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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

IÑUPIAT HERITAGE CENTER
Utqiagvik, Alaska
February 24, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brower Frantz, Chair
Leonard Barger
John Q. Adams
Martha Itta
Esther Hugo

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Utqiaġvik - 2/24/26)

(On record)

MS. CHAPA: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the North Slope Regional Advisory Council meeting. My name is Gisela Chapa and I am just going to check for attendance of a couple of council members online. Council Member Itta, are you online?

MS. ITTA: Good morning, I'm here. Good morning, everyone.

MS. CHAPA: Good morning. And also, Council member Hugo, are you online?

(No response)

Okay, we'll give her a couple more minutes. We've had -- well I don't have to share it for the people in the room but for those online we've had some bad weather and flight cancellations. And so, we're going to try to make quorum by having a couple of council members call in. So, just give me a minute so I can check in with Ms. Hugo. We'll get started shortly.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning. There we go. All right, time is 9:00 am, and my name is Brower Frantz the North Slope Regional Advisory Council Chair. I'd like to get started. Before we get started, though, can I ask maybe Mr. Adams over here to give us an invocation? Mr. Billy.

MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Chairman Frantz, it's a honor for me to give a prayer in public. And God says, and Jesus said prayer is comprehensive, means everyone is involved and everyone is a child of God is -- you are the creation of his crown, we look for truth all the time and when we speak of Jesus, he is power. He is the truth and he's the way maker and he puts people to work for him and his will. It does many things to -- all things to make us better in many different ways. And prayer is certain and the possibilities of prayers are at reach, and there's much to be had to -- when you -- when he says, ask and you shall receive. Ask nicely to Jesus and then, you know, he says, knock on the door means that you have to get closer to him. Seek the one who is going to open the door. When many prayers are

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1 always answered. And I can say that when you don't pray,
2 none of your prayers will be answered. But prayer is a
3 powerful, powerful thing. And thank him for all the
4 things that he -- all the promises that he has for us.
5 And father, we thank you for this gathering today and
6 thank you for our friends who have come from far away,
7 Lord. And Lord, guide us today. God guide the leadership
8 today and the issues that are at hand. And we pray for
9 our hunters who are out there, the lonely, the sick, and
10 the people that need you, Lord God. Lord, we ask you to
11 (indiscernible) these wonderful group, that we may find
12 answers and all the things that we look for. Protect our
13 loved ones who are far away and who are near, Lord God.
14 We ask you to be with us Lord, again, thank you for all
15 the showers of blessings that you have given each and
16 everyone here Lord God. May we keep our eyes on you,
17 Lord God, each and every day. Thank you again for this
18 day in your wonderful son's name, Jesus Christ our Lord,
19 amen.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Amen. Thank you,
22 Billy. All right, actual time here called to order 9:05.
23 All right so, Item 3, Roll Call and Establish Quorum.
24 Maybe we'll double-check before we move on to any of the
25 other businesses. Gisela.

26

27 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Leonard
28 Barger.

29

30 MR. BARGER: Here.

31

32 MS. CHAPA: Wanda Kippi. She let me know
33 she will not be attending. Peter Williams. He's one of
34 the travelers that got stuck with weather. Quincy Adams.

35

36 MR. ADAMS: Here.

37

38 MS. CHAPA: Martha Itta.

39

40 MS. ITTA: Here.

41

42 MS. CHAPA: Esther Hugo.

43

44 (No response)

45

46 Brower Frantz.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Here.

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1 MS. CHAPA: Jenysa Ahmaogak. And Ms.
2 Ahmaogak just welcomed a baby girl, not too long ago so
3 not able to attend [sic]. So, at the moment, we only
4 have four council members present. We do not have a
5 quorum yet. I will keep trying with Council Member Hugo
6 to see when she's able to join. But I think next on the
7 agenda is meeting announcements and I can go over that.
8 Hopefully, that'll give Esther a little bit of time.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead. Item 4,
11 Meeting Announcements.
12

13 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Good morning, everyone.
14 Again, welcome to the North Slope Subsistence Regional
15 Advisory Council meeting. My name is Gisela Chapa and I
16 am the Coordinator for this Council and the designated
17 federal office -- federal officer for this meeting. And
18 so, I will be making these announcements just before we
19 get started. And I'm also getting -- okay, getting a
20 message from Esther, she's still waiting. Okay, first
21 and foremost, I want to thank our council members for
22 being here. You know, at least for Mr. Barger, it was
23 quite an adventure, and our council members served the
24 crucial role of providing recommendations to the Federal
25 Subsistence Board about subsistence hunting, trapping
26 and fishing issues on federal public lands. And with
27 that said, I'd like to invite the public to apply to
28 serve on our Regional Advisory Council. Membership
29 applications or nominations are being accepted through
30 April 2nd and I do have some applications at the public
31 information table. So, if you know anybody who might be
32 interested in serving, please let me know. At this time,
33 I'd also like to encourage youth to submit a letter of
34 interest to serve on the Council. The Council has one
35 non-voting seat that is designated for youth. With the
36 hope that this can serve as a learning experience for
37 new members. And a letter of interest is also being
38 accepted now through April 2nd. And anyone interested
39 in getting more information, please come talk to me
40 during a break. I would love to talk to you about that
41 opportunity. Okay. So, at this meeting, the Council will
42 develop proposals to change federal subsistence fish and
43 shellfish regulations and discuss other issues related
44 to subsistence in the North Slope region. So, there will
45 be an opportunity for public comment during those agenda
46 items.
47

48 For those attending our meeting in
49 person, please make sure you sign in at the front table.
50 There's a sign-in sheet for each day of the meeting, and

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1 the meeting materials are also located at that table.
2 And you can find a copy of the agenda on page 1 of the
3 meeting materials. For those joining us online or over
4 the phone, you can find the agenda online at
5 doi.gov/subsistence, and under the Regional Advisory
6 Council tab, choose North Slope and then scroll down to
7 the Meeting Materials tile. And I would also like to
8 remind everyone that there will be an opportunity for
9 public comment on non-agenda items. So, anything that's
10 not already identified on that agenda. That opportunity
11 is Item 10 of the agenda and the Chair will announce the
12 opportunity to the public, If you would like to address
13 the Council during the meeting, we have these blue sheets
14 at the front that -- if you can fill one of these out
15 and hand it to me, it helps me keep track of anyone
16 who'd like to speak regarding a specific agenda item.
17 And also, during the discussion, we asked those online
18 to raise your hand for a turn to speak if you're using
19 Microsoft Teams. For those calling in, you can press
20 star 5 and that will let us know or let me know that you
21 would like to address the Council, and we'll add you to
22 the queue. For all participants online your mics and
23 your lines will be automatically muted. So, if you want
24 to speak you will have to unmute yourself. If you're
25 calling in, you will need to press star 6 to unmute. And
26 if you do not have a mute button on your phone -- oh, I
27 just said it, star 6. Also, this meeting is being
28 recorded so please state your name for the record before
29 making a comment or presenting a topic to the Council.
30 This helps us get an accurate record for our meeting.
31 And thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes my Meeting
32 Announcements.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Gisela.
35 All right. That -- we'll move on to Item 5, Welcome and
36 Introductions. So, I guess we'll start off with
37 introductions for people in the room. If you could come
38 up to the mic, state your name and I guess your
39 association and -- or if you're just a general member
40 of the public. Introductions.

41
42 MS. DAGGETT: (In Native). My name is
43 Carmen Daggett. I work for Alaska Department of Fish and
44 Game as a Wildlife Biologist here in Utqiaġvik.

45
46 MR. SFORMO: Todd Sformo, North Slope
47 Borough Wildlife.

48
49 MR. ADAMS: (In Native) Billy Adams,
50 North Slope Borough Wildlife.

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MR. BROWER: Morning everybody, Frederick Brower, Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope Natural Resource Department.

MR. AQPIK: Morning. Robert Aqpik Jr., North Slope Borough Planning.

MR. PEARSON: Brian Pearson, North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management.

MR. MACK: Kendra Mack, North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management.

DR. VICKERS: Good morning. This is Brent Vickers from Office of Subsistence Management. I'll be representing Leadership Team here for OSM. And also, in a way I'll be representing Bureau of Land Management, BLM, where I'll soon be for the next 4 months. So, listening in for BLM as well. Thank you.

MS. SENEAL: Good morning, Mr. Chair, Council members, my name is Anna Senecal and I'm a new Fisheries Biologist for the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm real happy to be here.

MS. WOJCIECHOWSKI: Good morning, good morning. Nicole Wojciechowski with the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management.

MS. LEAVITT: Good morning. Lucy Leavitt, Department of Wildlife Management.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning, everybody, thank you for the introductions. Now introductions for people online. Is there anybody online that would like to do introductions? Please introduce yourself now.

MS. PRUSZENSKI: Hello, good morning. My name is Jordan.....

(Simultaneous speech)

My name is Jordan Pruszenski and I'm with the Department of Alaska -- Department of Fish and Game, the Assistant Area Biologist for the Northeast. Thank you so much.

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1 MS. ITTA: Good morning, everyone. Martha
2 Itta, resident of Nuiqsut, Council Member.

3
4 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning, this is
5 Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist with OSM.

6
7 MS. LA VINE: Good morning, this is
8 Robbin La Vine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator, also
9 with OSM.

10
11 MR. FOLEY: Good morning, Chairman
12 Frantz, members of the Council. This is Kevin Foley,
13 Fisheries Biologist with OSM, calling in from Anchorage.

14
15 MR. JOLY: Hello, everyone. This is Kyle
16 Joly. I'm a Wildlife Biologist for the Park Service Gates
17 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

18
19 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is Marcy
20 Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic
21 National Park and Preserve, based out of Fairbanks. Good
22 morning.

23
24 MR. REXFORD: Good morning. Jason
25 Rexford, Barrow. I work with ICAS in the Community of
26 the Arctic Slope.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Anybody
29 else online that we missed? Good morning though, to
30 everybody that called in.

31
32 (No response)

33
34 All right, hearing none. Item 6 is
35 Election of Officers. But I believe -- is that something
36 we're going to have to move on?

37
38 MS. CHAPA: Yeah.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, so we'll need
41 a quorum for election of officers. And I guess we'll
42 double check with Esther to see if she's available.

43
44 MS. CHAPA: Yes, and I am communicating
45 with her via text. So, if you give me 5 minutes, I'll
46 confirm whether she was able to access the mayor's
47 office.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. So, I guess
50 we'll move to take a maybe a 10-minute break and see if

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1 we can get a quorum, because it looks like the rest of
2 our agenda will need action, so. Well, I guess I can't
3 move to take a break. We'll take a break for 10 minutes.

4

5

(Talking)

6

7

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so I guess
8 we'll move to or well -- we hope but. So, I guess we'll
9 get started on some of the council member reports.

10

11

(Talking)

12

13

So, I guess we'll start maybe with
14 Martha, who's online. Martha Itta, Nuiqsut.

15

16

MS. ITTA: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
17 Council, everybody that's there. Martha Itta, long life
18 resident, 47 years in Nuiqsut; Nuiqsut and Barrow. I do
19 have -- let me get my notes out real quick. I wanted to
20 talk about a few things. For our subsistence, we've had
21 -- on our caribou, there's been some changes in our
22 caribou. We've got -- we're still getting sick caribou.
23 I've had family that caught about 5 caribou, sick caribou
24 this last winter season. And we had to leave them out
25 there. So, we're still getting sick caribou. And I'd
26 like to, you know, know what exactly kind of sickness
27 they're getting, and how many of them are actually
28 surviving. There's a lot of the migration changes, it's
29 you know, a lot of the same concerns but there's more
30 changes. There's a lot of concern. I'm sure you guys
31 heard about around our -- those projects that are going
32 up. It's changing a lot of our subsistence, a lot of our
33 subsistence that we're having to do, we're having to I
34 mean, the caribou is not crossing the roads. They're not
35 crossing the pipeline. So, where they usually cross at
36 the (In Native), around the (In Native) bridges, Fish
37 Creek area, they're going all the way down to the Willow
38 area, to the end of the road, the end of the pipeline
39 to go around. A lot of them are not crossing. So, we're
40 still having those issues. There's a decline in them
41 where you know, I noticed there's a decline like in the
42 bulls, the big bulls and they have -- they hardly have
43 any fat on them. There's a couple of hunters that were
44 blessed to have fat on their caribou. So, we're missing
45 out on making Eskimo ice cream, akutaq for our special
46 events like Nalukataq. This is the second year that we
47 missed out on making some because there's no fat on our
48 caribou. They're big. They look fat, but there's no fat
49 on them. And so, yeah, we're missing out on that.

50

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1 So, with that, with our caribou -- with
2 our foxes, we're noticing that there's a decrease in
3 foxes being seen there usually 1 every -- maybe 2 every
4 mile or so. This year there's -- we're not seeing any
5 foxes. They're usually lots between here and Prudhoe Bay
6 every year, every ice road season. We're not seeing any.
7 I've seen maybe 2 this far -- so far. And yeah,
8 everybody's wondering where all the foxes are. I
9 understand that -- we understand that there's predators
10 and I think that's why the animals are -- the caribous,
11 like coming close to town and, you know, we're worried
12 about where the foxes are. We noticed that their den,
13 where they breed and have their babies right between
14 here and Alpine, they're not there anymore. They've been
15 there for decades, you know, breeding and raising their
16 family. They're not there anymore. We don't see any foxes
17 anymore. So, we're wondering what's going on with them.

18
19 The muskox are still there, they're
20 still toward like, toward the Pikka area between here
21 and Prudhoe Bay. I haven't heard of anyone getting any
22 muskox. I don't think anybody got an -- a permit this
23 year. So, I don't think anybody caught any muskox. We've
24 had that (In Native), I mean, that nanuq coming to our
25 town. It's been about maybe 6 years since one was coming
26 toward the village. So, there's that one incident of the
27 nanuk coming on the spur road that they had to scare
28 away from town. Not too sure what happened to that.

29
30 With our fishing, like I stated before
31 it's getting more and more dangerous due to the overflow
32 and warm water weather. In the beginning of fishing,
33 there is an abundance and it's slowed down a lot. We
34 usually get more throughout the season, but I think
35 there's more toward (In Native) than right here on our
36 river. We were getting lots in the beginning, but maybe
37 like 10 to not even 20 after that. So, it was few,
38 getting fewer during our (In Native) season. And we're
39 just now getting into our (In Native) fishing, now that
40 our -- there's a road out there. So, people are finally
41 trying to go out there to fish for (In Native). So, with
42 you know, our fishing is -- we used to have been [sic]
43 able to drive all the way to (In Native) in October, you
44 know, make our own trail out of the village. But it's
45 so dangerous now, we -- I don't know, I might've
46 mentioned it before, but I almost lost 3 brothers of
47 mine, 3 people this last fishing season because of the
48 overflow and the water being so warm. So, you know pretty
49 close calls and it's getting pretty dangerous out there
50 to go fishing. And also, with our whaling our concerns

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1 are growing about the size of our Cross Island, whaling
2 island. You know, it was pretty scary to see the how
3 high the waters were getting, you know. And our crews
4 having to be stuck out there due to weather and having
5 to, you know, stick it out there, it's really worrisome.
6 So, I think that's something that needs to be looked
7 into is our whaling island, Cross Island, and the dangers
8 that we're facing each year. It's getting more and more
9 dangerous.

10

11 Okay. The other thing I wanted to
12 mention is the restrictions. There's a lot of concerns
13 with the Willow Project and the airport that they're
14 building. That's going to cause a lot more -- you know,
15 I think that's going to deplete our caribou migration,
16 caribou even more. The animals, it's changing pretty
17 fast. So, there's you know, a lot of people are hearing
18 about that Willow airport, and they're not understanding
19 why they're not utilizing the Alpine airport or our
20 airport when it's just a 35-minute drive out to the
21 project. So, there's a lot of concern I'm hearing about
22 that. Talking about regulations. You know, we're
23 regulating, talking about regulating and changing the
24 numbers and our subsistence hunting, which is wrong.
25 It's really wrong because it looks it more -- we're more
26 regulated than anybody else because we have pipelines
27 and projects right in our backyard. So, we're not, you
28 know, we're being more regulated than ever. So, my --
29 what I'd like to see is more education to our people,
30 to those hunters, to everybody that -- our visitors, all
31 the way to our visitors. There needs to be more education
32 on, you know, the kinds of tools we're supposed to be
33 using. The consequences if we're -- someone shoots too
34 close to the pipeline or accidentally shoots it, there's
35 not enough education to the people on how to do this and
36 how -- what not to do and how to report stuff. We've
37 already had a hunter banned and I think it's because of
38 the lack of education, a lack of information not being
39 given out to them on how they can, you know, how they
40 should be hunting out there with all this
41 infrastructure. Because that, you know, that really puts
42 a strain on us hunters out there, being out there,
43 especially when it's super cold out there and, you know,
44 if we break down or something and but we're really
45 grateful, you know, for the road. A lot of people are
46 happy for the road and the help that they get. Like if
47 they break down, you know, opposed to having to wait for
48 search and rescue, there's people already out there to
49 help. We're thankful for that. But yeah, I can't stress
50 enough about the education on how to -- how we can

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1 utilize the lands and what tools we can use and the
2 consequences so that there's enough understanding about
3 that.

4
5 I know it's just really frustrating to
6 have to do hunting the way we have to do it in our
7 village. We're being -- I don't know, I know there's --
8 I don't know if this is a good place to bring it out
9 there, but I brought it to many meetings. I brought it
10 to my city council, the tribal. But, yeah, we're with
11 the police department, you know, we've had -- I've had
12 experiences and incidences where, you know, they're
13 protecting more of the oil field workers and the oil
14 field industry than our own people, you know. The way
15 they respond, it's really concerning because there were
16 calls where it was really serious and the police didn't
17 come. But then when I'm out there hunting and we have
18 people that are permitted out there and they don't like
19 those people out there, they came and harassed, they
20 came and kicked me off my land. Cops were going all
21 around because I was on my land. We were out there with
22 permitted people. So, you know, that's something that
23 needs to be looked into on authority and people that are
24 permitted and allowed to be out there. That needs to
25 stop. Because that was really -- that was really
26 disheartening to see when our people are hurting for
27 help in the village, you know, and they're helping the
28 industry more than their own people. That was really
29 heartbreaking.

30
31 But other than that, I -- you know, I
32 just like to see more education and more action on our
33 concerns because we voiced these concerns over and over
34 so many years, but nobody's not [sic] taking us
35 seriously. And I really would -- I mean, the Borough,
36 ICAS, everybody that's there that's supposed to be
37 helping the villages. You know, we don't really see them
38 out here. They come here, do their things out there. But
39 you know I just feel like it's not enough. You know,
40 whatever is being done is not enough to protect our way
41 of life and our subsistence hunting. Because it's
42 changing so much every day. Day by day. It changes every
43 day. And we can't keep up with, you know, the changes
44 and what's going on. That rig that toppled over just
45 made us more aware and more active in our surroundings.
46 You know, we're more observative now. Our community is
47 watching them more closely, and, you know, that says a
48 lot. That says a lot in itself. So, a lot of changes in
49 our village, a lot that needs to be addressed, a lot of
50 concerns that need to be addressed.

1

2 I think -- oh, the last thing I wanted
3 to mention is the, you know, I'm bringing all this out
4 here because for Nuiqsut, we've always tried to get all
5 the agencies together to come to our village, all
6 together, all those that are involved in protecting our
7 subsistence way of life and permitting these projects.
8 We try to get them all together. But, you know, they're
9 there at this meeting, and I think this is the time for
10 me to bring it all out, because we've been voicing our
11 concerns way too long and nothing's really being
12 addressed. So, the one other thing I'm going to keep
13 bringing up is an evacuation drill for our village. Not
14 just for the industry I -- I'd like to see them start
15 including our village into their safety. You know, when
16 they get evacuated, they inform us, let us know what's
17 going on right away instead of finding out through
18 Facebook. You know, we're always finding out through
19 Facebook, and we should be hearing it from the North
20 Slope Borough, from ICAS, from EPA. There's a lot of
21 spills that is happening, and nobody's talking about it.
22 You know, there's the injury during that cleanup.
23 Nobody's talking about that. There is a serious injury.
24 Nobody's talking about that. It's not being put out there
25 in the newspapers or in the reports. We have to hear it
26 from somebody else. And, you know, I'd like more
27 transparency from the Borough or those permittees. You
28 guys are all in the know to our understanding. You guys
29 are the ones that are allowing them to be here. We're
30 the ones that are here. So, Mr. Chair, I think that's
31 all I have. And thank you all for listening and for your
32 time.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Martha,
35 for your report. I think you bring up some really good
36 points, especially along the lines of impacts due to the
37 expanding oil industry and the roads that are being put
38 out in your area that are pretty extensive and they're
39 not stopping, they're expanding, even moving more in the
40 perimeter of town. But you bring up some great points
41 and knowing what industry rules and regulations are,
42 just because of, you know, the leased areas and their
43 rules that, that they're putting forth in front of you
44 on your own lands and surrounding areas so that I think
45 should be looked into more because even I don't know
46 what the -- what their rules are. So, I think that's
47 something that should be looked into. And at least that
48 way, maybe not us, but we -- at least will be more in
49 the know and how to address or how to address these
50 situations, or who to who to communicate with, to make

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1 sure we're going about it the right way and not getting
2 people in trouble on their own lands for hunting. So, I
3 think that one is probably the most important. The other
4 thing is, have you had any fish mold lately? I haven't
5 heard anything about fish mold in a while, but I just
6 wanted to make sure we're not overlooking that and get
7 that discussed if it is present.

8
9 MS. ITTA: Oh, yes, Mr. Chair. I'm sorry,
10 I forgot. Yes, we still are getting molded fish. They're
11 more, and there's still some that are still missing
12 organs. Like, I like to eat the liver, and some don't
13 have the liver and like, dang. So, yeah, we still are
14 getting sick fish.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
17 And I did notice we got a couple other attendees here.
18 Maybe if you could come in and introduce yourself.
19 Welcome.

20
21 MS. HUGO: Hello, this Esther calling.

22
23 MR. MORNINGSTAR: Hey, sorry. My name is
24 Mike Morningstar. I'm the Supervisor out of Anchorage.
25 We're actually not here in any official capacity. We're
26 just here to kind of sit in on the RAC and gather some
27 information. But I'm the Supervisor out of Anchorage
28 with the Bureau of Land Management, and we have our law
29 enforcement ranger out of Fairbanks. This is Zachary
30 Arnold. Mike Morningstar. Yeah, pleasure.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Welcome.
33 Alright. Did I hear we had Martha -- or not Martha,
34 Esther, online.

35
36 MS. HUGO: Yes, good morning, Brower, I
37 just got on.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you and good
40 morning. I guess maybe we'll double check our roll call
41 before we keep moving with the council reports, just to
42 see if we have a quorum. Gisela.

43
44 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair and I'm
45 just going to state on the record who is in attendance
46 and then see if we have a quorum rather than doing roll
47 call again. So, in the room we have Council Member
48 Barger, Council Member Adams. Online we have Council
49 Member Itta. Now we have Council Member Hugo online as
50 well. And in the room, we also have our Chair or Council

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1 Member Frantz. So that makes 5 Council members present.
2 And with that, we do have a quorum.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Gisela.
5 So, do we want to move back to where we're dealing with
6 the election of officers? Is that what we want to do?
7 All right. So, we'll move to Item 6, Election of
8 Officers. Gisela.

9

10 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair, again,
11 Gisela Chapa, for the record. And so, in accordance with
12 our Council Charter, council members elect Chair, a Vice
13 Chair and a Secretary for a 1-year term. And elections
14 normally occur at the winter meeting. So, at this time,
15 we will hold election of officers for the North Slope
16 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. And I would like
17 to open the floor for nominations for the Council's
18 Chair. And the nominations do not need to be seconded.

19

20 MR. ADAMS: I'd like to nominate Brower
21 Frantz unanimous consent for Chair.

22

23 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. So, we have Member
24 Adams, who has nominated Council Member Frantz to serve
25 as Council Chair. Do you accept the nomination?

26

27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I'll accept the
28 nomination.

29

30 MS. CHAPA: Okay. And we were asked to
31 accept the nomination on unanimous consent. Is there any
32 opposition?

33

34 MR. BARGER: I make a motion to close the
35 nominations.

36

37 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Thank you. So, with no
38 further nominations, the nominations are closed. And
39 again, Council Member Frantz was nominated to serve as
40 a Council Chair. He's accepted the nomination and I'll
41 just go through the vote. All of those in favor, signify
42 by saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. All opposed
47 signify by saying nay. But we have all of our 5 Council
48 members say yay. So, the motion passes. Congratulations
49 are in order for Chair Frantz.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Looks like I'm stuck here for at least another year in this spot so, all right. So, Chair has been filled. Vice Chair.

MS. CHAPA: Okay, so now that we have a new Council Chair, I will turn over the nominations and the election of officers to our Chair for the Vice Chair and the Secretary.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so it looks like we have -- Leonard Barger was the Council's Vice Chair. I would like to open the floor for nominations for the Council's Vice Chair. And the nominations do not need to be seconded.

MR. ADAMS: I nominate Leonard Barger as Vice Chair, unanimous consent.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there was a nomination put to the floor for Leonard Barger. And I guess no other nominations being heard so far. So, is this something that I can move to close? I guess through.....

MS. ITTA: I make a motion to close the nomination.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, so there's been a request to close the nominations. And so, Mr. Barger, do you accept the nomination?

MR. BARGER: Yes, sir, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. With that being said, all right. Mr. Leonard Barger was nominated to serve as the Council's Vice Chair. All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed say nay.

(No response)

Hearing none. Welcome aboard, Mr. Vice Chair. All right, moving ahead. There is a secretary position that was filled by Wanda Kippi as the Council

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1 Secretary. I would like to open the floor for nominations
2 for the Council Secretary. Nominations do not need to
3 be seconded.

4

5 MS. ITTA: I nominate Wanda Kippi.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, I guess I'll
8 pass this over to Gisela for the specifics on maybe the
9 need for Wanda to be present for maybe accepting a
10 nomination? Gisela.

11

12 MS. CHAPA: And I actually gonna [sic]
13 reference miss or ask for assistance on this from my
14 supervisor, Katya Wessels. I can confirm through
15 messenger to see if Wanda is available and still accepts
16 the nomination and if that is possible. So, give me a
17 couple of minutes.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 And I got confirmation that we can
22 nominate someone as secretary even if they're not
23 present.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so I guess
26 Wanda has been nominated. Is this something that we all
27 would still vote on and get past and just wait for maybe
28 an exception later?

29

30 MS. CHAPA: Give me a minute. I'm getting
31 some information.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 MS. CHAPA: Okay. And I got confirmation
38 that we still need to vote for that.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so we have a
41 nomination for Ms. Wanda Kippi. Ms. Wanda Kippi was
42 nominated to serve as the Council's Vice Chair. Well, I
43 guess -- or, yeah, sorry, I'm reading the wrong one.
44 Secretary, as the Council Secretary. Actually, do we
45 need to close this before we move?

46

47 MR. ADAMS: Close nominations for
48 secretary.

49

50

00017

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, Mr. Adams moved
2 to close the nominations. All right, Ms. Wanda Kippi was
3 nominated to serve as the Council Secretary. All those
4 in favor say aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All those opposed
9 say nay.

10
11 (No response)

12
13 Hearing none. Congratulations, Wanda
14 Kippi on secretary. I guess we'll have to wait and see
15 if she accepts, but she's been nominated. All right, so
16 I don't see any other election of officer's set. Item
17 7, Review and Adopt Agenda, and it says Chair. So, it
18 says see latest draft or agenda on page 1 and this
19 requires a motion and a second.

20
21 (Pause)

22
23 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Mr. Adams.

26
27 MR. ADAMS: I move to approve the agenda.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: There's motion on
30 the floor to approve the agenda.

31
32 MR. BARGER: Seconded.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
35 Barger. Under discussion, any discussion?

36
37 (No response)

38
39 MR. BARGER: Question.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
42 called for. All those in favor of adopting the agenda
43 say aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Maybe we'll check to
48 see if Esther's still online before we move forward.
49 Esther, are you still online?

50

00018

1 MS. HUGO: Well, yeah, just looking for
2 my agenda and in my packet but all I got is for the past
3 meetings. So, I'll just go along with -- what were you
4 saying?

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we're just
7 moving to approve the agenda as it's -- as it's written.
8 And it's been.....

9
10 (Simultaneous speech)

11
12 MS. HUGO: Okay.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It's been seconded.

15
16 MS. HUGO: (Indiscernible) important?

17
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it's -- we've
19 made the motion, it's been seconded, we went under
20 discussion and questions been called for. So, we were
21 all those in favor say aye.

22
23 MS. HUGO: Oh, aye, sorry.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, all right. All
26 right, so the agenda has passed. We're just making sure
27 you're still on. Alright, item 8, Review and Approve
28 Previous Meeting Minutes. Sounds like you have those on
29 there. So, on page 5 of your meeting materials, you
30 should have your Fall 2025 Draft Council Meeting Minutes
31 and that is up for approval and requires a motion and a
32 second.

33
34 MS. ITTA: Make a motion to approve the
35 meeting minutes.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion on the floor
38 to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Leonard
39 Barger, any discussion?

40
41 (No response)

42
43 MR. BARGER: Question.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been
46 called for. All those in favor of approving the Meeting
47 Minutes say aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed say
2 nay.

3
4 (No response)

5
6 Hearing none, our meeting minutes have
7 been approved. All right, so item 9 is Council Member
8 Reports. We had Martha Itta earlier, so we have completed
9 Nuiqsut's council member report. So, I guess, up next
10 we'll go with Esther Hugo and Anaktuvuk Pass.

11
12 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
13 morning to all. It's been really cold, hardly anybody
14 been going out hunting. We see some caribou up in the
15 foothills just across from the airstrip. But it's been
16 so cold and so blizzardy, and it's been horrible for a
17 while. But they've been catching kulavaq, the cow, and
18 they're really healthy. Just as healthy as a -- the
19 pugunaq, if the pugunaq were come by fall time. But I
20 think we got it where they're sticking around and we're
21 doing okay. Hardly anybody going out to trap or look out
22 for wolves because the weather, it's been, like, in --
23 visibility so low, it's been blowing first from the
24 north, then during the afternoon, it switched back to
25 south, it's been north and south wind, and really
26 blizzard and cold. And with the new year, we had
27 struggled with no fuel again. That sure wasn't the best
28 to hear, for our machines, or for our own fuel, for our
29 homes. I think that wasn't even called for at all because
30 oh my god, if they just can fill up or get us a tank
31 40,000. I don't care how much tank, but enough to carry
32 us on and they should deliver us fuel maybe starting
33 September or at least August. End of August, September
34 before the weather gets really cold and really bad. We
35 really need to work on that because it's not good.

36
37 Like I said, hardly any hunters going
38 out. Just hoping for the best -- for the best weather.
39 Otherwise, they've been going close by and catch what
40 they need to and I'm really happy for that. I was not
41 going to just -- not report anything. Because we're going
42 to just talk, talk, talk and by the time it's going to
43 be fall, and we know it's going to happen again, not
44 knowing that nothing being done. I mean, we're trying
45 the best, but this should have been done 40-50 years ago
46 when we first started. Now we seem to struggle, today,
47 the year 2026. For sure, we know that tuttu is our main
48 diet. It's always been, it will always have, it will
49 always be. And I didn't want to report or anything or
50 just say no report. We're going to just have a meeting

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1 and we're not going to even do nothing [sic] about what's
2 ahead of us. And when we know what's going to be ahead
3 of us, the sportsmen hunters, people going to Umiak end
4 of August, in September. The Dalton Highway. Now, I want
5 to get there one day, but I haven't yet. Like say the
6 in the prime time of our migration. But I hear a lot of
7 stories about whole line of trucks, and you name it,
8 they're over there looking for that big rack. This is
9 enough, that's too much, it's 40 plus years now, and
10 we're still talking. We're still saying, like we had a
11 reason to live here, (indiscernible) Anaktuvuk Pass. A
12 place of caribou droppings. And we are the caribou
13 people. Just like the sheep, yeah, maybe a moose if were
14 starving, yeah. But we don't really hunt moose unless
15 there's no caribou at all. I think this is just enough
16 -- I don't know what's going to be in a few months, but
17 I've been thinking about this since our meeting last
18 couple of weeks or last how many days.

19
20 I need to do something, we as a
21 community need to do something, if we're heard but we
22 need the right voice. And then we ask the community to
23 have to come up with that lawyer. I think we should
24 start taking legal action instead of talking and letting
25 me report and letting -- having meeting after meeting.
26 We were born and raised here. We have a reason to be
27 here. Yes, we feel bad because were in it among the
28 coastal villages and we don't get the resources from the
29 waters, from the sea. And that is a lot of resources.
30 You can hunt subsistence, but up here we don't have
31 choice. This is (indiscernible) road. This is where we
32 waited and wait because our elders tell us we have to
33 have patience, they'll come. They were coming, we see
34 them come every fall by the thousands, I mean, I think
35 these were the Teshepuk and Western and the Porcupine,
36 because we see them day after day by the -- maybe over
37 half a million, I would say, at my time. Both sides of
38 our valley, our (indiscernible) is -- our parent say
39 they're coming patience, they keep our dogs quiet. We
40 can't go beyond the trash, the dump down there where we
41 got a road to. We couldn't go beyond it. We had to go
42 on the site and look up north, but we knew they were
43 coming. But nowadays they're being -- the sports hunters
44 are taking out what we're waiting for to put food on the
45 table with these cold months. October, November,
46 January, February, March. And then April, they start
47 coming from south. Really healthy bulls. I'm just saying
48 enough is enough. We need to step up, we need to. And
49 if I need to sit with the city, the tribe and the corp.,
50 these entities. But if they're willing to have this

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1 meeting, if we decide we need to find a lawyer, a good
2 lawyer, somebody that will win. What we're saying is
3 true, I'm sorry to say, but I have no other choice. I've
4 been on the Council for so long. I've been going to
5 meetings since 2007. I started out with a North Slope
6 Borough Fish and Wildlife, which I'm still at. That's
7 long, and it's been long, long, long, long, long years
8 of waiting for what we need to catch to survive. But
9 between now and, now and -- if we can find a lawyer. I
10 think we need to start taking action, legally. Know
11 what's in Title 19 -- 18 and 19, I believe, eating us
12 up and putting us aside. Excuse me, but that's really
13 old. And enough is enough. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther,
16 for your Council Report. And I just wanted to point out
17 to everybody online and everybody in the room here that
18 Anaktuvuk Pass is different than a lot of places. Every
19 single time I've been to Anaktuvuk Pass. There has been
20 caribou, moose and fish all being cooked at their
21 community center every day, every single day that I was
22 there. And their community is a lot more tight knit than
23 anywhere I've seen. And that is their main diet is, is
24 the caribou. And I -- if you don't understand it, I
25 would highly suggest that you go there and see that they
26 actually live off of the caribou. This is something that
27 is not a myth, it's not something that we just discuss.
28 It's a lot different than here. They utilize it and live
29 off of it because of how high their cost of living is.
30 And I do understand -- you know, they were impacted this
31 year. And they did have fuel issues to where they
32 restricted residents from getting fuel, getting stove
33 oil and I'm pretty sure that completely inundated their
34 ability to go out and catch the food that they were
35 living off of, so.

36
37 And the other issue she's discussing,
38 you know, we've gone into greater detail of it before,
39 but there is an issue there too where the fly-in hunters
40 that are permitted by the state to be there are actually
41 flying, and I've seen this firsthand because I had to
42 fly out there for enforcement at one time or another.
43 That they -- they were to fly us to all of their camp
44 locations. And what they had done was completely set up
45 hunters across the valley, essentially blocking off the
46 caribou path. And as they were coming up, you know, they
47 would knock them down, fly them out. And the issue with
48 that was it seemed like they were trying to give the
49 meat away to the communities and take the antlers and
50 fly home. So, they were actively flying meat to Anaktuvuk

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1 Pass. And, you know, it's like they didn't want the
2 meat. So, this was an issue, it's an -- it's a real --
3 not was, it is an issue. And it's really weird at that
4 point because you don't know who processed it, what they
5 processed it on, or how clean the meat was or what it
6 had been in contact with on the flights. So, it was --
7 it's an issue and I think they've stopped the, you know,
8 trying to give the meat away to the community it's like
9 a, you know, in-kind service but the -- so this was
10 within 60 miles of Anaktuvuk Pass. So, she's -- what
11 she's talking about that she's, you know, she's said
12 enough. That's what she's talking about, there are
13 active fly-in hunts that are being, you know, flown in
14 during the, the high time of the fall. And there are a
15 lot of them Happy Valley, all the way up to Prudhoe Bay.
16 I know there's some flying out of Coldfoot. Some flying
17 out of even Chandalar Shelf. But there are quite a few
18 locations that are being utilized for fly-in hunts and
19 not just fly-in hunts either, it's -- they've got
20 hovercrafts, they've got airboats. And you know, I've
21 seen plenty of ads this year, even for newer lightweight
22 jet boats that are being advertised along the Sag River
23 as well. So, it's not just the one area and, you know,
24 that's the -- what is it, a controlled use area? But so,
25 they have, you know, it's a well-known area for fly-ins.
26 And also, the ones that aren't nearly as regulated is
27 the fly and do it yourself hunters, which have a lot
28 less regulation on them but there are still a lot of
29 them out there. So, that needed -- that needs to be
30 looked at. I could talk all day about this, but I just
31 wanted to give you that insight, that this community is
32 being impacted, and what she's saying now, you know, in
33 other meetings we're in greater detail, but the need for
34 change in that area is, you know, it's -- it needs to
35 happen. It's not just one set of commercial hunters.
36 It's multiple sets of commercial hunters that are being
37 flown in. Flown in, going up the Haul Road and leaving.
38 And there are hundreds, if not thousands of them flying
39 around, being dropped and picked up. So that really needs
40 to be looked into. And you know, I've asked for it for
41 the last few years was for like the state and even the
42 federal side to look into how much that commercial
43 industry is impacting the migration routes. And make it
44 effective, you know, at least show us the info and get
45 something done about that. But like I said, if you if
46 you don't realize how much this community is dependent
47 on this, go visit them. You know Esther, you know, how
48 often do you guys cook at the community center for
49 everybody?
50

1 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, thank you. We try
2 and do that as much as we can, special events, or
3 especially when we have somebody pass away. We'll keep
4 cooking until we bury the person. And we do get meat
5 from, you know, our families and cook, which is good and
6 we'll feed everybody every day until -- for 5 days until
7 we put the person away, so. And we do -- personally in
8 each household like today as we speak, we can --
9 depending on caribou, tutu, due to the cost of food and
10 or AC store. Or even getting it from Fairbanks you have
11 to buy the freight which is double the order of food.
12 So, but yeah, we do that we put together and it gives
13 us this hope, this thing, we always hang on to this
14 patience, that was taught to aspire grandparents and
15 parents. So, thank you. Yes, we do get together a lot
16 and we're real close families and look after each other
17 and trying to survive.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.
20 So, I just wanted to add that after her report there,
21 that they are being impacted and we need to look into
22 it, that's my point. All right. So up next, we'll go
23 with Mr. Barger, Point Hope.

24
25 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
26 you. It's very good to hear Esther, you know, all those
27 words. You know, they're all true. You know, we work
28 together. We say these things all the time. Meetings
29 after meetings, after meetings over and over. Like she
30 said, it's nothing being done. But, you know, we all
31 have to work together. You know, the North Slope Borough
32 RAC, the North Slope Borough Wildlife, Subsistence
33 Committee, all those. We all have to work together as
34 one and take action on these things. These -- I call
35 them the 3 wise men, the elders that passed on. They
36 always tell me watch, with all 3 of them said the same
37 thing. Once we're gone you guys are going to hurt. You
38 guys are going to, you know, things are going to change.
39 And I see it I see it in all a lot of places. Things are
40 changing in this world. You know, (indiscernible) or not
41 one. But Esther, you know, AC store. You know, we have
42 a AC store in Point Hope. My wife was going to buy a ham
43 at AC in Point Hope. You know how much that thing cost?
44 127 bucks for that ham and that's pretty expensive.
45 Hamburger patty, you buy 2 bags, 65 bucks for one
46 hamburger patty, those bags. And they told them to call
47 Anchorage and call her auntie and send some stuff to us
48 but those kind of things. So, I got a friend from White
49 Mountain. You know, I didn't -- my wife don't like moose
50 meat so my niece in White Mountain, she grounded some

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1 moose meat and I got some and I sent her some muktuk and
2 beluga and us Native we like to, you know, barter, trade.
3 We don't sell or anything because, you know, they don't
4 get those kind of stuff like muktuk and meat and stuff
5 and, you know, they're real happy. And next, I get moose
6 meat, I didn't tell my wife what it was. It was all
7 grounded and, you know, in a Ziplock. So, I ground it,
8 ground it and make spaghetti. And she's like, eats the
9 spaghetti, man, that's a good meat. You know, she was
10 surprised because, you know, all the big, big kind of
11 animals we get, you know, they're hard, different
12 tastes. And this moose was a young bull and real tender
13 and soft and she was real happy. Man, where do you get
14 it from? I said, oh, I got it from my niece. And I told
15 her, I said yeah, it was a moose. What? First time she
16 ever tried moose meat and she liked it. So those kind
17 of things, and I want to bring up to, like, you know,
18 Point Hope. We -- no issues yet, thank God. But we've
19 been having a lot of big storms, power outages and stuff
20 in our villages, but we -- right now we've been having
21 strong winds. The ice conditions is pretty -- I don't
22 know, we have water close by on the south side of town,
23 pretty close. Next week is supposed to be South Wind,
24 so hopefully will bring that ice back. So hopefully it
25 welds the ice together so we can -- mainly we like to
26 break trail out there. You know, while whaling time -
27 whaling time is coming up you know, so.

28
29 And fishing went pretty good this year.
30 And another concern is, I've heard from a lot of
31 fishermen going upriver and they've been -- they've seen
32 a beaver in our rivers so, that's a concern. I told
33 them, I said, hey kill it before it really, you know,
34 makes it a problem in our river. Because, you know,
35 those beavers like to, you know, eat the fishing stuff
36 and make beaver dams. So, you know, I told the young
37 hunters too. And when they go out and I say, if you ever
38 see a beaver, just kill it. Take it any season because
39 it's going to be a problem in there -- in our community,
40 in the river, so. But other things, you know, we just
41 got last week, they've been fishing (In Native), you
42 know, the blue tomcods we catch in Point Hope and they've
43 been getting them this year finally, so. And caribou. I
44 feel like an elder, my nephews called me and said, hey,
45 they want to use my sled, and they go get some caribou
46 and we had some caribou and came in, but now they're
47 gone, they went up, up towards Kivalina area, Red Dog
48 area. So, that was a good taste of caribou. And you
49 know, everybody loves to live under caribou. You know,
50 we use it for the whaling time when we're out there on

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1 the ice, in the cold, waiting for a whale. You know, all
2 these good food we have, caribou and other food. You
3 know, it's warm -- warming for us when we're out there
4 whaling on ice, waiting for the animal to feed our people
5 and so. But nothing else there, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Mr.
8 Barger. One question I did have is I was always
9 interested in all the sharks that I've seen being caught
10 there. Have you seen any shark in the recent year?

11
12 MR. BARGER: No sharks yet but back in,
13 I think 2011, there was 1 washed up, a shark. That was
14 -- that happened one year, but I haven't heard -- and
15 the other, I think it was '98, there was a narwhal washed
16 up. One guy found a narwhal washed up, so, but yeah,
17 that was the -- I haven't seen any sharks.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. I thought I
20 might have seen something on Facebook about a shark more
21 recently, I think over the last few years, but yeah, no,
22 that's everything I have for now. Thank you again, Mr.
23 Barger. All right, so we've got the 2 online. We'll go
24 with Mr. Adams, Quincy for Barrow, Utqiaġvik.

25
26 MR. ADAMS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
27 Members of the Council, Quincy Adams, for the record RAC
28 member for Barrow. Since the fall meeting, we've had a
29 pretty good fall time whaling. We were able to land at
30 least 12 whales, which fed the community for
31 Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is starting to be some
32 predator control. So far, I've counted at least 13 wolves
33 have been caught in and around the Barrow area. Someone
34 as far as Atqasuk, someone went up to Chipp River and
35 to (In Native) River as well and caught some wolves.
36 There was a few wolverines that had been caught as well.
37 And what surprised me was one of the hunters had gotten
38 a brown bear during the wintertime, and that was up at
39 Chipp River. And he was telling us a story after he came
40 back from Chipp River, and he was telling it like it was
41 in real time when he was telling us the story, which is
42 pretty amazing and kind of alarming at the same time,
43 because I know brown bears are supposed to be denning
44 for the winter and hibernating during the winter time.
45 So, that was pretty unusual.

46
47 Caribou. A lot of people did really good
48 on the (In Native) River. Chipp River wasn't so
49 successful. We were able to get at least 6, and we were
50 able to split that up amongst all the hunters and who

1 was with us out there. There's a lot of muskox on the
2 Chipp River. That's why there's not much tuttu out there,
3 but we saw at least 10 muskox. We saw a herd of caribou
4 that was just past Chipp 12 and a half, and they were
5 booking it like there was no tomorrow. I mean, as soon
6 as they saw the muskox, they just ran and ran. We tried
7 to cut them off in the river, but we were too late. And
8 by the time we reached up where they got up, they were
9 already a mile in full on sprint away from the muskox,
10 so. If we could try to get some more muskox tags up here
11 because we also depend on the tuttu as well too.
12

13 Fishing was pretty good. A few people
14 went fishing, and I know some of the ICAS guys that went
15 out towards Inaru River at Kuugruaq, over at Uvluksuk
16 and they did really well as well in this sharing the
17 abundance with the community during Thanksgiving and
18 Christmas. At wintertime, you know, there's at least 3
19 boats -- 3 new (In Native) that were put on for 3
20 different boats, 3 different crews. So, it's that time
21 of the year where we start getting our preparations for
22 the springtime hunt.
23

24 A few foxes here and there, you know,
25 on the outskirts of town, we haven't really seen any
26 foxes in town, just mainly on the outskirts of town, so
27 which is a good thing. But other than that, we -- me and
28 my nephews have been going out, and my cousin's been
29 going out seal hunting, and we've caught at least 15 of
30 them. Quite a few of them were the not so good ones, the
31 big males that don't smell very good, they smell like
32 gas when you take them out. So, we left quite a few of
33 those out there for the polar bears to eat. Went out for
34 a ride the other day towards the point, and we saw at
35 least 4 polar bears. There's one real -- couple of real
36 big males, real fat ones you could see in the distance.
37 They were able to get close to one of them, and he looked
38 like he got pretty mad at us for letting him run or
39 we're letting him run quite a bit, but we were able to
40 get up close to him and see how healthy they are, and
41 they're doing really good. Polar bears have been eating
42 well out at the Point they're nice and healthy. Haven't
43 seen any sick ones, no skinny ones, so polar bear
44 population is doing really good. Other than that, I don't
45 have much else to report. That concludes my report
46 for.....
47

48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Mr.
49 Adams. Very thorough report. And do -- I guess I have
50 one comment about the brown bear incident. I actually

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1 went out to go tow him back the last few miles, and he
2 told me as soon as he got back what happened, the bear
3 was sitting there. And you're right, it was it was the
4 winter when that happened and that was really unusual.
5 He was really lucky to be alive after that, but that was
6 a neat story. Go ahead, Carmen, you had a comment.

7
8 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair. This is
9 Carmen Daggett, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, for
10 the record. Thank you for all of your reports, everyone.
11 We really appreciate hearing what you have to say. And
12 this is definitely the most important part of this
13 meeting in my mind to really hear what's going on from
14 all of you and in your experience. So, I appreciate all
15 of your comments and I try to take very good notes. I -
16 - I'm going to start with you, Quincy, through the Chair,
17 if that's okay.

18
19 So, I had a couple of questions about
20 what -- so, you said that there were 13 wolves that were
21 caught. There's been several that have been sealed
22 through the Fish and Game office. But I would like to
23 continue to encourage people if they catch wolves or
24 wolverines or bears to have them sealed. It's important
25 that we document that harvest. And so, feel free to
26 contact me, even if you're in a surrounding community.
27 And I can work through putting things on airplanes and
28 mailing things if people need and whatever needs to
29 happen there. So, I'd like to encourage people to do
30 that. As far as the muskox permits go, after
31 conversations with my higher-up staff and within Fish
32 and Game, I've instructed the permitting department to
33 issue 2 more permits for this season. So, we're up to 5
34 permits coming through the TX-109 hunt, that's the state
35 hunt. And there might be some capacity even for me to
36 have a conversation with the federal side of things to
37 have a few more permits issued too, but I need to have
38 a few more conversations about that before that can
39 happen. Either way, that's within my jurisdiction to do.
40 You don't have to submit something formal to do that. I
41 just need to have some conversations with a few people
42 and see if that makes sense for the sustainable harvest
43 from this population. I won't get too far into the
44 results of the survey I did because it's in my report
45 so I'm going to talk about that more later but that will
46 be in further conversations. Again, thank you, Esther,
47 for your comments, always good to hear from you. And
48 we're keeping an eye on what's happening out there and
49 doing some continued research on fall migration in
50 particular and impacts to Anaktuvuk Pass there.

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2

3 I wanted to go all the way back to Member
4 Itta. I was curious to hear about the 5 sick caribou
5 that she mentioned. That's the first I've heard of it.
6 I'm not sure if it was reported in real time to anyone
7 at the Borough but I never heard about the sick caribou
8 there. And I would like to encourage hunters if they are
9 catching sick caribou, at least take pictures of what
10 you're seeing. And if you can, it's best if we actually
11 get those animals to come back to town. We'll pay for
12 shipping to get them back to Barrow and get them down
13 and looked at if we, you know, think I mean, 5 is a
14 notable number to have animals be sick. And this last
15 year we were not able to put out collars because of the
16 flood at Umiat so, we kind of missed this year on our
17 monitoring. So please, please, if you have a sick animal,
18 get it back to town. You don't have to butcher it or
19 anything just leave it whole, and we'll work with it.
20 And you can send it to the Borough or you can send it
21 to us, myself and we can work through that, it's your
22 choice there. I'd like to encourage the public to do
23 that, I don't know if the best way to do that is through
24 a Facebook post or a flyer or whatever, but I would like
25 to try to get more information out to the public about
26 how to do that, and I'm open to comments from people
27 about the best way to do that, to get hunters to -- or
28 to encourage hunters to do that.

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30 One more question for Martha, I heard
31 you say that there's lots of predators. Are you talking
32 about wolves, are you talking about brown bears,
33 wolverines? I'm curious which species in particular you
34 feel like you're seeing more of, or what your hunters
35 are saying? So, Member Itta, do you do you have anything
36 to say there?

37 MS. CHAPA: And Martha, your line might
38 be muted, so you might need to press star 6 to unmute
39 yourself.

41 MS. ITTA: Can you hear me now?

43 MS. CHAPA: Yes, we can.

45 MS. ITTA: Hello? Okay. Thank you,
46 Carmen, for your questions and for bringing that up. I
47 forgot to mention that in my report earlier. The reason
48 why the Board didn't get them is because we've been
49 we've been saying this for years and bringing samples
50 in and I think the community lost trust in the way things

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1 are getting done, the way they're being tested and the
2 results that we get. There's a lot of conflict and I
3 think we just lost, you know, trust in that process of
4 sending samples in. So now, you know, we just leave them
5 out there because that reason, because we know it's not
6 natural causes. You know, in the past they said natural
7 causes or we don't know when there's not enough studies,
8 not enough tests being done on why they're getting sick.
9 So, I think that was the issue. They didn't want to send
10 them in because just that lack of faith with the way the
11 system is. Not getting the right answers or, you know,
12 what have you, it's just a lot of conflict. I say that
13 because, you know, that that's going to halt their own
14 projects and their funding that they so highly depend
15 on oil and gas industry and you know, it has come to the
16 point where our leadership have to litigate for
17 protections, and we shouldn't even have to go that far
18 to litigate against the government to protect our own
19 land and our animals. That's really wrong, we shouldn't
20 have to go that far. Our Borough should be fighting for
21 our -- for us, for our way of life. That's their
22 responsibility but it's not being done and that's how
23 our community feels. So, they're just leaving them out
24 there now. And that's why you're not getting the samples
25 that that you need or you, you know, to go forward. But
26 I will encourage, I will talk to hunters and encourage
27 them. But I can't make them do anything with their catch.
28 And, you know thank you for bringing that up and thank
29 you.

30
31 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for that, Martha.
32 Just to follow up with the question about the types of
33 predators that you mentioned, which species have you
34 been observing more of?

35
36 MS. ITTA: The wolves and the wolverines,
37 basically. I know there's quite a bit of wolves and
38 wolverines I haven't seen any -- seen anybody caught any
39 yet, that I know of. So, the wolves and the wolverines.
40 I know there's the muskox also there was a herd of a
41 Muskox and they were coming right through town, so. Yeah.

42
43 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I have 2 more
44 things, and then I'll stop talking here.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Carmen.

47
48 MS. DAGGETT: So, I know that there was
49 at least 1 muskox that was harvested recently in Nuiqsut
50 this year, so I just wanted to put that on the record

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1 because I know that for sure. I had a hunter call and
2 report his harvest and this last week, actually, so. And
3 then we were talking about this brown bear being out and
4 how unusual that that was typically brown bears would
5 be in denning this time of year. Sometimes they can be
6 woken up if there's other sounds around that can wake
7 them up. And it's not uncommon. Certainly, in the
8 springtime, I've seen -- flown over brown bear dens and
9 seen tracks around the outside of the den. They get up
10 to go do their business and then go back to sleep too,
11 so it's not uncommon for them to get up and then go back
12 down too. So, just throwing that out there for the record
13 as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you
16 for your insight there and.....

17
18 (Simultaneous speech)

19
20 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to
21 make a comment on her last statement.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Go ahead.
24 Martha.

25
26 MS. ITTA: In my opinion, I think the
27 impacts that animals are facing are from the seismic
28 activities that are going on all around our area. There's
29 a lot of seismic activity, you know, disturbing of the
30 nuna all over, all around. So, I think that has a lot
31 to do with what's affecting our animals. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you
34 for your input. And if we're all wrapped up with council
35 members reports, we'll move on to the Chair's Report,
36 my report.

37
38 All right, so mine is pretty consistent
39 with Quincy's report. You know, we do a lot of the same
40 hunting in the same areas, and I can attest to the slim
41 caribou or the low -- lower numbers of caribou around
42 the Chipp River, or at least them just not being around
43 the area. Had to go pretty far south to see numbers and
44 actually, I think they're a different section of caribou
45 because their body size is a lot bigger where we go, to
46 the Valley of the Willows. And so those ones were there,
47 but once you get up towards about Fry Creek up to the
48 mouth of Chipp River it was a pretty low number year,
49 or at least ones that we saw that were on the river, and
50 we had to go to some pretty specific areas to be able

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1 to harvest caribou throughout the year. Fishing was
2 great, though the (In Native) we got we're, you know,
3 they had plenty of fish eggs to -- in them. And there
4 was a pretty high number of pink salmon this year, which
5 is, you know, typical over the last few years. Didn't
6 get many grayling but we weren't really going for
7 grayling. And muskox were definitely being seen and
8 still abundant. We've kind of localized where they're
9 being seen and where they're traveling through over the
10 last 10 years or so and there are more sightings in
11 multiple locations. You know, we used to see maybe 3 to
12 6 of them in one location, and that's all we would see.
13 But now, over the last few years, there were actually 3
14 different locations sighted within the same day, which
15 was the other year so that was in my other report, just
16 going for maybe the consistency of seeing them now. And
17 I do appreciate the, you know, trying to add more muskox
18 numbers to that, because there were times to where they
19 were just sitting next to the cabin and you know, they
20 were actually a disturbance to our sleep because they
21 were they were butting heads all night. And it's if you
22 haven't heard that, it's like people pounding nails
23 right next door to you and they're miles away, you can
24 hear them for miles. It's a -- they're a nuisance in
25 more than one way. They -- 1: they scare the caribou
26 away; 2: they actually attract wolves and wolverine.
27 They love to be around them. Every time I see a muskox
28 or a group of them within a mile or two, there's either
29 a pack of wolves or wolverine that are that are
30 surrounding them. And it just so happened we saw some
31 black wolves that were right next to where the muskox
32 was. So, they do try to follow them around and they also
33 bring bear. But it's more common that we're seeing the
34 muskox. Other than that, seal hunts were great this year.
35 My son got his first 1 over the last summer, so I was
36 really happy for that. We gave most of that away and
37 that one I was really proud of, you know, he's growing
38 up. He's helping us harvest the animals.

39
40 I didn't go out walrus hunting this
41 year, but they were abundant and around as long as the
42 ice was around. So, the walrus were seen and caught this
43 year. Other than no real notable bear sighting for me.
44 Sometimes I'll go to the Valley of the Willows and, you
45 know, 1 year there was 10 bear within 15 miles. But this
46 year, I actually I didn't see 1 bear, brown bear to be
47 specific. So, that that's just another non sighting that
48 I'm happy about. But -- and what am I missing? I know
49 I'm missing something. Goose were plentiful. Tons of
50 snow geese still and white-fronted. Thousands and

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1 thousands of eider ducks flying around. So, those
2 numbers are good. One thing I didn't see very much of
3 this year on the fish side, though, were the (In Native).
4 What are those, the candlefish? Yeah, or eulachons?
5 Yeah. Other than that, I think that's what I've got for
6 Chair's Report. Thank you. All right. Go ahead, Carmen.

7
8 MS. DAGGETT: Carmen Daggett for the
9 record, for the Fish and Game. I know that you are an
10 avid moose hunter and I didn't hear you say much about
11 moose, so I'm just curious how your year was for moose.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we had a good
14 year for moose. So, we ended up with a young bull. I
15 forgot the -- I don't think we measured it, but it was
16 it was definitely a younger bull. But it was the only
17 one we saw, though. And we were lucky enough that we
18 traveled about 6 miles up down river to go and get it
19 after we sighted it. But that was the only moose that
20 we saw, and we harvested that. But there were tons of
21 sign -- fresh sign, actually, because the river had risen
22 and went back down. There was tons of cow and calf tracks
23 that were there. So, that was -- we know they were fresh
24 because the river went up maybe 15ft and dropped about
25 15ft as we were there. So, the tracks that we saw were
26 fresh and they just got there probably the day before
27 we were. So, we did see a sign of cow and calf movement
28 on the river and it was fresh multiple. It was more
29 than, more than a couple of them, but we didn't see
30 them, but we weren't there long enough to find out after
31 the massive flooding event that occurred. We were just
32 happy to, to be alive, honestly. There was a riverbank
33 we were on a day before we went and got the moose. Had
34 we overnighted on that bank one day after we got there,
35 we would have died. The river went up about 15ft, actual
36 feet, I'm not sure what it was on the river gauge
37 movement, but -- so we put our fuel cans up about maybe
38 12ft above our boat on the bank, and the water went up
39 so high overnight that when we got back, we were driving
40 over where our boat or I mean, our fuel cache was and
41 that's actually where we had our tent, so. And our boats
42 would have been gone long before we would have woken up.
43 So, that was a real eye opener. Was -- definitely not
44 going to be staying on the lower portions of the river
45 anymore. But we were successful. I didn't get that one
46 though, so. But I was lucky enough to take some of it
47 home. So moose, I would say weren't really abundant, but
48 there was tons of sign [sic], yeah.

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1 What there was a lot of sign though, for
2 was wolf and wolverine. There -- there's a -- an area
3 between Fry Creek and the Valley of the Willows that
4 there's always a packed wolf trail on the side of the
5 river. And that was there this year as well. So, there's
6 really white wolf there, and we weren't lucky enough to
7 get that one. All right. Anything else for the Chair's
8 Report?
9

10 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead. Esther.
13

14 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the
15 report. I just wanted to comment and say something about
16 the muskox. I was a little girl, and my father-in-law
17 stated that the muskox do scare the caribou and that
18 he's wondering why we got muskox up in our area if
19 they're supposed to be down southwest north or southwest
20 in Alaska. I think they're going to be more muskox more
21 than we ever had. I think they send up 60 or so up our
22 way, back -- way back before I was born, I heard. But
23 my father-in-law and the other folks said, yeah, that
24 muskox scares the caribou away, they'll run. They won't
25 stay close, near them things. And to my mind, how -- why
26 in the world would somebody somewhere send all these
27 muskox to where they're not even supposed to be coming.
28 I mean, God, that's something that they did on their
29 own, I guess, back then but it's today now. And to me,
30 I feel like it's good food. I know it, I heard about it,
31 I haven't tried it, but there'll be a nuisance and
32 they'll always scare the caribou. And the caribou will
33 not be around them muskox, no way. Just want to throw
34 that in. I don't know why in the world somebody would
35 take some muskox from southeast -- southwest, excuse me.
36 And bring them all the way up north to our turf. I mean,
37 they always get away and do whatever they want. To do
38 experiment? I don't know. Thank you.
39

40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.
41 It looks like we have maybe some clarification or comment
42 from Carmen Daggett, go ahead.
43

44 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to Member
45 Hugo, this is Carmen Daggett, for the record. I just
46 wanted to explain a little bit of history about muskox
47 on the record. So, muskox were Native to Alaska for
48 many, many years prior to, I'm going to say, statehood
49 even. And they were hunted to extinction and Fish and
50 Game worked with many other entities to reintroduce

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1 muskox, particularly during time periods where perhaps
2 other animals such as caribou were not as abundant as
3 an alternative meat source. And so, they were
4 reintroduced to a couple different areas within Alaska.
5 Initially, they were brought into Nunivak Island and
6 Nelson Island. Those populations grew and then they took
7 animals from those populations and brought them to both
8 Cape Thompson and, I believe, Prudhoe Bay. To provide
9 people with options. So, they were reintroduced, but
10 they were here initially before they were hunted to
11 extinction. I believe around whaling sort of time period
12 if my history timeline serves me correctly. Yankee
13 whaling time. So, thank you, Mr. Chair and that's all
14 I've got on that front.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that
17 clarification, Carmen. And does that answer your
18 question or concern there, Esther?

19

20 MS. HUGO: (Indiscernible) to me,
21 personally, send them back. They don't belong up that
22 way. We got enough of what we need. I mean, they're
23 abundant now. No worries, no, they're not distinct --
24 what's that word where there's no more of them? Instinct.
25 Yes, I can't say it. But to me, I think they should be
26 sent back where they came from. I mean, we survived this
27 long. We didn't really have any of them muskox only 1
28 out of those years. I think a lot of our people catch
29 just 1 that I knew in my life. Maybe a couple more in
30 the new -- newer years. But I'd say send him back,
31 they're in the wrong turf.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you there,
34 Esther. All right with that being the end of the Chair's
35 Report, I would like to move that we take a break. Maybe
36 a 10-minute break? Yeah, yeah, let's take a 10-minute
37 break. We'll come back at 11:00, 11-minute break.

38

39 (Off record)

40

41 (On record)

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43 All right, we're at 11:05. We're a
44 little delinquent here, but we'll get back -- we'll get
45 back on track.

46

47 All right. Looks like we've got item 10,
48 Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items. This is
49 available each morning. Any public comment on non-agenda
50 items? So, anybody from the public is welcome as well

1 as tribal comments, non-again items. All right. Looks
2 like we've got one. Mr. Billy Adams from the Utqiaġvik,
3 Alaska. (Indiscernible). Go ahead, Mr. Adams.

4
5 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
6 Gisela Council Coordinator for the Office of Subsistence
7 Management. Good to hear. My name is Billy Adams, and I
8 am a hunter here from Utqiaġvik, Barrow. And it's good
9 to hear other folks around the North Slope about their
10 concerns. And their membership to this Department of
11 Interior's something that I'm grateful for because the
12 state doesn't recognize many of us who live in rural
13 Alaska and it makes a big difference to many of us. And
14 it's close to our hearts, or our traditional and cultural
15 lifestyle is been with us through generations, and
16 thousands and thousands of knowledge of years passed
17 down to many of us. And we're -- we've been blessed to
18 be part of the United States of America, that gives us
19 a voice, but we have to be vocal in our organization
20 here. And I'm glad you guys are doing this, this
21 generation. And we have -- we see Nuiqsut being in a
22 place where it's difficult to understand many of the
23 complicated issues that surround them with the industry
24 and their requirements, their rules, and many of those
25 things where they should be having access to their
26 animals for cultural uses. Those are the kind of things
27 -- I'm glad Martha voiced out, education, where it's
28 needed. I think -- I was just looking at some of the
29 responsibilities, and being a Council is working within
30 public lands, is that correct? And for example, we have
31 many Alaska Native organizations, such as the Alaska
32 Eskimo Whaling Commission, Eskimo Walrus Commission,
33 Alaska Nanook Co-management Council, the Ice Seal
34 Committee, and so on and so forth which are managed by
35 our different federal agencies that manage marine
36 mammals. Then we have the state agencies, just like the
37 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which manages
38 terrestrial animals and maybe some of the fish,
39 waterfowl, things like that. But it gets -- I think
40 Martha nailed it on the spot, when many of our rural
41 members are not up to speed as much as we are in this
42 room. And outreach plays a very important and vital
43 component of this and are having a community visits so,
44 those are -- I think community meetings are important
45 and but they're also things that we try to get into
46 those communities, very difficult because of many things
47 that surround them in their day-to-day things that they
48 go through. The months and the time of harvest is
49 important for them. School activities, just like the
50 state tournament is coming up and who's going to be in

1 town. And sometimes we get mixed up and we go to their
2 communities with us 2 people left, and you know, that's
3 not going to make a difference and they're not going to
4 hear your gospel, the good news. But, you know, I there's
5 so much to be talked about. And what -- sometimes a lot
6 of our communities have elders that don't understand
7 much English but it's getting better as generations go
8 by. Sometimes it's hard to understand our language but
9 I know there's elders who are out there still and want
10 to hear who is representing who, and a lot of times
11 people get mixed up and then they say the North Slope
12 Borough. And a lot of that education needs to be heard.
13

14 Who is funding which organization? I
15 think I was going through this book and in the very back
16 it was very helpful. But the map is so condensed. What
17 are public lands and what are these BLM lands and if
18 each community had a map that size and said, these are
19 public lands, who are the landowners and what their
20 responsibilities and what can happen and your purpose
21 to find out the issues that each community have and each
22 area, I think is something useful that can you know,
23 from the very beginning it can make a lot of sense to
24 do something. Maybe Quincy and Brower can go down that
25 map, but I know we have a lot of new things. Weather has
26 changed. Animal patterns have change on the North Slope
27 and around the Arctic. And we are very dependent on
28 caribou. Much of our communities, just like Anaktuvuk
29 Pass, have struggled with their issues with I think
30 guided hunts and a lot of different caribou herds and
31 their ranges and so on and so forth. And we went through
32 difficulty in the past about the population numbers of
33 declining occurred before, then rebounded because our
34 communities were proactive in doing things that they've
35 done in the past through generations. And now we hear
36 about the Western Arctic Herd has gone into decline from
37 almost a half a million animals to a couple hundred
38 thousand or something like that. And it's a concern right
39 now for (In Native), where Leonard is from. Point Lay,
40 and I was going through the membership and why they're
41 not a member from Point Lay is it excluded from the
42 America or it's a hard time filling that seat? I think
43 there should be in search of a knowledgeable person to
44 fill that seat because things are ramping up for the
45 caribou herd and we don't know what the future holds for
46 (In Native) and Kali and Wainwright. Who's the member
47 from Wainwright? Jenysa, yes, yes, okay.
48

49 I know the weather has been not
50 cooperating from, like, the Western Alaska. We seem to

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1 have more storms and more cancellations. And I know a
2 lot of the other hunting areas are just our relatives
3 and Kotzebue. We need to hear from them too about the
4 caribou or -- is that a whole -- it's a whole different
5 region of your subsistence management. And I think right
6 now, you know, we hear about folks in Kaktovik that, you
7 know, they like to go back to their tribal lands and
8 harvest animals, and it's been a real struggle for them.
9 And as well as Anaktuvuk Pass. We -- you know, the --
10 they shouldn't have difficulty in access to their
11 animals. And we've been very fortunate in Utqiaġvik to
12 be living on the coast and harvesting different types
13 of whales, different marine mammals. You know, we --
14 when we can't harvest much caribou, know we can go away
15 on the ice and harvest ringed seals and bearded seals
16 and that were very blessed to be living in that kind of
17 lifestyle. And you know, folks like Anaktuvuk Lake and
18 Atqasuk and they really heavily rely on caribou and fish,
19 some of those kind of things. But I think if we did our
20 part in finding ways to educate our communities about
21 who the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory
22 Council is, and what their responsibilities are, and who
23 is funding them, the Department of Interior. I think
24 many of our communities get mixed up with -- when there's
25 any kind of North Slope, it means North Slope Borough
26 to everybody. I think that's the big thing that, and we
27 hear about Fish and Game, and then they still say it's
28 something else. But, you know, it's a complicated world.
29 But I know we can work through this and simplify some
30 of the things to clear up the many questions everyone
31 has out there. And I'm very thankful for this body to
32 be here in Utqiaġvik and giving us an opportunity to
33 speak of what's in our minds. And I'm very thankful for
34 this little booklet. It answered 4000 questions that I
35 had this morning. I had 7 cups of your fine coffee. But
36 the issues that a lot of us faced was said by Martha
37 this morning, and she put her -- she hit the -- she hit
38 it on the spot. And I thank Martha for voicing out her
39 concerns and wish she was here in person as well as the
40 other members. But thank you for allowing me to speak.
41 And God's blessing, have a safe trip home and I hope to
42 come back to many of your future meetings. Quyanaq.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Billy.
45 Before I have Carmen comment, I just wanted to speak on
46 the complexities. You're right, it is very complex here
47 because the lands that we hunt on are actually federal
48 public lands, but yet we are filling out for ADF&G
49 numbers inside this public land, which makes you know,
50 how and why is it like that? But it's very complex

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1 because for one, we've got to fill out for the state
2 side, but yet it's within a federal public area, which
3 is confusing to a lot of folks. But that's just how it
4 is here within 26A, at least a portion of it a big
5 portion of it. So, you're right in, in the, in the matter
6 of sense, because if something were to go wrong, like
7 the commercial issues that we're having because some
8 areas that we're discussing are not only on a special
9 use area within state lands, but also a little bit
10 further to the west, it's within federal public, but
11 yet, still kind of managed by the state side as far as
12 the permitting process or the reporting and getting your
13 licenses and permits. So, it's -- we live in very
14 intricate network of management areas within the units.
15 So, 26A is probably, I would say one of the most complex
16 units in Alaska or anywhere else. But how to deal with
17 that and who to deal with is definitely difficult. And
18 it takes a lot of practice and even knowing where to
19 direct things. It's something that even I'm still
20 learning for some of the smaller particulars, especially
21 for muskox even caribou, because they require the RC-
22 907, but yet within federal. So, you know, it's a --
23 but, you know, outside of that, we have to deal with us
24 Fish and Wildlife for anything else protected. So, it's
25 just almost confusing. But, you know, we've dealt with
26 it long enough to where I think we're pretty used to it,
27 but it just doesn't make sense sometimes. At least the
28 way it's laid out in front of us. Maybe more education
29 on that for other groups and how that came to be might
30 be something to discuss later. But, you know, maybe on
31 a future meeting on why it's like that. And why one is
32 put forth for the management, but yet there's almost no
33 enforcement within this area and who is doing what for
34 the enforcement? It may give us a more clear path on how
35 we're going to direct our plans of action for language.
36 If we're going to be changing something, we need to know
37 you know who to direct it to. Otherwise, it's going to
38 get kicked back, and they're going to say sorry, wrong
39 folks, you need to go through the other guys, and we'll
40 have to start at ground zero, which is years, years,
41 years of meetings.

42

43 It's not a fast process. So, I guess
44 having that in detail lined out for especially newer
45 folks because we don't have a full Council right now.
46 So if we do at some point get folks -- I want to get
47 somebody from Point Lay and Kaktovik in here because
48 those are 2 areas that are going to be affected --
49 actually are being affected right now due to these newer
50 incoming changes for caribou and also what you were

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1 speaking on for Kaktovik will be getting folks access
2 to their own lands, and we don't even have a voice from
3 that community right now on this Council. So yeah, thank
4 you for your comments on that. And it really does make
5 a difference to have these discussions, especially with
6 the folks from those communities that we were not
7 guessing. Thank you. Do you have a follow up?

8
9 MR. ADAMS: Yeah, thank you. I just
10 remembered Martha talked about sick caribou and some of
11 the caribou that weren't fat and some predators, some
12 of those things. So, you know, I've seen a lot of things
13 happen and from my parents, lived here in a different
14 age, in a different time, where things were different,
15 but some of the things that were same about caribou not
16 being fat at times that appeared to be fat. He said,
17 sometimes we have -- a lot of times we have forest fires
18 in the Athabaskan country, in the Interior, create a lot
19 of smoke and from other places. When that smoke hits the
20 North Slope, the caribou become thin. All of the caribou
21 become thinner from all that smoke and not much, not
22 much fat during the time when they should be fat. And,
23 different times of the year, caribou are prone to become
24 ill, like right now, you know, a lot of the caribou
25 develop deficiencies from having access to their foods,
26 rain freezes up plays a big part in that. Different
27 cycles of their age and a lot of those things, you know,
28 they just become very weak and are not healthy and are
29 susceptible to infections. Some of the things that we've
30 seen for a long time. And it's nothing new to us to see
31 that in different times of the year. But as far as
32 predators, we hope that wolf and wolverine and grizzly
33 bear hunting can be a year-round activity to preserve
34 the caribou. I think that's something important to
35 think. And if there -- if people are so -- other groups
36 are so worried about caribou then they need to take care
37 of the predators. You know, we had a radio talk show
38 yesterday, and one of the young guys said, kill a
39 predator and save a caribou. But we know that the
40 environment plays a big part in some of the declines.
41 Earlier breakup makes a lot of fast water and some of
42 the high places, and they can't cross creeks that are
43 going so fast when they're newborn and when there's so
44 many predators like bears and wolves. Sometimes we
45 forget about the eagles take a lot of these other small
46 caribou and I know there's probably studies out there
47 that show some of that. But I know that we've heard from
48 other elders in different places that, you know, some
49 caribous are separated and -- because of different
50 things that happened very quickly during the melt up and

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1 the caribou kind of bunch up together and have a better
2 count. And I know that sometimes we have to change the
3 way we -- I mean, change the way research can be done.
4 And for example, the bowhead whale, we faced a moratorium
5 in the 70s because of poor science, poor research. And
6 who created better research? Our own people helped out
7 biologists and if they were going to do a good job, they
8 should move to a place like this. And we have great
9 names, just like Doctor Albert, who is still alive. We
10 had maybe the best bowhead whale scientist, researcher,
11 biologists to know the bowhead whale was Doctor George.
12 The late Doctor George helped out our whaling
13 communities and figured out the birth rate of the bowhead
14 whale. When the whale count first started was a couple
15 hundred. Then we know that was not right for our
16 communities, and with good science and indigenous
17 knowledge, the population is now to be somewhere around
18 20,000. And figuring out the growth rate of 600 babies
19 are being made. And that tells a lot a great story,
20 something that we can do for other, I think other animals
21 should, you know, should be looked at in a different
22 way. You know, something that's useful for everyone. I
23 think looking at indigenous knowledge. How can it be put
24 to use is something that we're struggle with a lot of
25 times. But there are good people and there are great
26 organizations that put it to use. And those are the
27 examples that I share with you. And now we have young
28 hunters and we have our regional tribal organization,
29 our Native Village of -- our Native village is utilizing
30 young folks to harvest animals for community members
31 that are less fortunate or have lost their hunter,
32 elders. They're providing Native foods for those
33 community members and we're thankful for our tribal
34 members here and they're opening pages opening new doors
35 to opportunities that are being looked at in a positive
36 way. I think this group can have many opportunities to
37 have a positive impact to other decision makers and other
38 entities. And thank you very much. I won't talk for one
39 whole year.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Billy.
42 Carmen, did you have anything?

43

44 MS. DAGGETT: Through the chair to Mr.
45 Adams, and a general reference. So, there's an app that
46 you can download on your phone from the Fish and game
47 website for maps and it will show you where you are on
48 the landscape in reference to land status and also hunt
49 areas. And I emailed a link to that app to Mr. Adams and
50 members of the wildlife department, but also, if anyone

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1 else is interested, I've got little postcards I can bring
2 after lunch that provides the link for that map as --
3 that app as well. And I can work on trying to get maps
4 to communities as well, maybe we can talk with the
5 planning department or I know there's a GIS department
6 with the Borough, too. Maybe we can talk about doing
7 something like that. And I also wanted to know that or
8 wanted to let you know that I heard your points about
9 land status and regulations and all those sorts of
10 things. It's a complicated conversation to understand
11 and then also to figure out how to answer those questions
12 in the best way. A lot of one-on-one conversations are
13 often necessary to try to answer those questions in the
14 context that those are required. But I think that we can
15 certainly try to work on something to pull some of that
16 information together in some sort of way, whether it's
17 a little topic at the next meeting, or maybe we can work
18 on a video or of some kind or something to try to figure
19 out the best way to explain that, because I know you're
20 not the only one who has all of those questions. And
21 it's fair to -- it is confusing. There's a lot to know.
22 So, thank you for that, Mr. Chair. And Mr. Adams as
23 well. Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. I look
26 forward to a presentation at some point in the future.
27 Alright we've got another blue card here. We've got
28 Frederick Brower from ICAS for Tribal Report. Go ahead,
29 Frederick.

30
31 MR BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Frederick Brower, Energy Transportation Manager for
33 Community of Arctic Slope representing our Natural
34 Resource Department. Thank you for the opportunity for
35 to give a briefing of our activities over the year for
36 Community of Arctic Slope. We do have a hunter-gatherer
37 program. That really kind of spoke a little bit to that
38 we do harvest various different animals throughout the
39 year, and then we provide them to the less fortunate,
40 to the disabled, distribute them to different community
41 meetings. And also, whatever's left over we provide to
42 the churches for the Christmas holidays and Thanksgiving
43 holiday feast. But through the year our hunter-gatherer
44 program harvested 19 male caribou from various different
45 locations, Chipp River down towards Peard Bay, Kotzebue
46 Sound area. During the fall fishing season, we roughly
47 caught about 450 to 500 white fish. Due to the location
48 of the fish nets near the mouth of the Inaru River, we
49 experienced a lot of (indiscernible) that we were
50 getting in our fish. And when we moved our nets further

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1 downriver a lot of that kind of went away. But we did
2 lose a lot of fish, even in the short time frames of te
3 nets that we did have in the water. The next day they
4 were just getting filled up and then that's when we
5 realized we were too close to the ocean and got further
6 inland and fixed that ordeal.

7
8 In the year we got 120 eider ducks, 200
9 geese, 50 to 60 grayling, again, all of which were
10 distributed to the community. We did get a brown bear
11 in mid-November that was near the ice fishing locations
12 between Foster Simmon's cabin and Inaru River. Though
13 it was kind of a little late for that brown bear that
14 we did see actively running around. I assume it just
15 happened to be from the -- all the fish smell on the
16 Inaru River that there around that area. And we ended
17 up getting that one because we were concerned for hunter
18 safety. We did happen to catch it in the early morning,
19 and a lot of times the hunters in the area were doing
20 nighttime net checking. So, we're concerned for their
21 safety, ended up harvesting that animal.

22
23 Didn't catch a lot of fish this year due
24 to late freeze-up and our ability to get out and do the
25 ice fishing. Lakes were -- a lot of snow cover this
26 year, and the lakes didn't freeze up as fast as we
27 normally do and got (indiscernible) out there a little
28 difficult this year. We did experience within the last
29 few months our freezer that we are renting from UIC
30 failed on the condenser and lost all of our game that
31 we had harvested over the fall. And we're working now
32 to replenish that. On that note of freezers, I cashed
33 in through a grant, purchased freezers for every tribe
34 in every community across the North Slope. We're working
35 on the installation of those, and it's going to be the
36 responsibility of each tribe to maintain those moving
37 forward. That way they can have the ability to properly
38 freeze their game in a timely manner to -- that way they
39 could use them throughout the year.

40
41 ICAS did partner with the North Slope
42 Borough Wildlife Department this past year, I believe
43 they did a meeting in Kotzebue and talking about
44 education to transporters and guides on hunter safety
45 permitting and we'll continue that partnership for
46 education. We do have a thermal siphon project that we
47 work with our local whaling captains here in Utqiagvik.
48 We did install one thermal siphon in at one ice cellar,
49 and the report back that we have on that is that it's
50 working. It's succeeding and freezing back the ground

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1 and in and around the area of the ice freezer -- or the
2 ice cellar. ICAS lost that money. We were going to work
3 towards getting a drill rig to assist with that project
4 but due to the federal D.O.G.E. process that we lost
5 that funding. And we're working on trying to identify
6 partnerships with some local organizations that can
7 assist us with either renting or purchasing a new drill
8 rig to continue that project for the community. As there
9 is a different taste in the fermentation process or
10 preservation process from freezer versus ice cellars.
11 So, we're working on really trying to establish that
12 program for the community. That way we can enhance the
13 flavor that we're typically used to eating with.

14
15 ICAS has a (indiscernible) academy that
16 they do -- do programs with students in regards to
17 hunting and safety. With that program, we got a school
18 in Wainwright and here in Utqiaġvik, and we're working
19 on getting one established across the whole North Slope.
20 And then with that, with their grants, they were able
21 to procure 4 new snow machines, 2 of which were just
22 delivered to Wainwright within the last few weeks, and
23 this is for their Cultural Education Hunter Safety
24 Program. And we've got 2 here for Utqiaġvik. And then
25 we're going to be procuring 2 more for Nuiqsut once that
26 academy program is established there. And that's pretty
27 much all I have in regards to activities in relation to
28 Iñupiat Community of the Arctic slope.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: How many snow
31 machines?

32
33 MR. BROWER: A total of 6. We got 2 for
34 point -- or no, 2 for Wainwright, 2 for Utqiaġvik and
35 then we're going to get 2 more for Nuiqsut once they get
36 their program up and going, total of 6.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for your
39 update. Any questions or comments for the ICAS report?

40
41 MR. BROWER: I do have one question in
42 regards to the affiliation or being part of this Advisory
43 Council. My supervisor, Doreen Leavitt, (indiscernible)
44 Leavitt has interest into serving on this Advisory
45 Council representing ICAS, I guess is your -- is that
46 is there a way to do that? I guess that's the question.
47 Or would she have to be an individual hunter, not part
48 of an organization?

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I believe that's
2 what it is, is not affiliated with and is a resident. Go
3 ahead, Gisela.

4
5 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
6 Chapa, for the record. And yes, typically RAC members
7 are representatives of the community. And they --
8 there's an eligibility criteria to serve on the RAC. And
9 I think it's just based on experience, education as far
10 as like experience -- first of all, a resident of the
11 area, experience with hunting and fishing and or
12 commercial uses. There's also a criteria for leadership
13 and communication. I'll have to get a little bit more
14 information from my supervisor, whether that is
15 something that would be an issue, but I have applications
16 that I can share with you. We are recruiting for
17 potential RAC members right now across all 10 Regional
18 Advisory Councils. And we're accepting applications
19 through the 2nd of April. And so, there's a little bit
20 of room to be sure to answer your questions and see if
21 that's something that your supervisor can do, so.

22
23 MR. BROWER: Thank you. I did grab the
24 packet that had the application and the criteria so we'll
25 talk amongst ourselves and go from there.

26
27 MS. CHAPA: And just to follow up, I will
28 try to get clarification as we're in the meeting and
29 trying to give you an answer hopefully by the end of
30 today.

31
32 MR. BROWER: Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Mr.
35 Brower. Very thorough report there.

36
37 MR. BROWER: You're welcome, have a good
38 day.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. I don't
41 see any other blue cards here. Did we have any other
42 comments? No, okay. So I guess maybe I'll just check
43 online 1 more time to see if there were any public and
44 tribal comments on non-agenda items and once again, this
45 is available each morning.

46
47 (No response)

48
49 Hearing none. I think we will move on
50 to item 11, Action Items. So, and that would be.....

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(Distortion)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Actually -- oh, go ahead, who's online?

MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, go ahead. Is that Martha?

MS. ITTA: This is -- yeah, Martha here. I'm getting ready to get on the plane if I don't know if you guys will have a quorum for the action items, but I will be there this afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so maybe we'll move to take lunch. Yeah, we'll take lunch. And we'll, I guess, see you in Barrow.

MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: I just wanted to point out that in our agenda, we do have an action item that is time certain for 1:15 p.m. And yeah, I guess after we come back from lunch perhaps, we might jump into that action item first.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so are we coming back at 1? All right. We'll come back at 1:00. And I guess we'll do the time certain around then. All right. We'll see you guys at one.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, everybody. We'll get back started here. And since we don't have a quorum currently, we'll get started with the National Park Service caribou monitoring, Kyle Joly and Matt Cameron. You have the floor.

MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can you hear me okay.

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, we can.

2

3 MR. JOLY: Great. For those of you who
4 don't know me, I'm Kyle Joly. I've been working in Alaska
5 for about 30 years, mostly on caribou, but I do a lot
6 of large mammal work. Not only in northern Alaska, but
7 across the state. I'd like to acknowledge Matt Cameron,
8 who's a teammate of mine, for helping me out on this.
9 And then Alex Hansen with Fish and Game, who's a key
10 collaborator. I'm going to be talking to you about Park
11 Service caribou monitoring from September 2024 to August
12 2025, which is our latest reporting period. Next slide
13 please.

14

15 So, before I get into that, I'm going
16 to tell you about some of the highlights of the Western
17 Arctic Caribou Working Group, which happened in
18 Anchorage in December. The big news was that the herd
19 has continued to decline. We're down to 121,000 caribou
20 down from a high of 490,000 caribou back in 20 -- 2003.
21 So, in the last 20 years we're down about 75%. In the
22 last few years, it's been about a 10% decline per year.
23 The working group decided to move the herd into the
24 critical management level. And they also had a few
25 resolutions, one of which is that they want to switch
26 from the 15 caribou harvest limit to 4 per year per
27 hunter. And keeping just the 1 cow in that 4 caribou bag
28 limit. They also would like to see no non-resident
29 permits in Game Management 23. Which is kind of to the
30 southwest of the North Slope, the Noatak and Kobuk River
31 drainages. And they also wanted to create a threshold
32 where no harvest is allowed. And that threshold would
33 be at 75,000 animals. Next slide please.

34

35 So, this is a population graph. The
36 black line is what we know the herd has done. So, it was
37 low about 75,000 animals in 1976. And then came charging
38 back up to 490,000 animals in 2003. And then it began
39 to decline. These large herds are known to oscillate or
40 go up and down in population size. And when it started
41 coming down, I had Alex Pritchard at ABR help me with a
42 model to forecast what the herd might do. And one of the
43 things that I had them do was look at different levels
44 of female harvest. And so, the red line and the
45 pinkish/magenta line, that's the same amount of harvest
46 but it's different levels of female take ones 20%, ones
47 40%. And the take home message here is that if you
48 harvest less females, you'd have more caribou on the
49 landscape. And if you go out to about today's dates,
50 we'd have about 70,000 more caribou. In the Western

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1 Arctic Herd. That asterisks is where we are today in the
2 population level. So, the modeling back, which was done
3 in 2009, was a little optimistic, unfortunately. Next
4 slide please.

5
6 So, besides the Western Arctic Herd,
7 many other herds are declining. So, the picture, the map
8 on the left is the Alaska herds. And then the picture
9 on the kind of the bottom right there in red is looking
10 down at the earth, at the North Pole, straight down. And
11 all the red dots are herds that are declining across the
12 Arctic, and green ones are ones that are increasing. So
13 just in Alaska, the Mulchatna Herd down in Southwest,
14 up there down 90%. They dropped from 200,000 to about
15 12,000. I already mentioned that the Western Arctic
16 Herds down about 75%. The Fortymile and Eastcentral
17 Alaska, that one's down about 65%. They were up at over
18 80,000. They're down about 26,000. The Nelchina Caribou
19 Herd just kind of northeast of Anchorage area, they're
20 down from 35,000 to 14,000. So that's a 60% decline.
21 Fish and Game came up with some new numbers this summer
22 for the Porcupine Herd, and so they've declined by about
23 30% or a little bit more from 218,000 in 2017 to 143,000
24 last summer. And also, the Central Arctic Herd is
25 experienced a decline of about a quarter from 35,000 in
26 2022 to 27,000 animals last summer. The Teshekpuk Herd
27 unfortunately wasn't able to get census due to some
28 logistical factors. Next slide please.

29
30 So, looking back at the Western Arctic
31 Herd. This is the fall movements last fall of where the
32 animals were going. There's four big groups. The
33 smallest group actually was this middle group that is
34 kind of the more traditional route through Noatak and
35 Kobuk Valley National Parks through Onion Portage across
36 the Kobuk. So that was a kind of a traditional route,
37 but not many animals took it. We did have some animals
38 head off from the (indiscernible) area towards Anaktuvuk
39 Pass, but they kind of stalled out and never quite made
40 it to Anaktuvuk. There's the bunch that kind of hang
41 out, right by Wainwright. And they're still up there.
42 There's a lot of animals in that area. But the biggest
43 group of animals was actually way over on the West Coast.
44 About half those animals ended up staying north of
45 Kivalina. And then about half of them continued on, and
46 they're kind of in the Noorvik-Selawik area right now.
47 Next slide please.

48
49 So, this is looking at where the caribou
50 -- the Western Arctic Caribou spent a lot of their time.

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1 So, the orange areas are high use areas, and the darker
2 orange are the very high use areas. And so, it's a biased
3 a little bit towards winter use. And so, the area of the
4 Selawik Hills, the northern Nulato Hills, the Purcell
5 Mountains, that's where the greatest concentration of
6 use was but there was a lot along the Kobuk River and
7 on the eastern -- or, excuse me, western side of 26A.
8 For the 7th year in a row, none of the animals made it
9 out onto the Seward Peninsula. Which is a big change in
10 winter range because about 10 years ago, we had about
11 75% of the animals wintering out on the Seward Peninsula.
12 Next slide please.

13
14 So, this is a map of where the animals
15 crossed the Noatak River on their fall migration. And
16 so, it was pretty unusual. You can see the lower graph
17 is what the average is. And so, you usually have, you
18 know, 10-12% coming down the West Coast. And then the
19 rest of them, the majority of them are kind of coming
20 through the central part of the Noatak River. But -- and
21 this year we had 36% come through the Cutler area kind
22 of the grand canyon of the Noatak River. And that was
23 more than double that we've seen in any year of
24 monitoring with the GPS collars, which began in 2009.
25 So, we had 93% of the animal's kind of come through this
26 central area. So, it was a very focused migration. Next
27 slide please.

28
29 So, this is a slide depicting what
30 percent of animals cross the Kobuk River during their
31 fall migration. So, we always have animals that stay up
32 north, like this year there's a bunch by Wainwright. And
33 so, in the early years of monitoring you can see about
34 82% of the animals cross the Kobuk River. And we felt
35 that it was pretty normal. And then something changed
36 around 2016. And since that time, we've only had about
37 46% of our animals migrate across the Kobuk River during
38 fall. It was unusual. This is -- we had in 2024, 74% of
39 the animals crossed the river, and this is the first
40 time in about a decade that we had two consecutive years
41 of over 70% of the animals migrating across the Kobuk,
42 so that was good for a lot of villages further south in
43 the range of the Western Arctic Herd. Next slide please.

44
45 So now we're looking at the timing. So,
46 before we're looking at how many cross, now we're looking
47 at the timing of how many cross or timing of when they
48 cross the Kobuk River. And in the early years of
49 monitoring 2010 to 2016, the average date that the
50 animals crossed were was October 6th. In more recent

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1 years, 2017 on that date has been October 27th. So,
2 three weeks later the fall migration is coming. And it
3 was October 29th in 2024. That's the 4th latest crossing
4 of the Kobuk despite, you know, a good number, 74% of
5 the animals crossing. So, we're seeing and documenting
6 later migrations for the Western Arctic Herd. Next slide
7 please.

8
9 So, this is that same slide, but I've
10 added red bars. The red bars are when the first animal
11 crosses the Kobuk River. And you can see that in the
12 early years, 2010-2011, we had animals crossing the
13 Kobuk River in August the average in the early years,
14 2010 to 2017 was September 8th. And in more recent years
15 so 2018 on, it's a month later that the first animal
16 crossing the Kobuk River is not coming across until
17 October 8th. And it's been as late as November 2nd in
18 2020 and in 2024, the latest data that we have the
19 crossing was October 23rd, which is the second latest
20 first crossing of the Kobuk River. Next slide please.

21
22 So, the reason that the timing in
23 particular is important is because in decades before and
24 for decades that people hunted caribou as they were
25 swimming across rivers and they were hunting big fat
26 bulls. With this delayed migration coming a month later.
27 Now the bulls are in the rut when they're arriving, and
28 they've switched their efforts to cows. And not only are
29 cows are the reproductive engine of the herd to try and
30 rebuild the herd. But cows are also a lot smaller. And
31 so, you need to harvest more cows to get the same amount
32 of meat than you would for a bull. And so, it's a very
33 difficult conundrum that the RACs are going to be facing
34 about how to try and conserve the herd while still
35 allowing people to harvest. Next slide please.

36
37 So, this is when the animals are
38 crossing the Selawik River from their winter range
39 during their spring migration heading north to the
40 calving grounds, we really don't see a trend here. There
41 was a couple late years in 2012, 2013. Those were deep,
42 wet snow years made travel very difficult for the
43 caribou. But in general, the caribou really have a strong
44 urge to get to the calving grounds, and we're not really
45 seeing much of a trend in times -- in terms of changing
46 times that they are moving north. And in 2025, it was
47 May 6th, was the average crossing of the Selawik River,
48 which was right on the average that we've seen across
49 the last 15 years of monitoring. Next and last slide,
50 please.

1

2

3 So, this is a picture from a caribou
4 collar. So, we have GPS collars on all of our animals,
5 but we added to a bunch of them camera collars. And so,
6 they take pictures and videos. And what we're hoping to
7 do with this is to learn what the animals are eating
8 during the summer. We have a good idea what they're
9 eating during the winter, which is lichens. Can be 70-
10 90% of their diet is lichens. But in the summer, we've
11 never done a study trying to figure out what they're
12 eating. And so, we're going to use these camera collars
13 to identify what they're eating. And we had trained
14 botanists complete those determinations. And we hope to
15 have some results for you, probably in about a year. And
16 with that, I'll be happy to take any questions.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Kyle.
This is Brower, the Chair. I'd just like to thank you
for the presentation, but I do have some questions on
that. Currently, what is the percentage, or do you know
the percentage of the caribou herd -- the Western Arctic
Caribou Herd that is currently near Wainwright? Yeah.
And Point Lay, around the area.

MR. JOLY: Yeah. I'm going to pull up a
map real quick and just do a quick count. Hang on. Give
me a second. I would say between 20 and 25% of the
collars are up there. So quite a lot.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. And -- let's
see what was the other one? So -- and I did see no non-
resident. I didn't look at the other actions yet. But
the nonresident in 23, has that been addressed and added
to 26 for those three locations as well, or just 23?

MR. JOLY: So, the request was
specifically for 23 because Fish and Game opened up to
300 permit hunt in that area. And so, the request was
to limit it to zero, even though they could go up to
300. 26, as far as I know, doesn't have a limit in terms
of permitting on the state side but maybe Carmen has
different information.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Carmen.

MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair. Carmen
Daggett for the record. So, there's certainly a non-
resident harvest available for caribou in 26A. It's one
bull. And the season is July 15th through September 30th.
So, if a non-resident came up to hunt, they would be

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1 eligible to get one bull. And there's no quota within
2 26A currently like there is in unit 23. On the number
3 of bulls that could be taken in 26A. Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Yeah. Go
6 ahead. All right, we've got director of wildlife
7 management. Nicole.

8

9 MS. WOJCIECHOWSKI: Thank you for the
10 presentation. I'm Nicole Wojciechowski for the record,
11 Director of the North Slope Borough Department of
12 Wildlife Management. I had three questions. I just
13 wanted to confirm that there is a resolution being
14 proposed to the Board of Game by the Western Arctic
15 Caribou Herd on the non-resident -- on the elimination
16 of the non-resident hunt in Unit 23. And this goes along
17 with Brower's question of did the Western Arctic Caribou
18 Herd discuss Unit 26? Because that's in your
19 presentation, I just want to confirm that that was
20 proposed. The next question is the general harvest rates
21 in the Kotzebue and Nome region. We went to the community
22 of Wainwright, and that was a question they had. Was we
23 kind of know and monitor our harvest rates internally
24 here at the North Slope Borough. But are there general
25 knowledge -- is there general knowledge about the
26 harvest rates in those region? Because they constitute
27 a portion of this, the range of this herd. And then I
28 had another, the third question is the public hearing
29 on April 9th, will it be teleconference only or is there
30 plans to go to the community hubs? Thank you.

31

32 MR. JOLY: Thank you. For the record,
33 this is Kyle Joly through the Chair to Nicole. Thank you
34 for your questions. So, my understanding is that the
35 Western Arctic Caribou Working Group will submit a
36 resolution to the Board of Game, a request to have that
37 be a zero harvest out of up to 300. So that is my
38 understanding. They did make that request. The, the
39 current regulation is that the Department of Fish and
40 Game gets to make that number from 0 to 300. And so, I'm
41 not sure if that resolution will go directly to the
42 Board of Game or directly to Fish and Game, and then the
43 Fish and Game will have to discuss it with the Board of
44 Game. But that is the recommendation that they made. And
45 so, they will move that forward.

46

47 As for the rates of harvest in the
48 Kotzebue and Nome area unfortunately, I think they are
49 not as far as head as the North Slope Borough. And you
50 all are with tracking harvests. And so right now, we

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1 don't have very good estimates on what harvest is. There
2 is a registration hunt, but Alex Hanson with the
3 Department of Fish and Game has estimated that probably
4 only about 10% of people are using that at the time. And
5 so that has been and continues to be a spot where we
6 feel like improved data collection would be really
7 helpful for us managers. So, yeah, unfortunately, we
8 just don't have good estimates at that time. And as for
9 the April 9th meeting, I would defer to someone at OSM
10 about how that meeting is going to be handled and whether
11 or not they're going to be able to get out to villages.
12

13 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON BROWER: Gisela.

16
17 MS. CHAPA: And this is Gisela Chapa with
18 OSM. I believe the April 9th meeting is only going to
19 be available through teleconference and Teams. There
20 will be no visits to the communities. I will add, though,
21 that there will also be other opportunities for
22 engagement. I believe that the -- in addition to the
23 public hearing tribes or ANCSA corporations can request
24 directly to OSM government to government consultation.
25 And then the Federal Subsistence Board is scheduled to
26 meet and discuss this item in June -- on June 3rd. Excuse
27 me, June 3rd also via teleconference. And I also believe
28 that there will allow for additional public comment at
29 that time.
30

31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, we've got
32 somebody with their hand raised online. Thomas. Thomas
33 Plank.
34

35 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
36 record, Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist Office of
37 Subsistence Management. And to add to that, we're also
38 going to be bringing this Special Action up for each of
39 the Councils, including North Slope, Western Interior,
40 Northwest Arctic, as well as the Seward Pen. So, like
41 26-01 is currently on your agenda for today when you
42 have quorum.
43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
45 Any other questions? Oh, I had one. I did not see
46 anything on it. So, it says change the four with one
47 cow. But is that per person or per household? Just for
48 clarification.
49

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1 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So that
2 is what Tom referred to as 26-01. So, Wildlife Special
3 Action 26-01. And it would be four caribou. Only one
4 could be a cow per person.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
7 Does anybody else have any questions? Comments? Billy
8 Adams.

9
10 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Esther. Go ahead. Do
13 you have the floor?

14
15 MS. HUGO: Thank you. Thank you for the
16 report, Kyle. My question is, we've got about 500,
17 (distortion) maybe 1000 east of us in the valley. Are
18 those with collars, or do they include in with all that
19 caribou you see near Wainwright or Point Lay or around
20 that area? Right now, they're around. And you know, young
21 folks that go out when we ask him how much caribou they
22 seeing. And they give us an estimate. Now this is in our
23 area. You do monitoring too, or you -- with the collard
24 or...? I think you're missing some care within the
25 collard in there, within the valleys or the foothills
26 up here.

27
28 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Esther, it's great
29 to hear your voice and always great to hear your
30 observations. This is Kyle Joly through the Chair. Yeah.
31 Esther, we don't have any Western Arctic Herd collars
32 that are currently really close to Anaktuvuk Pass. We
33 have some comments to the north, northwest probably 50,
34 60 miles north. But there are two other herds that do
35 get in there and get in there more often than the Western
36 Arctic Herd. And so, there's Teshekpuk and Central
37 Arctic Herds. And so, the animals that you're seeing
38 could be from one of those two herds. They also could
39 be from the Western Arctic herd, and they're just not
40 collared. But the closest Western Arctic collared
41 animals that we have are to the north northwest of the
42 village.

43
44 MS. HUGO: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Carmen.
47 You had some additional information.

48
49 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to Member
50 Hugo. Carmen Daggett, for the record. So, there are

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1 several Teshekpuk Caribou Herd collars that are just to
2 the north of Anaktuvuk Pass. And if you and I and
3 there's definitely been a few that have migrated down
4 past Anaktuvuk Pass this winter as well. But a certain
5 percentage of the herd is definitely in that area. And
6 Jordan Pruzzenski is online and she could speak more to
7 the locations of the Central Arctic Herd. She's far more
8 expert in that department. But also, while I'm on the
9 mic, there was -- Kyle mentioned a Unit 23 quota up to
10 300. Currently, that jurisdiction is in Alex Hanson's
11 discretion and that was that -- guidance was given to
12 him through the Board of Game. And so there would be
13 some further actions by the Board of Game to completely
14 close that. That would have to go through the Board of
15 Game along with any other changes that we would want to
16 have occur in 26A. I'm going to stop there and not get
17 into the weeds here.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And that's for the
20 just the remainder portion, the three village or is that
21 26A as a whole?

22

23 MS. DAGGETT: The WSA26-01 that you guys
24 are looking at. That is for the western part --
25 southwestern portion of 26A and that is what's currently
26 in front of you guys. If you wanted to further the
27 discussion, you could suggest further changes to the
28 Board of Game as well. For what you would like to see
29 happening in the entirety of 26A, you have some
30 flexibility in what you can give in your comments and
31 your amendments in each of those instances. But in this
32 particular proposal, it's southwest 26A and 23.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Yeah. No, I
35 just didn't know what the -- I know we had some
36 terminology changes over the last few years. I didn't
37 know if it was being referred to as 26A remainder, or
38 if it was just -- okay, the southwestern. Okay. Thank
39 you. Any other questions, comments, concerns for the
40 presentation? Billy, did you have something? Billy
41 Adams.

42

43 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Billy Adams. I work for the North Slope Borough Wildlife
45 Department. I am a hunter here and with Utqiaġvik. And
46 thank you for your presentation. And I was asking if
47 that presentation can be shared and or emailed to us.
48 Had a lot of good content in there. You know I like to
49 be prepared whenever I'm going hunting and what I'm going
50 to go on for, and it takes time to prepare things in

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1 your mind and how to vision something important. And
2 when we hear about the numbers getting really low and
3 at a point where the numbers have to be put out into the
4 communities and like, Point Hope and Point Lay,
5 Wainwright and I heard about your consultation going to
6 be in June, and I think we need a lot of information to
7 be shared between now and then of what can happen when
8 the numbers get really low in the population and who is
9 going to be the enforcement officers in many of the
10 range of the herd. You know, it's something -- if there's
11 infractions and things of that nature have to be shared
12 in those communities. And you know, we do what we can
13 on the North Slope and we're very fortunate to share all
14 of what we learned from any of the meetings because we
15 care about our future hunters, our current hunters, our
16 elders. All of those things mean a lot. And I know people
17 have to know what can happen to them if -- when we don't
18 prepare for things you know. We do know that, you know,
19 we expect for the worst when we go on hunt. But we're
20 lucky sometimes. But we know it's not luck. We know
21 someone is taking care of us. And I just wanted to put
22 that out there. Who's going to be consulting? Is there
23 going to be any village visit us from this group or from
24 the National Park Service? I think there's a lot of
25 information to be shared. And we're just a small group
26 of people right now listening on this, and I learned a
27 lot from his presentation. Thank you.

28
29 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Adams. I really
30 appreciate your concern. And really appreciate you
31 trying to get word out. I, you know, I hope everyone on
32 the call is trying to reach additional people to get
33 them the latest information about the herd and some of
34 its challenges. So yes, you're more than welcome to have
35 my presentation and share it with whom you will. I think
36 Gisela can send that around to you. If not, you can
37 reach me. My name -- my email is just my name. Kyle, k-
38 y-l-e underscore Joly, j-o-l-y at nps.gov. So that
39 stands for National Park Service government. So,
40 kyle_jolly@nps.gov, or you can get it from Gisela or
41 anyone at OSM. So please do that. And I just also wanted
42 to note that for people who don't have access to the
43 chat in this call, Jordan has mentioned that the Central
44 Arctic animals are not really in the Anaktuvuk area right
45 now, so it's probably Teshekpuk animals that that you're
46 seeing, Member Hugo. Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That answers all
49 your questions there, Esther?
50

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1 MS. HUGO: Yes, it did all kind of. Thank
2 you.

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4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Thank you. Any
5 other questions for Kyle's herd update before we move
6 on to the WSA26-01?

7
8 (No response)

9
10 None in the room. Hearing none. You have
11 the floor there, Tom. Again.

12
13 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again,
14 for the record. Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist or Office
15 of Subsistence Management. And so, this is temporary
16 Wildlife Special Action WSA26-01. And as Kyle pointed
17 out, it was submitted by the Western Arctic Caribou
18 Working Group and it is requested to reduce the caribou
19 harvest limits in Units 22, 23 and southwest portion of
20 26A to four caribou per year, only one of which may be
21 a cow. And I think Gisela has a map that she's going to
22 put up for all y'all to be able to see on that. So, the
23 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group at its annual
24 meeting assigned to management level to critical
25 declining for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd based on
26 the current census and the adult cow survival rate. And
27 then the working group identifies an immediate need to
28 address the current heard decline by limiting the
29 harvest of both bulls and cows to allow the herd
30 population to stabilize and begin to recover. And then
31 in July 2025 photo census, as Kyle already went over,
32 is 121,000 caribou. And that basically represents
33 approximately 20% decline since the 2023 numbers. And
34 I'm going to repeat a little information just so
35 everybody has it. This is per person. And there will be
36 a public hearing on April 9th. And that will be via
37 Teams and telephone. But we're also bringing this to all
38 of the Councils that are affected by these and have a
39 customary and traditional determination on it. And in
40 addition, as also was stated, any tribes or corporations
41 who want a government-to-government consultation feel
42 free to reach out and contact Orville. Orville Lind with
43 OSM, and he can get you all set up. And we can -- and
44 that way you can get your voices heard. And if you have
45 any other questions, feel free to ask. Thank you, Mr.
46 Chair and Members of the Council.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Looks
49 like this is an action item. And just to clarify, this
50 is page 15 if you're not on this. Page 15 in the booklet,

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1 and I would suggest we take at least a couple minutes
2 to go through this as this is probably the biggest item
3 I would say for this meeting.

4

5 MR. BARGER: Chair.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

8

9 MR. BARGER: Just wanted let you know we
10 have quorum now since Martha's here now. So, I just want
11 to let you know.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep. And Esther.
14 Yep. She's still online. So, we do have a quorum. But I
15 just want to make sure we're all on the same page and
16 that we're -- everything that was discussed here over
17 the last 30 minutes all pertains to this action. And
18 what we want to put forward, any modification, no action
19 or -- but to me though, I think for the sake of the
20 discussion, I think we need to put a little more language
21 in here that will not just be a change for the residents
22 of this location and that something along the lines of
23 either commercial operations need to be either removed
24 or changed to where there are limitations for those that
25 are flying in these areas and taking the Western Arctic
26 Caribou. So, I think we need to come up with something,
27 you know, per my recommendation, really is that we need
28 to change more than just the residents of these
29 communities. It -- they're supposed to be subsistence
30 priority here. There -- you know, that's definitely
31 something that is supposed to be taking place and just
32 going direct to the residents of these communities and
33 lessening the numbers for the second time in a row.
34 Beings, we accepted this and changed this -- into this,
35 at least in 26A to where these three communities' numbers
36 are affected once already, and now they're going in to
37 be changed again. I think we need to add something to
38 the effect that subsistence priority should be met.
39 We're changing the subsistence hunters' numbers for the
40 second time in a row, and I've seen nothing of changes
41 for any fly-in hunters. Any do it yourself hunters or
42 non-residents. There needs to be more change implemented
43 that follows the federal laws that were put forth in
44 front of us for subsistence priority that is not being
45 met at all. So, I would highly suggest that we put
46 something in the language there. And, you know, it
47 shouldn't just be coming from us because it seems like
48 the managers are not addressing that and they're not
49 following through with their own laws. So, I'm all for
50 you know, changing things, but it sounds like other

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1 individuals, maybe commercially related are pushing for
2 what is that, the 300 number? I don't think that's a
3 good idea. And I think that is going completely against
4 subsistence priority especially for non-residents there
5 to be getting numbers in a location that we're lessening
6 the residence numbers for the hunts. Just to keep that
7 in mind, I think we need to follow our subsistence
8 priority as we're the ones that live here. So, all right.
9 You have page 15 here with the regulations and we are
10 to do really as we please with what we want to put in
11 for the language and our suggestions.

12

13 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Martha.

16

17 MS. ITTA: Martha Itta, for the record.
18 I had a question for our conversation and our
19 teleconference the other day, and what you just
20 mentioned. Is there -- do we have to act on this today,
21 or is this something that we can bring forth to the next
22 meeting with the wording into the document before we
23 make any decisions? Because it is really important that,
24 you know, we put the right wording in this so that
25 everybody, not only the North Slope Council and the
26 public knows, you know, like the outsiders and the non-
27 residents know, you know what we're doing.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Gisela.

30

31 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair and I
32 might ask for a little a little bit more detail from OSM
33 about special actions. So, my understanding is that
34 because this is a special action, it's an action
35 requested outside of the regulatory cycle. And the
36 turnaround for that, for the Councils to provide
37 recommendations to the Board is shortened. So, this
38 would be the opportunity for our Council to develop
39 recommendations and share it to the Board. So the Council
40 can choose to perhaps table the discussion for today and
41 resume the discussion tomorrow before the meeting
42 adjourns, to actually develop the recommendations to
43 share with the Board. And I think that from what I heard
44 in the discussion that Brower shared, you -- yes, there
45 are absolutely -- the Council can absolutely provide a
46 modification to the special action that was submitted
47 by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group so that
48 people in your communities can perhaps harvest what they
49 need. But yeah, it's a complicated discussion, I
50 understand. And perhaps if the Council wishes, you can

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1 table the discussion until tomorrow.

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MS. ITTA: I had one last question.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Martha.

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8 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair. We've been voicing
9 our concerns about sports hunting and guide hunting, and
10 that's a really big issue that we're having with, you
11 know, one of the problems of declining of caribou. Can
12 we -- can't we just remove the non-sports, like the
13 sports hunters from being able to hunt until the numbers
14 come up again? Thank you.

14

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, whatever we want
17 to put inside the modification we, you know, we can do
18 that and they'll go forward with. Well, go ahead Gisela.

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MS. ITTA: Thank you, Gisela. Where I'm
44 -- you know what I'm trying to -- I think it's important
45 that we -- I don't know if it's ever been done before
46 where we don't allow non-residents and sports hunters
47 not be able to hunt until our numbers are up. I just
48 wanted to see if that's possible before we even try to
49 lower our numbers to our subsistence hunters and see if
50 that will make a change at all. You know, just not
allowing them to hunt and just only to subsistence
hunters. So, thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Brian. Brian
Pearson, go ahead.

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MR. PEARSON: Good afternoon. My name is
Brian Pearson. I'm a Wildlife Biologist for the North
Slope Borough, for the record. I guess I wanted -- I'm
not trying to convolute the subject at all, but I wanted

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1 to address something that Martha asked me the other day
2 when we were having a teleconference this past Friday
3 regarding you know, allowing a designated hunter to
4 harvest for an elder or widow or something along those
5 lines. And I've gone through the -- I'm sure there's a
6 fatter book like this of the federal regulations, but
7 all I can find on designated hunters is that it you
8 know, you can -- if you are federally qualified
9 subsistence user, the recipient, you may designate
10 another federally qualified subsistence user to take
11 deer, moose and caribou in Units 1 through 4 -- oh,
12 okay. I may have answered it. So yes, you can in 26.
13

14 MS. CHAPA: Yes. And I actually brought
15 more informational flyers specifically on designated
16 federal hunters permits. And I will share that with you.
17 And I see Brent is kind of walking up to the mic. I'm
18 not super familiar with the process, but perhaps you can
19 answer more questions about that.
20

21 MR. PEARSON: Okay. And I originally
22 misread it when I read it in the middle of the night.
23 So, yes. Yeah. I never sleep.
24

25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Tom. You
26 have your hand raised.
27

28 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
29 record Tom Plank, OSM. So, I just want to, you know,
30 kind of help the Council out. A little bit of
31 clarification looking at that map that Gisela has up
32 there. So this Special Action that's on your plate right
33 now is for the federal regulation. And so, you know,
34 this particular special action is for the number of
35 caribou that could be taken. Right now, you're at 15,
36 no more than one a cow. And this is asking to drop it
37 down to 4, no more than one is a cow. Now, if you're
38 wanting to close areas like Gisela said, you'd want to
39 put in a special action to close a non-federally
40 qualified user. Remember, through the federal system,
41 that would only apply to the areas of the map that are
42 federal lands. It will not apply to these other areas
43 that are in white on that map. So if you're wanting to
44 close those areas, unfortunately this is where we run
45 into that -- I know it gets confusing sometimes, but
46 this word of dual management comes in. The state would
47 be the managers of those areas. So you'd have to put in
48 something through them, which I know the Board of Game,
49 if I remember right, they don't meet until 2027, I think.
50 Carmen could probably clarify that kind of speak off the

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1 top of my head on the date on that. But that's something
2 you want to keep in mind is if you're wanting to close
3 the entire area, you'll also have to consider something
4 that you put into the state as well. But through us, we
5 would concentrate on the federal managed land. So, I
6 hope that helps clear up some of the issues on that. But
7 I'm online if you have any other questions or need
8 clarification.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
11 I think that answered a lot of my questions. Gisela.

12

13 MS. CHAPA: I also wanted to share with
14 the Council that at this meeting, later in our agenda,
15 we also have the opportunity to develop proposals for
16 Board of Game, because the call for proposals is open.
17 If it's something that the Council would like to consider
18 as well.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so I guess
21 we'll shorten this up now to are we accepting the numbers
22 or do we have a change in the numbers that we would
23 like?

24

25 MS. ITTA: Oh, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Martha.

28

29 MS. ITTA: I have one last question in
30 regards to the numbers. Are we -- when hunters catch
31 sick caribou, are we including that in the number of
32 like limits that we can catch? Is my question. Thank
33 you.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Carmen? Brian?
36 Which one? Oh, go ahead, Carmen.

37

38 MS. DAGGETT: That is a great question.
39 And I think from my understanding, I want to double
40 check before I say anything. But I think from my
41 understanding that it would be included. But I want to
42 double check. Okay.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Gisela.

45

46 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I
47 just wanted to recap, just based on the discussion that
48 I just heard. On the table right now is Wildlife Special
49 Action 26-01, which reduces the harvest limit of caribou
50 in Unit 26A southwest, Unit 23, and Unit 22 from 15

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1 caribou, 1 of which can be a cow, to 4 caribou, 1 of
2 which can be a cow. Now, on the Wildlife Special Action
3 request, 26-01 the Council can make -- will have to make
4 a recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board and
5 it can be a recommendation with a modification if needed.
6 But also to Council Member Itta's point, that if you
7 want to -- if the Council wants to close 26A southwest
8 to the harvest of caribou by non-federally qualified
9 users, that would be a special action request. And I
10 believe that the Council can make that request through
11 a motion and a vote. And then you also have to develop
12 your justification for it so that I think OSM then
13 submits or reviews the request to validate it and also
14 have the Federal Subsistence Board consider that. So I
15 just want to clarify that I think we're talking about
16 potentially two separate things. One is a recommendation
17 on WSA26-01. And if the Council is feels compelled to
18 do so, a special action requests to close to federally
19 qualified users in the area that is affected by 26-01.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, what
22 is the wish of the Council?

23

24 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Martha.

27

28 MS. ITTA: If we can table this until
29 tomorrow's meeting so that we can put in -- you know,
30 get together and put some wording in there that we want.
31 Thank you.

32

33 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

36

37 MS. HUGO: Yeah. I'll be leaving tomorrow
38 morning with Wrights Air into to Fairbanks. And as soon
39 as I land and get to my hotel, I can get back to the
40 meeting. Just wanted you to know.

41

42 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

45

46 MS. CHAPA: Yes, that's a good point,
47 Esther. That if she's not able to join, the concern is
48 that the Council won't have quorum to take action. But
49 we do have Council Member Williams traveling to
50 Utqiagvik, hopefully as we speak. And he should be able

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1 to join the meeting tomorrow. So, with Council Member
2 Itta and Council Member Williams present, we should have
3 5 council members present to make quorum.

4

5 (Pause)

6

7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. I think we
8 should take a maybe a 15 -- 10? 15? 20-minute break to
9 discuss and come back once we have a solid plan on what
10 we would like to do. So, we'll break for 20 minutes.
11 2:30.

12

13 (Off record)

14

15 (On record)

16

17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, I think
18 we have a path forward. So, we're ready to go with an
19 action. All right, Gisela, go ahead.

20

21 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
22 Chapa, for the record. And I just wanted to remind our
23 attendance, both in person and online, that at the moment
24 the Council is discussing action item 11.b.ii, Wildlife
25 Special Action WSA26-01 Western Arctic Caribou. And
26 before we had our break the Council received a
27 presentation from Kyle Joly on the status of the herd.
28 And I guess at this moment, the Council can now develop
29 the recommendations that can be presented to the Board
30 on this special action.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, it
33 looks like we would like to make a motion to support
34 WSA26-01 with modification. And as it would read is, the
35 limit -- or limit the caribou harvest to ten caribou per
36 year per hunter, only one of which can be a cow. This
37 request would specifically reduce harvest limits in
38 Units 26A southwest portion, and 23 -- or Unit 23, that
39 portion, which includes all drainages north and west of
40 and including the (In Native) River drainage. And let's
41 see, Units 23 or sorry, 20, 22 and 23, the limit or the
42 caribou harvest limit would remain to four caribou per
43 year per hunter, only one of which can be a cow. And
44 under -- well, I guess that was the motion to be made.
45 Any.....

46

47 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, second the motion.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion seconded and
50 under discussion. The reasoning behind this is that a

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1 lot of the area in 26A southwest, the Western Arctic
2 Caribou Herd, has not consistently been around this area
3 in the main times of cow harvest and as stated in the
4 graphs and historical collar data, the highest number
5 looks like it was 25% remaining there. Actually, now and
6 historically has been lower than that. So, it's -- it
7 doesn't have a lot of the herd up in our region here in
8 that section. And also, this this would be dropping the
9 limit for the second time in the last few years without
10 having any adequate other method other than lowering
11 subsistence harvest, which is not consistent with
12 subsistence priority, which is law. And not having that
13 but still allowing a second drop in the numbers over the
14 last few years shows our willingness to lower the numbers
15 essentially for our areas, our units and still try to
16 work with and request that the numbers for either
17 commercial fly-in or other methods, non-resident hunters
18 be looked at and modified instead of just changing the
19 local numbers. Which is not right. But we do feel that
20 lowering to the ten caribou per year per hunter, only
21 one of which can be a cow, would show that there is a
22 reduction and that, you know, we would be working with
23 it, but modified to our needs and our locations, beings
24 that the main entirety of the herd is further south than
25 us. But still, the willingness to change remains there.
26 So, any other discussion on this? Any question?

27

28 MS. ITTA: Call for question, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
31 called for all those in favor of supporting WSA26-01
32 with modification as read, aay aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
37 sign.

38

39 (No response)

40

41 Hearing none. Supporting WSA26-01 with
42 modification passes. Thank you.

43

44 (Pause)

45

46 All right. Sounds like we will have to
47 remake the motion. Has to be somebody other than myself
48 making the motion.

49

50

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1 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, I make a motion to
2 accept WSA26-01 with the modifications as discussed.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, motion on the
5 floor to support WSA26-01 with the modification as
6 discussed.

7
8 MR. BARGER: Second.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
11 Barger and any discussion on the matter. Do I have to
12 reread the discussion? Okay. Discussion as stated.

13
14 MS. ITTA: Call for question.

15
16 CHAIRPER FRANTZ: Question being called
17 for all those in favor of supporting WSA26-01 with
18 modification as stated, say aye.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. I all
23 those opposed, same sign.

24
25 (No response)

26
27 Hearing none. Now the motion has passed.
28 Thank you.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 MR. ADAMS: I'd like to make a motion to
33 close to non-federally qualified users for the southwest
34 portion of 26 -- Unit 26A.

35
36 MS. ITTA: Seconded.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there's a motion
39 on the floor by Quincy Adams to make a special action
40 to close Unit 26A southwest to non-federally qualified
41 users. Seconded by Martha Itta.

42
43 MR. BARGER: Question.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Discussion. So,
46 under discussion reasons being for -- the same reasons
47 that were stated for the change with the WSA26-01. We
48 would like to close this area to non-federally qualified
49 users as it is not consistent with the laws that apply
50 to subsistence priority. And also the herd is not, you

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1 know, consistently up in high numbers inside the North
2 Slope area and would not be consistent for I guess users
3 of this area to be burdened by a lower number stance and
4 that changing the ways of the regulation process here
5 should be followed to where they should have subsistence
6 priority. So, I think that is the discussion there and
7 the reasoning behind it. So, any other discussion?

8

9

MR. BARGER: Question (indiscernible).

10

11

12

13

14

15

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, question has
been called for all those in favor of supporting a
special action requesting for Unit 26A southwest with
the discussion that we have just had, say aye.

16

17

IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19

20

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
sign.

21

22

(No response)

23

24

25

Hearing none. Motion passes. Thank you.
Go ahead, Gisela.

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
since we're still on the topic of Western Arctic Caribou,
I just wanted to share an announcement with the people
in the room and also those attending online. There is a
public information flyer that is already available.
Again, for the public that provides a little bit more
detail about the Special Action Request 26-01. And the
opportunities for the public to provide input and engage
in the process. And I would just like to go over those
again if it's okay with you.

36

37

38

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes. Go ahead.

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. CHAPA: Thank you. So, the public is
welcome to provide feedback to Regional Advisory
Councils at the winter meeting cycle that are
considering Wildlife Special Action 26-01. The North
Slope is one of those Councils. But it also includes the
Western Interior Council, who's also meeting same dates
as our Council. The Seward Peninsula Council, which is
scheduled to meet March 30th and 31st, and the Northwest
Arctic Council that is scheduled to meet March 31st and
1st. In addition to providing input through a Regional
Advisory Council meeting, there will be a public hearing
that is scheduled for April 9th from 4 to 6 p.m. that

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1 is available via teleconference and also Microsoft
2 Teams. And we already have the phone number to call, but
3 additional information can be obtained from our website
4 at doi.gov/subsistence/upcoming-public-hearings. And
5 it's a mouthful I know, but if people visit the Federal
6 Subsistence Management Program website at
7 doi.gov/subsistence, hopefully they can find their way
8 through special action requests and of course, tribal
9 entities, tribal governments. And corporations are able
10 to request a government-to-government consultation on
11 Wildlife Special Action 26-01. and to request a
12 government-to-government consultation, we ask that you
13 please contact our tribal liaison Orville Lind at
14 Orville o-r-v-i-l-l-e underscore Lind that is l-i-n-d
15 at ios.gov, or also I'd be happy to give you additional
16 phone numbers to get in touch with Orville. And then
17 finally the Federal Subsistence Board is scheduled to
18 meet via teleconference and Microsoft Teams on June 3rd,
19 2026, at 1 p.m. to discuss Wildlife Special Action 26-
20 01. And the public also has an additional opportunity
21 to provide testimony before the Board makes a decision.
22 So, we have public information flyers that we can share
23 with communities that are impacted by Wildlife Special
24 Action 26-01. And people that want to engage in the
25 process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the
28 information. Now, did we have to go back to anything
29 that we skipped before we move on? All right. So, item
30 11. Action Items, call for federal fisheries proposals.
31 Anna Senecal. Go ahead. Anna, you have the floor.

32
33 MS. SENEAL: Okay. Thank you so much.
34 Mr. Chair, Members of the Council, my name is Anna
35 Senecal, and I'm a Fisheries Biologist with the Office
36 of Subsistence Management. So, let's see. I'm also
37 joined online by Kristen Morrow, who is our
38 Anthropologist, and we're here to announce our call for
39 federal fisheries proposals. So, the Federal Subsistence
40 Board is currently seeking -- accepting proposals to
41 change the federal subsistence fisheries regulations for
42 the '27 to '29 regulation cycle. The Board will consider
43 proposals to change seasons, harvest limits, methods,
44 means and customary and traditional use determinations
45 for federal fisheries. So, if you wish to submit a
46 proposal, you need to do so at this meeting, and the
47 public can also submit proposals to change fisheries
48 regulations. You can see more information on this in
49 your booklets. I believe it's page 14. And there's also
50 reference on our website under the Regulations tab you

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1 can scroll down. There's a couple of ways that the public
2 can submit those proposals.

3
4 What happens to those proposals? They
5 get analyzed by OSM staff. That's me and my team and the
6 leadership. And then they get presented back to you, the
7 Councils, during your fall meeting for your
8 recommendations. So, the proposal analyzes and Council
9 recommendations, then get presented to the Federal
10 Subsistence Board for its action during the February
11 2027 Fisheries Regulatory Meeting. So, we're at the
12 beginning of this great big cycle. We're just starting,
13 and then it comes back to you in the fall. Any of those
14 proposals. So, given all of that, are there any questions
15 or does the Council have any regulatory proposals it
16 wishes to put forward?

17
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So,
19 what's the wish of the Council. So, if we do have any
20 proposals that would require a motion and a second. But
21 I don't think we had any discussion about any fisheries
22 proposals at hand. No? Esther, did you have anything
23 about fisheries proposals currently?

24
25 (No response)

26
27 Yeah. I don't think that we have any --
28 yeah, proposals to put forward. Is that. Yeah. I think
29 that should be everything.

30
31 MS. SENEAL: Like I said, easy peasy.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. Is there a
34 catch to this? I don't know. All right. Thank you very
35 much for your presentation there.

36
37 MS. SENEAL: Sure, Mr. Chair. For the
38 record, Anna Senecal. And so your opportunity to submit
39 these proposed -- my understanding anyways, is to submit
40 proposals as a Council is today. But any one of you, if
41 down the road, you think oh, how could I have forgotten
42 that you can come back and submit a proposal as an
43 individual, it goes through the same process and returns
44 to this body and you make your recommendations.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. I think
47 this is something that we really haven't exercised
48 recently, so. But I think for now that should be good.
49 And if anything pops up, I think through our -- maybe
50 our North Slope guys we will get back to you. Thank you.

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1 All right. So, item 11.c, Call for Alaska Board of Game
2 Proposals, i. State Wildlife Reports. Carmen Daggett.
3 You have the floor.

4
5 MS. DAGGETT: Hello, this is Carmen
6 Daggett with Alaska Fish and Game, for the record. And
7 I'm not sure which page my report is on in your booklets
8 here. 18? Thank you. I guess I should have just followed
9 the order of your booklet. It makes perfect sense. Not
10 surprising. You're doing an excellent job. All right,
11 so I'm going to just kind of give you some specific
12 information starting out with Teshekpuk Caribou to start
13 with. We talked a lot about Western Arctic Herd today,
14 so I want to make that distinction, that we're talking
15 about a different caribou herd here that is a little bit
16 further east in its distribution, its primary
17 distribution. So, in 2022, we did a photo census, and
18 that estimate was 61,600. I realized it's been a couple
19 of years ago, and you're probably wondering why we don't
20 have a more up to date number. We actually tried to do
21 one this last summer, and we were -- we took some
22 pictures, but during the survey, we realized that there
23 were a large number of collars we could not photograph
24 because the ceilings were kind of low that day. And so,
25 we were unable to get a good count. So, we are not
26 updating that number based on those concerns. We want
27 to make sure we have good quality data to give you guys.
28 Okay. So, there -- are any questions about that? No?
29 Okay. Yes.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I don't think so.
32 Other than not being able to report on them due to the
33 weather. Anybody have any question on Teshekpuk?

34
35 MS. DAGGETT: We will try again next
36 year.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Awesome.

39
40 MS. DAGGETT: Yes. All right. So, in the
41 springtime, we do what's called a spring short yearling
42 survey. So basically, we look at proportions of adults
43 -- not quite year-old caribou to adults. And in 2024,
44 we did a survey. We didn't do one in 2025 because we
45 spent all of our energy on muskox surveys last spring.
46 So that's why that numbers for 2024. And during that
47 time period, we saw 20% short yearlings, which is about
48 5% higher than the ten-year average, which is a good
49 sign. We will try to do short yearling surveys again
50 here in April. So, if you see some airplanes flying

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1 around Atqasuk and maybe Wainwright and Nuiqsut, at the
2 beginning of April, we're doing moose surveys and
3 caribou surveys, and we'll send flyers out to your
4 communities and let people know that -- to look for
5 these particular airplanes. And this is the time period
6 to look for those. So, if you're wondering what those
7 airplanes are doing, we're working and trying to get you
8 good numbers. Okay.

9
10 In June, at the beginning of June, we
11 do calving surveys, and this usually takes place like
12 June 4th through 10 sort of time period. And again, you
13 might see us flying around Nuiqsut, Atqasuk, Wainwright
14 and sometimes even out of Barrow we have a few caribou
15 that kind of come up this way during the summer that we
16 need to check on. So, when we did this survey in 2025,
17 this last summer, we had about 60% pregnancy rates. So,
18 this includes both animals that have hard antlers or
19 enlarged udders and animals that have a calf next to
20 them. That's what we classify as a pregnant female for
21 ages three and older. And our ten-year average is about
22 68%. So, this last year it was a little bit lower than
23 our average. We keep track of adult female mortality.
24 So how many of our adult females are dying annually.
25 It's a very important metric that we kind of use to keep
26 our finger on the pulse of population trend. From 2024
27 to 2025, we had about 16% adult female mortality, which
28 is a little bit higher than our ten-year average about
29 15%. So not a whole lot higher. It's pretty close to
30 average.

31
32 And sometimes we'll do surveys during
33 the fall time to look at proportions of bulls and cows.
34 This is an important metric, particularly when the
35 population gets below about 40,000 and -- for the
36 Teshekpuk Herd. And we have not been doing this survey
37 because our population for the Teshekpuk Herd has been
38 over 55,000 for several years. And also, we recognized
39 that fall time is an important time for people to be
40 harvesting caribou, and we want to disrupt that as little
41 as possible. However, this fall, we -- it is likely that
42 we are going to attempt to do a composition survey for
43 the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. So, if you're -- and we use
44 a helicopter to do that, and I know that's not people's
45 favorite thing. So, this is why I generally have not
46 done this since 2016, actually, because I don't really
47 want to have to get out there in a helicopter and make
48 people angry unless I absolutely have to. So, know that
49 that's something that we're looking at doing this fall
50 and that there might be a helicopter on the landscape

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1 this fall looking at proportions of bulls to cows to
2 make sure that there's enough bulls that can breed cows
3 and keep a viable population going. That's what we're
4 doing. And we're also looking at proportions of calves
5 to females too. So, questions about that? I saw some
6 looks, like people are angry at me already.

7
8 MS. ITTA: Yeah. Mr. Chair, Carmen, I do
9 have a question. There -- in regards to your guys'
10 studies or your guys work you guys do, do you guys work
11 with other agencies or entities to share that data? Many
12 times we've voiced out about multiple agencies out there
13 doing the same study. And we had advised that they
14 utilize our local airport and our local hunters to help
15 you get these studies done to minimize the impacts. So,
16 I'm wondering if you guys work with other agencies or
17 businesses to share data. I think that would be more
18 helpful to minimize our impacts.

19
20 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to member
21 Itta. Thank you for that. We do work with other entities
22 as much as we can. To my knowledge, other than other
23 Fish and Game staff doing this work on the Central Arctic
24 Herd in your area, I am unaware of anyone else who's
25 doing this similar sort of survey, unless they're
26 working with ABR to do it. And I think that sometimes
27 ABR does help with some of these things, but generally
28 we do try to work collaboratively because they are
29 expensive things to do. And so, if we can, we do. But I
30 am unaware of anyone else doing this particular survey
31 for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. If you hear of anything
32 different than that, please let me know. But I'm unaware
33 of anyone else doing it right now.

34
35 MS. ITTA: Well, the reason why I
36 mentioned it is because there's so many flights and so
37 many agencies out there, you know, that we don't know
38 of what they're really doing. We just know that they're
39 out there and we find out through announcements on
40 Facebook on our Nuiqsut page, oh, we're out here doing
41 these studies. You know, if you have any concerns or
42 questions, call this number. So, you know, it's just
43 that concern of a lot of aircrafts flying around on top
44 of the ground traffic that we see during the ice road
45 season. It's 24 hours, they operate 24 hours and the
46 noise never goes away. So that's why I wanted to mention
47 that. Thank you.

48
49 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for your
50 concerns, Member Itta. And we do work with Mark Jennings.

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1 Who does the liaison aircraft work in Nuiqsut? And I do
2 send flyers to the tribe and the city office, and I also
3 try to make posts on Facebook as well, and I hope that
4 I catch everyone in one of those ways. But I recognize
5 that people get their information in lots of different
6 ways, and we try to capitalize on it. If you have any
7 recommendations for me to do that better, I'm open to
8 them. Please share that with me if you have more
9 suggestions for how to do that job better. Okay. So
10 we've been -- are there any more questions about that?
11 I've got a little bit more information about caribou,
12 and then I want to talk about moose, muskox briefly. And
13 then we'll -- then I can open up for any questions you
14 guys might have generally too.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. Go
17 ahead.

18
19 MS. DAGGETT: So, we've been working on
20 a Caribou Health Assessment during caribou captures
21 through the last several years. We began this project
22 in 2022. We're looking at a variety of different health
23 metrics including body condition, internal and external
24 parasites, trace minerals, stress hormones. And we also
25 look for a host of possible diseases when we're putting
26 collars on. Now, this last summer we had a logistical
27 issue. Umiak flooded like crazy right in the middle of
28 when we were trying to do captures. So, we got like, 1
29 or 2 collars out, and that was it. So, we don't have a
30 lot of information for this last summer in this
31 department because of that. So, we will continue this
32 project probably another year or two and see if we can
33 get some more information there. But it's just a
34 temporary thing for a couple of years in order to get
35 some more information on the overall health of the
36 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. Any questions about that?

37
38 MS. HUGO: Carmen.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Ester.

41
42 MS. HUGO: Hello, Mr. Chair? Yeah and
43 what -- I want to know, Carmen. Do you do surveys? I
44 mean, not surveys. Do you come up our way and do all
45 this on the Teshekpuk or the Central?

46
47 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to Member
48 Hugo. So, we do fly up. We work out of Umiak, usually
49 during the summer. For the spring surveys, we typically
50 work out of Galbraith Lake. The logistics are a little

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1 bit easier for working out of that area in the spring
2 time and then we switch to working out of Umiak during
3 the summer. Was there -- and I think this fall will
4 probably work out of Galbraith Lake just because I'm not
5 sure what our functionality at Umiak is going to be yet,
6 because we not only experienced a major flood last
7 summer, but then we also had some bear break-in issues
8 too that did quite a lot of damage. So, we're still
9 trying to recover from that. Does that answer your
10 question, Esther? Was there more? I kind of heard
11 something I didn't quite understand.
12

13 MS. HUGO: Thank you. I don't see why you
14 -- I mean, thank you for the information. Instead of
15 Galbraith or east of us, go here, where we are.
16

17 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to Member
18 Hugo.....
19

20 (Simultaneous speech)
21

22 MS. HUGO: Don't make sense to have
23 numbers and everything you have, which is 2-, 3-, 400
24 miles away from us.
25

26 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to Member
27 Hugo. Let me just see if I can clarify a little bit
28 here, so. The season dictates where the caribou are, as
29 you know. And so, in the spring time with Galbraith
30 Lake, we work out of there, partially because we can
31 drive there and get supplies there. Instead of flying
32 in with super cubs with limited space capacity and also
33 we have electricity there. So, there's a couple of
34 reasons why we're working out of Galbraith Lake. And we
35 also have fuel there. So having access to aviation fuel
36 is a key part of where we choose to base our operations
37 for these surveys. And the security of that fuel. So
38 that's part of the reason why we work out of Umiat and
39 Galbraith Lake is because we have aviation fuel stored
40 there. I hope that answers that question. But if you
41 have more, feel free.
42

43 MS. HUGO: Well, there's gas here. I know
44 they do so have gas for helicopters or super cubs, or I
45 can't see any reason why you're going so far and here
46 we live right here.
47

48 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, I do have a
49 question. Talking about the health of the herds. You
50 guys have been doing these studies for decades, for years

1 and years, trying to get answers on, you know, why our
2 caribou are declining. What's causing the migration
3 route to be disrupted? What's making these caribou sick?
4 Are you guys getting close to having an answer to those
5 concerns and those issues regarding our caribou? Because
6 you guys are out there doing these studies year after
7 year, but we never hear the results, except you guys
8 are, you know, continuing to do these studies. I mean,
9 we should have an answer by now. Like, is it gas and oil
10 that's making them sick? Is -- that's what they're
11 eating? Is it natural causes? What have you. We're not,
12 you know, we're not really getting any answers, straight
13 answers from these studies that are being done for years
14 and years and continue to do at the same time disrupting
15 our hunting. Thank you.

16
17 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Member Itta.
18 Carmen Daggett. Again, for the record, through the
19 Chair. Good questions Martha, thank you for that. So to
20 address some of the issues that you're talking about.
21 So, this particular health assessment study is a more
22 in-depth look at several things that we haven't really
23 been looking at. So this stress related hormones, for
24 example, is something that we haven't really looked at
25 before. And this in-depth study is more than we typically
26 would do historically. And I can invite the Teshekpuk
27 Caribou Herd researcher because I'm the Management
28 Biologist. I do these surveys and this sort of work, and
29 I help collect some of this data sometimes. But the
30 researchers are really the one that are driving these
31 research projects that are looking at these things in
32 more detail. Now, I think one thing that we do have some
33 understanding of is baselines for certain types of
34 disease and parasites. And so things like brucellosis,
35 for example, we know occurs in a small percentage of the
36 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd population. And part of the
37 reason why we keep testing for it is because it's a
38 disease that people can get, right. And so, we want to
39 keep our ears open essentially, we're trying to keep
40 track of if we see an uptick in the number of cases that
41 we're seeing of brucellosis, for example. And if we do,
42 then we're going to make a huge effort to let people
43 know that we're seeing that happen, but we're not seeing
44 that happen right now. We're just kind of keeping our
45 ears to the ground, sort of speak to make sure that
46 we're not seeing that spike. Because that can happen.
47 You can have a population that all of a sudden this
48 disease explodes, and then we have an issue that we need
49 to address, right. But otherwise we just need to keep
50 looking and making sure we're not seeing that.

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3 So that's an example of one thing. So
4 does that make sense? So, I certainly can invite my
5 research counterpart, the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd
6 researcher currently is Joel Hepler. It used to be Shauna
7 Karpovich. But Joel Hepler has now taken her place in
8 that role. And if you would like to, I could invite her
9 to come participate in the next meeting and talk a little
10 bit more in detail about what we're seeing in some of
11 these particular aspects of things, because there's a
12 couple of -- there's one thing with parasites that you
13 might find interesting, not overly alarming but
14 interesting. And I don't think there's anything else
15 that's standing out right now in my mind for what they've
16 talked about. But you guys have a right to hear that.
17 So I can invite them if you would like.

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MS. ITTA: Thank you, Carmen. The one
last thing is -- sorry my mind just went blank just
thinking about what you said. The studies I've mentioned
in the past when I served as an administrator, and I
attended so many meetings, and we had voiced our concerns
about doing more testing relating to us eating the
caribou and the sicknesses, like you just mentioned, you
know, we can get sick from them. I'd like to see some
testing to be done on that portion of, you know, the
animals, what they're eating. And it comes to us and
we're eating it, and, you know, it affects our health.
I know people had gotten sick in the past from our
village. I mean, we get quite a few sick caribou and
that's why I mentioned education, because our hunters
and our young ones are learning to hunt, and there's not
enough education on what we can do and what we shouldn't
be doing in our hunting. So, you know, I'm -- that's
really scary to think about. Like in the future, will
my kids be able to eat the caribou because of the issues
that we're having today and nothing's being done about
it. We're not getting those answers. So, you know, I
really like to push for more information and education
to our hunters and our younger generation that are now
hunting for us. Thank you.

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MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for those
comments, Ms. Itta and I would like to say that we do
have an excellent little caribou health handbook that I
try to give out as much as I can when I travel out to
communities. It has a lot of great information about
caribou disease and what to look for and how to handle
animals if you are seeing certain things. I have a whole
stack of them in my office. I can bring some in tomorrow.

00076

1 But I'm happy to share those and I try to give them out
2 like candy, actually. Usually when I go to communities
3 and especially when I've been doing outreach work. While
4 I'm on talking about that. So, I'm currently working on
5 a project to facilitate firearm safety in the
6 surrounding communities. I've been working on going to
7 surrounding communities schools and talking with kids
8 about firearm safety. And while I'm there, I also talk
9 about caribou photo census and how we do those and
10 caribou diseases and those sorts of things. So I am
11 doing some of that work when I'm traveling to communities
12 already. And that's certainly part of the goal is to
13 share this information with the young people in your
14 communities in particular.

15

16 MS. ITTA: And is that something that you
17 can bring to, like, work with our school to go do some
18 talking at our schools? I think that would be the best
19 place to educate our children because they're at school
20 already. We are looking for programs to bring to our
21 communities. So, you know, we -- our children are having
22 a lot of interest in photography and videoing and doing
23 their own studies. You know, they're interested into the
24 science and, you know, how things go up there or animals
25 and land, how they're connected. So I think that would
26 be a good start is, you know, going to our schools and
27 educating our children. Thank you.

28

29 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to Member
30 Itta. For about the last 2 or 3 years, I've been going
31 to schools and doing firearm safety and wildlife
32 discussions from grades 2 through 12. I've been to
33 Nuiqsut several times. I've been to Wainwright several
34 times. I've been to Atqasuk several times. I recently
35 went to Point Lay and Wainwright this spring. I spent
36 quite a bit of time this spring in the Barrow School
37 district, and the last three years I'd been going to
38 that community science fair at the school where there's
39 quite a lot of people coming through and talking about
40 firearm safety and wildlife there. So, it's certainly a
41 big priority for me to do those sorts of things, and I
42 really enjoy doing those outreach efforts. So, thank you
43 for that. And I will continue to do my best in that
44 department.

45

46 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Carmen.

47

48 MS. DAGGETT: All right, just to finish
49 up this conversation and so you can move on to other
50 things. We did a survey this last spring in 2025 for

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1 muskox, Western 26A muskox and into Unit 23. And we use
2 the information that we got from you guys' those
3 reconnaissance areas that we could get to last spring
4 was a bit of a bear, weather wise. But we managed to get
5 to almost all of the reconnaissance areas, and I think
6 we will continue to do that survey style for the northern
7 portion of 26A. We saw about 45 additional muskox in
8 those reconnaissance surveys areas outside of the
9 distance sampling areas when we were doing the survey
10 this spring. We counted 547 muskox during that survey.
11 So that's a minimum count. And that yielded an overall
12 estimate of about 992. So, we actually saw 547 on the
13 ground and if we used the distance sampling area and
14 multiplied that out, we got an estimate of 992. Just so
15 that you're wondering what the difference between those
16 two numbers is. That population appears to be stable.
17 The last minimum count in 2020, the minimum count was
18 605 and the estimate was 911. So pretty comparable to
19 what we saw before and within the confidence intervals
20 between the two surveys. Are there any questions about
21 that?

22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No, I think that is
24 good news for us. And we look forward to the additional
25 numbers. Any other questions for muskox?

26

27 (No response)

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MS. DAGGETT: All right. So, I'm just
32 going to finish up with moose here. The most recent
33 minimum count was in 2021 which is a while ago. We've
34 been prioritizing other surveys since then. But we're
35 looking at doing another minimum count on the Colville
36 River drainage this spring. And we're going to do a
37 drainage wide survey. So, we're typically on an annual
38 survey, we would do a portion of the Colville River,
39 including the Anaktuvuk River and the Chandler Rivers.
40 And then our management report says we should do, you
41 know, every three years, do a drainage wide survey. So
42 that's what we're going to try to do this spring. This
43 population has been relatively stable at low numbers for
44 a while. But it'll be interesting to see what we see
45 this spring. And how many young ones we're looking at,
46 too, so. Again, if you see airplanes flying around at
47 the beginning of April, we are working on moose and
48 caribou surveys. Questions?

49

50 (No response)

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That's all I have.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Thank you, Carmen, for the updates. Do we have a Jordan Pruszenski update?

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I can.

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: I'm not sure if she has an update. But I believe she is online and thought we might just give the opportunity in case she does.

(Pause)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. If she's not online, we'll move on to -- let's see. Item 2 of the Call for Alaska Board of Game Proposals, Considered developing Board of Game Proposals. Where are we? I don't think we have anything in front of us other than what we've already discussed for the other matters. All right. So, yeah. May 1st.

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I can just share the update on the call.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sure. Go ahead, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: for proposals. So yes, the proposal period is open through May 1st. And you can see a copy of the call for proposals on page 22 of the meeting materials. So, if the Council wanted to submit a proposal as a Council, this would be our opportunity either today or tomorrow. And if not, that is totally okay. But call for proposals is -- for these units is open right now.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you for the update. Item d, Review and approve FY 2025 Annual Report. Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And just wanted to mention that a copy of the Draft 2025

00079

1 Annual Report is a handout, so you should see it at the
2 very back of your booklet. And the annual report ensures
3 that the Board is aware of issues, concerns and events
4 that impact your subsistence way of life. In your --
5 during your last meeting in September, the Council
6 identified one main topic to include in your report to
7 inform the Board of your concerns regarding the effects
8 of guides, transporters, commercial operators and flying
9 hunters on caribou migration. And in your report, in
10 addition to flagging this as a concern, you also have
11 some potential management strategies that could help
12 address the issue. And so, at this time, the report is
13 still considered a draft. This is an opportunity for the
14 Council to review the report and ensure that all the
15 details in that report are accurate. And we can't really
16 add any additional topics to the report. But again, it's
17 just an opportunity for you to take a look at the report
18 as a Council and suggest any potential changes to it.
19 If there's clarification or important locations that you
20 would want to add into the report, now would be the
21 time. And this is an action item so we will require a
22 motion and a vote.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right I want to
25 make sure you guys have enough time to go over this. I
26 actually went over this multiple times in the last few
27 months. So, I would like to see what your wishes are for
28 the FY 2025 Annual Report.

29

30 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair. I move to accept
31 and approve the FY 2025 Annual Report.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there's a motion
34 on the floor. Martha Itta to approve the FY 2025 Annual
35 Report. Seconded by Leonard Barger. Any discussion on
36 the matter?

37

38 MS. ITTA: Call for question.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
41 called for all those in favor of approving the FY 2025
42 Annual Report, say aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
47 sign.

48

49 (No response)

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00080

1 Hearing none. The FY 2025 Annual Report
2 has passed.

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 All right. So, item e, Future Meeting
7 Dates. Gisela.

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9 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, on
10 page 24 of your meeting materials, you have the dates
11 for our fall 2026 meeting. As of right now, it is
12 scheduled for October 1st and 2nd. And I recall during
13 previous meetings that it was ultimately the desire of
14 the Council to try to invite our staff to observe all
15 the whaling activities at the moment. So, I just wanted
16 to confirm that those dates still work for fall 2026
17 meeting. And the location is to -- is set for Utqiaġvik.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Each of
20 these requires a motion and a second. So, what's the
21 wishes of the Council for fall 20 -- 2026 meeting.

22
23 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

26
27 MR. BARGER: I make a motion to approve
28 the 2026 meeting date.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: As it sits? All
31 right. Motion to keep the date where it is for fall 2026
32 meeting date and location.

33
34 MR. ADAMS: Second.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Quincy.
37 Any discussion on the matter? For the purposes of being
38 around for possible wailing.

39
40 MS. ITTA: Call for question.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
43 called for all those in favor of confirming fall 2026
44 meeting date and location to be Utqiaġvik on October 1st
45 and second, say aye.

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47 IN UNISON: Aye.

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49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
50 sign.

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(No response)

Hearing none. 2026 fall meeting date and location confirmed. All right, so up next we have 2027 meeting date, winter and location.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela Chapa for the record. And then on page 25, you have the window for the winter 2027 Regional Advisory Council meeting cycle. And the window opens on February 15th, 2027, noting that the 15th is considered a federal holiday, and it closes on March 31st. So again, this is an action item for the Council to select the meeting dates for winter 2027 and the meeting location.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any suggestions on the dates?

MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

MR. ADAMS: I'd like to recommend February 23 and 24.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion on the....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. ADAMS: of '27.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh. Motion on the floor to make February 23 and 24 of winter 2027 meeting date and location. And what location?

MR. BARGER: Barrow.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you. And normally we select our meeting location at approved hub communities for each region just to facilitate the meeting. And I believe that the only hub location that is approved for our region is Utqiaġvik. If you recall, a previous meetings, there were requests to have the meeting at Point Hope, and we just have to go through the approval process. So just wanted to put that out there. It's an opportunity as well to potentially have the meeting elsewhere, but we will have to get approval to have it

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1 outside of Utqiaġvik.

2

3 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

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5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

6

7 MS. ITTA: Is it possible to have it in

8 AKP?

9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Gisela.

11

12 MS. CHAPA: That was something that was
13 floated up at our last meeting. And at the time, I think
14 both Member Hugo and Williams didn't think it would be
15 feasible. But I don't know if Member Hugo is still online
16 and can provide some input.

17

18 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, this is Esther.
19 That's support for winter of 2027, February 23 and 24?

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, 23 and 24. And
22 she was checking on the feasibility of having that in
23 AKP or what your thoughts are on that?

24

25 MS. HUGO: I would really appreciate it.
26 But then the only problem we have is here is housing.
27 And the only place we have is that man camp. I don't
28 know if it will be (indiscernible) any vacancy, unless
29 we all bring you to the Gates of the Arctic two story
30 building, and you guys can all stay there. That's --
31 it's just that issue.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. And that man
34 camp over there is a designated North Slope Borough
35 location for rotating workers for the local communities
36 there. So, it sounds like maybe no feasible housing. And
37 I would think that the weather in February there is not
38 very forgiving. Is that correct, Esther?

39

40 MS. HUGO: Yes. February is a very bad
41 month for us, and we've been having storms left, or
42 right. South wind, north wind. Right now it's north wind.
43 It's probably going to switch to south and it's
44 (indiscernible) in low visibility. So February is not a
45 good place. And plane's been canceling.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, there
48 was a motion on the floor February 23, 24. Have we
49 decided on a possible location for that?

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1 (Pause)

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MR. ADAMS: Make a motion of the meeting on the said date, February 23 and 24 in Barrow.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Motion on the floor for winter 2027 meeting to be in Barrow February 23rd and 24th.

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MR. BARGER: Second.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard Barger. Any discussion on the matter? And just to be stated that we can also have the opportunity to change this on the fall meeting as well. Any question?

16

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MS. ITTA: Call for question.

19

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been called for all those in favor of selecting Winter 2027 meeting date and location for Utqiaġvik on February 23 and 24, say aye.

23

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25

IN UNISON: Aye.

26

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign.

28

29

(No response)

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Hearing none. Winter 2027 meeting will be held in Utqiaġvik, February 23, 24. Up next, we have fall 2027 meeting date and location. Go ahead, Gisela.

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MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, the window for the fall 2027 Regional Advisory Council meeting cycle is scheduled to open on September 6th and potentially -- and close November 5th. And as you can tell, the meeting cycle for the fall is considerably longer. I believe that we wanted to account for AFN and a couple other meetings, I think, that are already scheduled that far in advance. And again, this is an action item for the Council to select the meeting dates for fall 2027 and meeting location.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Any suggestion for fall 2027 meeting dates and location? In the form of a motion.

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(No response)

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And once again, we'll have multiple opportunities to change the dates as this is at least two meetings away.

MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

MS. HUGO: Yeah. I'm looking at the paper for the fall of 2027. I personally would invite you all between September and sometime October. So, you guys can see second hand when our caribou don't migrate, and we were catching all these cows. Just something to think about.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any dates in particular you would recommend or make a motion?

(No response)

Maybe early September 7 and 8. Would you like to make that in the form of a motion?

MR. ADAMS: Hey, Esther, would October 5 and 6 work?

(No response)

I'm kind of thinking October 5 and October 6, because September, that's when we're going to be up river.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. ITTA:is ready for whaling too. That's why I couldn't make it the last one.

MR. ADAMS: Until we've been getting ready for our fall time to (In Native) and fall time fishing.

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Sorry. Just wanted to -- I'm thinking, logistically, if we were to have the meeting in another community for -- you said the 4th and 6th? 5 and 6. Okay. Yeah, I guess it would allow us travel on Monday, but. Yeah. Don't -- I'll deal with that. Never mind.

00085

1 MR. ADAMS: I'd like to make a motion for
2 October 5 and 6, for a fall time 2027 meeting in
3 Anaktuvuk Pass.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion on the floor
6 to make October 5 and 6 in fall 2027 in Anaktuvuk Pass
7 on the floor.

8
9 MR. BARGER: Second.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
12 Barger. And discussion would be for seeing some of the
13 fall time hunts happen in Anaktuvuk Pass. Or at least
14 be around when they're occurring an seeing the Village
15 of Anaktuvuk Pass during the fall.

16
17 MS. ITTA: Call for question.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
20 called for. Should I...? Yeah. Question has been called
21 for all those in favor of making Anaktuvuk Pass the
22 location on October 5 and 6 for fall of 2027, say aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

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

28
29 (No response)

30
31 Hearing none. Looks like we're going
32 down to Anaktuvuk October 5 and 6, 2027. So, Gisela made
33 a good point that if we are not able to make that happen,
34 that we may need a backup location. So, is there a --
35 is that in the form of motion as well? Or just a backup
36 location?

37
38 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

41
42 MS. HUGO: Yeah. I think if we have a
43 backup, it's got to be Utqiagvik or Barrow.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so is that
46 unanimous? We'll make Barrow the backup location. All
47 right. With that being passed and selected looks like
48 that's it for today. Unless we would like to move forward
49 and keep going with any items that we may want to take
50 from tomorrow's agenda. What would you recommend Gisela?

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MS. CHAPA: Well, thank you, Mr. Chair.
3 And I'll just go over what is left in our agenda. We
4 have agency reports, and as of right now, we only have
5 a report from Gates of the Arctic National Park and
6 Preserve. And another report out from the USGS on a
7 presentation on indicators of mercury concentration in
8 lake trout. And outside of that we also have Other
9 Business. Mostly I have updates to the Council with
10 correspondence. Like what letters have been sent on
11 behalf of the Council since our fall 2025 meeting. We
12 have a request from the Eastern Interior RAC to discuss
13 land status on the regulatory maps that are used on the
14 regulation booklets, and it should be a short
15 discussion, not necessarily an action item. And we could
16 also revisit some of the topics that I heard earlier
17 regarding outreach and education. It might be helpful
18 to -- for the Council to develop more specific ideas or
19 identify more specific needs on the information that
20 needs to be communicated across the region, whether it
21 is on the Federal Subsistence Management Program or the
22 jurisdiction on land, etc. I think it'd be important to
23 have a little bit more of discussion on the topics that
24 would need -- we will need to work on and yeah. So just
25 a little bit more discussion and then sorry, I forgot
26 to mention that another opportunity that the Council can
27 take up during this meeting is the Federal Subsistence
28 Management Program Review comment deadline has been
29 extended through the end of March. And I will give the
30 Council an update about the comments that you developed
31 at the fall 25 meeting and see if there are any
32 additional topics or comments that the Council would
33 like to submit.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So,
what's the wish of the Council? If we're extending into
tomorrow's agenda, which one of these would you like to
go into? I'm kind of thinking maybe going over the
mercury concentration, as it's pretty straightforward.
And a lot of the discussion for tomorrow can be held as
there's more time available.

MR. ADAMS: I'll second that motion for
indicators of mercury concentration in lake trout from
the USGS.

MR. BARGER: Second.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I don't know if we
need to have -- no motion for that. So yeah. So, let's

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1 see if USGS is available.

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MS. CHAPA: And thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm checking with Sarah Laske to see if she is in our meeting to give the presentation. Perfect. She just accessed the meeting. Sarah?

MS. LASKE: Yeah. Hi, everyone.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good afternoon, Sarah. You have the floor.

MS. LASKE: Okay, perfect. Thanks for having me today. Gisela, do we have slide deck for this? And I just can't see it?

MS. CHAPA: Yes. I am looking for the file. Give me a second.

MS. LASKE: Okay.

MS. CHAPA: Do you see it?

MS. LASKE: I do, thank you. Perfect. Okay. So, thanks, everybody, for taking the time to hear this update. I wanted to make sure to share it all with you. This is a collaborative project that USGS worked on with the National Park Service looking at mercury concentrations in lake trout and trying to get a handle on why there's a lot of variability in mercury concentrations in the fish from lake to lake and within lakes. Next slide.

The reason why this is so important to us is because mercury is mainly acquired by humans through the consumption of fish. So, if lake trout are an important part of anyone's diet, they want to be aware of the guidelines that are provided both by the State of Alaska and the U.S. EPA and FDA. So, the guidance in both of these systems is based on sort of an average fish. For the State of Alaska, that's the average -- like an average lake trout found within this -- in state waters. And for the FDA and EPA, it's an average for freshwater trout. So, it's even more broad than that. So, the guidelines that are proposed for women of childbearing age, pregnant women and children are not location specific. So, what we were hoping to do was provide some more information there locally to people who may be fishing in lakes in the national parks. Next slide.

1

2 The reason why we're pursuing this,
3 backing up a little bit is that the lake trout
4 concentrations, as I said, varied highly from lake to
5 lake and amongst fish within the lake. And that's because
6 mercury is related to age, which is related to their
7 length. So a bigger fish tends to be older. It's also
8 related to their growth rate and to their diet. So, what
9 are they eating when they when they're in the lakes? Are
10 they eating bugs or are they eating other fish? There's
11 also some environmental relationships. For example, if
12 Aniak Lake and Noatak National Preserve, there are
13 underlying bedrock influences that sort of flush, allow
14 mercury to seep into the into the system. So that's sort
15 of an interesting difference compared to a few other
16 places. Also, the amount of wetlands that surround the
17 lake might allow more mercury to be available to the
18 system as well. So next slide.

19

20 So, for this specific study that we've
21 recently had accepted into the North American Journal
22 of Fisheries Management, the goal was to convey
23 information about mercury concentrations in lake trout
24 using physical characteristics of the fish or where they
25 live. So that if you -- if someone is fishing in a lake,
26 they could have a fish in hand and say, am I worried
27 about exposure to mercury or not? And then if I am, what
28 characteristics are visible on this fish? Do I let it
29 go or do I keep it and consume it? And so, we had several
30 variables that we were interested in looking at. And
31 that was the body length of the fish, their condition,
32 so how plump are they which is a relationship to their
33 growth. Their appearance, because as you can see from
34 this image here, these are all lake trout, and they all
35 look a little subtly different. And that might tell us
36 something about their mercury concentrations. Also,
37 their head size. If lake trout have a bigger head, that
38 might indicate that they're more piscivorous, meaning
39 they eat more fish. So those fish, those lake trout
40 might have higher mercury concentrations. And also, the
41 habitat where the fish live. Is it near shore? Is it in
42 deep water? Is it a surface water dwelling lake trout?
43 All of those things are related to their diet and their
44 lifestyle choices, which can tell us something about
45 mercury. Next slide.

46

47 Okay. So, we ran this through a model.
48 Not going to go into those details here today. But there
49 were three variables that popped out as important. And
50 that was the length of the fish, its head size relative

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1 to its body length, and the habitat. Next slide. So, I'm
2 going to walk through one of the figures from our paper.
3 The first thing of importance is again, that
4 relationship between mercury concentration, which is
5 here on the y axis and length on the x axis. And you can
6 see that as you increase in length, you increase in
7 mercury concentration. And this is the same across all
8 systems. And next slide. It's the same across all head
9 sizes. So, I've got this illustration picture here of
10 two lake trout stacked one on top of each other. The top
11 one has a head-to-body ratio of 0.28 and the one below
12 it has a head-to-body ratio of 0.2. So, as you got a
13 larger head, those fish have a slightly elevated mercury
14 concentration compared to those fish that have a smaller
15 head. And we think this is just due to the smaller headed
16 fish probably eating plankton, whereas a larger headed
17 fish is probably eating other fish. Next slide.

18
19 As I said also, we looked at this across
20 different habitats within the lake. So, the shallow
21 nearshore zone. So, if you're fishing from shore this
22 is where your fish would be like feeding and what habitat
23 they'd be using. We also fished in open surface waters
24 and then in deep water. And there are some subtle
25 differences in how mercury is processed in these
26 different systems, which is why we expect that there
27 would be differences coming into the lake trout from
28 their prey. Next slide.

29
30 So when we look across all of these
31 different habitats, shallow water, surface water in the
32 center and deep water on the right hand side, you can
33 see that in all of these systems we have that same
34 relationship where mercury is increasing with length and
35 then each like larger head size is also a little bit
36 higher in mercury. And then if you could add the next
37 slide please. If we put down this gold line here, which
38 is what EPA says is sort of a cut off for any fish with
39 less mercury than this line is a good choice. And
40 anything above this line you might need to like either
41 avoid it or eat less of it, depending on which guidance
42 system you're using, the State of Alaska or the EPA. But
43 mainly, the main point here is a lot of these fish,
44 particularly those that are less than 28 inches in
45 length, are a good choice. So, it's really only the rare
46 fish with the really large heads from deep water systems
47 that might be a problem. Next slide.

48
49 And I say might, and I mean might,
50 because all of the guidance systems use either a median

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1 value or a mean value for lake trout. Meaning like if
2 you ate one fish on one day and another fish on the
3 other day, those fish average out. And so, all of the
4 lake trout from the northern lakes that we sampled,
5 Chandler Lake, Feniak Lake and (In Native) Lake are good
6 choices. They fall below this threshold that the EPA has
7 set of 460 nanograms per gram of mercury per gram of
8 fish. So, all of those fish can be consumed in accordance
9 -- in any proportion that you might like. They're a good
10 choice for consumption. They're a healthy choice. But
11 like I said, there is quite a bit of variability. And
12 you can see in this column in the table here, I've got
13 the mercury range and that varies quite a bit from fish
14 to fish within those systems. So, if you were concerned
15 about exposure you could -- next slide. Are you guys
16 still there?

17

18 DR. VICKERS: Yeah. Sorry, Sarah. Give
19 me a second. I don't know why that didn't do it on the
20 -- your year end.

21

22 MS. LASKE: Okay.

23

24 DR. VICKERS: What the heck? Sorry. Let
25 me -- give me more than a second. Why?

26

27 MS. LASKE: Is it me not advancing, or
28 are you guys advancing?

29

30 DR. VICKERS: Yeah, it's probably your
31 fault. No, I um -- this is for the record, Brent Vickers
32 OSM. Guarantee it's my fault. I don't know. Gisela had
33 to get up to do something. I said, oh, I'll take care
34 of that, and I ruined the whole presentation. Hold on.
35 Why would I press this? Is it not moving? Yeah, I know
36 that -- it's -- I don't have the right window on Team's.

37

38 MS. LASKE: Well, I mean, I can keep
39 going if you get the last slide to show up eventually,
40 that would be great. But basically, if for some reason
41 you've got young children at home or a pregnant -- if
42 you're a pregnant woman and you're concerned about the
43 fish that you're eating and you're just worried about
44 exposure, the best way to make sure that you're not
45 taking in mercury -- too much mercury is to just eat
46 smaller fish. Which is exactly what State of Alaska
47 offers up as their guidance. If you visit their web
48 page, they just suggest that you eat smaller lake trout
49 or smaller fish in general, mix and match the types of
50 fish that you eat, etc., etc. So, we found agreement

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1 with that, that if you ate lake trout 28 inches or less
2 that those are good choices. Also fishing the surface
3 waters were a good choice. The fish and surface waters
4 and in shallow waters tended to have lower mercury
5 concentrations. And also, if you are fishing deep water,
6 say you're ice fishing or something like that, or out
7 on a boat and fishing deep water, when you do that, just
8 make sure that you take and eat lake trout with smaller
9 heads.

10
11 There it is. So those are sort of
12 general ideas, general ideas on ways to reduce exposure.
13 And then if you want to just go to the final slide. Or
14 I guess there's one more after this. Okay. This was just
15 a thank you to my co-authors on the paper that's in
16 press right now. And all of the people that helped get
17 this work going. It's been quite a few years in process,
18 and we have a few more papers that we want to put out
19 discussing it. But then on the last slide, the actual
20 last slide, I've got a QR code for our web page and all
21 of the articles that we produce for this, including the
22 one that's currently in press, they'll be open access.
23 So, they're available to the public for free and the
24 data are already live on our web page. So if you wanted
25 to go and look at the numbers sizes and mercury
26 concentrations in individual fish, those are available.
27 So, I'm happy to answer any questions that anyone has.
28 I tried to just hit some of the high points given the
29 time constraints for me in the -- in your meeting.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Any
32 questions?

33
34 (No response)

35
36 Hearing none. Thank you very much for
37 your presentation. That was very informative. And yeah,
38 yeah, we're a little bit smarter now on some lake trout.

39
40 MS. LASKE: I mean, it's just -- it's
41 nice to be able to come to your -- to the meeting and
42 tell everyone that the lake trout are a good choice.
43 Carry on and eat your fish.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds great. And
46 most of them we catch are all up north here, so that's
47 good news for us.

48
49 MS. LASKE: All right. Take care. Thank
50 you very much. And if anyone does have a question, you

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1 can feel free to reach out via email.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Will do. Thank you,
4 Sarah.

5

6 MS. LASKE: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Alright. What's the
9 wish of the Council? I kind of have -- oh. I want to go
10 through the National Park Service while Esther's online.
11 Is that something you would like to do there, Esther?
12 This -- maybe see if Marcy.....

13

14 (Simultaneous speech)

15

16 MS. HUGO: What is that again?

17

18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So tomorrow I know
19 you're going to be traveling. But there is something on
20 tomorrow's agenda for the National Park Service, Gates
21 of the Arctic National Park. Would you like to see if
22 Marcy's available for this today?

23

24 MS. HUGO: Yeah, that would be okay. If
25 she's available. Otherwise, I think that it's meeting
26 sometime next month, so it doesn't matter.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. One second.

29

30 (Pause)

31

32 MS. CHAPA: And. Hey, Marcy. This is are
33 you available to give your update? Your report?

34

35 MS. OKADA: Yeah, this is Marcy Okada,
36 and I'm available right now if folks are interested in
37 the Gates of the Arctic update.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sure. Well, we've
40 got Esther here. You have the floor.

41

42 MS. OKADA: Okay for the record, this is
43 Marcy Okada Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the
44 Arctic National Park and Preserve. And I believe you
45 have this written update in your supplemental meeting
46 packet. I'm just not sure what page. But then it's also
47 up on the screen on Teams.

48

49 MS. CHAPA: Hey, Marcy. The report is on
50 page 27 of the meeting materials. And I'm also sharing

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1 for the people online.

2

3 MS. OKADA: Thanks, Gisela. Okay. So, for
4 Gates of the Arctic, we have a Subsistence Resource
5 Commission. And due to the size of the park, we cover
6 three different regions. Western Interior, Northwest
7 Arctic and North Slope regions. And the three different
8 RACs for those three different regions appoint a member
9 to this commission. And for the North Slope, Esther is
10 appointed to our Subsistence Resource Commission. We
11 were scheduled to have a meeting last November 2025, and
12 we weren't able to so our next meeting is scheduled for
13 -- and this update is a little delayed on the written
14 side of things. So our next meeting is scheduled for
15 April 15th to 16th in Fairbanks. And our typical agenda
16 usually covers the Ambler Mining Access Road and Kyle
17 Joly also provides an update on the Western Arctic
18 Caribou Herd. We also discussed Dall sheep management
19 for the park and reserve. And we have -- also have folks
20 present different projects that are occurring within the
21 park and the preserve, and we also hear updates from our
22 own park staff. Also just wanted to let folks know that
23 our Subsistence Resource Commission met recently on
24 February 17th to discuss the Federal Subsistence
25 Management Program Review. We weren't able to make
26 quorum so due to the extension in the comment period we
27 will also be taking up this review at our April meeting.
28 So that's our update on the commission. If folks have
29 any questions and if not, I can just move on to the
30 caribou written update of which Kyle Joly has already
31 provided his update when he was on the call.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions for
34 Marcy? We've got one. Go ahead, Brian.

35

36 MR. PEARSON: Yeah. For the record, Brian
37 Pearson North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife
38 Management. Good afternoon, Marcy. Good to hear your
39 voice. I hope you're doing well. I know Taquik was the
40 Chair of that committee for a very long time, do you
41 know any updates on replacing her now that she's retired?
42 Or could you provide any kind of update, I suspect --
43 well. Go ahead. Thanks.

44

45 MS. OKADA: Thank you. Thank you. Brian.
46 Yes, I forgot to mention that Taquik Hepa is currently
47 on the commission as the Chair. And she would like to
48 continue to serve on the Subsistence Resource Commission
49 for Gates of the Arctic. And she will be attending our
50 April meeting. She is a Governor of Alaska appointment

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1 to the Commission. So, there is also another North Slope
2 representative on our commission.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
5 Very informational. Any other questions for Marcy?

6

7 (No response)

8

9 Hearing none on the floor. Hear none
10 online. Thank you for your presentation.

11

12 MS. OKADA: Oh, so not quite done yet.

13

14 (Simultaneous speech)

15

16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, so there's more?
17 All right. Okay.

18

19 MS. OKADA: Okay, so the second page of
20 the written update is just a timeline of the migration
21 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. And it's strictly
22 informational because Kyle Joly also presented
23 information at your meeting earlier today. So that's
24 mostly information. I'm not going to go over it and then
25 we'll move to page three. So, we do have a biologist
26 that does Dall sheep surveys within the park and
27 preserve. And last summer, in July a sheep survey was
28 conducted in the northeast portion of Gates, which is
29 Akillik preserve and then the southeastern portion of
30 Gates near Wiseman. Unfortunately, due to a lack of time
31 and weather conditions, a survey was not conducted
32 around Anaktuvuk Pass. But it does -- the results from
33 the survey show that numbers are pretty stable. And the
34 area that's highlighted on the map are the three little
35 subregions that are surveyed from year to year. And then
36 it's -- we're hoping that a survey, a park wide survey
37 can be conducted in 2027 because we -- the last time a
38 survey was conducted for the entire park was 2015. Just
39 as a disclaimer, I am not the sheep biologist for the
40 park. But this is also an informational section in the
41 written update. If folks have any questions.

42

43 MS. HUGO: Marcy. This is Esther.

44

45 MS. OKADA: Hi, Esther.

46

47 MS. HUGO: Hi. I just got a question. I'm
48 looking at Anaktuvuk in the southeast of the Gates. East
49 of us, I toured Galbraith and over that way. The numbers
50 been low and as we had meetings, Jack Reakoff at Wiseman

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1 or Coldfoot had stated that he haven't seen any full
2 curled adult rams for approximately ten years, and
3 that's how come they had to close it. And I'm happy that
4 our numbers are stable here. I think, you know, last
5 summer we had some people over that way the next valley.
6 I knew they'd get their permits from the state. But
7 they're coming our way. And if they come to where our
8 sheep are stable. If they find out there's some couple
9 big rams over here. It's not going to be good, our
10 sheep's going to be declining like it did east of us at
11 Galbraith or I can't remember the other name, but
12 (indiscernible) area. I just wanted to mention that we
13 know -- we do a lot of sheep hunting summertime, parts
14 of fall. And they've been healthy and it's stable and
15 it's really good to hear compared to what's happening
16 east of us toward the Dalton. Thank you.

17

18 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Esther. So, one
19 thing that's been happening on the south side of the
20 Brooks Range is there's been some heavy snow winters and
21 so near the Wiseman area, you know, sheep populations
22 have declined just due to weather events. And, you know,
23 there doesn't seem to be as much -- on the north side
24 of the Brooks Range there tends to be more wind, which
25 helps blow off the snow. But on the south side of the
26 Brooks Range you know, snow tends to stick a bit more.
27 And with those heavy, heavy snow winters, it's had an
28 effect on the sheep population. And then what Esther is
29 referring to is the Park Service also does surveys in
30 two units on behalf of BLM and also on behalf of the
31 state to also survey areas outside of the park. Both on
32 the east and west sides of the Haul Road. And You know,
33 there's been some declines there as well. But we'll be
34 providing more information at our upcoming commission
35 meeting in April.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, this is
38 Brower.

39

40 (Simultaneous speech)

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42 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Marcy.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: If I remember
45 correctly, we did something in conjunction with Jack,
46 Mr. Reakoff, and if I remember correctly, we voted
47 towards I was it closing or lessening numbers and the -
48 - but the federally qualified users were still able to
49 harvest for AKP if that's what I remember correctly. But
50 they were lessening or cutting off the numbers for non-

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1 federally qualified users. So, there was something to
2 that effect. So, I think there should be a little bit
3 less of an effect in your area for non-federally
4 qualified users. So, I think we should be okay on that.

5
6 MS. OKADA: Yeah. You're correct,
7 Chairman Frantz. There is currently a sheep hunting
8 closure that does not impact Anaktuvuk Pass, but it is
9 a closure for both sport hunting and subsistence users
10 in 26B west of the Sag River. And so that affects that
11 Akillik preserve. And then there's another section that
12 there's also a sheep hunting closure and it's also for
13 sport hunting and subsistence users. So basically,
14 subsistence users in Wiseman have chosen not to hunt
15 sheep. And they're waiting for the sheep population to
16 recover. But that closure does not affect the areas that
17 Anaktuvuk Pass hunters hunt in.

18
19 (Pause)

20
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you
22 for that information.

23
24 MS. OKADA: Yeah, and then on -- there's
25 just one more quick update on the very last page of your
26 written update.

27
28 MS. CHAPA: Is that it? Marcy, are you
29 seeing the page?

30
31 MS. OKADA: Yeah. And so, there was a
32 study on Arctic brown bears and -- to look into how long
33 they den. And what came out of this study was the brown
34 bears up in your area have the longest denning duration
35 ever reported. So, they basically spend a good chunk of
36 their time denning. And so, it was kind of interesting
37 that you had mentioned that there was a bear, a brown
38 bear sighting in your neck of the woods. But, yeah,
39 there -- this was a study that took place in the central
40 portion of the Brooks Range looking at Denning length
41 time.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, I believe it
44 was mid-December, is when the one up north here was
45 found outside of the den. They tracked it for a while
46 and ended up finding it in December.

47
48 MS. OKADA: Yeah. It would be interesting
49 to know if that was a older bear or, you know, just what
50 was the age of that bear that was still roaming around.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It was maybe a 2-
to 3-year-old-ish is what I saw. Go ahead, Carmen.

MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to Marcy
Okada, the bear was sealed at the Fish and Game office
here in Barrow in the last week or so. And we're going
to send the tooth in for aging. Just looking at the
teeth, there was a fair amount of wear on it, so
certainly not a cub by any means. But we can get some
more information on that once the aging information
comes back. Thank you.

MS. OKADA: Thanks, Carmen. So, if folks
don't have any other questions, thank you for your time,
and I appreciate it.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the
interesting presentations. Any other questions?

(No response)

Hearing none. Thank you for that. And
while we still have a little bit of time we'll move to
item 12.f, Office of Subsistence Management. Brent
Vickers.

(Pause)

DR. VICKERS: This is Brent Vickers, OSM
for the record. Sorry it took me a while. I was just
captivated by the past presentation and totally forgot
that I was on the agenda coming up here, so. Had to dig
through and find this report to give to you. First of
all, just thank you, everyone. Thanks for coming. Thanks
for being here. Thanks for all the time you put into it.
You know, reaching out in your communities, finding out
information, seeing what's going on traveling out here
in these windy days and sitting and listening to us talk
all day, really appreciate it. And thank you, everyone.
Who's sitting behind me right now for coming,
participating. I don't feel like everyone in the room
gets thanked enough, but your participation is really -
- everyone's vital to this process. So, thank you.

All right, let me try to run you through
some updates here. Wildlife regulatory cycle first. All
10 Regional Advisory Councils were able to hold their
fall meetings, with 8 of them being rescheduled for
December and January. As a result, all Councils were

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1 able to provide recommendations on nearly all wildlife
2 proposals and closure reviews. Thank you. Well, this --
3 you're one of the lucky ones that didn't have to
4 reschedule. But thanks for being there when you had to
5 be. But thank you Gisela for your hard work and
6 rescheduling some of the other ones. And then we were
7 just at a fall meeting two weeks ago together, and here
8 we are in a winter meeting. So that's -- the seasons
9 have passed very quickly this year. For next step in
10 Wildlife Regulatory Cycle, tribal and ANCSA corporation
11 consultations on wildlife proposals and closure reviews
12 -- that happened last week. Sorry about that. That was
13 for last week. That happened last week. I don't believe
14 we had anyone calling in from this region. Maybe next
15 time, if anyone would, if any of the tribal -- tribes -
16 - corporations would like a consultation on any wildlife
17 proposals or the wildlife special actions that we talked
18 about before, please contact OSM Native liaison, Orville
19 Lind. You can ask Gisela or just look on our website for
20 information on that. But we encourage more
21 consultations. Please consult.

22
23 Federal Subsistence Board is going to
24 be meeting at the Egan Center in Anchorage on April 20th
25 to 24th for -- to act on the wildlife proposals. As a
26 reminder, public testimony provided at this Council
27 meeting or other Council meetings on regulatory
28 proposals does not go directly to the Board. For those
29 who want to provide testimony to the Board, the Board
30 receives comments on non-agenda items every morning of
31 the meeting and receives testimonies on regulatory
32 proposals as they come up on the agenda. Another
33 opportunity for tribal consultations also does take
34 place immediately preceding the Board meeting on April
35 20th at 1 p.m., with virtual or in-person options
36 available.

37
38 Okay. Secretarial Review. If you guys
39 remember, you had a little presentation back at your
40 fall meeting and heard some things and made some
41 comments. You were one of the unfortunate Councils to
42 get that right off the bat and without much heads up.
43 So, thank you for putting your heads together and
44 responding as quickly as possible. The Secretarial
45 Review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program
46 opened for public written comments on December 15th. All
47 10 Councils were able to meet and submit letters with
48 comments on the review. We can provide those letters if
49 you would like to see the ones from -- are they in the
50 meeting book? What's that?

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MS. CHAPA: They're not in the meeting book, but I do have a packet for them to see the published letters as of last Friday.

DR. VICKERS: Great. Yes. Gisela, thank you for that. And she does have the letters. If you would like to see the letters from the other regions. Perfect. Thank you.

On February 3rd, a public listening session on the Secretary Review was held in Anchorage, and over 76 people provided their three minute oral comments in person or over the phone. Several council members were able to testify, either on their own behalf or representing other organizations outside of the Councils. The period for written comments was extended as a someone or Marcy actually mentioned earlier today, and will now close on March 30th. Statewide, tribal and ANCSA corporation consultations on the review will be held March 10th and 17th. Any tribe can request separate consultation on this topic at any time. The senior advisor to Secretary of Interior for Alaska Affairs has noted that all comments will be reviewed and that no decisions have been made on whether the review will result in any program changes.

Okay, so brings us to the Board Winter Work Session. The Board met in Anchorage on February 5th for its winter work session. During the session, the Board took care of administrative tasks, including, it accepted the 2026 Fisheries Monitoring Plan as it was presented, the approved Regional Advisory Council transmittal letters with minor changes. It received an update on request for consideration RFR25-01. This was a request to reconsider the 2025 decision to designate Ketchikan as rural under the Federal Subsistence Regulations. The Board is -- the update to the Board at that meeting was that there will be a threshold assessment of the RFR at its board meeting in April at -- where the Board would decide if it wants to go on with a full analysis of the proposal. And the last update it received was from the Senior Advisor from the Secretary of Interior, Alaska Affairs, regarding Secretary Review on the Federal Subsistence Management Program. Federal Subsistence Board will meet in Anchorage for its summer work session on August 8th -- or 4th for 5th, 2026. This is a great opportunity for Council Chairs to meet with the Board and have face-to-face discussion with the Board on topics of concern and

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1 included in your annual reports. You can talk to Gisela
2 about that if you're interested. It is a good
3 opportunity. Rather than just have an OSM staff read it
4 out. But to actually be able to talk to Board members,
5 what you're trying to express and what you want from
6 them.

7
8 Fisheries Proposal Rule. As I shared
9 earlier this meeting, fish and shellfish proposed rule,
10 published on February 12th. This means that anyone can
11 now submit a proposal to change federal subsistence
12 regulations for harvest of fish and shellfish on federal
13 public lands and waters in Alaska and also for rural or
14 non-rural determinations or of communities in the area.
15 There's more information on submitting proposals on OSM
16 website. The period for submitting fisheries proposals
17 ends on April 3rd. Councils will make recommendations
18 for any proposals affecting your region in your fall
19 meeting. And then the Board will then act on these
20 proposals at its fisheries regulatory meeting next
21 February 1st through 5th, 2027.

22
23 Council appointments. Actually, I've
24 missed the update on this, but Council appointments have
25 not yet been made for this calendar year. And we're --
26 should be having -- unfortunately a bit late, but we
27 should be having new Council members appointed for the
28 next cycle of meetings. Call for Council applications
29 and nominations. On February 13th, Federal Subsistence
30 Board opened a call for Council applications and
31 nominations. The application forms are available on the
32 public table and on the programs on our programs website.
33 For details, you can reach out to Gisela here. All
34 applications must be submitted either in person or via
35 email or mail by April 2nd, 2026. That concludes my
36 presentation. Again, thank you all. Let me know if you
37 have any questions.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Brent.
40 Any questions comments concerns from the Council?

41
42 (No response)

43
44 Hearing none. Thank you very much. All
45 right. All right. Are we saving the rest for tomorrow?
46 Go ahead, Gisela.

47
48 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
49 wanted to give you a brief update of what's left in the
50 agenda. And I skipped over the -- an agenda item, which

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1 is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update. And
2 that should be pretty short update. Then we will also
3 have Other Business. And again, I think it should be a
4 fairly short update unless the Council wants to have a
5 more detailed discussion on next steps on a couple of
6 things. And I just got information that there is another
7 Wildlife Special Action that was submitted that is also
8 relevant to this Council and it's in relation to 26-01.
9 So tomorrow will be an opportunity to develop those
10 recommendations. And I can read you what the special
11 action is. It's WSA26-02, closure of federal public
12 lands in Unit 22 to caribou hunting by non-federally
13 qualified users for the 2026 to 2028 regulatory cycle.
14 I think it's very similar to what the Council voted to
15 submit, and I believe that the reason why this Council
16 is going to see WSA26-02, even though it's a Unit 22,
17 but I believe that Point Hope residents have customary
18 and traditional use in Unit 22.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
21 I look forward to acting on that one tomorrow as long
22 as we have a quorum. So, anything else for today? I
23 think that's it. Is that -- yeah. We'll meet at 9:00
24 tomorrow. We don't have to -- it's the same meeting. So,
25 we're not closing. Closing out. All right, so meet back
26 here tomorrow at 9. Thank you, everybody, for
27 participating today. Have a good evening.

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29 (Off record)

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 101 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 24th day of February;

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

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

DATED at Isabela, Puerto Rico this 4th day of March 2026.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager