPA: Oh, sorry.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. We did.

39
40 MS. CHAPA: Apologies.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, so
43 crossover proposals and closure reviews. Tom Plank.

44
45 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
46 Council members. For the record, my name is Tom Plank,
47 Wildlife Biologist with Office of Subsistence
48 Management. And since we're about to get into the
49 crossover proposals, the next one that we're going to
50 be working on is going to be WP26-65. But because your

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1 home -- the home region for these proposals would
2 normally get all of these together as a package, it
3 references a proposal that's not in your book. So, to
4 fix that, to make sure you have all the information,
5 we're handing out a handout for WP60 -- 26-64 and if you
6 recall, when you looked through your books and you're
7 looking at 26-65, it said, see proposal WP26-64 for
8 regulatory history, for harvest history. And we just
9 want to make sure y'all had all the information. So
10 that's why you're getting 64, even though that's not one
11 that y'all will be being presented today. Does that make
12 sense or...?

13
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: A reference for a
15 reference.

16
17 MR. PLANK: Alright, so with that note,
18 I'll go ahead and get started on presenting the summary
19 of wildlife proposal WP26-65, and that's regarding
20 muskox in Unit 23. And you'll find this on page 55 of
21 your meeting books.

22
23 (Pause)

24
25 So, this proposal was submitted by the
26 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
27 and it's requesting establishing a muskox hunt around
28 Selawik in Unit 23 remainder. The intent is to provide
29 a federal subsistence opportunity for Selawik residents,
30 and residents of Selawik have seen more muskox near their
31 community, but unlike other areas in Unit 23, there is
32 no open season there. And then, with the decline of
33 caribou and salmon and the high cost of food, muskox are
34 seen as an important potential source of meat.
35 Currently, other areas in Unit 23 do allow muskox hunts,
36 but those hunts are difficult for the Selawik residents
37 to access. The proposed regulation would open Unit 23
38 remainder to one bull muskox by federal drawing permit
39 or state permit from August 1st to March 15th, which
40 would mirror the existing hunt elsewhere in Unit 23.
41 Cooperative management of muskox and on the Seward
42 Peninsula began in 1993 with the Muskox Cooperators
43 Group, which created the first management plan in 1994.
44 And then in 1995, the Federal Subsistence Board
45 established the first federal muskox hunt with strict
46 quotas recognizing customary and traditional use for
47 local villages. Through the late 1990s and early 2000s,
48 harvest limits were relaxed, seasons were extended, and
49 quotas shared between state and federal agencies. The
50 permit system combined to increase access, and managers

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1 were also given authority to adjust quotas in-season and
2 designate hunter permits were added. As population
3 started to decline in the early 2010s, regulations
4 tightened and by 2014 cow harvest was eliminated and
5 federal closures implemented. Federal hunts were managed
6 under a drawing permit system to ensure sustainability,
7 and the state also implemented a Tier II permit system
8 to -- distribute the permits. Currently, little is known
9 about the muskox population in Unit 23 remainder. No
10 official surveys have been conducted there, so we don't
11 know whether these muskox are residents or transients.
12 There is also no data showing which population these
13 muskox belong to, in the Seward Peninsula or the Cape
14 Thompson population, and without that information, it's
15 impossible to determine a sustainable harvest level
16 because muskox populations are small and highly
17 vulnerable to overharvest and this lack of data presents
18 serious risk. Muskox harvest and Unit 23 southwest
19 currently occurs by federal and state permit, and since
20 2008 four muskox have been reported harvested by federal
21 permits in Unit 23 southwest. Since 2012, over half the
22 muskox harvest in Unit 23 southwest has been from
23 Kotzebue and Noorvik residents hunting under state
24 permits. Harvest within the Cape Krusenstern National
25 Monument occurs only by federal registration permit, and
26 no more than two permits have been issued per year since
27 the hunt was established in 2005. Harvest has ranged
28 from 0 to 2 muskox per year between 2005 and 2022. And
29 then harvest from the Cape Thompson muskox population
30 within the Unit 23 northwest hunt area occurs under
31 federal and state permits. And between 2005 and 2019,
32 state harvest averaged 3.7 muskox. And in 2016, one
33 muskox was harvested by federal permit.

34
35 Now alternatives to consider. There are
36 several alternatives, including limited to hunt only to
37 the Selawik River drainage, which is this first map shown
38 here. Delegating authority to the Selawik Refuge Manager
39 or extending the season closing date to March 31st. None
40 of these alternatives were considered further, because
41 they all depend on having solid biological data with
42 which to hunt the -- manage to hunt. The Office of
43 Subsistence Management preliminary conclusion is to
44 oppose WP26-65, without population surveys, herd
45 composition data or recruitment information. A hunt in
46 a Unit 23 remainder could damage the muskox population.
47 And OSM recommends that surveys be expanded into this
48 area so that in the future, if data supports it, a
49 sustainable hunt could be responsibly opened to meet

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1 subsistence needs. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm here to
2 fill any questions.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
5 It sounds like there's been a hunt around for a long
6 time, though. Since the early 2000s, you said?

7
8 MR. PLANK: Through Chair, Tom Plank,
9 OSM. Correct, if you look on the map down there in that
10 yellow area below Selawik, there's a hunt down there.
11 And then the purple area at the top where it says the
12 Kobuk Valley National Park, and then further to the left,
13 you got the Cape Krusenstern National Park. There's
14 hunts in those two areas, but that area around Selawik
15 National Wildlife Refuge Area and Selawik itself, there
16 has not been a hunt there.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, you don't have
19 population data for that though.

20
21 MR. PLANK Correct, sir.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: But you have hunts
24 there all over the place.

25
26 MR. PLANK: We have populations for the
27 other areas. That was the population.....

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I'm just saying
30 within Unit 23.

31
32 MR. PLANK: Right. Correct.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, you do have --
35 okay. All right. Extensive data, I guess.

36
37 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank
38 again. No data on the muskox that they're seeing around
39 Selawik. So, we don't know if that population is coming
40 down from the population that's north of them, or if
41 it's coming up from the population that's south of them.
42 It's kind of like a void area where there haven't been
43 muskox before, but now they're starting to see them. So,
44 we don't know if those are if that's a new population
45 or if those are just transients that are going through.
46 That -- did I clarify that a little better?

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It does. I'm just
49 wondering why we don't have a complete Unit 23 population
50 count. When you have multiple hunts in 23.

1

2

3 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
4 record, I mean, the -- as you know, muskox were
5 reintroduced. And so, they just keep expand [sic] their
6 range. And so, as they keep expand their range, then the
7 need for expanding the survey area, you know, arises.
8 And so, our hope is through this proposal, it'll
9 highlight the need to expand the survey areas. Because
10 when you look at the map of surveys, it's like the
11 transect stop right there because they're just focused
12 on the current hunt areas. And so yeah, the Seward
13 Peninsula population you know, there's been a hunt on
14 that one. There's been a hunt on the Cape Thompson
15 population for years. But yeah, this Unit 23 remainder,
16 which is basically the Selawik and Kobuk River drainages
17 is, like Tom said, like the no man's land where the
18 muskox populations are kind of encroaching from both
19 sides. But there's no actual survey data there yet. And
20 so, another issue that arose through analysis with this
21 proposal is, you know, these muskox populations are
22 closely managed through permit numbers and quotas. And
23 so, without knowing how many muskox are around Selawik
24 and knowing which population they're from, it's really
25 hard to know what the sustainable number of permits to
26 issue and you know, muskox to harvest are.

26

27

28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. I believe
29 Carmen Daggett had a question or I mean a comment as
30 well.

30

31

32 MS. DAGGETT: Lisa did a pretty good job
33 of explaining this, but I'm just going to kind of
34 reiterate. So, Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department of
35 Fish and Game, for the record. So, when we do surveys,
36 we do them in Unit 22 on the Seward Peninsula, which is
37 south of here. So that would include kind of the Deering,
38 Buckland area that's kind of to the west here and it
39 kind of includes this area, the yellow area that Tom was
40 mentioning earlier. And then further north, there's the
41 greater Unit 23 area where we do do surveys, and that
42 does not include the Selawik area. So, it's kind of --
43 the Selawik areas kind of in between the two areas where
44 we do most of our survey work. And I think Lisa kind of
45 explained that, but I just wanted to reiterate that for
46 you guys because they're kind of done in two different
47 sets of survey work, if that makes sense. So hopefully
48 I didn't confuse you more, but.....

48

49

50 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh no, that works.
Thank you. All right. Where were we?

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2

MR. BARGER: Chair.

3

4

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Leonard, you had a question. One second.

6

7

8 MR. BARGER: Yeah, I know you guys are
9 talking about the Selawik, you know, we're part of the
10 23 unit, Point Hope. So, I know Carmen been concerning
11 about -- you know, we've been hunting a lot of muskox
12 too, but hardly any. You know, a lot of those elders
13 passed on, and we haven't got any yet. So -- and you
14 know, we haven't gotten any hats or anything about, you
15 know, getting, you know, we could hunt muskox because I
16 know there's some couple ladies that like to hunt muskox,
17 but they haven't. So -- but yeah, like I said, you know,
18 we're in the part of Unit 23, Point Hope. So, you know
19 I know you guys are concentrating on the Selawik area
20 and stuff, but you know, we're -- Point Hope is a part
21 of you know, Unit 23. So, we'd like to be more involved
22 in it. And, you know, like we're being bushed away,
23 so.....

23

24

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Did you have a question, Peter?

26

27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: When we're at a conference
29 on Anchorage on the subsistence, there's a couple
30 recommendation that brought to attention. NANA area and
31 Peninsula, they needed support on this muskox, they
32 said. Reason why is because the last sports hunters
33 ruling it, they got more attention than we do. So, they
34 just needed support, that's all they wanted. And so, I
35 just recommend that. Thank you.

35

36

37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. We'll get to
38 that portion in item 7. All right. So, we're -- sounds
39 like we -- any other questions for now? Well, we'll save
40 the questions for item 7. We'll move to number 2, tribes
41 and ANCSA Corporations report on Board consultation.

41

42

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, Gisela Chapa, for the record. There were no tribal comments.

44

45

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Agency comments, ADF&G. Oh.

47

48

49 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa, for the record.
50 There are no tribal or ANCSA Corporation consultations
on any of these proposals, so you can probably just kind

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1 of skip, you know, just to speed through the process.
2 Just there weren't any on any of these proposals. Thanks.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: ADF&G, agency
5 comments.

6
7 (No response)

8
9 Hearing none. Moving to federal
10 agencies.

11
12 (No response)

13
14 Tribal entities, Native, tribal
15 village or other.

16
17 (No response)

18
19 So, we're the first RAC group, I guess
20 we're skipping those as well. Yeah. Summary of written
21 public comments.

22
23 MR. PLANK: Tom Plank, OSM. There were
24 no written comments submitted during the open period for
25 this proposal.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any public
28 testimony?

29
30 (No response)

31
32 All right. Hearing none. Regional
33 Council recommendation. So, what is the RAC -- North
34 Slope RACs wishes for this? So, we did hear from Peter
35 saying he had kind of a recommendation to support. And
36 they are a fellow -- this was submitted by a fellow, you
37 know, Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory
38 Council. So, it was this this was their wish. Although
39 this won't be affecting really anything on the North
40 Slope side, it -- I'm guessing we're only in there
41 because we're in Unit 20 -- 23 with Point Hope. So, my
42 personal thing would be to, you know, help support our
43 fellow RAC. So, go ahead, Ernest.

44
45 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. I was going to say and
46 support, you know, even though they don't have the
47 population data since 2009, you know, same thing could
48 be with 26C. They could only be 10 of them and they're
49 allowed to hunt one. So, we should -- I recommend we
50 should at least allow one harvest for Selawik remainder,

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1 recommendation, because all their neighbors in Deering,
2 other -- they're able to possibly get a muskox except
3 the Selawik and the remainder people. Kind of like they
4 opened up 26B and partially A and, you know, 26C. It's
5 just some in support of their recommendation. Okay.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, is that is that
8 a proposal? Proposed motion.

9

10 MR. NAGEAK: Recommendation and open it
11 for the Board for the consideration.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: In the essence of
14 time, I would suggest motion to support.

15

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

17

18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there's a motion
19 to support. Wildlife proposal WP26-65.

20

21 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion has been
24 seconded. Any discussion or reasoning behind...?

25

26 MR. NAGEAK: Reasoning behind it is the
27 decline of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and their
28 need for supplemental meats. Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That and it also may
31 trigger the need for more population information, which
32 is always great for that unit. And it also may extend
33 to, never know into Point Hope, but okay. Any discussion
34 on this? If not.....

35

36 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
39 called for. All those in favor of supporting the motion.
40 WP26-65. Say aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
45 sign.

46

47 (No response)

48

49

50

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1 Hearing none, the motion passes. All
2 right. We have one more. Although you guys want to motor
3 through or take a break. All right, we'll take a --
4 maybe a 10 minute break. We'll take a 10 minute break
5 and -- 5 to 10 minutes somewhere around there. So, we're
6 on break.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right,
13 everybody, I think we're back and ready for completing
14 the day. So, up next we have WP26-66, Unit 23 wolf, Tom
15 Plank.

16

17 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
18 members of the Council. Again, my name is Tom Plank,
19 Wildlife Biologist Office of Subsistence Management and
20 I will be presenting the summary of the analysis for
21 wildlife proposal WP26-66, starting on page five in your
22 supplemental book. Wildlife proposal WP26-66 was
23 submitted by the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
24 Advisory Council and request to increase the harvest
25 limit and extend the season for wolf hunting in Unit 23
26 to match the state regulations. The proponent states
27 that aligning the federal wolf hunting regulations to
28 match a state hunt will help reduce confusion and
29 increase opportunity, and hunters have indicated an
30 increase of wolf population in Unit 23. The Unit 23
31 federal wolf hunting season and harvest limits were
32 adopted from the state regulations when the Federal
33 Assistance Program began in 1990. And, Unit 23 federal
34 wolf hunting regulations changed to the current
35 regulations back in 2005. The state liberalized wolf
36 hunting harvest limits for the 2002 - 2003 seasons, and
37 then to the current 20 wolves for the 2004 - 2005 season,
38 and in 2007, the Board of Game increased the Unit 23
39 wolf hunting season opening August 1st, instead of
40 August 10th.

41

42 Wolves occur throughout Unit 23,
43 although biological information is extremely sparse.
44 Their current status and abundance are unknown. While
45 there have been no unit-wide surveys of the wolf
46 populations for Unit 23 testimony provided during the
47 Northwest Arctic Council meetings attests that the local
48 abundance of wolves in 23 is high and including in areas
49 close to communities. And then in 2020, the National
50 Park Service began a pilot study within Noatak National

000110

1 Preserve, and they're going to -- it's to attain wolf
2 population demographics in Northwest Alaska. The purpose
3 of the study is to try to gain more knowledge about
4 local wolf demographics and behavior and then use
5 genetics and observational methods. The spring aerial
6 den surveys conducted from 2020 to 2022 estimated 4 to
7 5 active wolf groups within the Noatak National
8 Preserve. Wolves are required to be sealed, although
9 compliance with the state fur sealing program is low in
10 Unit 23. Therefore, the harvest levels reported should
11 be viewed as minimal -- minimum estimates of harvest.
12 In Unit 23 wolves are primarily harvested by local
13 residents with firearms and by snowmachines. And local
14 hunters are opportunistic and will harvest wolves
15 incidentally to travel between villages or while hunting
16 caribou and typically taken as many wolves as possible
17 during these opportunities. From 2018 to 2022, most
18 reported wolf harvests occurred in September and March.
19 Few wolves are reported harvested in August, October,
20 or November. There was an alternative considered to
21 exclude the Kobuk Valley National Park and the Cape
22 Krusenstern National Monument from the harvest limits,
23 increase and season extensions. These areas are closed
24 to anyone hunting or trapping under state regulations
25 and excluding these areas from the harvest limits,
26 increase the seasons extension, would provide refuge for
27 -- and would represent a conservative approach as the
28 status of Unit 23 wolf population and their harvest is
29 essentially unknown. This alternative would result in
30 federal regulations remaining more restrictive than
31 state regulations.

32
33 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
34 support. I'm sorry, if the -- if this proposal is
35 adopted, the federal wolf season hunting season would
36 be extended by two months. And the harvest limit would
37 increase by five wolves. As 20 wolves are already
38 harvested on most federal public lands in Unit 23 from
39 August 1st to April 30th, under state regulations, the
40 impact to the wolf population is expected to be minimal,
41 but ultimately uncertain due to the unknown status of
42 the wolf population and harvest in Unit 23. However, the
43 trapping limit is no limit, and local area residents
44 indicate that wolf population is increasing and there
45 are no conservation concerns. Harvest in September is
46 primarily by non-residents and non-local hunters who are
47 in the unit for caribou, bear, or moose. However, state
48 regulations do not apply in the Cape Krusenstern
49 National Monument and Kobuk Valley National Park.
50 Therefore, additional wolves may be harvested from these

000111

1 areas by resident zoned communities during August and
2 September if this proposal is adopted. Additionally, the
3 park service lands prohibit the take of free ranging fur
4 bearers with a firearm under a trapping license, while
5 few users likely harvest more than 15 wolves by firearms
6 each year. Adopting proposal WP26-66 would allow
7 resident zoned communities to harvest an additional five
8 wolves from the Cape Krusenstern National Park and Kobuk
9 Valley National Park by firearms each year. Adopting
10 this proposal would also decrease regulatory complexity
11 and confusion by aligning state and federal regulations.
12 OSM's preliminary conclusions support proposal WP26-66
13 with the modification to exclude Cape Krusenstern
14 National Monument and Kobuk Valley National Park.
15 Adoption of this proposal would increase subsistence
16 opportunities and would benefit federal qualified
17 subsistence users. Impact the wolves population are
18 expected to be minimal, as users are already harvesting
19 20 wolves from August 1st to April 30th, under state
20 hunting regulations on most federal public lands in Unit
21 23 and local users reported an abundance and increase
22 in wolf population. State regulations do not apply in
23 national parklands, including Cape Krusenstern National
24 Monument and Kobuk Valley National Parks in Unit 23.
25 Excluding the National Park Service managed lands would
26 retain the current federal regulation as a conservative
27 approach to provide refuge to Unit 23 wolf populations,
28 as their population status and harvest is unknown. Thank
29 you, Mr. Chair, Members of Council, I'll be happy to
30 answer any questions.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
33 All right. Any questions before we start going through
34 the list.

35
36 (No response)

37
38 Hearing none. All right so, no tribes
39 and ANCSA Corporations so far with report on Board
40 consultation. ADF&G, agency comments?

41
42 MR. PEOTTER: Yes, Aaron Peotter through
43 the Chair. Typically, we are supportive of proposals
44 that would align both state and federal regulations, Mr.
45 Chair.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, ADF&G.
48 Federal agencies.

49
50 (No response)

000112

1
2 Tribal entities, Native, Tribal
3 village, other. Any online?

4
5 (No response)

6
7 Hearing none. We don't have any advisory
8 group comments as stated before. Summary of written
9 public comments.

10
11 MR. PLANK: Tom Plank, OSM. There are no
12 written public comments submitted during the open
13 period.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Any
16 public testimony?

17
18 (No response)

19
20 Hearing none. Regional Council
21 recommendation. So, what is our consensus here? Ernest.

22
23 MR. NAGEAK: Chair. Ernest. Motion to
24 support Wildlife proposal WP26-66. Requesting additional
25 five more wolves to be harvested and extend the season
26 for wolf hunting in Unit 23 by two months. Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is that with
29 modification there? For clarification.

30
31 MR. NAGEAK: With modification to exclude
32 Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley
33 National Park.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. And I
36 guess any justification with it?

37
38 MR. NAGEAK: Justification with the
39 decreased Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Oh, sorry. No
40 second, sorry.

41
42 (Simultaneous speech)

43
44 MR. BARGER: Seconded.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Second motion to
47 support was seconded. I guess this should be under
48 discussion. So, the justification, restate maybe the
49 justification.

50

000113

1 MR. NAGEAK: Justification for the
2 additional five due to the concern of the Western Arctic
3 Caribou population. Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any other
6 discussion on the matter? If none.....

7
8 MR. NAGEAK: Question.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been
11 called for. All those in favor of supporting proposal
12 WP26-66 with modifications, say aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
17 sign.

18
19 (No response)

20
21 Hearing none. Motion to support with
22 modification, passes. All right. So up next we have --
23 what time is it. Yeah, we got time. WP26-67, Unit 23
24 muskrat. Tom.

25
26 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members
27 of Council, again for record Tom Plank, Wildlife
28 Biologist, OSM. And presenting the summary of analysis
29 for wildlife proposal WP26-67. And this is on page 17
30 of your supplemental book. Wildlife Proposal WP26-67 was
31 submitted by Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
32 Advisory Council. A request to extend the trapping
33 season for muskrats to year-round in Unit 23 to match
34 state regulation. The proponent states that aligning the
35 federal muskrat season to match the state season would
36 help reduce confusion and increase opportunity and
37 trappers have indicated an increased muskrat population
38 in Unit 23. And then after we started digging into it,
39 we realized that the regulations for muskrats are a
40 little different in Unit 23. The federal regulations
41 have both hunting and trapping regulations, whereas the
42 state only has trapping season with a methods and means
43 restrictions that state and Unit 23 from June 11th to
44 October 31st, taking muskrat by any means other than a
45 firearm is prohibited. And while not explicit in their
46 submitted proposal, the Chair of the Council clarified
47 that they wished to align federal and state trapping
48 seasons, but do not want the method and means restriction
49 occurring in state regulations from June 11th to October
50 31st to apply to the proposed federal regulation. The

000114

1 federal subsistence trapping regulations for muskrats
2 in Unit 23 have not changed since 1990, when the
3 Subsistence Management Program began and the current
4 regulation was adopted from state regulations. In 2003,
5 the Board of Game extended the muskrat trapping season
6 in Unit 23 to the current season of year round, including
7 an amendment to restrict the take of muskrats from June
8 11th to October 31st, to firearms only.

9
10 Population dynamics of muskrats in Unit
11 23 are not well documented. Muskrats occur throughout
12 Unit 23, but there is no qualitative information
13 regarding their abundance and population trends or
14 harvest levels, and the highest population of muskrats
15 are in the broad, flat floodplains and deltas of major
16 rivers, and in marshy areas dotted with small lakes.
17 Muskrats relative abundance in Region 5, which includes
18 Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A, are reported as scarce prior
19 to 2017 2018 when muskrats were reported as common. Not
20 present in 2021 and 2022 and then noted as common since
21 2022 to '23. However, the number of trappers reporting
22 was low, ranging from 4 to 30 each year across the entire
23 region. Harvest of muskrats are not well documented for
24 Unit 23, sealing is not required for Unit 23, and the
25 only information obtained is through the voluntary
26 trapper questionnaires and subsistence surveys. And data
27 from most -- from the most recent subsistence survey for
28 Unit 23 communities show that muskrats harvest varies
29 widely between communities.

30
31 An alternative considered is to add the
32 restriction to take by firearm only from June 11th to
33 October 31st, to match the state regulation. Trapping
34 is an indiscriminate harvest method which could result
35 in harvest of juvenile muskrats during the summer,
36 whereas shooting allows the target a specific
37 individuals. However, the proponent clarified that the
38 intent of the proposal is for an unlimited, no closed
39 trapping season for muskrats in Unit 23, so this
40 alternative was not further considered because it would
41 not meet the proponent's intent and would restrict
42 subsistence opportunity. And then another alternative
43 considered was to exclude the Cape Krusenstern and Kobuk
44 Valley from the season extension, and these areas are
45 closed to anyone hunting or trapping under state
46 regulations. And excluding these areas from the season
47 extension, would provide a refuge and would represent a
48 conservative approach to the status of Unit 23 muskrat
49 population and their harvest is essentially unknown.
50 These areas appear to contain excellent habitat for

000115

1 muskrat, and this alternative would result in federal
2 regulations remaining more restrictive than state
3 regulations. If this proposal is adopted, the muskrat
4 trapping season in Unit 23 would be extended to year-
5 round.....

6

7

(Simultaneous speech)

8

9

UNIDENTIFIED: There we go.

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MR. PLANK: So, this would increase subsistence opportunities by allowing federally qualified subsistence users to harvest muskrats using traps year-round, including from June 11th to October 31st on all federal lands in Unit 23 from federal regulations. Currently, the use of traps for harvest of muskrats is not allowed under federal or state regulations from June 11th to October 31st. Opportunity for year-round harvest of muskrats using firearms or bow and arrow would continue on all federal lands in Unit 23, under the Federal Hunting Regulation and most federal lands, excluding the Kobuk Valley and Cape Krusenstern under state trapping regulations. Impacts on muskrat populations are unknown, but expected to be minimal, as few users will likely trap muskrats during the summer. However, while users can target specific individuals for harvest when using firearms. Adopting this proposal would align state and federal seasons dates for muskrats trapping in Unit 23 to year-round. However, as state trapping regulations only allow muskrat harvest by firearm from June 11th to October 31st, so adopting this proposal may increase regulatory complexity and confusion by misaligning the allowable methods and means under state and federal regulations.

OSM preliminary conclusions support proposal WP26-67. Adopting this proposal will provide federally qualified subsistence users with additional harvest opportunities under federal regulations, which may be increasingly important now due to declines to other -- in other subsistence resources. And while there are no conservation concerns for muskrats unit-wide, local localized impacts due to increased trapping pressure in certain areas may occur. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and members of Council. I'll be happy to field any questions.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Any questions on muskrat before we get started on consultations?

000116

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2

(No response)

3

4

5

Hearing none. Skipping tribes and anchor
-- ANCSA Corporations again due to not having them
available yet. Agency comments, ADF&G.

6

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13

MR. PEOTTER: Yeah, Aaron Peotter again,
through the Chair. Good summary with the -- regarding
alignment of state and federal regulations provided
before this. So yeah, state would be neutral to
supportive of aligning federal and state regs. Thank
you.

14

15

16

17

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Federal
agencies?

18

19

20

21

(No response)

Tribal entities, Native, tribal
village, other?

22

23

24

25

(No response)

All right. No advisory group comments.
Summary of written public comments?

26

27

28

29

30

MR. PLANK: Tom Plank, OSM. There are no
written public comments submitted during the open
period.

31

32

33

34

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Do we
have any public testimony for WP26-67?

35

36

37

38

39

40

(No response)

Hearing no public testimony. Regional
Council recommendation. This one sounds pretty
straightforward to me. There seem to be no modification
really warranted. So, what's the wish of the Council?

41

42

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(Pause)

Any motions to support?

MS. AHMAOGAK: Mr. Chair? Jenysa
Ahmaogak, for the record. I make a motion to support.....

(Simultaneous speech)

000117

1 MR. NAGEAK: Second.

2

3WP26-67 to extend the muskrat
4 season.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, motion to
7 support, seconded by Ernest. Any discussion on here with
8 a justification? Well, I guess it was provided. So, for
9 extending the season. Questions been called for by
10 Leonard Barger. All those in favor of supporting WP26-
11 67 say, aye.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
16 sign.

17

18 (No response)

19

20 Hearing none. The motion passes. All
21 right, so up next we have WP26-68, Unit 23 ptarmigan.
22 Tom.

23

24 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members
25 of Council. And again, Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist
26 OSM. And presenting the summary of analysis for wildlife
27 proposal WP26-68 and that's starting on page 25, in your
28 supplemental books. Wildlife proposal WP26-68 was
29 submitted by Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
30 Advisory Council and request to increase the harvest
31 limit and extend the season for ptarmigan in Unit 23 to
32 match state regulations. Proponent states that the loss
33 of caribou and salmon used -- users have needed to depend
34 on other species to meet their subsistence needs.
35 Aligning the federal ptarmigan hunt to match the state
36 hunt would help reduce confusion and increase
37 opportunity. Hunters have indicated an increased
38 ptarmigan population in Unit 23. Federal Subsistence
39 Board regulations for ptarmigan in Unit 23 have not
40 changed since 1990, when the Federal Subsistence Program
41 started. And at that time current regulations was
42 adopted from the state regulations. In 1999 the Board
43 of Game increased the season and harvest limits for
44 ptarmigan in Unit 23 to the current regulations. And
45 this one the -- there's some the Cape Krusenstern
46 Subsistence Resource Committee met during the winter of
47 2025 and drafted your proposal to align federal
48 ptarmigan regulations with state regulations in Unit 23,
49 to reduce regulatory complexity and confusion. However,
50 the Cape Krusenstern SRC did not have a quorum to

000118

1 officially vote on to the submit the proposal. And then
2 in February 2025, the Kobuk Valley SRC voted to submit
3 a proposal to align federal ptarmigan regulations with
4 state regulations in Unit 23 to reduce regulatory
5 complexion -- complexity and confusion, and this
6 proposal was considered by the Northwest Arctic Council
7 during their Winter 2025 meeting, before the Council
8 voted to submit this proposal.

9
10 There are three species of ptarmigan
11 found in Alaska. The whitetail ptarmigan range is
12 primarily in mountain ranges in south central and
13 southeastern Alaska. Rock and willow ptarmigan are found
14 in Unit 23. The population dynamics of ptarmigan in Unit
15 23 are not well documented, although testimony provided
16 during the Northwest Arctic Council meeting suggests
17 that ptarmigan are abundant in at least one community.
18 Ambler. Unit 23 is part of the western rural region
19 which includes Units 17, 18, 22, 23 and 26A, and
20 currently no spring breeding surveys occurred in this
21 region for rock ptarmigan, while surveys for willow
22 ptarmigan have only occurred along the Nome road system
23 in Unit 22. Rock and willow ptarmigan are an important
24 subsistence resource for many hunters in the western
25 rural region, and which includes Unit 23 and harvest
26 data for targeting Unit 23 is extremely sparse. Based
27 on previous surveys, ADF&G staff observations and
28 communications with the western rural region hunters,
29 the vast majority of ptarmigan harvested in the region
30 are willow ptarmigan, and although rock ptarmigan are
31 present and often at high densities in localized areas,
32 their habitat often remains far less accessible than
33 willow ptarmigan.

34
35 The ADF&G Division of Subsistence has
36 periodically conducted surveys of household subsistence
37 uses of species over a single study year and between
38 2007 and 2018 fluctuate in ptarmigan populations and
39 local abundance are reflected in fluctuating ptarmigan
40 harvest by communities from year to year. An average of
41 23% of surveyed households harvested ptarmigan across
42 the region, and an average of 34% of the households used
43 ptarmigan. One alternative considered was to increase
44 ptarmigan harvest limit, but not the season Unit 23, as
45 willow ptarmigan have a single clutch per year, and
46 extending the hunting season into June has the potential
47 to disrupt brooding and chick rearing, negatively
48 affecting recruitment and ultimately ptarmigan
49 abundance. This alternative would result in federal
50 regulations remain in more restrictive than state

1 regulations, but may prevent mortality of young chicks
2 or entire ptarmigan families. However, users have been
3 able to harvest ptarmigan on most federal public lands
4 in Unit 23 until June 15th, under the more liberal state
5 regulations since 2000, with no resulting conservation
6 concerns. Therefore, the con -- this conservation --
7 concer -- this conservative approach does not seem
8 necessary and was not further considered.

9
10 If this proposal is adopted Unit 23
11 ptarmigan season would be extended and a harvest limit
12 increase, increasing opportunity for federally qualified
13 subsistence users under federal regulations. No impact
14 to the ptarmigan population or user groups are expected
15 because federally qualified subsistence users have been
16 able to harvest under the more liberal state regulations
17 on most federal lands in Unit 23 since 2000. However,
18 the Cape Krusenstern and Kobuk Valley are only open to
19 resident zones communities of both, and hunting under
20 the more restrictive federal subsistence regulations for
21 ptarmigan. If this proposal is adopted, these residents
22 would be able to harvest under the more liberal harvest
23 limits and seasons in both. Additionally, adopting this
24 proposal would decrease regulatory complexity and
25 confusion by aligning state and federal regulations. OSM
26 preliminary conclusion is to support WP26-68. This
27 proposal increases subsistence opportunities under
28 federal regulations. There are no conservation concerns,
29 as federally qualified subsistence users are already
30 able to hunt ptarmigan on most federal public lands in
31 Unit 23 under the more liberal state regulations. State
32 regulations have been liberalized since 2000, with no
33 resulting or apparent conservation concern.
34 Additionally, federal and state regulation for
35 ptarmigan in Unit 23 would be aligned, reducing
36 regulatory complexity. Thank you, Mr. Chair and members
37 of Council, would be happy to field any questions.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Tom. Any
40 questions before we begin on consultation? It's pretty
41 straight forward again. Ptarmigan. Tribes or ANCSA,
42 skipping those again. Wanda, go ahead.

43
44 MS. KIPPI: I'm just interested between
45 the difference of the whitetailed ptarmigan. I've seen
46 the rock ptarmigan, and I know we have the willow
47 ptarmigan. I'm just interested in the whitetailed
48 ptarmigan.

000120

1 MR. PLANK: Bear with me just a minute,
2 unless somebody has a -- off the top of their head can
3 describe the difference between two. I have to dig
4 through the paper to find it. So, give me a second.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Agency
7 comments, ADF&G.

8
9 MR. PEOTTER: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Aaron Peotter, again. Yeah, the state is already
11 providing this level of opportunity for the harvest of
12 ptarmigan in 23, so we don't have any conservation
13 concerns. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Federal
16 agencies?

17
18 (No response)

19
20 Hearing none. Tribal entities, Native,
21 tribal, village, other.

22
23 (No response)

24
25 Hearing none. There are no advisory
26 group comments, RACs. Summary of written public
27 comments.

28
29 MR. PLANK: Tom Plank, OSM. There are no
30 written comments submitted during the open period. Thank
31 you.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Any
34 public testimony?

35
36 (No response)

37
38 Hearing none. Regional Council
39 recommendation.

40
41 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

44
45 MR. BARGER: I make a motion to proposal
46 WP26-68 Unit 23, ptarmigan increase harvest and position
47 of limits and modified season dates.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is that to support
50 support?

000121

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2

MR. BARGER: Yes.

3

4

MS. KIPPI: Second, the motion.

5

6

7

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Wanda.
Any discussion on it? Justification.

8

9

MS. AHMAOGAK: Mr. Chair.

10

11

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

12

13

14

15

16

MS. AHMAOGAK: Justification. As it was
stated in the supplemental booklet. This is to help our
neighboring region receive more subsistence food since
they are facing the decline of caribou.

17

18

19

20

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Jenysa.
So, justification provided. Any question? So, we've got
a second.

21

22

UNIDENTIFIED: Question.

23

24

25

26

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
called for. All those in favor of supporting WP26-68,
say aye.

27

28

IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30

31

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
sign.

32

33

(No response)

34

35

Hearing none. Motion passes.

36

37

38

MR. NAGEAK: Make one more. The mink
should be fairly.....

39

40

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right.

41

42

43

MR. NAGEAK: Recommend going through one
more proposal.

44

45

46

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Up next,
WP26-69, Unit 23 mink. Tom, you have the floor.

47

48

49

50

MR. PLANK: Again, thank you, Mr. Chair,
members of the Council. And Tom Plank, Wildlife
Biologist of the Office of Subsistence Management. And
I am presenting the summary of analysis for wildlife

1 proposal WP26-69, starting on page 33, in your
2 supplemental books. Wildlife proposal WP26-69 was
3 submitted by the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
4 Advisory Council and request to extend the trapping
5 season for mink and weasel to close April 15th in Unit
6 23. The proponent states that aligning federal season
7 to match the state season will help reduce confusion and
8 increase opportunity. Trappers have indicated increased
9 mink and weasel populations in Unit 23. The federal
10 subsistence regulations for mink and weasel in Unit 23
11 have not changed since 1990, when the Federal Management
12 of Subsistence Fish and Wildlife resources on federal
13 public lands began. And at that time, the current
14 regulation was adopted from state regulations. And then
15 in 2003, the Board of Game extended the trapping season
16 for mink and weasels in Unit 23 to close April 15th.
17 Population dynamics of mink and weasel in Unit 23 are
18 not well documented. Mink occur throughout Unit 23, but
19 little is known about their abundance or population
20 trend. Mink numbers fluctuate locally, making it
21 difficult to monitor their population trends. Snow and
22 spruce forests in the upper Kobuk drainage are generally
23 suitable for mink, while the hardpacked snow conditions
24 in remainder of Unit 23, may limit the distribution of
25 mink. From the 2013-14 to 2023-24 seasons, according to
26 voluntary trapper questionnaires, mink were reported as
27 common, with no change in population trends in Unit 5,
28 which includes units 18, 22, 23 and 26. There are two
29 species of weasels that can be found in forested, brushy
30 and open countries in Alaska. However, weasels are not
31 included in the most recent ADF&G furbearer management
32 report for Unit 23 or indicated to occur there. And
33 according to voluntary trapper reports, the ermine were
34 reported as common, with no change in population trends
35 and in Region 5.

36
37 Harvests of mink and weasels are not
38 well documented in Unit 23, and sealing is not required
39 in Unit 23, and the only harvest information available
40 is from the voluntary trapper questionnaires. And there
41 were no responses to those questionnaires for Unit 23
42 in recent years. One alternative considered was to
43 exclude the Cape Krusenstern and the Kobuk Valley
44 National Park's lands from the season extension. These
45 areas are closed to anyone hunting or trapping under
46 state regulations, and excluding these areas from the
47 season extension, could provide refuge and would
48 represent a conservative approach as the status of the
49 Unit 23 mink and weasel populations and their harvest
50 is essentially unknown. These areas appear to contain

000123

1 excellent habitat for mink and weasel, and this
2 alternative would result in federal regulations
3 remaining more restrictive than state regulations. If
4 this proposal is adopted, the mink and weasel trapping
5 seasons in Unit 23 would be extended to April 15th. This
6 would increase opportunity for federally qualified
7 subsistence users under federal regulations, and
8 although users may already trap on most federal lands
9 until April 15th under state regulations, this proposal
10 would end up allowing users to trap until April 15th in
11 Kobuk Valley and Cape Krusenstern, which are closed to
12 anyone trapping under state regulations. No impact to
13 the mink or weasel populations are expected, as users
14 can already trap until April 15th on most federally
15 federal lands in Unit 23 under state regulations. And
16 while undocumented harvest pressure of mink and weasel
17 populations throughout Unit 23 is also likely low.
18 Adopting this proposal would also decrease regulatory
19 complexity and confusion by aligning state and federal
20 regulations. The preliminary conclusion is to support
21 proposal WP26-69 with the modification to exclude Cape
22 Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley National
23 Park. This proposal increases opportunity for federally
24 qualified subsistence users, and there are no
25 conservation concerns, as users are already able to trap
26 until April 15th on most federal public lands in Unit
27 23 under state regulations. However, state regulations
28 do not apply on national park lands, so including Cape
29 Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley National
30 Park in Unit 23 regulations as a conservative approach
31 to providing refuge to Unit 23, mink and weasel
32 populations as their population status and harvest is
33 unknown. Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of Council. I'll
34 be happy to answer any questions.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Any
37 questions regarding mink and weasel in Unit 23?

38

39 (No response)

40

41 Hearing none. Report on Board
42 consultation. Skipping tribes and ANCSA Corporations.
43 Agency comments, ADF&G.

44

45 MR. PEOTTER: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Again for record, Aaron Peotter. As states already
47 providing this level of opportunity, we don't have any
48 conservation concerns or additional comments. Thank you.

49

50

000124

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Any
2 federal agencies? Tribal entities, Native, tribal
3 village, other.

4
5 (No response)

6
7 Hearing none. No advisory group
8 comments. Summary of written public comments?

9
10 MR. PLANK: Tom Plank, OSM. There are no
11 written public comments received during the open period.
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any public
15 testimony? Anybody online or in the room?

16
17 (No response)

18
19 No cards here. All right. Regional
20 Council recommendation.

21
22 MR. WILLIAMS: I shall move.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is that to support
25 with modification there as written here.

26
27 MR. WILLIAMS: Correct.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion on the floor
30 to support with modification WP26-69.

31
32 MR. BARGER: Second.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
35 Barger.

36
37 MR. NAGEAK: Question.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any -- maybe under
40 discussion, maybe the justification. So, we can add for
41 the justification, that same is listed in the previous,
42 to provide more subsistence. furbearers or fur.

43
44 MR. NAGEAK: To align the state and
45 federal season and for fashion. Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Question
48 was called by Ernest. All those in favor of supporting
49 proposal WP26-69, with modifications to exclude Cape
50 Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley National

000125

1 Park, say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
6 sign.

7

8 (No response)

9

10 Hearing none, the motion passes. And are
11 we looking to wrap up for the day, or...?

12

13 MR. BARGE: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'd like to
14 go. Take a recess till tomorrow.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, all right. Go
17 ahead, Gisela.

18

19 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think
20 that right before we go for recess, I wanted to ask the
21 time and location for our working group tonight, if we
22 could set a...?

23

24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: What do you
25 recommend, Gisela?

26

27 MS. CHAPA: Well, I think I can give our
28 working group members an opportunity to take a little
29 break for the night, and then we could try to reconvene
30 at the lobby of the hotel or at the (In Native) and --
31 so maybe like, meet around 6, 6:30. So, how about we
32 just meet at the hotel at 6:30? All right.

33

34 MS. CHAPA: Sounds good, thank you, Mr.
35 Chair.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Alright, motion to
38 adjourn, anybody? Well not -- we're on recess until
39 tomorrow. Can't adjourn until tomorrow.

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED: Call for recess.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. We're
44 taking off until tomorrow. We'll be back here at 9 a.m.
45 Thank you everybody.

46

47 (Off record)

48

49

50

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 125 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 16th day of September;

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 2nd day of December 2025.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager