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SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

GRAND HALL, UAF NORTHWEST CAMPUS
Nome, Alaska
March 30, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Louis Green, Jr.
Kelsi Ivanoff
Martin Aukongak
Elmer Seetot, Jr.
Robert Moses, Sr.
Ronald Kirk

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 3/30/2026)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Good morning, everybody. Sorry about the coffee. Martin was looking for it, and I looked for it. It was just -- just plain old water. So, I guess we'll call this meeting to order here. I have invocation first with Elmer. Okay? And welcome, folks.

MR. SEETOT: Heavenly father. We thank you for this (distortion) in our room as we discuss issues that are important to our children in the future. Be with the families as they return home and make sure that we are safe while we are in Nome. Take care of everyone that is within our area and as daylight approaches, be with the hunters who are out there getting food for the coming season. We thank you, Lord, for your blessings. Amen.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Amen. Thank you. Yeah. Okay. So, I guess we call it to order at this point. And it would be 9:08 officially. Roll call, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Okay. Kelsi Ivanoff.

MS. IVANOFF: Here.

MS. CHAPA: Louis Green.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Here. Thank you.

MS. CHAPA: Martin Aukongak.

MR. AUKONGAK: Good morning.

MS. CHAPA: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

MR. SEETOT: (In Native).

MS. CHAPA: Robert Moses, Sr.

MR. MOSES: Here.

MS. CHAPA: And Ronald Kirk.

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1 MR. KIRK: Good morning.

2

3 MS. CHAPA: Good morning. Thank you, Mr.
4 Chair. We do have a quorum with six council members
5 present.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,
8 Gisela. So, we have an election of officers. So, Gisela,
9 I think you have to be the one to.....

10

11 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
12 Chapa with OSM for the record, and I'm jumping right
13 into our business of election of officers before going
14 through meeting announcements. But anyway, in accordance
15 to the Council Charter, council members elect a Chair,
16 a Vice Chair and Secretary for a one-year term and
17 elections occur at the winter meeting. So, we're going
18 to hold our elections and so, at this moment, I would
19 like to open the floor for nominations for the Council's
20 Chair. And the nominations do not need to be seconded.

21

22 MR. AUKONGAK: I nominate Louis for that.

23

24 MS. CHAPA: Okay.

25

26 MR. KIRK: Move to close nominations.

27

28 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Kirk, can you go ahead
29 and repeat that?

30

31 MR. KIRK: Move to close nominations.

32

33 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Kirk. We have
34 Louis Green nominated to serve as the Council's Chair,
35 and we are closing now our nominations, if there are no
36 other nominations on the floor. All right. So, we are -
37 - I'm going to go ahead and ask for a vote. All in favor,
38 signify by saying aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. All are
43 in favor. Anybody opposed?

44

45 (No response)

46

47 Just double checking. Everybody in
48 favor. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Now, congratulations are
49 in order for Louis Green as Council Chair. And now
50 I will hand over the election of officers for Vice Chair

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1 and Secretary to Chair Green.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thanks, Gisela.
4 Thanks to the vote of confidence, folks. And here we go.
5 So, I need a motion for a nomination to Vice Chair --
6 or a nomination. Excuse me.

7

8 MR. KIRK: I nominate Elmer Seetot and
9 move to ask unanimous consent.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Elmer was declining.
12 He's over 30 years here. The rest of us are just tired.

13

14 MR. KIRK: Okay. I retract.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What do you say? I
17 couldn't hear you. Nomination for Vice Chair.

18

19 MR. SEETOT: I nominate Mr. Aukongak.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Mr. Aukongak has been
22 nominated for Vice Chair. We don't need a -- we're just
23 -- a second. Yeah. So, what have we got here?

24

25 MR. KIRK: Move to close the nominations.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I was going to ask,
28 do you accept the nomination? He accepts the nomination.
29 We've got some process here. Somebody voted to close
30 nominations. Who was that, Ron? Yeah. Okay. Are there
31 any -- wait a minute. She threw this paper at me. I'm
32 like, what are we doing with that? Again.

33

34 MR. SEETOT: I moved to close nomination.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. It's closed.
37 Nominations are closed. I've never done this like this
38 before. So anyway, do you accept the nomination? Martin,
39 you're nominated as Vice Chair. You are Vice Chair.
40 Congratulations. Okay. We need a nomination for
41 Secretary.

42

43 UNIDENTIFIED: I nominate Kelsi.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any other
46 nominations?

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48 (No response)

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50 Hearing none.

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MR. SEETOT: Move to close nominations.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Nominations are closed. Kelsi, do you accept the nomination?

MS. IVANOFF: Accept.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You are now the Secretary. Thank you. Elections are complete. You have meeting announcement, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Yes, Mr. Chair. Again, everyone, thank you for joining us. This is the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. My name is Gisela Chapa and I'm the Coordinator for this Council and also the Designated Federal Officer for the meeting. Today and during this meeting, the Council will develop proposals to change federal subsistence fish and shellfish regulations and discuss other issues related to subsistence in the Seward Peninsula region. There will be an opportunity for public comment during those agenda items. And for those who are joining us online or over the phone, you can find the agenda online at doi.gov/subsistence. Under Regional Advisory Council, choose the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council and then the Meeting Materials tile and I will share the link shortly for everybody -- to everybody that joined through Teams to be able to access the agenda. There will also be an opportunity for the public to comment on non-agenda items. And that is item 10 in our agenda, and the Chair will announce the opportunity.

If you would like to address the Council during the meeting, for those in the room, please fill out a blue testifier form that can be found at the front table. This helps me keep track of anyone who would like to speak regarding a specific agenda item. Also, during the discussion, we ask that those online raise your hand for a turn to speak. And those calling in will need to press star-five to let us know that you've raised your hand and want to turn to speak. For all participants on the phone or online, your lines will be automatically muted. You will have to unmute yourself to speak. If you're on the phone, you will have to press star-six to unmute. If you do not have a mute button on your phone, you can press star-six. Please state your name for the record before making a comment or presenting a topic. This helps us get an accurate record for our meeting. And I also want to thank our council members for taking

1 the time to be here, whether in person or online. I
2 would also like to remind the public that membership
3 applications or nominations are being accepted now
4 through April 2nd to serve on the Seward Peninsula RAC.
5 I'd also like to encourage youth to submit a letter of
6 interest to serve on the Council. The Council has one
7 non-voting seat designated for youth, with the hope that
8 this can serve as a learning opportunity for youth. And
9 letters of interest are also being accepted now through
10 April 2nd. Anyone interested in getting more information
11 can ask me or message me and I will try to get back to
12 you during the break. Thank you, Mr. Chair. That
13 concludes my meeting announcements.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Gisela. So
16 that brings us down to item number 6 on the agenda,
17 which is welcome and introductions. We have people here
18 in the room. I'd start off with people in the room.
19 Please state your name, agency, or group that you
20 represent or the community you're from. So where do we
21 start here. We'll start with Jeanette.

22

23 MS. KOELSCH: Jeanette Koelsch.
24 Superintendent Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

25

26 MS. HENSLEE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
27 This is Sara Henslee. I am the Area Wildlife Manager
28 based in Nome for the Alaska Department of Fish and
29 Game. Thank you.

30

31 MR. HENSLEE: Good morning, Council
32 Members. My name is Luke Henslee. I'm the Assistant Area
33 Management Biologist for Norton Sound Fisheries with the
34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

35

36 MS. BAUSCHER: Hello everyone. My name
37 is Heather Bauscher. I'm the Fisheries Community
38 Engagement Specialist for the Sitka Conservation Society
39 and an adjunct professor at UAS. And I live in Southeast
40 Alaska, in Petersburg and Chair of the Petersburg
41 Advisory Committee down there.

42

43 MR. STONE: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
44 Members of the Council. Jarred Stone Fish Biologist with
45 the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm also the
46 Acting State Subsistence Liaison. Thank you.

47

48 MS. HUGHES: Good morning, Council. My
49 name is Letty Hughes, Wildlife Biologist for Bering Land
50 Bridge National Preserve, based here in Nome.

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MS. CARSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair and Council members. My name is Alicia Carson. I work for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm an Assistant Area Wildlife Biologist.

MS. BRAEM: Good morning. I'm Nikki Braem. I'm the Cultural Anthropologist at Bering Land Bridge National Preserve here in Nome.

MR. KOLLER: Good morning, Mr. Chair, Members of the Council. My name is Justin Koller. I'm a Regulations Division Supervisor for the Office of Subsistence Management. I've been with the program for about 15 years now, but most of the time was in Southeast Alaska. I lived in Sitka for a number of years, so I've been working my way up north and west and this is my first time to Nome so happy to be here with you all. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you folks for coming up to the mic and then we might have folks on the line.

MS. CHAPA: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Okay. If you're online state your name, agency or group you represent or the community you live in. Thanks for being here.

DR. VICKERS: Good morning. Can you guys hear me?

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're.....

(Simultaneous speech)

DR. VICKERS: All right. This is...

CHAIRPERSON GREEN:loud and clear, go ahead.

DR. VICKERS: Good morning. This is Brent Vickers, and I'm well, acting as the BLM Statewide Subsistence Coordinator. And good morning to Council. Good morning to Gisela. Good morning to council members Ivanoff's daughter who's hard at work again. Everyone else in building wish I could be there. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Brent.

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DR. VOORHEES: Good morning, this is Hannah Voorhees. I'm an Anthropologist with OSM.

MR. UBELAKER: Good morning. This is Brian Ubelaker, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

MR. PLANK: Good morning. It's Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist, OSM.

MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning. This is Craig Townsend, Wildlife Biologist with the BLM here in Anchorage acting as a Subsistence Coordinator. And I also have our field manager here in the room with us.

MR. VIALPANDO: Good morning, Jacob Vialpando with the Anchorage BLM Field Manager and field office. Thank you.

MR. JOLY: Good morning, everyone. I'm Kyle Joly. I'm a Caribou Biologist with the National Park Service.

MS. FLOREY: Good morning. I'm Victoria Florey National Park service.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there any other on there? Is there Charles Ellena on there?

MR. ELLANNA: Yeah. Good morning. This is Charles Ellenna. Community of Nome.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Charles. Any others?

UNIDENTIFIED: Good morning.....

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED: Good morning, Council. This is Marie (In Native). I am a resident of Stebbins/Fairbanks. I am a lifelong subsistence user. I am an elder, and I appreciate you inviting me on to this teleconference. I would like to have seen it a little earlier in the year, but now it's just fine. Congratulations, all elected Board members. I know I have a lot of confidence that you will do your best for us here in the villages. Thank you very much, Qu yana.

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: According to Gisela
2 here, she thinks that's the last vote -- have you folks
3 to talk. Thank you for introducing yourself. Appreciate
4 you being here. Okay. At this time, we got item number
5 7 here on our agenda. It's a Review and Adopt the Agenda.
6 I need a motion and a second.

7

8 MS. IVANOFF: Move to adopt the agenda.

9

10 MR. AUKONGAK: A second.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Time to review it?
13 I'll give you guys a minute. Any additions or anything
14 anybody else wants to add on here, or are we complete?

15

16 (No response)

17

18 Okay, so all those in favor of the
19 agenda -- adopting an agenda, say aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Agenda has been
24 adopted. We move forward to Review and Approve the
25 Previous Meeting Minutes. And that's a motion and a
26 second. I need to move on those. So, the winter of 2025
27 Council minutes, page seven in your booklet. And I'll
28 give you a minute to do that just to make sure you're
29 happy with it. Thank you.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, move to approve
32 April 1, 2025, meeting minutes.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Elmer moves. Is
35 our second?

36

37 MS. IVANOFF: Second.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Second by Kelsi. Are
40 there any comments or concerns on there?

41

42 (No response)

43

44 Hearing none. Vote to approve. All those
45 in favor?

46

47 IN UNSION: Aye.

48

49 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair I didn't attend the
50 meeting.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Didn't hear what he said.

MS. CHAPA: He did not attend the meeting, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh. That's fine. Sounds like the vote was -- all those opposed.

(No response)

Hearing none. Minutes of April 1st, 2025, were passed. We move on to the fall of 2025 Council minutes. Page 15. Need a motion and a second.

MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. Move to approve January -- or Fall 2025 Council minutes.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi. Is there a second?

MR. SEETOT: Second.

UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Elmer second. Are there any comments or concerns or any additions?

MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

MR. SEETOT: Under my comment, I -- Member Seetot explained, or a few berries were available -- the few berries that were available for harvest contain excess salt, which further impacted their quality. I always talk about berries that we have a lot of plants that produce crowberries or blackberries and then the flooding what extra salt will keep the berries from growing for a couple of years until they get everything going for them again. So, we had that situation in around graphite. I mean, Grantley Harbor was in Port Clarence Bay and places that were crowberries grow that saltwater flooding won't -- will limit their growth or will completely stop until the plants are -- that was my explanation for the excess salt.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Make those changes? Okay. Thank you, Elmer. Anybody else? Any other council

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1 members on their comments?

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UNIDENTIFIED: Call for question.

4

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Online. Hearing none, I'll ask for a vote here. All those in favor of accepting the fall of 2025 minutes, say aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All those against, same sign.

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(No response)

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Hearing none. Fall of 2025 Council minutes are approved. Council Reports. Regional Subsistence Reports. Item 9 agenda. I guess we gotta start with anybody on the phone? Council members on the phone. Do you have any reports?

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MR. KIRK: Not really, Mr. Chair. Was a good year, fall time, you know, people were subsistence hunt moose hunting, and it was successful. And other than that, the berry picking was great, and I don't -- and harvesting blackberries, was good too. For fishing, those are minimum it wasn't as rich as it usually be. We didn't get that many fish. Other than that, it was a good success for subsistence here. Mr. Chair, thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

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MR. MOSES: This is Robert at Golovin. This year so far has been okay. People get caribou and they get their caribou at Paragon. There's a few that's been trapping, and they're doing real good trapping. Wolverine, mostly wolverine. And they caught some wolves in their trap. And we also caught some wolves with snow machine. People have been trying to crab now, but the ice has been pretty thick since maybe about a month now, they've been trying. But ice went out with the strong east wind. And the moose season has been good here. A lot of people got moose. The berries were good and salmon fishing last summer wasn't not as good as the years before. And you could tell that the salmon is in the -- you could tell they're going downhill from here what I'm trying to say. Along with the trout fishing was late. Later this year, the tomcods were late. People got a few smelt, and that's all I have for Golovin.

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Robert.
2 Thank you, Ron. Let's start down with you, Kelsi.

3
4 MS. IVANOFF: Kelsi Ivanoff from
5 Unalakleet. Trying to think since our last meeting. They
6 just started trout fishing at home kind of later with
7 our cold winter that we had. Because of the cold winter,
8 it was a really good smelt year. I've seen people head
9 out caribou hunting, but of course they have to go really
10 far from Unalakleet. There was a winter hunt, but I
11 don't believe any one went out this year. Not that I
12 know of. Or winter moose hunt, sorry. We had a really
13 good ice year. It was the first year that ice has stayed
14 and a long time. I -- people have set subsistence crab
15 pots and I haven't -- we haven't been able to do that
16 in probably ten-ish years. Probably more than that.
17 Yeah. I can't think of anything else since the last
18 meeting. Thanks.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi. Mr.
21 Brevig.

22
23 MR. SEETOT: (In Native). We had cold
24 weather pretty much late February to early March. Some
25 wolverines were caught. Bering Sea has been frozen since
26 November. I -- which is good for Port Clarence Bay. It's
27 an estuary or bay that really hasn't been researched by
28 state and federal agencies. It's a deep-water port, but
29 no one pretty much look at what's under the water. I
30 know there's a lot of stuff. They have a halibut that
31 they were trying to open the halibut fishery over toward
32 King Island. And Port Clarence Bay is right next door.
33 It's a place where most of the fish enter first to go
34 into Imuruk Basin, to Kuzitrin River to all the rivers
35 up and around Kuzitrin river system or the entire
36 wetlands in that area.

37
38 Caribou were seen. Caribou were caught
39 there around the Igloo area. Igloo Creek, American,
40 (indiscernible) Creek area. And this was the first time
41 that they have been in this area for a while. I know
42 that this range was used extensively by the reindeer
43 herders when it was first established. So, lichen. They
44 say lichen takes 50 years to grow. So, it's been more
45 than 50 years. And I know there's some good -- very good
46 patches of that in and around that area. Not too much
47 ice fishing for salmon, cod or smelt due to very cold
48 weather. And like I say the caribou -- one thing, the
49 caribou that they were also getting them over at Davidson
50 Landing in that area. If I know that they're in that --

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1 from that area, they came through the Bendeleben
2 Mountains. If they come through the north side, you
3 rarely see them in and around the flats or Davidson
4 Landing area. So, the wolf population, I think, is more
5 further north. Wolverines have been caught, but not in
6 big numbers. And so, we're just waiting patiently for
7 spring to arrive. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
10 Martin.

11
12 MR. AUKONGAK: I want to repeat what
13 Robert said. Yeah, it's been a good winter for trapping.
14 All my friends got wolverine and wolf, and I still got
15 my pet lynx behind my house. His name is Puddles. Anyway
16 yeah, we're getting a lot of crab. I think my friend
17 Marty from here sending crab to me in Anchorage. And eat
18 more bacon so we can get more caribou.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Well,
21 moose hunting this year was pretty quick. Another three-
22 day hunt in the area that I was in. I know that I think
23 that the 22C Unit around here. Subunit around Nome was
24 like two days. Again, you know, our moose herd is down
25 so low that -- and there's so many people out there
26 aggressively in search of these animals that our hunts
27 don't last, but more than four days and then three, four
28 days and it's like makes it tough on a lot of the
29 families that put out the money. You know, we're talking
30 \$6.30 or so a gallon of gas. I think the concentration
31 is getting to the point where 22C is pretty favorable
32 because people don't have to spend that much money to
33 get out and take an animal if they find one. I think
34 there was an over harvest at one point. Some 40 animals
35 instead of like a targeted 16-17 animals. So, hunters
36 are successful, but I don't know how that works out for
37 the herd if it's sustainable or not that those numbers
38 being taken.

39
40 I do know that the winter season for
41 crab is doing pretty good. The ice is in pretty good
42 shape out here. I see a lot of reports on Facebook about
43 it. People are doing the commercial fishery. I guess
44 back in the fall time, the berries weren't too bad. I
45 never heard anybody complaining. I know out on the Teller
46 Road it was pretty popular for salmonberries out there.
47 The caribou hunt now. I just heard of some fellas going
48 out here within the next couple of days. So, like Elmer
49 said, the caribou are in a different area. They're more
50 to the south, maybe southwest. So, looking forward to

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1 the spring hunt. I'm hoping that the waterfowl and the
2 marine mammals are a good harvest this year for
3 everybody. So that's my report. Thank you. So, item
4 number 10 here folks is Public and Tribal Comment on
5 Non-Agenda Items. And this is available each morning.
6 So, if anybody has anything to comment on the mic's
7 open.

8
9 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. This is Gisela.
10 For the record, I just wanted to remind people online
11 that for you to speak, you will need to unmute yourself.
12 If you're joining over the phone, you'll need to press
13 star-six. And also, if you want to raise your hand for
14 a turn to speak star-five will let us know that you want
15 to address the Council. Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There's elder in
18 Stebbins. Do you have any non-agenda items to comment
19 on?

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED: Not at this time. Thank
22 you for asking.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Anybody
25 else online? Please speak.

26
27 (No response)

28
29 Hearing none. Anybody in the room?

30
31 (No response)

32
33 Nobody in the room here. So that brings
34 us on to item number 11 and under Action Items. And I
35 think we need Mr. Stone to the mic. Thank you.

36
37 MR. STONE: Good morning. (In Native).
38 Did I say that right, Elmer? Nailed it. Nice. Thank you.
39 He's been teaching me over these years, so thank you.
40 Good morning. For the record, Jarred Stone Fish
41 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.
42 Today -- oh, actually, I'm also joined by Hannah
43 Voorhees, who is online and she's an Anthropologist for
44 OSM. And so today I'm here to announce the call for
45 federal fisheries regulatory proposals. The Federal
46 Subsistence Board is currently accepting proposals to
47 change federal regulations for the subsistence take of
48 fish on federal public waters for the 2027 through 2029
49 regulatory cycle. The Board will be accepting proposals
50 through April 3rd. That's already next week, I believe.

1
2 The Board will consider proposals to
3 change seasons, harvest limits, methods and means, and
4 customary and traditional use determinations for federal
5 fisheries. If the Council wishes to submit a proposal,
6 you will need to do so during this meeting. The public
7 may also submit proposals to change federal fisheries
8 regulations. The public can find information on how to
9 submit proposals on our website at
10 doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries. Another option is to come
11 and find me during the meeting. And I can help you
12 navigate towards where you need to be or help you craft
13 that proposal. The proposals will be analyzed by OSM
14 staff and presented to the Councils during your fall
15 meetings for Council recommendations. Proposal analysis
16 and Council recommendations will be presented to the
17 Federal Subsistence Board for its action during the
18 February 2027 Fisheries Regulatory Meeting. That
19 concludes my presentation and if the Council has any
20 regulatory proposals that you'd like to put forward, I'm
21 happy to help you. Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Jarred.
24 Anybody from Council have any questions for Jarred? Go
25 ahead, Kelsi.

26
27 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I --
28 so in looking at our regulations, I saw that in
29 Unalakleet, there is a -- you can only fish from 8 a.m.
30 from June 1 to July 15, 8 a.m. Monday to 8 a.m. -- 8
31 p.m. Saturday. Is there -- what's the history behind
32 that regulation?

33
34 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the Chair,
35 Council Member Kelsi. Great question. You know, off the
36 top of my head, I don't know the answer to that. That's
37 been a long-standing regulation and the regs book for
38 some time. And that has been considered during our
39 closure review analyses. And I think the idea is that
40 it's been such a long-standing pattern of low returns
41 that instead of having the in-season manager do in-
42 season actions every year to have it codified in
43 regulation to kind of maybe, perhaps reduce the burden
44 on the manager so they're not having to take actions
45 every year and -- but that's speculation on my part. I
46 can do some more digging and find out that answer for
47 you.

48
49 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you.
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any questions from
2 any Council online? Ron or Robert?

3
4 MR. MOSES: Yeah, this is Robert. I have
5 a question for Jarred. If we do these proposals for the
6 -- about the fish, do these proposals go to the Board
7 of Fish meetings in Anchorage or to the higher ups? What
8 I'm trying to ask.

9
10 MR. STONE: Thank you for the question.
11 Through the Chair, Council Member Robert. Yes. So, the
12 proposals that are submitted today are up until April
13 3rd will go to the Federal Subsistence Board. So not the
14 Board of Fisheries, not the Board of Fish. That meeting
15 will be sometime in February, I believe. Early February
16 2027. And so, the process right now, the way it looks
17 is a proposal will be submitted today or through April
18 3rd. And then myself as an analyst will write an analysis
19 for that proposal. I'll bring that to you in the fall
20 and the Council as a whole will take action on that
21 proposal. And then that recommendation then moves to the
22 Federal Subsistence Board in early February. Does that
23 answer your question?

24
25 MR. MOSES: Yes, it does. So, when do we
26 -- can we make a proposal then?

27
28 MR. STONE: Oh, great question. Thank
29 you. Through the Chair, Council Member, Mr. Robert. We
30 can make a proposal today if you wish as a whole, as a
31 Council. But if you have a proposal that you would like
32 to submit yourself you have until April 3rd and if
33 there's something in mind that you have just let me
34 know, I can work with you and make sure that it's --
35 captures your intent and get that proposal submitted so
36 that it's there on time. Thank you.

37
38 MR. MOSES: Okay. Thank you. Would I be
39 able to do it now, or do I have to wait?

40
41 MR. STONE: Oh, through the Chair. You
42 can do it now if you like. We could work through it
43 right now and see if it's something that the Council
44 wishes for to move forward.

45
46 MR. MOSES: It's real quick. Earlier this
47 year, they had a Board of Fish meeting, and I caught it
48 on the channels in False Pass area. They talked about
49 every fish on the screen that was south of False Pass
50 was equal 5000, according to radar. Once those little

1 pictures of them grey fish come up, equaling 5000 fish,
2 like one pops up here, one pops up five miles over there.
3 Ten miles here, five miles there and a big radius down
4 there, they pop up and it goes from like one to like 50
5 of those little fish dots that equal 5000 fish. After
6 them dots come up all them purse seiners go there and
7 they clean them out and fish barely get over to False
8 Pass and end up the little gray fish that equals 5000
9 come up again in another area and they go there and they
10 clean them out. How could we make a proposal to stop
11 that and use Unalakleet as an example for their moose
12 hunt to make the population of fish go up. Like
13 Unalakleet did never moose hunt for so many years, now
14 they're sustaining their community like that. But use
15 that as an example to cut off them purse seiners for a
16 couple of years or something. It's killing everybody up
17 the Yukon, up our way, all the way to the Interior.
18 That's where all the king salmon and the other fish
19 under that are getting cut off from.

20
21 So, I strongly make a proposal to -- I
22 know it's a little voice in our community to do that.
23 You can't fight the dollar. Once the money comes in,
24 people go for it. No matter what it is. Work or do handy
25 work, they'll work for it. And when it's big bucks like
26 that, they'll go for it. It's just like crabbing. People
27 do good on fishing in Bristol Bay on the north side. But
28 where the fish come in on the south side, on the False
29 Pass, they need to be able to get up so they could
30 repopulate. And I think that would make a big rebound
31 in the fish population on this northwestern side of our
32 side and even probably Kotzebue area. So that's
33 something to my proposal to hoping -- my proposal for
34 the fish and game or from me on the Board. I hope I said
35 that right.

36
37 MR. STONE: Oh, through the Chair, Mr.
38 Robert, you bring up some excellent points. And one thing
39 I just want to be clear about is we're kind of -- well,
40 we're limited on where we can apply these federal
41 regulations. I believe the fishery you're speaking to
42 is state fisheries, state and federal fisheries,
43 possibly. And unfortunately, with our federal
44 subsistence regulations, we can't put forward
45 regulations for those areas, we simply just don't have
46 jurisdiction in those in those areas. Now, with that
47 being said, there is a formal process similar to ours
48 through the Board of Fish, and they have just concluded
49 their Board of Fish meetings this year. But when the
50 time comes maybe what I can do is make sure that I can

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1 notify you and get that proposal submitted for the proper
2 channels. But I agree with all your points and it's a
3 good recommendation that you made, particularly with the
4 scenario with the moose and the moratorium that they
5 had. That was a success story. And that was a -- yeah,
6 I agree with all those points you made. Thank you.

7
8 MR. MOSES: For the record, Jarred, those
9 are based on facts. Those are on black and white, you
10 know, and that's proof right there. And the proposal
11 goes to a regulation? So, it would turn from being a
12 proposal -- I'm not trying to make it a regulation.
13 We're just -- it's just a proposal. And now you want to
14 turn it into like a regulation? Like I can't, like I
15 have no voice in it. Or we have no voice in
16 (indiscernible).

17
18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Robert. I think what
19 he was doing -- what he did was to clarify that the
20 proposals here are for the federal level and that I
21 think what you're speaking to is the state level. And
22 he just mentioned that the Board of Fish has gone through
23 the process here so far this winter. I think they're
24 pretty well done with their stuff that they've been
25 working on throughout the winter. The proposal that you
26 would want to probably introduce would have to do with
27 the state that's within the.....

28
29 MR. MOSES: Okay, go through Jarred's
30 channels, like you said then. Right?

31
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Jarred. You might
33 talk to him on a sidebar.

34
35 MR. MOSES: Okay.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm sorry. Go ahead,
38 Kelsi.

39
40 MS. IVANOFF: Then. Yeah. Three-year
41 cycles.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. That -- Robert
44 that happens every three years. So, with the state --
45 the state salmon -- or the fisheries has already taken
46 place. So, you have to wait for another three years
47 before introducing anything that affects state
48 fisheries.

49
50 MR. KIRK: Okay. I see.

1

2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And anybody can do
3 that. Yeah, anybody can do that too. It's not like it
4 has to come from the Council or anything. An individual
5 can submit proposals. It's the same here with the federal
6 side. Kelsi.

7

8

9 MS. IVANOFF: Just wanted to clarify that
10 this area will come up again in three years. They have
11 cycles every year, but this specific area that you're
12 talking about will come up again in three years.

12

13

14

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thanks for that
Kelsi. Robert, are you clear on...?

15

16

17

MR. MOSES: Yeah, I understand it now,
Louis. Thank you.

18

19

20

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for
bringing it up. Jarred.

21

22

23

24

25

26

MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have
nothing else. That concludes my presentation. If there's
proposals that you wish to put forward later, just come
find me, and I'll be happy to work with you.

27

28

29

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thanks. Any
other Council? Oh, Elmer has some.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

MR. SEETOT: Not related to the -- what
you're talking about. But as I was looking through the
harvest from Fish and Game, I noticed -- I was just kind
of puzzled, no red buoys or red tags on permitted gear.
And then I would just kind of wondering what does that
mean in plain English?

36

37

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MR. STONE: Through the Chair, Council
Member Elmer. Great question. That was a proposal that
was submitted last cycle for the Bristol Bay region, and
the OSM analysis and recommendation found that there was
two areas in the state that were similar and for state
regulations. And so that analysis recommendation that
we made during that time was to essentially match what
the state regulations were for two discrete areas.
Norton Sound was one of them. And I think the idea behind
that was to help differentiate subsistence gear from
commercial gear. But that was a new change, and that's
why you see it in the book is highlighted in yellow. And
if that's something that doesn't make sense, you know,
for the region, and I know a lot of people like to use

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1 everything from Clorox bottles that they found on the
2 beach to pop bottles, whatever they can find. And if
3 that's burdensome, we can certainly work through and put
4 together a regulation right now that would -- or a
5 proposal to change that.

6

7 MR. SEETOT: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
10 Kelsi.

11

12 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you. One more
13 question. I just want to make sure I'm understanding
14 this right. It's not daily. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., correct?
15 It's just an entire six days open and then closed
16 basically for Sunday.

17

18 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. That's a
19 good question. The way that I read into that is. 8 a.m.
20 Monday until 8 p.m. Saturday you can fish, and then
21 close Sunday entirely.

22

23 MS. IVANOFF: Okay.

24

25 MR. STONE: Does that make sense or...?

26

27 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah, it's just -- I just
28 have an issue with it because -- and I'm wondering if
29 this can be a proposal put forward to change that because
30 weather doesn't wait for daily closures. If the weather
31 is good on a Sunday, I want our people to be able to go
32 and fish and I don't -- that can be a personal one but
33 -- if the Council doesn't feel comfortable putting that
34 forward.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thanks for the
37 question, Kelsi. Any other questions from Council? On
38 the phone? Jarred's got something.

39

40 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Thank you,
41 Council Member Kelsi. Just so I kind of captured the
42 intent of that. Would it be just allowing fishing on
43 Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and just by essentially adding
44 that Sunday to it or maybe modifying even the times as
45 well?

46

47 MS. IVANOFF: I think just opening it to
48 close it. From 8 p.m. Saturday to 8 a.m. Monday. That's
49 -- I don't know, that just doesn't make sense to me when
50 we're not operating by -- time we're operating by what

1 the fish and the weather allow. I don't -- maybe as
2 specified by emergency action or something of that sort.

3
4 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Great
5 points. If this is something that the proposal -- or
6 sorry, the Council wishes to submit through the proposal
7 process, I can work with you, Kelsi, and try and craft
8 that today. To me, are you suggesting that maybe the
9 times get completely removed and it's just open from
10 June 1 through July 15 and remove -- because it's still
11 obviously daylight, you know, past 8 p.m. and before 8
12 a.m. So, is that -- am I capturing the intent?

13
14 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah, that's.....

15
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sounds like you two
17 will work something out here and either we deal with it
18 here at the table or we -- or it's an individual proposal
19 that she sends in there. Am I correct? Go ahead.

20
21 MR. STONE: Oh, through the Chair. Yep.
22 That's correct. You can submit it as a as a Council.
23 Take action on it. It would be an action item. Otherwise,
24 if Council Member Kelsi would like to submit a proposal
25 on just her behalf, we can do that as well.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. I think you
28 guys will proceed. I'd like to know -- we'll talk about
29 it after on a break or something, so I know what's going
30 on. Maybe we'll bring it to the table. Thank you. Jarred,
31 is that it?

32
33 MR. STONE: That's it. Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you then. Okay.
36 All right, so pages flipped over. Let's see, we're at -
37 - an action item. What were you going to say?

38
39 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
40 we've just concluded the call for federal fisheries
41 proposals with the possibility of maybe coming back to
42 the issue. If there's a proposal that the Council wants
43 to submit after there's a little bit more discussion and
44 we are now at action item 11.b Deferred Wildlife Proposal
45 WP26-53.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Which is on page 27.
48 And we have Brian Ubelaker online. Brian, are you
49 available?

50

1 MR. UBELAKER: I sure am, Mr. Chair. Can
2 you hear me, alright?

3
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Five by five.

5
6 MR. UBELAKER: Excellent. Good morning.
7 For the record, Brian Ubelaker Wildlife Biologist with
8 OSM. Before I get into the presentation, my
9 understanding that Nathan Baring with the Reindeer
10 Herders Association was going to provide an update with
11 what is happening with Tom Gray's herd.

12
13 MR. BARING: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Can
14 you hear me?

15
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes. Go ahead.

17
18 MR. BARING: Yeah. Good morning, Mr.
19 Chair, and members of the of the group. This is Nathan
20 Baring. I'm the Reindeer Herders Association program
21 director for Kawerak. And yeah, I'm happy to also be a
22 resource on standby as we're considering this proposal.
23 And yeah, what I'm really here to do is sort of to offer
24 the RHA perspective on this proposal. And from my
25 understanding about the nature of the areas under
26 discussion, the goal of the proposal or the basis of the
27 proposal is to protect the privately owned reindeer that
28 are in this region with also the recently understood --
29 our understanding that there are no caribou in this
30 region and have not been for quite a while. And we concur
31 with all of -- all the comments that I've read from Fish
32 and Game's perspective and from the management
33 perspective reflected in the proposal that was sent to
34 me.

35
36 It looks like we're talking about some
37 small portions of federal land near the Cobblestone
38 River and on Rocky Point. And these are areas that would
39 be, from my understanding, even a bit -- quite a bit
40 further south than portions of land under some Board of
41 Game proposals on the state side that would further
42 restrict caribou hunting in the regions that there
43 aren't caribou right now, there are just privately owned
44 reindeer. So, it clears up a lot of confusion for hunters
45 not being tempted to take privately owned deer. And I
46 think -- I mostly would just offer that I can be on the
47 line for any questions or comments from members that I
48 can further offer perspective on. But the specific
49 nature of Tom's herd right now, my personal
50 understanding would be that it wouldn't have any bearing

1 on whether this proposal goes forward or not, because
2 even if the family had not decided how they wanted to
3 treat their privately owned deer with Tom's passing in
4 January, it, you know, it wouldn't have a bearing on the
5 outcome because they would still be privately owned
6 deer, not subject to the caribou hunting season. With
7 that, I yield back.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you for
10 that. I guess at this point, we have Brian. Brian, you
11 have the floor.

12
13 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Once
14 again, Brian Ubelaker, for the record. And you are
15 correct, you can find the analysis starting on page 27
16 of your meeting book. This proposal WP26-53 was
17 submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
18 request changing caribou seasons in portions of Units
19 22B West and 22D Pilgrim to a year-round may-be-
20 announced season. This would combine current split
21 seasons into a single July 1st through June 30th may-
22 be-announced season. The proponent states this change
23 is necessary because reindeer herding has been renewed
24 in this area, and changing the year-round open season
25 to may-be-announced season would prevent accidental
26 reindeer harvest. This change would also align federal
27 and state regulations without affecting subsistence
28 opportunity, as Western Arctic Caribou Herd caribou have
29 not been documented in this area since 2015.

30
31 Previous state and federal regulatory
32 measures have modified caribou hunting seasons in Units
33 22B West and 22D Pilgrim, primarily to safeguard
34 reindeer herds. In 2006, seasons were shortened and
35 changed to may-be-announced for this purpose. Under
36 current federal regulations, these units have split
37 seasons of October 1st through April 30th and May 1st
38 through September 30th, while surrounding units already
39 have year-round may-be-announced seasons. State
40 regulations also manage caribou hunting in these areas,
41 as may-be-announced season, but ADF&G closed them by
42 emergency order in 2024 and 2025 because no collared
43 caribou have been documented there since 2015.

44
45 The most recent biological data show the
46 Western Arctic Caribou Herd has been declining, with
47 about 121,000 animals in 2025. Historically, the herd
48 wintered on the Seward Peninsula, but collared caribou
49 have not been documented in these units since 2015.
50 Recent collaring studies by Alaska Department of Fish

1 and Game and the National Park Service are tracking
2 movements of small remnant groups of caribou, but their
3 distribution remains uncertain. Reported harvest in
4 these specific hunt areas has been very low, averaging
5 only three animals per year from 2008 to 2023, with no
6 reported harvest since 2021.

7
8 One alternative that was considered was
9 to give federal in-season managers authority to define
10 smaller harvest areas. This would allow for opportunity
11 if caribou do move through the area. However, this was
12 not pursued because too little is known about the remnant
13 caribou populations on the Seward Peninsula. Another
14 option would be to defer this proposal until the state
15 changes its codified regulations. This would keep
16 federal rules from being more restrictive and would
17 allow for more discussion with stakeholder groups. So,
18 if this proposal is adopted, it would shift Units 22B
19 West and 22D Pilgrim to a year-round, may-be-announced
20 season. This would reduce the chance of accidentally
21 harvesting reindeer and align and simplify federal and
22 state regulations. Subsistence opportunity would
23 technically decrease in these areas, but in practice,
24 caribou haven't been present in these areas for years.
25 Other Units of 22 that have a year-round season would
26 remain unchanged, allowing for harvest opportunity.

27
28 If this proposal is not adopted, no
29 change in federal opportunity will occur. But harvest
30 in this area has not occurred since 2021, and federally
31 qualified subsistence users would have to exercise
32 caution harvesting caribou in the area to ensure no
33 reindeer, which are private property, are not mistakenly
34 harvested. So OSM preliminary recommendation is to be
35 neutral on proposal WP26-53. This proposal balances
36 conservation and subsistence opportunity -- excuse me,
37 subsistence priorities for federally qualified users.
38 While it slightly decreases subsistence opportunity,
39 caribou are absent from the area, so effects should be
40 minimal. The main benefit would be preventing accidental
41 reindeer harvest. That concludes my presentation. I'd
42 be happy to answer any questions the Council may have.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
45 Brian. As -- Council on the phone, Ron or Robert, do you
46 have any questions, comments, concerns?

47
48 MR. MOSES: So, I have a question for the
49 record. So, you're saying that from up by Kuzitrin,
50 you guys want to push the boundary to little Rocky Point

1 below Golovin and go how far east and how far north?

2

3 MR. UBELAKER: Through the Chair. This
4 proposal would close down -- its that Unit 22D Pilgrim
5 River drainage. So, the area, you know, surrounding
6 Salmon Lake following the Pilgrim River down and then
7 22B would be west of Golovin and the Fish and the (In
8 Native) Rivers. I don't know if you can see the map that
9 Gisela is projecting right now, but we've got the areas
10 outlined, shows the very small amount of federal public
11 lands available in either of those two units. Yeah. Does
12 that answer your question?

13

14 MR. MOSES: Yes. Yes, it does. I'm
15 against that. All the hunters in our region, they know
16 what -- they know -- they can differentiate a caribou
17 from a reindeer. And I know for a fact they run way, way
18 faster than a reindeer. And they're -- the reindeers
19 they should be by the, you know, the village herd or
20 wherever their boundary is. And I don't think -- with
21 our caribou and Mount Bendeleben area, I don't think
22 they mingle anymore with the regular reindeer herds
23 around our region. That's my opinion, though. I never
24 heard anything on their reindeer running away with
25 caribou up there. But it should be their responsibility
26 to keep track of them, like how they do with cattle down
27 in the States. They have a job to do like that, and they
28 have a job same way. But it would help if they, you
29 know, they knew the caribou were coming them days and
30 they could have rounded up -- rounded them up and pushed
31 them, but. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Robert. Go
34 ahead, Martin. Sorry.

35

36 MR. AUKONGAK: Hey, Brian, it's Martin.
37 You need to upgrade your map. And I agree with Robert.
38 You know, you need to be real careful on your lying
39 zone, whatever regulation. I own a little in Rocky Point,
40 so I would oppose this. I wouldn't want anybody on my
41 land. And I hope you get everybody's allotment because
42 the state and the federal, those laws don't apply when
43 it comes to an allotment.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Elmer.

46

47 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig Mission.
48 (Indiscernible) was -- Brevig Mission was established
49 by Reverend Jackson to offload reindeer from Siberia.
50 And since that time, Seward Peninsula has been pretty

1 much -- they have 15 herds that are permitted grazing,
2 grazing permits for the Seward Peninsula. Right now, we
3 have only two or at least two reindeer herds that are
4 considered wild. The (In Native) herd of Brevig and then
5 the (In Native) herd of Teller. But those are just the
6 remnants. Maniilaq (In Native) before the caribou came
7 and took them away ten years ago, it -- we had one of
8 the lively or hot spots for reindeer herding in Brevig
9 because Reindeer Act of 1937 kind of forced the non-
10 Natives from taking part in reindeer management. And
11 then we do have an aging reindeer plant that was built
12 by Lowman on the -- on north -- western side of Grantley
13 Harbor to take care of commercial reindeer development,
14 which did not occur. I think they're trying to do that
15 in St. Michael/Stebbins area. However, the quote -- the
16 creed or the thing among the first reindeer herders was
17 that if you did not care for your reindeer or your
18 animals within a two-week period, they were considered
19 feral or wild. So that was one of the issues that early
20 reindeer herders had to contend with.

21
22 Our herds are not very active at this
23 present. They do consider having reindeer roundups but
24 due to terrain and timing of the roundup sometimes they
25 get pretty wild. And we do see -- our hunters do see
26 reindeer, caribou out in the wild eating berries. That's
27 a fact that they eat berries. Some of our hunters harvest
28 caribou throughout the summer or reindeer, whatever you
29 want to call them by wearing a white parka covers.
30 They'll come to you. Reindeer caribou are curious of
31 what they see, because during the winter they see white
32 all year round, being snow. But springtime -- summertime
33 considered white, I'm -- they see something else
34 different. So, there's something going on that isn't
35 really understood, you know, by the herders, by people
36 among us of what these animals do. But they had -- this
37 one here would kind of get people from the region going
38 after any animal that they can see, like Mr. Moses, Mr.
39 Alakanuk said that, you know, there would be more people
40 in our areas that we do hunt.

41
42 So, for our hunters sometimes, you know,
43 there's no open and no closed season. Some do not abide
44 by the regulations. That's what I know. And then when
45 opportunity presents itself, they will take that
46 opportunity. But there are times when they will say no.
47 No harvest to animals that are having young during the
48 rut, during certain seasons that were passed down from
49 generation to generation in our time. So, there are
50 certain times that certain things are prohibited from

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1 harvesting or taking due to the -- they're not being
2 mature enough or they have to go through the seasons.
3 But that is what I have to offer, Mr. Chair.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you,
6 Councilman, Mr. Elmer, I think I got a hand raised up
7 there for Hannah. Hannah, did you want to speak?

8
9 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sorry about missing
12 you there. Thanks.

13
14 DR. VOORHEES: Oh. No worries. Thanks to
15 Elmer for all that background information. And I just
16 thought looking at this map right now that we all have
17 in front of us, I know there's been a lot of discussion
18 about remnant, or resident herds being available on the
19 Seward Peninsula. And I just thought it might be useful
20 to get on the record if this is an area where caribou
21 are still encountered in these two subunits. I know
22 there's some discussion on the record, but it's not
23 always been very specific. So, I just thought I'd take
24 this opportunity to ask the Council that if you don't
25 mind. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Hannah.
28 Anybody on Council?

29
30 UNIDENTIFIED: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, go ahead.

33
34 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. This is
35 Theodore Katcheak from Stebbins. Can you hear me?

36
37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes. Go ahead.

38
39 MR. KATCHEAK: Okay. I just have a
40 comment on my reindeer herds. Were still struggling
41 because we have (indiscernible) from Yukon come in to
42 butcher deer. And I was supposed to move the herd down
43 to Stewart Island some time ago. So how would I get
44 assistance or support for my herd from being butchered?

45
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm not sure who
47 could answer that question.

48
49 MR. KATCHEAK: Yeah. We have.....

50

1 (Simultaneous speech)

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh. Hold on.

4

5 MR. KATCHEAK:hunters coming from
6 the Yukon. And so, we're forced to move to herd, to the
7 island. And there's more reindeer herds up here in the
8 hills.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm not quite sure
11 how to answer your question there. I don't know if
12 anybody here has an answer for you.

13

14 MR. KATCHEAK: My other question is
15 (indiscernible) in the (indiscernible) connected to be
16 a council member. Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. I'm just having
19 a hard time understanding -- hearing what you're saying.

20

21 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

24

25 MR. KIRK: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is Ron
26 Kirk. Thank you. To elaborate and (indiscernible) our
27 contracts question is, in the past, as an IRA president.
28 I was an IRA president in the past. What we did back
29 then is we identified the Yukon people that were
30 butchering our reindeer, our IRA reindeer, and we had
31 Alaska state troopers involved in that Fish and Game.
32 And we fine the Yukon people \$5,000 a head for reindeer.
33 So, if they're taking five reindeers that's \$25,000, we
34 had collected at one time. That can be one way that Mr.
35 (indiscernible), and to see who is butchering his
36 reindeer. Our reindeer, as a matter of fact, even the
37 IRA. I brought that up to the IRA Council one time. And
38 they didn't pay no mind to it. But it needs to be
39 enforced again, because once we enforced that at one
40 time, it stopped the Yukon people from butchering our
41 reindeer there because they're having to pay \$5,000 a
42 head. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron.
45 Somebody at the table with the mic?

46

47 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Good morning. Thank
48 you, Mr. Chair. This is Sara Henslee. I'm the area
49 manager for wildlife for Fish and Game here in Nome. I
50 just want to clarify that the area that we are talking

1 about is the federal land, which is what the folks here
2 that can see the screen can see that pink and yellow.
3 There on the map and the Pilgrim River drainage so it's
4 a very small sliver kind of at the base of the Kigs
5 there. And then going down into 22B Rocky Point the
6 federal land. So that's not including Martin, your --
7 where'd he go? Martins gone. So just the federal land
8 is what's before you here. I'm not going to speak to the
9 22A question. I think that might be a good question for
10 Nathan Baring, maybe off the record there. The RHA
11 director who's on the line. But as far as Hannah's
12 question about whether caribou have been documented,
13 I'll just quickly mention that Brian gave his overview
14 and that reflects data from Fish and Game that we have
15 not documented caribou in this area since 2015. And I
16 believe, Brian, correct me if I'm wrong, you had
17 mentioned that no harvest had occurred since 2021. So,
18 five years since we've even had a harvest reported for
19 caribou in this specific area. And yeah, I personally
20 have not seen caribou proper in this area. It's over ten
21 years, so. Happy to answer any additional questions
22 about harvest or distribution. But again, the area that
23 we are talking about before you right now is just that
24 red and yellow on this map down on Rocky Point. And then
25 in kind of the headwaters of the Pilgrim River there on
26 the map. Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
29 Sara. Any questions, comments, concerns from the
30 Council? I'm just looking at it here and I realize it's
31 very little area, but they're talking about Ron, and
32 we're talking about. Excuse me. I'm not sure. Can Ron
33 see this map at all?

34
35 MS. CHAPA: No. Mr. Chair, no, this is
36 only available to those that are joining by Teams. And
37 I think Council Member Kirk is calling in. But Mr. Kirk,
38 Council Member Kirk, I can try to text you a version of
39 the map. It's not going to be the best resolution, but
40 it at least will show you the federal land that is
41 potentially impacted by this regulation.

42
43 MR. KIRK: That'll be fine.

44
45 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Council Member Kirk, I
46 just texted you the picture of the map that the Council
47 is seeing in the room for reference. Let me know if
48 you've received it.

49
50 MR. KIRK: I got it.

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MS. CHAPA: Excellent. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Kelsi.

MS. IVANOFF: I just wanted clarification on this. This aligns the current federal regulations with the state regulations, correct? Okay. It's just a housekeeping? To me it makes sense to do this just because you don't want people when they're out hunting, if the caribou even come this far to be thinking about these little specific areas where they may or may not be able to take caribou. And whether they're crossing those lines where the yellow and the pink, since they're such small areas. That's my thought.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Thank you, Kelsi. That -- on the 22D like in the yellow there, that's pretty much in the Kigluaik Mountains range there too. I mean, that's why I'm familiar with all that area there so. I don't know if it's just a housekeeping. Go ahead, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Brian has his hand up online.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Brian. Sorry.

MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair I guess an answer to Mr. Ivanoff's question. Currently my understanding is the state has their hunts closed through emergency order. So, they are not codified as closed. That will be -- and Sara can correct me if I'm wrong on this, but that will be coming up in the next Region 5 for the game cycle, I believe in two years from now. So, my understanding is it'll be closed by emergency order until that point. Oh, sorry. So, it looks like next year will be the Board cycle for out there. So, it'll be closed by emergency order until that point. So, it's not codified. So up until that point, you want to get down to brass tax, federal regulations will be codified as this will be may-be-announced. So federal regulations will be more restrictive than state until they catch up with the federal regulations.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you for that, Brian. This is an action item, so. And it's housekeeping. Kelsi, you have something.

MS. IVANOFF: Letty, has a hand up.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Letty. Oh, who else was on there? Did I miss somebody else? Oh, okay. Letty, go ahead. Thanks.

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MS. HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record, Letty Hughes, Wildlife Biologist for Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. So, from the last fall meeting Bering Land Bridge, the stance is to oppose this proposal that's currently in front of you. So, we have heard from the last fall and even this morning during going around doing round robin introductions, how residents of this region are hunting caribou out in that area, regardless of if RC800 permits are coming in or not, people are hunting. I guess we'd like to also say that one it doesn't currently does not align the state and federal regulations as right now the state has it as emergency order closure. They would still have to submit a Board of Game proposal that would have to get adopted by the Board of Game.

Additionally, if this was to go through, it actually significantly impacts federal qualified user subsistence opportunity to get caribou, especially in a time of food scarcity, as we have already have heard many times about lack of moose opportunities to hunt. We already know that muskox are in a Tier II or a federal permit area. So additionally, in my experience out here for almost 20 years and we have these seasons as to-be-announced, the likelihood of them coming open, it's a very, very long time. So therefore, you might be waiting a while before federally qualified users can go up into federal lands and hunt caribou. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Anybody else? So basically, Brian, you're asking us to mirror what the state has?

MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Unless something -- I maybe I'm missing it.

MR. UBELAKER: No, you're basically summing it up correctly. Although the state has not codified it yet. Through temporary measures, the state has it closed up. Their intent, my understanding is to codify the closure, or the season change in the next Board of Game cycle for that region. Does that clear it up any...?

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sara's got a comment here.

MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Sara again. So currently this season is open and on the federal side of things, but on the state side, we issue an emergency order on July 1st over the past couple of years to close this area on state managed lands. So, it's closed on the state side, open on the federal side currently. So, what I'm intending -- when I submitted this proposal, what my intent was to close the federal land to be a may-be-announced season. So, it would give us the tools to in the event that caribou were to move into this area, whether it be federal land or not, I would have at least the ability on federal land to open the season through an emergency order. And that's why it's this may-be-announced season like you see in 22C, for example. It's on the books with the intent that if caribou come into this area, I can issue an emergency order to open the season. So basically, it's open now. It would go -- if this was adopted at Federal Subsistence Board it would go may-be-announced. So, it would require an emergency order to open when caribou come on to the federal managed lands. And my intent is to submit this to the Board of Game, it will be considered January 2027. Because Alicia and I have to submit emergency orders every year to close the season to this may-be-announced. We just want it on the books as may-be-announced so we don't have to do that every year. So, like everyone's saying, technically it's not in the codified, but we do issue a closure July 1st every year. We've been doing it for two, going on three years this July. So, in practice, it is a may-be-announced season already on the state side. It's just not in the -- codified as a permanent thing. So, we have to issue EOs. So yeah, I'm submitting that on the state side. It's absolutely acceptable to wait until after the state changes their regulations permanently to do the same on the federal side. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Brian, do you hear me? You're -- you have the floor.

MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah. Just to reiterate most of what Sara said. Yes, you can absolutely defer decision on this until the state gets this into their codified regulation. So, you know that the season will be closed. And, and honestly, I mean, we were bringing this back to you because at the

1 fall meeting, you guys opted to wait until there was
2 more information on the status of Tom's herd. And like
3 I say OSM is neutral on how this is going to -- on how
4 this plays out. It's up to you guys and as I stated at
5 the fall meeting I expected unfortunately, we don't have
6 it, but I expected Tom to be there to be able to talk
7 his point up with his unfortunate passing, you know,
8 it's left to the rest of the Council to decide. Like I
9 say, you guys -- it all kind of depends on what's going
10 on with Tom's herd. If he's -- if there's going to be
11 no more reindeer herding down there, there's really no
12 point in having this on the federal side. But sorry, I'm
13 wandering now, but to get back to Sara's point, you guys
14 can either defer a decision on this for right now. You
15 can choose to support it, or you can choose to oppose
16 it. And it'll go in front of the Board here in a month
17 for a final decision.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Brian.
20 Martin.

21
22 MR. AUKONGAK: My last name, my grandpa,
23 had one of the biggest herds in Alaska. We had 5000
24 reindeer. You need to eat, sleep, and breathe with your
25 reindeer. We had three corrals in the Golovin area, so
26 I don't think caribou has a strain on the reindeer herd.
27 It's the owner not the caribou. Do not ever blame the
28 caribou. I don't even know where that came from. Him and
29 I did disagree on that part. So, in coming from my
30 background, being a reindeer herder, my dad was with
31 him, my grandpa. So, you know, either way, whatever we
32 do, end of the day, caribou do not have a strain on the
33 reindeer.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
36 Martin. I'm of the mind to just defer. That's my thoughts
37 right now. Other Council? I see Kelsi nodding in favor.
38 Elmer, go ahead.

39
40 MR. SEETOT: Like Martin said, that he's
41 been with the reindeer herding for a while. I -- I'm in
42 the same way, other than being an owner, I -- the
43 difference between reindeer, caribou, reindeer got short
44 legs. The reindeer kind of mill around. And then if the
45 caribou is in the herd of reindeer, they're restless,
46 always restless. They're ready to take off. They're not
47 going to wait. They're not going to meld around with the
48 reindeer. They're going to take off. And that's what
49 most of these reindeer herders that I talk about tell
50 me characteristics. This is a caribou. This is a

1 reindeer. But, you know, I think they were, in a sense,
2 really against the caribou because caribou are free-
3 ranging, wild, and they'll take anything, you know, that
4 follows them, so. But with the caribou, it's a new
5 introduction -- introduced species to our area, which
6 we haven't seen in such a long time. Our main harvest
7 30 years ago was around Buckland or around,
8 Deering/Shishmaref area. But now, that their feed has
9 been kind of diminished, or eaten up along the migratory
10 route from their summer to winter, from winter to summer
11 grounds. So, they're pretty much feeding on areas that
12 were once grazed by reindeer. And like I say, Seward
13 Peninsula was an important place for reindeer. And I
14 think Mary's Igloo was the center of the reindeer
15 industry, even though (In Native) or Brevig Mission was
16 a jumping off point for the reindeer through Port
17 Clarence.

18
19 So, with caribou numbers going down and
20 with the reindeer being restricted, young hunters are
21 taking whatever is out there. They won't pass the
22 opportunity. Like I said, they won't pass the
23 opportunity. Who's watching? Who's watching them? Except
24 the greater from above, so. That's something they have
25 to deal with. But there are so many things have changed
26 from the time we were young kids watching these reindeer
27 herders being within their local communities. Now
28 there's very few, Mekoryuk, St. Lawrence Island,
29 Stebbins/St. Michael, (In Native) area. Wales are pretty
30 active. Ones that are still trying to get their (In
31 Nativr) Herd, maybe (In Native) and Gray. So, so it has
32 changed a lot. And that was pretty much what I kind of
33 observed over the past years. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
36 Kelsi. Oh, okay. So, I'm just going to ask for a motion
37 to defer to the next wildlife cycle. Can I have a motion
38 and a second?

39
40 MS. IVANOFF: Move to defer to the next
41 wildlife cycle

42
43 MR. AUKONGAK: Second.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. All those in
46 agreement, same -- say aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All those against,
2 same sign.

3
4 (No response)

5
6 Hearing none. The action we taken here
7 today is to defer to the next wildlife cycle.

8
9 MR. AUKONGAK: Mr. Chair, can we take a
10 break?

11
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I was just going to
13 say something about that. Thank you. Martin, we're going
14 to take a ten-minute break after the motion. The motions
15 -- hello? Somebody say something?

16
17 (No response)

18
19 Yeah, we're taking a ten-minute break.
20 Come back at.....

21
22 UNIDENTIFIED: 2:00.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 2:00. Oh, is that
25 what you said? How about ten till?

26
27 MR. AUKONGAK: And just welcome our
28 youth. I see we got a bunch of youth here. Welcome,
29 guys, everybody.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That was we'll bring
32 you on and let you introduce everybody here when we come
33 back after break. Yeah. Thank you. I want to get that
34 on the record. Thanks.

35
36 MR. KIRK: How long's the break?

37
38 MS. IVANOFF: Till 10:50.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Ron, a ten-minute
41 break.

42
43 MR. KIRK: (In Native).

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (On record)

48
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We're calling the
50 meeting back to order here at 10 -- 11:01. We have Kacey

1 Miller here to introduce her group. So, Kacey, you have
2 the floor. Thank you.

3
4 MR. MILLER: All right. Thank you. Good
5 morning Council and Chair Green. We're happy to be here.
6 My name is Kacey Miller. I'm the director of the Alaska
7 Native Science and Engineering Program. The Acceleration
8 Academy that's based at Nome-Beltz High School. I'm here
9 with ten ANSEP Acceleration Academy students, and the
10 program provides an opportunity for students to take
11 college classes that meet their high school
12 requirements. So, the students here today are full time
13 college students, and they're taking two classes that
14 are especially relevant to the dialogue today. One class
15 is a science research writing class, and the other class
16 is an environmental climate change class. And so, we are
17 really grateful to be here and, in your presence and
18 learning this process. Thank you, Letty, for the invite
19 and for the support as well in being here. Several of
20 our students also are active subsistence users and
21 active hunters in their family, and so this exposure and
22 experience is great to start at a young age so they can
23 find their voice and their opportunities to give
24 feedback now and into the future as it impacts their
25 lands, their people as well as their family. So, thank
26 you again for this opportunity to be here. And I also
27 encourage any students who feel empowered to come up and
28 share as well.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
31 Kacey. Anyone of you students want to come and take the
32 mic? Don't be bashful. You seen me tripping over myself
33 this morning. It's just no big deal. They still voted
34 for me to be the Chair. There you go.

35
36 (Talking)

37
38 All right, ladies, take your seat. You
39 got two. Yep. Moral support. You got two mics. You only
40 need one, so. Okay. You have the floor. Your name?

41
42 UNIDENTIFIED: So, I'm Amelia. And I am a
43 hunter in general, and I find it very important that we
44 make sure that our caribou and populations of other
45 animals are like doing well and yeah. And I have personal
46 experience with seeing like how regulations cannot be
47 followed and how we need more, what is it called? Yeah,
48 enforcement. Thank you. Yeah.

49
50

1 MS. SOSENKO: My name is Laura Sosenko.
2 My dad's Tomi Sosenko, and my mom's Kinka Parker. My
3 dad's from Shishmaref. He's practiced subsistence year-
4 round. My mom is from the Bristol Bay area. She also
5 practices in subsistence. I just wanted to come up here
6 and clarify like what exactly we're talking about from
7 my understanding, we're talking about introducing
8 something that would -- I forgot what you said earlier,
9 but it would be like to be determined, like when they
10 would open the hunting thing in the year, which is kind
11 of what they already do from my understanding. So really
12 nothing would kind of change. So, I just wanted to come
13 up here for some clarification.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sara. There you go.
16 We've got lots of them. John has them all over the place.

17
18 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, through the Chair.
19 Thank you again. My name is Sara Henslee. So, I'm the
20 Wildlife Manager on the state side. And basically, what
21 I do is -- there's what's called emergency orders. And
22 if you hunt moose, you are probably familiar with the
23 fact that the seasons only last a couple of days around
24 here. So that's an example of, like what an emergency
25 order is. I have the ability to close seasons and open
26 them according to when there is what I call a harvestable
27 surplus. So, for example, with caribou, if all of a
28 sudden they move into an area that's closed in this
29 scenario with the reindeer what we try to do, it's a --
30 all of our regulations for caribou in this area are kind
31 of dependent on what the reindeer herders want. And we'd
32 be -- we're trying to be very respectful of active
33 herding operations in the -- on the Seward Peninsula.

34
35 So, for example, when caribou move on
36 to these reindeer ranges, what we don't want is the
37 caribou to come and take those privately owned deer and
38 then usually the reindeer will just run off with the
39 caribou. If you -- a really interesting lesson perhaps
40 would be to look into the 1990s when there used to be
41 half a million reindeer on the Seward Peninsula, and we
42 lost all of those deer when the Western Arctic Herd
43 Caribou came onto the peninsula. In the mid to late
44 1990s. They just all disappeared. So overnight, half a
45 million reindeer went to -- gosh. What we have nowadays
46 is 5000, 10,000 max. So, it's really interesting to look
47 into.

48
49 So anyway, we try to avoid that. Now we
50 have seasons that we have closed if there's an active

1 reindeer area, but if there were to be caribou all of a
2 sudden coming down again to avoid what we saw in the
3 90s, those reindeer being taken away by caribou, we would
4 open the season with the intent that hunters could get
5 those caribou. Because a lot of times what you see are
6 these like vanguard groups. So, it's like a lot of times
7 it could be bulls that are just exploring a new area.
8 So, we open that hunt. Those vanguard satellite bulls
9 get harvested and then those reindeer don't get taken.
10 So yeah, in that scenario, we would open the season to
11 prevent that from happening. And then just real quickly
12 because I have the mic. Conversely, with closing seasons
13 with the moose hunt, we close seasons once we meet how
14 many moose that Alicia and I work on; how many can get
15 taken out of specific areas in a given year. So, then
16 we would close the season. And that's why you see this
17 like 2 or 3 day hunt, because hunters are so good at
18 getting moose nowadays that the season -- how many moose
19 we think are sustainable to get taken like so we allow
20 for enough cows to get bred and we want to make sure
21 there's enough hunters for next year and next year and
22 next year. So, you and like the children of the next
23 generation, can continue to hunt rather than shooting
24 them all, and then nobody gets moose the next year. So,
25 I hope that clarifies things.

26
27 MS. SOSENKO: And yeah, thank you very
28 much.

29
30 MS. AMELIA: So, what you said about --
31 what you said about the caribou just being -- I mean,
32 sorry, the reindeer just being taken. I was just thinking
33 about this, and personally, I feel like maybe like we
34 should start -- I don't know if maybe we've already done
35 this, but I think that there should be more research put
36 into like, diseases that could be carried by reindeer
37 into caribou because I think also like DNA testing each
38 reindeer, well, not each, but you know, if you harvest
39 like a reindeer, you could anonymously, like, send it
40 in. Like, I think -- I was talking to Jackie if you know
41 her and she said that they used to have like the back
42 of the neck, like the skin and they would send that in.
43 And -- but the thing is though, is that nobody wanted
44 to do it because it wasn't anonymous. And I think maybe
45 if we like an anonymous, like, I don't know, drop box
46 where you wrote down like the -- and that sounds bad,
47 but like the drop box, and then you'd have like the name
48 of where you got it and then it would just be like
49 anonymous. But I think that way you guys could study
50 like, oh, do they think it's a caribou or do they think

1 it's a reindeer? And then that way we can know or we
2 could like -- somebody could like test them for like
3 diseases or something just to see if like a certain
4 percentage of reindeer DNA would be like more
5 susceptible to like dying or something. I don't know.
6

7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There you go. Got to
8 teach you the process and procedure. Set very good
9 examples of how -- we really appreciate it. Thank you
10 folks. Anytime. Make sure you go to the Northern Norton
11 Sound Advisory Committee meetings also. That's with the
12 state. So now there was a map up there earlier and we
13 were talking about whether the -- we were -- we had
14 enough protection basically between the Pilgrim River
15 and all the way down to Rocky Point down outside of
16 Golovin. That chart -- that map right there, you see
17 that little yellow spot up there on the top left end,
18 and then the pink spot down at the bottom there, that's
19 our management area is where we -- basically what we're
20 here for is to provide subsistence. We want to make sure
21 that those areas are open for people to take caribou
22 when they're there. And what we're hearing is that very
23 seldom do you ever see them down there. And if there
24 were, there would be -- it's all about protecting a
25 reindeer herding.
26

27 The one thing I didn't get was the
28 range. Where are the ranges at for the deer herds? Are
29 they in -- is it the whole thing? Is that it? Is that
30 the range? Because it kind of -- it's more than one herd
31 if it was because, so. Anyway, our job here is to provide
32 subsistence ability and those little places there are
33 federal. And that's what we deal with the rest of its
34 state. And so, she's dealing with -- she's on the state
35 side. And we sat here this morning, and we decided to
36 defer to when they make a regulation that we can go in
37 there later and either I agree with it or disagree with
38 it, mirror it. We call it housekeeping when we -- the
39 feds side and the state side put the same thing together.
40 So, once they do something, there's a good chance we
41 might identify the same. And that way it's -- the
42 housekeeping is done. So, there's no confusion anymore.
43 So, Sara, you got something?
44

45 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Through the Chair
46 real quick. This is Sara. So, this does not reflect the
47 active reindeer range. So -- and that's, I guess, a side
48 project. We don't have to get too much into detail now,
49 but one of the state proposals that we are working on
50 with the Reindeer Herders Association is to align this

1 hunting area with what our reindeer -- active reindeer
2 range is. So, this is not reflective of the reindeer
3 range. This was a regulation put into place when we
4 established this hunt back in -- I guess most recently
5 2015-2016. But it is coming down the pipe. We're on the
6 state side. We're trying to align it because it should
7 help with the enforcement. A lot of the conversations
8 we've been having is about how some folks are good at
9 telling the difference between caribou and reindeer. I
10 am not. I guess all my time in the air when I do see
11 reindeer, I do find it sort of obvious the longer I'm
12 kind of looking at them. But some hunters can find that
13 difficult, and with enforcement it's hard because
14 there's -- what we're having now is open caribou hunting
15 areas that are also active reindeer ranges. So, when the
16 herders come to us and say, folks are harvesting my
17 privately owned property, their reindeer, how can
18 enforcement pursue that when it's also an open hunting
19 area? So, one of the things we're trying to do to help
20 enforcement get at that is we're trying to align the
21 reindeer hunting -- or I'm sorry, the reindeer grazing
22 areas, the permitted reindeer -- don't hunt reindeer.
23 Here we go. The active reindeer grazing areas with the
24 closed caribou hunting. So now when someone says, like
25 someone shot my dear for example, in the Casadepaga,
26 okay, well that's closed. So it's easier for the troopers
27 to pursue that, whereas right now it's very confusing
28 for -- a hunter says, I thought it was a caribou, the
29 reindeer herder says it's my deer. A lot of reindeer are
30 not ear tagged or marked in any way. They have microchips
31 now, which -- and ear notches, I don't know. Are you
32 guys' hunting? If you're looking for ear notches, I'm
33 not. I'm looking to shoot a caribou. And even ear tags
34 can be ambiguous. So, Alicia must be cutting me off
35 because I'm putting my foot in my mouth. Oh.

36
37 And, yeah. Alicia showing me the map.
38 Technically, this is like part of the Gray grazing area,
39 as in Tom Gray. So, the Gray Herd and then the 22D
40 Pilgrim is portions of the Menadelook Herd, which is no
41 longer active. But for a while there was some movement
42 between ranges, as you guys all know. So, portions of
43 active, but it's not exactly reflective of the grazing
44 area. So, we're looking to change that. Yes.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you Sara. So,
47 you young folks, are you hearing what's going on and
48 understanding it? I'm going to notch it up just a little
49 bit more because, I'm going to play devil's advocate. I
50 used to herd reindeer with an airplane up in the northern

1 side of Seward Peninsula for the (In Native) Herd and
2 the Good Hope Herd. And my job was to go out and locate
3 these bunches for like during a week-long and then get
4 them on the -- put them on a map and then go out and
5 push them when the wind was right, get them start pushed
6 to where they were going one direction and the helicopter
7 would pick them up and bring them to the corral. It was
8 quite the experience. What is discussed about it, and
9 it's not just at this table that when these caribou
10 came.

11
12 (Distortion)

13
14 Oops.

15
16 UNIDENTIFIED: There's two of you.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There's -- I got a
19 twin. Uh-oh. So, the caribou herds came down here in the
20 90s, and like they said, a half a million of them were
21 -- they just blew over into the Seward Peninsula, and
22 it was their actual traditional grounds anyway, but it
23 had been a long time since they'd come down there that
24 far. And I'd seen them all the way down to the Imuruk
25 Basin behind Teller there. And she was talking about
26 vanguards, where you see these bulls that are way out
27 ahead of everybody else marking the trail, and you know
28 how they mark the trail. And then the other ones would
29 follow. But the thought of people -- there's -- being
30 the devil's advocate, like I said, there's the thought
31 that the reindeer herders needed to make -- the work was
32 go take your deer out of the area because the caribou
33 are moving. And the thought was a lot of them didn't do
34 that. And so therefore caribou comes in and when they
35 turn around after a long time in the wintertime, and
36 then they headed back north, save up around Point Hope
37 where their calving grounds are, the reindeer followed
38 them and they went by the droves. I mean, the deer just
39 took off. So, there's a little bit of conflict there
40 where some people say that the private herd should be
41 taken care of by the private owners and subsistence
42 should not be hindered because they're not doing their
43 job. They lost their deer out there. That's their fault,
44 so.

45
46 That's the devil's advocate side. So,
47 you understand that there's -- it's political too. So,
48 our deal, we like to make sure that people have something
49 to eat. And the people closest to the resource, we want
50 them to get it. And that's under the ANILCA act where

1 rural subsistence users are priority. And the state says
2 all residents of Alaska are entitled to that. So,
3 somebody from Anchorage can fly all the way up to
4 Kotzebue and go get whatever they want. They're entitled
5 because of the state. Us, the competition, we say if
6 you're next to it and there's a reduction in the resource
7 where there's not enough to go around, we don't let
8 somebody come from Anchorage to go take it. We say the
9 person right next to it, like say Brevig or Teller, they
10 get to get it first. And that's what our job is, to make
11 sure that people in the region get taken care of through
12 subsistence take of animals. So anyway, I hope that kind
13 of cleared things up and not muddied it up. Thank you.
14 Thank you, Sara. Thank you, Alicia. And somebody --
15 Kelsi.

16
17 MS. IVANOFF: I was just going to add
18 what he was explaining is what you call a federally
19 qualified subsistence user, is the people in that direct
20 area are qualified to hunt that area. So, people from
21 another say 22D, people from Unalakleet can go and hunt,
22 but someone from Unit 23 cannot come down in hunt in 22.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm really happy to
25 see you folks are here. Thank you, Kacey. No, it's
26 lunchtime. They don't have to go to class.

27
28 MS. MILLER: Thank you again.

29
30 MR. AUKONGAK: Real quick. Thank you.
31 Hey.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Martins got a
34 comment.

35
36 MR. AUKONGAK: Real quick for all of you
37 young people. You know, we have the state and you have
38 the federal law. But if you look in depth more, a lot
39 of you have family, have tribal and corporate law. So
40 those are very important to learn too.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Martin.
43 Thanks for coming. Appreciate the interest.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 Okay, so we're going back to the
48 proposal and the action items that we -- the federal
49 fisheries proposal, and I think we've got an actual
50 proposal that this Council will actively put forward.

00043

1 So, there's some verbiage there, Jarred. I'll let you
2 speak first.

3

4 MR. STONE: Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Then I'll ask for the
7 motion. Thanks.

8

9 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I
10 can, I think what I'll do is I'll share my screen real
11 quick. Hopefully it comes up there.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 Okay, so we're looking at the federal
16 regulations right here under Norton Sound/Port Clarence
17 area. And there's two subparts down here under b and c,
18 and I've got b highlighted right now. And so Council
19 Member Ivanoff suggested that we rescind, remove the
20 subpart b so the Unalakleet River from June 1 through
21 July 15th, you may take salmon only from 8 a.m. Monday
22 until 8 p.m. Saturday. That would be completely removed,
23 thereby allowing people to take salmon any time of the
24 day, including Sunday.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
27 Jarred. And so, because of who we are and what we're --
28 what our charges are providing subsistence, I'm
29 wholeheartedly in favor of that by removing that b what
30 do you call it? Subsection. Any other council members
31 have any comments, concerns?

32

33 (No response)

34

35 Anybody on the phone? Ron? Robert?

36

37 (No response)

38

39 Okay. Not hearing any. So, what we're
40 going to do is we're going to do this action item. And
41 so, I'm going to need a motion and a second to take a
42 vote to remove b from, what do you call that again? The
43 federal fisheries proposal. We're going to remove that
44 b subsection in there and leave it open. And I think
45 Kelsi has -- she has the verbiage for the proposal.
46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah. This is Kelsi, I
49 moved to -- that this Council proposes removing the
50 clause -- I don't know what number up, above that 2b,

00044

1 in the Norton Sound/Port Clarence area subsistence
2 fishing regulations. I think that's it.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Do you have a
5 proposal verbiage. So, we can just work off of that?
6 Excuse, the motion.

7

8 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. I believe
9 so because this one isn't really suggesting any new
10 language. We're just simply striking this out and
11 rescinding it. Repealing it. I don't have any language
12 prepared for you. Imagine drawing a line through that
13 whole section I have blue there and I would basically
14 remove that whole section. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Jarred. I
17 just wanted to make sure we got it straight. Kelsi, you
18 made the motion. We need a second,

19

20 MR. AUKONGAK: Second.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Second by Martin. All
23 those in favor of striking b from the paperwork there,
24 say aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Aye. Anybody on the
29 phone, you guys? Robert?

30

31 MS. IVANOFF: Mr. Chair. Just wanted to
32 clarify for those online that this is striking the time
33 from June 1 to July 15, the Monday, 8 a.m. to Saturday,
34 8 p.m. for those who can't see the thing.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi. Ron
37 and Robert, are you on?

38

39 MR. KIRK: Here.

40

41 MR. MOSES: Yes, I'm here.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. You're both
44 here. You guys both understand, right?

45

46 MR. MOSES: Yep.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What you're voting
49 on?

50

1 MR. KIRK: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I just wanted to make
4 sure everybody was clear. Okay, so I'm going to call for
5 the vote. All those in favor of striking B in the
6 Unalakleet River from June 1st through July 15th, that
7 you may take salmon only from 8 a.m. Monday until 8 p.m.
8 Saturday, say aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All those against,
13 same sign.

14

15 (No response)

16

17 Hearing none. I think we're done.
18 Jarred.

19

20 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Perfect. I think what we'll do now, because this is a
22 proposal that will be moving forward. I'll work with
23 Gisela. We'll make sure that this gets submitted ahead
24 of the April 3rd deadline. And I'll see you in the fall
25 with the full analysis.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for your
28 help. I worded it because I thought that it was necessary
29 to make sure we had the right thing on -- documented.
30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. AUKONGAK: I think we got printer
33 right over there.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
36 Councilman.

37

38 (Pause)

39

40 Okay, so after that.....

41

42 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Gisela.

45

46 MS. CHAPA: Sorry to interrupt, but I was
47 distracted while the Council made the motion and voted.
48 I just wanted to make sure that Council Member Kirk
49 and/or Moses. Did they vote?

50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes. They did.

2

3 MS. CHAPA: Excellent. Thank you so much.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All right. Thanks for
6 that, Gisela. Just make sure everybody's -- did I hear
7 somebody on the phone?

8

9 (Distortion)

10

11 Okay. Apparently nobody. So. Okay, so
12 that makes us -- we've done -- we've taken care of both
13 of the fisheries proposal actions and we've taken the
14 wildlife proposal action. So that moves us down to item
15 c, under 11, which are wildlife special action. And I
16 think Tom Plank, this is your section here so I'll give
17 you the floor.

18

19 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
20 Members of the Council again for the record, Tom Plank,
21 Wildlife Biologist with OSM. And I actually have two
22 special actions that I'm going to be bringing to you.
23 And but we'll start with the first one, which was -- is
24 WSA26-01. And this is -- this temporary wildlife special
25 action was submitted by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
26 Working Group and is requesting to reduce the caribou
27 harvest limits and Units 22, 23 and southwest portion
28 of Unit 26A to four caribou per year, only one which may
29 be a cow. During that Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
30 Group meeting, back in July 2025, photo census of the
31 herd estimate was only 121,000 caribou, and that
32 represented approximately 20% decline from the 2023
33 photo census. So, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
34 working group at its annual meeting assigned the
35 management level to critical declining for the Western
36 Arctic Caribou Herd based on the current census and the
37 adult cow survival rate.

38

39 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
40 Group identifies an immediate need to address the
41 current heard decline by limiting the harvest of both
42 bulls and cows to allow the herd population to stabilize
43 and begin to recover. And currently, I just want to let
44 everybody know that there will be a public hearing on
45 this proposal as well as the other two special action
46 requests. One, which is -- we'll talk about next. And
47 then another one is a closure in Unit 26A southwest.
48 This is kind of short and sweet. I know a lot of members
49 of the Councils have seen this before, several times

00047

1 before. But I'm here if you have any questions. Thank
2 you.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Tom.
5 Council, guys on the phone? Ron, anything?

6
7 MR. KIRK: No.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

10
11 MR. MOSES: This is Robert. I have a
12 question. When would that drop to four caribou? Would
13 that come into effect next year?

14
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Tom.

16
17 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,
18 OSM, thank you for that question. If this is approved
19 when it goes and sees the Board in June, then it will
20 be put in place for -- right now it's requesting to be
21 put in place for the 2026 through the 2028 seasons.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you, Tom.
24 Did that answer your question, Robert?

25
26 MR. MOSES: Yeah. Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All right. Thank you.
29 So, after the presentation, we're supposed to ask for
30 public testimony. So, if there are any folks online or
31 in the room. I don't see anybody in the room, so that
32 would be online. Are there any folks online for public
33 testimony?

34
35 (No response)

36
37 Hearing none. We move forward on this.

38
39 MS. CHAPA: I was going to mention Mr.
40 Chair. This is Gisela Chapa for the record. This -- the
41 Council does not necessarily need to go through the
42 presentation procedure for the special action. So, with
43 the information that was provided, I can also point out
44 to a couple other Councils that took action on WSA26-01
45 but I see that Tom has raised his hand and so he might
46 have additional information or maybe correct me if I
47 mistakenly told the Council the wrong information.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Gisela.

50

1 MR. PLANK: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Tom, go ahead.

4

5 MR. PLANK: Thank you. Through the Chair.
6 Tom Plank, OSM. No Gisela. You are correct. I'm just
7 correcting myself. The -- this wildlife special action
8 is only for the 2026 through to 2027 regulatory year,
9 not to '28. So that's what's been requested at this
10 point. So, I just wanted to correct myself and apologize.

11

12 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair and Gisela Chapa
13 again just to follow up on what I mentioned, it's a
14 wildlife special action request, and other Councils
15 impacted by this request also got this information and
16 they took action. And I am going to appoint everybody
17 to the screen. Those are the Councils that are expected
18 to provide the recommendations to the Federal
19 Subsistence Board with their positions on WSA26-01. So,
20 one of the first Councils to have seen WSA26-01 was the
21 North Slope Regional Advisory Council, and they
22 supported the special action request but with a
23 modification to change the harvest limit. The special
24 action request as was submitted modified the harvest
25 limit from 15 to 4 caribou, only one which may be a cow.
26 But this Council felt that 4 would not adequately address
27 the needs of the subsistence users within the region and
28 requested a modification to 10 caribou in the southwest
29 portion of Unit 26A. Now they supported the harvest limit
30 for Unit 22 and Unit 23 at only four caribou, only one
31 which may be a cow per year per hunter as it was
32 submitted in the request.

33

34 Now the Western Interior RAC took no
35 action and decided to defer to the home regions. And I
36 do think it's important to mention that some of the
37 discussion that the Council had, they believed that the
38 request did not adequately protect the interest of
39 subsistence users because if it is approved, it would
40 create disparities between state and federal
41 regulations, making federally qualified subsistence
42 users harvest limits significantly lower than the state
43 bag limit. And additionally, the Council felt strongly
44 that the harvest of cows should be eliminated when the
45 population is this low. The YK Delta RAC did not take
46 action and deferred to the home region. I believe that
47 ,you know, the YK Delta is in Game Management Unit 18,
48 but they had the opportunity to provide recommendations
49 and I'm going to look at other people in the room to
50 make sure I'm saying this correctly because of customary

1 and traditional uses for caribou from one of the
2 neighboring units. And of course, now we have our Council
3 that will provide recommendations to the Federal
4 Subsistence Board, and the Northwest Arctic RAC will
5 also be considering WSA26-01, and they're scheduled to
6 meet tomorrow and Wednesday.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
9 Gisela. Kelsi, go ahead.

10
11 MS. IVANOFF: I do want to note that this
12 came up at the last Board of Game cycle. And the outcome
13 was kind of similar where they got a hide -- like the
14 further north you went, the higher the limit got. I do
15 understand what the Western Interior RAC is saying but
16 given the population decline. I'm pretty sure this is
17 going to come up at the Board of Game cycle again this
18 year. And with an even further reduction, I feel like
19 that -- this might have more leverage at the Board of
20 Game level this year than it did last cycle.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi. So
23 the 4 animals, 1 can be a cow. Somebody at the reasoning
24 behind that. We're talking about not taking any cows. I
25 hear some people, so.

26
27 MS. IVANOFF: Louis.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And because there's
30 only 121,000 animals out there, that's kind of one of
31 the things that I always thought was important that you
32 don't take the females.

33
34 MS. IVANOFF: Louis.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

37
38 MS. IVANOFF: That -- the reasoning from
39 what I understand, was that the -- should there be an
40 accidental taking of a female, then they won't be
41 penalized for that one. But knowing that, in the future
42 that they would have to be more careful.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Thanks for
45 that clarification for me. Tom on the phone and then
46 Elmer after.

47
48 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Chair. Tom Plank.
49 She answered the same answer I was about to give you.

00050

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Cool. Thank you.
2 Okay, Elmer.

3
4 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What
5 was the actual number of harvest reported for caribou
6 during the past year? Any estimate given by state or by
7 federal report card? Report harvest tickets?

8
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thanks for the
10 question, Elmer. Sara's going to jump on the hot seat.

11
12 MR. SEETOT: I mean, I need to....

13
14 (Simultaneous speech)

15
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: She's going to.....

17
18 MR. SEETOT: (Indiscernible).

19
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. She's going to
21 give you something. Thank you, Sara.

22
23 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Through the Chair.
24 This is Sara. So, reporting compliance with our state
25 permits is notoriously low. So, what we do instead is
26 we work with our biometrician to estimate harvest. So,
27 I could give you permit numbers. I don't think they'd
28 be very insightful. So, I guess what I'll do instead is
29 what our Western Arctic Herd Caribou biologist estimates
30 with the biometrician from collared female cow data. So,
31 what they see when they get a collared animal that dies,
32 they go and see what happened and how that animal died.
33 And what he is estimating now is 4000 female caribou per
34 year. And that to me, that's a staggering number of --
35 we have no harvestable surplus of cows right now. And
36 that's -- and just -- it's not sustainable.

37
38 MR. SEETOT: Thank you very much for the
39 number. The reason I asked that was because for caribou
40 harvest or for any animal harvest, we just talk about
41 human harvest. How many animals were taken, how much is
42 to be taken? When is the time period to take these
43 animals? That's all we talk about. And then we go down
44 to a crisis mode when we know that the animals are low,
45 the caribou feeds the human population. There's also the
46 predators, wolves that I know for sure. Bear during the
47 spring calving. Where with the caribou -- maybe only 46
48 hours a day from that one harvest maybe, you know, work,
49 getting the caribou, processing it and then seeing it
50 over. With the predators, it's a 24/7 job. They have to

1 eat. They're eating. The majority of the wolf
2 population, I reckon, would be on the northern side of
3 their winter -- I mean, their summer grounds. Lots of
4 forests, lots of mountains. Both agencies probably do
5 not know the number of predators that are on the Kotzebue
6 side. On the Seward Peninsula side, we have about 15
7 communities that were reindeer herding communities. They
8 were worried about the wolf population, the bear
9 population, because it was predate -- they are eating
10 up their animals that they were in charge. And to go
11 from 100 or to this present number of caribou, either
12 some went out of the region like, you know, you just got
13 to think in terms of how people do things, react in
14 certain conditions. Their food is depleted, predators
15 are going after them, their migration route to their
16 winter grounds got altered. Some of these factors are
17 things that we do not consider. How we consider is, how
18 much animals did the hunters take? And that only was in
19 the three-month period. What happened to that nine
20 months that are accounted for when the hunters are not
21 harvesting animals? Do we estimate maybe 15% of the
22 population passed on or got preyed on?

23
24 You listen to stories from the elder's,
25 reindeer herders up around the (In Native) Mountain, a
26 herd that was just milling around the wolves got picked
27 on. Got picked -- picked on the animals. They milled
28 until the animals died. So, some of these things we need
29 to talk to other people. Do not depend on computers or
30 technology data alone. Listen to the people. They know
31 what's happening. We know what's happening. But
32 sometimes we're not bound by regulations. We're bound
33 by advice that was given that was passed down from
34 generation to generation about making sure that wildlife
35 population is succeeding and surviving is prosperous.
36 Take only what you can take.

37
38 And then in some cases, do not argue
39 about animals. Like we were ready to argue about the
40 reindeer and caribou. One ownership versus so many are
41 hunters. That -- and then everything has changed over
42 the years to a point where I think I'm looking at more
43 at the environment or whatever comes from the sky. We
44 have a war. We have wars that when they throw out bombs,
45 where does the smoke goes? It goes up in the air. What
46 kind of chemicals, what is in those that stay up in the
47 sky like the ash from a volcano? It stay in sky till it
48 drops. Over the past 100 years since the caribou got
49 here what kind of research has been done on the
50 ecosystem? Something falls down from the sky. It's going

1 to stay there, whether toxic or not, animals are going
2 to thrive or die. Same way, like the fish that are out
3 there. Why are they dying? Too warm. Many things that
4 are not explained to us other than we have to say, oh,
5 this is what I think happened to our resources. But
6 listen to the elders. Listen to the people that were
7 here before me. I was very skeptical about the elders
8 telling me stuff, you know, that I didn't really
9 understand. Why? Because I was getting an education,
10 high school education, stuff like that, is a
11 supplemental education to Western living. What the
12 elders have taught us is since time in immemorial. And
13 then this is how our resources thrive and thrive. Being
14 under salt water, you won't get anything. Being under
15 constant rain, constant wind can destroy the plants that
16 are there. Erosion is happening at a wild pace, but I
17 think I kind of over touched them, but that's the one
18 thing that we just talked about. Human take, but I think
19 the federal and state agencies need to talk more about
20 predator control like they did in Juneau or Southeast,
21 how many years ago? They had a free card to eliminate
22 one species, tried to eliminate one species. But many
23 of the caribou stories, reindeer stories are from elders
24 that they have told me and kind of related to the lava
25 bed region for the caribou because there's a lot of
26 stories about that in and around that area. But when
27 trying to restricted harvest of natural resources,
28 consider, you know, like what they say predation by
29 animals other than -- pretty much it's same way out in
30 the waters. We go after salmon. We just think about what
31 we harvest. Mr. Zacchaeus, who was on the Board, who was
32 on the Council in the past, kind of mentioned that when
33 beluga can eat 11 salmon, times how many belugas are out
34 there, other than salmon? So, these are the things that
35 are kind of overlooked when we're just talking about
36 harvest by humans. But there's other things, other
37 factors, weather. predation and that. For that I thank
38 you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
41 Elmer. What I'm following, what Elmer is bringing up is
42 you mentioned the 4000 cows per year average is that --
43 it's an average. And so, following up what he's talking
44 about, there's wolves, bears, natural deaths. One of the
45 other ones is, I've witnessed is even with muskox, fawns
46 dealing with ravens and foxes. Do you guys have a
47 breakdown of the 4,000 deaths average? Is it a natural
48 occurrence or predation or -- that you're not -- that
49 eliminates the human factor, right? Is -- that's
50 kind of where he was at What was the human factor and what

1 were the natural occurrences?

2

3 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Through the Chair.
4 This is Sara again. And you're absolutely right. So, the
5 4,000 is specific hunter harvest and Elmer, you're --
6 yeah, absolutely. I just want to really quickly mention
7 like there is a lot going on, environmental factors and
8 what have you, predators. And we can have conversations
9 and we are having conversations, a lot of difficult
10 conversations about what to do right now. But as
11 managers, our responsibility is to look at these
12 populations declining and see what we can control. And
13 at this time, harvest is what we can control. I just
14 really want to emphasize how I don't want to be doom and
15 gloom, but this is a dire situation. The caribou are
16 declining very precipitously. And at this time, cow
17 harvest is what we can control. So, thank you.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
20 Sara. That cleared up a lot for me because when you said
21 hunter harvest, I didn't realize -- I thought you were
22 talking about what you guys are finding out there in the
23 field that these 4000 on the average were dying. What
24 were they dying from? Well, lead poisoning, I guess. So,
25 to say it shortly. Martin.

26

27 MR. AUKONGAK: Real quick, you know, I
28 said it five years ago in the first meeting, you know,
29 when Kenai had the big fire, they pushed them to Wasilla.
30 Wasilla had a big fire. Every bear went to the Fairbanks.
31 They had a big fire. And before you know it, we got the
32 bear problem. In that time frame I was telling the state,
33 you know, we should get three bears a year instead of
34 one, but it took long enough. Finally, we're doing it.
35 But at the time, we should have done it a long time ago.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. So go
38 ahead, Kelsi. You had your finger on the button. Yeah.
39 All right. Gisela.

40

41 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, I apologize for
42 the interruption. But I didn't mention that Subsistence
43 Resource Commissions also met and considered WSA26-01.
44 And the Subsistence Resource Commissions are similar to
45 a Regional Advisory Council, but through the National
46 Park Service and out of the three SRCs that will also
47 develop recommendations for the Board's consideration,
48 only Kobuk Valley SRC was able to further the
49 recommendations for the Board to consider. And I wanted
50 to mention it to the Council so that you also have that

1 information. And the Kobuk Valley SRC supported WSA26-
2 01 with a modification to change the caribou harvest
3 limit to four caribou bulls per year per hunter and no
4 cow harvest. The SRC had a long discussion about the
5 proposal for a continued reduction in harvest and the
6 impact of cow harvest. Members also are concerned for
7 their neighbors who may need a cow to get food on the
8 table but understand that the population cannot support
9 it. The SRC recognizes they are making this decision not
10 only for them, but others as well, and they believe that
11 through -- that although it is incredibly difficult to
12 say no cow harvest, it is important to make a bold
13 statement in order to protect this herd for the future
14 and they need to be proactive. And "they said that we
15 are talking about the future of the herd taking a little
16 more time to search for bulls is minimal effort". Cape
17 Krusenstern SRC was expected to meet March 10th, 2026,
18 but they did not have quorum and they are expecting --
19 they're expected to meet again March 31st, that is
20 tomorrow. And also develop recommendation on wildlife
21 special action WSA26-01 and the gates of the Arctic SRC
22 is expected to meet April 15th and 16th.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that.
25 That was good to hear that there's -- the Kobuk Valley
26 SRC making that statement about cows. Kind of my feelings
27 exactly. And I reflect on a time here when 22C Unit had
28 20 cows and that lasted for 20 years and I never saw the
29 need to be taking cows the way that was done. So here
30 we are again. And this is a -- like she said, Sara
31 brought up dire straits. You know you're talking about
32 if you kill a cow, how many deer are you actually
33 killing? How many caribou are you killing for the future?
34 And we're looking at trying to build this herd back up
35 some way. So that's my thought about that. And the other
36 part is predation. What are we doing about predation?
37 What are we allowing hunters to do with predation? Just
38 under the regular rules, hunters take predators. There's
39 -- are there any predation areas set up north? Is there
40 anything set up north? I'm trying to think of the words.
41 Yeah. Predator control areas.

42
43 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, through the Chair. I
44 guess what you're referring to is intensive management
45 on the state side of things. And basically, to put it
46 simply, once we reach a certain parameter that would, I
47 guess, a certain population level or drop below harvest
48 objectives or what it's called, it would trigger, you
49 know, intensive management actions. So that could be
50 anything from predator control, habitat enhancement, you

1 know, calf survival studies, which we have been working
2 on those things. And I guess tune in to the Board of
3 Game next year.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. The reason
6 why I was asking is I was wondering if the discussion
7 was at the table with the state talking about predator
8 control. Just a few years ago the Chairman and as Vice
9 Chair of the Board of Game, approached me because I was
10 a -- I guess there was something in my testimony where
11 I was talking about at a Federal Subsistence Board
12 meeting about the act of actually targeting predators.
13 So, I was just wondering if the states had any
14 conversations about that, that are coming forward
15 because we're -- you're saying dire straits?

16
17 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: If we're going to say
20 you can't have a cow, you have to have four bulls to the
21 subsistence hunter. What is the government doing about
22 predator control? Okay, I've said it, Martin. I guess
23 he wants to.....

24
25 MR. AUKONGAK: You know, being in
26 Kotzebue last summer, working up there in the Noatak
27 River, I thought -- I learned a lot. Because you know,
28 the state, you cannot barge in that river after a certain
29 point because of the caribou, which is cool. I love
30 that. They're keeping the caribou. Once you have
31 caribou, you shut everything down. And speaking for
32 Golovin and White Mountain, I would like to regulate for
33 the moose and the caribou, for Crowley and Linden before
34 our moose hunt do not come into the White Mountain River
35 because you know, it's loud. It's big. I think if they
36 bring the fuel or freight after the moose hunt is done,
37 have that two-week period. There's no barging in our
38 river. Some way we need to learn from Kotzebue. And I
39 thank that you know that region for doing that.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Martin.
42 So, one more thing that I was wanting to put out is that
43 WACH Group, Western Arctic Caribou Herd is one factor
44 and we're not seeing collars coming down into 22, Are
45 there a few now? I know this wasn't happening too often,
46 and the reason why I'm asking that is because we're
47 talking about cows again. The WACH herd to me, it's I
48 think it's very important that we try to eliminate that
49 idea of taking cows. The other one that's referred to,
50 I see, Bella. We're talking about that residential herd

1 that people target. And the reason why I know about it
2 is because it goes back over 40 years where I learned
3 of that herd and actually targeted it. So, it's being
4 targeted now. So, to me just taking cows is, you know,
5 you're cutting your herd down even further. And so, I'm
6 not sure what's going on in 22 with that residential
7 herd. But I think it's important that we try to find a
8 way to eliminate taking cows. Sara, you got something
9 to add.

10

11 MS. HENSLEE: No.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelly -- Kelsi.

14

15 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
16 also support eliminating taking of cows. I think it's
17 huge to control something or try to limit something that
18 we can control, given there are so many factors
19 completely out of our control. And if it comes down to
20 educating our hunters more, then so be it, because this
21 4000 is -- that's a lot of cows taken by hunters in a
22 year or in years. And I think that needs to be lessened
23 to help our herd is that I remember growing up and it
24 was at 6- to 700,000 and 120 is way lower.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi.
27 There's something in this book here that shows what a
28 cow -- and a difference between a cow and a bull. What
29 page is that on?

30

31 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

32

33 (Whispered conversation)

34

35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, Robert. There you
36 go. Robert.

37

38 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

39

40 MR. MOSES: Oh, I didn't have anything
41 to say. I'm good.

42

43 MR. KIRK: This is Ron.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Ron.

46

47 MR. KIRK: Yeah. Mr. Chair, I do not like
48 the idea of hunters taking cows. 4000 cows is a lot of
49 cows by hunters. What they -- what you are not -- what
50 we are not looking at is the fact of predators. Predators

1 take cows too. How do we know that the predators aren't
2 taking more than 4000 cows out of the herd. That's one
3 thing we need to think about is predators. Not only
4 humans. Humans, I can understand that. We need to
5 eliminate humans from taking cows. But we cannot control
6 the predators from taking cows. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Yeah,
9 that was my point exactly when I asked. You know, we're
10 looking at this and saying we want to protect the cows
11 and allowing somebody the ability to take one, whether
12 it's a mistake or it's on purpose. I don't know. That's
13 up to the person, I suppose, but predation, that's what
14 I wondered. That's why I asked Sara, what's the state
15 going to do? What's the state going to do if we're --
16 we're going to eliminate a cow and only allow four bulls,
17 and we're putting that on our subsistence hunters,
18 what's the state going to do? Is the state going to be
19 actively working to allow predator control or let's say
20 aerial wolf hunting? That was what that Board of Fish
21 Chair asked me about. He said, what do you think about
22 aerial hunting? I said, I'm all for it. I don't see an
23 issue with it to me. I grew up knowing about it in the
24 past and it's been done. I think they do it in McGrath
25 and they're pretty effective at trying to get their moose
26 herd stabilized over there. And they, I don't know if
27 they still are. Are they still allowed to do that? I'm
28 not sure. Anyway, yeah, it's out of our region. So
29 anyway, I know that it happens. If we're going to tell
30 our hunters, you have to leave those cows alone, then I
31 want to know what the government's going to do about
32 predation control. And I think that should be on the
33 table. So should we put that in our proposal or modify
34 the proposal by adding -- suggesting that the state needs
35 to look into predation control of some sort.

36
37 MS. IVANOFF: I remember in our last
38 meeting, they advised against putting predation into any
39 of our proposals. Because it -- I don't know what happens
40 at the Board level.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Jeanette.

43
44 MS. IVANOFF: We can put a Board of Game
45 proposal in.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, yeah.

48
49 MS. KOELSCH: Through the Chair.....
50

1 (Simultaneous speech)

2

3 MR. KIRK?: Mr. Chair.

4

5 MS. KOELSCH:Jeanette Koelsch
6 Superintendent. The Board of Game doesn't take up -- I
7 mean, the Federal Subsistence Board does not take up
8 predator control. Only subsistence related proposals as
9 they do not consider predator control subsistence. But
10 you can, as Chair, Chairperson Kelsi Ivanoff suggested,
11 do a separate Board of Game proposal, but it should not
12 be part of this action. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that.
15 And I was kind of leaning on the state about predation
16 control. So yeah, we don't need the verbiage. We don't
17 put anything in the -- in what we're doing. But the
18 modification, I think at this point some of us are
19 feeling about is no cows and four bulls only. So go
20 ahead, Sara. Your turn.

21

22 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 I just want to really quickly speak to what you were
24 saying. And I strongly encourage you to be active and
25 at least listen in to the State Advisory Committee
26 process and especially the Board of Game, because things
27 are coming down the pipe. And Kelsi is a member of the
28 Southern Norton Sound AC, and I'm sure these concerns
29 will be brought before the committee. And yeah, there's
30 some things coming. So just listen in next January.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Thank you
33 for that, Sara. I think Ron, did you try to speak in
34 there?

35

36 MR. KIRK: Yes. Mr. Chair. We're talking
37 predators, but one thing we overlook is I witnessed this
38 before with our reindeer and the baby seals out there
39 on the ice. We overlooked the ravens, when they see a
40 newborn cow baby or calf out there. The ravens go after
41 it. They kill that little newborn. It may be a cow,
42 maybe a female or a male, but they'll kill it. It's the
43 one predator that we always overlook is the ravens. Thank
44 you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
47 Ron. Yeah, that's what I was kind of alluding to earlier
48 when I talked about foxes and ravens. I know that they
49 target the fawns, the calves like the deer, caribou,
50 reindeer and muskox because I've seen it, I've witnessed

1 it. So, I just kind of, you know, sounds like Sara said
2 something's coming down the pipe on something to do with
3 predation. This herd is way down. It's not the only herd
4 that's down. I know that the bear population was huge.
5 The wolf population is huge. So, the only thing that we
6 can do is we could ask for a modification from this
7 Council like the Kobuk Valley Group did and asked to not
8 include cows in the take and only allow four bulls, so
9 I'm just one person. Kelsi has a -- she's ready to make
10 a motion. You got something, Elmer?

11
12 MR. SEETOT: Just a comment on that
13 within Brevig we just stay within the legal limits, I
14 guess. No real concern within the community. I would say
15 from my opinion, its mostly agency related. Reason I say
16 that is we -- caribou is not the only primary ungulate
17 at that provides us meat. We rely on marine mammals,
18 waterfowl and fish and other stuff so that's what I was
19 just going to say. It's of no real concern because in
20 the past we were even lucky to have at least one reindeer
21 in the winter about 20-30 years ago. Nowadays it's --
22 we were satisfied with one caribou or one reindeer
23 throughout the cycle, winter cycle. But nowadays our
24 population is changing. They're young people and they
25 want something, you know, that they can provide for their
26 family. And I think caribou, other than being -- other
27 than the reindeer are really being relied on by the
28 younger generation. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
31 Elmer. Kelsi.

32
33 MS. IVANOFF: Before I make a motion, I
34 just wanted to note our fellow council members in your
35 communities really encourage those -- there's a lot of
36 young, eager hunters. Encourage them to go out, bear and
37 wolf hunting and trapping and just to learn that. But
38 on that note, I am going to move to support WSA26-01
39 with the modification of 4 caribou and no cows.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a second
42 from the Council?

43
44 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, second.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, we got a first
47 and a second. We got somebody missing from the room at
48 the moment. Martin's not in here, so. I guess what we
49 need.....

50

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1 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, we do have two
2 council members online.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, I just want to
5 say. I'm just counting. So, at this point, we could take
6 action here by the vote. And Kelsi has made a motion
7 that's been seconded. All.....

8
9 MR. KIRK: Question

10
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. Questions been
12 called.

13
14 MS. IVANOFF: Question for Gisela. Do we
15 need to follow and provide justification?

16
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm sorry.

18
19 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. The question that
20 Kelsi brought up was if the -- if you as a Council need
21 to provide a justification for your recommendations, and
22 I think that, yes, it would be advisable to develop a
23 justification because your recommendations are going to
24 go to the Federal Subsistence Board to make a decision
25 on special actions and as much information and context
26 as you can provide to the Board will be beneficial to
27 their decision making.

28
29 MS. IVANOFF: Okay. Before we vote, Mr.
30 Chair.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

33
34 MS. IVANOFF: Just for justification,
35 because of the conservation concern. I think we do need
36 to limit how much caribou we are taking. And given that
37 4000 cows were taken by hunters, we need to eliminate
38 that regulation. I think 4 caribou still provides enough
39 subsistence opportunity for our residents. It will be
40 an adjustment, but in the long run, I think it will be
41 beneficial for our subsistence users.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you for
44 that justification. We got that. Okay, so Martin's here.
45 We're going to -- the motion on the floor is to support
46 a WSA26-01 with a modification of no cows and the
47 justification was for conservation purpose. So, all
48 those in favor of the motion say aye.

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And I'm an eye. All those against, same sign.

(No response)

Hearing none, the motion passes with the modification. And we're right there. It's lunchtime. We're right on time. It's 11 after 12. How long are we taking a lunch for, folks?

MR. AUKONGAK: Three hours.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Three hours. Okay. What do we do usually at?

MR. SEETOT: To the state employees, Happy Seward's day. Here -- you're here despite the holiday.

(Laughter)

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Happy Seward's folly day. I liked his folly, I always did. It was a great folly. Okay. It's a wonderful folly.

MS. CHAPA: To those joining us online and over the phone. The Council is going to take a lunch break, and we'll resume the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Thank you.

(Off record)

(On record)

MS. CHAPA: An update on RAC membership for those people that are joining us online. So, the cycle to -- for RAC applications and nominations is still open. And so, if you know anybody that might be interested in serving on the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council, we ask that you please fill out an application by the deadline, which is April 2nd and the applications can be emailed, mailed or faxed. I will also provide additional information towards the end of our meeting for those who are interested in applying. And if you know anybody that has submitted an application already, again we are receiving applications through April 2nd. The application process is a little bit lengthy. So, after applications are reviewed the -- there is a group that will review and consider all of

1 the applications. We will follow up with interviews for
2 those that applied as well as the references listed in
3 your application. And this group that reviews
4 applications will forward the nominations to the Federal
5 Subsistence Board and also to the Department of
6 Interior. And appointments are made at the Department
7 of Interior level. And we anticipate that appointments
8 will take place around December, but granted, there's
9 delays that may prevent this timeline from being met.
10 And this is a perfect example like this current cycle
11 pardon me, the previous cycle we had people applied by
12 the deadline and appointments for 2026 have still not
13 been made. I was informed that it should happen sometime
14 later in April, but I wanted to give that information
15 for those of you who are joining us online, again, as
16 we are waiting for our Chair to arrive to our meeting.
17 Thank you.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, this is --
22 sorry we're a little late, but we're starting at 20 --
23 25 after that. Okay, so where are we at here?

24

25 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, if I may. Gisela
26 Chapa for the record. So, a refresher for those that may
27 have just joined online that the Council prior to the
28 lunch break, was able to provide recommendations on
29 Wildlife Special Action 26-01, Western Arctic Caribou
30 and before I proceed, I do want to ask -- we have a
31 presenter that will provide information on the Park
32 Service Proposed Rule, but I believe that she will not
33 be available between 2 and 3. And given the time, I
34 wanted to ask if they will need to present right now and
35 skip ahead and come back to what Wildlife Special Action
36 26-02. So, Elizabeth, if you can hear me, do you think
37 you can give us extra information? Thank you.

38

39 DR. BELLA: Hi. Yes, I'm on. I'm happy
40 to present now or between 2 and 3, whatever works best,
41 I'm flexible.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 MS. CHAPA: And just for your
46 information, we are going to proceed with Wildlife
47 Special Action, 26-02. Thank you.

48

49 DR. BELLA: Okay.

50

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1 MR. KATCHEAK: My name is Theodore
2 Katcheak from Stebbins.

3
4 MS. CHAPA: Pardon me, can you please
5 repeat I did not -- sorry, I did not get your comment.
6 I believe that was Teddy.

7
8 MR. KATCHEAK: My name is Theodore
9 Katcheak from Stebbins.

10
11 (Pause)

12
13 MS. CHAPA: So, Tom, if you're available,
14 the Council is ready for Wildlife Special Action 26-02.
15 Thanks.

16
17 MR. PLANK: Thank you. And thank you,
18 Chair and Members of the Council. So, for the record,
19 Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist of the OSM and now we're
20 going to look at a Wildlife Special Action 26-02, this
21 is referring back to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
22 This special action was submitted by the Bering Land
23 Bridge National Preserve and additionally to the
24 information we've already talked about with the
25 population of only being 121,000, the proponent also
26 added that with that last estimate, it continues to
27 precipitous decline that began in 2003 and at the current
28 rate of decline, the proponent feels with approximately
29 10% per year, the herd will drop below 100,000 in 2027.
30 And Unit 22 is considered the winter range for the
31 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Although, collard animals
32 from the herd have not made it -- made use of the Seward
33 Peninsula for 6 years now, some remnant groups of Western
34 Arctic Caribou Herd have been observed there,
35 particularly in and around Bering Land Bridge National
36 Preserve. And in case I skipped over it, this temporary
37 Wildlife Special Action is requesting to close federal
38 public lands in Unit 22 to caribou hunting by non-
39 federally qualified users for the 2026 through to 2028
40 regulatory year. I'll just kind of leave it there. Make
41 it short and I'm here if you have any questions. Thank
42 you.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Tom. This
45 is Louie. So, qualified -- federally qualified, just
46 explain that for the record, please. Thanks.

47
48 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,
49 OSM. So, basically there are groups of folks that have
50 customary and traditional use of Unit 22 and those can

1 be found in the regulatory book. For Unit 22 it's going
2 to be the left-hand column and it lists the folks that
3 have the customary traditional use of determination for
4 caribou in Unit 22 A. I can name all the villages if
5 y'all like, but and I'll probably mispronounce half of
6 them, but they're there. And with this proposal -- this
7 special action, basically those would be the only folks
8 that would be allowed to harvest caribou in Unit 22, if
9 it's accepted.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
12 Tom. Council, anybody, comments, questions? Nobody in
13 the room here? You got one, Elmer.

14
15 MR. SEETOT: Always.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There you go, always.
18 That's okay.

19
20 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig
21 Mission. As of right now, everything requires land
22 ownership or being -- belong to certain portions of the
23 land that you're hunting. Our ancestors hunted marine
24 mammals, land mammals without regulations at times of
25 harvest before ADF&G. And ADF&G was instituted or came
26 into being, TEK, traditional ecological knowledge was
27 used in practice at that time. No wanton waste, no
28 arguing about animals. Take only what you need and such
29 conservation measures kept our animals, resources for
30 the future. People nowadays with modern technology, fast
31 snow machines, heavier caliber rifles, tracking
32 instrument like the phone that provides hunters more
33 access to the animals at least maybe some type of
34 harvest. With the new technology and whatever they use
35 at this time, I think you can see a decline of these
36 animals or being moved to another location. Like, like
37 at -- I said at times that if you're going to talk about
38 animals, make it similar to what we go through, they go
39 through the same process, but they're out in their
40 elements 24/7 while we discuss and try to find ways to
41 hunt these -- pick, hunt or fish, these natural resources
42 in a legal manner. But everything nowadays is up in the
43 air. We have to claim ownership of land, we need to say
44 you're not a person -- you're not a member of the tribe
45 for this region. So, everything is being -- getting very
46 complicated with all the paperwork that is involved. And
47 they're thinking about going paperless. So, that's
48 something for, you know, old time people like me that,
49 that don't use modern technology other than to make an
50 appointment or catch a ride to the airport or stuff like

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1 that having to depend more on our children or our
2 grandchildren. So, but I think they need to be taught
3 at the community level of what animals to harvest, what
4 regulations to follow and to make sure TEK is being
5 practiced at all times. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. So.
8 We got anybody online have [sic] any questions? Robert
9 or Ron or Tom?

10

11 MR. MOSES: No.

12

13 MR. KIRK: No.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, thank you. So,
16 are we at a motion? At a point for a motion?

17

18 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

21

22 MS. CHAPA: Gisela Chapa, for the record.
23 I also wanted to give additional information to the
24 Council about other Council's recommendations on WSA 26-
25 02. And the North Slope Regional Advisory Council is
26 basically the only Council that provided the
27 recommendations on this special action request, and they
28 supported as submitted.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 3 bulls and 1 cow, 4
31 only?

32

33 MS. CHAPA: No. Mr. Chair.....

34

35 (Simultaneous speech)

36

37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well -- go ahead.

38

39 MS. CHAPA: Wildlife Special Action 26-
40 02 is a request to close Unit 22 federal lands to non-
41 federally qualified users, to the harvest of caribou.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Finger on the wrong
44 page here. Yeah, okay, so we have a motion -- we have
45 information here that Gisela provided. So, this is an
46 action item. Kelsi.

47

48 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I moved to
49 support WSA26-02 to close federal public lands in Unit
50 22 to caribou hunting by non-federally qualified users.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi made the motion. Is there a second.

MR. MOSES: Second by Robert.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Second by Robert. Any comments or questions, discussion?

MS. IVANOFF: Louis.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi, go ahead.

(Distortion)

MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just providing justification that with the conservation concern with the caribou in our area, we would like to see this pass. And like I said the last time, this would be an adjustment but in the long run would be a benefit to all subsistence users in our area.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any other Council comments or questions? Discussion, excuse me.

(No response)

Anybody call for the question?

MR. SEETOT: Question.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question has been called. All those in favor of approving WSA26-02, request to close federal public lands in the Unit 22 to caribou hunting by non-federally qualified users, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All those against, same sign.

(No response)

Hearing none. Motion passes.

(Pause)

Tom. Did he have his hand up?

1 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tom
2 Plank. I just want to put in one last little plug that
3 there will be a public hearing on Wildlife Special Action
4 WSA 26-01 and 26-02, in addition to 26-03, which is for
5 26A Southwest. And that public hearing will be on April
6 9th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and that'll be by teams or
7 by phones. I just wanted to get that last little plug
8 in for that.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Tom.
11 Gisela, go ahead.

12
13 MS. CHAPA: Sorry for the interruptions.
14 But also for those who are joining us online, hopefully
15 you can see our screen that there will be a public
16 hearing on April 9th between 4 and 6, and it will be
17 through teleconference or over the phone on all wildlife
18 special actions, as Tom mentioned, don't -- sorry, 26-
19 01, 26-02, and 26-03 which is not a wildlife special
20 action that this Council necessarily needs to consider,
21 but the public is welcome to attend the public hearing
22 and provide your testimony on all 3 wildlife special
23 action -- actions. And additionally, tribal governments
24 and ANCSA corporations can request a consultation on
25 this subject, and to contact our Native Liaison, Orville
26 Lind for this request. And lastly, I wanted to point out
27 that the Federal Subsistence Board is scheduled to meet
28 on June 3rd at 1 p.m. to deliberate on Wildlife Special
29 Actions 26-01, -02 and -03 and to get more information
30 about the Federal Subsistence Board meeting as you get
31 closer to the meeting to -- please follow or visit our
32 website to get the meeting information.

33
34 MR. AUKONGAK: And I'm not sure if I'm
35 lost here or we passed something. Then we hear about it
36 later and then, but it's already passed. Am I getting
37 this right or what's going on here?

38
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I was like -- I was
40 pointing out.

41
42 MR. AUKONGAK: Yeah, I know.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It's past.

45
46 MR. AUKONGAK: Yeah. Then we're going to
47 hear about have a hearing about it from the public.

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49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That's right -- there
50 is what she was referring to.

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MR. AUKONGAK: Oh, I got it.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That's still it's still there. Okay. You're fine. Yes. Go ahead.

MS. CHAPA: Yeah. So, the Board -- and this is to Member Aukongak comment. I was multitasking, so, please let me know if this is what -- this answers your question and your comment, but the Board will consider all of the Regional Advisory Council recommendations, the SRC recommendations, but at the same time, they also consider public comment to make a decision on the wildlife special actions. And so, the public hearing is the opportunity for the public -- another opportunity for the public to provide their testimony on the subject and tribal and ANCSA corporations can also -- tribal governments and ANCSA corporations can also provide their comments to the Federal Subsistence Board through a consultation. So, that again, the Board has as much information as possible to make a decision on the special actions.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, Kelsi, go ahead.

MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Kelsi. Just wanted to note that we do have some students online from Unalakleet, and I think they're online and just wanted to give a chance to -- if Mr. Lucius' online, I think UNC is them, to introduce himself and his students.

(No response)

MS. CHAPA: Yes. And if you're joining us over the phone, you will need to press star-six to unmute yourself. Just a reminder about that.

(No response)

MS. IVANOFF: I just got your message. Well, welcome, students. We're glad you guys are here.

MS. CHAPA: And Kelsi, if you don't mind, if they are willing to text some comments to you and maybe you're able to read or to me and I can give him his -- my cell phone number to somehow relay the message to the Council, relay their comments.

(Pause)

1

2

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, okay, we took action on this WSA 26-02 and we supported as requested. So we're moving on to item d on here. National Park Service Proposed Rule with Elizabeth Bella who's on virtually. So, if you're ready, Elizabeth, it's all yours.

7

8

9

MS. FLOREY: Hi, this is Victoria Florey, National Park Service. I've been coordinating with Elizabeth Bella to speak on this topic, and she said that she can do it from 2 to 3 p.m., if that's okay with you all.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, in that case Kelsi, are you going to -- you and Gisela are going to receive text comments from the kids -- students, or not?

MS. IVANOFF: Kids said that they were in favor of closing. And they were discussing what a federally qualified user was. I know we had this discussion this morning, but for those of you online, we were discussing the difference between like state hunts where anyone from Alaska can hunt and federally qualified users have to be from the area. So, say they're specific to units, Unit 22 you can hunt anywhere within Unit 22, but you can't go up to Unit 23 and hunt those federal hunts.

(Pause)

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Are there any additional comments or -- from the public? Online?

(No response)

(Pause)

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Okay. Sorry for the constant interruptions. But just for those who are joining online and are not in the room, what is happening is that the Council just moved to support Wildlife Special Action 26-02 and the presenter that was scheduled to give us or give the Council an update on the park service rule is unavailable until 2. So, with the Council is discussing is whether to move on to Board of Game proposals while we wait to -- for Ms. Bella to present to the Council on the proposed rule. But I also wanted to let you know that Mr. Luke Henslee is here

1 with ADF&G, and he is also able to give you a fisheries
2 update if it's of interest to the Council while we wait
3 for Ms. Bella to become available and present before
4 moving on to Board Game.

5
6 MR. AUKONGAK: And there's no fish. Good
7 report, Luke.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes. Fisheries
10 report, please. He's not going to be here tomorrow. Thank
11 you.

12
13 MR. HENSLEE: All right. Thank you, Mr.
14 Chair, members of the Council. Again, for the record,
15 my name is Luke Henslee, I'm the Assistant Area
16 Management Biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish
17 and Game. And apologize for speaking out of turn, I'll
18 be heading up to Kotzebue tomorrow morning to attend the
19 RAC meeting up there. I briefly wanted to update you,
20 mostly about the Unalakleet River weir and the status
21 of our efforts to enumerate count salmon going up the
22 river.

23
24 Last year at your spring meeting, you
25 all agreed to write a letter of support for the
26 department to continue using the weir to count. That
27 project was focused on king salmon but also counted all
28 other species passing through the weir until about mid-
29 August. Unfortunately, that project was not allowed to
30 continue. We did not receive approval from the
31 Unalakleet Native Corporation that owned the land that
32 we were operating on. So, that project is no longer
33 operational. However, we have been doing some studies
34 to count salmon with other methods, mainly sonar, which
35 is what the Unalakleet Native Corporation proposed to
36 use instead of a weir. And specifically, we were focused
37 on coho because that is a species that we're interested
38 in counting before this all started, since they have a
39 late run timing and the river tends to rise in the fall
40 due to rain, we weren't able to completely count their
41 migration.

42
43 So, last year, in 2024 and 2025, we used
44 sonar to count coho going up the Unalakleet River. In
45 2024, we estimated 10,627 silver salmon passed the weir
46 site -- the previous weir site between August 24th and
47 September 13th. Last year, we estimated that about
48 18,600 silvers passed that site between August 20th and
49 September 14th, and in both seasons, there were still
50 hundreds of fish passing that site when we had to close

1 down operations. So, the conclusion there is that sonar
2 is an effective way to count coho salmon. And I just
3 want to caveat that because during this time of year,
4 over 90% of all fish passing that site are coho. So, the
5 problem with the weir is or the sonar is that we can't
6 always tell what species they are just from the image.
7 We have to get in the river and actually catch some
8 salmon and look at what species they are, and then we
9 apply that to our accounts.

10
11 So, that is to say we found it works.
12 It works well for silvers. The other issue that we found
13 is that even though sonars are better at dealing with
14 high rivers than other methods, there is still a limit
15 to how high of a river we can still keep those sonars
16 in the water and beyond mid-September, it just kind of
17 becomes unfeasible. But fortunately, we realized there
18 are still quite a few silvers moving up the river in
19 mid-September. It's not just a Unalakleet issue, it's a
20 statewide issue. How do we count all these fish who are
21 still going into the fall where it's starting to get
22 really cold, and in the case of Unalakleet, ice is
23 starting to come down the river and it's not really safe
24 for us to be operating.

25
26 So, that's that. In this upcoming season
27 and the next season, we're going to be using sonars to
28 look at the feasibility of monitoring other species.
29 Hopefully we're going to be counting kings, chums and
30 pinks, and we'll be looking at different spots
31 throughout the river that we could make that work. Again,
32 the big issue there is it's hard to tell from that image
33 that we get what species they are. So, getting in the
34 river and trying to figure out what species correspond
35 to the blips on the screen is going to be a -- that's
36 what we're trying to find out if that's a feasible way
37 to count salmon up the Unalakleet River.

38
39 All that to say, in the near future, we
40 could be coming back to the Council to seek another
41 letter of support if we decided to go after a funding
42 source if this is something we determine is going to be
43 a feasible method to continue to count salmon up the
44 Unalakleet River in the future. We're really committed
45 to counting salmon in this river one way or another.
46 It's a very, very important data point that we use for
47 management. So, even if this ultimately is not going to
48 be the method that we rely on in the future, it's not
49 going to be the end of our, you know, efforts to
50 determine the best way to do it. And with that, I'd be

1 happy to take any questions.

2

3 MR. AUKONGAK: I don't have any
4 questions, but like comment. Like if -- I'm not sure
5 why, you know, we have to overlap our meeting with
6 Kotzebue. Let's say just for anything like a caribou or
7 something, I think if we had our meeting and they had
8 their meeting, you know, on a later date. And we'll have
9 you here for 2 full days in case we need something. But
10 I mean, we do have your number and everything. And
11 lastly, I would recommend go after the money anyway.
12 Because if you get denied, you get, you know, approved
13 the next time.

14

15 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair Gisela Chapa. And
16 Council Members Aukongak. I will make a note of that,
17 the overlapping of other meetings between the Seward
18 Peninsula RAC and the Northwest Arctic RAC. I'll make a
19 note of it. And later on in our agenda, we'll set the
20 dates for the 2027 meeting cycles. So, I will communicate
21 those meeting dates with the other coordinators and
22 hopefully relay that to the Northwest Arctic Council.
23 So, we do not overlap our meeting dates.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,
26 Kelsi.

27

28 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was
29 curious what the UNC Board's reasoning was for not
30 allowing a weir on their lands.

31

32 MR. HENSLEE: Yeah. Thank you for that
33 question. We did receive communication from UNC and
34 Native Village of Unalakleet and NSEDC, a few years back,
35 there were concerns about the weir hindering upstream
36 migration of chinook salmon. And so, in our
37 communications with them, they were really encouraging
38 us to increase the amount of time that the weir is open
39 to allow salmon to pass, which we did make effort to do,
40 you know, throughout the night, throughout the day, we
41 have technicians that are opening the weir to allow
42 salmon to pass, regardless of whether or not, you know,
43 we can visually see salmon we would still go out and
44 allow periods of passage. And so, I believe the 1st
45 communication about that issue was in 2023. And then as
46 you know, chinook salmon escapement numbers continued
47 to be low, I think they determined that that method was
48 ultimately not worth the possibility that a weir was
49 hindering their ability to migrate upstream.

50

1 It's kind of the department's position
2 that, you know, whenever we can safely and responsibly
3 operate a weir then we prefer to do that as it's the --
4 by far the best source of escapement data that we can
5 get. You know, there are no error bars. That number is
6 the number of fish that we counted up the weir even --
7 so, that's another issue, you know, with sonar is there's
8 error bars on either side, which is fine. You know, we
9 collect a lot of data that -- that's -- it's an estimate.
10 But that is one thing to take into consideration. And
11 when I talk about other possibilities in the future of
12 how we can count these fish, you know, operating a weir,
13 you know, way up in in federal waters if that's something
14 that that the Council and other agencies will obviously
15 have to get involved, could potentially be an option.
16 You know, the further we get away from the mouth of the
17 river, the less useful the data is for the department
18 to respond quickly in management actions in commercial
19 and subsistence fisheries that happen, you know, in
20 saltwater and closer to the river mouth. But yeah, thank
21 you for that question.

22
23 MR. AUKONGAK: For many years, you guys'
24 been in a Fish River. So, would you guys probably think
25 about giving Unalakleet, that info from the Fish River,
26 say you've got an agreement with White Mountain or
27 Council, whoever, wherever you guys count over there?

28
29 MR. HENSLEE: So, thanks for that
30 question. Currently the department does not have a
31 project in the Golovin subdistrict. NSEDC has a project
32 on the Niukluk River, it's a tower project. All that
33 data is disseminated by the department. So, we publish
34 those escapement numbers every year. It's really useful
35 for us for management. You know, we've been partnering
36 with NSEDC for many years to collect data. Yeah.

37
38 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
39 to follow up, I know Unalakleet is used as part of the
40 3-river index, and just curious if UNC Board and NBU was
41 made aware of that. And the importance of that 3-river
42 index and the numbers that come out of Unalakleet is
43 used by ADF&G, used by NMFS in all -- I don't -- I'm not
44 sure if they realize the reach of those numbers. As far
45 as the new, you know, the new chum bycatch, the chinook
46 bycatch and the Bering Sea. All of that data is used
47 there. And I just really -- if they aren't made aware,
48 I would really encourage you to use that as leverage for
49 reasoning to get a weir there.

50

1 MR. HENSLEE: Yeah, thanks for that. I'll
2 just mention that I'm -- I was able to sit in on a few
3 meetings with NSEDC and Unalakleet Native Corporation,
4 which usually they have very closed door meetings so I
5 was really honored to be allowed to participate. And so,
6 just listening to discussions, I know they are aware
7 that of the importance of that -- those data points. I
8 think just ultimately it wasn't worth the possibility
9 that this could be having an impact. That said, if anyone
10 has any the ear of anyone on those Boards and can -- you
11 know, if kings start to do a little better in coming
12 years and people feel comfortable operating a weir
13 again, that's something we're really good at, we know
14 exactly how to do it. We could get that back up and
15 running pretty quickly, but yes, I believe that all the
16 information on the importance of collecting those
17 numbers is pretty well understood by all the parties
18 involved. Thank you.

19
20 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. I just I
23 here at NSEDC, that's a CDQ group. They seem to weigh
24 in heavily, but I thought -- did you say it was the --
25 Kelsi, you said the Native Village of Unalakleet and UNC
26 Unalakleet Native Corporation. They were at the table.
27 And NSEDC is the funder. Is that what it is?

28
29 MR. HENSLEE: Sorry. So, no, actually,
30 OSM was the funder for that project. And all of those
31 organizations were cooperative partners on the project
32 and the land itself that our camp site was owned -- is
33 owned by the Unalakleet Native Corporation. Yeah.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All right. So, not
36 that far up the river, just within the Native corp lands.
37 Okay, thank you. Elmer.

38
39 MR. SEETOT: You mentioned that ADF&G
40 partners with NSEDC, am I correct?

41
42 MR. HENSLEE: Yes.

43
44 MR. SEETOT: They mentioned to you that
45 this year that they're going to take salmon on the Port
46 Clarence district area to determine origin or to see if,
47 they're going down to the area where they grow up and
48 develop?

49
50

1 MR. HENSLEE: I have heard of that
2 project. They go through different channels within Fish
3 and Game to obtain research permits to take those fish.
4 And so yeah, I'm not the contact person for those
5 research permits, but yeah, I know what you're referring
6 to.

7
8 MR. SEETOT: Being a member or being a
9 member community of NSEDC. Sometimes we're in the dark
10 about what NSC -- NSEDC is doing. It acts like they own
11 the fish stock out there. They don't give us information
12 on what is available out there. They say it's proprietary
13 information that they can't give out. And the state of
14 Alaska said that -- from my point of view, the resources
15 for all the people and that we're having conflicts
16 sometime between the federal and state regulations,
17 because state of Alaska is going forward for the whole
18 people of Alaska. And then federal government is going
19 for those, you know, that are in the communities that
20 are recognized by the federal government. But it seems
21 to me they kept all this information all these years.
22 They're giving money to communities 150,000, 200,000,
23 outside entities, stuff like that. And this is the only
24 organization that I know that doesn't provide
25 honorariums for being a member of federal or state
26 agencies. I know that it's not mandatory, but some
27 organizations that partner with the U.S. federal
28 government or state of Alaska, they provide money on the
29 side too for council members that represent their
30 communities. But to me being -- I like the idea of NSEDC
31 doing the research projects, but it looks like they don't
32 give us no information that is privy to their
33 corporation. And that's all I get from them is, oh, this
34 is private information. And yeah, this is private
35 information, but you're talking about what my public
36 fish too. So, I can make a point like that, but it seems
37 that, you know, they want to guard what, whatever money
38 they make from there, they make a lot of money out of
39 our fishery resources. So, it's something that they --
40 for me, personally, it seems to me that they own the
41 Bering Sea lock, stock and barrel, which is not the
42 case. Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
45 Kelsi, go ahead. We gotta -- we are at that 2:00 mark.
46 So, I just let you know. Go ahead.

47
48 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah, I just had a couple
49 questions from the students in Unalakleet. They had --
50 they were curious where the sonar site was. And then

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1 they were wondering if there was state land anywhere
2 that can be set.

3
4 MR. HENSLEE: All good questions. The
5 sonar site is about 11 river miles up from the -- from
6 Unalakleet near the mouth of the river. It's -- let's
7 see and then as far as state lands go there are not
8 state lands along the river. So the river itself is
9 considered, you know, those are state waters. Those are
10 navigable waters. So that's a great question. We could
11 theoretically, you know, base out of our bunkhouse in
12 Unalakleet and drive 11 miles every day, you know, to
13 go let fish pass and never have to touch the bank. We
14 could do all that from the boat. It's not -- obviously
15 that's going to be really expensive with gas. You know,
16 another one of our ideas and something we're going to
17 look at this upcoming season is to operate the sonar
18 just below where the North River comes in. That would
19 be -- if that worked that would be amazing because then
20 we could get the fish going up the North River as well.
21 Throughout the entire drainage. And we could operate
22 that from our facility there in Unalakleet. There's
23 issues with that idea. But yeah, all really good
24 questions. Thanks.

25
26 MR. AUKONGAK: Our food is priceless. So,
27 by all the gas you need.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Was that their
30 questions?

31
32 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. I'm glad they
35 got through that so you could ask him for them, and they
36 should feel free to do any others, if they need. So,
37 we're past 2:00. Are we done with -- is there any more
38 for Mr. Luke, here? Are you guys on the phone, Ron and
39 Robert, anything for Luke Henslee with state Fish and
40 Game?

41
42 (No response)

43
44 Well, hearing none, I guess that's all
45 you got, Mr. Luke. Thank you very much.

46
47 MR. HENSLEE: Thank you very much. And
48 I'm going to have to step out for the afternoon. But if
49 anyone needs to get ahold of me, I'm going to try to
50 join online. So, thank you very much.

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1

2 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Appreciate you for
3 speaking up and getting on mic. And thanks to those
4 students in Unalakleet, for asking their questions maybe
5 they'll have some more after. Okay, so that leads us to
6 -- are we waiting or on a pause or something?

7

8 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. And I just want to
9 confirm that Ms. Elizabeth Bella is available to present
10 the Park Service Proposed Rule. I do see her online.
11 Thank you.

12

13 DR. BELLA: Yeah. Just checking to make
14 sure you can hear me.

15

16 MS. CHAPA: Yes. We can. Okay.

17

18 DR. BELLA: Got a thumbs up. Yep. I'm
19 here.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Anytime you're
24 ready, Elizabeth. We're busy clowning around over here,
25 sorry. The floor is yours.

26

27 DR. BELLA: All right. Is it distracting
28 for me to have video on or should I stay on video?

29

30 (No response)

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 Okay, I guess -- am I presenting now?
35 Sorry, I'm not seeing anything or hearing anything.
36 Yeah, all right. Okay, so I'm going to talk about NPS,
37 wildlife rule or hunting rule. And I got several
38 different documents open here. So to introduce myself,
39 I'm the Associate Regional Director for Resources for
40 the Alaska Region of the National Park Service. And I
41 will respond to Elizabeth or Bella or Dr. Bella, any of
42 those will work. Thank you for the invitation to join
43 you. I would normally not be here, and this type of
44 presentation would be in the very capable hands of Eva
45 Patton, who's in my work group. She's on much deserved
46 vacation and leave, so I'm happy to help support her in
47 this way.

48

49 So, this is the 4th round of what is
50 known in shorthand as the wildlife rule, or the hunting

1 rule, or the hunting and trapping rule, or the Alaska
2 hunting and trapping rule. There was a draft proposed
3 rule, which is mostly harkening back to the pre 2015
4 rule days in terms of what it proposes to do in terms
5 of changing regulations. That was released for public
6 comment on March 10th, 2026. The comment period is open
7 until 8:59 p.m. Eastern Time. So, that is 8:59 p.m.
8 Alaska time on April 9th, 2026. It's only a 30-day
9 comment period. We have received some comments that
10 indicate a request for an extension of this to 60 days.
11 Just FYI.

12
13 There's several ways you can comment on
14 the rule. You can send hard copy, paper copies to the
15 National Park Service Alaska Regional Office. They
16 should be addressed to the Regional Director. Anything
17 on external devices, flash drive, compact discs, what
18 are those these days? Any of that will not be accepted.
19 Comments won't -- will not be accepted by fax or email
20 only by paper written mail if you choose to send hard
21 copy, they must include the words National Park Service
22 or NPS somewhere on the submission, and they must include
23 the docket number or RIN. I don't remember what RIN
24 stands for. Somebody here probably knows. The RIN number
25 is 1024-AE96 for the rulemaking. So just to note, if you
26 send in hard copy comments, they may be posted without
27 any change to them to regulations.gov, which is another
28 mechanism for being able to comment on this. Anything
29 posted may include personal information.

30
31 The project is also posted on the PEPC
32 page, the NPS public comment mechanism. There's also
33 links to all of the past rules. The 2015 rule, the 2020
34 rule, and the 2024 rule that are related to this
35 rulemaking. The other ways to comment are through the
36 Federal Register website. In the search box, you would
37 search again for that RIN or docket number 1024-AE96.
38 And then there's a green submit a public comment button
39 at the top of the document, and it will have instructions
40 for submitting your comments. You can also submit
41 comments by the federal e-rulemaking portal. And again
42 you would enter that same RIN or docket number 1024-
43 AE96. And then it's a Dockets tab and then you click on
44 the title of the rule. And then there will be an open
45 for comments box. And then click the blue comment box
46 and follow the instructions. So, lots of ways to get
47 your comments in if you're interested in doing so, you
48 or your entity.

49
50

1 All right, now we'll talk about the
2 general project timeline. So as I mentioned, this was
3 open for comment on March 10th. The comment period will
4 close in 30 days from that time at April 9th at 11:59
5 p.m. Eastern time. After that, we will be in a process
6 of looking at all of the comments, coding them to
7 different statements of concern and ensuring that we
8 respond to the concerns raised in the substantive
9 comments. If you do want to comment, the BLM and others
10 have published very helpful guidance on what a
11 substantive comment is. A substantive comment indicates
12 the concern with the text is written and offers
13 suggestive or suggestions that are constructive and
14 helpful in making the team aware of your concern and
15 also providing some guidance for how to rewrite sections
16 for clarity or for other purposes. A substantive comment
17 may also suggest or indicate that other alternatives to
18 the proposed action may be appropriate. So, that just
19 follows typical good substantive public comment
20 rulemaking, or NEPA, if you're familiar with that
21 process.

22
23 All right. The rule is published.
24 There's a link in that PEPC project, the NPS project
25 website that's available to the public or on the federal
26 e-rulemaking portal. There's a copy there or through the
27 Federal Register, you can get to that and review the
28 text of the rule. I have to say it's a bit longer than
29 the past iterations. It's more of an expansive proposed
30 action. So, there's a lot to absorb. And the language
31 is somewhat complex. So, definitely if you do decide you
32 want to review it and think about it, give yourself time
33 to go through the text in full and consider how it has
34 changed from past iterations of the rule.

35
36 Back to the general project timeline.
37 That was a bit of a rabbit hole. The comments are being
38 analyzed as they come in, they will be fully analyzed
39 after the close of the comment period. And then the
40 environmental assessment, the action under NEPA, will
41 analyze the impacts of the proposed project -- the
42 proposed action. Then there will be a period of rewriting
43 what will become the final rule. Generally, we don't
44 know what the timeline will be. There are some internal
45 reviews at very high levels for any rule making endeavor
46 from different entities at a high level, beyond just the
47 NPS or the Department of the Interior. So, that process
48 can take some time. The (indiscernible) review can take
49 up to 90 days, so the earliest a rule might be published
50 or finalized would be July. But more realistically, it

1 would probably be later in the summer. But anything can
2 change in a federal rulemaking timeline. So, I don't
3 have a lot of details to give you, but that's a general
4 look at what we expect.

5
6 As I mentioned, there have been 4
7 different rulemakings. This is the 4th round, and so I
8 understand if there is some fatigue or hey, we've heard
9 all this before, sentiments or feelings about that. We
10 all feel it, but I did want to offer a bit of a background
11 to the different rules. So, the 2015, there was a final
12 rule with an associated EA that was published in 2014.
13 The FONSI was signed in 2014. In 2020, there was another
14 rule final rule hunting and trapping rule, and that was
15 also published in PEPC. The EA was signed in 2018. 2024,
16 there was another rule, and that was a 2023 signed EA
17 that is in the PEPC link -- links or projects. If you
18 search for Alaska hunting and trapping, you'll find it
19 for Alaska region. In this new proposed action there is
20 also the 2017 rule that is being considered for changes,
21 and that has to do with subsistence collections. I was
22 less familiar with this rule, I had a lot of working
23 knowledge of the 1st three, the 2015, the 2020 and the
24 2024. But as I mentioned, the proposed action is somewhat
25 expanded from past rulemaking.

26
27 A comment on the 2024 rule. That was a
28 very narrow rule making. 2020 rule released prohibitions
29 on several permitted activities on federal preserves --
30 National Park Service preserves. And so, the 2024 rule
31 only looked at a couple of things. It reestablished the
32 prohibition on bear baiting in national preserve lands
33 and preserves in which the activity would otherwise be
34 allowed. And it also clarified rules about trapping that
35 were not clear in prior rule iterations. They clarified
36 how a firearm could be used in a trapping situation in
37 which it was warranted for humane purposes. Anyway, all
38 of that is proposed to be revoked or rescinded with this
39 rulemaking and replaced with the rule, as proposed in
40 the Federal Register for the current proposed action.

41
42 Ongoing is a tribal consultation, now
43 that the rule the proposed rule is published, the period
44 of formal tribal consultation is underway. To that end,
45 our regional office staff will be getting in touch with
46 the tribal entities with an updated Dear Tribal Leader
47 letter, so that there is time to comment or engage in
48 formal consultation if the tribal entity wishes to do
49 so. There's also consultation in a formal sense going
50 on with the state of Alaska.

1

2 All right. That is kind of the end of
3 my list of things I wanted to mention. Let me look
4 through to see if I've got anything else that might be
5 helpful. Yeah. So, there have been updated briefing
6 sheets and questions. And the question basically is,
7 what is the current status of the Alaska hunting and
8 trapping rule? And so, the big message, if you're not
9 familiar with this or the past rulemaking endeavors in
10 this area, is that the proposed rule, the new one, is
11 consistent with the Executive Order 14153, which is
12 titled Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource
13 Potential. And also, Executive Order 14192 on regulatory
14 reform. So, the department is taking this action, the
15 set of proposed actions in order to comply with those
16 executive orders and a subsequent secretarial order from
17 the Secretary of the Interior to implement the 14153 or
18 Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential.
19 And so, the proposed rule aims to take a look at
20 subsistence uses and ensure conservation of wildlife
21 resources, reduce federal overreach and honoring the
22 commitments that Congress made in ANILCA. That's much
23 more expanded than in past efforts.

24

25 The proposal would rescind the
26 regulatory changes made in 2015-2017. That's the
27 subsistence collections one in 2020 for the very narrow
28 rule making and restore a previous regulatory structure.
29 Now, the reason that these rulemaking endeavors were
30 taken on in 2015 is that a lot of practices were included
31 in superintendents compendiums on an annual basis to
32 address specific harvest practices. The 2015 rule was
33 an attempt to move those off of an annual cycle and
34 codify them in the Code of Federal Regulations to reduce
35 the administrative burden on parks. 2017, sadly, I
36 cannot speak to it because I don't -- I'm not familiar
37 with that rulemaking, So I wish Eva was here, but she's
38 not. But we have other subsistence experts around. In
39 2024, I did mention I had some hands on that. 2020 was
40 also a move towards some deregulations and reduction of
41 prohibitions on certain allowed practices, and it was
42 in response to the 2015 rule. That kind of change it
43 back to how it had been prior to that rulemaking.

44

45 So, a quick summary of that is the NPS
46 published a rule in 2015 that prohibited actions
47 authorized by the state, including the take of brown and
48 black bears over bait, the take of bear cubs and sows
49 at den sites while using artificial light, the take of
50 wolf and coyote pups during the denning season and the

1 take of swimming caribou. And then the 2020 rule removed
2 the prohibitions, and the 2024 rule prohibited bear
3 baiting on preserves and clarified the trapping
4 provisions. There's been ongoing litigation for all
5 these rules. The 2015, the 2020 and the 2024. So, I
6 imagine there will also be litigation. It's just how
7 things go with regulatory rulemaking in this realm. All
8 right. Kind of at the end of the information that I can
9 effectively share with everyone, thank you for giving
10 me the time and space to talk this through and present
11 on it. I'm willing to answer questions if anyone has any
12 or be available for a bit after the presentation to stay
13 on.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Are there
16 any questions from Council on the -- on phone? Robert,
17 any questions?

18
19 (No response)

20
21 Ron, any questions? If not, I'll give
22 it to you.

23
24 MR. KIRK: It was too much to swallow,
25 no question.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, all right. That
28 was you, Ron. Was that right?

29
30 MR. KIRK: Yeah, that was me, Louis.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, I got Martin
33 next.

34
35 MR. AUKONGAK: I just want to make
36 comment. Thank you for your time and your colleague or
37 coworker. You know, I get real sore when somebody go on
38 vacation when we have a real hot topic on hunting or
39 gathering of our food. And maybe I think that's a lot
40 of times that's half the problem because they're not
41 hearing what we need to say.

42
43 DR. BELLA: I appreciate the comment, but
44 I also think people need breaks and she deserves a break.
45 And we have a team of experts here and she'll be back
46 next week.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I got a question. You
49 know, I see this -- what do you call it here, done by
50 -- is it executive order? For the Federal Register? Who

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1 else is part of this? Asking for this?

2

3 DR. BELLA: If I understand your
4 question, you're asking if there were other -- if there
5 was members of the public or tribal entities or other
6 agencies that were also asking to implement a rule change
7 or suggest one?

8

9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No, ma'am. Sorry, I
10 didn't ask that very good. I'm asking for outside
11 entities that have a potential to gain from this change.
12 You know, ANILCA has got -- you know, subsistence comes
13 first through ANILCA. And some of this kind of tends to
14 lean towards the watering down of ANILCA, maybe. That's
15 kind of what I'm getting out of it. But I just was
16 wondering what other organization out there would be
17 asking for this type of a thing to take place.

18

19 DR. BELLA: Yeah. Well, I can speak to
20 there have been a variety of comments received from
21 interested parties. So, those comments I think are
22 visible in the regulations.gov. So, I can't specifically
23 speak to how it would or would not affect ANILCA until
24 we're able to analyze the impacts and see all the
25 comments that come in.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thanks for that.
28 Kelsi was trying to enlighten me here.

29

30 DR. BELLA: Okay. Yeah.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 Yeah. I mean, I would think that the
35 state would have some interest in this and have expressed
36 interest in moving forward with some of this rulemaking,
37 just in our pre-consultation and now our formal
38 consultation. And I would imagine outside groups
39 involved in hunting, trapping and fishing would also
40 have an interest in this rulemaking.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Kelsi.

43

44 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
45 is Kelsi. My comments kind of align with yours on
46 watering down of ANILCA. A lot of times our federal
47 regulations protect subsistence users. Like, for
48 example, the moose hunt in Unalakleet, that is -- I had
49 brought up these issues last time was that, if we take
50 away that federal hunt, that opens it up to more people

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1 when we've worked so hard to maintain that moose
2 population. The overreach -- I don't -- I have issues
3 with the terms federal overreach, but yeah, I am all for
4 keeping any federal regulations we possibly can to
5 protect subsistence.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi.

8

9 DR. BELLA: Yeah. To.....

10

11 (Simultaneous speech)

12

13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

14

15 DR. BELLA:to that comment, I would
16 say I encourage you to review the proposed rule text as
17 written and provide comments that would help improve the
18 text. Sorry, I'm getting an echo.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. To go along
21 with Kelsi there. You know, there's been pressure from
22 the Safari Club, which is Outdoor Council and actually
23 Outdoor Council goes all the way back to statehood, I
24 think. Trying to keep the system open to where basically
25 trophy hunting and trophy fishing and all that stuff is
26 in there. Right now with this ANILCA in place and the
27 Federal Subsistence Board and the Regional Advisory
28 Councils process in place, we are able to direct the use
29 to the immediate population, sort of speak, to have
30 access to animals and fish, maybe at a time when the
31 numbers are down, the resource is down. So, it's kind
32 of like -- starts to look to me like there's a move
33 towards like I said, Kelsi reiterated, the idea of
34 watering down ANILCA. So, this body here is there for
35 subsistence and subsistence is for food security. And
36 it is directed -- we're directed to be able to keep it
37 home it in on the next door neighbor of that resource
38 when times are shortage are in place, so. It kind of
39 troubles me a little bit about what's going on here so,
40 thank you. I think Martin has a question or comment.

41

42 MR. AUKONGAK: In order to keep my people
43 happy, including Kelsi, comment or not, they're going
44 to be a lot of echoed by her. You're going to rehear it
45 again. And before that, there was a bazillion comments
46 in a 30-year period. Maybe reread them and keep it the
47 way Kelsi want it.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Do I have council
50 members anybody else want to make...? Kelsi. Go ahead.

1

2

MS. IVANOFF: I mean, this is a longer -
- I would like time to read this further before we take
any action on this. Read through this whole thing here,
table it too, maybe tomorrow or something.

6

7

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, I hear my
Council Members asking for more time to digest what's
here. This is on page 11,483 is it where it begins.
That's a lot. I mean, I -- maybe I'm kidding around a
little bit, but Nikki has something. But I was going to
say that I think this thing deserves a lot more time and
attention to be getting out there. And I wouldn't even
bat an eyelash if it was at least 90 days because this
is brand new. This is very heavy and not even overnight
is enough for me to talk about it. I need more
information, so. Nicki.

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DR. BELLA: Yeah. Thanks, Nikki. What I
can recommend is reach out to anyone that might be
receptive to this type of comment and request a formal
extension of the comment period. I am of the opinion
that 30 days is not enough to effectively review this,
even for those of us who work and live in this business.
And so, I would encourage you to reach out to your
contacts, whether they are those that are members of
congress or your senators. If it's leaders, if it's the
Park Service leader. I don't know that there would be a
possibility of extending the formal comment period, but
please understand that this sentiment is shared with a
number of practitioners that live and work in this,

1 typically 60 days is a more appropriate time period to
2 comment on such things. The other piece that Nikki
3 mentioned is the changes to subsistence and I mentioned
4 the 2017 rule, the expanded proposed action. I think
5 it's very important for everyone to try to focus on what
6 proposed changes there might be to subsistence
7 practices, whether they are federally mandated ones
8 through or supported ones through ANILCA, or just
9 general subsistence writ large but it's worth
10 understanding and taking a look at all of those. We
11 don't really have a good comparison sheet that takes all
12 four rules and looks at them rule by rule.

13
14 Let me look at my notes here. We don't
15 have a lot of clarity about what that means either
16 internally as far as a proposed action, that would be
17 analyzable, if that's a word under NEPA. And so, we're
18 hoping that comments received on clarifying the rule
19 language itself and leading towards a better more clear
20 proposed action would lead to a much more solid and
21 understandable rule.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi.

24
25 DR. BELLA: But your thoughts I can most
26 -- I can definitely take back to my leadership the folks
27 I work with in the regional office and express the
28 sentiment that it is quite a dense proposed action. It's
29 a lengthy rule and 30 days to review, especially without
30 much of a fanfare in the rollout of the rule provides
31 some limitations to soliciting meaningful commentary and
32 input on it.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Well, this is
35 Louie again so, give me a minute, Kelsi. We're in a time
36 right now that we're having restrictions in salmon --
37 subsistence of our salmon where -- and the Nome
38 Subdistrict has been bad for, gees since the early 80s
39 and having problems with salmon. Now we have moose
40 issues, we have salmon to the point -- I'll go back on
41 that, salmon to the point that in 1999, the Board of
42 Fish put us in the only Tier II salmon fishery in the
43 history of Alaska under state management. So, in looking
44 at this, it's kind of like back off the throttle on the
45 federal side and let the state manage. When you look at
46 the state's management, you got to kind of question it
47 and you look at and see shortages all the way across the
48 state. Too many predators, not enough moose, caribou,
49 muskox, reindeer are gone, there's a few. It's like this
50 thing kind of feels kind of -- it's a heavy weight on

1 it to me because it's like I said, it's like maybe
2 watering down ANILCA. ANILCA is our only hope and where
3 we control the federal -- the rules on federal lands
4 where we can allow our people to make sure they have a
5 resource to take and feed their families with.

6
7 So, I'm -- this is -- this certainly
8 isn't like you said, other people are feeling this,
9 Elizabeth and where you work at that deal with it all
10 the time. And we're you know, a lay Board or lay Council.
11 And when I look at this, I go, I need about 3 lawyers
12 to do this for me, you know or do I do -- resort to AI
13 and get some answers? I don't know, but the point being
14 is -- really, this is this is extensive for I'm pretty
15 sure any of us. So, when we're here to -- our charge is
16 to make sure people have food to eat and the closest to
17 the resource gets it first. I don't want to ever see the
18 federal side being backed off the Regional Advisory
19 Councils or the Federal Subsistence Board the system,
20 because I've heard about the Safari Club asking to see
21 it done away with.

22
23 We just gained 3 seats on the Federal
24 Subsistence Board as tribal seats. We already had 3
25 public seats, and it seems like when that came out,
26 which is brand new, all of a sudden the Safari Club's
27 going, we're going to do away with that. Well, if you
28 want to look at it real, there's 6 seats -- 6 Native
29 seats to 5 government seats. Who's going to win the
30 argument at the table if there was ever a vote to take
31 on something? That's pretty serious, so I just -- I
32 don't know, I don't like what's happening. And I still
33 say 90 days at the at the least but that's my opinion.
34 And I think Kelsi has something.

35
36 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
37 time's sake, I'm wondering if we rather taking a stance
38 or position on this, submitting comments on it that we
39 should be given 90 days. That was what was granted for
40 the subsistence management program review. We won't be
41 meeting again until the fall, so I know we won't be able
42 to -- if they do grant the extension. That'll be hard
43 to come up with a position on it, but we can voice our
44 displeasure with the current process and where -- the
45 position that it's putting us in to try to rush and make
46 decisions that we're not completely informed on within
47 a 30 day window, that we probably realistically don't
48 find out until days before the deadline.

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi.
2 Looks like Martin. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. AUKONGAK: Your leadership gave us a
5 monkey wrench and then go on vacation and we're not
6 happy.

7
8 DR. BELLA: Well, I would say I'm not on
9 vacation and a lot of us are still here. So again,
10 appreciate the comment, but the people that are taking
11 care of this are trying to get it done or here, to the
12 extent we're able to be you, nobody can work all the
13 time.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Not to say that you
16 aren't appreciated, Elizabeth. We're kind of a rough
17 bunch, so.

18
19 DR. BELLA: Yeah, I'm going to tell Eva
20 you said all this.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Little Eva, I tease
25 her once in a while. Gisela, you had something. Oh,
26 Letty. Letty has something to add here or make a comment,
27 question. Okay, you have the floor.

28
29 MS. HUGHES: Thanks through the Chair.
30 Letty Hughes, Bering Land Bridge. More of a question and
31 clarification. I thought there had been some requests
32 for extension for the deadline of April 9th. Could you
33 clarify like if that's the case, maybe I just had heard
34 rumor of it, but that there have been some groups who
35 have requested extension and that's been unanswered so
36 far.

37
38 DR. BELLA: That's correct, Letty. We've
39 received at least one from a non-profit organization
40 that requested at least a 30 day extension to the comment
41 period. So, there were several comments that had come
42 in over the last several days that have not necessarily
43 been processed or shared with the broader team. So, it's
44 possible there have been additional requests, but any
45 of those requests are immediately sent to the Regional
46 Director and our Department of Interior contact or
47 Special Advisor to consider. So, they are -- if we
48 receive through one of the comment mechanisms a request
49 for an extension, that would be caught by the team that's
50 reviewing all the comments and elevated for immediate

1 attention. And that's always the case with comments.
2 Yeah.

3

4 MS. HUGHES: Thank you.

5

6 DR. BELLA: I'll share that I forwarded
7 the proposed action that we are considering under the
8 Environmental Analysis or EA, Environmental Assessment
9 under NEPA. And so, you'll see there's one -- it's
10 suitable to share, I sent it to the leaders, Gisela and
11 others on this email string so that it summarizes what
12 the main components of the proposed action are but the
13 last one is a bit uncertain because we don't have a lot
14 of clarity on the changes that might impact subsistence,
15 because it's really hard to pick it out of the rule as
16 written. So, another immediate comment or a strong
17 comment, if you feel the way you do, would be that the
18 rule isn't necessarily easy to read. It's not following
19 the executive order that deals with clarity in language
20 and rulemaking, plain language. So, that that may also
21 be a comment that would be considered is that we can't
22 really comment on something we don't understand.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Exactly, thank you.
25 Is there somebody here? I thought I heard somebody.
26 Gisela, you got something?

27

28 MS. CHAPA: Okay. I just wanted to circle
29 back to some of the comments that have been made that
30 this is an action item for the Council. If you do wish
31 to submit comments, you would have until the end of --
32 until before the end of our meeting to develop these
33 comments and submit them in order to meet the April 9th
34 deadline. And if the Council needs a little bit more
35 time to study what is in the federal Register to develop
36 substantive comments, then the Council is able to not
37 take action today and postpone action until a later time
38 in the meeting before adjourning. And then I also wonder
39 if it is a possibility or a desire for the Council to
40 submit a letter directly to the -- address to the Park
41 Service leadership with your comments about not getting
42 adequate time to review and develop these substantive
43 comments on the proposed rule as an option as well.

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I think we might need
48 to take a break here for about 10 minutes. And is there
49 any more for Elizabeth here or...? No? Nobody on the
50 phone?

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(No response)

Okay. Well, I don't have anything further. I'm just trying to digest this here. So, Elizabeth, we really appreciate your time. I know, like I said, we're a rough bunch here, but we want to protect our hunting and fishing rights, and we don't want anybody else.....

(Simultaneous speech)

DR. BELLA: Yeah, I love it.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN:you know.

DR. BELLA: No worries. Yeah. I appreciate the time. And yeah, thank you for inviting me to be here. I appreciate the time. And thank you so much for all that you're doing. So, thank you Chair and thank you, Council.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're welcome and thank you very much. I got these guys back, so I just want to make sure they know that. Thank you. 10 minutes.

(Off record)

(On record)

MS. CHAPA: Hi everyone. Again, my name is Gisela Chapa with OSM and the Council Coordinator for the Seward Peninsula RAC. I wanted to let the people that have called in and that have joined online where the Council left off prior to this break and the Council received a presentation from the Park Service about the proposed wildlife rule and after this break, I think the Council may resume the discussion and see if they will make -- take action on the proposed wildlife rule.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Gisela. So where are we here, folks? Talk about multi-tasking. Okay. We're all the way over.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. MCDAVID: Here.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Over there. Okay,

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1 Ms. MCDAVID: Katya just joined.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Katya's on there.

4 We're going to talk with her for a bit on it.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Sure. Just to reiterate.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Katya, I see you're

9 on. Have you got some.....

10

11 MS. WESSELS: Hi, Louis. You guys have

12 the video there? Should I turn my video on?

13

14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Share your wisdom.

15 We're listening.

16

17 MS. WESSELS: Can you hear me?

18

19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes.

20

21 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So, I was asked a

22 question. If the Council can write a letter to the

23 National Park Service asking, you know, to -- for better

24 clarification and the extension of the comment period,

25 and the short answer is yes, the Council for the Board's

26 correspondence policy can write such letter. The Council

27 also can choose to comment on the proposed rule that was

28 published in the Federal Register. You know, the -- I

29 know that the comment period is not very long and you

30 might not have enough information to provide a comment,

31 but just consider that if the Park Service does not

32 extend the comment period that this is your only chance

33 to comment on this proposed rule. So, if the Council

34 wants to consider doing both, submit a comment and then

35 also ask for an extension in a separate letter, you can

36 do that, but it's totally up to you guys. But it's

37 totally within your purview to do one or the other or

38 both. That's all I have.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Katya.

41 Anything from council members? While she's there,

42 anything? No? Anybody on the online? Let's see, Ron and

43 Robert?

44

45 UNIDENTIFIED: No.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. All right,

48 thank you. Thank you, Katya. We're going to be working

49 on that, sounds like letter and a comment. So, thank

50 you. Gisela, go ahead.

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MS. CHAPA: And if the Council wants a little bit more time to think about what you will be submitting as a comment or even in the letter, we can just put a pin on this until tomorrow if -- or you can also decide to take action now if that is desired.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Council members, wait till tomorrow? All right, moving on. This brings us to item e, on here, Call for Alaska Board of Game Proposals. Page 52. What are we doing there? Yeah, go ahead.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela Chapa, for the record. And I just wanted to point out, page 52 in your meeting materials has the call for proposals that the Board of Game released. And they are currently accepting proposals for the Western Arctic, western regions and the Interior and Eastern Arctic regions up through May 1st. And again, you have the call for proposals in your meeting materials. If the Council would like to submit a proposal to the Board of Game, it will require a motion and a second, so an action item, to submit the Board of Game Proposals. And I will also note that the Council will get an opportunity to comment on proposals that are submitting -- submitted at our fall meeting.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi, go ahead.

MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just looking at the potential, I know we had discussed submitting one to align the muskox seasons at the last meeting. Curious if that is still in the interest of the Council. This would extend it to close March 31st, and that was aligning with what is on the one that'll be up in front of the Board next month.

MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair. I -- sorry. Yeah, Mr. Chair. I can also refresh the Council, kind of like what happened at our last meeting. So, at our fall 2025 meeting, the Council considered a lot of Wildlife Proposals. One in particular was Wildlife Proposal 26-64, to Extend the Season for Muskox on Units 22 and 23 Southwest. And I believe that during the Council's deliberation and information that you received, it was stated that if the Council supported this proposal it would potentially misalign or it would misalign the federal and state regs. And that is if it is adopted by the Board. And I believe that WP 26-64 is

1 scheduled to be considered by the Federal Subsistence
2 Board at their next regulatory meeting under the non-
3 consensus agenda. So, they will be deliberating on this
4 proposal and again, if this is adopted by the Board, it
5 will not align the federal and state regulations. So,
6 the Council has the opportunity to develop a Board of
7 Game proposal to be considered during this cycle
8 contingent on the action of the Federal Subsistence
9 Board.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Gisela. Go
12 ahead, Kelsi.

13
14 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
15 this was one that we did support, right? So, given that
16 we did support it with how the Federal Subsistence Board
17 is set up to defer to the Regional Councils, it likely
18 will pass us at this meeting, and so, that would
19 misalign. So, I do think we should submit a Board of
20 Game proposal to align the 2 seasons, to March 31st.

21
22 (Pause)

23
24 MS. CHAPA: And if you'll give me a
25 minute, I will look at the specific -- for the specific
26 action and justification that the Council provided for
27 WP 26-54.

28
29 (Pause)

30
31 MS. IVANOFF: It's in our minutes. It
32 says, changing weather patterns have recently made it
33 more difficult to access muskox (indiscernible) 2-week
34 extension will provide users more opportunity to
35 harvest. If there is a delay in access due to weather,
36 as there are no conservation concerns and the season
37 will not affect calving. The Council supports this
38 proposal.

39
40 (Talking)

41
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, so I guess
43 we're at the point of taking official action on this
44 Wildlife Proposal 26-64 for Unit 22 and it's listed as
45 Unit 23 Southwest muskox to extend the season to close
46 March 31st. Is there a motion and a second?

47
48 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, I moved to
49 support the action.

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1 MS. IVANOFF: We would have to move to
2 submit a proposal to the Board of Game. We're not
3 supporting a.....

4
5 (Talking)

6
7 MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair, if I can. So
8 the Council right now is on action item 11.e, I believe,
9 which is developing Board of Game Proposals. So, the
10 reason behind -- why we brought up WP26-64, that's a
11 federal proposal that the Council already provided
12 recommendations on. And the Council, if you want to take
13 action, you can submit it as a Board of Game proposal
14 so that you can align the regulations.

15
16 (Pause)

17
18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Can submit a proposal
19 to the Board of Game requesting to extend the season
20 date to March 31st. That is also contingent on the
21 Federal Subsistence Board decision on this proposal and
22 the Board of Game, both or just the Board of Game? Board
23 of Game. Okay. Because it's not -- it says Boards with
24 an S, okay, so it's Board of Game.

25
26 MS. IVANOFF: We're submitting it to the
27 Board of Game.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Right. Yeah. I
30 got.....

31
32 (Talking)

33
34 Right. See, I was right. I said it
35 right. I read the S on the end of Boards and I said
36 Federal Subsistence Board and the Board of Game. Okay.
37 All right, so what's up, who's going to make that motion?
38 Kelsi's going to do it.

39
40 MS. IVANOFF: I move to direct staff to
41 submit a proposal to the Board of Game on behalf of this
42 Council to extend the season for muskox to March 31st
43 in Unit 22 and Unit 23 Southwest.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a second.

46
47 MR. SEETOT: Second.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Second -- motion made
50 by Kelsi, second by Elmer. Any discussion?

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MR. SEETOT: Chair.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

MR. SEETOT: During the past week, I think there was a permit for muskox hunter to harvest a muskox. However, during the first part of March we have had extreme weather conditions in and around Seward Peninsula, which is only 7 miles from Teller, which is southwest -- southeast. But there's a big difference, 3 miles east, you can notice the wind difference. It is a lot windier in Brevig than it is in Teller at times but easterly conditions it's Teller that suffers the wind. So, in that respect the hunter had a March 15th deadline to harvest a muskox and that was during bad weather conditions or, you know, barely visible conditions. He got muskox but of the wrong sex. So, ADF&G went up there and confiscated the meat. And then I think they gave it to the school, so I -- so that's one of -- I think would be a justification for that part, would be weather conditions prevent the hunter from going out, but then they still have that deadline, you know, to kind of comply with in order to harvest something like that. For that effort one of the hunters got not really cited, but his meat got confiscated. So even though, you know, this was not his first muskox that he got, but I guess due to weather conditions on that deadline. You know, weather can make a difference. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, we had a motion a second and some discussion. Any further discussion? Ron or Robert?

(No response)

Hearing none.

MR. KIRK: Question.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question has been called. All those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any against, same sign.

(No response)

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1 Hearing none. Motion passes. Thank you.
2 Kelsi.

3
4 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Given
5 the extensive conversation surrounding predator control,
6 I am not sure if this Council wants to put forward a
7 proposal for an intensive management plan. I know there
8 are, let's see, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, current active ones
9 across the state. And there is one for the Mulchatna
10 caribou herd currently. But yeah, not sure if that's
11 something we want to put forward as well.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, that was kind
14 of what -- when I was talking earlier and I brought that
15 up, if we're going to cut back on our hunters and put
16 them into a position where no cows, you got to make sure
17 you get 4 bulls. What's the state doing? What...? So,
18 this is our chance to say what we'd like to see the
19 state do to help with management of the herd. So, if
20 somebody has a motion to make on that, I'd appreciate
21 it and a second. Let's see what we got. What do you got,
22 Martin? You got something to say?

23
24 MR. AUKONGAK: No, I was going to say
25 make a motion to buy some bullets.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh. What's that?
28 Okay. So, Kelsi, are you doing the motion?

29
30 MS. IVANOFF: Actually, before I do a
31 motion, can I ask ADF&G staff if you guys have seen
32 proposals directing implementation of intensive
33 management? I haven't seen one so just curious, like
34 what that would look like if we would just say like
35 requesting that the department implements an intensive
36 management plan for a certain area for a certain stock.

37
38 (Talking)

39
40 Okay.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We can put it on hold
43 for 5 minutes? Okay. We're still in discussion, anybody
44 else have anything else to discuss about it?

45
46 (No response)

47
48 Okay, so we're just hovering here. Okay.

49
50 MR. AUKONGAK: This is our Board.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, this is our deal,
and I'm not.....

MS. IVANOFF: Louis' rules of order.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, right. Louis'
rules of order. You saw how that worked this morning.
Be boring if I wasn't funny sometimes.

(Laughter)

MS. IVANOFF: I can -- this is Kelsi, I
rescind my motion so that we can.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Second?

MS. IVANOFF: Oh, who seconded?

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: The maker of the
second, rescind it, to bring it back after?

MS. IVANOFF: Yeah, to table it till
later in the meeting.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Elmer, do you...?,
Okay, Elmer rescind so that.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. SEETOT: Second.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, then we'll bring
it back at the -- later in the meeting, when we get the
info we need. So, thank you. So, that brings us to --
where are we at? We're down here to f. Are you ready for
that or not quite yet. Okay, so Gisela is going to be
doing the Review and Approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual
Report. Letter f, page 55. Oh.

MS. IVANOFF: Oh, sorry. I had a kid from
Unalakleet ask about -- if we put something forward with
predator control. If that could include bear baiting or
how that -- if that would be another separate proposal
or -- but yeah, that's another. Thank you.

MS. CHAPA: Okay. So, Mr. Chair, if the
Council is ready, I can move on to the next action item,

1 which is Review and Approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Report
2 while you get the additional information about intensive
3 management as a Board of Game proposal. Okay so -- and
4 you do have a copy of the draft 2025 Annual Report that
5 starts on page 55 of your meeting materials. And the
6 report ensures that the Board is aware of issues,
7 concerns, and current events that impact your
8 subsistence way of life. At the fall meeting in January,
9 the Council identified 4 topics to include in the report.

10
11 1: was natural disaster response to
12 address the impacts on subsistence communities. 2: the
13 2nd topic was prioritization of subsistence uses in
14 light of caribou declines. 3: was documenting the Ambler
15 Road project impacts on caribou migration. And 4:
16 elevating ongoing salmon concerns to the Secretaries --
17 through the Federal Subsistence Board and Secretaries.

18
19 Now each topic has a specific request
20 to either the Board or federal agencies. And so, this
21 is an opportunity for the Council to make edits to the
22 existing topics, perhaps add any missing information,
23 provide more details, etc. but no new topics can be
24 added to the report. So, this is an action item and will
25 require a vote to finalize and submit your 2025 Annual
26 Report to the Federal Subsistence Board.

27
28 (Pause)

29
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Kelsi.

31
32 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. Thank you,
33 Mr. Chair. I know it was included in last year or I
34 think it was included in last year's but including and
35 increasing youth participation in the process. I think
36 we should continue to -- given that we haven't had much
37 to this date, I think that's something that we should
38 continue to include in our annual report.

39
40 MS. CHAPA: And just a clarification,
41 Kelsi the Council developed the topics at our fall
42 meeting, and we cannot add topics at this meeting, it's
43 just making sure that whatever is in the current draft
44 has enough information to convey to the Federal
45 Subsistence Board.

46
47 MS. IVANOFF: Okay.

48
49 MS. CHAPA: And just make edits on the
50 existing topics, but I will definitely make a note of

1 that and the Council's interest in youth engagement and
2 participation, so that when we come to the next annual
3 report, I'll bring it up as a potential topic to continue
4 to include.

5

6

MS. IVANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Elmer has comment.

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MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig Mission. In the comments that we submitted to Federal Subsistence Board, natural disaster response to adverse impacts on subsistence communities. Over the past couple of years. I noticed that extreme weather conditions have occurred on the southern shores of -- or extreme conditions have occurred pretty much around Norton Sound area and then the Anchorage area. I think this would be due to the fact that lots of -- we have lots of water out there and air temperature does display in -- air temperature on our weather. It's from the warm water and possibly the cold air that is coming through. But we were spared the fall storms on Seward -- or on northern shores of Port Clarence Bay from southerly winds. But during the past, like the first part of this month, the weather temperatures were very cold. So, that limited travel but in light of these conditions, I noticed that our storms are increasing, especially along the waterways. Southern portion of or around from Nome to Golovin to Unalakleet. So, those are the -- 30 years ago, our extreme weather was from the north wind, especially during the spring and fall season. Now we have seen these changes, and it has something to do with our universe that is spinning around out there. But listening to or seeing some of these changes, I kind of think back that the elders were cautioning us that you can see extreme changes to the wind and weather conditions in the coming years. So, I thought I'd comment without adding or changing anything to that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that, Elmer. And I think that when you're hearing that from the elders, you're hearing something that might be repetitive over time because the ice age -- there's been cooling periods and warming periods. So that, right now we've been in a warming period, I think that you're seeing a lot of erosion now because these storms are still in the fall time, but they're -- it's warm weather and there's no -- there's nothing frozen. And I was talking with Joe Garnie about the '74 storm, he said it was November, that everything was frozen. So, the

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1 erosion didn't happen like it did in 2006 down at Safety
2 Sound, there was -- I said, I don't understand why that
3 that happened down there on the other side of the bridge.
4 It went all the way through to the ocean. And he said,
5 it wasn't frozen, it wasn't like '74. So, that's the
6 thing that you're bringing up -- you're saying warm water
7 and there's warm air temperatures later in the season,
8 so that erosion is happening because of that. Nothing's
9 frozen so it's easier to have that erosion happening.

10
11 There's other people that have talked
12 about the water rising, but in fact, it really isn't
13 rising. It's just -- like we just said, it's warmer in
14 the fall time, but erosion is happening because the
15 ground is not frozen at the time of those storms. So,
16 I'm not -- and I agree with Elmer that the water
17 temperature and the -- and I'm throwing in the air
18 temperatures causing those terrible storms and how they
19 react, the -- how the beach line or whatever is
20 happening. So, that's my 2 cents. Anybody else? Speaking
21 of natural disaster, you were from Golovin and you guys
22 went through all that down there.

23
24 MR. AUKONGAK: Yeah.

25
26 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, was salmon
27 concerns -- was that topic carried by some of the
28 Councils? Ongoing salmon concerns, was that picked up
29 by some of the Councils in Alaska, like Western Interior
30 or the Yukon?

31
32 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Yeah, I -- well
33 to Council Members Seetot's question, some ongoing
34 salmon concerns is a topic that council member or Chair
35 Green brought up at our fall 2025 meeting and it is an
36 issue that some other Councils are concerned about, for
37 lack of a better word, with salmon shortages and
38 disparities in harvest between federal and state waters.
39 Does that answer your question?

40
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Kelsi.

42
43 MS. IVANOFF: Just to further -- I know
44 some colleagues on the Eastern Interior RAC and they
45 meet jointly with the Western Interior RAC and that's a
46 huge topic of concern for them.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All right. Anybody
49 else on any of these topics here? Elmer brought a couple
50 to light there. Go ahead, Elmer.

1

2 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Concerning the
3 Ambler Road project being on Western Arctic Caribou Herd
4 Working Group for a number of years, I think there was
5 a very big concern, you know, that stop the migration
6 with our road from Nome to (In Native). While -- Jim
7 Dau, Kotzebue, used to show us pictures of the caribou
8 routes that they had done over the past years and the
9 (In Native) road was pretty much a stopping point of all
10 the caribou migration, so they had to go around. And
11 then I would say that majority of it was pretty much
12 just toxic exhaust from the trucks road system. And also,
13 vibration from the tires that produce a loud sound when
14 you're traveling in the winter. You can hear that 20
15 miles away. I heard that, I seen that, but being in the
16 (indiscernible) for a number of years, that -- that's
17 where the caribou tracks kind of stopped right at the
18 road. So, I think we're going to see major problems once
19 the road is developed and then you'll see more concerns
20 about the movement of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
21 Other than them making changes to the route like they
22 did in a couple of years ago, right in front of Kotzebue
23 (indiscernible). So, that's something for us animals to
24 consider, not considered, but for them to act on. Thank
25 you.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
28 Made me wonder about like Red Dog, what did we hear
29 about Red Dog and caribou? I know I had talked to drivers
30 that had -- they had to -- they have to stop their trucks
31 and let the caribou do whatever they're going to do.
32 Huh? Right, you can't do nothing and let the caribou do
33 their thing and move on. I was just wondering if they
34 had any issues of caribou turning around going back.
35 That I didn't hear about. So, I was just wondering if
36 anybody else did.

37

38 MR. AUKONGAK: Even the pit in the Noatak
39 River, if we saw caribou, we shut everything down until
40 they go.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What do you got,
43 Kelsi?

44

45 MS. IVANOFF: I know it's similar in Red
46 -- at Red Dog, but the slope to where -- the caribou act
47 like there's nothing there. They -- I've been stuck on
48 the slope in caribou for 6 hours because you can't
49 approach them. They don't care who's there or what's
50 there. And they just kind of go about their time because

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1 you can't even inch towards them or anything to try to
2 get them to move.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, you just giving
5 them their space and they do whatever they want to do.

6

7

(Distortion)

8

9 Did I hear somebody? Who was that? Maybe
10 it's me, I don't know, background. Yes, you know there
11 -- there's lots to be said about it. When -- I know that
12 when they were talking about the pipeline, I mean, I sat
13 there in the auditorium in -- here in Nome, and they had
14 the whole school system in there and they were talking
15 about it and they were worried about -- there was Sierra
16 Club members in the crowd, and they were worried about
17 the migration of the caribou. But then when it all came
18 down to it, the pipeline really didn't change anything
19 that I know of. And we see caribou -- the only reason
20 why we're not seeing them now is because there aren't
21 very many of them, and they're not coming all the way
22 down to us anymore. So, if there's stuff that goes along
23 with that that does impact the migration, I'd sure like
24 to know. I know that we dealt with the Noatak where we
25 were doing the hunting, the subsistence hunting, and we
26 closed off to the state. Remember? When we shut it down
27 and the hunting made a difference. And I know it did
28 when they came to the (In Native) road. They were
29 crossing the road, but there was so much shooting and
30 hunting going on there that the majority of them turned
31 around and went back over into the -- more into the (In
32 Native) and then into the Bendeleben areas. So, the
33 hunting was a -- to me, seeing the hunting back then in
34 the 90s, when the caribou were about 500,000 and they
35 flexed down our way. I seen the same -- that's kind of
36 an analogy I use when we were deciding whether to close
37 that hunting down to only federally qualified hunters
38 up there on the Noatak. And it did happen -- it helped
39 them up there and it was hunting pressure at that time.
40 So, just talking about what I know about and doesn't --
41 I don't know. Yeah anyway, doesn't sound like a lot of
42 things detour them as long as you leave them alone, let
43 them do their own thing, what they're going to do.

44

45

(Pause)

46

47

Gisela.

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49

50

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I
just wanted to remind the Council that this is an action

1 item and the Council can -- will need to approve your
2 annual report in order to be finalized and submitted to
3 the Federal Subsistence Board and just wanted a little
4 bit of clarification whether some of the discussion the
5 Council had are potential edits for the report, like
6 provide additional context on these 3 issues or these 3
7 topics, which is the natural disaster response,
8 documenting the Ambler Road project impacts on caribou
9 migration and elevating ongoing salmon concerns.

10
11 MR. AUKONGAK: And can we add to the
12 report?
13

14 MS. CHAPA: And yeah, the Council can add
15 and provide a different -- sorry, can add to the existing
16 topics, provide more context, make sure that we add any
17 missing information, but on the existing topics. So, you
18 could not add additional topics to the report at this
19 time.
20

21 MR. AUKONGAK: I would like to add to
22 support our youth program, we do have Heather here. That
23 would be amazing. We can't? Oh, we can't.
24

25 MS. CHAPA: And just to follow up on
26 that, so I -- I'll make a note of it so that whenever
27 the Council develops the next fiscal year annual report
28 to include youth engagement, and into the report and for
29 the Board to understand that this is a topic that is of
30 interest to the Council and continue to try to engage
31 youth in the Federal Subsistence Management Program.
32

33 (Pause)
34

35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Elevating ongoing
36 salmon concerns. There's -- the Council is concerned
37 about bycatch of salmon in the Bering Sea trawl fleet
38 fishery and other commercial fishing in the Gulf of
39 Alaska. So, you know what I'm getting out of Kotzebue,
40 Kotzebue is starting to lose their chum runs up there,
41 they're getting pretty bad off. And we, in the Nome
42 Subdistrict have already witnessed all that kind of
43 stuff and it's a long time -- old story. Unalakleet's,
44 you know, having problems in the kings, the chums. The
45 -- what's happening in the Yukon, the kings and chums.
46 The Kuskokwim, I know they're getting kings and some
47 fish over there, but they're still witnessing the
48 downside of good on their runs. And I just -- I fished
49 in Bristol Bay out of Dillingham and I saw there was --
50 there's a king problem over there. And the kings are

1 smaller. The other one I noticed was, the sockeye are
2 smaller over there. There's -- a lot of them that are
3 returning that aren't fully grown like some of them. So,
4 I gotta believe that the same problem is happening and
5 it's not just Norton Sound region that remains
6 depressed. I think it's happening all along the West
7 Coast now and in the Interior. Excuse me. Yeah. You're
8 right. Western Interior, Eastern Interior, all saying
9 the same thing. And so, it's all the way up to the Yukon,
10 to the Canadian side. So, can we add that in there?
11 Yeah, okay. Kelsi, your turn.

12

13 MS. IVANOFF: On those lines. I think
14 including other commercial fisheries on the Alaska
15 Peninsula and Gulf of Alaska.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Another addition to
18 that is, you know, we used to have a halibut fishery out
19 here in front of Nome and out in St. Lawrence Island. I
20 don't know what they're doing out there now, but. I did
21 an experimental fishery all the way up through the Bering
22 Strait in 1998 and '99 and was able to find them up
23 there. But there's no fishery in Nome anymore that I
24 know of. And what's going on with the trawl fleet is
25 that the average size halibut that's reported, and I
26 think it's through NOAA is like 4.8 pounds of fish, not
27 even 5 pounds and so they need to be like 8 and 9, 10
28 year old fish to produce, especially the males. I think
29 the male -- is it the males that have to be older? I
30 forgot I just was reading up on some of that. But they're
31 not getting big enough. And so, you know, they're killing
32 off the future stocks and they're talking about, let's
33 just say, for instance, 10, 15 years ago, they were
34 catching halibut on the average of say 30, 25 to 30
35 pounds. I'm using that as an example. Now they're -- and
36 they're killing off that's a million and a half pounds
37 there -- they're killing more fish or catching bycatch
38 of halibut to the point they're catching more than is
39 allowable for the fishery to take place and that's been
40 going on for a while. It's not the 1st time I've seen
41 it written up. So, you know, we lost our halibut fishery
42 here because of -- that we had. So, I can say that about
43 our areas. The depletion of halibut in the Bering Sea
44 is knocking on our front door here and we're, we're not
45 able to fish them, so we've lost that fishery.

46

47 (Talking)

48

49 Kelsi.

50

1 MS. IVANOFF: On the 1st one that we had
2 the natural disaster response, I think we had included
3 -- I know providing reports and updates on agencies, but
4 I think we had put in a request for them to be responsive
5 to assisting them, such as emergency orders for hunts.
6 Like if they, you know, all their freezers got wiped out
7 if they needed an emergency hunt. So, I think adding
8 something along those lines in our request to the Board.
9 I'm not sure how that would be worded, but.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I remember when that
12 happened in.....

13
14 MS. IVANOFF: Or like during COVID, when
15 Kake did that emergency moose hunt.

16
17 MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

20
21 MS. CHAPA: I believe that that could
22 potentially be worded as like special action requests.
23 You know, when there are declining numbers of a resource
24 or the need for the continuation of subsistence
25 practices are important the -- I believe the Council
26 could, or an individual can submit a special action
27 request. So, in a type -- in the times of natural
28 disasters that is something that can be done at that
29 time. And if the Council would like to, I can make
30 mention of special action requests on federal lands to
31 provide additional opportunities for subsistence users
32 if they've lost, let's say, their freezer's contents,
33 things of that nature.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 And before moving on, if I can just
38 reiterate that that this is an action item and some of
39 the discussion that the Council has had in -- it will
40 have to be put in a motion and a vote just to approve
41 the annual report with the edits as discussed. And I can
42 try to summarize those. I know Council Member Seetot
43 brought up and provided additional context to the 1st
44 topic regarding extreme weather events, that they are
45 more recurrent and that we can -- I can add more context
46 to that topic. There were -- there was also discussion
47 regarding the concerns of the Ambler Road project,
48 excuse me, the Ambler Road project and the impacts of
49 caribou migration and I can try to provide additional
50 information to that topic as well. And also, to the

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1 ongoing salmon concerns both Council Member Ivanoff and
2 Chair Green and also Council Member Seetot, provided
3 additional context that the ongoing salmon crisis is not
4 just specific to the region, and there are other regions
5 with depressed fisheries that impact not just
6 subsistence users in the region.

7

8 MR. AUKONGAK: You forgot the Graphite
9 One, too we included that in somewhere before.

10

11 MS. CHAPA: And can you elaborate a
12 little bit more on that? I took notes, but I just want
13 to make sure. Okay.

14

15 UNIDENTIFIED: Mr. Chair, this is an
16 elder that -- I've been waiting patiently for to say
17 something.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead. Sorry about
20 that.

21

22 UNIDENTIFIED: You're talking about
23 fisheries and in my lifetime, I'm living on the coast
24 here, we had a collapse in the herring fisheries and
25 then one day the herring was -- had a good stock and
26 were doing pretty well and then it just collapsed. But
27 when they come back again, the only thing they were
28 interested in taking that herring was to sell out there
29 to the trawlers, to deplete our supplies of fish. That
30 time came into the Sound, thousands and then they --
31 eventually, that whole system just collapsed. There was
32 no more market for, you know, the big herring for bait.

33

34 The 2nd thing I'd like to address is
35 that as we sit on the beach and we beach and we have to
36 fish by net because a lot of times if we try to go by a
37 season that the Fish and Game sets, we are now facing
38 torrential rains causing our fish to mold before they're
39 even dry or also causing a mixture of different fish
40 coming in. Not -- it used to be we just knew exactly
41 when this salmon was coming. And then after that, we got
42 the dog fish and then we got the silvers and then got
43 the mixtures of tomcod. Now the fish is coming in our
44 end after the storms and whatever happened -- is
45 happening after. The fish are very well mixed in with
46 each other, which is unusual for us. So, we know how
47 long it takes for a salmon to dry, we know how long it
48 takes for a coho to dry, we know how long it takes our
49 fish to dry, but it's all mixed like this drenched with
50 rain, we lose a lot of our subsistence.

1

2 The lady is talking about only when it's
3 a flood or something or natural disaster. We are in a
4 constant natural disaster. I don't know how to
5 distinguish one just because the land was flooded from
6 what we are now experienced as subsistence people. We
7 have -- every year we have our own potlatches and the
8 main staple of our food used to be to give each other
9 fish and to -- we also trade with the people on the
10 Yukon for -- they wanted herring eggs. Well, that part
11 of our lifestyle is not there anymore. So, I say -- like
12 I'd like to say that for the record, and thank you for
13 letting me speak, and I'm enjoying your meeting
14 immensely, thank you. Qu yana (In Native).

15

16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you very much
17 for your comments, and please don't hesitate to knock
18 on the door again if you need to speak. And sorry, that
19 I didn't call upon the public again. That was my mistake
20 here. Getting too involved in what our discussions are
21 about, but glad to hear from the public always. And you
22 share some of my concerns with herring because herring
23 we -- in 1992, there was a trawler industry got into
24 play in our region through the CDQ program. We had
25 herring and we caught herring to '96. And after that,
26 our herring permits weren't worth much anymore and the
27 herring roe market went away. They said that the Japanese
28 were eating Westerner foods like McDonald's and whatnot
29 but at the same time that our herring roe went away, the
30 pollock roe came into being, it's worth a lot of money.
31 And then doing a little further research. This is just
32 for FYI, doing a little further research, I found out
33 that the Japanese are some of the biggest consumers of
34 dried herring roe, so they did get tired of herring roe,
35 but they took a liking to pollack roe. So, there was a
36 trade out and people didn't see that. So, I wanted to
37 point that out because that's something that myself and
38 others have looked up and discovered that there's a trail
39 there. So, thank you for your comments on the herring,
40 they're important.

41

42 One thing that just happened at the
43 Board of Fish is that there was a proposal that went in
44 there because Togiak's not having a fishery. There's no
45 fisheries on the West Coast much -- for herring anymore.
46 It turned into a bait fishery. And like I said, the
47 trawler industry was behind that because they're the
48 ones that are buying the bait herring, but they just put
49 in a proposal and it went through on targeting 10% of
50 the Togiak quota. Say they were going to have a fish --

1 a fishery there, there's a quota and they're taking it
2 down out of Dutch Harbor now. And they're going to do
3 that until Togiak starts catching up to 80% of their
4 quota before they stop taking that 10% out of the Bering
5 Sea. The thought that came across the table was, that's
6 not a good thing either, because they're taking a mixed
7 stock herring fishery and taking fish out of it, and
8 they don't know where those herring are going to. They're
9 not going to just Togiak, there's other smaller
10 fisheries that are happening on the West Coast or did
11 happen. The stocks are smaller. Let's say Norton Sound,
12 let's say Kotzebue sound, those are smaller stocks.
13 Kotzebue should be alarmed at it because, you know, the
14 fact that sheefish feed on herring. It's a significant
15 change and could affect their sheefish fishery. So,
16 thanks for bringing up herring. That's what I know now.
17 Thank you. Martin.

18
19 MR. AUKONGAK: Going back to the mine and
20 you brought up Red Dog and then you brought Ambler Road
21 we talked about and Graphite is happening quicker than
22 you guys think it's going to go through, I believe,
23 whether we like it or not. They're going to have 200
24 people. That's a big mine. That's another Red Dog but
25 for the Nome area. And if you want to hear a comment or
26 anything about mining, look at IPOP. They just got
27 denied. But look at those comments and you know, they're
28 in an active lawsuit with the Tribe of Solomon.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Are there any other
33 individuals out there in the public that have any
34 comments?

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Go ahead.

41
42 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Well, Gisela Chapa
43 again, for the record, and just a reminder to the Council
44 that you still -- this is an action item, we're still
45 on the Review and Approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual
46 Report. And the Council has had discussion and sounds
47 like there's a desire to add additional information and
48 more context to 3 of the topics that are included in the
49 -- in your draft report. That was ongoing salmon
50 concerns. The 2nd one was -- I'm not going to speak from

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1 memory. I'm going to read it. Documenting the Ambler
2 Road project impacts on caribou migration and natural
3 disaster response to address the impacts on subsistence
4 communities. And again, because it is an action item,
5 we will require a motion, a second and a vote to approve
6 the annual report with the edits as discussed.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Are we good to go on
9 that now? Okay. You have the floor.

10

11 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I moved to
12 approve the FY 2025 Annual Report with additional
13 information provided.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a second?

16

17 MR. KIRK: Second.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is that Ron? Sound
20 like Ron. Thank you, Ron.

21

22 MR. KIRK: Yes.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any discussion?

25

26 (No response)

27

28 Any call for the question?

29

30 MR. AUKONGAK: Question.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question has been
33 called. All those in favor.....

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All the -- same sign
38 against.

39

40 (No response)

41

42 Hearing none. Motion passes. New
43 information added to our annual report. Thank you. We
44 are at.....

45

46 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

49

50

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1 MS. CHAPA: Okay. So, we are now ready
2 to get additional information from the state regarding
3 Board of Game proposals on intensive management of
4 predators.

5
6 MS. HENSLEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
7 just needed a second to make sure I had everything
8 together before we proceed with this. So, I'll start
9 with the, I guess the easier of the 2 first, with the
10 bear baiting. That one is just comparatively simple.
11 Submit a proposal that's allow for the take of brown
12 bear over bait in Unit 22 or wherever you decide. That
13 one can absolutely be a proposal. And it was recently
14 accepted in Unit 23. So yeah, we'll see what they do
15 with that one.

16
17 Secondly, with the -- IM obviously is a
18 lot more complicated. And I found this flowchart, it's
19 a little small, but I hoped maybe it could help us walk
20 through the process. Basically you start at the top left
21 box there. So, we've got all of this information about
22 the caribou population, predators, habitat, harvest, we
23 have these intensive management population and harvest
24 objectives already in place. As I'm sure you're all
25 aware, we are falling below the population objectives
26 and getting very close to the harvest objectives going
27 below them as well. So, then you move into the next
28 area. Are we above the IM objectives or range? Move down
29 to no -- or wait. Yeah. Move down to the no. So, the
30 next process there is the feasibility assessment and
31 essentially this is what we report to the Board is like
32 should we do predator control or some sort of intensive
33 management. And this is a report we provide to the Board
34 and then they kind of -- we do this presentation, the
35 Board decides that we proceed with an intensive
36 management plan. We've now moved down 2 circles to that
37 section. And then you either, yeah, develop the
38 operational plan, including predator control or they
39 decide no intensive management is warranted at this
40 time, you go back to the beginning. Super complicated
41 flowchart, but I figured it'd be easier than me trying
42 to describe all of this.

43
44 I wonder, I guess, if it might be
45 beneficial if we punt this to tomorrow and I bring the
46 management coordinator and perhaps even the regional
47 supervisor out to speak to this. I am not familiar enough
48 with the IM to even provide a recommendation, I guess,
49 on where to begin, because I would think that we could
50 at least create a proposal that would say like create

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1 an intensive management plan. I'm just not sure and I
2 don't want to waste our collective time. So yeah, my --
3 I guess my humble request is to just punt this to
4 tomorrow. Ideally, if we can set a specific time so I
5 can get them to attend, I think that would be preferable.
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, thank you for
9 that, Sara. I know you were busy. Tomorrow will be a --
10 yeah, you will bring in another folks to speak to that.

11
12 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. And if we could
13 establish a specific time, maybe, perhaps late morning,
14 I think might be nice. 7 a.m.? Okay.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Right after, coffee.

17
18 (Simultaneous speech)

19
20 MS. HENSLEE: They don't even show up to
21 the office till 9, so.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MS. HENSLEE: Perfect.

26
27 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, so we have a
28 couple of things that are going to be moved to tomorrow.
29 One is the potential Council action on the Park Service
30 Proposed Wildlife Rule. And now potential action on
31 Board of Game proposals related to intensive management
32 and perhaps also bear baiting. I just wanted to make
33 sure that we have an opportunity to go through future
34 meeting dates right now. The Northwest Arctic meeting
35 is meeting tomorrow and providing them the tentative
36 meeting dates for them to have before they make a
37 decision would help avoid that potential overlap in
38 Council meetings. So, if that's okay with the Council.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Everybody feel good
41 about it?

42
43 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

44
45 MR. AUKONGAK: Amen.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Amen. You got it,
48 Gisela.

49
50

000112

1 MS. CHAPA: All right. So, moving to the
2 next action item, 11.g, Future Meeting Dates. On page
3 58 of your meeting materials, you have the fall 2026
4 meeting date and location. As it is right now, it's
5 scheduled for October 14th and 15th in Nome and just
6 need to confirm that those dates and location works, or
7 perhaps select other dates. And I -- let me, I have that
8 here so that I can share it with the group. Oh no, I
9 only have 2027 meeting calendar so, I can share my
10 screen.

11
12 (Pause)

13
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Talking on the red
15 button here. So, looking like travel on the 13th of
16 October, meeting on the 14th and 15th and travel
17 potentially as late as the 16th.

18
19 MR. AUKONGAK: What's the AFN?

20
21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: AFN, I was just going
22 to say.

23
24 (Simultaneous speech)

25
26 MS. IVANOFF: AFN is in.....

27
28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Where are we at with
29 that.

30
31 MS. IVANOFF: October 22nd to 24th.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, it's the
34 following week. It's the following week.

35
36 MR. AUKONGAK: We have our meeting before
37 that, that means we get to bring to the AFN Board and
38 get somewhere maybe.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And just guess what
41 I'm on AFN.

42
43 (Simultaneous speech)

44
45 MR. AUKONGAK: I was just going to say,
46 yeah.

47
48 MS. IVANOFF: I think that's why we had
49 set it as 14th and 15th. Yeah, it was because AFN was
50 the week after.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, I'm good with that date, those dates. Sounds like everybody is.

MR. AUKONGAK: Hallelujah.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We need a motion.

MR. SEETOT: I move. Elmer Seetot, move to use 13 -- or I mean 14, 15, October for fall meeting dates.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Second anybody?

MS. IVANOFF: Second.

MR. KIRK: Second.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I heard Ron. Okay. Checkmate. Okay. Discussion.

(No response)

Hearing none. All those in favor of October 14th and 15 for the fall meeting, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All those against, same sign.

(No response)

Hearing none.

MR. SEETOT: Oh, subject to government shutdown.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah.

MS. IVANOFF: We did it before.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. The meeting -- yeah. The meeting -- the motion passed October 14, 15. Is fall meeting next?

MR. AUKONGAK: No, no. recess till tomorrow. We're good.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Are we doing one more?

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(Simultaneous speech)

MR. AUKONGAK: No, no, no.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: One more.

MR. AUKONGA: In the morning.

MS. CHAPA: Okay, one more. So, the next meeting cycle is winter 2027 and that is on page -- I'm sorry, 59. Okay. Now I'm also going to share my screen because since the book was published, I believe another Council met and set their dates. So, this is the latest version on your screen. Okay, so the cycle -- the window opens February 15th and closes March 31st.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Open week is February 15th, 16th.

MS. IVANOFF: That's Iditarod week.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Monday the 15th of February. You what?

MS. IVANOFF: Oh, February, I thought you meant 15th. Did you say that was Iditarod week?

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, I know that's what I'm trying to avoid. That whole week is open, but a lot of activity going on here. So, I was looking at February.

MS. IVANOFF: February 17 and 18.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: 17, 18 of February.

MR. AUKONGAK: Okay. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Vice Chair.

(Talking)

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We're looking at 17 -- February 17th and February 18th of 2027, winter Regional Advisory Council meeting, that is an open week. The only other open week is March 15th and that's the week of Iditarod. And that isn't going to work here because this place is overrun with everybody, so. Elmer.

1 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. In case we date
2 that that coincided with bad weather. Who -- how do you
3 reschedule? Is it after or in advance of the actual
4 meeting date? Like, on the 17th, like 15, 16, we had had
5 bad weather, like December than you would make the
6 changes along with the Chair for our future meeting date
7 for that either fall or winter meeting?

8
9 MS. CHAPA: No, I would not make the
10 change. Because this is for the winter of 2027, the
11 Council still has an opportunity to review and confirm
12 the meeting dates and location at our fall 26 meeting.
13 But if the event that we have bad weather we can turn
14 to either an online meeting, or we can try to get ahead
15 of the bad weather and request early travel or delayed
16 travel to try to make the meeting dates.

17
18 MR. SEETOT: I was talking about like
19 last December, and I wasn't really too sure when the
20 meeting date would be. When they select the meeting date
21 just remember, western Seward Peninsula is stormy most
22 of the time. We're maybe the 10th windiest place on the
23 western part of Seward Peninsula, so.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, so having said
26 that Elmer, there's like I said, the opportunity is
27 February 17th to 18th. We could take that or it would
28 be the end of March. That would be -- huh?

29
30 (Talking)

31 MR. KIRK: We're already at the end of
32 March?

33
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What was that, Ron?

35
36 MR. KIRK: We're already at the end of
37 March.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, it's nice and
40 sunshiny. So, we'll just take February 17th and 18th.
41 How's that? That gives travel date 16th, Tuesday.
42 Meeting date Wednesday 17, Thursday 18. Travel date,
43 Friday the 19th if needed, that's during the week. So,
44 17, 18. I need a motion.

45
46 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, before we proceed
47 to the motion, we also need the meeting location. So,
48 the Council normally meets in Nome because it's one of
49 the approved hub communities. Again, the intent of
50 Regional Advisory Councils meetings to be within the

1 region is to allow the public an opportunity to
2 participate in the Federal Subsistence Management
3 Program. The other hub community that is approved for a
4 region is Unalakleet. And any locations selected by the
5 Council that are outside of these 2 hub communities will
6 require approval from our director. So, if the Council
7 were to want to select an alternative location outside
8 of Nome and Unalakleet, you can do so, but it would be
9 preferred to have an alternate in case the director does
10 not approve meeting outside of these 2 hubs.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, the potential of
13 Anchorage.....

14
15 (Simultaneous speech)

16
17 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Go ahead, Ron.
20 You got it.

21
22 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, I move that we have
23 the meeting for February 17th, at Nome.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a second?

26
27 MS. IVANOFF: Second.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Second by Kelsi.
30 Discussion. Oh, we were just talking about alternate.
31 There's Unalakleet and alternate is outside the region,
32 potentially Anchorage, because we've done that before
33 where some of us had to take care of it and it was on
34 line. I'm sorry?

35
36 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, it was April. Their
37 meeting was April 1st, 2025. And we had weather issues
38 and ultimately decided to move the meeting from in-
39 person to online and teleconference. And I do know that
40 for Councils that want to meet outside the hub community,
41 you also need to provide justification as to why if it
42 aligns with another meeting where the Council is
43 expected to participate, that could be one potential
44 justification. But I'm just, you know, as an example
45 again, the intent of having Regional Advisory Council
46 meetings within the region is to provide the public an
47 opportunity to participate potentially in person as
48 well.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, thank you,
2 Gisela. So, the thing about it is we do have an alternate
3 of Unalakleet, but if we have weather throughout the
4 whole region, I think that's justification to have it -
5 - if potentially we need to have some people in Anchorage
6 and we need to have people online again. We've already
7 gone through that one time and that's the scenario that
8 brought it to that point was the weather, April 1st.

9
10 MS. MCDAVID: Okay.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I think we --
13 justifiable because it's already happened before.

14
15 MR. AUKONGAK: And we do have people that
16 are from here that do live in the Wasilla and Anchorage
17 area and that they could come to the meeting to give
18 them an opportunity like alternate maybe every other
19 year, stagger it. I know that, but they do get food from
20 our people up here. And, you know, they'd be like, hey,
21 they're thankful.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Elmer, Go ahead.

24
25 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
26 Mission. I have been -- we have selected alternative
27 sites. I know Unalakleet one time and another place
28 sometime for another meeting, but like here in Nome for
29 interested public. Where's the public? Even though it's
30 advertised in the Nome Nugget. You don't -- other than
31 other than the tribal entities or concerned hunter and
32 other such [sic]. From what I heard being on a community
33 council, being on a community board, being on municipal
34 council, the majority of opinions I hear you can best
35 represent the City, the Board, the Council. And then I
36 kind of mentioned it to other people that are heads of,
37 you know, other agencies and they say, I think you kind
38 of represent the people that you -- that's like you. I
39 say, I may speak out loud and unintelligible, but if
40 that's what you want me to do, I'll do that. But if you
41 want me to speak your concerns, then talk or have a
42 meeting with the public in the community. So, that these
43 issues can be hammered out. We've been talking about
44 these issues for a long time. It's just a round, go
45 marry or merry go round or something. Remember, I
46 graduated from that last online conference from a
47 kindergarten to a professor or something. But I do a lot
48 of stuff, I say that for me, not to say I'm responsible
49 for that, but over the years I traveled to communities
50 on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, under Eskimo Walrus

1 Commission and etcetera. Are the agencies, where are
2 they? Why didn't you go to the meeting? I think you can
3 best express it if I tell you what my issue is, that
4 that's a major concern or major issues that I -- not
5 major issues, major comments that I hear over the past
6 years. So, whether we represent our communities or not,
7 they say to some of the people that I talked to, I think
8 you're representing us by the way you know, you voice
9 your opinion and such, so. Even though we can name
10 alternative places, you know, if not a natural resource
11 issue comes up, then they will come out and speak out.
12 But, but that's my -- what I kind of witnessed over
13 these past years. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. So,
16 the -- we talked about the alternate. Another alternate
17 site besides Nome would be Unalakleet. But if we have
18 an issue with weather like we did last year online and
19 wherever you're at, if people happen to be in Anchorage,
20 they go to the office. What did we call that? NPS.

21
22 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. And Mr. Chair just to
23 clarify, if the Council decides to, you know, there's a
24 motion on the floor to have the meeting February 17th
25 and 18th in Nome. If the Council wants to keep that
26 option, you don't need to have an alternate location.
27 It's only if you want to meet outside of the hub
28 communities that I would advise you to have an alternate
29 location because your preferred location, let's say
30 Anchorage, might not be approved. Any -- when the Council
31 meets outside of the hub communities, it needs special
32 approval.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, well -- so, we
35 had Unalakleet in there.

36
37 MS. CHAPA: Unalakleet is an approved hub
38 location. You do not need special approval for that.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, one we need
41 approved that would be saying Anchorage. And so.

42
43 MS. CHAPA: It's not necessarily an issue
44 because there's already a motion on the floor to have
45 the meeting in Nome.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. There was a
48 motion on the floor and a second. We've had lots of
49 discussion.

50

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1 (Talking)

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Question

4 anybody?

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED: Question.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: The questions been
9 called. All those in favor of the meeting on February
10 17th and 18th of 2027 winter in Nome, say aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 MR. AUKONGA: Nay.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All those same sign,
17 against.

18

19 (Talking)

20

21 Okay. He's going nay. That's all right
22 motion passes. We have one nay.

23

24 (Talking)

25

26 Yeah, we heard you protest. Okay, so
27 there we are. We've got the winter 2027 meeting dates
28 set.

29

30 MS. CHAPA: Okay now I'm going to move
31 on to fall 2027. And this is the last of the meeting
32 dates and locations. So, page 60 of your meeting
33 materials has this information again on the screen. You
34 have the latest version that also includes the YK Delta
35 RAC Council meeting. You will note that on this meeting
36 cycle is a little bit longer. So, the window opens
37 September 6th and it closes November 5th. So again, this
38 is an action item and -- to select the fall 2027 meeting
39 dates and until the winter 2027 meeting, the Council
40 also has an option to revise these dates.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Kelsi.

43

44 MS. IVANOFF: I -- since we don't know
45 what AFN will look like in 2027, I propose we do end of
46 September. Oh. September 22 and 23 then. In Unalakleet.
47 Yeah. In Unalakleet.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Nobody can hear me,
50 that's why I see they're not reacting because my red

000120

1 light's not on. Okay, so there's the September 22nd and
2 September 23rd. We need a motion and a second. Being
3 stubborn.

4

5 MS. IVANOFF: I moved to have our fall
6 2027 meeting September 22nd and 23rd and Unalakleet.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a second?

9

10 MR. SEETOT: Here's the second.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Elmer, is the second.
13 Any more discussion?

14

15 MR. SEETOT: A lot of harvest activities
16 during this year for some people, but I would think that
17 most of the harvest will be done. It just it's all
18 dependent on the weather, how things go 2 years from now
19 or 1 year from now. So, that's a thing that we kind of
20 consider all the time. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
23 First, second, discussion. Any more discussion?

24

25 (No response)

26

27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Hearing none in the
28 room. Anybody on the online?

29

30 MR. KIRK: Question.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Questions been
33 called. All those in favor of the meeting dates,
34 September 22nd, 23rd of 2027 for fall meeting in
35 Unalakleet, say aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Anybody, same sign
40 against?

41

42 MR. SEETOT: Nay. Did I hear Unalakleet,
43 or you say Nome? I heard you.....

44

45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I said Unalakleet.
46 Yeah, Unalakleet. Any against?

47

48 MR. SEETOT: Me. (Indiscernible).

49

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, 1 nay. Motion
2 passes.

3
4 MR. SEETOT: So, I won't go.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: A charter for you.
7 Okay.

8
9 MR. SEETOT: It's not that I'm against
10 Unalakleet. Okay. Just that my walking capacity is
11 getting kind of limited. You know, being -- I got the
12 kneecap problem. Not that bad, but once you exercise
13 their good.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Did you hear that,
16 Kelsi? You got to get your dad's truck over there to get
17 him back and forth to the meeting. Okay, so we got that
18 taken care of, Gisela. What else we needed?

19
20 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Well, just a reminder
21 for the Council that we're nearing towards a recess for
22 the day. That we do have 2 potential action items still
23 to revisit tomorrow. That is the Park Service proposed
24 rule and Board of Game proposals. And after those we can
25 resume to -- with item 12 of the agenda, which is the
26 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Update.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Kelsi.

29
30 MS. IVANOFF: I know Sara had wanted to
31 get a time for -- so I think we should do the NPS proposed
32 rule first and then maybe give them 10:00 for a Board
33 of Game.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Whoops. Heather --
36 for tomorrow we'll have Heather Bauscher speaking, along
37 with those 2 action items North, Excuse me, National
38 Park Service proposed rule and the Board of Game
39 proposals, bear baiting and intensive management.
40 Reports. Okay and that's where we're at. So, do I need
41 a motion for recess? No, I can just say it. Yeah, I'm
42 saying it. Recess till tomorrow night at 9 a.m., 10? I
43 said 9:10. Okay.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 END OF PROCEEDINGS

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 121 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 30th day of March;

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 17th day of April 2025.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager