

0001

NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

ILISAGVIK COLLEGE
Utqiagvik, Alaska
September 17, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

Recorded and transcribed by:

Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp
877-261-2495
info@lighthouseonline.com

0002

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

2

3

(Utqiaġvik - 9/17/25)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Welcome
9 back to the second day of the North Slope Regional
10 Advisory Council meeting. My name is Brower Frantz. I'm
11 the Chair for the time being. It's 9:04 a.m. We'll get
12 started again and I guess before we get started, maybe
13 we'll go through and maybe ask Esther, again to maybe
14 to bless the day in the meeting. Esther.

14

15

MS. HUGO: (In Native Invocation)

16

17

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

18

19

IN UNISON: Amen.

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Here.

MS. KIPPI: Quincy Adams.

MR. ADAMS: Here.

MS. KIPPI: Welcome back. Martha Itta.

(No response)

Esther Hugo.

0003

1 MS. HUGO: Here.

2
3 MS. KIPPI: Brower Frantz.

4
5 CHAIRMAN FRANTZ: Here.

6
7 MS. KIPPI: And Jenysa Ahmaogak.

8
9 MS. AHMAOGAK: Here.

10
11 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, we have a quorum.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank
14 you, Wanda.

15
16 MS. KIPPA: You're welcome.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we will be able
19 to take action on the remainder of the items today and
20 Gisela, is there anything else that we needed to go
21 through before we start on our action items?

22
23 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, I think we can
24 give an opportunity for new attendees to introduce
25 themselves.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right so,
28 introductions. We'll start online. Is there anybody
29 online that well, I guess we'll do introductions for
30 anybody online for the day.

31
32 MR. PRIDAY: Hello. This is Jonathan
33 Priday. I'm with BLM down in Fairbanks. I am the new
34 Arctic District Ranger that covers the section that the
35 North Slope RAC is dealing with and I just wanted to
36 attend today to get to know you folks, be available for
37 questions and concerns, and hopefully I'll be attending
38 meetings in the future.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning. Thank
41 you. Anybody else online?

42
43 MR. TONY: Good morning. This is Phillip
44 Tony, I'm the natural resources manager for Native
45 Village of Nuiqsut.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning,
48 Phillip. All right. Yeah, we forgot to say if there's
49 anybody else online that needs to unmute yourself, press
50 star six in order to be introduced. So, star six is to

0004

1 unmute yourself.

2

3 (No response)

4

5 All right. Hearing no more online. We'll
6 go through and see if anybody that we have missed maybe
7 yesterday for sign ins is here and needs to introduce
8 yourself. Unless you think we should go through the
9 entire room again. All right. It seems like we have
10 another one of our members here today. So, we will
11 introduce Mr. Adams. Go ahead.

12

13 MR. ADAMS: Good morning. Quincy Adams,
14 for the record, North Slope RAC representative for
15 Utqiaġvik. Just got in a little late last night and
16 this, as you guys know, good to be back for this meeting.
17 Just in time for the last day of it.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Mr.
20 Adams. Welcome back. He was out subsistence hunting. So,
21 I guess that's an excuse. All right. Oh so, we did have
22 our Council members' reports yesterday, and we've
23 completed all of them for the rest of the Council
24 members. So, if you could maybe give us a report for the
25 year-on-year end, Mr. Adams. So, just in general,
26 Council members report for your area.

27

28 MR. ADAMS: Thank you for the
29 opportunity. First, want to start off with springtime,
30 the spring hunt, bowhead. We had seven -- seven whales
31 landed and seven loss. It was a 50:50 ratio. That is
32 kind of a bad year, in a way, but good to feed our people
33 with the food that we love to eat. And also, there's
34 about six, want to say, six beluga that were taken over
35 the summer. But a lot of people are starting to go out
36 caribou hunting and fishing. You know, we got -- I just
37 got back so, we got six, got three real nice bulls and
38 three young bulls and they're all pretty fat. Nice, good
39 to see fat covering the whole brisket. So, we had gotten
40 15 whitefish in two days. Also, got a couple of burbot,
41 two burbots and a pike. My cousin was out with us as
42 well too, brought us up Chipp, and he got about 15
43 whitefish as well. A lot of people getting bearded seals
44 and walrus over the summer. So, all the freezers are
45 getting pretty packed. There's a lot of good meat hanging
46 up and drying from the seal meat as well. Walrus was
47 plentiful again this year so, it was a good year on
48 walrus. Other than that, everybody's just out fall
49 hunting. That's where I was out at the cabin. Cabin and
50 pitching a tent with the family. So, that was a good,

0005

1 good time to have out there. I was going to stay out
2 there another couple days. But we saw the short window
3 of the weather with the wind coming down. So, it's a
4 night ride, which isn't too much fun out in the rivers,
5 but it's just my general overall report that I have, Mr.
6 Chair.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Chair --
9 or Mr. Council member Adams. I'm handing over the seats
10 here. Quincy's here. You know, so it sounds like you had
11 a good year, and I normally would have used that weather
12 window to, oh, can't make it home yet so. So, it sounds
13 like dinners at Quincy's. Alright. So

14
15 MR. NAGEAK: Any muskox by chance?

16
17 MR. ADAMS: We saw a couple of muskox.
18 You know, there's right around 12 and a half. There was
19 like, four big bulls that just kept on running, and they
20 crossed the river right away, but they kept looking back,
21 run a little bit, kept looking back. And then we ended
22 up looking towards the sandbar and there was a muskox
23 right in the area. So, there was a couple of them hanging
24 around, saw a couple of brown bears that were a little
25 bit past Chipp 13, on the way from 13 going up kind of
26 towards Simutuk area. It's a really beautiful country
27 and it just unfortunately we didn't see any caribou or
28 anything, any tuttu or anything like that. But, you know,
29 definitely some muskox.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. Thanks
32 for covering there, Ernest. No. I made sure to cover
33 muskox pretty well yesterday. Go ahead, Leonard.

34
35 MR. BARGER: Sorry, I forgot to bring up
36 yesterday on my report too one of the hunters saw a
37 beaver up in the Kukpuk River in Point Hope. So, I told
38 them if they ever see that kind of animal, you know,
39 kill it, because it's going to be a real problem and
40 stuff. So, I forgot to mention that yesterday because
41 my -- one of my nephews called me like, hey, you talk
42 about the, you know, the beaver up in Kukpuk River. So,
43 yeah, I just want to let you know.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: They'd have to do
46 some real evolution too, to be up here with no trees.
47 But that's good to note. Interesting to put down for
48 your location. All right. So, with all of our reports
49 being completed now. Looks like we'll move on to the
50 next item, and we'll open up the floor to public comment

0006

1 on non-agenda items for the day. Are there any online
2 public comments on non-agenda items? This is your time
3 to take the floor. If you have any public comment, non-
4 agenda items.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 Alright. Hearing none from online. Do
9 we have any (distortion)...? Do we have any comments in
10 the room? We don't have any cards that were submitted
11 but want to open up the floor to anybody that might have
12 any public comment on non-agenda items for the floor.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 Alright. Seeing none, we'll move on and
17 if anything comes in throughout the day, we will make
18 sure to give them a chance to speak. But, for now, we'll
19 move on to the next item. We do have an update for the
20 working group yesterday it sounds like. You have the
21 floor.

22

23 MS. CHAPA: Oh, thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 just wanted to ensure -- we don't have to go over that
25 item right now. If the Council wishes to go over the
26 Wildlife Closure Review first, but perhaps something
27 that we can discuss or the Council can discuss to know
28 where in the agenda we're going to be doing the report
29 out.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it sounds like
32 it might be a good time to do this, because there is a
33 deadline on this and it's fresh in the day. So, if
34 there's nothing pressing, is that something that we
35 would like to go through now?

36

37 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, I make a motion
38 to approved to consider the things you got with the
39 working group, so.....

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, the motion on
42 the floor to consider -- I'm not sure if that's the
43 proper wording for this, but to go through the working
44 group discussion for consideration and submitting to
45 Sara Taylor, prior to the deadline. What is it today?
46 So, to consider and approve the talking points prior to
47 submission and that was a motion.

48

49 MR. NAGEAK: For the people that weren't
50 there. Can we have a chance to read it, or unless you

0007

1 give us a overall -- can you give us a brief briefing
2 on it?

3

4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It would be to go
5 through it, and maybe we can put that under discussion.
6 But we do have a motion.

7

8 MR. ADAMS: Second the motion.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion has been
11 seconded and under discussion maybe we will go through
12 -- Gisela.

13

14 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 My name is Gisela Chapa, for the record and just as an
16 update for those who weren't here yesterday. Yesterday
17 we received an update, a report from the Secretary's
18 Office discussing a review, a programmatic review of the
19 Federal Subsistence Management Program with, like, very
20 specific areas that they're looking to review. And they
21 requested some feedback from the Council and so --
22 because we didn't have time in our agenda, we -- or the
23 Council chose to have a working group discussion after
24 our meeting to go over the report and try to provide
25 some feedback. And so, this would be the opportunity to
26 share with the Council what the working group discussed,
27 and the Council can continue discussing or maybe provide
28 further input. But, if the Council wants to provide
29 formal comments on this request, then the Council will
30 need to go through a motion to approve what is submitted
31 to the Secretary's Office.

32

33 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
34 record, would it be helpful -- I mean, I can share this
35 digitally on the screen and if you guys have any
36 additions or edits to what the working group developed,
37 I can just take notes kind of in real time up on the
38 screen, if that's helpful.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good to me.

41

42 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay.

43

44 MS. CHAPA: Okay. So, I can give Lisa a
45 couple of minutes to share her screen and give you all
46 a few minutes to read. But I'm going to be going over
47 what the working group discussed.

48

49 (Pause)

50

0008

1 Okay. Oh, and I apologize for the people
2 in the room. I asked the College if we could make a few
3 copies and offer the Council. So, I do not have access
4 to a printer. I don't travel with a printer, but we're
5 going to go over it so that you can have an opportunity
6 to also, listen and hopefully you can see the screen
7 behind it. Okay. So, one of the items that the Secretary
8 -- Secretary's office wanted some feedback on was on the
9 move of the Office of Subsistence Management from the
10 Fish and Wildlife Service to the Office of the Assistant
11 Secretary for policy, Management and Budget. Yesterday,
12 during the working group discussion, the group concluded
13 that they have not noticed any differences or changes
14 throughout the move and so, they -- they're neutral on
15 the move. The next item for consideration was the
16 criteria for Regional Advisory Council membership. I can
17 give everybody a brief overview of what that requires
18 if you give me a second.

19
20 (Pause)

21
22 Okay. Well, I don't have that argument
23 right here in front of me. But basically, when people
24 are interested in serving on the RAC, they fill out an
25 application and there's some eligibility criteria that
26 we go through, the nominations process in order for them
27 to be considered for the position. One of them is that
28 they have to be knowledgeable -- they have to reside in
29 the region they're applying for. They have to be
30 knowledgeable about the resources, like the wildlife and
31 fish populations in the region. They have to be
32 knowledgeable about subsistence. They have to be
33 knowledgeable about commercial, or sport uses in the
34 area. They have to show and demonstrate leadership
35 abilities and qualities and also, have good
36 communication skills. So, when the working group
37 reviewed this eligibility, they wanted to add to the
38 eligibility criteria and state that those applying have
39 to be actively or have actively participated in
40 subsistence activities versus just being knowledgeable
41 about it. Throughout the process, we also ask that the
42 applicants submit references, and the working group
43 agreed that that is a good thing to have in the
44 application process because it works well. But they did
45 note that the process between the application and the
46 appointment takes too long. Sometimes people may have
47 moved on and do other things or maybe forgotten that
48 they've applied. So, it would be beneficial if we can
49 find a way to shorten the process and make it more user
50 friendly in that regard. Anything else?

0009

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think that covered it. And we did submit some notes on the beginning one for the OSM move. So, we did submit some notes there that were kind of supported by another group here. But -- and we shared the same sentiment. So, I just wanted to note that, that we did submit some notes that were additional to that in that regard.

MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

MR. BARGER: Yeah. I'd like to bring up I know the -- we we're here for two years. I would like to recommend, you know, a three year term instead of, you know, like all these other entities and stuff, you know, they're, you know, you know, Board or, you know, I'd like to recommend, you know, instead of a two year because, you know, it's kind of -- like you said, it's going to be a long, hard, you know, process of getting that person. So, you know, like to recommend it instead of a two-year, be good three-year term. So, thanks.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so, I think that's a little different than criteria for the RAC membership. So, there's the criteria, but then there's the duration of the membership. So, that would be maybe additional to that, if we were to submit that.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin for the record, I think -- I mean, it's fine to put that in here, but I thought it was a three-year term. Oh, okay.

MS. CHAPA: Okay. Mr. Chair, if I can. Yes, Council members do serve three-year terms, but sometimes we have people that resign from their seats. And so, when we're trying to backfill for vacant positions, sometimes the term for that specific position is one year or two years. I know Mr. Council member Williams had to apply a couple of times consecutively. Well, I mean, his term was like for one year and so, he had to like reapply the following year because as the positions are back filled each seat have kind of like overlapping terms so, that we don't end up with the possibility of having all Council members resign and not have any Council, any filled seats, if that makes sense.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds like you got it. All right. I guess we'll move on to keep going with

00010

1 the working group points.

2

3 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I
4 might also add that people can be nominated to serve on
5 the RAC as well. So, in addition to anybody wanting to
6 do it for themselves you can also recommend somebody and
7 nominate somebody to apply on the RAC and that individual
8 just has to be in agreement that they're willing to
9 serve if appointed. Okay, moving on. The next item was
10 membership of the Federal Subsistence Board. And just
11 to give everybody a quick overview, I think last year
12 there was three -- there was the addition of three
13 tribally nominated seats on the Board. So, the current
14 composition of the Board is the heads of five agencies
15 and six public members, and the working group discussed
16 that this is a good move in the right path. Adding more
17 public members that are tribally nominated, they support
18 the addition of more public members. And Chair Frantz
19 mentioned that it's good and enjoys going to the Federal
20 Subsistence Board meetings to understand their
21 limitations on authority or jurisdiction, but, overall
22 satisfied with the current composition of the Board.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions,
25 comments on the federal portion of it? Federal
26 Subsistence Board. If not, we can move on to the next
27 item.

28

29 (No comment)

30

31 Hearing none. Gisela.

32

33 MS. CHAPA: Okay. The next topic was
34 federal regulations and state regulations for
35 duplication and inconsistency. This generated a lot of
36 debate within our working group. So, there's several
37 recommendations that -- or comments at the working group
38 is proposing to submit. We -- to begin with, like the
39 topic was too broad and the working group believes that
40 we needed a little bit more direction to identify, like
41 to really get into what is being asked and requested
42 more details or information in order for us to provide
43 meaningful feedback. After that discussion, we just made
44 the assumption that we're looking to compare both of the
45 federal and the state regulations and see where the
46 process could be improved. One of the things that the
47 working group shared was that they would prefer the state
48 to mirror the federal regulations because the state
49 regulations are against the subsistence priority. The
50 group also discussed that the state is allowing and

00011

1 encouraging guided fly-in hunts, while the federal
2 government has nothing to do with that. And through that
3 process, the working group stated that the state is
4 collecting money for these permits, and so, they have a
5 monetary incentive to continue those guided hunts.

6
7 Another discussion that the working
8 group had was that sport hunters do not know or respect
9 the subsistence traditions, like letting the lead
10 caribou pass and they found instances where the sport
11 hunters that -- or the fly-in hunters set in camps during
12 on the caribou migration pathways and sometimes affect
13 or deflect their movement and deflect them from
14 traditional subsistence hunting areas and it's blocking
15 migration paths to Anaktuvuk Pass.

16
17 Okay, moving on. The next item that the
18 working group identified is that there is a lack of
19 state and federal enforcement. And so, the burden is
20 falling on the North Slope Borough and exhausting
21 Borough resources. And in that process, they requested
22 that more state and federal law enforcement officers are
23 needed to enforce harvest regulations. In addition to
24 that, we need more education and orientation of sport
25 hunters to ensure their compliance with regulations and
26 so that they also respect local subsistence users and
27 traditional practices. And the last item that the
28 working group identified is that we need to ensure the
29 regulations on paper can actually be enforced or
30 implemented on the ground because regulations are
31 meaningless if they're not enforced or follow through.

32
33 MR. NAGEAK: Yes. Good to know -- sorry,
34 Ernest Nageak, because when we had the caribou issue,
35 there was this -- what is it? I think a Seaway or
36 controlled flying area. Controlled use area for Umiak
37 towards AKP right now and it's -- it was put in
38 regulation last year to extend the area and who's taking
39 responsibility to watch those planes? And also, you
40 know, there's a kind of hunt after -- or within 24 hours
41 of flying. Who manages that too? You know. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

44
45 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair, thank you.
46 Leonard. I know I brought it up in our North Slope
47 Borough wild life meeting, and it was on Facebook, you
48 know, one of the sport hunters at Kotzebue, you know,
49 really cussing out one of the cargo guys that, you know,
50 don't, f-ing [sic] touch my antlers. You know, he's a

00012

1 cargo guy and he had to take over and he was really
2 upset. You know, he didn't -- you f-ing Native, you
3 know, don't touch him like, it's on Facebook. That was
4 last year, and those sport hunters were really, you know,
5 coming in and Kotzebue. So, I just want to bring that
6 up and, you know, like you said, you know, we need really
7 good state and federal enforcement all over, not just,
8 you know, Umiak or other places. You know, it's all
9 over, you know. So, we're -- thanks.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you and just
12 to point out, we did discuss both state and federal
13 lands that were being utilized for flying hunts. So, we
14 did have both the discussions for both the areas that
15 are being utilized. So, there were comments on both the
16 state side for flying hunts as well as the federal side
17 flying hunts that we did have.....

18
19 (Simultaneous speech)

20
21 MR. NAGEAK: And then there's also,
22 Native lands. When I went to AKP and visit the Park
23 Service, they told us that, you know, there's a certain
24 time period they could hunt sheep over here, but on
25 Native land they could get some earlier than the certain
26 regulations in this state land, federal land, Native
27 land and some of these areas. It could be confusing at
28 times because -- yeah.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep. So, we did
31 discuss the -- not so, much the dates, but the -- because
32 even if the date wasn't there, it's still state versus
33 federal. So, we did have both the discussions though.
34 But you're right and also, there's private lands that
35 they were flying into. But that's another portion of it.
36 But I guess we'll stick with what the -- I mean, what
37 we needed to put in for the comment period, though.

38
39 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll
40 move on. The next item that the Secretary's Office
41 requested feedback on was regulations governing special
42 actions and the working group had no comments on this.

43
44 (Pause)

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, yeah, I think
47 we can move to the next one.

48
49 MS. CHAPA: Okay. The next item that the
50 Secretary's Office requested feedback on is the role of

00013

1 the state and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
2 the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The working
3 group had a lot of discussion on this item as well and
4 they stated that it's good to involve the state in the
5 process and have a designated ADF&G person to
6 disseminate information and provide input. But the state
7 is generally opposed to subsistence and does not benefit
8 subsistence users. The working group supports
9 maintaining their current role and definitely do not
10 support increasing the role of ADF&G in the Federal
11 Subsistence Management Program. Throughout the
12 discussion, one of our working group members stated that
13 it's easier to shoot a protected polar bear than it is
14 to shoot a caribou and less likely to go to jail over
15 it because state regulations are so onerous. The working
16 group stated that they really appreciate receiving
17 biological and technical information from ADF&G during
18 meetings so that they are better informed when making
19 decisions. But there is still some reluctance from
20 residents of the region to participate in Borough
21 surveys because they're afraid the information will be
22 shared with the state and used against them to change
23 regulations. So, as they discussed this item, they
24 demonstrated several examples in which their area
25 residents still show a lot of distrust for the state.
26 And communities do not trust the state in augmenting the
27 role of ADF&G in the Federal Subsistence Management
28 process, would increase mistrust in the federal program
29 as well. And there's a lot of history for the mistrust
30 between local users and ADF&G because of citations and
31 onerous regulations.

32
33 (Pause)

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing no
36 comments. I think we're good for the next one.

37
38 MS. CHAPA: Excellent. Moving on, the
39 next item they requested feedback on is on Board
40 procedures for non-rural determinations and the working
41 group had no comments. Everybody in the North Slope
42 region is rural. I will add that the group also had some
43 discussions outside of these bulleted items that were
44 provided to us. One of the comments is that the
45 regulatory process takes too long. The process works,
46 but they have to wait two years for a regulatory change
47 to be implemented. Also, along the lines of what you
48 shared earlier, Mr. Chair, is that DOI should be
49 sensitive to provide adequate notice. This process of
50 programmatic review is really difficult to provide

00014

1 comments because there was not much notice or
2 information provided, and providing so little
3 information with such short notice seems like something
4 was skipped.

5
6 Okay. In addition to that, the working
7 group also discussed the need for higher travel premiums
8 because the costs have increased dramatically and
9 illustrated with some examples how people in the Borough
10 receive like a 4% cost of living allowance increase.
11 Council members also, need to be compensated for their
12 time, per diem is not enough to cover expenses, and
13 Council members currently volunteer their time. So, this
14 could become a barrier to recruiting new members because
15 many people cannot afford to be on the Council. And the
16 working group also, talked about a letter that the
17 Council had sent to the Secretary to the Secretary
18 several years ago, requesting that Council members be
19 compensated at the GS 12 level while attending their
20 meetings. And, along these lines the working group also
21 discussed that the knowledge that is shared with the
22 Federal Subsistence Board is also very valuable and also
23 should be compensated.

24
25 And the last thing that the working
26 group discussed is that we need more opportunities for
27 collaboration and information sharing between different
28 regions and organizations. For example, in 2024, we had
29 an All-Council meeting, and we also had sessions with
30 four Councils discussing one wildlife proposal that
31 would affect all of them and regularly these discussions
32 would happen region by region. But, during the all-
33 Council meeting, we had an opportunity to have the four
34 Councils sitting together and discuss the issue. And in
35 addition to that, more interaction with Subsistence
36 Resource Commission and State Advisory Committees. And
37 that was -- that is the end of what was discussed in the
38 working group.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the
41 update. Any further comments or suggestions for our
42 input before we end the discussion portion of this and
43 go for the yays and nays for the Council? Go ahead,
44 Lisa.

45
46 MS. GREDIAGIN: I just wanted to note,
47 like a few minor edits I took to these comments while
48 Gisela was presenting, and then, you know, we had to --
49 so, if you look, it's on the screen behind you. Brower,
50 but I did just note under the criteria for Council --

00015

1 Regional Advisory Council membership. You know, Leonard
2 mentioned he liked the three-year terms, you know, so,
3 I think that's valuable to put in there, not just what
4 you don't like, but what you do like. If people are in
5 agreement with that and then the rest was just minor
6 edits. I did clarify for this bullet point, you know,
7 on the fly-in hunts that it's on state, federal and
8 private lands. Okay that was just saying a
9 clarification. I think that's -- the rest of these were
10 just clarifications. So, I think the main addition was
11 just adding the three-year terms and then adding, you
12 know, some additional clarification.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, everybody good
15 with the edits before we say yes or...?

16

17 MS. GREDIAGIN: I mean, I can go over
18 more details but, most of them are just minor other than
19 the three-year terms.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, it sounds like
22 we're okay with that.

23

24 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: Does that mean I'm still
29 in one year term all the time?

30

31 MS. CHAPA: Mr. -- through the Chair.
32 This is Gisela Chap and no, Mr. Williams, I'll have to
33 look at the roster to look at the term of the current
34 seat that you're in, but I think we're still going
35 through the appoint -- the appointment process -- the
36 nominations and appointment process and yeah. I'll
37 follow up with you and give you the details.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Go ahead,
40 Leonard.

41

42 MR. BARGER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Leonard. I
43 got another -- I know we got this, you know, this agenda
44 and, you know, on the agenda, you know, the units and
45 stuff and we're talking about the units in the Kotzebue
46 area. You know, in my district, you know, 23 and they're
47 having meetings in Kotzebue, and we don't have a
48 representative from Point Hope that, you know, that's
49 going to the Kotzebue meeting and, you know, voicing our
50 -- that's our unit to, you know, like we talk about

00016

1 boundaries and stuff and we're doing these proposals.
2 And I would like to address, you know, see if we can
3 have somebody represent in our unit, in our area. So,
4 thank you.

5

6

(Pause)

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right so, maybe
9 we'll go through yays and nays before -- I mean,
10 individually, before we go through this. Go ahead, Lisa.

11

12 MS. GREDIAGIN: In response -- Lisa
13 Grediagin, for the record. In response to Leonard's
14 comment, I just kind of added that onto this last bullet
15 point about need more opportunities for collaboration
16 and information sharing to point out that specific
17 example of Point Hope representatives attending the
18 Northwest Arctic Council meeting since Point Hope is in
19 Unit 23. I think that kind of ties into the -- more
20 collaboration across regions.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, sorry about
23 that. I think if we have any, anything that's related
24 to Unit 23 means that we do have a portion of our
25 jurisdiction in there, I think that is a good discussion
26 and addition.

27

28 MS. GREDIAGIN: And -- sorry, finally, I
29 just wanted to emphasize to the Council that even though
30 there are these seven bullet points that the department
31 has highlighted, they want feedback from, you're also
32 welcome to provide feedback on anything regarding the
33 program. And, you know, that's why we have this other
34 comment category. So, if there's -- you know, now's your
35 time if there's anything you really like about the
36 program, anything you think could be improved or changed
37 please speak up now because this is a pretty important
38 big process, and I think they'll take your comments
39 pretty seriously.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. I guess maybe
42 with the addition of, well, we've already discussed it,
43 but if they gave us more time, we would be more than
44 happy to discuss this in depth. But this was something
45 that not even 24 hours ago was handed to us and I don't
46 feel like we should waste the entire meeting, and you
47 know, the agenda on something that is so pressed right
48 now and make decisions on the on the fly. So, that's
49 just my thought process on this. I think we need to get
50 this one out the door and not pour our whole time into

00017

1 this and that you know, if they do make rash decisions
2 off of this that, you know, we weren't given our due
3 diligence and to put that on record. So, we're happy to
4 provide what was there though, even though it was a
5 compressed working group within the same day, not even
6 six hours later. That's kind of unheard of. So, I
7 wouldn't press anybody to really go dive off the deep
8 end into this right now. If there are additional
9 discussions on this, I feel that they should maybe extend
10 some time and give us more information and details
11 because there are none, before asking us to make any,
12 any pressing decisions on something that we don't have
13 details on. So, go ahead, Peter.

14
15 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I support this going
16 on because the reason why I said this because they
17 invited us to their Manila Subsistence in February,
18 right, Esther? Yeah, in February. So, you know, they
19 we're supporting one another about what's going on in
20 this criteria. So, you know, we're fully supporting
21 them. Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. All right. Now
24 more for the working group discussion that we've had.
25 It sounds like we want to go through individually. What
26 we've gone through is this something that we would like
27 to complete and submit? And are you in favor of it? So,
28 maybe Wanda will have a roll call before we go through
29 this, individually. So, we'll go around the table and
30 just, you know, just get a consensus of, is this
31 adequate? Before we do our final call on this.

32
33 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

36
37 MR. BARGER: Yeah. I'd like to make a
38 motion to approve all instead of going through one by
39 one, because we've already discussed it and talked about
40 it so, it makes it a lot easier if we could make them -
41 - I'd like to make a motion to approve all the stuff
42 that we discussed. So, you know, it's going to be one
43 by one it's going to be taking a lot longer because, you
44 know.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I don't know that
47 we can do a motion within a motion. So, we're sitting
48 inside a motion on discussion. But we need on record.....

49
50 MR. BARGER: Okay.

00018

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHYAIRPERSON FRANTZ:the consensus
individually just for the details and that way we can
make the end vote on it. Go ahead, Wanda.

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

MR. BARGER: Yes.

MS. KIPPI: Ernest Nageak.

MR. NAGEAK: Yes.

MS. KIPPI: Wanda Kippi, yes. Peter
Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

MS. KIPPI: Quincy Adams.

MR. ADAMS: Yes.

MS. KIPPI: Martha Itta.

(No response)

Esther Hugo.

(No audible response)

Brower Frantz.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Now we'll activate
the microphone first.

MS. HUGO: Yes.

MS. KIPPI: Thank you. Brower Frantz.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes.

MS. KIPPI: And Jenysa Ahmaogak.

MS. AHMAOGAK: Yes.

MR. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes.

00019

1 MS. KIPPI: We have one, two, three,
2 four, eight. Eight yays.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Eight yays and one
5 absent.

6
7 MS. KIPPI: Yes.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it looks like
10 we have enough for the passing of the working group
11 discussion.

12
13 MS. KIPPI: Yes, sir.

14
15 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

18
19 MS. CHAPA: And I believe we also need a
20 motion and a vote to submit these comments once the
21 public comment period opens.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: What's the wish of
24 the Council? Would anybody like to make a motion to
25 submit the Council report?

26
27 MR. ADAMS: Move to approve.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: To submit?

30
31 MR. ADAMS: Yes.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. There's a
34 motion to submit.....

35
36 MS. AHMAOGAK: Seconded.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ:the Council
39 working group discussion. Seconded by Jenysa.

40
41 MR. BARGER: Question.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
44 called for by Leonard. All those in favor of submitting
45 the working group Council items to -- what was the name
46 of the -- the programmatic review. All those in favor,
47 say aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

00020

1 All those opposed, same sign.

2

3

(No response)

4

5 Hearing none, we can submit the working
6 group discussion. Thank you. All right. What time is it
7 moving -- 9:54, moving forward. It looks like we have
8 action items here up next. Is this correct? All right
9 so, we have action items, and we do have an established
10 quorum. So, we will be able to make a motion on these
11 for approval. These are all action items coming up, or
12 at least the next couple. So, we have WCR26-18, and I
13 believe that is Tom again. You have the floor.

14

15

(Pause)

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. PLANK: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair,
members of the Council. For the record, my name is Tom
Plank, Wildlife Biologist with the Office of Management
and closure review WCR26-18 Starting on page 39 of your
supplemental books. And this is for closure to sheep
hunting by non-federally qualified users in the Baird
Mountains of Unit 23. That's south of the Rabbit Creek,
the Kayak Creek and the Noatak River and west of the
Cutler and Redstone Rivers. There's a map on page 40
that shows it pretty -- really nice.

There have been many changes to the
sheep hunt over the years. However, the original closure
that were reviewing this cycle was put in place in 1999.
No sheep harvest has occurred in the Baird Mountains
under federal or state regulations since 2014, when the
seasons were closed due to conservation concerns.
Between 2011 and 2019, the sheep population estimates
ranged from 174 to 643 sheep, with the highest being in
2011 and the lowest being in 2019. The preliminary
numbers from the 2024 survey indicates that the
population showed a slight increase from the 2019
survey. Low sheep abundance resulted in closures for
both state and federal hunting seasons in the Baird
Mountains from 1991 to 1994, and the federal subsistence
hunt was opened briefly in -- or the 1998-99 regulatory
year, and harvest occurred each year through 2014,
except for the '99, 2000 and the 2001 seasons. Low
numbers of full curl rams were observed during surveys,
so the hunt was closed for those two years.

The Baird Mountain sheep population is
still very low and cannot withstand any harvest, and the
state sheep hunt and Unit 23 has been closed since 2014,

00021

1 and if a harvestable surplus does become available and
2 a season is announced, the Western Arctic National
3 Parkland Superintendent currently has authority to close
4 federal lands in North -- federal lands to non-federally
5 qualified users if necessary, so the federally qualified
6 subsistence users will be assured a limited, but
7 meaningful hunting opportunity and subsistence priority.
8 For reference, sheep populations in the De Long and
9 Schvatka Mountains are similarly low, but there are no
10 federal lands closures because state hunts are closed
11 and the WEAR superintendent has authority to close
12 federal lands non-federally qualified users, if
13 necessary, in all those areas -- hunt areas. So,
14 therefore, the preliminary conclusion is -- OSM
15 preliminary conclusion is to rescind the closure because
16 we're sending the closure would have no impact on the
17 sheep population or subsistence users but would reduce
18 regulatory and administrative burdens associated with
19 the closure. However, I do want to point out one little
20 thing. The WEAR superintendent could possibly lose their
21 authority to close the federal public lands in Unit 23
22 to non-subsistence uses of sheep, if that WP26-01 is
23 adopted. OSM maintains that retaining the closure and
24 regulatory -- regulation is unnecessary, since the state
25 hunt has been closed since 2014. And if a state hunt
26 does open in the future, the Board still could
27 administratively delegate temporary authority to close
28 federal public lands to non-federally qualified users
29 to the WEAR superintendent, if necessary. Temporary or
30 emergency special action could also be submitted. Thank
31 you, Mr. Chair, and members of Council. I'd be happy to
32 answer any questions.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, I do have a
35 question there, Tom. So, it says preliminary conclusion
36 is to rescind the closure but, yet the numbers are low.
37 Is that strictly for reducing just the regulatory burden
38 on you guys or what? What's the story here? It doesn't
39 make sense to me.

40
41 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tom
42 Plank, OSM. So, basically, right now it has several
43 different layers of closure going on. You have the
44 closure, which was what we're reviewing right now. Plus,
45 the superintendent of the parklands there has a
46 Delegation of Authority Letter. So, even if the closure
47 wasn't in place, he can open -- or that superintendent
48 can open or close at any time, depending on the
49 population or they can set -- there's a lot -- that was
50 the delegation of authority that we looked at yesterday

00022

1 on that. So, right now it's double closed. And that's
2 why we're suggesting just to rescind the closure part
3 of it, leave the authority for the delegate -- for the
4 manager. And yes, to finish answering your question,
5 that would reduce the burden on us. So, we wouldn't have
6 to bring this to you every two years.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, how, -- I guess
9 how likely is this to impact the population? Would it
10 make this easier for them to be hunting sheep if we
11 rescinded the closure? I mean, it's not like we're the
12 only ones that are going to have a say in this, but
13 would rescinding the closure make it easier for sheep
14 to be hunted?

15
16 MR. PLANK: Through Chair, Tom Plank,
17 OSM. Honestly, it -- it's hard to say because the
18 population is so low. There's no foreseeable period
19 where I could see them opening that hunt. There's just
20 -- they can't withstand a harvest right now, so, it's
21 kind of hard to say whether lifting this would make it
22 easier or not, because there's so many other factors
23 involved.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. But it's
26 definitely not going to be open anytime soon, is what
27 you're saying.

28
29 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair

30
31 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin. Sorry to
32 jump in on you, Tom, but the other aspects of this
33 specific closure is that the state hunt has been closed
34 since 2014, and so, it seems a little unnecessary, like
35 Tom says, to have these like, multiple layers of closures
36 when you know the state hunt is -- or has been closed
37 for a decade now. And it also is consistent with the
38 other hunt areas in Unit 23. So, if you look at the map
39 we're talking about the green area, the Baird Mountains.
40 And so, this one has a closure and federal regulations,
41 whereas the red and the blue and the purple -- or I mean
42 the red and the blue, they don't have a closure in
43 federal regulations, but it's the same sheep populations
44 basically. I mean, they're all super low. The state hunts
45 been closed. The federal hunt's been closed since 2016.
46 I mean, the sheep population is doing horrible so,
47 there's just no harvest at all. And so, it's a little
48 inconsistent to have this federal closure and
49 regulations for one hunt area, but not the other two
50 hunt areas. And I mean, we'll be honest, like it is

00023

1 partly selfish to reduce the regulatory burden on us of
2 like doing these close reviews every four years and you
3 guys having to look at them again every four years. But
4 it's also, because the state hunt's been closed since
5 2014, and the other two hunt areas that are in the same
6 situation don't have a codified closure in regulations.
7 And if, I mean, if this closure is rescinded,
8 technically, I mean, it would be easier for hunt to be
9 open because the state could open a hunt, and then
10 there'd have to be some action taken at that time on the
11 federal side to keep it closed to, you know, state
12 hunters.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Ernest.

15

16 MR. NAGEAK: So, we should rescind, but
17 let federally subsistent users have, in case there's
18 enough, deter the authority to the superintendent to
19 allow a special hunt, but. Recommendation, they should
20 rescind all closures for federally subsistence use that
21 are in certain area, whether they're in one RAC or, you
22 know, deferred to the Borough or defer it to the
23 superintendent or the Park Service, or because, you
24 know, the federally used the subsistence use are in the
25 actual towns, and I'm glad they could -- they're closing
26 the federal -- non-federal subsistence users, but we
27 want to rescind the closure so, we could have federally
28 subsistence users to have a chance in the future. If
29 there is enough for the superintendent, say, hey, catch
30 one.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, I just wanted
33 to cut you off real quick on that because this is only
34 for non-federally qualified users. So, this has nothing
35 -- this won't affect the federal users -- federally
36 qualified subsistence users. This is just for -- so,
37 essentially by rescinding -- if -- so if we rescinded
38 the closure, this would in effect make it easier for
39 non-federally qualified users to have a hunt there. So,
40 the subsistence will still be there. The -- or you know
41 it shouldn't affect the subsistence users. This is
42 specifically for non-federally qualified users. So, what
43 they're asking is to -- at least their conclusion is to
44 rescind the closure. But, in effect that is against what
45 our wishes would normally be as subsistence users in the
46 RAC. If we're trying to stop non-federally qualified
47 users to go in there, if we followed this measure, we
48 would in effect be going against what we normally are
49 doing.

50

00024

1 MR. NAGEAK: So, you're recommending not
2 to rescind?

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That's the
5 discussion we should be having right now as a Council.
6 So, that's why I wanted to stop right there, because
7 we're not discussing subsistence at this point. This is
8 just for non-federally qualified users. So, just wanted
9 to make that clear so, we're making a good decision.

10
11 MR. NAGEAK: Okay, just to make it clear,
12 I don't want non-federally users catching goats, so.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And also, you're
15 saying there's a very low chance of it. But, if we were
16 to rescind, you know, at least the federal closure on
17 this or put our 2 cents in for rescinding, because this
18 is going to go all over the place before they make a
19 decision. But, for us, though, I would not rescind this
20 closure.

21
22 MR. NAGEAK: I make a motion to defer to
23 their home region.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That's also an
26 option. So, okay, that's a motion that is.....

27
28 MS. AHMAOGAK: Seconded.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Jenysa.

31
32 MR. BARGER: Question.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh no. We didn't go
35 through -- okay. We didn't go through the entire -- so,
36 I think we're going to have to make a motion to rescind
37 until we go through our presentation procedures.

38
39 MR. NAGEAK: So, retain my motion then.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, is that a motion
42 to rescind your motion?

43
44 MR. NAGEAK: Motion to rescind my motion.

45
46 MR. ADAMS: Seconded.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded. Any
49 discussion?

50

00025

1 MR WILLIAMS: Question.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
4 called for all those in favor to rescind the motion, say
5 aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
10 sign.

11

12 (No response)

13

14 Hearing none. We've rescinded the
15 motion. So, let's go through -- or any other questions
16 for Tom before we stop this. Is everybody clear on what
17 we're doing now or what we're discussing?

18

19 MS. AHMAOGAK: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes.

22

23 MS. AHMAOGAK: Jenysa Ahmaogak, for the
24 record, Tom just to clarify, this would -- for this
25 unit, this is basically mirroring our side with
26 Kaktovik, the non-federally qualified users. So, the
27 only qualified users are the villages in that unit?

28

29 MR. PLANK: Thank you, member for asking
30 that. If you look on page 42, you'll see where it says
31 the customary and traditional use determination and that
32 shows that the people who have -- that are -- have
33 traditional use for this area are the residents of Unit
34 23, north of the Arctic Circle and Point Lay have a
35 customary traditional use determination for the sheep
36 in Unit 23. So, those would be the ones that have the -
37 - would be federally qualified users for these sheep.

38

39 MS. AHMAOGAK: Okay, yes. So, yeah. So,
40 it's basically just mirroring what we have here said in
41 the North Slope for Kaktovik. Thank you for that.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any other questions
44 for Tom? Go ahead, Leonard.

45

46 MR. BARGER: Yes, Tom. Yeah. I want to
47 ask you where you get your numbers on the sheep? Who
48 does the survey? Because I -- past 12 years I've been
49 at Lisburne. There's like 32 sheeps [sic] over by Cape
50 or -- at Lisburne area in the mountains. So, they got a

00026

1 cave there and I got a lot of hunters that always check
2 on them. So, there was like six bulls with -- fully
3 curled and a lot of young ones for their mating and
4 stuff, they hang around there past 12 years and stuff.
5 So, I just want to see where you get your input on
6 numbers and stuff. So, Thanks.

7
8 MR. PLANK: Thank you, member. This is
9 Tom, OSM. So, the surveys are done in a joint effort
10 with ADF&G and the Park Service in that area. The last
11 survey was done in 2019 and then there's reasons why
12 they couldn't get surveys between them. But they did do
13 a survey last year. I just -- they haven't had a chance
14 to get to completed numbers to me yet on that. But that
15 was why -- they told me the preliminary. They have
16 slightly increased, but there's not a huge increase yet.
17 But thank you for telling me that and we can let them
18 know about that as well.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. If we
21 don't have any other questions for Tom, I think we'll
22 get started on our procedures. All right. Go ahead,
23 Carmen.

24
25 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
26 is Carmen Daggett for the record. I just wanted to let
27 you know that Christie Osburn is the Area Biologist for
28 Unit 23, and I believe she's on the call today. If you
29 guys had specific population questions regarding the
30 sheep, she helps do those surveys and could answer some
31 more of those details. I am -- she's way more of an
32 expert on that sort of stuff than I am but, she's
33 available online if you have specific questions. Thank
34 you.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
37 All right. I think those are outside of where the
38 discussion is leading now. It is within the unit, but I
39 don't think it pertains to what we have in front of us
40 right now. So, but Leonard, there is somebody online,
41 if you have questions later about specifics to that
42 population.

43
44 MR. BARGER: Yeah, I'm just bringing it
45 up because, you know, like I said earlier -- yesterday
46 that, you know, Unit 23, we're being left out. And, you
47 know, I would like to address our unit and stuff and the
48 boundaries. So, I just want to bring that up and let you
49 guys know. So, thank you.

50

00027

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thanks, Leonard.
All right. So, good to know there is somebody here to
discuss that with though. All right. So, let's go through
the procedures now. Are we still doing the same thing
as yesterday to where -- report on Board tribes and the
ANCSA Corporations are? So, we have not received any
feedback for tribes or ANCSA corporations.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19

(Whispered conversation)

MS. CHAPA: Sorry. Gisela Chapa, for the
record. In the presentation procedures for the proposals
and the closure reviews, there's always a spot for us
to report out on Board consultations on the proposals
as they're submitted. And during the tribal
consultations, we did not receive any comments on that
to clarify.

20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

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

(No comments)

Hearing none. Federal agencies.

(No comments)

28
29
30
31

Hearing none from federal, tribal
agencies. Native, tribal village, other or entities?
Tribal entities?

32
33
34

MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

35
36

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MS. HUGO: Yes, thank you. I'm taking my
hat off, and I'm speaking on behalf of the tribe. On the
sheep. There was a closure east of us by Wiseman, by the
foot at Galbraith and Tulik area was east of us. It's
been ten years or so that area has been closed to the
non-federally hunters and so, our sheep in our area are
okay. But we start realizing that this summer, they're
going to Agieak area to Killik area west of us. A lot
of the little planes and hunters. They're coming in from
Coldfoot or from -- Coldfoot or Bettles. And yes, our
counts, they're good for our sheep. But then we've got
these outsiders, the hunters that are going to these
places now, as we speak, last month. I mean, they're
going -- since it's closed east of us, they're going to

00028

1 west of us, where all our caribou -- I mean, our sheep
2 are. Populations okay, they're being counted. It's just
3 sad to see that they're not -- the hunters, the sport
4 hunters are taking advantage of going west now. Pretty
5 soon in the future, we're not going to be able to hunt
6 the rams. I just wanted to bring that up.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Thank you for
9 that. So, being that I think the only location that has
10 C&T for this, I don't think we're going to be able to
11 take comments from because you guys are within 26A, I
12 don't think we're going to be able to utilize any
13 comments for 23 for a different area. But, if we do run
14 into the discussion, maybe later for sheep, but this one
15 is specific to users for 23.

16
17 MS. HUGO: I realize that I just want to
18 point that out because this is going to be happening
19 soon. Yeah, it's happening already. They're already
20 going they're catching rams. They're showing us, you
21 know, these pictures and the hunters. I realized, I know
22 what you're saying on the units I understand it's in 23.
23 I know we are in 26A. It's just something that is
24 happening and we should not that happen to any, any
25 place on our sheep.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Understood
28 now. Alright. So, thank you for the comments. Advisory
29 group comments there, so no RACs have met yet, so, we're
30 skipping that summary of written public comments.

31
32 MR. PLANK: Tom Plank, OSM. There are no
33 written public comments submitted during the open period
34 for this.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Any
37 public testimony? Any online or on the floor?

38
39 (No response)

40
41 Hearing none. Regional Council
42 recommendation.

43
44 (No response)

45
46 All right, so closure review, motion
47 options are to retain the closure within the closure,
48 modify the closure, take no action, take no action, and
49 defer to home region or defer to a future meeting. So,
50 those are the options. So, what is the wish of the

00029

1 Council? So -- just based on what we discussed earlier
2 my recommendation would be to -- sorry, what page is
3 that on? Well, I guess two options, you can either --
4 well, from what we discussed, my recommendation would
5 be to either take no action and defer to the home region.
6 But we do have, you know, one of our locations within
7 23. The other one would be to retain the closure which
8 would make it a little more simple for us. But, at the
9 end result, you know, we're just one of the advice givers
10 for the entire thing before they make the decision. So,
11 mine would be to, you know, maybe retain the closure.
12

13 MR. WILLAMS: Yes. I was going to agree
14 on that, on retaining closure. Peter Williams. Thank
15 you.
16

17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, you want to make
18 a motion?
19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. I'll make a motion
21 on this.
22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Make a motion to
24 retain the closure. So, that was made by Peter Williams.
25

26 MR. ADAMS: Second.
27

28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded. We'll
29 call that one Quincy Adams. Any discussion on the matter,
30 justification?
31

32 MR. NAGEAK: Just comment. You know,
33 hearing Esther, if they're open over there for non-
34 federal, I'm assuming -- I'm scared they're going to
35 move over there, wherever it's open, and then we start
36 closing everything all over. They're going to start
37 going up north. Just my comment. But was there a second?
38

39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep. It was
40 seconded. So, under discussion. So, we're just trying
41 to find the justification, and it would be to follow our
42 subsistence.
43

44 (Off record conversation)
45

46 Yep. Is the closure -- and the closure
47 is necessary for conservation of population. So, I guess
48 that would be good enough justification there. Though
49 it's -- you know, there's -- any other discussion?
50

00030

1 MR. BARGER: Question.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
4 called for. All those in favor of retaining the closure,
5 say aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Reason why I say retain
10 closures.....

11

12 (Whispered conversation)

13

14 Reason why retain closure because you
15 know, like you said, for years term that, you know, we
16 just -- we're just going to hang. See what's going on.
17 Like she explained it so, that, you know, future will
18 have something that -- to stand to look forward to.
19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. So, all
22 those in favor of retaining closure, say aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
27 sign.

28

29 MR. NAGEAK: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is that for
32 opposing?

33

34 (No audible response)

35

36 Okay. All right. Hearing none, then
37 motion passed to retain the closure. Alright, up next
38 we have WCR26-45. Tom.

39

40 MR. PLANK: Thank you again, Mr. Chair,
41 members of the Council. Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist
42 Office of Subsistence Management. And this is Wildlife
43 Closure Review WCR26-45 and that begins on page 67 of
44 your main book.

45

46 (Pause)

47

48 So, Wildlife Closure Review WCR26-45 is
49 the standard review of federal subsistence wildlife
50 closure to the harvest of caribou by non-federally

00031

1 qualified users on federal public lands within just a
2 portion of Unit 23, and this is a year-round closure.
3 The closure is located along the Noatak River, from the
4 western boundary of Noatak National Preserve, upstream
5 to the confluence of the Cutler River within the northern
6 and southern boundaries of the Eli, and a Ugashik River
7 drainage, respectively, with -- and within the Squirrel
8 River drainage and from here on I'll just refer to that
9 as the Unit 23 Noatak corridor 'cus [sic]. And if you
10 all recall last cycle, a closure to caribou hunting by
11 non-federally qualified users for August 1st to October
12 31st is in effect right now for all of Unit 23. And that
13 one -- this one that we're talking about now, this is
14 just pertaining to that Noatak River corridor, which is
15 there on the map outlined in the red.

16
17 This closure was first put in place in
18 2017 as a special action which was submitted by the
19 Northwest Arctic Council and then in 2018 in the codified
20 regulations. And then the last time it was reviewed, it
21 was also, retained in 2022. And at that time, the Board
22 stated that the closure was originally enacted for the
23 continuation of subsistence users of the Western Arctic
24 Caribou Herd, and that the underlying factors of users
25 -- user conflict that led to the closure was still a
26 concern. Western Arctic Caribou Herd population has
27 fluctuated over time, from a low of 75,000 in the 70s
28 to a peak of approximately 40 -- 490,000 in 2003, and
29 then the most recent population estimate was 152,000
30 caribou in 2023. No photo census was completed in 2024
31 due to weather conditions. The Western Arctic Caribou
32 Working Group has classified the herd at the
33 preservative declining management level since 2021. And
34 since the implementation of this closure in 2017,
35 members of the Northwest Arctic Council have testified
36 about its positive impacts procured -- particularly for
37 Noatak residence. During the last review of this closure
38 in 2022, Northwest Arctic Council voted to maintain the
39 status quo to continue to reduce previously significant
40 user conflict in the area, and because the targeted
41 closure provides a needed priority for subsistence users
42 to put food on the table. From 1999 to 2018, the range
43 wide estimate total harvest for the Western Arctic
44 caribou Herd averaged about 14,000 caribou a year. Year
45 specific harvest estimates have not been generated since
46 2018, in part because they're not very accurate.

47
48 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
49 retain the status quo, the current closure is still
50 necessary to continue subsistence use of the Western

00032

1 Arctic Caribou Herd for federally qualified subsistence
2 users and since the closure has been enacted, user
3 conflicts within the closure area have been reduced, and
4 the hunt experience and harvest success of federally
5 qualified subsistence users have improved. Thank you,
6 Mr. Chair, Members of Council. I'd be happy to answer
7 any questions.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
10 Any questions for Tom? It sounds pretty straight forward
11 retaining the status quo will keep federal -- non
12 federally qualified users from the area. Go ahead,
13 Peter.

14
15 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay, Peter Williams,
16 Anaktuvuk. The Western Working Group is still active?

17
18 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,
19 OSM. Yes, sir.

20
21 MR. WILLIAMS: Do you have a active
22 person from Anaktuvuk? Cause [sic] I remember last time
23 they tried to get me into it, and I was -- too many
24 hassle. Thank you.

25
26 MR. PLANK: Thank you for the question.
27 I don't know, off the top of my head. I'll have to look
28 up on our website and see if I can find a member list
29 on that.

30
31 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Peter Williams,
32 again. Reason why I asked, because we never heard
33 anything from Western Migratory. Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Leonard.

36
37 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Leonard Barger, for the record. Thank you for the good
39 input on this and I know I got a lot of relatives in
40 Noatak, and I was raised over there in Noatak with my
41 great grandparents. So, right now, you know, it's good
42 to hear. So, I know they're getting a lot of caribou now
43 in Noatak. A lot of subsistence user over there that are
44 getting them. So, I just want to bring that out and
45 thank you for.....

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, I
48 guess no further questions. We'll go through the
49 procedures. All right, so we don't have any report on
50 the Board consultations, Tribes, ANCSA Corporation. So,

00033

1 ADF&G agency comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 Federal agencies.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 Tribal entities, Native, tribal
10 village, other.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 So, we don't have any advisory group
15 comments. None were held yet. Support of written public
16 comments. Summary, not support. Summary of written
17 public comments.

18

19 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tom
20 Plank, OSM. There are no written public comments
21 submitted during the open period.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. All
24 right. Public testimony online or on the floor here.

25

26 (No response)

27

28 Hearing, none. Regional Council
29 recommendation. What is the wish of the Council?

30

31 MR. NAGEAK: Oh, sorry...

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Ernest.

34

35 MR. NAGEAK: I have a -- who do we call
36 if we see somebody non-federally user hunting. Do we
37 call the state or the feds? Or who's responsible for --
38 who -- you know, because we had a control use area and
39 nobody wants to monitor who's flying in and out of the
40 control use area. And it's just because, you know, we
41 see some of these non-federally users and, you know, all
42 over Alaska and who's responsible for -- yeah. Who do
43 we call?

44

45 MR. PLANK: Thank you for the question.
46 Tom Plank, OSM. This is just off the top of my head,
47 guess because I honestly don't know, right off -- I
48 don't know for sure, but I know the Park Service has law
49 enforcement officers I've met them at the Council
50 meetings several times, and I know they patrol that area,

00034

1 but I'm assuming that's who you would contact. But that
2 is just my assumption.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Carmen.

5

6 MS. DAGGETT: Good morning. Carmen
7 Daggett, for the record. So, the Alaska State Troopers
8 are always an option. You can contact them and usually
9 that's the first person that I would recommend. There's
10 -- also, BLM has recently hired a new law enforcement
11 person too and Jonathan, yeah. And so, you could contact
12 BLM too, for BLM related lands for enforcement, but the
13 troopers have jurisdiction to investigate over both
14 jurisdictions, I believe. Thank you.

15

16 MR. PRIDAY: So, this is Jonathan Priday
17 with BLM. If I can chime in on that. To enforce a non-
18 federally qualified user hunting in an area that's
19 restricted to federally qualified users, you would have
20 to go through a federal LEO. The troopers wouldn't have
21 any authority to enforce what was 50-CFR, which is now
22 43. So, I'll post my contact information in the chat.
23 But, to enforce that, in particular, you would have to
24 go through a federal law enforcement officer.

25

26 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you. The North Slope
27 had -- our federal law enforcement had packed up, and I
28 was just curious who do we reach out to. Thank you. We
29 must call the special agents or Anchorage office. Thank
30 you. Or is that Fish and Wildlife Service or BLM?

31

32 MR. PRIDAY: With the BLM. I'll post a
33 copy of my business card in the chat.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, John. All
36 right so, back to Regional Council recommendation. So,
37 retain the status quo is something that would be in line
38 with our ways here, so.

39

40 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make
41 a motion to retain status quo.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion on the floor
44 to retain status quo by Quincy.

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Peter.
49 Any discussion on the matter? Any -- so -- I guess I'll
50 throw in there that it does align with our subsistence

00035

1 because you know it is keeping the non-federally
2 qualified users from lessening the population right now.
3 So, it does have a positive effect on subsistence. Any
4 further discussion.

5

6 MR. BARGER: Question.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
9 called for all those in favor of retaining the status
10 quo for WCR26-45, say aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
15 sign.

16

17 (No response)

18

19 Hearing none, motion to retain the
20 status quo has passed. Is that all of our action items?
21 No? Go ahead, Peter.

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I just wanted to
24 say, you know, keep Unit 23 on top list. Now we can
25 retain that too. Thank you.

26

27 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. This is Gisela
28 Chapa, for the record.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

31

32 MS. CHAPA: I just wanted to go over the
33 agenda. So, we have a couple of remaining action items.
34 That is the annual report, we also have the confirmation
35 of our winter 2026 meeting date, and location and the
36 fall 2026 meeting date and location.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think maybe we'll
39 follow up with that after we take a break. All right,
40 we'll take a ten-minute break here, and we'll come back
41 to finish the remaining action items. Thank you. Ten-
42 minute break.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think we're ready.
49 We still have enough for a quorum here. All right, before
50 we get started back on the action items we do have,

00036

1 looks like a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services portion
2 that we need to go through, and are you here?

3

4 (No audible response)

5

6 Alright. You guys have the floor.

7

8 MR. GRAFF: All right. Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. Nathan Graff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
10 based out of Fairbanks, Wildlife Biologist. I got a
11 presentation here. I'll share and go through. All right,
12 thank you. So, I'm here to talk about the waterfowl in
13 our backyard here in Utqiaġvik. So, primarily I work out
14 of the Fairbanks office, but run this project up here
15 monitoring Steller's and spectacled eider as well as
16 other waterfowl species. Next slide please. Looks like
17 it's on one slide, but -- or one, but not the other.

18

19 MS. CHAPA: There might just be a little
20 bit of a delay in sharing the screen.

21

22 MR. GRAFF: All right. Thank you. So,
23 yes, I'm part of the Endangered Species program based
24 out of Fairbanks. And so, part of my work is conducting
25 work up here on steller's and spectacled eiders that are
26 both listed as threatened species. So, thank the Chair
27 yesterday for just, you know briefing -- briefly
28 mentioning a little bit about eiders around the area as
29 well as geese, and I'll talk about them a bit more in a
30 moment here. So, in general spectacled eider nest in low
31 density across the Arctic coastal plain, and then the
32 Utqiaġvik area here remains the only consistent location
33 for nesting Steller's eider within the state of Alaska.
34 And so, that's why we've been doing work here for many
35 years dating back to the early 1990s for long-term
36 monitoring of the distribution and relative abundance
37 of the species in the breeding area here. Next slide
38 please.

39

40 So, just quickly here talking about some
41 of our other work. So, we have three parts for our survey
42 efforts here. So, the little map there, you can see,
43 it's broken up to -- into many different little subunits.
44 And so, early in the season we kind of time our arrival
45 with birds. And so, we're conducting road-based surveys
46 on the roads leading outside of town here. And so, like
47 most of the ponds and such near the road system will
48 open up sooner than other areas of the tundra. And so,
49 that tends to concentrate a lot of the waterfowl early
50 in the season. So, it gives us an opportunity to gauge

00037

1 arrival numbers for the species and then also, any avian
2 predator activity that might be going on in the area,
3 especially early in the season. Then following the road
4 survey, once birds just distribute all to areas on the
5 tundra to begin nesting, we conduct the breeding pair
6 survey. And so, the map there shows our subunits for
7 these surveys. So, this is all a ground-based effort.
8 So, I have a crew out on the tundra and so, we walk
9 transects and count the numbers of birds that we see out
10 there. And then we use the information that we collect
11 there to aid in our nest searching and monitoring
12 efforts. So, since it's such a large area, we can't, you
13 know, walk every square inch of the place, obviously.
14 So, typically the observations that we will see earlier
15 in the season, if the bird is going to nest, it will
16 usually be in those areas. So, we'll come up -- come
17 back and search those areas and monitor those nests to
18 hatch. And then we do some capturing and banding efforts
19 for sea ducks and that includes four different species
20 Steller's, spectacled, king, eider and long tailed
21 ducks. Next slide please.

22
23 So, just to zooming out a little bit on
24 the area. So, that small little area in blue is that
25 last map. So, that's our ground survey area where it's
26 all foot travel for collecting data. And then the larger
27 red kind of triangle area there is where we also conduct
28 an aerial survey for Steller's eider. And so, we are
29 currently been working with Migratory Birds of Fish and
30 Wildlife Service down in Anchorage. And so, they fly
31 that area at a larger scale to note presence of Steller's
32 eider outside of our ground survey area. Next slide
33 please. So, I just wanted to briefly show this figure
34 that shows a snow melt in Utqiaġvik here. So, the y-axis
35 there on the left is for the first snow free day of the
36 year and then years of that -- the project is taking
37 place. So, dating all the way back to the early 1990s
38 and really kind of the takeaway here is the first snow
39 free day is typically around day 153, which is right
40 around end of May, early June and a long-term average.
41 But you can see just with kind of those -- the lines and
42 dots, you know, for each year there's a lot of variation.
43 So, there's been quite a few years where we've had later
44 snow melts and a number of years of earlier. So, I'll
45 talk about that a little bit more here, coming up next
46 slide please.

47
48 So, I just wanted to talk a little bit
49 about the numbers of Steller's and spectacled eider that
50 we've been seeing in the area here in the last few years.

00038

1 And so, kind of the takeaway here is basically that, you
2 know, on average, we'll see, you know, roughly, you know,
3 double the number of -- so, really twice the number of
4 Steller's eider for spectacled eider counts. So,
5 generally Steller's numbers are fairly low. Spectacled
6 eider are seen more often. And then these two maps really
7 just kind of the takeaway with those is that the red
8 dots are spectacled eider. And you can see that typically
9 on an annual basis, we'll see them more spread out within
10 the survey area and the yellow dots are Steller's eider.
11 And so, there tends to be more annual variability in
12 their distribution on the landscape. Next slide please.
13

14 One more. So, this is just showing other
15 numbers of sea ducks as well in the Utqiaġvik area here.
16 And so, overall, we tend to see low density nesting
17 effort for all four species so, Steller's, spectacled,
18 king, eider and long tailed ducks. And this is fairly
19 consistent across a lot of the Slope, too, sea ducks are
20 generally low-density nesters. Of note here for
21 Steller's eider know we had a zero-nest scene in 2023.
22 There have been a number of years that we have not
23 recorded any nests. And so, they are definitely the --
24 tend to see the fewest number of nesting Steller's eider
25 of the four species. Next please. So, following the ducks
26 in the area, we talked about a little bit about geese
27 and swans here. So, you can see for nest numbers we see
28 a lot of goose nest, white fronted geese, that is. So,
29 we don't record every single nest that we see out there,
30 but this is a fairly consistent with what we'll see. And
31 so, you can see, like, you know, 700 plus nests, we've
32 been seeing, you know, in recent years. Of note, in
33 2025, we did see a couple hundred less, and I'll discuss
34 maybe a few reasons for that here later on. But it was
35 a -- quite a poor nesting year this year. Swan nest, we
36 saw fewer this year, but we do typically see at least
37 quite a few individuals out on the landscape. Next,
38 please.
39

40 And then finally, I just wanted to touch
41 a little bit on some of the avian predators for nests
42 that we'll see out on the tundra. Pomarine and parasitic
43 jaegers are common nest predators. And usually we'll see
44 some parasitic jaeger nests each year, and it's usually
45 very consistent in location of where we'll find them.
46 And usually just, you know, 6 to 8 nests is fairly
47 common. So, we suspect it's a lot of the same pairs that
48 come back and nest every year. Pomarine jaegers are quite
49 variable in nesting, and they will fluctuate based on
50 the lemming numbers on the tundra. And then there's also

00039

1 common ravens and glaucous gulls. And we have seen more
2 glaucous gull nests really over the last like 15 years
3 or so, than we have in the -- like back in the early 90s
4 and 2000s. Next slide please.

5
6 So, I really wanted to talk about 2025.
7 So, overall, it was a very interesting year in that it
8 -- really how poor it was out there. So, it was the
9 lowest number of hatched duck nests that we've ever had.
10 And so, we've only been monitoring the other sea ducks
11 in addition to Steller's eider back to about 2009. So,
12 overall, it was the lowest number that we've seen. So,
13 we had a total of 72 duck nests, which is about average.
14 However, only two of those hatch, so we had one king and
15 one spectacled eider that hatched this year. And kind
16 of what we found -- what we discovered out there was
17 like, most of these nests were failing very early usually
18 while the birds were still nesting or while they were
19 still laying eggs. So, generally like a sea duck will,
20 you know, lay somewhere between 4 and 6 eggs and we'll
21 start incubating those eggs near the completion of that
22 clutch. So, most of these nests did not even make it to
23 the start of incubation. I noted that we see a lot of
24 goose nests out on the tundra. And they typically do
25 very well. Usually they're -- they tend to hatch about,
26 you know, 80 plus percent on average of their nests. So,
27 they do very well. It was definitely a little bit lower
28 this year, about 10% lower than that, roughly. And they
29 still did quite well, especially in comparison to
30 everything else. But it's just noteworthy that they did
31 a little bit worse too. And that just kind of, I think
32 kind of highlights a little bit to that was just a --
33 it was a rough year overall for waterfowl on the tundra.

34
35 So, you might be wondering like, what
36 might some of these reasons be? And I think we're --
37 there's obviously a lot of things going on like every
38 year with climate and everything, especially recently
39 and lemmings play a big part of that. So, they are the
40 primary food source of most of the predators out there
41 on the landscape. So, when there's not very many
42 lemmings, then predators are having to turn to bird nests
43 on the tundra, eggs and then, you know, adults and young,
44 and young that might actually hatch. Also, of note was
45 this was the latest arrival of Steller's eider that we've
46 seen with the June 9th arrival for the road survey.
47 Typically, we'll see them maybe around, like the 5th or
48 6th of June and maybe as early as, like the last week
49 of May over the years. And it was a very late snowmelt
50 year as was noted yesterday some discussion. And looking

00040

1 at some the aerial imagery, the satellite imagery from,
2 from this year especially residents here in town
3 probably recall, like, you know, it was very, very
4 wintery through that early part of June and then just
5 all of a sudden over like a 2 or 3 day period there, the
6 snow kind of all went at once. So, that may have kind
7 of influenced some of what was going on as well. Next
8 slide please.

9
10 So, just to highlight some of those
11 predators that are out there on the tundra. There's a
12 lot of other birds that you know -- if there aren't
13 lemmings, they have to, you know, go for bird eggs on
14 the tundra. Not much -- too much else for them to eat.
15 So, I mentioned Pomarine and parasitic jaegers a little
16 bit earlier. Pomarine jaegers are more of a lemming
17 specialist. Parasitic jaegers will eat, you know, birds
18 in addition, kind of regardless of there's a lot of
19 lemmings or not. Snowy owls will prefer to eat lemmings.
20 And although less of an egg predator, they will
21 occasionally go for adult birds. As well as like goslings
22 and ducklings also. And then these are a couple, a few
23 of the other species, common ravens, glaucous gulls.
24 Gulls, typically are -- will feed more on young, less
25 on eggs. And of course, foxes are a -- usually on an
26 annual basis, like the number one or number two predator
27 out there. And normally we'll see just Arctic foxes
28 around here, but we have been seeing the occasional red
29 fox and have had a couple dens maybe people around here
30 too, or where there were, you know, some red foxes seen
31 down the, the, the west coast here from Utqiaġvik this
32 year as well. Next slide.

33
34 So, this is kind of a -- maybe a odd
35 looking photo here, but just showing a lemming down there
36 in the left corner and a pomarine jaeger up there in the
37 right corner. And so, just kind of the message here so,
38 that that blue triangle represents what was what was a
39 pomarine jaeger nest. And then the red dots around there
40 were spectacled eider nests. So, this was a example from
41 a few years ago of how like some of these sea ducks will
42 react in years that aren't so -- that are -- there are
43 fewer lemmings available but, there are still aggressive
44 pomarine jaeger nests that are == or jaegers that are
45 defending their own territories. So, this was an example
46 where there was about 14 spectacled eider nests that
47 were all within about a 50-60 meter radius of this
48 pomarine jaeger nest. So, this is really, really
49 interesting because, you know, on an annual basis in our
50 ground survey area, you know, maybe 20 to 30 spectacled

00041

1 eider nests is what we'll find for the entire area. So,
2 like this can be representative of easily like half of
3 the numbers of nests that we'll find. So, this is just
4 interesting, this pomarine jaeger was very aggressive
5 towards other predators, other avian predators, towards
6 foxes. And these spectacled eider keyed in on that and
7 gained some protection as a result. So, they actually -
8 - the majority, I think it was 12, like it was like 11
9 or 12 of these nests hatched. So, they did very well
10 under that protection of pomarine jaeger pair. Next
11 slide please.

12
13 And then finally I will talk a little
14 bit about white fronted geese or nigliqs. They are, as
15 mentioned, the most abundant of the waterfowl that we
16 see around here. They exhibit high hatch rates so, they
17 -- the male will hang out with the female at the nest.
18 And so -- also, help aid in nest defense against other
19 predators. We started monitoring them in the area in
20 2009, kind of a little side project in addition to the
21 eiders. Just in comparison there you can see that we
22 also have black brant that nest here as well. But far
23 fewer brant nests are seen compared to white fronted
24 geese and also, their nest hatch rate is most years is
25 quite a bit lower than that of the white fronted goose.
26 Next slide.

27
28 And then finally I just wanted to talk
29 about the mean initiation of white fronted goose nests
30 in relation to the snow melt. And I thought you -- you
31 all would -- might find this interesting, especially
32 based on the discussion that the Chair mentioned
33 yesterday talking about initiation of goose nests. So,
34 what this is showing here on the x-axis, there is between
35 2009 and 2025 and the day of year on the y-axis. So, the
36 blue line that cuts across day 155 is the average for
37 snow melt during this time, which was around the 4th of
38 June. And then the red line is showing the average for
39 mean initiation of these goose nests, which has been the
40 June 11th. And so, you can see kind of the difference
41 between the earlier and later years. Earlier years you
42 know, 2009 to 2016 had quite a bit of variation in a
43 number of those years were very early snowmelt dates.
44 So, 2016 there that that blue dot was about the 13th of
45 May was when snow melted that year. And in comparison,
46 to when the geese initiated the nests was much later.
47 So, they were initiating their nests late May. So, you
48 know, that was, you know, almost a two-week period there.
49 And likely that was a result of, you know, most of these
50 birds probably hadn't even arrived yet. So, they arrived

00042

1 on the tundra and noticed, like, wow, this, you know,
2 the snow is melted and they started initiating their
3 nests much sooner. And then in later years here, you can
4 see we've had quite a few later snow melt years and the
5 initiation of those nests is much closer. So, typically
6 within a few days of the snow melting out we've had
7 those geese start to initiate nests. And then finally,
8 if you click the mouse one more time so, the black line
9 is showing that's June 15th. So, that's when the closure
10 typically takes place for eggging on the tundra for geese.
11 And so, you can see, you know, maybe why -- how this
12 decision to push back some of those -- that date has
13 taken place because in a number of these more recent
14 years a lot of the geese have not started initiating
15 nests yet by that June 15th. So, just wanted to share
16 that.

17
18 And so, finally, I just wanted to wrap
19 up with a few acknowledgements on the last slide. And
20 then just a note that, you know, it's not uncommon to
21 have poor nesting years on the tundra. A lot of these
22 birds are long lived, especially the sea ducks. Many of
23 them can live up to, you know, 15, 20 years. So, they
24 can typically withstand, you know, a number of years of
25 poor nesting. But I just wanted to share that
26 information, especially just given kind of how rough it
27 actually was, like this year out on the tundra. So,
28 thank you for your time.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Has that
31 graph been shared with maybe the wildlife department for
32 -- because the wildlife has a lot to do -- North Slope
33 Borough Wildlife Department has a lot to do with the
34 moving of the closure dates and their Fish and Game
35 Management Committee. That is valuable information and
36 it's already there, posted there. Looks like you did get
37 a great presentation there and we can definitely utilize
38 stuff like this in order to show or even make a more
39 permanent deadline for things but, you know, it's also
40 tied in with us Fish and Wildlife. So, you guys already
41 have the information. But, that I think will be pretty
42 good to have in making further, you know, discussions
43 so, they don't have to do so, much groundwork on, you
44 know, having people on the ground if they have the data
45 and there's a mean time in there that that they can
46 utilize in order to make the date a little more to where
47 it should be due to recent happenings, then I think that
48 would be valuable. Thank you though. That was great. I
49 enjoyed that, and its pertinent information. It seems
50 like it was surprising that the eiders were -- you know,

00043

1 it looked like they were around the jaegers for a reason.
2 And typically, I would think that they wouldn't stick
3 around them, but it looks like they have a purpose.

4

5 MR. GRAFF: Yeah. Oh -- sorry, Mr. Chair.
6 Yeah. So, I just wanted to note that that is just a
7 relationship with the pomarine jaeger. So, parasitic
8 jaegers, there's not that nest association. But pomarine
9 jaegers, there oftentimes is. Yes.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Did they leave them
12 alone? I mean, were they typically okay by them?

13

14 MR. GRAFF: It depends. It is very
15 complex. Typically, we've noticed that the closer that
16 a Steller's or like one of these other sea ducks like
17 spectacled or king eiders start initiating their nests
18 in comparison to when the pomarine jaeger starts theirs,
19 they oftentimes have a better chance of making it. If
20 they start, you know, several days week or whatever after
21 the pomarine jaeger that oftentimes those nests will --
22 won't make it because the palmer jaegers need to feed
23 their chicks as well. So, there's a lot more food that
24 needs to be gathered and but, they -- so, yeah, really,
25 we've kind of seen, like, the closer the better for both
26 hatching. Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Interesting. Thank
29 you for that. Any other questions, comments? Go ahead,
30 Carmen.

31

32 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Carmen Daggett, for the record. Thank you so much for
34 coming up to present this information, Nathan. We had a
35 gentleman come into the office -- both Ernest and I had
36 a gentleman come in to talk with us about this particular
37 aspect of birds in the region and it was -- I was really
38 impressed to see the immediate response related to it.
39 And I would really like to get a copy of this
40 presentation, if possible, to share with him. I don't
41 believe he's here today but, I think he was really
42 fascinated, and he had lots of observations to share
43 related to the birds in the area and his concerns related
44 to them. On a personal note, I certainly noticed a lot
45 more jaegers this summer than I have ever seen.
46 Particularly out at the end of Nunivak Road. Just an
47 entire hillside full of them at one point around the 4th
48 of July. So, it was pretty striking, and I didn't have
49 binoculars with me at the time to be able to identify
50 which species of jaeger they were, but they're pretty

00044

1 distinctive on the tundra from a distance even so. Pretty
2 fascinating information. Thank you so much.

3
4 MR. GRAFF: Yes. And just to note that
5 too yeah, there's -- there are three species of jaegers
6 and there's the third one is the long-tailed jaeger. And
7 oftentimes that is the one that we'll see in large
8 numbers around here. And we tend to see them in higher
9 numbers like earlier in the season and sometimes in years
10 where it's like poor nesting effort overall. So,
11 generally if there's -- oftentimes if there's large
12 numbers, it's long tailed jaegers around.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And those are the
15 high egg takers?

16
17 MR. GRAFF: They're a bit more -- thank
18 you, Mr. Chair. They are more opportunistic feeders so,
19 they will take lemmings, but, also, eggs as well and
20 even, like insects and things. They are not typically a
21 nester in the Utqiaġvik area. They will usually nest
22 more inland, closer to the hillsides of the Brooks Range.
23 But we do frequently see them. They just don't nest
24 here.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. Now, on
27 the note that I didn't hear anything about on any of
28 this is, have you observed any human taking of Steller
29 or any of the threatened species that we might be able
30 to do something about, or at least have some outreach
31 of where not to take eggs?

32
33 MR. GRAFF: I have not observed that for
34 Steller's or spectacled eiders. I have heard some
35 concerns from other people in the community, at least
36 like this year, that there may be some people taking
37 brant eggs which are not allowed. And so, that might be
38 something worth discussing. Like, I don't know if it's
39 something like, oh, like maybe it could be just that
40 they don't know like a brant egg or white fronted goose
41 egg but, that that's about the only one that I can think
42 of.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think maybe
45 something along the lines of maybe an outreach to where
46 not to be, or at least where to caution yourself on
47 taking eggs. Sometimes they'll see a nest or have already
48 scared them off. But, like, in general, what areas to -
49 - I know we know of a few main locations, but, we're not
50 to take eggs and what to look for maybe. And that might

00045

1 at least help on the on the human end of, you know,
2 keeping numbers up.

3

4 MR. GRAFF: Yeah. Thank you for that, Mr.
5 Chair. Yes. Like, I, like, teach my crew, kind of the
6 main differences between those nests and there there's
7 usually a lot of down present in the nests, like -- it
8 almost looks like a fluffy pillow where there is, like,
9 you know, gray feathers and everything in a white fronted
10 goose nest, but a lot less of it. And then usually those
11 white fronted geese will almost every time be present
12 at the nest. The brant will oftentimes flush before you
13 get close and then also, the brant nests will oftentimes
14 be in colonies. So, there'll be a lot more of them around
15 like edges of lakes and such. Whereas the white fronted
16 geese typically kind of prefer the more drier upland
17 areas. But, yes, I think that is an excellent suggestion
18 to have some more outreach like photos and things to
19 show people the differences.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sure. No, that would
22 be great to have some kind of PowerPoint provided maybe
23 for local communities and that might help and be a little
24 more effective. And also, giving the local communities,
25 like, if there's a high number of jaeger years and what
26 they -- you know, which ones are the worst. It may help
27 you in some way. I don't condone the activity. No, I
28 think a PowerPoint presentation of nesting, what they
29 look like, note the differences in areas to avoid if
30 you're doing subsistence egg picking for protected
31 species or at least recommendations, I think that would
32 be great. Thank you. Go ahead, Ernest.

33

34 MR. NAGEAK: I've know this project's
35 been going on 25 plus years. What's the ultimate goal?
36 will you be doing in another 25 years, or are you just
37 trying to keep it status quo for it to still be around
38 or...? And to add on with your -- if anyone caught these
39 , in 2010, a handful were caught at the Gas Well Road
40 and that prompted the Barrow field office in the -- I'm
41 just sharing what -- how the Barrow office came around
42 during that incident. The law enforcement came and they
43 were seeing there was -- noticed there was some led
44 shots being sold at the local stores, and they started
45 imposing hunting hours, like they had a 9:00-10:00
46 curfew, all that. Then during that time, they would go
47 and search people's cars and few years after that, I
48 happened to shoot a spectacled eider out there at the
49 runway because they were flying with the king eiders,
50 which is a little bit bigger than the Steller's, and

00046

1 they happen to fly up and give me a fine and confiscated
2 that bird. So, it happened before, and that's why the
3 Barrow office -- and the last few years, we hadn't had
4 our own personal open house, but the summertime we teamed
5 up with the other Fish and Wildlife Service, the
6 shorebird crew, and had our migratory bird festival.
7 But, during that time, when the office first started
8 open, back when we would have an open house during
9 Piuraagiaqta and after the season to update the
10 communities of the openings. But that's just the history
11 of the Barrow office and I was just curious on what's
12 the ultimate goal for. Because of predator control, the
13 Fish and Wildlife Service did that with fox control in
14 the beginning of May, they would go out and get close
15 to 100 foxes. But the previous mayor had asked us to
16 stop that predator control. Do you guys consider
17 predator control on jaegers or other water -- like ravens
18 or...?

19
20 MR. GRAFF: Yeah. Thank you for that
21 question. Yes, the fox control is a bit of a contentious
22 issue and yes, we haven't done that, yeah since 2016.
23 We do conduct some raven control of nests, and as for
24 jaegers, we have no plans for doing anything for them,
25 especially pomarine jaegers, which we have found over
26 the years to be that, you know, a species which actually
27 can give protection to the eiders. So, early years of
28 this project, it was considered when we knew a lot less
29 about them. But, over the years, we've discovered they
30 are pretty important predator on the landscape, but
31 also, can provide a lot of protection for the eiders.
32 And finally, for the kind of long-term goal of the
33 project, like, yes, it is a long-term monitoring effort.
34 We have learned a tremendous amount from this project
35 over the years, one of which we know they are a sporadic
36 nesting species in very low numbers, most of the time.
37 We've learned that they are long lived, and they appear
38 to show, you know, some, you know, resistance to like,
39 you know, potential, like, huge population declines
40 despite you know, not -- totally not doing very well for
41 breeding effort. But there's a lot we still don't know
42 about the species. And just for context, too, is Alaska
43 breeding population is fairly small compared to the
44 entire Pacific population. And so, they -- the species
45 winters along the Alaska Peninsula and -- but the most
46 of those birds will go to eastern Russia. So, a small
47 group of them come to Alaska. And so, it remains the
48 only location where we can study the species in any
49 regularity in North America. And because it is listed
50 under the Endangered Species Act there's been an

00047

1 important part of our work to monitor those efforts. So,
2 at least for the foreseeable future I think that will
3 still continue. But there's always, you know, questions
4 that kind of come up about, you know, related to you
5 know, long-term goals of the project funding concerns
6 and everything. So, it is a complex issue.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Ernest.

9
10 MR. NAGEAK: And to add on, back in the
11 early 2000s, they used to hire students to go out and
12 monitor these nests, and in the wintertime, they would
13 bring them to Izembek, to see how they're doing over
14 there in Izembek. How's those numbers go -- turn out
15 over there in the wintertime and also in other breeding
16 areas like the Y-K Delta or, you know, good to kind of
17 see how -- if they're breeding over there again or if
18 their numbers are compared to other areas? Thank you.

19
20 MR. GRAFF: Yes. Thank you for that
21 question. Yeah, so, we have had some recent studies,
22 some graduate work take place within the wintering area,
23 which is oftentimes areas of Izembek Lagoon and Nelson
24 Lagoons and some recent work by a colleague of mine Andy
25 (indiscernible), looked at diets of you know, of those
26 -- the birds in those areas. And we've noticed, like
27 there's been a shift in distribution in those wintering
28 areas further north. So, there's fewer birds -- appears
29 to be fewer birds in Izembek and more in Nelson Lagoon.
30 And that could be climate related, could be like, yeah,
31 either changes in the prey community or ocean
32 temperatures. It's still, you know, pretty early in kind
33 of figuring out the exact reasons. But there does appear
34 to be a shift in that wintering area. And then as for
35 the Y-K Delta, historically, the species has been
36 present there as a breeding bird although there are few
37 records to indicate how many were present. That's going
38 back to the early 1900s, where there were sporadic
39 reports of them nesting in numbers. But, as for now,
40 they're very rare breeder. Really the only occasional
41 nest that might get reported every, you know, handful
42 or more years. So, more or less have disappeared as a
43 breeder out there.

44
45 MR. NAGEAK: And did, you know, when I
46 first started hearing about these Steller eiders, I
47 talked with my grandparents and my great uncles, and
48 even in the 40s and 50s, they were little to -- little
49 population around here, but they did mention they would
50 get a few for their grandmas or the elders back then.

00048

1 But, historically, talking with the elders before, you
2 know, when the project in 1990 or early 90s started,
3 they historically kind of mentioned that the Steller's
4 were around, but not -- they didn't have the pup, you
5 know, what's your guy's history on the numbers? Where'd
6 you guys get them from or were they abundant?
7

8 MR. GRAFF: Yeah. Thank you for that.
9 Information that, you know, locals here can provide is
10 very valuable. And we're always interested in any
11 information that might be available from, you know,
12 prior to 1990, I think is really useful to us. There
13 were some researchers back in the 70s that actually did
14 some jaeger work, really like some of the only breeding
15 ecology work for pomarine jaegers. And at that time,
16 they -- although they weren't looking at Steller's eider
17 specifically, they had a number of years of very high
18 pomerania nesting and they noted high numbers of
19 Steller's eider nests at that time. But that information
20 is limited. So, yeah, I think it seems like they have,
21 you know, been here and at least like low numbers for a
22 long time. But kind of one of the bigger things, at
23 least in terms of the ecosystem, at least in more recent
24 years, especially like the last, you know, decade or two
25 has been fewer lemmings on the tundra. There used to be
26 more high years of lemmings, followed by very low
27 numbers. But now it's more -- been a lot of very low
28 years. So, not very many peaks.
29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
31 Any other questions for U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the
32 presentation? Go ahead, Wanda.
33

34 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
35 mentioned lemmings. I noticed over the years that when
36 I come to Barrow once in a while, there's a lot of owls
37 in this area because there are plenty of aviññaq,
38 lemmings and in Atqasuk, too, I saw a difference when
39 there was less lemmings, there was no owls. but when
40 there was lots of -- when they finished off, maybe most
41 of the lemmings around here, they ended up in Atqasuk.
42 A lot of owls ended up in our area and they were hunting
43 all the aviññaqs over that way, the lemmings. I just
44 wanted to bring that out. Thank you.
45

46 MR. GRAFF: Thank you.
47

48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you
49 for your presentation. And yeah, we'll make you -- make
50 sure we make use of the information. It sounds like.

00049

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

MR. NAGEAK: Another quick question. I know there used to be, like, hunting hour regulations. They used to be a handful of regulations in that area. What do you guys regulate other than the 30-day closure for waterfowl? Anything other -- any other regulations, the Board or the North Slope people should know about? Thank you.

10
11
12

MR. GRAFF: Yeah, I have no further comment on that, so.

13
14
15

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thanks. Thanks again.

16
17

(Pause)

18
19
20
21
22

All right. Hearing none. That should be it for that. And we can get started here on the finalizing our action items. Anything else before we start on the annual report? Gisela.

23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah. So, we're going back to resuming our agenda. The next item is the annual report. And the first item that I have to share with the Council is the Federal Subsistence Board Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report Reply. And this can be found on page 59 of your supplemental materials. So, that's the smaller book and this is not an action item, but it's a follow up for your information. And again, my name is Gisela Chapa for the record. And the materials -- oh, I think I already said it, page 59 of your supplemental. The Board met on July 23rd and 24th for the work session and part of their action items was to review the Regional Advisory Council annual reports, and they provided the following responses. As a brief refresher, our Council approved and finalized the fiscal year 2024 annual report to the Board during our winter meeting, and the Council requested a couple of things. One of them was conducting muskox monitoring in the region, that was the first topic of our annual report. And the Board agreed that such a program would be beneficial, but foresees the funding to create a wildlife resource monitoring program. That was one of the specifics of that request from the Council, is unlikely in the near future. The Board highlighted that both the state and federal agencies continue to investigate and provide valuable information when they have the resources to do so, and that due to reduced available funding to agencies for such work, it is

1 important that we discuss and identify priorities of
2 what information and data need -- data are needed to
3 inform management decision. What the data collection
4 efforts are or what data collection efforts are a
5 priority. And to see if there are other ways to collect
6 information with the assistance of local communities and
7 other areas with information gaps.

8
9 And I'll keep going. The Council also
10 shared their continued concern over the impacts of
11 transported and guided sport hunters and caribou and the
12 continued conflicts between federally qualified
13 subsistence users and non-federally qualified
14 subsistence users over caribou. And the Council
15 requested the Board for funding to study these impacts.
16 This was the second topic of the report. Again, through
17 a wildlife resource monitoring program. The Board found
18 value in the request and acknowledged that while there
19 have been some studies in the past to study such impacts,
20 the information may be dated. So, the Board also shared
21 that funding throughout Wildlife Resource Monitoring
22 program is unlikely at this time but, encourages the
23 Council to continue to engage with both federal and state
24 agencies on the matter and to also invite other regional
25 entities, such as ASRC and the Borough, into the
26 discussion. And then the last topic of the annual report
27 to the Board was to inform the Board about the
28 establishment or the desire to establish a caribou
29 commission for the North Slope Region and this was an
30 informational item for the Board. The Board ultimately
31 expressed their appreciation for your report. And your
32 annual report ensures that the Board is aware of the
33 issues, concerns and current events that impact your
34 subsistence way of life. That is the end of the annual
35 report reply.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions,
38 comments, concerns from the Council for the annual
39 report? This is not an action item so, this is not
40 something we'll have to make a motion on.

41
42 MR. NAGEAK: Just a comment. Previous
43 years, the tribe like Native Village of Barrow had gotten
44 a federally recognized tribal wildlife grant, and that
45 could be some funding for some of these areas. Like to
46 work with entities. I think Point Lay might have -- had
47 gotten one of those grants where they could -- their
48 tribe could monitor the resources of walrus haul outs
49 and just to comment on that. Thank you.

00051

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Ernest.
2 Any other comments concerns for the annual report
3 specifically?

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 If not, we can move on. Next item. Looks
8 like we have identify issues for FY 2025 Annual Report,
9 the Federal Subsistence Board. Lisa.

10
11 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
12 members of the Council. For the record, my name is Lisa
13 Grunigen. And just before you guys delve into developing
14 topics to include on your annual report, I just wanted
15 to give a few reminders, a few notes on the annual
16 reports. And so, first of all, the annual reports from
17 the Councils are required by ANILCA. So, it's
18 specifically stated in ANILCA that the Council shall
19 submit an annual report containing the following items.
20 An identification of current and anticipated subsistence
21 uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region,
22 an evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence
23 needs for fish and wildlife populations from the public
24 lands within the region. A recommended strategy for the
25 management of fish and wildlife populations within the
26 region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs
27 related to the public lands, and recommendations
28 concerning policy, standards, guidelines and regulations
29 to implement the strategy. So, those are the four items
30 that ANILCA says the Council should include in your
31 annual report. And the Board is also required by statute
32 in ANILCA to consider the topics, you know, the annual
33 reports from the Councils when they're making decisions
34 on regulatory matters. And the Council is free to include
35 additional items in the annual reports, but those are
36 kind of outside the Board's jurisdiction or what's
37 required by ANILCA. So, if you include information kind
38 of outside the Board's authority or outside of those
39 four requirements by ANILCA, the Board's ability to
40 address those concerns is probably pretty limited. And
41 if you do -- you know, you're welcome to include items
42 as informational only. But if you have a specific
43 response or action you're looking for from the Board to
44 be very explicit in that in your annual report.

45
46 And also, to just decide if an item is
47 more appropriate as a letter versus an annual report.
48 We've had some issues in the past where Councils include
49 things, you know, in the in a letter and the annual
50 report. And it's kind of duplicative and confusing and

00052

1 not as efficient versus just deciding what's the most
2 appropriate way to address a certain concern. And
3 lastly, that all topics, you identify this meeting our
4 fiscal year 25 report items and no additional topics can
5 be added during the winter 2026 meeting. And so, you're
6 developing the report and the concerns now and then at
7 your winter 2026 meeting, you'll just review it and
8 approve it and, you know, make sure you can do little
9 edits but not add new items. So, that concludes my kind
10 of primer on the annual report before you delve into
11 developing topics.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the
14 clarification on that and yeah, you may need to read
15 that a few times before we develop anything but -- or
16 anything further or later. Any questions for the
17 clarification or the information she just provided for
18 the annual report?

19
20 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

23
24 MS. CHAPA: Not a question, but I wanted
25 to remind Council members, if you turn to page 117 -- I
26 think you already mentioned it. Did you? Page 117 of
27 your meeting materials, you have document titled Annual
28 Reports. And so, it gives us more description about what
29 could be included in the annual report, in addition to
30 what Lisa shared.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

33
34 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm not going to ask you
35 a question about that bird flu was going around. You
36 have any background to that?

37
38 MS. GREDIAGIN: No, not at all. I don't
39 know if anyone else in the room or on the phone would
40 like to speak to bird flu, but.....

41
42 MR. GRAFF: Nathan Graff, U.S. Fish and
43 Wildlife Service. It doesn't appear to be a concern this
44 year on the Arctic coastal plain here that I'm aware of.
45 I haven't heard of any reports of avian influenza this
46 summer. This is my knowledge.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you.

49
50 (Pause)

00053

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

All right. Any questions or comments on the clarifications or rules set forth for the annual reports?

(No response)

All right. I think we can move forward then if there are no questions for what's on here for annual reports. Future meeting dates.

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Okay. Just for clarification. So, is the Council deciding not to -- that there are no topics of concern or any other information that you'd like to relate to the Board through an annual report?

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Ernest.

MR. NAGEAK: Just a topic of concern for the control use area that the state -- it was the state side, I guess, but it's still trying to get the migration, you know. Study, maybe the migration of caribou. Just some topics I've -- you know, we hear it every year on October, Anaktuvuk people waiting for caribou. And that's -- they don't have much other than maybe it's sheep certain time of the year or maybe a moose, but that's their main food source. And caribou has been a main concern for the Northwest and the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, that sounds like a pretty -- pretty broad description.

MR. NAGEAK: Maybe we could mention food security, a lot of these regulations and closures, you know, it affects these towns. We're going to write a report, we should mention something and not just go with no report. We need to -- thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any ideas on wording for his -- sounds like he wants to put something down for Anaktuvuk Pass, and I'm not sure on specifics of that, so.

MR. NAGEAK: We've been to previous meeting, and we tried to come up with agreements or

00054

1 memorandum of understanding or, you know, try to
2 monitor. Monitor, I guess we could say monitor, monitor
3 other -- yeah.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think the last
6 discussion we had on that was, we had maybe tried to
7 couple the states observations on the area along with,
8 I think, collar data and how the fall time hunts were
9 affecting the migratory pattern. I never did hear back
10 on the aftermath of that portion of it, but I guess
11 maybe if we were to do something about that, maybe we
12 need to be a little more specific about what we're aiming
13 to do. I mean, we want to help the community on their
14 end, but are we going to do that through regulatory
15 portion of it, are we trying to change hunt dates? Are
16 we trying or -- are we just trying to divert paths or -
17 - I mean, we need to be a little more specific on these
18 items. So, what are we aiming to do?

19
20 MR. NAGEAK: Maybe we change methods of
21 population counts. When I was working with the state,
22 we spent one week out there counting the Western Arctic
23 Herd. Now they're counting these herds and one day, one
24 little window and they could be missing all these. Not
25 just caribou, but other animals, population accuracy.
26 Just throwing ideas for annual report. Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay so, it looks
29 like maybe we can have a discussion on this over lunch
30 and come up with a little more clarification on the
31 matter before we put it down on to the annual report,
32 but it sounds like we want to do something along the
33 lines of assisting Anaktuvuk Pass with their caribou
34 migration and deflection issues, and try to get
35 something down on paper that will be effective. So, that
36 I think we'll -- yeah. Go ahead, Leonard.

37
38 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair. Just, I'd like
39 to say topic is monitor our resources in the North Slope,
40 you know, I just want to bring that up.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Thank you,
43 Leonard. So, I think for now, we'll take lunch if we
44 don't have any further outstanding issues on that and
45 discuss it before we put it down on record for what
46 we're aiming to do. So, we'll have to have a discussion
47 over lunch. So, with that, we'll take an hour lunch and
48 meet back here at, at 1 p.m.

49
50 (Off record)

1

2

(On record)

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, everybody. Looks like we're at 9 after the hour. And I think we have enough for a continuation, or at least some ideas for moving forward on the annual report and the discussion we had before lunch. So, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela Chapa, for the record. And I -- before we broke for lunch Council member Nageak brought up the issue of the controlled use area around AKP. And so, I thought that if that is a topic that the Council wants to identify and include in the annual report that the Council might want to have a little bit more discussion to identify, kind of like what the issue is, and then determine if this is a topic that is going to be shared with the Board for their information, or if there's a specific ask of the Board.

MR. NAGEAK: More like when they mentioned they have a BLM law enforcement, they could monitor or check periodically certain areas or areas that are closed for non-federally subsistence users they could be monitoring them. So, that could be part of the annual report, for BLM or whoever's law enforcement -- enforcing these regulations or these federal non-subsistence hunters, they could be monitoring the area. Thank you. Kind of like that you know, because we hear so many sport guides coming in and out and leaving them for rescue. And you know, someone to monitor, not just that but also, the haul road. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, it looks like maybe the landowners and this one, they have kind of a split between federal and state land. State lands has a lot to do with it. So, that would be I think outside of the BLM range there. But -- so, maybe enforcement through the state troopers as well or any of the areas in and around Anaktuvuk Pass. And I guess one of the main points would be to monitor -- I know the state has requirements for their fly-in -- approved permit holders for guided hunts or fly-in hunters. So, their documentation would probably be available and should be provided to us so, that we can take a look at it to see if there was anything to do with deflection as well as maybe the collared hunts to monitor the population there and to see if there are any changes that are in effect from, you know, the allowed fly-in

00056

1 hunts for the area. I think that would be pertinent
2 information for this area. Yeah. So, definitely more
3 regulation measures there that are already -- I mean not
4 so much implementing regulation but monitoring what they
5 are allowing, because everything that we've asked for,
6 for Anaktuvuk Pass, looks like it has not been
7 successful, meaningful or effective. I would like to
8 point that out. So, everything for the area that we've
9 even tried to implement or got denied for certain reasons
10 or not having the proper methods of submitting,
11 submitting for timely proposals or anything like that.
12 So, I mean, for what we have, we would like the
13 information for -- that you are allowing currently to
14 happen and also, more regulation, more troopers for
15 monitoring the -- their they're permitted fly in hunters
16 for the area so, that they are actually seeing what's
17 going on over there and making sure that they're in
18 compliance. And if they are in compliance and allowing
19 deflection to happen. Something's not right there. So,
20 if they're disrupting migration patterns, we may need
21 to look into for -- further guidelines or rules and
22 regulations to allow their migration to happen through
23 the area for Anaktuvuk Pass and their concerns.

24
25 MR. NAGEAK: And that could be added to
26 the -- Ernest, here. That could be added to the report.
27 We could request all the permits the state issued, unless
28 it's already on the website. But the Borough, they used
29 to provide a copy of the permits they have on the North
30 Slope of guides and stuff. So, this would be good to
31 have you know, like, could just have a list of the
32 permits in AKP area that were permitted from either the
33 state or federal or Borough. So, that could just --
34 recommendation. Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. And that
37 would you know, it would include the Gates of the arctic
38 stuff so, that -- they do have a federal side of it on
39 the southern or eastern portion of it. And the northern
40 section being mostly other than the area in between AKP
41 and the state boundary there for their land. Areas
42 throughout -- I know it's a, you know, kind of a mixed-
43 use area over there, but it would be good to include any
44 of the stakeholders or the landowners and their
45 information for the area for fly-in hunts that are
46 allowed or anything even if it wasn't fly-in. I mean,
47 if there was some hunts that were allowed, even on the
48 other side for maybe the parks and just to have a good
49 grasp on what's going on and if anything is causing a
50 disturbance for the migration and the population. Thank

00057

1 you. Gisela.

2

3

4 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do you
5 want to give the...?

6

7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Before that, before
10 back around 90s, we had a lot of disturbance with
11 aircrafts coming in. They come to the Anaktuvuk River,
12 they fly low on cups and stuff, and they just tell us,
13 ah yeah, write down that number. You know, we wrote down
14 how many times and then they come from Bettles and they
15 went over to Coldfoot and still nothing happened, you
16 know. And what I'm saying is that even the aircraft from
17 BLM or a game warden, you know, they don't want to
18 distract the migratory. They don't understand what we're
19 talking about. That's all we're asking. You know, we're
20 not asking for a whole lot to sit there and try and
21 crowd out people. All we're just saying is that, you
22 know, you're disturbing caribou herds when they're
23 coming in. That's all we're asking for, you know. And
24 it's been written down how many times. So, you know,
25 let's keep it as that. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that
28 info. Gisela, did you have anything?

29

30 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was
31 just trying to make sure that I have captured all of the
32 discussion. And also, remind the Council that this is
33 the opportunity to identify the topics. And then I'm
34 going to draft the report. I'm going to bring this back
35 to the Council during our winter meeting. And at that
36 time, you can review all the information that I've
37 included in there. And if there's anything that is
38 missing about that specific topic I think we can go
39 ahead and include that information to it.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

42

43 MR. WILLIAMS: Sorry, Peter Williams,
44 from Anaktuvuk. Anyway, one -- just another thing is
45 that, just be active with those militaries [sic] are
46 flying through there all the time. That was very
47 disturbing because, you know, they come pretty low and
48 they (engine sounds), you know, you hear the whole house
49 shaking sometime. So, we cut that off about 9 or 10
50 years ago. And you know, that's all we're asking for,

00058

1 you know, just, you know, during the harvesting time,
2 you know, they should be complying and disturbing with
3 those states that it's 100 miles from us. And the way
4 that person stated to us that when they showed us a
5 collar just up around the pipeline area all the time,
6 just go around in circles. Now they're hanging around
7 Arctic Village area. Like I said earlier before, I stated
8 that I don't know, Porcupine Herd never come around no
9 more. The Teshekpuk Herd came around, but I don't know
10 what happened to that one. And I, you know, like now
11 that Willow's popping up, there's gonna be a lot of
12 disturbance, all -- the way we see it is that, now that's
13 just industrial here, industrial here. And all of a
14 sudden, you see caribou that zigzagging around through
15 it, you know, maybe they get lost too. I don't know, but
16 I'm just -- all I'm stating is that, you know, the way
17 it sounded that they were herds at Galbraith Lake, and
18 now they're going further up now they're in there Happy
19 Valley, and probably just cutting them off but, you know,
20 that's all. We're just -- we hear these people talking
21 about it and we just keep it as that. And what we're
22 just saying is that we didn't want that, you know,
23 aircraft come in disturbing. It means quite a bit. I
24 mean, it's going to channel or two. So, this can
25 really.....

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
28 And that's a good point. Maybe we should extend it out
29 to include because the state is, you know, they do have
30 all the way up to Happy Valley. So, maybe between the
31 Haul Road and the effects of the hunts that are allowed
32 on the Haul Road as well between the Haul Road and
33 Anaktuvuk Pass. Because a lot of that is state land, and
34 they should have all of the information and locations
35 provided to them. And they can couple that with -- or
36 we'll request them to implement that with any collared
37 data or anything that they can show that has migration
38 movements to see if there was any, any effect on the
39 allowed hunts, on the migration patterns. Go ahead,
40 Peter.

41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair, Peter Williams.
43 Anyway, another thing is that we had a corridor, we had
44 five miles out and they brought into two. No, we had two
45 miles in now because we found out there was a truck
46 stuck way out there, nowhere, and five miles out, they
47 tried to get rescue in there. But now they're having --
48 they're not using their gun. They're using bow and arrow
49 now, you know, so there's a lot of things that's
50 happening now. Like this one hunter said, yeah we seen

00059

1 one caribou walking by us, an arrow stuck into it, you
2 know. So, you know, it's kind of being awareness[sic].
3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the
6 additional info. Go ahead, Lisa.

7

8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin, for
9 the record. I just wanted to ask a few clarifications,
10 to make sure we understand this topic and concerns. And
11 so, it sounds like, Peter, what you're saying isn't
12 necessarily airplanes landing but just flying over.
13 Correct? I mean, it's just the.....

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair, Peter Williams.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: It's both, you know, it's
20 been written down how many times, how many times we put
21 it all in front of the table here at your meetings.
22 Still, there's nothing happening. See you all just
23 bringing back the same subject all the time. So, now
24 what do you say? What's the use of trying to speak up
25 and nobody don't post us. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And just to add to
28 it, so maybe a good general list. The sport fly-in
29 hunters that are dropping camps in specific locations,
30 effectively putting camps on both sides of a valley,
31 cutting off migration routes within state areas allowed
32 by permit. Fly-in hunters disrupting caribou by flying
33 low and through the valleys of Anaktuvuk Pass almost
34 daily. He did mention maybe some military aircraft that
35 are kind of doing the same thing. But, it's all of the
36 above. And additionally, there are -- there's Happy
37 Valley that they have a station specific for fly-in
38 hunters, that operate both on the eastern and western
39 side of the Dalton Highway, and they use that as a base
40 camp to fly in hunters to the area. Some of the areas
41 as close as Gunsight Mountain to Anaktuvuk Pass, which
42 is what, 40 miles? 60. Yeah. So, they -- and those are
43 some of the very few valleys that they drop hunters on
44 both sides of the valleys. And there are only a few
45 valleys that head over towards Anaktuvuk Pass, and that
46 is one of them. And those are state allowed locations
47 that that would have an effect. Yes.

48

49 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thank you. Just for
50 clarification, is Happy Valley in Unit 26B or A, do you know?

00060

1

2

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: 26 B.

3

4

MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. Cause, yeah, another point of clarification was, that the state currently has that Anaktuvuk controlled use area that prohibits the use of aircraft for caribou hunting from August 15th to October 15th. So, I was just trying to get clarification on whether your concern is that people are not following that controlled use area regulation, like even though they're prohibited from using aircraft during those dates, they still are. And that's where you need more enforcement, or if that controlled use area is not adequate and it needs to either be expanded in area or in dates.

16

17

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All of the above.

18

19

20

MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. That's what I was going to say, A, B, C, D or E: all the above. So, yeah.

21

22

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Peter. Any other -- go ahead, Lisa.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin for the record. And so, just thinking about possible ways to address this in addition to increasing law enforcement presence is -- the call for Board of Game proposals for your region is next May. And so, if you wanted to submit any proposals to the Board of Game to address these concerns, it would be at your next winter meeting. And so, it might just be good to start thinking about that now, you know, whether you want to submit a proposal to create a controlled use area in Unit 26B,

00061

1 you know, to cover that Happy Valley area, to prohibit
2 aircraft during that time as well, or to like change the
3 size or the dates affected in the Anaktuvuk Pass
4 controlled use area. But just, again, I mean the -- if
5 you want to submit a proposal to the Board of Game, your
6 next winter meeting would be the time and your
7 opportunity to do that.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. We will
10 look into that. Go ahead, Leonard.

11
12 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
13 is Leonard. I know Board of Game, you know, they're 99%
14 sport hunters in that Board. And there's one person
15 there. And I request that, you know, any sport hunters
16 planes, we should require them to be monitored on, you
17 know, we got that airplane finder, you know, some planes
18 they turn their thing off, but we should request for
19 them to be required to turn their thing so, we could
20 know where they're at, their location. So, you know,
21 they're putting, you know, laws on us, we should put
22 laws on them. You know, those sport hunters that have
23 planes, you know, put their monitor, you know so, we
24 could look at them when they're flying by because some
25 of them turn them off. And I find out some friends that,
26 you know, they came into like Point Lay, and they're on
27 that area. They'll find, you know, they'll call me, and
28 so, I'll let my young sport hunters or hunters at home
29 always make sure get their plane numbers all the time,
30 and that's good information. But I just want to bring
31 that out, and.....

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I'm not sure who to
34 talk to about that one.

35
36 MR. BARGER: I know, she was just saying
37 she a Board of Games. So, I know you were talking about
38 the Board of Game. I you know, I'm going to bring that
39 up to them, but it's probably not going to pass because
40 I know, like I said, 99% of those guys are sport hunters
41 and 1% is what, you know, not a hunter and stuff. So
42 (distortion).

43
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think we had
45 Peter. Peter had a question.

46
47 MR. WILLIAMS: You know, a park service
48 guy was there before, Roger. He's seen it a lot, but he
49 can't say nothing because he was the only Park Service
50 person. But he seen a lot of it, you know, and we told

00062

1 him but you know, I always tell him to. He's been there
2 for a period of time. And, you know, I don't know what
3 the use of bringing it up in the meeting. You know, they
4 don't they don't abide it. They said so, you know, I
5 like the way Ernest brought up the attention. So, I'll
6 keep it at that. Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Peter.
9 Gisela.

10

11 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
12 to reference what Mr. Council member Barger brought up
13 about requiring planes to have their radar on, I'm taking
14 notes of any potential business that would need to be
15 carried over to our winter meeting. And so, I -- that
16 might be something that we would discuss at our winter
17 meeting if the Council decides to submit a Board of Game
18 proposal. So, that's where that's going. And a question
19 about the annual report. I just wanted to make sure that
20 I understand that there's part of this issue that is
21 being communicated to the Board so they're aware,
22 continued to be aware of their issue -- of the issue.
23 And also, wanted to double check that the Council is
24 asking for additional enforcement on the ground so that
25 they could provide more -- well, I guess I'll leave it
26 at that. Additional enforcement or presence on the
27 ground.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. NAGEAK: Earnest, even just showing
32 up at the airport with their rack should be sufficient
33 enough to justify a law presence. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Peter.

36

37 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair, Peter Williams. We
38 shouldn't be saying ask, we should request it. Thank
39 you.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Lisa, did you have
42 something? Oh. Go ahead.

43

44 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Through the Chair. This
45 is Jordan Pruszenski, Assistant Area Biologist for the
46 Northeast. And just to talk about the transponder issue
47 that was brought up that that'll be -- that's what
48 airplanes use when they're sort of on the fish finder
49 and that if you have it in your plane, you legally do
50 have to turn it on, you're absolutely right. It's not

00063

1 required in all planes. So, most planes, most of those
2 small planes that you see in Alaska actually don't have
3 one, like my plane doesn't have one. So, I legally don't
4 have to turn it on because I just don't have one. But,
5 if I were to get one, you're absolutely right, people
6 do need to. But that's an FAA issue. That's not going
7 to be a Board of Game issue. Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the
10 clarification. That's very good information to know.
11 Outside of our realm. Orville, you have something?
12

13 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Council
14 members. Good to be here. I'd just like to share, before
15 I was supposed to become a refuge ranger with law
16 enforcement, I used to work with the guides on Alaska
17 Peninsula. And what I was responsible for was to review
18 their plan of activity. And it's documents that shows
19 exactly coordinates, areas of where they're going to do
20 their guiding. All guide areas have to have that. So,
21 I'm assuming guides up here -- I don't think there'd be
22 any different. They have to have a plan of activity.
23 Therefore, they're going to show you or if you ask, it's
24 public information, to see where they're going to
25 conduct their harvests. And that would be a good way to
26 keep an eye on what they're doing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27

28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
29 And yeah, I kind of spoke a little bit about the -- I
30 didn't go into detail because it -- it's more on the
31 state side, but they're also supposed to have a North
32 Slope Borough permit and I talked about that yesterday.
33 A lot of the state permitted fly-in guide hunters or
34 they'll -- they -- they'll submit for locations, and
35 they're supposed to put their spike camp locations on
36 there as well. Some -- a lot of them don't. And a lot
37 of them don't have North Slope Borough permits as well,
38 which is not what we're looking at right now. But it's
39 an issue. But it also states inside their state permits,
40 if they have one, that they shall abide by state, federal
41 and local regulations. So, essentially their permit
42 should be invalid if they do not have a North Slope
43 Borough permit. So, there's a lot behind it, a lot of
44 behind-the-scenes things and things that are overlooked.
45 And, I actually had to fly out to a couple of these
46 spike camps, and they flew me directly to Gunsight inside
47 their commercial outfitters plane in order to, you know,
48 to look at some of the spike camps after a few of them
49 had been caught for flying outside of their areas, it
50 was mandatory for them. So, it was eye opening to see

1 where they were, I mean, they dropped me off and they
2 had a spike camp location on both sides of Gunsight, and
3 you know, it was we didn't have that information before.
4 And once we were made aware of it and how many they had
5 and the locations they were going to, it was technically
6 right on the border of the state boundary. This was
7 years ago, but the way they were conducting their hunting
8 activities was effectively blocking off anything that
9 was coming from the north, going towards Anaktuvuk Pass.
10 So, I mean, a lot of this is stemming from incidents
11 like this. So -- but it is very good information to
12 have. And that's kind of why I was requesting in this
13 that the state provide their information for anything
14 that is permitted, and also, implementing that with
15 maybe some form of collar data if they have it, you
16 know, collared, it's kind of hit and miss because there's
17 only a few of them versus the whole population. But, if
18 they had anything that they can reference to that, in
19 regards to deflection, that it be brought forth to us,
20 that would be pretty interesting to see. It's a lot to
21 put together but, you know, it's information that they
22 should have or at least a portion of it. That may help
23 us in our efforts here. Thank you though.

24
25 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

28
29 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. Anyway,
30 when we used to have an international meeting with
31 Canada, we had a lot of meetings with them on Arctic
32 Village and Kaktovik. Kaktovik kind of quiet down
33 because, you know, they've been pushed out of there 10-
34 02 area as you know, it's kind of restricted in there.
35 You know, they haven't opened up. The way our experts
36 spoke and said that they got permit now to go hunting
37 area there, but they were really restricted on them
38 because there was under 10-02. So, you know, we got to
39 be aware about helping and supporting them too. Thank
40 you.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Peter.
43 All right. Is there anything else on the specifics,
44 Gisela?

45
46 MS. CHAPA: No, Mr. Chair. But I wanted
47 to make sure that this is the like, the overarching
48 theme of the annual report topic and then we can include
49 a lot of what was discussed into the specifics of the
50 report. But seems like the topic is the effects of guided

00065

1 fly-in hunters on caribou migration.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Does that sound
4 right to you guys? Carmen.

5

6 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to the
7 Council. Carmen Daggett, for the record. I just -- you're
8 talking a lot about guides, but you're not really talking
9 about transporters. And there are two different brackets
10 of aircraft use in the area. And guides are far more
11 regulated through the state than transporters are in a
12 lot of ways. So, a guide you have to hire to take you
13 out, and they're actually going to go with you, to go
14 hunting, and they're going to provide certain resources
15 and all that sort of stuff. A transporter is just going
16 to take you out and drop you off. So, before you get
17 really focused on guides and just pigeonholing that,
18 think about maybe there's a little bit more that you
19 might want to broaden there.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Commercial
22 operators, maybe.

23

24 (Simultaneous speech)

25

26 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you. Ernest, here
27 because they do that too with the they ask the commercial
28 airline to kind of divert their route when there's a
29 haul out. So, they could ask the commercial airline to
30 divert their route in the Anaktuvuk area, if they need
31 to, if they don't need to be flying through the pass.
32 Quyanaq.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That I don't know
35 if because they have, you know, they have their own set
36 of regulations and what they can and cannot do. I think
37 for airports and specific locations. But, I mean, we can
38 definitely write it down and look into it, but that --
39 that's a whole nother set of legal things that they have
40 to do as far as approach and what the FAA says.

41

42 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah, I was thinking about
43 those, you know, commercial airlines at Prudhoe Bay that
44 used to drop off people on the tundra. Or -- I used to
45 work with the state and they -- we used to take Alaska
46 Taxi and get dropped off anywhere on the tundra. So, if
47 they're not considered commercial, then I don't know.
48 Thank you.

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Yeah, we
2 should be a little more specific, I guess. So, not just
3 guided. And you're right, they have completely different
4 standards for drop-offs. That do-it-yourself hunters.
5 So, but I think both of them should be included in here,
6 especially for their locations. Thank you. Peter.

7
8 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams.
9 (Indiscernible) for that lady, I was talking about the
10 drop off. Well, the reason why we're bringing up guide
11 hunters is because they fly around, they fly around and
12 look for a place where the caribou migrate, and that's
13 where they make their spike camps. That's how we're
14 talking about the guide hunters now. Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Peter.
17 Gisela.

18
19 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay.
20 I think then the broad topic of the annual report would
21 be the effects of commercial operators and fly-in
22 hunters on caribou migration.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: We should put
25 transporters in there as well, to be specific.

26
27 MS. GREDIAGIN: Guides, transporters and
28 fly-in hunters.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And maybe in any
31 operation that is of commercial nature, that has to do
32 with sport hunting in the areas. Go ahead, Esther.

33
34 MS. HUGO: Thank you. I don't know where
35 to begin, but it doesn't matter if it's state or a guide
36 hunters or drop offs. You guys are playing with our
37 lives. We're waiting for what's to be put on the table.
38 That's all we're asking. And we have done a proposal
39 twice. We were denied. And I guess what we want to ask
40 again is, do to a caribou hunting closure in our area
41 for the non-federal qualified users. (In Native). They
42 go to the caribou, we waiting for them, but we get
43 nothing. Look, we're waiting for caribou to migrate. I
44 feel the presence every time I talk in front of you.
45 This is how they feel, but they don't talk. They don't
46 come to meetings. This was said by our grandfathers
47 before pipeline [sic]. And here I've been in this
48 committee with other committees. Nothing, all we do is
49 talk, talk, talk. We're waiting for a fresh niktuq.
50 That's hurt us more than anything, more than the guide

1 hunters or the drop offs. They're there before the
2 caribou even can come. You guys are playing with our
3 lives. I'm tired of repeating myself and these tears,
4 but they're real. I don't want nobody to feel sorry for
5 me. This is where we live. This is what we need for the
6 winter. This is what we don't have to go buy from the
7 store and spend a lot of money. That's our main diet.
8 It's heartbreaking. Nothing is being done. You guys
9 aren't listening. My grandfathers and my father were
10 hunters, they knew what they were saying, they knew what
11 was coming. But we're always been put down, put aside.
12 Okay, they got it. They'll -- they -- They'll survive.
13 It's not true. It's from my people. I was born and raised
14 there. I was given broth, tuttu broth to survive because
15 we had no bottles to share, or in 1958 o, my father took
16 three months, no hunting. He took care of me. I had rice
17 broth from caribou when they boil 'em [sic]. It's old,
18 it's like a broken record. We lived there, we had a
19 reason to live there. And I'm always proud of it because
20 it's a place of caribou droppings. That's how I feel
21 about tutu. There in me, I live with them. And if I
22 can't -- if they don't migrate, and if these sport
23 hunters that drop off people, they're going there, like
24 two days before I came, we saw a lot of Piper Cubs fly,
25 but we couldn't get the numbers. I had my camera, but
26 my camera's not that good. Every night since end of
27 August, we've seen a lot of activities. Even my great
28 niece, she mentioned going home from Bethel --
29 Fairbanks, there was hunters and she was going. She was
30 trying to tell them where all the meat. And then the
31 rideshare agents said back up. And then this lady said,
32 yeah, state land, that's our land. It's not, it's my
33 people, my caribou, that's our land, not theirs. They
34 may say and continue saying that, they never even been
35 there before or lived in the harsh winters. That's our
36 home. That's what we've been on all winter. And there's
37 been a lot of deaths since -- a while now. Right now, I
38 went to the hotel to have some -- just to rest. But,
39 right now, I feel my people, they want to go north, just
40 like everybody else. (In Native) them caribou, go do
41 what they do. But, in our traditional we do not do that.
42 It was told to us by our grandparents, my father, my
43 father in law. We don't go, they're coming. But we got
44 so, many activities because it's state land, federal
45 land, BLM. And nothing's done about it. Nothing. Just
46 keep coming to meeting. Just cause, we can do this,
47 we'll probably have to do that, but nothing's done. This
48 is our home. You guys are -- I don't know how to say it
49 but I say just playing with our lives, I mean, so put
50 down like. Oh, they'll be alright, they'll survive. But,

1 without the caribou, I don't think so. There's about 90%
2 of our people that don't work. About 50% of our graduates
3 don't even go college [sic] or go further their
4 education, they stay home.

5
6 But, when I speak in front of you, I
7 feel everybody that's gone. I feel for the people that
8 are waiting for their fresh tuttu to come. But they're
9 all disturbed by the sport hunters. I watched a video
10 through the phone and this guide -- this hunter said,
11 yep, I'm in state land, I can just -- about do everything
12 in this land because it's belong to state. That's our
13 land, you cannot take that away. Yes, we got the Board
14 and the ASRC , with all the entities. It's so, like
15 giving up hope. Because nothing's done. We just talk
16 about it, talk about it. I wish I can have that whaling,
17 whaling where you guys got it. You guys wouldn't do far
18 down south just to meet internationally. What do my
19 people need to go, higher up? Maybe go see the president.
20 Sit down with him or the senators or -- we can't continue
21 this. No way. It's our time we have something done about
22 it. We can't. We know what's going on right now. There's
23 a lot of hunters. We see him every day at, Wright Air,
24 there when we're going to Fairbanks.

25
26 I don't want nobody to feel sorry for
27 me. But that's the way I feel, my people. We're trying
28 to survive. What's wrong with us? Just because we live
29 so, far from the nearest villages? Just because we're
30 not whalers? A lot of questions. And one thing I wanted
31 to bring up was we were meeting in Nuiqsut, a couple
32 years ago, and Sally, Hugo and I, my brother in law, we
33 sat down and here comes Crawford and Crawford Patkotak,
34 Rex, Rex, the ASRC President. We're talking about -- we
35 were going to ask them, hey, you know, if we can get
36 into the Whaling Commission, we're part of the Borough,
37 my grandfathers used to whale. Why can't we get up there
38 and go whale? Maybe we'll catch a whale and we'll take
39 it all home. And then you know what Crawford and Rex
40 said, maybe Nuiqsut or Barter Island can do that. Oh,
41 my God, we're always put aside. We're so different, just
42 because we're inland. You guys shouldn't make us feel
43 like that. I'm talking about the residents of the North
44 Slope. It's so, hurtful. At least we -- at least we got
45 a chance to ask them if we can get into the whaling. And
46 after they told -- those two guys told us that we never
47 bothered them again. Because maybe we could have had a
48 code and give it to one of the villages, you know. But
49 I don't think that will ever happen in my lifetime.
50 Never. But we're talking about our way of life. It's

1 sad. That will be all for me, but that's how I feel. And
2 that's how I always heard from elders or even just people
3 that are my same age. We're always put aside just because
4 we're Nunamiut. Yeah, we have a lot of good family. I
5 love my family. We're all related to a lot of the
6 Tagramiuts for sure, through blood, but we're always
7 left out. We can't go whaling like we want to go whaling.
8 And caribou is the only source that will keep us and
9 make us survive. I just want to give up, but I can't, I
10 can't. And it's the sport hunters, come on. Can we stop
11 them from the month of September? Or can we hunt with
12 them? They can go to our home and we'll all take them
13 out, something. Well, that's all said. It's coming from
14 me and the caribou, I guess, because he knew we survive
15 with them. I don't know what else to say. Nobody will
16 believe us, nobody will help us. How would you feel if
17 you were from my home and you're going meeting, after
18 meeting, after meeting, and nothing. We're waiting for
19 the caribou as I speak. Last week -- couple weeks ago,
20 they were near Shannon Lake, Willow Lake, 25 miles. And
21 they all turned back. Too much activity. These small
22 planes, they can land in river sandbars, they can land
23 on a real straight nuna. They can land on the side of
24 the mountain as long as it's straight. A lot of activity.
25 We need modern -- monitoring. We need the troopers to
26 do their job. So, we can survive and we can go on.
27 Otherwise, if we don't do nothing about it today, or the
28 next couple years, it's going to be the same thing. I
29 sure hate to pass on and then this still issues on my
30 children and my grandchildren. I got 18 grandchildren,
31 I got 13 great grandchildren right now. And the oldest
32 grandkids know what's going on. Try to at least give him
33 the information, but I sure hate to see them like my
34 grandparents, my father, my parents, in-laws. They went
35 through this, but we always had patience. But that
36 patience is probably running out. Right now, they want
37 to get to the highway like the rest. Go (In Native). Go
38 to them instead of them coming to us. It's always been
39 like that. We're being controlled, nobody listens,
40 nobody -- to us, they don't care. So, they're telling -
41 - I can feel a lot of my old folks behind me, so I --
42 that's all I have to say. But I really wish we can just
43 get that hunting closure like Noatak. Why not? Let's
44 give it a try. But we never will get that chance, will
45 we? Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for your
48 heartfelt sentiments there, Esther. That's -- you know,
49 that's a powerful statement. And we'll do everything in
50 our power to try and help you and your community for

00070

1 what's going on over there. And you're right, it's been
2 a long time, maybe ten years, that I've been listening
3 in. And only the last five or so, that I've been kind
4 of involved in meetings even before getting here. But
5 it's been the same concerns, the same happenings in your
6 location that have been expressed for the entire
7 duration. So, we'll try to help you with everything here
8 as part of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council to
9 the best of our abilities.

10
11 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

14
15 MR. WILLIAMS: I just wanted to say that,
16 you know, how many times I went to a meetings, and Board
17 of Game and Subsistence Resources Boards. Every time we
18 bring up the attention like this, they say, oh, yeah,
19 C&T, customary trade and they take out this, ANILCA.
20 What a poor excuse isn't it. They're the one that's
21 controlling us, we're supposed to control them. We're
22 the one that's supposed to be talking for our land here.
23 We were raised, born, and raised here. That's why I
24 asked the Board to come to our village meeting, or have
25 -- come of them -- come over observing what's going on
26 in our village. But no, we haven't seen them in ten
27 years. No -- I even went to a resource commission meeting
28 in Fairbanks. I told table this meeting, said why? You
29 know why you guys are meeting outside of our village.
30 You know, we need you people to come to us. Not sitting
31 here talking to you guys and you guys bringing out that
32 excuse about traditional, customary. We don't need that
33 excuse. All they want is to have that guide hunters come
34 in to get their profit making. That's what it was stated
35 at that Board meeting in Anchorage but on the states.
36 So, let's get something straight, and I want to rest my
37 case here and tell these people that they need to come
38 to our meeting, not go to them and try to pressure us
39 or, you know, give us like cake and pie to keep us happy.
40 So, thank you.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Peter.
43 Esther, did you have something?

44
45 MS. HUGO: Just few years ago, ASRC had
46 bought a land from the guide Guthrie, I believe his
47 name, just a few miles right in the migration route. And
48 Eric Kenning, he came, he said, Esther, we just bought
49 that land off the guide hunters. I said, I didn't say I
50 wasn't happy, I just told him, what took you so long?

00071

1 We repeat ourselves over and over again. It took you 30,
2 40 years to fix it. Now we don't have the spike camp
3 there. We'll go by there with Argo and check it out.
4 Took that long just to have ASRC buy that spike camp
5 from this guide hunter. So, I don't know, I don't know.
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.
9 And just for some dialogue on that. I want to say it was
10 roughly ten years ago, maybe 15. So, ASRC had purchased
11 a section of land that was effectively an airstrip with
12 a cabin, and it was a main location just to the north
13 of Anaktuvuk Pass that was really popular for the fly-
14 in hunters of that location. And that was purchased by
15 ASRC, our regional corporation in an attempt to lessen
16 the amount of sport hunters and the impact on the local
17 community. So that, you know, that speaks in itself what
18 kind of problem we're dealing with. And what they're
19 trying to help us with. And once again, it's been shown
20 in meetings for the last 10, 15, 20 years that the
21 effectiveness of us trying to do something for Anaktuvuk
22 Pass still isn't helping. And I wanted to bring that out
23 to everybody that even our regional corporation is
24 putting an attempt to stop sport hunting in that
25 location. And still it presses on and it mainly is state
26 lands and the use that is still continuing for that
27 location. So, just wanted to bring that out as like, a
28 historical measure. Thank you. Gisela, did you have
29 anything else? Oh, Esther.

30
31 MS. HUGO: I forgot that every time I
32 read this on the tuttu on the very bottom, it says that
33 no fly zone. It's written on there, even in the state
34 regulation and nothing been done. Nothing. It says no
35 flying during this period, and still it's happening.
36 That's lies to us.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for
39 pointing that out. Gisela, you think any other additions
40 to this is necessary, or are we sitting okay with what
41 we have?

42
43 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I
44 think that the Council discussion has provided a lot of
45 context for me. And I think information that we can go
46 ahead and include in the annual report. I think that the
47 topic is now the effects of guided -- guides,
48 transporters, commercial operators and fly-in hunters
49 and caribou migration. And again, I'm going to draft the
50 report and I will present it to the Council at the winter

00072

1 meeting to ensure that all of your comments and a lot
2 of the history is included in this report. And I think
3 if the Council is ready to take this into a vote. You
4 can. I think I have enough information now.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

7
8 MR. WILLIAMS: I would like you to --
9 Peter Williams. Anyway, I'd like to add on to your
10 subject. Invite us to their Board meetings so, we could
11 put our own presentation to this, because this is getting
12 out of hand. Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right so, point
15 to how are we going to put this? Make a motion to submit
16 this for -- what would be the wording? Yeah, to submit
17 the annual report, with the discussions involved today
18 on Anaktuvuk Pass.

19
20 MS. CHAPA: I think that if the Council
21 wishes, you could make a motion to approve the annual
22 report as discussed. And I put on the record the overall
23 topic of the annual report. And again, come the winter
24 meeting I will have a draft for the Council to review.
25 And we can have a little bit more discussion. The topic
26 needs to stay the same, but if some information is
27 incorrectly stated in there, in my report, you can make
28 corrections.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay so, go ahead,
31 Ernest.

32
33 MR. NAGEAK: Make a motion to accept the
34 annual report and add the discussions that we talked
35 about to make this North Slope Regional Council a
36 priority to monitor the Anaktuvuk Pass area. Because you
37 know, we heard it from our Council, we're all doing you
38 know, we had filled our freezers, but every year we hear
39 the concern AKP with their, you know, and they always
40 come back with lack of funding put in the report for the
41 state, federal and all involved to put their
42 concentration on the guided or all the topics we talked
43 about. So, that's a motion for the annual report.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is that to submit?
46 So, a motion to submit the annual report as discussed.

47
48 MR. NAGEAK: Until the winter meeting for
49 further discussion and acceptance.

50

00073

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, motion is on the
2 floor.

3
4 MR. BARGER: Second.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
7 Barger. Any discussion what looks like you provided your
8 justification already. So, anything further on
9 discussion, Peter?

10
11 MR. WILLIAMS: You know when I -- Peter
12 Williams. Anyway, I want to address something here
13 seriously. If this keeps going on I'm going to uphold
14 my votes. So, let's put this on the table because we're
15 just sitting here just talking. They're just writing it
16 down. It'll pass on. So, I just want to get this straight
17 up to you all. Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Peter.
20 Anything further on discussion?

21
22 MR. BARGER: Question.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
25 called for. All those in favor of submitting the annual
26 report with the discussions attached, say aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
31 sign.

32
33 (No response)

34
35 Hearing none. We have approved the
36 annual report as modified. All right. Now, are we on the
37 -- item C there? Okay. Item C, future meeting dates. And
38 who is on this one? Confirm winter 2026, Gisela.

39
40 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this
41 time the Council needs to confirm their winter 2026
42 meeting date and location. If you look at page 119 of
43 your meeting materials, you'll see that it's set for
44 Tuesday, February 24th and Wednesday the 25th. The
45 Council had discussed at your winter meeting to
46 potentially have the meeting in Point Hope. And it is
47 technically not a hub community for the Council, meaning
48 that for the Council to have the meeting in Point Hope,
49 we would request approval from our director. And it would
50 be ideal if we can set up a backup location for that.

00074

1 So, anyway, it requires a motion and a second to confirm
2 your winter 2026 meeting dates and location. Meeting
3 date, sorry.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

6

7 MR. BARGER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, it's
8 Leonard. I just want to let you guys know the during
9 that time last year, we had it there and you know, I got
10 stuck for five days in Kotzebue. So, I would like to
11 have it in Point Hope, but I rather have it someplace
12 else. And I know you guys were going to honor Stevie as
13 a long-term member. But I would like to request that we
14 have it in Anchorage, a lot better than Point Hope. Make
15 a motion to change the meeting in Point Hope due to --
16 I know a lot of you guys will be stuck in Kotzebue and
17 that's a like I say, it's a bad time of the year. You
18 guys will be, you know, using a lot of money. You know,
19 a lot of members will be stuck in Kotzebue just to get
20 to Point Hope during that time. So, you know, I make a
21 motion to, you know, have it in Anchorage a lot better
22 so, we could go shopping, you know, at the hotel. So,
23 Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. There's
26 a motion on the floor to change the meeting to Anchorage,
27 February 24th and 25. Is that correct?

28

29 MR. BARGER: Yes.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: February 24 and
32 25th, February 2026. That's the motion.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Peter
37 Williams. Any discussion on the matter? It's a -- sounds
38 like the justification was due to weather and the high
39 chances of getting stuck along the trip. Any further
40 discussion?

41

42 (No response)

43

44 UNIDENTIFIED: Question.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
47 called for. All those in favor of moving the meeting to
48 Anchorage, February 24, 25 of 2025. Is that the right
49 date? Yeah. 26, Sorry. 2026. All those in favor, say
50 aye.

00075

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign.

(No response)

Hearing none. We have a meeting date in Anchorage for 2026, February 24th and 25. Do we still need to make a secondary or not?

MR. NAGEAK: Make a motion for Anaktuvuk Pass to be secondary in case Anchorage doesn't work out. Thank you.

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, can I chime in?

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Okay. So, North Slope has one hub community identified as the meeting location for -- to hold their meetings, and that is Utqiaġvik. Any meeting location that is outside of the hub community will have to go through approval. And I believe for us, Anchorage is also considered -- is not considered a hub community. So, I will go ahead and make the request. And I could also make the request for Anaktuvuk Pass, if that's something that the Council wishes for, but it will have to go through the approval process.

MR. NAGEAK: Yes. We had went there before for Regional Advisory Council meeting and due to the ongoing issues, AKP is our main priority. I would think if it's okay, it's up to them. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. The only problem we got is lodging. And you know, if we prefer something, we would prefer summer because, you know, you put your tent out behind my yard, you know. All I'm suggesting is that, you know, even the fall time would be good. But now I'm requesting that, you know, we we're going to bail out on this one because you know, we're having shortage on lodging, and you know, we're having high cost of living -- bread is almost \$10 now. So, turn your bank over two times. Thank you.

00076

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay so, we have a
2 decline for Anaktuvuk Pass. We're gonna [sic] have to
3 rescind that motion, though.

4
5 MR. NAGEAK: I rescind my motion for
6 second location.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, motion to
9 rescind is on the table. Is that a motion to rescind?

10
11 MR. NAGEAK: Yes.

12
13 MS. KIPPI: Seconded.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded. Any
16 further discussion? It's because we have to -- well,
17 they declined due to the wintry conditions and would
18 rather a different time of the year. So, any further
19 discussion?

20
21 MR. BARGER: Question.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
24 called for. All those in favor of rescinding the motion,
25 say aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
30 sign.

31
32 (No response)

33
34 Hearing none. We've rescinded the
35 motion. Go ahead, Peter?

36
37 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Another thing is
38 that you know, by the time we have a meeting of fall
39 season, you know, it's going to be caribou hunting season
40 too. So, you know, it's going to be, you know so, I
41 think we're going to hold out on this. Thank you very
42 much, appreciate it.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, do we
45 still need a secondary. Yeah, yeah, we need to -- okay.
46 So, are you guys okay with Uqiagvik being the secondary,
47 as the backend -- backup location? No motion for that.
48 Okay so, Utkiagvik sounds like the backup location. All
49 right. So up next, we have to confirm the fall 2026
50 meeting date and location. Gisela.

00077

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The fall meeting calendar is on page 120 of your meeting materials and it's set for Thursday, October 1st and Friday, October 2nd. This requires a motion and a second.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Did we have a previous location?

MS. CHAPA: Yes. The meeting was set to Utqiaġvik, and again so, any request to meet outside of the hub community would need to go for internal approval. And the Council would need to provide justification as to why you'd want to have the meeting outside of the hub community. And I'll also share with the Council that one of the reasons why we identify these hub communities ahead of time is precisely because of Council member Williams has shared, that sometimes logistically, it becomes really challenging to travel to more remote locations. There could be a shortage of lodging, or we could have the potential of really bad weather and straying the Council from their duties as a Council.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Gisela. What is the wish of the Council for the fall 2026 meeting date and location that is currently set for October 1 and 2, 2026, in Utqiaġvik? Once again, we selected these dates previously with the intention that whaling should be going on in Barrow around then. So, what is the wish of the Council for the fall meeting dates?

MS. AHMAGOAK: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

MS. AHMAGOAK: I make a motion to have our fall meeting dates for 2026 here in Utqiaġvik on October 1st and 2nd, as what we proposed before.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there's a motion on the floor with the dates.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. BARGER: Second.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: seconded by Leonard Barger. Any discussion on the matter?

MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

00078

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been called for by Peter. Any -- well all those in favor of having the meeting in Utqiaġvik, October 1 and 2, 2026 fall meeting, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign.

(No response)

Hearing none. We're going to Utqiaġvik, in the fall 2026. All right. Should -- do you guys want to take a break or keep moving on? Ten-minute break. We're going to take a ten-minute break. All right. We'll be back in ten minutes.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHIARPERSON FRANTZ: All right, everybody, we're back online here after break. Okay, Gisela we did have, looks like a change to the agenda. A slight change, go ahead.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to bring up that earlier in the discussion of some of the wildlife proposals and closure reviews for Unit 23. Council member Barger had brought up his interest in attending those meetings and I just wanted to, I wouldn't give him the floor but I just wanted to let the Council know that, that was something that was up and perhaps something that you'd want to discuss right now.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay so, it sounds like some of the meetings for Unit 23 are being discussed with another section. And it sounds like Leonard, being he's part of Unit 23 but part of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council, would like to attend some of the Northwest Arctic Borough's -- is it the RAC? So, the North Northwest Arctic Borough's RAC, just due to the nature of the crossed -- crossover unit. So, that he can be in part of the discussions that would potentially involve his area, even though we're a different RAC, they do share the same unit there. So, just wanted to point that out to our RAC and point out that we have an

00079

1 interest in having one of our RAC members attend their
2 meetings as well. Is that need a motion or anything or
3 just a general point? So, we'll need a motion for
4 approval.

5
6 MR. NAGEAK: Make a motion to allow
7 Leonard Barger to attend the Northwest Arctic Regional
8 Council meeting. Because they affect his area too, with
9 their closures and Point Hope being along their area.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there's a motion
12 on the floor to allow him to attend the meetings due to
13 the interest.

14
15 MS. KIPPI: Second, the motion.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Wanda
18 Kippi. Any further discussion on it? We do have
19 justification already attached. Any question? Go ahead,
20 Peter.

21
22 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Chair, I would
23 recommend having an alternate for him, you know. And you
24 know, that way, you know, you continue this aspect. Thank
25 you.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, is that all
28 right to attach on discussion this maybe to have an
29 alternate for him.

30
31 MS. CHAPA: Yes, Mr. Chair, I think that
32 would be okay.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay so, attached an
35 alternate, Peter Williams to that.

36
37 MR. NAGEAK: Second.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it's been --
40 motion seconded. We did it attached under discussion.
41 Any question? Is that correct?

42
43 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I may. Did you
44 identify the alternate to attend instead of Council
45 member Barger, in case it's needed?

46
47 CHAIRPPERSON FRANTZ: Peter Williams.

48
49 MS. CHAPA: Got it, thank you.

50

00080

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, any other
2 discussion?

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

5
6 MR. WILLIAMS: Reason why I brought up
7 this to attention, because northwest, (indiscernible)
8 always invite us to their meeting through subsistence
9 resource. We've been through a couple meetings, right?
10 Yeah, we went through there a couple of meetings and
11 very interesting. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, now them
14 beings -- well, okay. Well, you're still part of the
15 North Slope RAC. Okay, so.

16
17 MR. ADAMS: Question.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
20 called for. All those in favor of Leonard Barger, with
21 an alternate of Peter Williams, attending the Northwest
22 Arctic Borough RAC meeting, say aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
27 sign.

28
29 (No response)

30
31 Hearing none. Motion passes.

32
33 MR. BARGER: Thank you, all, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, what
36 did we have up next? I don't have it written down here
37 so, I think we have maybe Carmen Daggett up next. Is
38 that correct? Yeah. Go ahead, Gisela.

39
40 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
41 some of our presenters providing their report on their
42 agency report need to catch the afternoon flight. And
43 so, this is why their report is being moved up in the
44 agenda.

45
46 MS. DAGGETT: Good afternoon, Council
47 members and Chair. My name is Carmen Daggett. I work for
48 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and I'm based here
49 in Utqiagvik. And I'll let Jordan introduce herself.

50

00081

1 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Hello. Through the
2 Chair. I'm Jordan Pruszenski, I'm the assistant area
3 biologist for the northeast area, including 26B and 26C.

4
5 MS. DAGGETT: So, we're going to kind of
6 work on this presentation together. And the first bit
7 of information that we wanted to share with you was
8 about the caribou in the areas that we manage. So, there
9 was a photo census that was conducted across the North
10 Slope for all four Arctic caribou herds this summer.
11 Which means that we will have an update on population
12 estimates for all four of those herds sometime this
13 winter. Ernest mentioned that he had some curiosities
14 and had some concerns about how we do these photo
15 censuses. And so, in order to kind of introduce that bit
16 of the information that we have, I thought it would be
17 appropriate to show a short video about how we do those
18 photo censuses and Fish and Game put together this photo
19 -- video a couple years ago. And they did a really nice
20 job putting it together. And so, I wanted to share that
21 with you. Gisela, we need to turn the microphone.....

22
23 (Recorded Video)

24
25 VIDEO PRESENTATION - "Caribou
26 Photocensus Video, Final Cut with into 9/9/2020" by the
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, released 9/11/2020,
28 YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7czVasU-WCw>
29

30 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Through the Chair, this
31 is Pruszenski. Again, and so, I just wanted to ask if
32 anybody has any follow up questions to that. Otherwise,
33 I can dive into the numbers. Give you guys my report for
34 the 26B and C area.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

37
38 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Pretty
39 good, interesting video. And you know, I had to look
40 where that place was at. Can you input on -- tell
41 everyone where that was at? You know, where all those
42 caribou. You know, I know where it's at. I just want to
43 hear it from you.

44
45 MS. PRUSZENSKI: You know what, This --
46 I think that video was filmed before I started with the
47 department. So, you definitely know more about that
48 landscape than I do, for sure. But, that is just a kind
49 of circle back to -- that's why we're able to do these
50 surveys in one day. And it really is -- we take a photo

00082

1 of them during a time when they're all grouped together,
2 and then it takes months to actually count them. So,
3 just to clarify that.

4

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams. Chair,
6 anyway -- Chair. Anyway, I just want to say that that
7 that movie looks like around (In Native). (In Native)
8 got mountain real close. So, I just want to clarify.
9 Thank you. Sorry, Chair.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead. I think
12 we're ready to go.

13

14 MS. PRUSZENSKI: All right, great. Thank
15 you. So, I'll start with the Central Arctic Herd. And
16 so, this herd primarily is 20 -- is in 26B, it calves
17 up on the slope near Prudhoe Bay and then will migrate
18 down. And the past few winters has been wintering near
19 the Coldfoot-Wiseman area and those foothills and then
20 returns back up to the slope for calving. We were able
21 to get a photo census on this herd. But the last photo
22 census was done in 2022, and that had the herd at around
23 35,000. So, we'll get an updated count this winter, which
24 will be really good because we believe that this herd
25 is probably stable. And we would like to find out whether
26 or not that means they're stable or potentially
27 declining their -- their calving rates have been about
28 average, but definitely this year there late June, calf
29 survival rates did not do well because of the late winter
30 that they had. And it was very unusual, we actually were
31 out there. And usually, the peak of calving of that herd
32 is right around June 5th. And when I was out there in -
33 - over June 10th, caribou were still giving birth which
34 is really late for that herd. And because there was --
35 there's just so much snow out there, that they were
36 getting these new calves were getting plopped into the
37 new snow. And so, it definitely took a toll on their
38 calf survival. So, it'll be really interesting to see
39 sort of what happens to that herd. Prior to that, the
40 calf survivals were within average but definitely
41 signaling that potentially that herd was no longer
42 growing, which it had been doing since about 2019. And
43 so, we think that that herd has gone through its growth
44 and maybe it's now stabilizing to potentially declining.
45 So, we'll definitely have an updated number for you next
46 -- next summer. Moving on to the Porcupine Caribou Herd
47 which.

48

49 (simultaneous speech)

50

00083

1 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Oh, sorry.

2

3 MR. NAGEAK: Can you share how many days
4 each photo census were. That'd be good to know. Thank
5 you.

6

7 MS. PRUSZENSKI: So, again so, the photo
8 census we try to get -- we rush out, and I have to give
9 props to Joelle Hepler and a lot of other Region 5 folks
10 for helping us really get this done. They went out and
11 went crazy. And it really does take one day they go out,
12 the entire caribou herd is grouped together like you saw
13 in that video, and we go out and we track all of our GPS
14 collars, and we assume that if we find all of our GPS
15 collars, that means that the whole herd is grouped
16 together. And we have both cows and bulls collared
17 because often, sometimes in the summer, those groups do
18 group up separately. But we find everyone and we assume
19 that, that is the entire herd. And we take photos of
20 that entire herd all at once to really capture it. So,
21 then we don't have to have the problem of if it took
22 many days, then we wouldn't know if we were double
23 counting any. So, it really is the gold standard.

24

25 MR. NAGEAK: Okay. And then how many
26 collars in the Cenral Herd? You -- were all together
27 like 100?

28

29 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Yeah. We have 100
30 caribou collared right now and -- for the Central Arctic
31 Herd. Yep, yep. And we were able to get about all of
32 those. Yeah.

33

34 MR. NAGEAK: We used to have Central
35 collars all the way down in Point Hope when I used to
36 work there, because the collars -- caribou don't know
37 boundaries so, just point that out.

38

39 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Yeah. And I appreciate
40 that. We're actually -- we are doing -- looking at some
41 herd switching. Because it does seem like caribou do
42 switch herd especially -- that seems to be a big part
43 of why when the Central Arctic Herd did go through a
44 decline, about 19% of the collars actually just switched
45 over to either to the Teshekpuk Herd or the Porcupine
46 Herd. They -- it wasn't necessarily that those caribou
47 died, it was just that they just straight up left. And
48 so, that is something we're definitely looking into. So,
49 yeah, that's a great point.

50

1 So, for the Porcupine Caribou Herd.
2 That's -- that's a herd that is in 26C. They calve up
3 on the Slope, and then will go into Canada, and then
4 we'll often winter down around Arctic Village, and then
5 we'll often actually sort of do a reverse. They go back
6 into Canada and then back up on the Slope. We were also
7 able to get this photo census this year, which was
8 awesome because the last photo census was in 2017, so
9 it's definitely outdated. But at that time there were
10 over 200,000 caribou in that herd. And we do think that
11 this herd is potentially on a decline. And this photo
12 census will show us where in that decline they are. So,
13 this will be a really important one as far as calving
14 rates go. This -- the past few years the number of calves
15 they've been giving has been above -- number of calves
16 they've been having, is above average, but they've
17 definitely -- survival rates have also been fluctuating
18 about average. And then -- but that three-week calf
19 survival rate when we go back out into late June to look
20 at -- to see how many of our collared animals who had
21 calves, how many of those calves survived, that's really
22 where they're getting hit. There's definitely a drop.
23 So, this year it was at about 79% of the calves survived
24 until late June, whereas the long-term average is in the
25 mid-80s. And we think that anything that's below the
26 mid-80s, that's starting to be a sign that potentially
27 that herd is on a decline. So again, we'll get numbers
28 for you guy next summer. And so, that'll be really
29 helpful for us to know really where that herd status is.
30 So, we were really glad that we got that photo census.

31
32 So, I'll move on to -- we've already
33 talked a little bit about muskox in this area, so, I'll
34 just sort of zoom through those numbers again. We do a
35 minimum count in 26B, the last one was in spring 2024,
36 and that was at 320 muskox. We'll do that again this
37 coming spring. And again, there are -- there's a TX-108,
38 which is going to be the west side of 26B and the east
39 side of 20A kind of straddles those lines and that
40 application for that is going to be in -- from November
41 1st to December 16th. So, that's coming up. And the hunt
42 for that is from August 1st to March 31st. And we give
43 out four permits for that. There is a draw permit on the
44 east side of the Dalton, DX-112. We also, give out four
45 permits for that and then a registration. And we hand
46 out two permits in Kaktovik and two permits in Nuiqsut.
47 And those permits are usually handed out at the beginning
48 of October, within the first couple of weeks of October.

00085

1 And then I'll just touch on -- we also
2 do a moose survey. Along -- we do it at the same time
3 as our muskox survey, and the last time that we did
4 that, again was in 2024, and we got 390 moose which is
5 above our objective of 200. So, the hunt there was also
6 opened as well. And we'll have updated numbers in the
7 spring for that. Yeah. If anybody has any questions.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Where does the
10 boundary stop for your moose count?

11
12 MS. PRUSZENSKI: That's a great question.
13 Our moose count is in 26B. Yeah. So, all we actually --
14 it's sort of a high-grade minimum count. We fly all of
15 the drainages in the spring.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Thank you.

18
19 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Yeah.

20
21 MR. NAGEAK: Any Western -- I was curious
22 if that was also done in one day. Because that's a lot
23 of caribou.

24
25 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Yeah, that's Carmen so,
26 I can hand it off to her for the next round.

27
28 MS. DAGGETT: That's okay. I'll just take
29 this quick question, then turn it back over to Jordan.
30 So, the actual photography takes one day for each, the
31 scouting missions to go out and locate where all the
32 caribou are and to determine their aggregation takes
33 several days. So, I'm wondering if that's part of what
34 you remember doing is going out and looking at the
35 caribou over a period of several days to see.....

36
37 (Simultaneous speech)

38
39 MR. NAGEAK: That orange plane was there
40 at least five days when it was 400,000 plus. So, it
41 yeah, a lot of ground they have to cover and one day is
42 not sufficient enough. Because that count, you know,
43 especially with the counts this year with the late snow
44 thawing out and could affect the gathering of them on
45 the coast and could have been later.

46
47 MS. DAGGETT: Just a follow up to that,
48 the GPS collars that we have now give us coordinates
49 more frequently, and so, we can use that information to
50 help expedite the efficiency of the survey as well. So,

1 not only are we listening to the radio tracking of where
2 those collars are, but we can also have a better estimate
3 of where to start looking for them. Oftentimes to --
4 some of those collars are getting us giving us multiple
5 locations a day. And so, instead of searching for a long
6 period of time for one collar, like we would have had
7 to before. We can home in on where those collars are a
8 little bit quicker to than we used to be able to. So,
9 some of that has changed too.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.
12

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Chair. Peter
14 Williams. Anyway, the way I understood it when they were
15 studying those caribou is that when they see the bunch
16 get together, they make a box on each. And they prefer,
17 like 20 caribou in one box, and they multiply that on
18 the herd this way. I remember this. They spoke it. Thank
19 you.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.
22

23 MS. DAGGETT: I'm not sure if there was
24 a specific question related to that or not, but we've
25 certainly changed how we do the counting quite a bit.
26 We used to do all of the photography using like old spy
27 plane cameras and have actual physical photos on a table
28 and lay them all out. We don't do that process anymore.
29 Nathan Pamperin did a really good job of explaining how
30 we do it now, all digitally, and it is much more
31 efficient. And takes -- it still takes a lot of time,
32 but it takes a lot less time than it used to, to produce
33 those counts. And the method is completely changed. So,
34 yeah, it's we've really updated our technology. Fish and
35 Game has updated their technology substantially in this
36 realm.

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair. Peter Williams,
39 (indiscernible) I see when I was in An'tuvik in 88. And
40 I just want to address this, you know, I know you guys
41 step up the technology. I know the way I see it is, when
42 they're talking about how they entrusted it to us. Thank
43 you.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any further
46 questions, comments? Was that it or is there more?
47

48 MS. PRUSZENSKI: I think that's it for
49 me. Unless you guys have any more specific questions on
50 anything I've said or any other species. Otherwise, I'll

00087

1 just hand it off to Carmen.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Thank you
4 for your presentation, that was very informational.

5

6 MS. DAGGETT: All right. Thank you,
7 Jordan, for that information. Again, my name is Carmen
8 Daggett, for the record. So, I'm going to talk about
9 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. She studies the Central Arctic
10 and the Porcupine Herd. My realm is Teshekpuk Caribou
11 Herd and Alex Hanson, out of the Kotzebue office, handles
12 the Western Arctic Herd, as far as reporting all these
13 information, keeping track of numbers and all that sort
14 of stuff, just to lay out the land a little bit. So, in
15 2022, we did a photo census estimate for the Teshekpuk
16 Caribou Herd. That was the last time we were able to do
17 that photo census. And that estimate was 61,600. That
18 was the estimate. The minimum count was around 55,000.
19 So, we laid eyes and counted 55,000 on a screen. And
20 then we estimated it based on how many collars we didn't
21 find at 61,000. They were obviously -- we mentioned
22 earlier, they were photographed this year. So, hopefully
23 we will be able to get some updated information to you
24 hopefully at our February meeting. Fingers crossed. So,
25 that's all I have about the population estimates. Are
26 there any questions about that? Before I move on to
27 talking about spring surveys?

28

29 MR. NAGEAK: Number of collars, please.

30

31 MS. DAGGETT: We try to maintain a
32 minimum of 100 collars in every caribou herd on the
33 North Slope, and that's kind of a minimum requirement
34 for doing a census estimate. It varies a little bit
35 based on mortalities from each year. So, we probably
36 have around 108 to 120 collars in the Teshekpuk Caribou
37 Herd right now, I'm not exactly sure the exact number
38 but it's certainly around 100. Any other questions?

39

40 MS. AHMAOGAK: Mr. Chair. This summer
41 collar was turned into me. Some of you might not know,
42 but I do work with the North Slope Borough Department
43 of Wildlife as a subsistence research specialist, and
44 that's kind of something that I deal with. You know, if
45 somebody has a collar, they'll turn it into me, and then
46 I'll send it out here to Barrow. What do you guys do
47 when collars are sent back?

48

49 MS. DAGGETT: Great question. Thank you,
50 Jenysa. So, when we get collars back it depends on how

00088

1 old the collar is. So, some of the collars that are
2 newer, we will send them back to Telonics the company
3 that we get them from, and they'll get refurbished and
4 we can use them again. If they're older collars, then
5 they get recycled usually. But, either way, we like to
6 get them back. We like to get them off the landscape.
7 We don't like being responsible for garbage being out
8 on the landscape. I actually conducted a collar pickup
9 this summer to pick up several collars out of the
10 landscape. And then several of my colleagues out of the
11 Fairbanks office also, did a collar pickup this summer.
12 So, we do try to retrieve them as much as possible, but
13 we do periodically get them from hunters, and we
14 appreciate getting them back and deal with them as, as
15 necessary, depending on the age of those collars.

16
17 MS. AHMAOGAK: Thank you for that,
18 Carmen. And one more, how does this affect the population
19 -- like your population estimates?

20
21 MS. DAGGETT: How does getting collars
22 back affect the population estimates? So, usually if we
23 have a collar that has been functioning well, we kind
24 of have an idea of when the animal has died. Okay. So,
25 we kind of keep track of the mortality of -- we get a
26 mortality signal when an animal dies. It gets reported
27 to the satellite, and that information comes back to us.
28 And we have an idea of when that animal's died. Now,
29 sometimes hunters can give us more information than
30 that. Sometimes they can say, okay, I shot an animal on
31 this day, and -- or I found this collar on the landscape
32 and it was on a bear kill, or we found this hanging in
33 a tree somewhere, someone left it there, you know, so
34 we can get some more information from hunters. That can
35 be really helpful. And I know in the past, we've also,
36 given information back to the hunters, like, okay, where
37 did that collar go? What did it do throughout its life?
38 Those sorts of things so, that the Hunter actually gets
39 some interesting information back about what happened
40 to that caribou throughout its time period, that it
41 actually carried that collar. So, I wouldn't say
42 necessarily that getting collars back necessarily helps
43 or affects our counts as much as it does help us get
44 more information about what's happening with those
45 collars and the caribou that were once carrying them.
46 And then also, kind of just getting an idea of adult
47 female mortality. We definitely use dying collars or
48 dying caribou that we're carrying those collars to
49 estimate mortality and have an idea of how much that
50 mortality is impacting herd -- the population through

00089

1 time. So, I guess in some ways it does indirectly.

2

3 MS. PRUSZENSKI: And this is Jordan
4 Pruszenski. And just to add that when we get collars
5 back, a lot of times those collars, there might be gaps
6 in the data where the collar wasn't able to upload the
7 locations to the satellite. And so, if we get it back,
8 we can actually download them from the collar. And then
9 -- now we have a complete location. And so, it just
10 makes our data, that much more accurate for doing future
11 analyses. So, yeah, it is really great. So, we really
12 appreciate it. Thank you.

13

14 MS. AHMAOGAK: Thank you both.

15

16 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. If there's no further
17 questions just reviewing the -- so, we do a spring survey
18 typically every year for short yearlings. So, caribou
19 that are just shy of being a year old. This last spring,
20 we did not do a survey because we were focusing on the
21 muskox survey this spring. And so, I'm going to report
22 the numbers from the 2024 survey for our spring short
23 yearlings because we didn't do one this last spring. So,
24 in April of 2024, we looked at 3600 caribou and about
25 20% of those were short yearlings. The ten-year average
26 is about 15%. So, in 2024 that short yearling percentage
27 was higher than average which is always good to see. So,
28 are there any questions about that particular survey?
29 Typically, it takes place between like April 4th to 10th
30 sort of time period each year. So, if you see a super
31 cub headed north to Galbraith during that time period,
32 that might be us out doing short yearling surveys. We
33 typically try to send flyers to the surrounding
34 communities when we are doing those surveys to provide
35 some transparency about aircraft in the area. And we
36 communicate with the Borough and I try to send that to
37 tribal councils and city offices and liaison offices to,
38 to keep that transparency open. So, to let you know
39 we're not out there hunting. We're doing our jobs. Any
40 questions about that?

41

42 (No response)

43

44 Okay. So, Jordan mentioned summer
45 calving surveys. This last summer we did our annual
46 survey. We had about 60% of the females showing signs
47 of being pregnant. The ten-year average is about 68%.
48 So, it was a little bit low for this year. And we'll
49 keep an eye on that. I think it's been a little bit low
50 the last couple of summers. So, it'll be interesting to

00090

1 see what this photo census tells us about where the herd
2 is at. I didn't mention this when I talked about the
3 photo census estimate, but the Teshekpuk is actually at
4 its second highest peak that it's been historically
5 since we've been keeping track of the population. And
6 so, they I would say that -- their historical peak. So,
7 we would expect that perhaps it would be stabilizing or
8 perhaps into a decline, but we're not really quite
9 certain exactly where it would be and wouldn't know for
10 sure until we actually count those numbers. Any
11 questions about that?

12

13 (No response)

14

15 Okay. I mentioned adult female mortality
16 earlier. It's a really important vital sign for caribou.
17 It's a really good indicator of what the herd is doing
18 at the time. In 2024 and 2025, we had about 16%
19 mortality. And the average is about 14 to 15% over a
20 ten-year period. So, a little higher mortality in the
21 2024-2025 time period for adult females. So, that might
22 give us some idea that we might be looking at a potential
23 decline. Any questions about that?

24

25 (No response)

26

27 Okay. We've been working on a caribou
28 health assessment over the last several years. This
29 project began in 2022 and continues each summer. We had
30 some challenges this summer with it though. Umiak
31 flooded in the middle of doing caribou capture work when
32 our crew was actually working there and had to be
33 evacuated. So, we didn't get many collars out this summer
34 because that happened in the middle of us trying to
35 work, unfortunately. So -- but with that health
36 assessment, we typically are looking at body
37 measurements for body condition, internal and external
38 parasites, trace minerals, stress related hormones, and
39 a wide range of possible diseases. So, we're trying to
40 keep a close tab on what's happening, when Mother Nature
41 allows us to function. But it was a bit of a challenge
42 this year. And I have to give credit to that -- Shauna
43 Karpovich and Joelle Hepler, have been working on that
44 in and doing a great job with it.

45

46 So, that kind of sums up the caribou
47 discussion for me, except that I just wanted to continue
48 to encourage people to get their RC-907 caribou permits,
49 their registration permits, and if people ever need help
50 finding those, want -- I try to bring them with me when

00091

1 I go to communities to do outreach work. I'll plan to
2 do some outreach work related to muskox here this
3 November. And I always try to make hunting licenses and
4 those sorts of things available to communities and bring
5 fur seals and all those sorts of things with as a general
6 resource to the community. So, if anybody ever runs into
7 an issue where you're having a hard time getting them,
8 I'm only a phone call away and we can figure out a
9 pathway to get you something, even if it's calling your
10 tribal office and having them print something off for
11 you. Most of it can be done online. So, please let me
12 know how I can help you there. I'm happy to figure out
13 some way through all of that.

14
15 I mentioned Joelle Hepler earlier and
16 Shawna and myself, we're looking at research project
17 currently to talk about fall caribou migration with
18 Anaktuvuk Pass at heart. Also, looking at contributing
19 factors towards fall caribou migration timing and
20 looking at fall caribou migration and -- through the
21 lens of the caribou collars and the data associated with
22 that. That is certainly something we've been talking
23 about for a while and we're working on research projects
24 to understand that in more detail. We -- there was a
25 Board of Game meeting in 2024, where the Anaktuvuk
26 controlled use area boundary was moved at the request
27 of some of the members from this RAC, mostly through the
28 North Slope Advisory Committee. That proposal was
29 adopted and amended by the Board. So, the controlled use
30 area was amended to -- from the Anaktuvuk River, to the
31 Killik River and south of the Colville so, it changed
32 this kind of longer standing controlled use area
33 boundary to those areas.

34
35 So, we're certainly interested in
36 keeping the conversation open about parameters that
37 should be included in that research project. I was
38 certainly listening to your suggestions today. And
39 Joelle has been online, I believe, to listening to that
40 conversation as well. So, I know it can be frustrating
41 and it's and it's been a long time of discussing these
42 sorts of things. And we're working towards trying to
43 find a better understanding of what's happening in fall
44 migration and a pathway forward to address some of those
45 concerns. You had talked about interest in understanding
46 who the guides are there. I did a quick look while the
47 discussion was happening, and Terry Overly and Richard
48 Guthrie are the two major guides that are operating out
49 of those areas so -- that are north of Anaktuvuk Pass.
50 So, just so that you have that information it is

00092

1 available on the Big Game Commercial Services Board
2 website and that is where I found it.

3
4 All right, any questions about any of
5 that? Because I'm going to switch to muskox. Brower's
6 favorite topic.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead. Go ahead,
9 Leonard.

10
11 MR. BARGER: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
12 Chair. Leonard. Thank you, Carmen. Very good,
13 interesting. I know you were talking about samples, and
14 you know like the beluga. Do you get any like our Western
15 Caribou? They go up to, you know, Anaktuvuk Pass or, you
16 know, those kind of things, because you know, like we
17 get a lot of beluga samples and stuff and we've got some
18 samples and we get the Canadian belugas and stuff. And
19 I would like to know about the caribou, you know, those
20 kinds of things, because I keep on getting samples from
21 caribou and you know, where it's from, what kind of
22 breed. Because a lot of us young generation, you know,
23 our generation, they don't know what kind. They just
24 know it's caribou, caribou and you know, and like the
25 reindeer and stuff. And you know, we try to teach them,
26 but it's you know, it goes in one ear out the other,
27 these younger generations. But, yeah, these kind of
28 things, you know, like if we get a caribou, it's a
29 Central or you know, a Porcupine. That would be nice to
30 know in other villages. So, thank you Carmen, very much.

31
32 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Leonard, that
33 was an excellent question. So, from a genetic sort of
34 standpoint, I'm assuming that the beluga information is
35 determined through genetics. The caribou herds on the
36 North Slope, they've looked at the genetics of them and
37 they're basically one metapopulation genetically. So,
38 difficult to distinguish them that way. However, our
39 collars do give us some idea of crossing over and we can
40 kind of keep an eye, you know, on that. Anaktuvuk Pass
41 certainly sees caribou from all four arctic caribou
42 herds. They get the Western Arctic ones. I know I've had
43 a Porcupine collar come in from Anaktuvuk Pass, so, even
44 though I can't see the Porcupine Caribou collars ever,
45 I know that one made it there because someone sent it
46 to me, or it came through Brian. So, there's that. And
47 then Central Arctic definitely goes through that area
48 too and certainly Teshekpuk. We can see that throughout
49 the year that there they move through that area in the
50 spring and the fall and then sometimes overwinter in

00093

1 that area, depending on which herd you're talking about
2 and timing and all that sort of stuff, of course. Lots
3 of qualifiers there. But does that answer your question?

4

5 MR. BARGER: Yes.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

8

9 MS. HUGO: I just wanted to ask when will
10 we ever do away with the collars or -- our tuttu and
11 why? And where's the caribou as we speak? We're waiting
12 for them.

13

14 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Esther. So, the
15 caribou -- the Teshekpuk Caribou are a bit further north
16 right now. I promised to send an update to Anaktuvuk
17 Pass on a weekly basis to discuss that in some level of
18 detail. And I will certainly be doing that this week on
19 Friday. But they're a bit further north right now. I
20 think north of the Colville last time I looked, the
21 majority of them are. Western Arctic Herd is certainly
22 further west. And I haven't looked at -- you want to
23 comment on the Central Arctic and Porcupine discussion.

24

25 MS. PRUSZENSKI: And then the Central
26 Arctic Herd right now they're still pretty north, right
27 now they're north of Slope Mountain. They're still sort
28 of -- they're still getting -- it seems like they're
29 still sort of getting ready to move down. They're
30 definitely moving farther south than previously, but
31 they're still pretty much up on the Slope. And once they
32 do, we do expect them to then drop down and sort of end
33 up probably near that Coldfoot area for their wintering
34 grounds. Right now, the Porcupine Herd, they're pretty
35 well -- last time I checked, they're pretty well
36 scattered throughout the southern foothills of the
37 Brooks Range. So, all the way from the Canadian border
38 past and north of Arctic Village. Almost hitting like
39 the Chandler Lake area. And so, they were pretty spread
40 out. And so, they've actually ended up near like the
41 Hodzana Hills area the last few years. And so, it'll be
42 interesting to see where they stop and kind of then
43 reverse course. Yeah, hopefully that helps.

44

45 MS. HUGO: This Esther Hugo. When will
46 we do away with the tuttu collars?

47

48 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for that
49 question, Esther. So, the collars provide us with an
50 incredible amount of management information. You're

1 asking where the animals are right now and we're able
2 to tell you where those animals are right now because
3 of the collars. The population estimates, the collars
4 are an integral part of getting those population
5 estimates. We -- if we can't find the caribou across the
6 huge landscape, we can't get data on them. So, our spring
7 surveys, our summer surveys, the collars are the
8 backbone of being able to do all of that work and to get
9 data for you guys to make decisions based off of that.
10 So, when we're asked to -- when the collars are going
11 away, I guess it's kind of asking when is the data going
12 to go away, then? When, you know, when do you want to
13 not have any information?

14
15 MS. HUGO: I just meant and want to know
16 when we're going to do away with collars. It's 2025,
17 technology, you gotta be smart to be a biologist to try
18 to figure out how can we do away with the collars and
19 maybe a chip or something in the caribou itself? I mean,
20 you gotta think ahead. And do you check on the collared
21 caribou wintertime and to see if they're rubbing on their
22 skin or if there's -- I heard that sometimes the collar
23 does that.

24
25 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Yeah, those are great
26 questions. And we really appreciate people being
27 concerned with the health of these collared animals. We
28 definitely are. And we go through an internal process
29 to make sure that we are we are holding ourselves to the
30 highest standard of making sure these animals are
31 healthy. And you're absolutely right. Technology is
32 getting a lot better. We're getting collars that are
33 smaller and will last longer, which means that they don't
34 have to carry as heavy or bulky collars. And it also
35 means that we don't have to bother them as much, which
36 is ideal for both caribou and humans alike. And so,
37 yeah, as far as we do surveys in October. And so, we are
38 able to see and really make sure that those collars and
39 when we're putting them on, we train the people who are
40 putting them on to make sure that they're not too tight
41 or too loose. And so, we really do want them snug on the
42 males. We put a stretchy band so, that those males as
43 they go through rut, I call it like their muscle shirt,
44 that as they like get, you know, they're like, you know,
45 hotshot bods, they stretch out. But then when they go
46 back to their dad bods, they'll shrink.

47
48 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I'm speaking for
49 the caribou, and it's not funny. Thank you.

1 MS. PRUSZENSKI: I do apologize. You can
2 tell that I speak to a lot of children for outreach.
3 But, in all seriousness. We do, we really do, make sure
4 that those caribou are -- we recognize the sacrifice
5 that they also make for our data. And we really do uphold
6 ourselves to the highest standard of maintaining health
7 of the herd, including those individuals. And we really
8 appreciate getting the feedback and the support of
9 knowing that, we need to continue to look for better
10 ways and we definitely will as technology continues to
11 improve. So, thank you.

12
13 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, one more question.
14 Then why aren't our caribou migrating like they should,
15 or we should be having food on our table right now.

16
17 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for that
18 question, Esther. And that is the crux of understanding.
19 And we are certainly seeking to try to understand that
20 through using the data that we do have access to and
21 particularly during fall migration. As I mentioned
22 before, we're looking at a specific research project to
23 address that particular concern. They have looked at
24 that sort of question in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
25 Matt Cameron and others did a research project to look
26 at factors contributing to fall migration. And in that
27 study, the two factors that fell out as the most bold
28 contributors were temperature and precipitation. So,
29 we're certainly continuing to try to investigate in more
30 depth [sic] how that is -- how -- what factors are
31 affecting the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd and in particular
32 the fall time?

33
34 MS. HUGO: Thank you for all that. But,
35 to us, it's just a disturbance. All the activities and
36 the sport hunters. It's been like that for years.

37
38 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Esther. We
39 appreciate that sentiment. And it is certainly one of
40 the factors that we are looking at in that project, that
41 it could be a contributing factor to timing. Okay, I'm
42 going to move on to talking about Western 26A, muskox.
43 So, we did a survey this spring. As I mentioned earlier,
44 Robert wanted me to talk about survey techniques that
45 we used. So, we had discussed at our previous meeting
46 and I asked many of the Council members to talk about
47 areas that they had seen muskox and where we should be
48 looking for them in the spring time in their areas. To
49 guide a reconnaissance survey for the part of Game
50 Management Unit 26A that they're sparsely populated. We

00096

1 have a transect survey, a distance sampling survey that
2 we do in parts of the game management unit, where muskox
3 are more common. However, there's a large part of 26A
4 that muskox aren't really common, and that is kind of
5 the crux of doing this survey and also, trying to issue
6 permits to people in a way that works. So, during that
7 survey, we counted a minimum of 572 muskox between the
8 reconnaissance survey and the distance sampling. And
9 that's for both in Unit 23 and 26A, that's combined.
10 There is a bit of a caveat with that minimum count
11 number. So, in the previous survey we had our lines a
12 little bit closer together. And in this last survey our
13 distance sampling lines were a little bit further apart.
14 So, that's going to change how many animals we would
15 see. And that's where Lincoln was talking about
16 statistics in the caribou survey. We also, do statistics
17 for muskox surveys and that work still needs to be
18 completed. But, to give you some bit of a comparison.
19 The last minimum survey count was about 620 muskox in
20 2020. So, a difference of about 50 animals between the
21 2020 survey and what we saw this last spring. We did
22 open a muskox hunt in Anaktuvuk Pass this last spring
23 to address the public's concerns about the nuisance
24 muskox there, that muskox hunt is still open. And we've
25 issued one permit for that. And so, we have not seen --
26 I have not heard of reported harvest from that particular
27 muskox yet.

28
29 The TX-109 hunt application period will
30 open in November and I will be traveling out to
31 communities to help people apply for that particular
32 hunt. So, contact me and I will be around to talk with
33 people if anybody wants help, applying for that survey.
34 There's also a -- or not survey application period.
35 There's also, a federal hunt that the application period
36 is in July. And collectively between the TX-109 hunt and
37 the federal hunt for Western 26A there are -- there's a
38 quota of six muskox. So, that's what I have about muskox.
39 Let me know if you have any questions. I'm sure there
40 will be lots.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: For the Anaktuvuk
43 Pass one. Is that one, one nuisance? Is it like a -- was
44 it a selected individual or is that just anybody can go
45 out and go get that one nuisance muskox.

46
47 MS. DAGGETT: So, the hunt was opened for
48 a quota of two muskox and the harvest has to occur within
49 a 20-mile radius of Anaktuvuk Pass. And it's for
50 residents only.

00097

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it wasn't something that was given to us -- like one person. This is just an open -- so, it was for two. Okay. And that's open till when?

MS. DAGGETT: The end of October.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: End of October. 20-mile radius. Okay. Thank you. Ernest.

MR. NAGEAK: Hope that took one day also, because they had collars, too, when I was working with the state. They could just go and take a pictures of those collars and get population estimate if we -- you know, if we're only going to count the caribou herds in one day and spend how many days with the muskox, the main concern is caribou. And we had -- 20 years ago, we had 20 muskox collars on a Teshekpuk Herd back then. And one day, could go take pictures and population. But, we need to, you know, I just can't believe that one day for caribou herd determined on our harvest. But, just curious, how many days was that muskox population count? Thank you.

MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Ernest. So, I see your conundrum there with amount of time in the terms of the actual photo census for one day versus survey time for other animals. One thing that I will say is this that the overall amount of time that it takes to get everything ready for the caribou and the amount of staff, time and effort is much greater than we spend on muskox most of the time, at least certainly is for my office on a annual cycle. We do a muskox survey in this area once every three years, typically. And actually, for the recon work, I actually really only had one day to do that work too, because the weather window was so short. The distance sampling survey work was done over a longer period of time and covered a huge area and was in cooperation with Game Management Unit 23 managers and also the 26B wildlife biologist, to be able to survey a huge area for those animals. So -- but weather this last spring was a huge challenge and kept us from being able to do a lot of the work most of the spring. To tell you exactly how many days we spent out doing it, I can't tell you off the top of my head. But it was certainly more than just one day. But, I will say that we -- management for muskox is done differently in different areas. I have requested that we consider putting more collars on muskox in 26A, to try to understand their

00098

1 distribution and movements better. And it has not
2 necessarily been -- it hasn't been done yet, but I'm
3 hoping that it will be done in the near future as it
4 becomes a research priority. The 26B muskox do have
5 collars on them. And I know 26B biologists use those
6 collars quite a bit to help locate those animals and to
7 count them. So, it's something that I would like to see
8 in the future and it's definitely on our radar for trying
9 to improve our survey efforts and efficiency for muskox.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And just
12 additionally, we did put in some stuff for -- it's on
13 here funding to conduct muskox monitoring within the
14 North Slope region. So, that and I, you know, I do see
15 why it would take a lot longer, is because they're
16 definitely not nearly as many. So -- and they're not
17 congregating, and they're distant from each other, in
18 different locations. So, it's definitely not going to
19 be as easy as flying over one herd of all of them in one
20 spot. So, I can -- and it's really -- it's huge on the
21 North Slope, so I do get that portion of it. So, I really
22 wouldn't expect muskox surveys to be in one day just
23 because of how dynamic it is to try to find them. So,
24 but just to give information on that though, we're
25 definitely looking into furthering muskox surveys from
26 this Council as well as working with Carmen. I've been
27 calling her about this for a long time, probably every
28 month for the last few months. Collecting, actually even
29 sharing locations and modifying her map of locating
30 where they are and working with the local communities
31 to -- the ones that have actually spotted them and
32 actually putting those on her radar for going out and
33 doing the assessment. So, it's been a work in progress.
34 And I'm just happy to see that you guys are doing
35 something with this and taking information from the
36 local community. So, thank you for that.

37
38 MR. NAGEAK: Reason -- sorry, Ernest,
39 again. Reason I brought that up because every year we
40 here AKP waiting for caribou and that should still be
41 our main concern, that should be where our funding should
42 be going rather than counting muskox.

43
44 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to member
45 Nageak. If you looked at my budget, it would reflect
46 that dramatically. I think we probably spend -- I think
47 my budget is something like 150,000 plus a year for
48 caribou work. And annually it's something like 8 to
49 10,000 for muskox. So, the budget and the amount of time
50 and energy put into each species, I think, aligns with

00099

1 what you're suggesting.

2

3 MR. NAGEAK: Good. Because that's a lot
4 of our, you know, main food source, you know. Yeah,
5 muskox is good, but we eat caribou every week, any chance
6 we can get. And that should be, yeah. I was gonna say
7 we gotta concentrate on the -- I'm glad you're starting
8 your research on the migration. Hope you work closely
9 with the Anaktuvuk caribou border, bringing back up to
10 life and include them. Thank you.

11

12 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Ernest. Through
13 the Chair. Just one more little bit of information.
14 Moose. So, we didn't do a survey this last spring for
15 Colville moose because we were busy doing muskox
16 surveys. But we will plan to do a full drainage survey
17 this next spring. That is definitely on the -- that is
18 slated. And so, we will be out in early April looking
19 at moose populations on the Colville River. This next
20 spring. And we will have flyers out to the communities
21 to keep the transparency open. The last time we did a
22 drainage wide survey was in 2021, and the minimum count
23 was 427 moose, and about 20% of those were short
24 yearlings. And we even had 18 sets of twins. So, that's
25 a good sign. Hopefully we can see similar sorts of
26 numbers or perhaps higher for this next survey, but I
27 will be happy to report that information when I get it
28 for you. That is all.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
31 And there were some good signs in the Valley of the
32 Willows. There was definitely a cow and calf tracks. And
33 they were same day tracks. We didn't see them, but they
34 were they walked by same day and we did successfully get
35 a young male. So, they're definitely out there and didn't
36 see any bear tracks so, that was a good sign. But thank
37 you for that. Looking forward to the moose count next
38 season. But, this season we got ours so, I'm not worried
39 about them this year. Thank you for the information,
40 though. That was very informational and I'm glad we got
41 to get some muskox details. So, looking forward to
42 keeping that going. Thank you.

43

44 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
45 Council, for your time. Always appreciated.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Alright, so, it
50 looks like we'll move to reports and this one will have

000100

1 a time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance.
2 And I'll go down the list. Do we have anybody with any
3 reports from any tribal governments online or on the
4 floor?

5
6 (No response)

7
8 So once again, tribal government
9 reports, if we have any online or on the floor, we have
10 none presented to us currently. But, just checking
11 before we move on.

12
13 (No response)

14
15 Hearing none. Native organizations. Do
16 we have any Native organizations online or on the floor
17 that have any reports for the North Slope RAC?

18
19 (No response)

20
21 All right. Hearing none. We want to move
22 on to -- all right, so, National Park Service.

23
24 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Council
25 members. This is Marcy Okada assistance coordinator for
26 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. And I'd
27 like to refer you to page 165 of your supplemental
28 meeting packet. We just have a short written update to
29 share with you today. First one being is the Subsistence
30 Resource Commission that we have for Gates of the Arctic,
31 as it pertains to your particular RAC, Esther Hugo is
32 appointed to our Subsistence Resource Commission. And
33 then we also have another seat that's filled by another
34 member of Anaktuvuk Pass. And this seat is a governor
35 or state of Alaska governor appointment. And so, we
36 always try to hold two seats for the community of
37 Anaktuvuk Pass on our Subsistence Resource Commission.
38 Let's see.

39
40 We had a meeting that was held this past
41 April and unfortunately it was held via Teams and by
42 teleconference. It was scheduled for the -- to be held
43 in the Community of Ambler, but we had to pivot, and it
44 ended up being an online meeting, unfortunately. We're
45 continuing to share updates about sheep and caribou
46 within Gates of the Arctic. And then we also continue
47 to provide other updates by our staff on survey methods
48 and commercial use operations within Gates of the
49 Arctic. And our next meeting is scheduled to be held in
50 Fairbanks in November. Finally, homed in on the dates

000101

1 of November 4th and 5th. Do folks have any questions on
2 this particular update before I move on?

3

4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I don't see any
5 hands raised here. Go ahead.

6

7 MS. OKADA: Okay. So, the next update is,
8 is just on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and what's
9 provided is just a migration timeline that started from
10 May of this year, up to mid-August of this year. These
11 -- this information is based off of a joint project
12 between Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the
13 National Park Service, in putting collars out on the
14 Western Arctic Herd. I'm not sure if folks remember, but
15 several meetings ago we had shared that it's no longer
16 viable to collar Western Herd caribou via Onion Portage.
17 Since their migration is coming later and later. So, the
18 method of collaring has been changed to net gunning
19 caribou and putting collars on, in the springtime of
20 each year. This update is from Kyle Joly, but I don't
21 think we have him online at this time. But, if folks
22 have any questions they can feel free to reach out to
23 Kyle.

24

25 Moving along to Dall sheep. Every year
26 certain areas within Gates of the Arctic are surveyed
27 for Dall sheep, and this year the survey was conducted
28 between July 5th and July 11th. As you see on the map
29 on page 3 of your handout, the pink portion, the
30 northeast portion of Gates of the Arctic and the and the
31 blue portion were surveyed this past summer. The yellow
32 portion that's around Anaktuvuk Pass was not surveyed
33 this year. And then also, the National Park Service helps
34 out by surveying -- helps out the Bureau of Land
35 Management and the state by surveying areas around the
36 Dalton Highway Management Corridor. Population estimates
37 from this sheep survey are currently being generated and
38 information from the survey will be shared at your next
39 meeting in February. And then lastly just wanted to
40 quickly share that National Park Service had a book
41 recently published on brown bears and it was information
42 across multiple park units across the state of Alaska.
43 And there's chapters that focus on biology of bears,
44 human and bear interactions, how bears are monitored in
45 Park Service lands, and then also, the relationship
46 between Alaska Native cultures and bears across the
47 state. So, that's just our very quick update for Gates
48 of the Arctic, if folks have any questions.

49

50 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Peter.

1

2

MR. WILLIAMS: I don't have a question.

3 I have a comment. Can you see this fish skin? A lot of
4 people don't eat it, I don't know why, but when you see
5 a bear eating it, he eat most of the skin and the caviar,
6 we call it, you know, rich food, rich food people, food.
7 Anyway, what I'm just addressing is that, that's what
8 they diet on all the time. So, you always remember that.
9 And the reason why I save it is because, you know, I
10 grew up with it. And, you know, it's our diet. Plus
11 that, you know, it's got a lot of vitamins in it. So,
12 you know, when people leave it out, I feel bad. But, you
13 know, don't bother me because I was raised with it.
14 Thank you.

15

16

17

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Peter.
Any other questions for Marcy?

18

19

(No response)

20

21

22

23

Hearing none. Thank you very much for
your presentation. And I guess one question. Where can
we get the book if we wanted it?

24

25

26

27

28

29

MS. OKADA: Well, that's actually a very
good question. I think I might have to get back to you
via Gisela. Like, I could send information -- share
information with Gisela and then she'll share it back
with your Council members and you.

30

31

32

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Thank you very
much. Great presentation. Good pictures. Thanks again.

33

34

MS. OKADA: Thank you.

35

36

(Pause)

37

38

39

40

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Alright. U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Services, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,
Clayton Merrill.

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. MERRILL: Hello, Mr. Chair, Council
members, this is Clayton Merrill, subsistence
coordinator for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We just
-- we also just have a brief update, we sent in our
annual RAC report, just to let everyone at the RAC know
what's been going on Arctic Refuge. But, I know it's
been a couple of years since we last sent one in. And
we submitted this quite late so, we're just -- I -- I'm
just hoping to go over some of the highlights from it.

000103

1 And as always, if anyone has any questions about it,
2 they're more than welcome to contact me and I can try
3 to track down any answers. So, this report is covering
4 parts of 2024 and 2025, because we haven't submitted a
5 port for -- a report for quite a while. But, with our
6 biological monitoring and research program over those
7 two years as the -- as I've mentioned to the Council
8 last year, we've had some failures with trying to get
9 our avian or aerial surveys of Dall sheep going. So, in
10 2025, we decided to reopen some of our historic walking
11 surveys and perform two surveys for Dall sheep, one at
12 Atigun Gorge and one in the Hulahula. For the Hulahula,
13 16 groups of sheep, totaling 166 individuals, were
14 located on the east side of the river. No groups were
15 spotted on the opposite side of the river. And the lambs
16 per 100 ewes and yearlings, per 100 ewe ratios were 62
17 lambs per 100 ewes. And 30 yearlings, per 100 ewes. The
18 ram spotted in the survey were 16% of the of the sheep
19 and three full curl rams were observed. The total number
20 of sheep observed during the survey was the lowest on
21 record, representing a 54% decrease since the last
22 survey conducted in 2015. And was approximately 70%
23 lower than the long-term average. It is important to
24 note that the survey -- the crew was unable to access
25 the entire historical survey route and therefore caution
26 should be exercised when interpreting these data.
27 However, the lambs to 100 ewe ratio, was the highest
28 ever documented for the Hulahula ground survey. And the
29 yearling to 100 ewes, was equal to the long-term average.
30 This was not the usual pattern for lamb production in
31 this area, but with no relevant data from 2024, it's --
32 we can only surmise that forage conditions remained
33 favorable for ewes to gain needed resources for fall --
34 by fall breeding season, enabling many to produce lambs
35 for two years in a row. For the Atigun Gorge walking
36 survey, which I was a part of and helped to -- helped
37 with the surveying, with the actual survey work. We
38 observed five groups of sheep, totaling 34 individuals
39 on the north side of the Atigun River. No groups were
40 spotted on the south side of the river and the lambs per
41 hundred ewe and yearling per hundred ewe ratios, were
42 zero lambs per hundred ewes and 67 yearlings per 100
43 ewes. The percentage of rams in the population was 41%
44 and no -- but we didn't see any full curl rams. Total
45 number of sheep observed was the lowest on record,
46 representing a 79% decrease since the last survey was
47 conducted in 2011. And was approximately 87% lower than
48 the long-term average. The lambs per 100 ewes ratio was
49 the lowest ever documented for the Atigun ground survey,
50 while the yearlings per 100 ewes was higher than the

000104

1 long-term average, but not a record high. This was not
2 the usual pattern for lamb production in the area, but
3 with no relevant data from 2024, we can only surmise
4 that forage conditions were unfavorable for ewes to gain
5 needed reserves by fall breeding season. The -- this
6 overall low number of sheep on the refuge coincides with
7 anecdotal observations from various user groups,
8 including air operators, fleet pilots, the RACs, hunt
9 guides and subsistence users. For moose in 2024 and 20
10 -- well, I guess I should stop and see if there's any
11 questions about the sheep surveys first.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No hands raised
14 here. You're good to go.

15

16 MR. MERRILL: Okay. Do -- we continue
17 working with partners on a broad a broad study to better
18 understand the ecology of moose in the upper Yukon
19 drainage, Richardson Mountains and the Arctic. Of the
20 24 cow moose that were collared in the Arctic refuge in
21 2022, 20 of them were still alive in 2024. Out of those
22 20, 17 had calves, including six sets of twins. In 2025,
23 16 of those collared cow moose remained, and of those,
24 10 were observed in the spring, 4 had calves, including
25 one set of twins. Another mortality occurred in June
26 2025, leaving 15 collared cow moose. Moving on to some
27 of our bird work. Unless there's any questions on our
28 moose surveys or moose project?

29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No questions here.

31

32 MR. MERRILL: Okay. So, the tundra
33 nesting birds are an Arctic Refuge priority resource of
34 concern. And the study sites for tundra nesting bird
35 work occur in habitat types such as coastal wetlands,
36 tundra lakes and ponds and moist and wet sedge shrub
37 meadows, that are separately listed as priority resource
38 of concerns. Our work studying the ecology of these
39 species provides scientific data on behavior and
40 limiting factors and informs management actions such as
41 oil and gas development. In 2024 and 2025, we -- we've
42 expanded the tundra nesting bird monitoring efforts by
43 incorporating two new study sites, one on the upper
44 Canning River and one in Prudhoe Bay. These sites broaden
45 our spatial coverage and added -- and add a developed
46 area to our survey areas. In recent years, the core
47 focus of this work has been on developing methods for
48 monitoring nests -- nests that minimizes our impact on
49 the nest. Arctic staff has been using small cameras and
50 temperature loggers to make it so that they don't have

000105

1 to revisit the nest many times throughout the season.
2 This means that once a nest is located by investigators
3 it's not revisited until late summer or fall after the
4 nest has hatched or failed.

5
6 Moving on. There's not much new in goose
7 or whimbrel monitoring for us. But, with the common eider
8 studies 20 of -- 20 common eiders on the refuge were
9 outfitted with GPS and GSM transmitters this year. The
10 data that's collected from these transmitters will be
11 stored in the device's internal memory and transmitted
12 via cell phone signal when the birds return to their
13 breeding sites in the fall in future years. We've also
14 been working to develop updated methods for analyzing
15 video data of nesting common eiders collected in prior
16 years. And there's a link to some recent publication in
17 collaboration with UAF researchers for anyone interested
18 in more on that project.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: We did have a
21 question from Ernest. Go ahead, Ernest.

22
23 MR. MERRILL: Yes.

24
25 MR. NAGEAK: Yeah. What was your bird of
26 concern under your resources because we just had in the
27 Barrow area, the bird of concern was the Steller eiders,
28 and common eider I -- we're able to harvest those here
29 on the North Slope. I was just wondering what Arctic
30 Refuges, BOC, bird of concern. Thank you.

31
32 MR. MERRILL: I'm not sure. I'm not sure
33 I fully understand the question. We don't have a specific
34 bird of concern that we're going after with any of these
35 studies. The -- these are all to better inform management
36 actions. I'm not really sure that I'm.....

37
38 (Simultaneous speech)

39
40 MR. NAGEAK: Hence your resource of
41 concern. That's what was your topic.....

42
43 MR. MERRILL: Oh, yeah.

44
45 MR. NAGEAK:birds. Resource of
46 concern. Like what's the concern? Which bird? That's
47 what I was asking. Thank you. It was just any kind of
48 nesting bird in general. If you could yeah, clarify that.

49
50

000106

1 MR. MERRILL: Yeah. Sorry, I thought you
2 -- I thought this was in regard to the common eiders.
3 So, their priority resource of concern, I'm not super
4 familiar with this project on the ground but I believe
5 it's just for tundra nesting birds in general. I don't
6 think there's a specific -- I don't think there's just
7 one species that is the resource of concern. I believe
8 it's for tundra nesting birds in general or as a whole.
9 I can send a message to one of our biologists who work
10 on that project to try and chase down if there's a better
11 answer for that.

12
13 MR. NAGEAK: Maybe if it's not of
14 concern, it should be, monitoring tundra nests. Because
15 it makes it sound like it's Refuge's priority, resource
16 of concern. Maybe alarming to activist groups or people
17 in the area or stop the right of way for the community
18 to access trails. Just it's just another saying it's of
19 a concern. So, I was just trying to see what your concern
20 was, of which nesting. But, if there's not any. Thank
21 you.

22
23 (Simultaneous speech)
24

25 MR. MERRILL: So, yeah, I think that this
26 is -- I believe these are identified as a priority
27 resource of concern and that they're used as a identifier
28 specie or they're used as an indicator of any kind of
29 negative change going on. And so, by managing -- by
30 monitoring these bird nests, we're able to see impacts
31 that might be affecting the greater ecology of the area,
32 if that makes sense. So, resource of concern, I believe
33 in this case is being used as, this is a -- an indicator
34 of overall ecological health. More than that we're
35 identifying a specific species as like an endangered
36 species, like the Steller's or spectacled eider where
37 they're concerned because their special legislation
38 about them. I believe that these are a concern in that
39 they're an indicator.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for your
42 clarification. Go ahead, Lisa.

43
44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin for the
45 record. And just as an FYI, refuges develop inventory
46 and monitoring plans. And so, in that inventory
47 monitoring plans, they just -- it's like a term that
48 they say, okay, this species is our priority resource.
49 So, I think it's just tied to their inventory and
50 monitoring plan. Thanks.

1

2

3 MR. MERRILL: Right. That's exactly where
4 I was going. I used to work for an inventory and
5 monitoring network. And the -- we identified resources
6 of concerns because we thought that they could be
7 indicative of overall ecological health. So, it wasn't
8 that the species or project was looking at specifically
9 a species because that species was especially threatened
10 or anything. Just that we would be able to infer things
11 about greater -- the greater health of the environment
12 by monitoring that one species or that group or in this
13 case, tundra nesting birds. But I wasn't involved in
14 this project so, I want to just double-check that that's
15 correct for this one.

15

16

17

18

19

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you
for the clarification once again. And is there anything
else on yours -- on your presentation there?

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. MERRILL: No. Just the last point to
-- in the biology program is really just -- we talked
about lemmings a little earlier with Nate Graff, when
he was speaking. And so, Arctic has been working on a
project looking at the cyclical peaks and crashes of
small mammal populations because they have a significant
biological consequence throughout the Arctic food web
just like Nate was talking about earlier. So, during the
summers of 2024 and 2025, Arctic deployed modified trail
cameras for monitoring small mammals both in the Refuge
and Prudhoe Bay. These cameras are modified by removing
the electronics from the original house -- original
housing, replacing the lens with a wide angle version
for close focus and enclosing these components in a
waterproof pelican case, which is then placed on top of
a three gallon grey semi-translucent bucket. Hopefully
in the future we'll have some results from this study
to share with the RAC.

And then the final thing I just wanted
to bring to attention of the RAC is that back on the
very first page of this -- of this report, the KIC right
of way application for the winter snow trail using the
Naional -- the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is
preparing the draft environmental assessment of the KIC
right of way application for winter snow trail through
the National Environmental Policy Act analysis process.
The proposed snow trail starts at Point Thompson and
goes eastward across the state and federal Fish and
Wildlife Service lands and waters to KIC in holdings on
Barter Island. The only thing I wanted to draw to the

000108

1 attention of the Council is that the draft EA is expected
2 to be released for public comment in the next few weeks.
3 So, just to make sure that was on the -- anyone
4 interested was aware that that was going out for comment
5 soon.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Any other
8 questions for the presentation? For the report?

9
10 (No response)

11
12 Hearing none. Was that everything?

13
14 MR. MERRILL: Yes, that was everything.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you very much
17 for your report.

18
19 MR. MERRILL: Thank you.

20
21 MR. NAGEAK: Where can -- oh, sorry.
22 Ernest here. Question on where can we report on that,
23 EA on the right of way. You have a website or link.

24
25 MR. MERRILL: I don't have a link. Like
26 it says in there. This is expected to go out for public
27 comment. We're waiting on the newly confirmed Fish and
28 Wildlife Director as he comes into his role. I just
29 wanted to put it on the radar of everyone that we expect
30 this to be coming out for public comment soon. I'm happy
31 to, when it when it goes out, send a link over to Gisela
32 to distribute. But I don't have a link available right
33 now for public comment on it.

34
35 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you, Ernest again.
36 It's important to have that public -- have a opportunity
37 to provide public comment because the community winter
38 access trails been heavily beneficial to -- for the cost
39 of food and shipping. And we have interested people here
40 on the North Slope that I'm sure would like the link for
41 public comment once it's open. Thank you.

42
43 MR. MERRILL: Yep. I'll make sure to get
44 that over to Gisela as soon as I have one.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

47
48 MR. BARGER: Thank you. Thank you, Ernie,
49 for bringing that up, too. It's a pretty good issue and
50 stuff on the right of way. It's tough, I know no tax

000109

1 having an A, they want to build a road to Red Dog Mine
2 for their fuel costs. Because past two years, I've been
3 going to Noatak to get my fish before whaling time. And
4 I, you know, February, March, I paid 26 bucks a gallon
5 of gas over there. So, you know, they have an issue on
6 fuel and heating fuel. So, you know, the National Park
7 Service been stopping to, you know, build that road over
8 there. So, it's just a National Park Service issue. So,
9 that's what they're dealing with right now. So, but yeah
10 thank you.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the
13 report. And looks like we'll -- up next we have -- or
14 what do you have, Ernest?

15
16 MR. NAGEAK: I see reports of a plane
17 flying along where the polar bears are congregating.
18 Does Arctic Refuge do anything about non, you know,
19 random planes flying right by caribou and landing along
20 the strip. Thank you. I just seen that yesterday, and I
21 thought I'd bring it out there.

22
23 MR. MERRILL: I'm sorry. Is the is the
24 question about polar bear or caribou?

25
26 MR. NAGEAK: Oh, planes flying in along
27 the coastal plain near the Village of Kaktovik to polar
28 bear view. Like we always say, who's monitoring those
29 planes going in and out? It's just thought if you might
30 have heard of that from Kaktovik residents being part
31 of the Arctic Refuge.

32
33 MR. MERRILL: This is the first that I'm
34 hearing about it. I would like to follow up with Cody
35 Smith, our flying law enforcement to see if he's heard
36 anything about it. He's normally pretty on top of
37 anything like that. But this is the first I've heard
38 about this -- about that happening, so.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Ernest.
41 All right. And thank you, Clayton, for your in-depth
42 report.

43
44 MR. MERRILL: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. It looks
47 like. Up next, we have fisheries reports, Fisheries
48 Resource Monitoring Program, Kristen Morrow. You have
49 the floor.

50

000110

1 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
2 the record, this is Kristen Morrow. I'm going to try to
3 keep this brief in providing an overview of the Fisheries
4 Resource Monitoring Program funding process before going
5 into some of the projects that have been proposed for
6 the northern region for this upcoming funding cycle. We
7 do have Kevin Foley, a fisheries biologist with OSM, on
8 the line if we end up having any specific fisheries
9 related questions that I'm not able to answer. So, to
10 begin with, this is not an action item, but if the
11 Council would like to provide comments on any or all of
12 the projects that have been proposed for your region,
13 you're more than welcome to do so and your comments are
14 helpful in the process of selecting which projects will
15 be funded. So, it's up to the Council if you want to
16 comment on just one of them, or all of them or none of
17 them, that's up to you. And I can -- as we go on, provide
18 some more details on that. So, monitoring program
19 materials start on page 121 of your meeting books, if
20 that's helpful for you. And just as a reminder, the goal
21 of this monitoring program is to provide research
22 funding to study federal subsistence fisheries, enhance
23 the management of those fisheries, and to work with rural
24 Alaskans to sustain these fisheries. This program -- the
25 funding process begins first with the Councils
26 identifying information gaps and developing priority
27 information needs for their region. You guys may
28 remember doing that at the fall meeting. The priority
29 information needs for your region that you all
30 identified for this funding cycle begin on page 121 of
31 your meeting book. So, this list was developed by
32 volunteers from the North Slope, Northwest Arctic and
33 Seward Peninsula Councils, and they met last fall to
34 develop this list. And I'm sorry, excuse me I misspoke,
35 that list is on page 130, not page 121. So, we took this
36 list and then requested projects to address these
37 priority information needs. Investigators then submitted
38 project proposals back to OSM. So, we published the list
39 of information needs. And then whatever we receive is
40 what projects we evaluate. Just because an information
41 need was identified does not necessarily mean someone
42 submits a project to address that particular need. For
43 the northern region, in this funding cycle, six
44 proposals were submitted for funding and those proposals
45 are listed on table 1 of page 132. So, you want to take
46 a moment to flip there. These proposals are now going
47 through the review process, and the first step in that
48 review process is for the Technical Review Committee to
49 assess the projects. The Technical Review Committee is
50 a panel of expert scientists that review the proposals

000111

1 based on five criteria. And those criteria include
2 strategic priorities, the technical scientific merit,
3 the investigator ability and resources, partnership and
4 capacity building and cost benefit. So, the Technical
5 Review Committee, after reviewing these projects, writes
6 a justification that summarizes what they thought of the
7 projects, and those justifications can be found at the
8 end of each project summary, which are in your Council
9 books beginning on page 133. So, after the projects are
10 reviewed by the Technical Review Committee, we then
11 collect the Council's comments on the projects, which
12 is what we're doing today. Your comments and the review
13 committee's justifications are combined and presented
14 to the Interagency Staff Committee, who are the Federal
15 Subsistence Board staff and they also, provide comments
16 on the projects. The Federal Subsistence Board will meet
17 next year, in early February and be presented with all
18 of this information from the Technical Review Committee.
19 Any comments that you provide and any comments you
20 provided via the Interagency Staff Commity and then the
21 Board will make its recommendation on which projects to
22 fund.

23
24 Okay. Sorry about that. So, the final
25 projects will be determined by the Director of OSM, based
26 on all of the provided input and based on how much
27 funding available. OSM does fund as many projects as
28 possible based on our budget, which as everyone may know
29 right now, can be a little bit uncertain. Any projects
30 that are funded will begin at the start of next year in
31 spring 2026. This whole process happens every two years
32 and projects can be funded for up to four years. So,
33 this is not an action item, but your comments are an
34 important part of the funding process. If you would like
35 to provide any feedback. We do have the list of the six
36 projects that were submitted that would be conducted in
37 the northern region, if they were to be funded. If you'd
38 like, I can provide a very brief one-sentence overview
39 of these projects. I can give you a moment to quickly
40 flip through the meeting book and see if there's any you
41 would like some more detailed information on. It's
42 however you would like to proceed at this point.

43
44 (Pause)

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: The majority of
47 these look like they're not really going to affect us,
48 except for one of them has Point Hope listed on it. Is
49 that correct?

50

000112

1 MS. MORROW: Mr. Chair, this is Kristen
2 Morrow, for the record. Yes, the majority of these
3 projects, they're within the northern region in terms
4 of fisheries management areas but they're not
5 necessarily just within the North Slope Regional
6 Advisory Council area.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: How many of these
9 are above the Brooks Range?

10

11 MS. MORROW: That is a good question. For
12 the record, this is Kristen Morrow. Let's see. I would
13 have to take a moment to look specifically.
14 Unfortunately, I don't think we have a map put together
15 showing these. Project 26-102 is in Selawik National
16 Wild -- National Wildlife Refuge. Let's see, 26-100, I
17 don't believe is north of the Brooks Range.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 MR. NAGEAK: Beaver expansion on the
22 Arctic. Is that like, for Point Hope after he mentioned
23 they seen a beaver.

24

25 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair. This is
26 Kristen Morrow. So, that project is examining the
27 expansion of beaver in Northwest Alaska. They will --
28 I'm just flipping -- the project summaries on page 135
29 of your meeting book, if you would like to look at that.
30 It looks like they will be working near Nome, Kobuk,
31 Noatak and the Wulik River, Wulik, not sure if I'm
32 pronouncing that correctly. So, that's sort of the area
33 they would be looking at. They have four objectives for
34 that project. Quantifying the beaver dam impacts on fish
35 occupancy and community composition. Evaluating changes
36 to stream habitat suitability for juvenile salmon and
37 other subsistence fish. Determining whether beaver ponds
38 function as refugia or ecological traps for northern
39 pike and whitefish in the Selawik River basin, and then
40 contribute -- fish and habitat data to statewide
41 databases. So, those are the objectives for that
42 project. If the Council would like to submit any comments
43 on that particular project, you're more than welcome to
44 do so.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Which one on the
47 line was that?

48

49 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair, Kristen
50 Morrow. That's project 26-101. The summary for it begins

000113

1 on page 135 of your meeting book.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: What about the
4 inventory and baseline data of fish?

5

6 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair, this is
7 Kristen Morrow. Are you referring to a different project
8 number or within that project?

9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sorry, the first
11 one, was that the beaver one?

12

13 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair, Kristen
14 Morrow. That -- so, the first project is 26-100. That
15 is the assessment of life history patterns and hypoxic
16 stress of Northwest Alaska whitefish and arctic
17 grayling. The second project, 26-01, is the beaver
18 expansion project. 26-102 is Selawik Northern pike
19 population dynamics, movement and habitat use. 26-103
20 is Kobuk River sheefish spawning abundance. 26-150 is
21 the harvest and use of sheefish and other non-salmon
22 fishes in the Hotham Inlet. And 26-151 is Kawerak Tribal
23 Fishery Stewardship program.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I must be looking
26 at something else. The priority information needs the
27 only one that says anything about any of our village
28 locations up here, Point Hope. So, on page 130, the very
29 top bullet.

30

31 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
32 is Kristen Morrow. That was one of the priority
33 information needs. I don't believe we received a
34 proposal that addressed that specific need. So, we
35 published the list of information needs. And when
36 projects are submitted, they are supposed to address at
37 least one of those information needs. But, we don't
38 necessarily get projects that that hit each and every
39 information need. So, it looks like at this time we
40 didn't receive a proposal focused on that particular
41 question.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. So, if we
44 don't have anything that pertains to our -- any of our
45 RAC locations. Do we still need to comment on these?

46

47 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
48 is Kristen Morrow. Whether you comment or not is
49 optional. It is not an action item so, it is up to the
50 Council.

000114

1

2

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. If we don't have any that are within our locations and -- I would say, let's just pass on them for now and let the respective locations comment. Because if there was one that was up here on the North Slope that was affecting us, by all means, we would love to comment on that. But, these ones, it seems like we don't have any pertinent studies that are within our location. Go ahead, Leonard.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. BARGER: Thank you, thank you. Like you said, Point Hope. You know that was a, you know, when I brought up the beaver and Point Hope the first time. So, we tell our hunters, you know, if they ever see it, you know, kill it, you know, even though it's you know, off season, you know, we don't want that. You know, like we said, you know, it's going to hurt our fish and they're going to make dams and stuff. So, we don't we don't want that in our area. So, we're pretty particular like especially the elders in Point Hope. We -- they tell our younger people to get whatever, you know, that's going to, you know, hurt our area. So, thank you, Ernie, for bringing that up. And you know.....

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for your comments, Leonard. Go ahead, Peter.

MR. WILLIAMS: Talking about beaver, we usually just let them go because they dam up the fish we put in fish, and you get about 100 of them sometimes, you know, they just don't know where to go. So, you know, and sometimes they they blow the dam but, you know, they don't do that anymore. Elders said no, no, that's a no, no. They do a lot of hard work for that. So, you know I'm just addressing that, you know, that they get really fat. I mean, whitefish and sheefish. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Go ahead.

MR. BARGER: Thank you. I forget to bring up too like, Point Hope. We got king salmon. We get king salmon at Point Hope. Sheefish, one of my buddies were fishing on a coast, and he texted me, and he's like, hey, I don't know what kind of fish is this, can you come over? And so, even wolffish. We got some two twos with the real big teeth and stuff. And I sent pictures to Billy and Raphael and stuff and, you know, it was kind of unusual. And so, I -- let our, you know, younger guys, you know, let me know what kind of fishing. But,

000115

1 yeah, one of my, one of -- one of the guys texted me,
2 hey, I don't know what kind of fish is this? Is pretty
3 big. It was a sheefish so, I'm just going to bring that
4 up. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
7 Yeah. There's nothing else I think that's - oh, go ahead.
8 Sorry.

9
10 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
11 is Kristen Morrow again. If it's okay, I have a very
12 brief update on our Partners Program and a fisheries
13 regulation update if the Council would like to hear it.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Does it
16 pertain to the North Slope?

17
18 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this
19 is Kristen Morrow. I -- I don't think there's any
20 specific information about the North Slope. So, it is
21 up to the Council, if you would like to hear this or
22 not.

23
24 MR. NAGEAK: If you could read the page,
25 please, Ernest here. We could maybe read it on our own
26 or....?

27
28 MS. MORROW: Thank you. This is Kristen
29 Morrow. Unfortunately, these updates are not in your
30 meeting book. The Partners Program update is just to
31 provide an overview update on our funding process for
32 the fisheries -- the Partner for Fisheries Monitoring
33 Program. And then the regulations update is just a very
34 brief summary of the regulations that were recently
35 changed. But, it's up to the Council if they'd like to
36 hear that.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sure. We'll hear it.
39 I think there might be opportunity later or there was
40 at some point I think, around Prudhoe Bay. So, if there
41 were any changes, it'd be good to keep track of it, I
42 guess. So, go ahead.

43
44 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this
45 is Kristen Morrow. I will keep this brief. So, for the
46 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, which we
47 generally just refer to as the Partners Program. We
48 posted a funding notice for that program last spring.
49 And this is a competitive grant for Alaska Native and
50 rural nonprofit organizations. The intent of the program

000116

1 is to strengthen Alaska Native and rural involvement in
2 federal subsistence management. These funds can be used
3 to provide salary to organizations so they can hire a
4 biologist, social scientist or educator. And the grant
5 also, provides funds for science and culture camps and
6 paid student internships. This year, there were eight
7 applicants for the new funding that will begin in 2026,
8 and the funding lasts for up to four years. The Partner
9 Program Review Panel, made up of science -- of subject
10 matter experts across various Department of Interior
11 agencies, has reviewed the proposals, and we expect a
12 funding decision later this year, and those updates will
13 be shared at your winter meeting. The next funding
14 opportunity will come out sometime of spring 2027, for
15 funding that will begin in 2028. And we would love to
16 see more applications, if there are organizations or
17 entities in your villages that could use additional
18 staff in the form of biologists or social scientists.
19 This could be a good resource to help support that. The
20 contact information is online at our our website and I
21 can provide that information later if anyone would like
22 it, pr you could speak to me after the meeting and I'm
23 happy to share more details on that. And that is the
24 update on the Partners Program. Does the Council have
25 any questions before I do the regulatory update?

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No question, but
28 that is definitely stuff that we shouldn't miss when
29 there's opportunity like that. It's good to hear.

30
31 MS. MORROW: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 For the record, this is Kristen Morrow, again. I'm now
33 going to provide a very brief update on the Fisheries
34 Regulatory Cycle. The Federal Subsistence Board took
35 action on all fisheries proposals and closure reviews
36 at its January 2025 meeting. The new regulations are now
37 published. They published in the Federal Register in
38 July and we have the updated fisheries regulations books
39 here with us if anybody would like a copy of those.
40 Specific information about how the vote Board -- how the
41 Board voted in comparison to the Council's
42 recommendations can be found in the section 805(c)
43 report, which is in your meetings book on page 169. And
44 I believe Gisela will also give an overview of that in
45 a little bit. Our next call for fisheries regulatory
46 proposals will occur in your winter 2026 meeting, and
47 at that time, you can submit any proposals to change
48 federal fish regulations. So, this may be a good time
49 to start thinking about any regulations folks in the
50 community may want to change for the federal subsistence

000117

1 fishing. And that is the conclusion of my update, unless
2 anyone has any questions.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions for
5 Kristen? I wish Todd was here. I don't know if you've
6 talked to the wildlife department about the opportunity
7 for possible funding with biologists and stuff, but Todd
8 was our North Slope Borough fish person, so, he was here
9 earlier, but Jenysa works with him as well, so, it's
10 great to know. Maybe we'll relay some information and
11 exchange numbers.

12
13 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Up next
16 we have U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Internal
17 Affairs. Gilbert, You have the floor.

18
19 MR. CASTELLANOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair
20 and distinguished representatives of the Council. It's
21 my honor to be here and update you all on what we're
22 doing in the international realm on Arctic. My name is
23 Gilbert Castellanos. I'm the international affairs
24 specialist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I
25 wear many hats. I'm our Russia desk officer. I staff the
26 Secretary's Office on the International Porcupine
27 caribou Board agreement with Canada. Many other roles
28 that I fill. But, the purpose of my being here today is
29 to talk a little bit about one of the other hats that I
30 wear, which is to have the sort of I guess, humbling
31 responsibility of representing the United States in one
32 of the Arctic Council Working Groups. This is the
33 Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group,
34 CAFF Working Group. And I want to talk with you a little
35 bit about what this whole thing is. I mean, I think
36 during the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, a
37 lot more people got more interested and informed about
38 what it is, what they're doing. There's a lot more people
39 involved. So, why don't you just go ahead and jump to
40 the next slide, please, Gisela.

41
42 MS. CHAPA: If I were to mind doing a
43 tech check for the people online, if you can actually
44 see the screen in the change of slides. Oh, perfect.

45
46 MR. CASTELLANOS: Thank you. So, I want
47 to talk with you a little bit again, about what is this
48 Arctic Council, what is this CAFF Working Group, what
49 have we been up to? Why does the U.S. engage in this
50 international work? What are some of the challenges and

000118

1 opportunities facing the Arctic region, and then how do
2 we advance strategic interest through engagement in this
3 specific working group that I'm a part of?

4

5 (Pause)

6

7 MR. CASTELLANOS: The next slide please.

8 So, real quick, the Arctic Council, not unlike this
9 Council is a group of people just so, happens that those
10 people are the Foreign Ministers of the eight Arctic
11 countries. So, for the United States, that's Secretary
12 of State Marco Rubio. For Russia, Sergey Lavrov and so
13 on. And they get together, much like you all get together
14 to talk about what's going on in the Arctic and what do
15 we need to do to help the folks that live there and
16 advance the strategic interest of the Arctic countries.
17 They get together every two years, and they sign a
18 declaration that says, okay, here's what we need to do.
19 There's six working groups. I'm not going to go into all
20 of them, but you can go into the next slide here. And
21 those six working groups carry out the work. There's a
22 whole bunch of members. There's the eight Arctic
23 countries, there's observer countries like China and
24 India and so many others. And then there's observer
25 organizations. The key point here that's maybe of
26 interest to this Council is, there are six
27 representatives of Arctic indigenous peoples. This is
28 the only international organization where Arctic
29 indigenous people sit right next to the Foreign
30 Ministers and weigh in on every decision and action
31 that's happening. For this region, that would be the
32 Inuit Circumpolar Council. Kelly and Marie Green, Vernon
33 and those folks over there are doing excellent work, and
34 you've got some folks here that are also, involved, like
35 Nichole is the head of delegation to another Arctic
36 Council Working Group. Lots of folks are engaged, but
37 you all may not be aware of it. So, I want to just share
38 a little bit of information to shed some light on it.
39 I'll also, mention of the six representatives of Arctic
40 indigenous peoples, four of them represent Alaska Native
41 peoples, the Aleut International Association, the Arctic
42 Athabascan Council, the Gwich'in Council International,
43 and the Inuit Circumpolar Council. So, when we're
44 sitting at the table, we've got at least five
45 representatives speaking on behalf of the US. And
46 although ICC is the official sort of indigenous Arctic
47 representative for this region, I also, carry the
48 responsibility to represent all U.S. citizens. And so,
49 I have the responsibility to represent your interests.
50 And in my opinion, I think you all know what's really

000119

1 happening and is really important voice in understanding
2 what we should be doing, how we should be doing it. Next
3 slide please.

4
5 I think it's going to let you -- yeah,
6 just you click through the -- these are some of the
7 terms I don't want to -- these are the four
8 representatives of Arctic indigenous peoples that are
9 part of the Arctic Council that represent Alaska Native
10 communities. And you see there the map that represents
11 what we call the range of these Arctic indigenous
12 peoples. The other two, I'll mention briefly, are
13 RAIPON, the Russian Association of Indigenous People,
14 which would also, include Inuit people. And then the
15 Saami Council, which represents the traditional reindeer
16 herders of northern Finland, northern Norway and parts
17 of Russia. Next slide please.

18
19 So, as I mentioned, you have the Arctic
20 Council. Those countries there in dark blue are the
21 permanent Arctic states that are members of the Arctic
22 Council. And then you have the observers, which are the
23 light blue color. You see, there are six Arctic Council
24 Working Groups. I won't go through all of them. There's
25 probably a lot to look into here. One of the other
26 working groups, just to give you a sense of what are the
27 things that they're working on, the Protection of the
28 Arctic Marine Environment Working group, PAME Working
29 Group, Nichole here at the North Slope Borough is the
30 ICC representative to that working group. So, just to
31 give you a sense of the kind of work that we're doing.
32 You might have heard of the Emergency Prevention
33 Pollution and Response Working Group, works a lot on
34 search and rescue and implements search and rescue
35 treaty in the Arctic. Next slide please.

36
37 This is the map that the working group
38 that I represent the United States on uses when we call
39 it the Arctic. This is important because whenever people
40 say Arctic, they often mean different things in.
41 Official federal law, under the Arctic Research Policy
42 Act of 1984, it's defined a certain way. But, the Arctic
43 Council uses a different map. The U.S. different
44 organizations use different maps for what the Arctic is.
45 It's always good to start there. This gives you a sense
46 that it's 6% of the Earth's surface is what we're talking
47 about here. Over 21,000 known species. And it plays a
48 key global role, not just in migratory species, in the
49 economy, natural resources, so is Arctic security. Next
50 slide please. So, what is this CAFF working group, one

000120

1 of the six working groups of the Arctic Council? The
2 bottom line is we try to be value added. What can we get
3 -- what we have and what we offer is convening power.
4 So, the eight Arctic countries Denmark, Greenland,
5 Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, we sit together and
6 we say, what are the most important things facing the
7 Arctic and the Arctic people, and how can we work
8 together to add value, to bring the kind of information
9 that's needed, and then to get that information and to
10 deliver some results that are relevant to the people
11 that live there. Next slide please. Some of the examples
12 of the kinds of things that we do at the international
13 scale. Assessments, monitoring, data management,
14 conservation strategies, and so on. A key point here is
15 on monitoring, which ends up being sort of the main
16 thing that we do in the CAFF Working Group. We're trying
17 to better understand. What do we know about the Arctic,
18 whether it's belugas or eiders or anything else, what
19 do we not know, and then more importantly, what do we
20 need to know? As we've heard over and over and over
21 again during this meeting. oh, that that that herd hasn't
22 been surveyed since 2009. That species we don't know
23 anything about. It wasn't very long ago, even five years
24 ago, where even big charismatic species like beluga
25 whale, no one had ever done a circumpolar assessment of
26 how our beluga whales doing everywhere. If beluga whales
27 are crashing in Alaska, you have one view. Okay, here's
28 what's happening, pr if whitefish have some kind of
29 lesions or things on them, you have one perspective.
30 But, if you're talking to your Inuit brothers and sisters
31 in Canada and in Greenland. They're seeing it, too. That
32 gives us a lot of information, and maybe they've already
33 solved it. So, talking internationally is a big deal.
34 I'll talk a little bit more about that next. Next slide
35 please. Why do we engage? I've given you an example
36 already. But, if you give me the next slide, you've --
37 you're really -- you're talking about the longest land
38 migration on Earth of any mammal, the Porcupine Caribou.
39 The longest migration of any animal anywhere on Earth,
40 the arctic tern, the gray whales. You've got so many
41 species that come here and go elsewhere. If you're not
42 allowed to hunt them, you're not allowed to do anything
43 with these. Their their population is crashing. Turns
44 out they're dying somewhere else. Migratory birds are
45 going to the Caribbean being overhunted. They're going
46 through the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, getting
47 caught in China and sold in markets. These are the things
48 we have to understand because we could regulate you to
49 death here, when really the problem is somewhere else.
50 And the only way we're going to understand that is by

000121

1 engaging with our -- our friends, our brothers and
2 sisters internationally. Next slide please.

3
4 How do we respond to the challenges that
5 we're facing in the Arctic? You guys know them. There
6 are so, many issues that we face in the Arctic. The
7 limitations. Things are uncoordinated. You got different
8 people coming here asking you the same questions over
9 and over again. You're talking to different folks all
10 the time. There's a lack of local and indigenous
11 engagement, plain and simple. The people who really know
12 what's going on aren't at the table being a part of the
13 decision making around what research should we be doing?
14 And I'm talking about eight zeros behind the numbers.
15 I'm talking about billion dollar research programs that
16 are being decided without the right folks at the table.
17 So, we need to make sure that that doesn't happen as we
18 move forward. The role of the Arctic Council is to try
19 to do that. You all are doing it and have been trying
20 to do it for a long time. The Inuit Circumpolar Council
21 is trying to do it and has been working on it for a long
22 time. I think we're making progress, but it's slow and
23 it's not always clear. Yeah, please, Ernest.

24
25 MR. NAGEAK: Quick question. We had all
26 these international migratory birds, you know, harvest
27 agreements. And now we have the polar bear and Russia
28 agreement and the voluntary polar bear agreement with
29 the Canadian side. When they first started doing these
30 quotas, they gave like, Alaska 29, but it's probably 39
31 by now. But, we don't know how many Russias caught, they
32 could have got 100 by now. Is there a way you can tell
33 how many they've been catching? Because they've been
34 trying to impose a harvest quota, but yet there's, you
35 know, war going on over there and are we is the
36 government -- Fish and Wildlife Service imposing a quota
37 or are they keeping track or is it just in talks?

38
39 MR. CASTELLANOS: I want to be a little
40 bit careful with this, because I'm not the polar bear
41 lead for our office, and we've got an entire group of
42 folks that focuses on that specifically. But, I was
43 involved in working with our State Department to fulfill
44 our obligations under the treaty with Russia, in
45 particular, to share with them what we're gathering and
46 to ask information from them. Unfortunately, we didn't
47 hear anything back. So, one nice thing about the Arctic
48 Council is there has been, since Russia's illegal
49 invasion of Ukraine, a complete ban on any U.S.
50 Government engagement with any Russian officials in any

1 way. We have to get sort of issue item by item
2 exemptions. However, I, through the Arctic Council, have
3 the ability to talk directly or indirectly with our
4 Russian experts. And so, there may be a way for us to
5 try to see how we could get that moving. But that's a
6 formal process through a separate treaty that is the
7 polar bear agreement.

8
9 MR. NAGEAK: So, basically, they're not
10 imposing the quota yet on the U.S. side just because
11 they don't know what's happening over there.

12
13 MR. CASTELLANOS: We're trying to do our
14 best to fulfill our obligations under the agreement,
15 under the circumstances. And unfortunately, we've not
16 heard, as far as I know, to this point from the Russian
17 government in a response in terms of their fulfilling
18 their obligations under the treaty. So, that's all I
19 know at this point. Thank you, Earnest. Good question.
20 Next slide please. So, what's the solution to all these
21 issues that we're facing? And I think that the key points
22 here are whatever we're doing we gotta think long term.
23 We can do all we want now to let's say shoot beavers,
24 but if they're coming, they're coming, you know, and we
25 how do we how do we position ourselves to say, what are
26 things going to look like in the future? This is an ugly
27 thing to think about, but it's a reality. How can we do
28 it in a strategic way so, it doesn't just suddenly
29 happened, but we're kind of thinking about it and trying
30 to lay out the foundation for it. I think the key part
31 to that is that kind of cooperation and leverage. The
32 needs are so many, we know so little and the only way
33 to really know as much as we can is to really leverage
34 and cooperate with others who are also facing the same
35 issues. The folks up in Nunavut, the folks in in Nuuk
36 and Sisimiut and other places in Finland and Norway,
37 they're facing the exact same issues. The salmon crisis
38 in Norway on the Tanana River is the same one we're
39 facing on the Yukon. If we get together and talk, maybe
40 we can find some solutions and think about how can we
41 be strategic and leverage what we know, what we don't
42 know, and what we need to know. Next slide please. So,
43 in the CAFF in the working group we're very strategic
44 in that, for over 25 years we've been on the march asking
45 the question, wash, rinse, repeat. What do we know right
46 now? What do we not know? What do we need to know? We
47 need to ask the right people. The people who really
48 know. What is it that we know? What do you need to know?
49 And then how can we go get it? It doesn't happen
50 overnight. You've got eight countries and

000123

1 representatives of 4 million indigenous peoples and so
2 many others. This can take years to do, but we're making
3 progress on things like, arctic wildland fires, on
4 search and rescue in the Arctic, on invasive species,
5 on collapse of salmon. Slowly and surely we're making
6 progress. And this is done in a strategic way, a
7 thoughtful way over the long term. Next slide please.
8 So, as I mentioned, the key bedrock of the working group
9 that I'm a part of is called, the Circumpolar
10 Biodiversity Monitoring Program. You're talking about 3
11 or 400 of the world's sort of leading experts on Arctic
12 biodiversity, who are a part of this network that we can
13 call upon. So, you have a question about whitefish. I
14 can go to the CBMP leads and say, I need to know what's
15 going on with whitefish, and in Canada and in Greenland,
16 wherever they live. I need to know who can you send me
17 and tell me so I can find out what they know? And then
18 we decide, do we need to do a bigger study? What's going
19 on? Next slide please. As I mentioned, it's sort of a
20 wash, rinse, repeat cycle. You can move ahead. There
21 should be three bullets. It just talks about -- we're
22 using ecosystem-based monitoring program. I think
23 (indiscernible) was up here some time ago coordinating
24 on indigenous knowledge around coastal biodiversity
25 monitoring. She had a workshop on that. That was stuff
26 that I funded through this program, through the work
27 that we're doing to again, reach the people who really
28 know what they're talking about, the people who were
29 there, who have been there for thousands of years, who
30 live off of it, who rely on it, ask them, what do you
31 know? What do you not know? What do you need to know?
32 How can we deliver that for you? Next slide please.

33
34 Here's just a few examples of some of
35 the specific projects that we've been engaged in. I
36 apologize, I'm talking a little fast, but I know I want
37 to be respectful of everyone's time. It's a dinner time,
38 you know. Next slide please. So, we've got the monitoring
39 plans, as I mentioned. The way we divide them is we've
40 got expert groups on marine, coastal, freshwater,
41 terrestrial. Kyle Joly who was part of the National Park
42 Service, he represents the United States on the
43 terrestrial expert group. But, we welcome
44 representatives through the ICC, through the United
45 States government, from the communities. The CBMP is
46 open to everyone. Anyone who has expertise and knowledge
47 in arctic biodiversity is invited to become part of the
48 network. Next slide please. So, we've got our state of
49 Arctic reports. These are pretty good, pretty concise
50 reports of what they try to do. And these are available

000124

1 all online, caff.is. This -- these are just what do we
2 know, in 2017, here's what we understand of all Arctic
3 biodiversity. Everything from bacteria to bowhead
4 whales. What's their status, what do we know, what do
5 we not know. In some cases it goes into recommendations,
6 which is what do we need to know. But, these reports are
7 out there and these are the ones that we rely on to
8 chart our path, to manage our budget, to implement our
9 projects. Next slide please. Some of the examples of
10 some of the things that we that we can produce and that
11 are freely available. All of our data and information
12 are open access and available through the Arctic
13 Biodiversity Data Service. But this is an example of the
14 kind of predictive models that you can take a look at
15 sort of what are -- how are populations changing of
16 different species that are important. In particular,
17 this one is an example of terrestrial data. Next slide
18 please. You've got, as I mentioned, the Arctic
19 Biodiversity Data Service, the sort of archive of every
20 piece of information that has ever gone into any of
21 these reports. So, people ask, well, how'd you come up
22 with this recommendation, or why did this say that? Every
23 baseline data, scientific indigenous knowledge input is
24 part of the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service. I won't
25 go too far into that because, as you know, there's really
26 important considerations when it comes to indigenous
27 knowledge in terms of who owns it, how it might be
28 misinterpreted, how can we be thoughtful and careful
29 about that. That's an ongoing issue that we're working
30 on. But a lot of the reports that we produce are peer
31 reviewed through scientific journals, and then they
32 become the basis of the science to inform our work. Next
33 slide please.

34
35 Communications is a big part of what we
36 do. Getting that data that those journal reports and
37 then turning them into something useful that we can hand
38 out in 1 or 2 pages so that people can read and
39 understand. All right, what's going on in my neck of the
40 woods in the Arctic or what's going on in the whole
41 Arctic? Is this something that is just affecting my
42 community, my region, or is it bigger than that? Next
43 slide please. Next slide please. So, I want to talk a
44 little bit about some of the partnerships and some of
45 the really cool things, in particular our engagement
46 with youth and young people. This is something that I
47 take very seriously and something that I've been
48 involved in since I've been here over the last 13 years.
49 Next slide please. So, collaboration. We work very
50 closely with Arctic indigenous peoples. I've talked

1 about the arctic wildland fires, which is being led by
2 Ed Alexander, the Gwich'in Council. We work very closely
3 with Inuit Circumpolar Council as well as, the Arctic
4 Athabaskan Council on the salmon peoples of the Arctic
5 project, on marine mammals. This is a big part of the
6 work that we do in the Arctic Council in our marine
7 program, especially monitoring and understanding. Again,
8 what's the circumpolar around the Arctic, what's going
9 on with different types of ice seals. Next slide please.
10 So, building the future, the Arctic is a key part of the
11 reason that I wanted to talk with you all today. Arctic
12 youth engagement. We have a program called the Arctic
13 Youth Ambassadors program. There's a number of young
14 people here in your region and in this community who
15 have been part of this program. It's a two-year program
16 where we invest deeply in bringing them on, to help them
17 understand who's making decisions about the Arctic,
18 who's sitting there and how do they get to be involved?
19 And understand what the process is. You know, it's one
20 thing to say, hey, man, we need a seat at the table. And
21 then it's quite another if you don't even know that
22 table ever existed or how it works, or how you could
23 even get an invitation or sit there. So, you need to
24 bring these folks to where the decisions are being made.
25 And it can be a very hard thing, it can be a very hard
26 thing, especially for young people. So, we spend a lot
27 of time prioritizing their well-being. You know, I have
28 two kids and man, if someone was to take them to try to
29 show them something, I know that if they didn't learn
30 anything at all, but they were happy, that would be more
31 important to me than if they went and learned a lot, but
32 they were unhappy. You got me. We have a big
33 responsibility to make sure that the young people that
34 we engage with are spiritually, mentally, physically,
35 in every way taken care of and that we're doing this in
36 the best possible way, in a way that their leadership
37 is being shown. And so, we do a lot of trips. I remember
38 Nichole when she, I don't know, ten years ago when she
39 went to Finland as part of a youth group, you know, and
40 you see them. It's amazing to see a lot of these young
41 people then end up in really important decision-making
42 positions that are affecting our Arctic region. Next
43 slide please.

44
45 That Arctic Youth Ambassadors program.
46 We currently have a group. One of the Arctic Youth
47 ambassadors from this region is Delbert's daughter,
48 Alexis Rexford. We've got a whole new cohort that just
49 started about six months ago or so, and they'll go for
50 about two years, and then we'll open it up for a new

000126

1 class in the future if we've got the resources and
2 funding to do it. But I think we're working on around
3 the fourth cohort of Arctic Youth Ambassadors. And as a
4 result of the Arctic Youth Ambassadors program, there
5 are about 95 young people somewhere between the age of
6 18 to 25. There are like 95 young people in Alaska who
7 now understand, who's making decisions about the Arctic,
8 how they can be involved in those decision-making
9 processes. Those almost 100 youth would not exist, they
10 would not be here but not for this program. Next slide
11 please. We've had some really cool adventures in
12 different places around the world and yeah, it's -- I'm
13 really proud of the program and happy to see that it's
14 continued to be a successful effort. Next slide please.
15 Next slide please.

16
17 So, in terms of some of the practical
18 solutions that we're trying to look at, we're really
19 trying to say what's coming, what's again, let's there's
20 what's happening now and then there's how can we prepare
21 for what's coming? We know that the Arctic has vast and
22 incredible natural resources that make it the economic
23 possibility enormous. You know, the CAFF Working Group
24 is agnostic. We don't say oil is good or mining is bad.
25 We don't say that. We say, what information do you need
26 to make the best possible decision that you can make?
27 How can we get you the information you need so you can
28 make a well-informed decision when you're deciding?
29 Should we? Shouldn't we? How? When? Where? Next slide
30 please. Some of the priorities that we have, as I said,
31 moving ahead, caribou and reindeer is really important
32 to me. It's a space where we used to do a lot of work,
33 and we've not been doing a lot of work in the
34 international space. I think having Kyle Joly is part
35 of our terrestrial group is going to help us to have
36 some better thinking about who are we going to ask, what
37 do we know, what do we not know, and what do we need to
38 know? We've heard a lot about that during this meeting,
39 and I've been honored to be able to sit here and listen
40 and learn from you all. Sorry. Can you go back real
41 quick? I just want to mention a few others. Pollinators,
42 salmon, wildfires. There's a whole bunch of different
43 areas where we're, you know, we've been listening to
44 folks. We've been working on getting the funding
45 together, invasive species, marine monitoring. There's
46 a lot of work going on, much more than I can go through
47 here. I think we had 90 projects last I checked, and
48 that's just one of six Arctic Council working groups.
49 Next slide please.

50

1 So, in summary, I wanted to say I think
2 international engagement is really essential for what
3 we're talking about here. You can you know, when you're
4 down here in the details, this is what really matters.
5 This is your day-to-day life. You know, you're going to
6 get a caribou. You're not going to get this is real
7 life. But, then there's the bigger picture, long term
8 thinking. And you got to move yourself up and say, all
9 right, what's going on somewhere else? Maybe we can work
10 with others to try to find solutions for why we're not
11 getting what we need here. The prosperity and well-being
12 of the Arctic is really important for us and I think
13 that begins with making well-informed decisions. If
14 you're making decisions to do something, to not do
15 something, where to do it, when to do it, and you don't
16 have the information you need, which is really about --
17 just about every species in the Arctic, we don't have
18 enough information, whatever that means. In some cases
19 we don't have any. But yet we still got to make these
20 decisions, right? So, we got to get the information that
21 we need so we can make well informed decisions, whatever
22 those might be. Next slide please.

23
24 So, that's my presentation. I did want
25 to mention one opportunity that's not directly relevant
26 to the work that I do, but it is very important to the
27 work that I do. The U.S. Arctic Research Commission, if
28 you've never heard of it, is a group of seven folks that
29 are appointed by the President, I think Deborah Vo and
30 who else is on there? There's a number -- there's seven
31 folks that are on there. They've changed recently. I
32 think Mike Sfraga was the former commissioner. Anyways,
33 they're in the process right now of accepting comments
34 of what the entire United States Government should focus
35 its Arctic research on. You have an opportunity to
36 provide comments. And I'm talking about these are the
37 folks that, you know, help NSF decide where billion
38 dollars should go for research here or there. So, I
39 think it's an important an important place to -- to
40 provide comments from folks like this RAC.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
43 Super informational. I actually was in charge of running
44 NSF projects up here about almost 15 years ago. We had
45 acquired the NSF contract for any logistics works for
46 NSF related projects and learned a great deal back then.
47 But I think it was like 28 million for all the contracts
48 and work up here for - I think it was four and then
49 extended every few years. But no, a lot of this
50 information is great. And I think stuff that I've dealt

000128

1 with, logistics is always a great thing and being
2 effective is great. It sounds like a lot of that is even
3 with information, logistics is key. But no, I'm
4 definitely interested in any of the comments related to
5 that and no, this was intriguing. I was hooked up the
6 entire time. This is something that I didn't know
7 anything about and I worked with the wildlife department
8 even before I was on the RAC for about almost four years,
9 but and didn't know about this. So, this is great stuff.
10 I've got, you know, kids that are in elementary, middle
11 and three high schoolers now so this is all great
12 information to have for them. As far as, like what they
13 can look forward to, or what to look for and be a part
14 of. So, no, a lot of this info is great, and I will take
15 that actually. And make comments for any -- I mean, I've
16 dealt with a lot of the stuff that was directly related
17 to this. And I'm also in charge of I didn't know what
18 what you -- you skipped on the on the Arctic search and
19 rescue, but I'm in charge of all of search and rescue
20 for everything about above the Brooks Range here. That's
21 what I do currently, but no, this is all great
22 information, and that's probably the most interesting
23 thing I looked at today. No, no problem staying late for
24 that, but no I will take the comments on where to submit
25 or even take a look at what you've got and definitely
26 be a part of. It looks like something I'm personally
27 interested in. So, that that was great. Thank you.

28
29 MR. CASTELLANOS: Thank you, Chair, you
30 humble me. I'll -- through Gisela, I'll provide -- I
31 have a couple of handouts with some information about -
32 - the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, develops a five-
33 year research strategy, and the next one will be
34 developed in 2026. This is a really important place to
35 provide comments and input, especially from the people
36 that really know what's happening out here. Yeah so, I
37 appreciate your interest in it and I'm available, you
38 know, down there in Anchorage, whenever I -- anything I
39 can do to help or support you all, thank you very much.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Great
42 presentation.

43
44 (Pause)

45
46 All right. Next up we have OSM. Is that
47 Orville. You're up.

48
49 MR. LIND: Good afternoon. My name is
50 Orville Lind. I'm the Native liaison for the Office of

1 Subsistence Management. I want to give you a little
2 background, because I haven't met 1 or 2 of you. I was
3 born and raised in the Village of Chignik on the Alaska
4 Peninsula. When I was born there, we had had about 130
5 people. And we were fishing community, and I have a
6 family of 11. Not me personally right now, I have four
7 boys and a daughter and a wife of 40, almost 46 years.
8 Next week will be 46 years. And I wouldn't change a
9 thing. That is the Alaskan spirit right there. I wanted
10 to touch base on the my goals and responsibilities when
11 I took on this position in 2014. And when I took the
12 position, I was very hesitant because of the position
13 description saying, I'm going to deal with 229 federally
14 recognized tribes. I'm going to deal with 12 regional
15 corporations, and I'm going to be dealing with up to
16 180, 200 village corporations. And I'm thinking, what?
17 Oh, that's a lot of people. However, the job also -- PD
18 also, said that I would be facilitating between local
19 people such as yourselves and the Federal Subsistence
20 Board. Now, I've been involved with this Federal
21 Subsistence Board and Regional Advisory Council since
22 1993, when they started. I was actually the subsistence
23 coordinator for the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
24 Council when it started in 1993, which was a big deal.
25 I was an avid hunter and fisher and I used to help them
26 develop regulations for our caribou mostly because we
27 had a decline in caribou in the mid-90s and crashed
28 about 1997. But the collaboration we had to have meant
29 everything. And it was -- it led to our success in, I
30 would say, saving that population, conserving that
31 population, to again within 12 years later to actually
32 have to harvest -- being able to harvest again. And I
33 think if you keep that in mind the whole process is
34 about consultations. How we consult with each other. And
35 one of the first presentations we developed during my
36 position there -- next slide. Is, you know, we had to
37 make we had to put it out there to understand the
38 consultation process, we need to understand the tribal
39 consultation process because there was an Executive
40 Order 13175 that requires us to listen to tribes. There's
41 a tribal responsibility there. And again, tribal
42 consultation is a dialogue between federal and tribal
43 representatives. And this is important. It takes place
44 before a decision is made. Now, I've been into all ten
45 regions, and one of the biggest issues and the questions
46 and concerns is, wait a minute. Did you consult with us
47 before you made that decision? Some people didn't know
48 that, right. Tribal consultation is integral. It's
49 necessary. It's very important to a deliberate process
50 that results in an effort, collaboration and informed

000130

1 decision making. This whole thing comes together, and
2 so we could make proper management decisions. And I gotta
3 tell you this part, since I've been onboard since 2014
4 and been involved with this process, I know for a fact
5 that 95- 98% guys, will you help me, staff? the Federal
6 Subsistence Board actually supports and agrees with the
7 regional advisory Councils. That's a fact. So, your
8 decisions here makes changes out there. Once it goes
9 through the Federal Subsistence Board, it's done. It's
10 law. Consultation is not a presentation about what an
11 agency plans to do. Next slide please.
12

13 So, we have tribal and Alaska Native
14 Claims Settlement Act consultations. It's just good
15 practice, right. It honors the government-to-government
16 relationship we have with federally recognized tribes.
17 These are sovereign nations. It fosters positive
18 relationships with tribal governments to help us achieve
19 the mission of preserving and protecting Alaska's
20 special places and resources. Again, Executive Order
21 13175. We are required to listen to you. What forms of
22 consultations we have? We have tribal consultations. And
23 separately, in most cases, we have the Alaska Native
24 Claims Settlement Act corporation consultations separate
25 from the tribal, because you'll find out here shortly.
26 Again, you know, in in our whole United States, we have
27 574 federally recognized tribes in the United States.
28 229 of those rely here in Alaska. And we deal with all
29 the different tribes, all the different tribes. There's
30 so, many diverse tribes in Alaska. It's really cool. I
31 love my work because I get to meet, I get to learn from,
32 work with all the different tribes here in Alaska. Next
33 slide please.
34

35 Again, we consult with the tribal
36 governments. Government to government is based on 200
37 plus years of political interactions. History teaches
38 us that consultation between tribes and non-tribals been
39 happening for decades. Again, with tribal governments,
40 the trust responsibility is to tribes. Now, the
41 difference between ANSCA corporations and we'll go in
42 again to the next subject is government to corporation.
43 And let's go to the next slide. The DOI policy on
44 consulting with tribe directs agencies and boroughs to
45 consult with federal recognized tribes when taking
46 action that have a substantial direct effect on a tribe.
47 All the regulations, you guys come up with, amendments,
48 they affect your tribes. And this consultation process
49 is needed at early stages when policies and programs or
50 any other activities that may affect tribes or

000131

1 corporations are being considered by the federal
2 government. Of course, this is after it comes to through
3 the RAC process. And consultation is an ongoing process
4 that may require repeated meetings or any other forms
5 of communications as a process continues. The next
6 slide, please.

7
8 We consult annually on regulatory
9 proposals and closure reviews, which we did back in
10 August of 19 -- August 19th and August 21st. We had our
11 first round of consultations with the wildlife proposals
12 and closure reviews. Our next round of consultations are
13 going to be this November 12th and 13th for the wildlife
14 proposals. Okay. And there's other opportunities offered
15 before regulatory meeting. You can also request at any
16 time for a consultation with the Federal Subsistence
17 Board. Next slide please.

18
19 And this next slide, it shows the steps
20 of this whole process -- the federal regulatory process.
21 Next slide. We've got the federal regulatory process.
22 There we go. So, again I'm not going to read the whole
23 thing. But this -- this presentation is available for
24 you to have also. And I can make sure that Chair and
25 whoever requests gets one. The call for proposals
26 begins, an analysis of proposals after that, the review
27 of the proposals comes, the public and tribal comment
28 period, you know, where all the proposals that are
29 accepted into the analysis so, the public may comment
30 on them. And then it goes to the regional advisory
31 Councils. From there, it goes on to the Federal
32 Subsistence Board and all those are passed and supported
33 are -- into the publications process after that, finally
34 made into law. Next slide please. There are several
35 opportunities for tribal and ANSCA Corporation
36 engagement. During the Regional Advisory Council
37 meetings, the Federal Subsistence Board meetings, we
38 always have a day before the actual Federal Subsistence
39 Board meeting to have consultation, just before the
40 meetings, too. And that's where we also offer ANSCA
41 Corporation members to consult with the Board at the
42 same time. Public hearings, listening sessions, public
43 comment periods, special actions. Those are
44 opportunities to have tribal engagement. Next slide
45 please. And so, what our staff and I gotta reach out to
46 our staff to I gotta give thanks to OSM staff, because
47 for the first five years, I have a difficult time in
48 dealing with all 229 federally recognized tribes. At
49 some point in time, I think my record was 17 calls from
50 17 different tribes in one day. All -- some were similar

000132

1 about caribou issues, some were moose, some were
2 waterfowl. And so, you can imagine the overwhelming --
3 I felt, it's like, oh my gosh, can I keep going? But, I
4 get staff, coordination staff, the biologists,
5 anthropologists. Oh, I couldn't have done it without
6 them. Hats off to them. So, our OSM staff will reach out
7 and provide notification to include sufficient detail
8 of the topics to be discussed. And then the tribes will
9 and will let us know which topics to discuss. They'll
10 explain -- we will explain the purpose and consulting
11 and determine if the tribe or corporation is interested
12 in consulting on this action. We set a date. Usually
13 it's it's with the tribal officials. And then we look
14 at our staff availability and we mostly look at the
15 Federal Subsistence Board availability when we come on
16 these dates to consult. We develop a format, a draft
17 agenda for the consultation, and we definitely work with
18 the tribes and the corporations to do that. And then we
19 also will ensure the appropriate attendees the Federal
20 Board of course, the decision makers again, that's all
21 the five agencies. We also have the official federal
22 recognized tribe representatives, and they may delegate
23 someone to do speaking on their behalf. And we find that
24 out during the process. And of course, the federal staff
25 support. Next slide, please.

26
27 During the consultation. Of course, we
28 present the program action, discuss the potential
29 impacts to tribes. If the process is long term we
30 describe timeline and identify key decision points along
31 the way. We ask if the tribal corporation needs more
32 information. We always want to work with them. They
33 provide us with what we need to do or know to move
34 forward. We reach a consensus on when tribes or
35 corporations can have their official comments to OSM if
36 they're submitting any. And then we offer to consult as
37 needed. See, we work for you people and without you, we
38 don't work. Next slide please. Of course, after the
39 consultation process, we provide a written summary to
40 participating tribes or corporations available on
41 request. And we fulfill any commitments in a timely
42 manner. We do that, we really try to do that. And we
43 also incorporate knowledge shared during consultations
44 into the analysis and reviews presented to the Board.
45 This whole process is important to the Board decision
46 making process. Again, without you, we don't work. Now
47 in my experience, there's been some concerns -- about
48 three years ago, AHTNA brought to my attention, is that,
49 Orville, you know, I see my people in the consultation
50 process, but in other consultations, I'm not seeing the

000133

1 audience there. You know what, what -- why is that?
2 Well, there could be a lot -- I can make up all kinds
3 of excuses. But, the fact of the matter is, I put myself
4 in their shoes. If I don't understand something I really
5 don't want to know, you know. But, if you explain to me
6 how valuable it is, how important it is. I'm going to
7 show up. Of course it's important. We're dealing with
8 your subsistence foods. The refuge information
9 technician program. We are just now getting some -- some
10 great cooperation, feedback, involvement of RIT joining
11 the meetings we're having, helping us do outreach. You
12 want to add anything, Ernest?

13
14 MR: NAEAK: Oh, when a lot of issues came
15 up on the North Slope being Barrow not in the refuge,
16 that was kind of my position. And then we were able to
17 work with the Borough and the bird task force when they
18 had a lot of migratory bird issues. So, I'm glad we were
19 able to do consultation. And thanks for sharing all how
20 that works and that you guys are working for us. Thank
21 you very much.

22
23 MR. LIND: Yeah. And you know what? We
24 were kind of a new program, a new process. But, after
25 about 4 or 5 years, when things started to click the
26 routine, you know, we got great people on Board to help
27 us out -- you can go to the next slide. We started
28 getting better on what we did. The -- even the RACs were
29 starting to get more -- put in more special actions.
30 They were putting in more requests. We got more proposals
31 from the regions. And so, this process is working. I
32 just wish there were more involvement in the -- other
33 than you people here, the audience, the local hunter
34 that's been hunting for years, I love the fact that you
35 had some people here, local people here. That's awesome.
36 I just want to see more. I guess I'm -- I -- the way I
37 feel about this whole process is things are changing.
38 There's no caribou where they're supposed to be. No birds
39 where they're supposed to be. Migration patterns are
40 changing, climates changing a lot of stuff. But it's not
41 only the climate folks, it's the user groups, right.
42 We're all involved. We're all in this together. And the
43 only way we can come up with solutions is what we did a
44 long time ago, we consulted with each other. Remember
45 the stories about us coming together in the roundhouse
46 and talking about issues? That's the only way we started
47 finding solutions, is we brought everybody to the table.
48 Everybody comes to the table. You know, for many years,
49 the state never came. We didn't see them. But now they're
50 coming. That's this whole part of the process. Invite

000134

1 people, invite students. Oh, good gosh. Southeast is
2 bring students every time we have a RAC meeting down
3 there, which is great. They even brought proposals, a
4 mock proposal process thing. So, they're learning.
5 They're learning. And other RACs are doing the same
6 thing. So, I just want to encourage each and everyone -
7 - I tell this to the the last Southeast meeting we had
8 was, I would feel a whole lot better if there was someone
9 that you maybe designate a person to monitor our website,
10 keep in touch with me or any other staff so we can just
11 increase exchange email addresses names. Because look
12 at everything changes, right. We have new RAC members
13 every once in a while. We have new tribal leaders, you
14 know, new tribal members. I can't keep track of
15 everybody. So, I need your help. And so, with that said,
16 I encourage you to keep in touch with me. You know, if
17 someone becomes a new leader in your in your community,
18 give me a shout. Give me a email so, I can say hi and
19 welcome to the whole process. We're going to get better
20 at this. We are good now, but we're going to get better
21 and in situations -- oh, heartfelt situation that you're
22 in dealing with with caribou. We had the same problem
23 back in 1995 in my my village, we lost all our caribou.
24 And we went into a Tier II system. But, we had to wait
25 12 years before they came back. And there were a lot of
26 fingers pointing, you know, you, you, you, you, you know,
27 and but really, the reality is we have to -- we're in
28 the business to try to find solutions on how to keep a
29 balance for our subsistence lifestyles out there. This
30 world is growing. We're getting more and more, villages
31 are growing. And so, the users are going to be more.
32 But, it's places like this, Regional Advisory Councils,
33 you guys were chosen by your people who love to have you
34 on here. You know, because you guys are leaders in your
35 your village people's eyes. And that's -- I'm glad to
36 be part of that process because I get to come to the
37 meetings and have some muktuk when I, when I don't have
38 it very often. You know, I get to have smoked salmon.
39 Oh, man. All that good food. But, anyway, I will stop.
40 You know, I just love this process. I'm glad now that -
41 - we, you know, we went through a phase, OSM that we
42 had, oh, gosh, we were down 20 some people, you know,
43 in our step, but now we're -- we've come up a little bit
44 and we've got some great people in our staff. And I just
45 want to give them a hats out to them again, because
46 without them I wouldn't function right. Believe me, I
47 couldn't handle the overload and I appreciate all the
48 help. And then, you know, some of you members of the
49 RAC here RITs, you guys are a blessing. I appreciate
50 you all. With that, I'll shut up. And if you have any

000135

1 questions for me, I'm here.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: We appreciate you,
4 too.

5

6 MR. LIND: Quyana.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the
9 presentation.

10

11 MR. LIND: Thank you.

12

13 MR. BARGER: I second it.

14

15 (Shared laughter)

16

17 UNIDENTIFIED: I question it.

18

19 MR. LIND: Quyana.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All in favor?
22 Kidding. Alright. Nobody else got any further questions
23 for Orville? Lisa.

24

25 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right. All right.
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. For the
27 record, my name is Lisa Grediagin and I'll be presenting
28 the OSM report to the Council. So, since we last reported
29 to you at the Winter 2025 meeting, we've been working
30 to bring the new leadership within the Office of Policy,
31 Management and Budget, within the Office of the
32 Secretary up to speed on the program and current
33 subsistence issues. During this Wildlife Regulatory
34 Cycle, we received 78 wildlife proposals and
35 additionally are reviewing 17 wildlife closure reviews,
36 that will be reviewed by all the Councils and the Board.
37 On July 21st, the federal subsistence regulations were
38 moved from one part of the federal -- the CFR, the code
39 for federal regulations, to another part to reflect the
40 move from Fish and Wildlife Service into the Office of
41 the Secretary. So, they used to be 50 CFR part 100, and
42 now they're all at 43 CFR part 51. And so, the
43 regulations didn't change. It's just their citations and
44 location within the CFR. The same day OSM published the
45 final rule codifying the federal subsistence regulations
46 made by the Board in February, that amended federal
47 regulations for fish and shellfish. And it also removed
48 the Ketchikan area from the list of nonrural areas. The
49 Board held their annual summer work session in July.
50 They reviewed and approved replies to the annual reports

000136

1 from all the Councils. They also adopted deferred
2 wildlife proposal 24-01, as modified by OSM, to allow
3 the sale of brown bear hides harvested under federal
4 subsistence regulations, which was supported by nine
5 Councils. Implementation of this regulation will proceed
6 once the Office of Management and Budget approves the
7 creation and use of a new customary trade permit. The
8 Board also reviewed recommendations for Council Charter
9 changes and received briefings on Council
10 correspondence.

11
12 We -- OSM is also really, really close
13 to releasing a new federal subsistence permitting
14 application. And this is the program we use to create
15 and issue federal permits. And part of this upgrade was
16 to make permits more readily available to users through
17 an online option to obtain permits. The system could be
18 released as soon as next week, September 22nd, and users
19 can request profiles and permits through an online
20 portal. They won't be required to use the online portal,
21 they can still get permits in person at local federal
22 offices, but it's nice to have that option. And you can
23 access that online permit portal through our website.
24 There'll be a link on our website.

25
26 All right. Council appointments. During
27 the 2025 appointment cycle, 50 applications were
28 received to fill 48 seats across all the Councils. Eight
29 letters of interest from young leaders were also
30 received. The North Slope region received three
31 membership applications to fill Council seats and zero
32 non-voting young leader applications. So, we would
33 really appreciate your help in recruiting a young leader
34 -- non-voting young leader applicants. The new
35 application period opens January 2nd and closes February
36 16th of next year. So, again, please help spread the
37 word for these applications. OSM staffing updates.
38 Roughly 30% of OSM positions are vacant and many
39 employees are doing double or even triple duty to cover
40 these vacancies. The government wide hiring freeze was
41 set to end in July, but it's been extended to October.
42 Several employees chose to retire earlier this year,
43 this included OSM Fisheries Biologist, Karen Hyer. OSM
44 Council Coordinator, Lisa Hutchinson. OSM Cultural
45 Anthropologist Pippa Kenner, and the OSM Permit
46 Specialist Derek Hildreth. But recently, you know, this
47 is pretty exciting news, is that even with the hiring
48 freeze, we are approved to lateral two people into OSM
49 and they are starting next week. So, Karen McKee is
50 coming back to OSM as the subsistence outreach

000137

1 specialist and Anna Senecal is coming to OSM as a
2 fisheries biologist. Additionally, Katya Wessels is
3 officially Acting Deputy Director for Operations,
4 through January. OSM has also been working to strengthen
5 our collaboration with the state of Alaska. The OSM
6 director and deputy have been conducting monthly in-
7 person meetings with the Alaska Department of Fish and
8 Game Commissioner and Board liaison, which is improving
9 communication. And OSM and the Interagency Staff
10 Committee held a workshop earlier this year to identify
11 additional opportunities on how to strengthen our
12 relationship with the state.

13
14 Upcoming meeting dates. Tribal and ANCSA
15 Consultations on wildlife regulatory proposals. Well,
16 yeah, Orville mentioned this. They took place on August
17 19th and 21st, 2025. And then and those were on the
18 proposals, the wildlife proposals that were submitted.
19 And again, just to reiterate what Orville mentioned,
20 we'll have additional opportunities for tribal
21 consultations in November, after all the Councils meet.
22 So, the tribes will be aware of the Council
23 recommendations and all the proposals. And those are
24 November 12th and 13th. The Federal Subsistence Board
25 will hold an FRMP work session on February 4th and 5th,
26 to review the Draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan
27 and to accept additional comments.

28
29 And then the Board wildlife regulatory
30 meeting will be April 20th to 24th. So, Brower, you can
31 book those dates on your calendar hopefully you can
32 travel to Anchorage to attend that meeting when they act
33 on all the wildlife proposals. Litigation updates, I'm
34 going to just read this word for word because it came
35 from our solicitor and I don't want to misspeak anything.
36 So, the United States versus Alaska with the 9th Circuit.
37 In 2022, the U.S. brought this action against the state
38 of Alaska to resolve a dispute over the regulation of
39 subsistence fishing on the Kuskokwim River within the
40 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. In March 2024, the
41 court granted summary judgment to the U.S. and issued a
42 permanent injunction against the State. The State
43 appealed. On August 20th, 2025, a 9th Circuit panel ruled
44 in favor of the United States. The court upheld its
45 previous holdings that ANILCA defines public lands to
46 include navigable waters in which the United States
47 holds reserved water rights, based on three previous
48 Ninth Circuit decisions, commonly referred to as the
49 Katie John cases. The court rejected the State's
50 arguments that the Katie John cases were clearly

000138

1 irreconcilable with Sturgeon versus Frost and
2 (indiscernible) versus the Environmental Protection
3 Agency. The state of Alaska has indicated it will
4 petition the Supreme Court to take up the case. And
5 actually, this is slightly outdated. The state of Alaska
6 already has petition the Supreme Court to take up this
7 case, and that's public knowledge. It's in the news right
8 now. State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game versus
9 the Federal Subsistence Board et al. 9th Circuit. On
10 June 2nd, 2025, a 9th Circuit panel ruled in favor of
11 the United States. And this lawsuit filled by the state
12 of Alaska after the Board authorized an emergency
13 subsistence hunt in 2020, for moose and deer on federal
14 public lands in the vicinity of Kake, Alaska. The court's
15 basis for upholding the Board's decision was twofold.
16 First, ANILCA provides the Board with the authority to
17 provide access to subsistence resources on federal
18 lands. And second, the Board has the authority to
19 authorize an emergency subsistence hunt to ensure that
20 rural residents of Alaska have a reasonable opportunity
21 to reach and subsistence resources found on federal
22 lands in Alaska. The panel also concluded that the
23 State's claims that the Board improperly delegated the
24 administration of the Kake hunt to a tribe were not
25 properly before the court. So, thank you. That concludes
26 my report. And just again, thank you to all the Council
27 members on behalf of OSM, for all your work and service
28 on the Council and to your communities and the wildlife
29 fisheries resources in the region. So, thank you. If you
30 have any questions, I'll be happy to answer them or I
31 understand if you just want to move on.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: We're already this
34 far, so. Thank you, Lisa. Let's see. Alright, so, item
35 16, other business 805(c) report summary, Gisela.

36
37 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
38 since we're made it this far, I want to bring up a couple
39 of things. We have Jonathan Priday from BLM joining us
40 in the meeting. And earlier in the meeting, he wrote
41 something on the chat that I wanted to make sure that I
42 read to the Council. It says we at BLM are currently
43 growing our law enforcement program in the north. We are
44 very interested and willing to take complaints
45 concerning hunting violations involving non-federally
46 qualified individuals hunting in closed areas. I'm very
47 sorry I could not attend today's meeting in person. I
48 just returned to Fairbanks last night from responding
49 to caribou hunting complaints in 26B and 26C. And I
50 believe Jonathan is fairly new to the agency. And

000139

1 Jonathan, I don't know if you're still online, and if
2 you wanted to introduce yourself to the Council, he --
3 I also have his contact information. I'll be happy to
4 share it with the Council so, that you have it. Oh, the
5 pictures, they're kind of small. Let me see if I can
6 make them bigger. Oh, look at that. There you go. There's
7 a big picture. Bigger picture of -- believe him -- oh,
8 yeah. Okay. Oops. Yeah. And Jonathan, if you're still
9 online, you can also share a little bit more information
10 about the pictures.

11
12 MR. PRIDAY: Okay. Thank you, Chairman
13 and Council, for having me today. Again, my name is
14 Jonathan Priday. I'm the new Law Enforcement District
15 Chief for the Arctic and Fairbanks districts for BLM. A
16 little bit of background about myself. I have been in
17 Alaska, working mostly in the Eastern Interior for the
18 last 22 years. I've got probably more experience than
19 anybody living or dead, doing enforcement on the
20 Interior caribou herds, especially the Fortymile and the
21 Nelchina. So, I bring that expertise to the table. My
22 number one priority when I took this job was to grow the
23 program and to expand our reach into the north,
24 especially into the North Slope. So, I'm really
25 interested in meeting all of you. I'm really, really
26 interested in working with you all to prioritize patrols
27 and plans for the upcoming year. Even though we're
28 growing, we still have very few officers in total. And,
29 definitely interested in helping you guys, helping me
30 plan. That's it.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. Thank
33 you very much, John.

34
35 MR. PRIDAY: You're welcome.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, go ahead,
38 Gisela.

39
40 MS. CHAPA: Okay. And I also -- during
41 the discussions yesterday, I believe we had a public
42 comment about muskox permits. And at some point, I heard
43 in the discussion that the RAC might be -- the Council,
44 excuse me, might be interested in writing a letter to
45 the BLM arctic district manager about increasing the
46 number of permits for muskox in Unit 26A, and I wanted
47 to see if that is still something that is of interest
48 to the Council.

49
50

000140

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is that still of
2 interest for the Council, or do you think what we covered
3 with muskox is adequate? So, do we want to try to write
4 a letter to up the numbers? But it sounds like if we
5 were to do any proposals, we're due back -- to hear back
6 from that in roughly 2 to 3 years. So, I think we could
7 pass on that for now for the for the numbers. Sounds
8 like we have a couple of years to throw proposals out
9 there. What was the other one?

10
11 MS. CHAPA: Oh, that was it. So, let me
12 see if I can put this into words. So, I believe that the
13 BLM Arctic District has delegated authority to manage
14 the muskox permits in 26A. And so, rather than having
15 to wait through the wildlife proposal cycle the Council
16 could request the district manager about -- could
17 request to increase the number of permits for muskox in
18 26A.

19
20 (Pause)

21
22 MR. NAGEAK: Make a motion to recommend
23 the muskox limit from five to additional five. Five more,
24 at least to ten in case. Because there's only been at
25 least 1 or 2 successful permits in the last 3 or 4 years
26 it's been going on. So, thank you. Because, you know,
27 missed opportunity like other regions that have open
28 tags first like a quota system first five or however
29 limit, that'll be good. Thank you.

30
31 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams, second.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we have a motion
34 on the floor to -- up the muskox numbers from 5 to 10
35 with the reason stated and seconded by Peter Williams.
36 Any discussion on that other than the justification?

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
41 called for all those in favor of moving to make ten
42 instead of five muskox numbers for the permits, for the
43 reasons stated. All those in favor, say aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
48 sign.

49
50 (No response)

000141

1

2

3

Hearing none. Motion passes. All right.
Go ahead, Gisela.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I'm gonna go give an overview to the Council about the 805(c) report. I don't know if you recall in the presentation to the Council, like, after the proposals go through the cycle, the Board will provide the Council a report of the action taken. And the Board met on February 4th through the seventh to consider fisheries closure review and proposals. Two changes to the federal subsistence management regulations for the harvest of fish, shellfish and wildlife on federal public waters and lands. And the Board also, met July 24th to take action on deferred Wildlife proposal 24-01. Page 171 of your book has a summary of all the actions taken by the Board and the Council recommendations and the Board took action in line with the Council's recommendations. That is the end of the report.

25

26

27

28

29

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that update any questions on the letter?

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

(No response)

All right. Hearing none.
Correspondence.

MS. CHAPA: Yeah. And this is an update on all the correspondence to the Council. So, on page 173 just for reference, is the comments that the Council submitted to the Board of Game proposals that were considered during the statewide proposal cycle. That is just an FYI. And also, I would like to direct your attention to page 181 of your meeting materials. This isn't necessarily a letter that was submitted to the Council, but it was a letter that was addressed to Mr. Jack Reakoff from BLM, informing him of the agency's consideration to revoke Public Land Orders 51-50 and 51-80 within the Dalton Utility Corridor. This is north of the Yukon River, approximately from milepost 55 to 299. And Mr. Reakoff is also -- who is also the Chair of the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council, just wanted to share this information with this Council to become aware of the action and this is the reason why you're getting a copy of this notice. The note -- the notice also came with a map that I couldn't include in your meeting material that I'm going to share with the Council right now.

000142

1

2

(Pause)

3

4

5

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions on the revocation area? That's a large area. And it looks like it extends into the North Slope.

6

7

8

(No response)

9

10

11

All right. If we don't have any questions on this one. Do you have anything else, Gisela?

12

13

14

MS. CHAPA: No. Mr. Chair, that is the end of my correspondence of it.

15

16

17

18

19

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right so, we're moving on to Item 17, closing comments. Who are we starting with? OSM? No, we'll start with Peter. Closing comments, Peter.

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. WILLIAMS: [4:25] Yes, thank you very much. And everything that's going on. And there's one more item I just want to bring up. This is about porcupine. Well, about eight Argos going to Anaktuvuk River because there were some caribous in there, and we all went. We're the last one, we didn't hear it. All of a sudden, the whole excitement going on up there, kind of dark. I ran up there and I said, (indiscernible) up there. So, I went up there and looked. They were chasing a porcupine on the willows. Bang, bang, bang. But, they couldn't shoot it, too dark. I went in there, got a long stick, and I seen I poke it. So, I come out. It came out and ran and just flipped it over. And I just jabbed right in the chest, killing it and build a fire, and I threw it in there. They really watching me. I was just curious because they skinned them. And then like I done (indiscernible) cleaned it, and I threw it on a pot, then we were just eating it, That thing taste so tasty. Because, you know, when you when you center that taste, come out of it. Ever since then, it asked me, hey, (indiscernible) porcupine, yet? But, you know, old man just sure like it, because he's a kind of race with it, too. So, I just want to bring that up. And I joined this meeting here, and I got a lot of learning lessons from this guy over here. You know, I've seen a lot of -- and that feller over there, too. I wouldn't say their name because -- anyway, I just want to say thank you very much. And I enjoyed this meeting, and let's keep moving on. Thank you.

000143

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Peter.
2 Esther.

3
4 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just
5 happy that I came regardless of the way things happened
6 or was said. It's just good to be here with family and
7 with all the entities or the state or the feds here.
8 Maybe soon we'll resolve our final resolution for the
9 concerns and the issues we have with our caribou and
10 just being from way inland and where I'm from. Thank
11 you.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.
14 Leonard.

15
16 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
17 you, presenters and stuff. Good info -- information and
18 stuff. And I know we've talked about a lot of stuff
19 about our stuff, but I haven't heard any -- anything
20 about, you know, the animals or you know, like chaga or
21 medicine, you know, that's not being brought up. And I
22 know I've been talking -- my grandson just gave me a new
23 TikTok. So, I've been tiktoking for a while. And so,
24 anyways, yeah, those kind of things, like for medicine,
25 like for beluga, for caribou broth and stuff, those are
26 not being taught. And, I've got a almost an inch thick
27 book of a lot of different Indian, Inupiaq, Yup'ik,
28 Cup'ik and stuff of medicine and my wife told me to
29 distribute, I said, nope, you gotta wait until I'm dead
30 and give it to my grandkids. I'm not going to bring it
31 up. I'm not going to distribute it or do anything, but
32 I'll teach it. I'll talk about it. And it's detailed,
33 detail by detail. And I've got it in my shop. And I got
34 it locked up in my gun case, you know. So, she told me
35 to give it. I said nope, just you wait till I'm six feet
36 under and you'll have it. So -- but, you know, like I
37 said, I'll talk about. I want to encourage younger people
38 because I got this information from a lot of elders. You
39 know, back then they didn't have Tylenol, NyQuil, they
40 live off the land. So, but I just want to thank you very
41 much.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Leonard.
44 Wanda, Atqasuk.

45
46 MS. KIPPI: Kept doing that to me, when
47 they were pressing the button, it goes bac to the closed
48 -- turnings -- turns it off. But, anyway, I'm happy to
49 be here. But I would have been at camp if I didn't decide
50 to come here. I was at camp for one month and I'd still

000144

1 rather be there than anywhere else. But I like to
2 represent my community and try and solve some of our
3 animal, you know, what we have -- what we harvest. I
4 want to try to get and help the rest of our villages,
5 too because we're a whole family. We're all originally
6 from Barrow, but in the older days, they -- our parents
7 had moved us to the villages that where -- they chose
8 for us to live and to harvest and to, you know, live off
9 the land. That's why they had moved us to these other
10 communities to harvest, to feed their families. And
11 that's what it was all about when we first moved to all
12 these villages that you see here sitting at the table.
13 And I'm proud to be living up here on the North Slope.
14 We have we have plenty to eat from wherever, we can get
15 it from our land or from the river. But the times are
16 changing. It's getting harder to harvest certain animals
17 and sometimes fish or the weather changes and we can't
18 get our foods from the land, the plants, the animals,
19 you know, the plants and stuff that we the berries and
20 all that. But I'm just happy that I am representing my
21 community and I hope to continue to do that and I hope
22 I can do a good job for them. And I thank you guys for
23 coming. You guys, it's good to see Orville and thank you
24 for coming. It's good to see different people come and
25 present some stuff that we could use to hopefully build
26 more of our, you know, to get through these problems
27 that we can hopefully solve. And I just want to say
28 thank you guys, (In Native).

29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Wanda.
31 Jenysa.

32

33 AHMAOGAK: I haven't had a chance to eat
34 a meal today. So, that's going to be my first comment.
35 But, I'm really glad I got to come here and, you know,
36 represent my community of Wainwright. It's not every day
37 you see somebody still in their 20s trying to represent
38 their town. And, you know, I really do hope we start to
39 fill some of these seats with -- when these seats start
40 to open. I hope they get filled with, you know, young
41 people just like me. And I believe that's going to be
42 vital within the next, you know, within the next decade
43 or two because we're the next generation and we're going
44 to have to be the ones to step up. So, I hope we can
45 find ways to encourage more people in my age group to
46 step up and attend these meetings. It's going to be
47 something that we need because I'm pretty sure within
48 the next couple more decades, we're still going to be
49 dealing with subsistence issues and we're going to have
50 to be the ones to address it. I just hope we can figure

000145

1 out a way to get more outreach to, you know, more youth.
2 They don't have to be, you know, young teenagers or
3 anything like that but, you know, more so the young
4 adults, the ones who are, you know, stepping into
5 adulthood and are starting to grasp the reality of the
6 real world. I thank you guys, for letting me come here
7 and learn. It's, you know, there's a wealth of knowledge
8 within each member and presenter that came up here from
9 our Council to all these different organizations that
10 work for our subsistence rights. You guys have shared a
11 lot of good presentations, my Council members have also
12 shared a lot of good points. You know, meetings like
13 this, they're very informational and I enjoy being able
14 to learn. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Jenysa.
17 Ernest.

18

19 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you everybody. It's
20 been good to be on this side of the tables this past
21 year -- the past two meetings. The past 13 years, I've
22 been working in the Barrow field office as a North Slope
23 liaison for the federal government and I used to update
24 Barrow office with you guys. And I was good to be on
25 this side of the table and ask my colleagues, you know,
26 questions. And I know a lot of these guys through our
27 Native relations training. You know, we've gone a long
28 way since 2010, when we had all these law enforcement
29 and migratory bird issues and everything from
30 regulations to curfew hours, telling us when we can hunt,
31 we cannot hunt to sitting at the table, hashing it out
32 till [sic] we're good and the people are good. We will
33 still be able to hunt. But continue to hear the concerns
34 for AKP, ever since I started with the -- 15 years ago,
35 it's always been brought up and it's nothing's been going
36 on. So, I hope that, you know, you guys heard the
37 heartfelt messages and keep thinking about the inland
38 people and because it's their main food source, the
39 caribou. And my last meeting, I'm going to I've been
40 letting people know to put in their name and I was
41 filling in someone's seat and I had to go through ethics
42 and all this to just to make sure I could be part of the
43 Board being a federal employee. But guys are in good
44 hands and I'm going to be back when I move back. So,
45 it's just a break for now and see you guys around.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Ernest.
48 All right. Well, I guess it's my turn. I'd like to thank
49 all of you, OSM, Fish and Wildlife Services. The -- it's
50 been real. It's been fun. No, it's -- I'd like to thank

1 you for a good meeting. Thank you for coming to our
2 hometown once again, or my hometown, Utqiaġvik. It's
3 good to come up every now and then and go see different
4 scenery, different ways of life. And it, you know, it's
5 not everywhere you get to see people in front of their
6 houses skinning caribou and seals and what have you. So,
7 they did that maybe down south somewhere, they might
8 think it was a little different, but up here it's the
9 norm. And it's just our way of life, the way we've lived
10 it for a long time. But thanks again for a good meeting.
11 It's good to interface with everybody on the on the
12 issues and even on the good stuff, though. I mean, every
13 now and then, we'll have something that comes across
14 that helps us and that's what we aim to do. Hopefully,
15 that at one point that this will be helping us and
16 steering in the right direction. That's what we're
17 aiming for. But that's what the discussion is about. If
18 we didn't have any issues, then what would we be talking
19 about? But it's always good to work together with you
20 guys, and we aim to solve world peace here. But thanks
21 again. And I guess I'll leave it to OSM from there.

22
23 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
24 is Gisela Chapa but you don't need to put it on the
25 record. I always feel very welcome when I come up to
26 Utqiaġvik. And I enjoy to spend time with all of you. I
27 have a deep appreciation for your knowledge and for your
28 dedication giving your time to the Council and reading,
29 writing the meeting materials and having a lot of
30 difficult conversations and making decisions to try to
31 improve access to subsistence users in the region. So,
32 thank you for your time. And till next time, winter.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Any other
35 comments before we close out?

36
37 MR. BARGER: I'll make a motion to
38 adjourn.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion to adjourn.

41
42 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded. Do we have
45 a justification? Jenysa's hungry, alright.

46
47 UNIDENTIFIED: Question

48
49 UNIDENTIFIED: Question.

000147

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been
2 called for. All those in favor of adjourning, say aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All those opposed?

7
8 (No response)

9
10 Hearing none. Meeting adjourned. Thank
11 you. Thank you to everybody online. If you're still
12 there, and we are adjourned.

13
14 (Off record)

15
16 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
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 147 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II recorded on the 17th 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 3rd day of December 2025.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager