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SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

GRAND HALL, UAF NORTHWEST CAMPUS
Nome, Alaska
March 31, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 3/31/26)

(On record)

MS. CHAPA: Okay. All right. Thanks again for your patience. And, just to recap on our Council meeting from yesterday, the Council was able to get through most of our action items and, as of today, I think I posted the day two agenda, for today, after the opportunity for public and tribal comment on non-agenda items, we will be resuming with action item, I think it's 11.e: National Park Service Proposed Rule and will resume with Board of Game proposals after. Then we'll continue to Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Update, Youth Engagement in the Federal Subsistence Management Program, Reports and Other Business. For those joining us online or over the phone, a reminder that you can find the agenda online at doi.gov/subsistence, under the Regional Advisory tabs to Seward Peninsula and then Meeting Materials tile. And there will be an opportunity for the public to comment on remaining agenda items, as well as the opportunity to provide comment on non-agenda items.

Also, a reminder, online or over the phone, that you will be automatically muted and you will need to unmute yourself. So, if you're calling in, press star-six to unmute yourself. If you would like a turn to speak, if you are joining us over the phone, press star-five and that will let you, let us know that you wish to address the Council. And lastly, just state your name for the record when addressing the Council. And that helps us keep an accurate record for our meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes my announcements.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, thank you there, Gisela. We have meeting announcements out of the way. We have -- we're waiting for Sara, correct? All right. You had that Board of Game proposals. And how long you figure that's going to be?

MS. CHAPA: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No, I mean, right here, we're ready now or.....

MS. CHAPA: No.

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN:..... there's a -- we
2 have a certain time. I just wanted to write it down.

3
4 MS. CHAPA: 10 a.m..

5
6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. All right. Oh,
7 yeah. There it is.

8
9 (Pause)

10
11 Okay, Jarred, you got something extra
12 for us in fisheries, if you're so inclined to take the
13 mic. Before you do that, we should ask for public comment
14 and tribal comment on non-agenda items this morning.
15 Sorry! I skipped over that. Is there anybody online that
16 has any public or tribal comments on non-agenda items.
17 Please take the -- speak up.

18
19 (No response)

20
21 Haven't heard anybody speak up for
22 public or tribal comment for non-agenda items. So, move
23 on. Gisela wants to check on the roll here.

24
25 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 jumped ahead and skipped roll call. And again, just to
27 see if our council members are online, I'll go ahead and
28 go through roll call. Kelsi Ivanoff.

29
30 MS. IVANOFF: Here.

31
32 MS. CHAPA: Louis Green.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Here. Thank you.

35
36 MS. CHAPA: Martin Aukongak. He said good
37 morning. Elmer Seetot, Jr..

38
39 MR. SEETOT: (In Native).

40
41 MS. CHAPA: Robert Moses, Sr.

42
43 (No response)

44
45 Ronald Kirk.

46
47 MR. KIRK: Good morning.

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49 MS. CHAPA: Good morning. Thank you, Mr.
50 Chair. We do have a quorum for today.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you ma'am. Now it's Jarred's moment. Thank you, Jarred.

MR. STONE: Good morning. Jarred Stone, Fish Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. Excuse me. I've got two updates I'm going to be giving this morning. And also joining me online is Hannah Voorhees, who's an anthropologist with OSM. And so, for right now, I'm going to be giving an update on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

The mission of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is to identify and provide information needed to sustain federal subsistence fisheries. The monitoring program also supports meaningful involvement in fisheries management by Alaska Native and rural organizations, promotes collaboration among federal, state, Alaska Native and local organizations. OSM is currently in the final phase of the 2026 Monitoring Program funding cycle. The Federal Subsistence Board met back in early February and approved the final Monitoring Program funding plan. So, with this cycle coming to an end, it's time for Councils to begin developing priority information needs for the 2028 Monitoring Program Call for Proposals. Priority information needs or PINs, as we call them, are an important component of the Monitoring Program. They outline knowledge gaps or local concerns related to subsistence, and guide what projects can be submitted for consideration. We're asking the Council for 1 to 2 volunteers. Last cycle, I believe Mary Freytag was the volunteer and she's no longer with the Council. And so, again, I'm looking for 1 or 2 people to meet by telephone this summer. It'd probably take anywhere from 1 to 2 hours, and we would sit down and draft knowledge gaps, information gaps. And these information gaps are needed for the management of subsistence fisheries. The draft list that's provided by the volunteers will then be presented to the Council in the fall, and that that list of PINs will be finalized as the 2028 list of priority information needs. This is not an action item, but again, we're just looking for 1 to 2 volunteers to help with this. And that concludes my presentation. I'll take any questions if you have any.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Jarred. Any questions? Comments from the Council? Martin.

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1 MR. AUKONGAK: Hey, I gave one to Chapa
2 yesterday. Is this where I could write a proposal for
3 that bear?

4
5 MS. CHAPA: Well. Thank you. You might
6 want to address it with Jarred on the record, if it's
7 something that you'd want to do.

8
9 (Pause)

10
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You're on the floor.

12
13 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
14 you. Through the Chair, council member -- Mr. Martin.
15 So, this, what you handed me here, looks to be like a
16 proposal for Board of Game. And we can work through that
17 when we get there. Right now, we're.....

18
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Somebody's got to
20 mute their mic on the phone. Go ahead, Jarred.

21
22 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the Chair.
23 So, yeah, right now we're looking primarily for people
24 to help us identify research needs for fisheries. And
25 so, we can have this addressed during the Board of Game
26 agenda topic, which I believe will be here shortly.
27 Correct. So, I do need -- I'm looking for 1 or 2
28 volunteers. And then once we've identified that, I've
29 got one more update on our Partners Program.

30
31 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi, I'll
32 volunteer.

33
34 MR. STONE: Perfect, thank you. And then,
35 I've got one more update. That's our Partners Program.
36 Again, for the record, Jarred Stone, Fish Biologist with
37 OSM. And, just briefly, I'll give an update as to where
38 we're at with our Partners Program. It's a separate
39 funding program than the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
40 Program. The Office of Subsistence Management posted a
41 Notice of Funding Opportunity for Partners for Fisheries
42 Monitoring Program during the spring of 2025. This is a
43 competitive grant for Alaska Native and rural nonprofit
44 organizations. The intent of the program is to
45 strengthen Alaskan Native and rural involvement in
46 federal subsistence management by providing salary funds
47 to organizations so that they can hire a professional
48 biologist, social scientist, or educator. The grant also
49 provides funds for science and culture camps and paid
50 student internships. This funding lasts for up to four

1 years in total. The Partners Program Review Panel is
2 made up of subject matter experts across various
3 Department of Interior agencies, and they have reviewed
4 the proposals and the Office of Subsistence Management
5 Regional Director has approved funding for three new
6 partners. That includes the Bristol Bay Native
7 Association, the Native Village of Eyak and the Ahtna
8 Intertribal Resource Commission. The next Notice of
9 Funding Opportunity will be sometime in the spring of
10 2027, for funding to begin in 2028. If you would like
11 to learn more about this program, you may contact myself
12 or Liz Williams, via email or phone. Our contact
13 information can be found on the Partner's web page at
14 www.doi.gov/subsistence/partners. And thank you, Mr.
15 Chair, that concludes my update on the Partners Program.
16 I'll take any questions if you have any.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Jarred.
19 Any questions? Martin.

20

21 MR. AUKONGAK: So, how soon could you
22 help Unalakleet with their fish count? If they -- would
23 you'd be able to reach out to Unalakleet? I think Kelsi
24 is willing to help out to, kind of, get the fish
25 counting, if you could put the Corporation.

26

27 MR. STONE: Thank you, through the Chair.
28 That's a great question. Largely in the past, Unalakleet
29 has been funded by our office through the Fisheries
30 Resource Monitoring Program. And, as you heard
31 yesterday, through the Area Management Biologist, Luke
32 Hensley, the -- that weir is coming to an end. And it
33 sounds like they're still eager to try and find other
34 solutions to count fish. With that being said, those two
35 different funding programs that we have, think of the
36 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program as the program
37 that funds weirs, social science, harvest monitoring
38 surveys, those sort of things, in that nature. And then,
39 think of our Partners Program as a program that funds a
40 position, a salary. And so, usually the cap on that, per
41 year, is about 167,000. And that money can be applied
42 directly to having a tribal organization hire a
43 biologist or a social scientist. And where we've seen
44 that be really successful is the Bristol Bay Native
45 Association, the Native Village of Eyak. They've hired
46 biologists and then they were able to secure funding for
47 FRMP money, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program money.
48 And so, I think that's where you really see it
49 successful. And for Unalakleet, if there's tribal agency
50 or tribal organizations that are looking to add a

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1 position and maybe, get that weir up and running again
2 or get other projects up and running again, that's a
3 certain possibility, and I can give you some guidance
4 on that if that's an interest.

5

6

MR. AUKONGAK: Thank you.

7

8

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for the
9 question, Martin. Anybody else in the Council?

10

11

(No response)

12

13

14

I think that's it. Thank you. Excuse me,
Ron. He's on there.

15

16

MR. KIRK: Go ahead.

17

18

19

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, just checking.
You didn't have any questions from [sic] Jarred, I guess.

20

21

MR. KIRK: No, I don't.

22

23

24

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you.
Thank you, Jarred.

25

26

27

MR. MOSES: Mr. Chair, this is Robert.
I'm online now.

28

29

30

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for
joining, Robert.

31

32

(Pause)

33

34

35

36

You're just like a poof! You're there -
- you weren't there when I looked at him for a minute
earlier, and now you're there.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

MS. CHAPA: And to let everyone know,
online. We still have a couple of action items left on
the agenda, but we are going to wait a little bit on
that. So, we are moving ahead with our agenda and we're
now on Youth Engagement in the Federal Subsistence
Management Program.

44

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46

(Pause)

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Hi there, Heather.
You have the mic and the floor, if you want that, too.
And Gisela will have your slideshow up here in a minute.
Standing by.

1

2 MS. BAUSCHER: Good morning. Thank you,
3 Mr. Chair. Thank you, Members of the Council. I am very
4 excited and honored to be here. Thank you so much for
5 requesting this presentation and sharing about what
6 we've developed in Southeast Alaska and starting a
7 conversation of how we can try to figure out how to
8 build that for this region. So, I'm just going to start
9 out. You guys all have copies of this guide. This is hot
10 off the presses. We're in, like, the final stages of
11 review, right now, getting the final sign-offs from all
12 the agencies. This has been a long time in development.
13 I got to give a lot of credit to Taylor Bowser. She's
14 the Graphic Designer I was working with, and it took us
15 two years to put this guide together. But it's really a
16 combination of all the experience trying to navigate
17 these spaces and build this program in the Southeast and
18 the community workshops, that's all in this guide. So,
19 the hope for this is that other people and other parts
20 of the state will be able to build this, too. So, maybe
21 next slide.

22

23 UNIDENTIFIED: Could you say your name
24 for the record?

25

26 MS. BAUSCHER: Oh, sorry. My name is
27 Heather Bauscher. I'm the Fisheries Community Engagement
28 Specialist for the Sitka Conservation Society, and I'm
29 an Adjunct Professor of Biology and Fisheries Technology
30 for the University of Alaska Southeast. I've been
31 teaching classes for -- going on about ten years. Taking
32 young people to the regulatory meetings. Louis' been a
33 part of that, in the past. I really appreciate you
34 talking to the students every time. So, how this even
35 began. So, there used to be USDA drumbeats funding years
36 ago, and I actually got to go to my first meeting as a
37 student with that funding. And that was, I don't know,
38 a while back. But I started going to the meetings and
39 thought it was really cool and wanted more people to
40 realize how it worked and wanted to learn it better so
41 that I kept going. And then, they asked me to start
42 teaching the class and I changed it, and we made a four
43 week practicum course. And actually, it's really cool
44 that Justin's here too, because he was there at the very
45 beginning, too, when I was a student, he was helping
46 support on the Forest Service side with all of this. So,
47 yeah, apologies, I'm glitching right now, but.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. My phone's
50 doing that, too. Okay.

1

2 MS. BAUSCHER: So, we changed it to a
3 four week practicum where that, at least, gave two weeks
4 to build up understanding before going into the space,
5 because when I went, I just got sent to the meeting and
6 I was like, oh wow, who are all these people and how
7 does this work? So, that's how this began. And that's a
8 lot of what's in the guide -- maybe go to the next slide.
9 I just want to give a snapshot of, like what we've been
10 doing with this over the years. And, just two years ago,
11 was the first time I started having remote cohorts. We
12 figured out how to build a hybrid model and started
13 engaging other communities beyond Sitka. Because I
14 started in Sitka, because that's where I was based. We
15 worked with those three high schools to start with, and
16 then, it seemed as though high school students are
17 somewhat oversaturated with opportunities, and there
18 were possibly opportunities for students outside of
19 Sitka. So, then we started with Hoonah. They were the
20 first remote cohort two years ago. And then this last
21 spring was the first time we were able to bring multiple
22 people from multiple communities to the meeting.

23

24 And, this was really -- I really want
25 to highlight how involved the Southeast RAC was, in
26 encouraging all of this. It was really because the RAC
27 appreciated having the young people in the room, that
28 they wanted this to continue. And then, it was their
29 advocacy for this program that allowed us to continue
30 to get funding. And then, because they wanted what was
31 offered to the young people, also to the communities.
32 Big thanks to Tongass' subsistence program. They got
33 extra money to our agreement and we took the class and
34 turned it into a four hour community workshop. And we
35 actually took it on the road. So, some of these numbers
36 have parts to do with the community workshops, part to
37 do with the students, but I'm hoping to get close to 100
38 students now, that have participated in this course,
39 this year with, you know, whatever additional students
40 we get for this round. We're going to bring students to
41 the meeting in April. I've taken -- me and Ashley Bolwerk
42 took the community workshop to more than 13 communities.
43 Now, I think we're probably up to 14 or 15. And, we've
44 had more than 16 communities in Southeast and beyond
45 engaged. And 6 of our program participants, I want to
46 say 4 or 5 of the students, but one of the Council or
47 Community Cohort Coordinators also applied. She's now
48 got an alternate seat for the Southeast RAC, and we have
49 a number of students in the running for the youth seats.
50 So, really, this has been incredibly effective in

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1 helping to increase youth participation and just general
2 community participation. And I think, it's really helped
3 bolster engagement in our region, in the process. Go
4 ahead.

5
6 It's been -- this is just examples of
7 some of the media stories. There's been a number of
8 media stories about the program that you can look up and
9 learn more about it. That's a great one, on the right,
10 with Jan Straley. She's really the reason that this was
11 able to keep going, because she supported me and then
12 handed it off to me. That commentary in the middle,
13 Naomi Jones, was one of our former students. She's in
14 the running for the Southcentral RAC, but she wrote this
15 really cool commentary that was in the Alaska Beacon
16 about why it's important to participate in the process.
17 And then there's a sweet story that even went to -- in
18 the Homer News about the students last year. And there's
19 Jack (indiscernible), up there, giving testimony.

20
21 And that's a component of it. Like, I
22 want to say, all of this is rooted in experiential
23 learning and the skill-building that it is required to
24 navigate these spaces. When I was doing my Master's in
25 Teaching, I was working at the alternative high school,
26 which was really experiential learning based and
27 realized that this process or experiential learning
28 really makes sense in these spaces, because as you all
29 know, we can't learn this stuff from books. You, kind
30 of, have to go there and do it. So everything that has
31 been developed is really about building the skills to
32 be effective. And the hope is that not only can you
33 apply this to the subsistence process, but also the other
34 process. Next slide.

35
36 So, as I said, it's evolved a lot over
37 the years. There's a number of photos here of different
38 students over the years. There's Rob Cross. He's been a
39 big help, too, with the subsistence program. You can see
40 a student, on the left there giving testimony in the
41 room. I think Louis was there. You've seen the students
42 in these spaces. But I think it also really -- people
43 really like having the youth in these spaces and it's,
44 like, really exciting to have them show up. And I think
45 it's a really great positive first experience for them,
46 too. Because also, as you know, sometimes when you become
47 the Chair of an organization or something, you show up,
48 people aren't always excited to see you. But when you're
49 a kid showing up at a meeting, for the first time,
50 they're really excited. So, that's a good positive

1 experience for them. And yeah, I'm hoping to have
2 students from a number of different communities for this
3 April meeting. But we're still dialing that in. Next
4 slide.

5
6 So, who do we partner with? A lot of
7 different people. Currently, our most recent funding is
8 through the Office of Tribal Relations, which is
9 amazing. And, you know, the Office of the Secretary, but
10 before that, it was Forest Service funding and the
11 Tongass' subsistence program in the Alaska region. And
12 then, we also work with UAS Sitka. I'm a professor there
13 and -- an adjunct professor. And then we also have
14 partnerships and are starting to work with the Central
15 Council of Tlingit-Haida, Hoonah Indian Association.
16 They were our first remote cohort. Petersburg Indian
17 Association. Organized Village of Kake. Wrangell
18 Cooperative Association. We started out in Sitka, with
19 the three high schools there, but now, we're working
20 with communities -- the high schools in Petersburg,
21 Wrangell, Hoonah. We're hoping to try to bring on,
22 potentially, some of these other ones, Kake, Angoon,
23 Yakutat, Hollis, Pelican. We're in those conversations.
24 I don't know if it'll go this time, but we're trying to
25 build that out. And then, really, it's just a lot of
26 local community champions. And because each community
27 is different, the structure and who's supporting them
28 looks different. So, I don't have like a specific recipe
29 to this. It's more about identifying the right people
30 to support them. But community champions are really
31 important. I have Anthony Christianson, Gloria Wolfe,
32 Harvey Kitka, Patty Phillips, Cal Casipit, Jan, Cathy
33 Needham, Gayla, Louis. And thank you for interacting
34 with the students when we go to the meetings so many
35 years. There are certain sections in this book that were
36 even inspired by some of the conversations with Gayla.
37 Next slide.

38
39 So, you have this in front of you. And,
40 as I mentioned before, we're in our final stages of
41 review. So, if you have feedback on how we can make this
42 better, let us know, we can still incorporate it. And
43 she wanted to give you guys a chance to give us feedback
44 so maybe in the next week or so. A few things that I
45 added, that I think are really important -- we almost
46 had this thing done about a year ago, but then the
47 administration changed and all the language changed so,
48 we had to rewrite it. But we included a section on civil
49 discourse, just because I thought it was important for
50 people to understand why you need to talk to people on

1 the other side of issues. We added a part about resilient
2 leadership, just to be honest about what it is to be in
3 these spaces and how hard and how much time that takes
4 and how you need to build your toolkit of self-care. And
5 I'm currently trying to take my own advice, as we all
6 navigate all of these things at the same time. But
7 there's basically everything you need to know, in here,
8 for how to build a program. And the diagrams, this is
9 based on the layout of the room. Like I said, when I
10 first showed up the first time, I felt like a deer in
11 headlights. But this is, like, the layout of the room
12 when you go to the meeting, so that when you get there
13 you're like, oh, I already know who all these people are
14 and what they're representing and why they're saying
15 what they're saying, so. Next slide.

16
17 Oh, and I also think this one about the
18 -- navigating interjurisdictional fisheries issues and
19 the different management bodies. That's a -- that's been
20 a really useful visual, too, for people in our region,
21 just to help understand where to channel your energy and
22 which body to try to work through on an issue. Because
23 really the ACs and the RACs have very similar charters,
24 which is to elevate the community concerns, right? But
25 we can't solve that through one process alone. So, I
26 think it's important to, you know, work across the
27 management bodies to address these needs. So, right now,
28 we've basically dialed this into a four-week class,
29 because everybody's really busy and four weeks seems to
30 be the sweet spot and what people can commit. And so,
31 it's two weeks of classes twice a week, just two hours,
32 after school. Then you go to the meeting in real life,
33 for a week. And then we have one wrap-up week. And the
34 funding for the student travel, the current funding
35 agreement actually ends in the fall. So, we are currently
36 seeking new funding for student travel. And we have an
37 additional funding agreement that has to do with the
38 community workshops. That's good till 2027. So, that's
39 something else I want to throw out for you guys. We
40 could try to do a community workshop out here before
41 that funding runs out, and that might also be a way to
42 start to identify the right people to build the support
43 for the cohorts if we don't already have that identified.
44 And we're hoping, before we run out of funding, to do a
45 train-the-trainer gathering and share this material. So,
46 we're looking for partnerships in putting that on and
47 identifying who should be there. And yeah, we want to
48 do more community workshops, too. Next.

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Do you have this --
2 Heather, do you have this under a, like a 501 or the
3 nonprofit?

4
5 MS. BAUSCHER: Sitka Conservation
6 Society. So, there's a MOU between the Sitka
7 Conservation Society and the Forest Service. So, it's
8 been all Forest Service funding, mostly, this whole time
9 that we've been able to do this the last number of years,
10 because the Forest Service is the main manager for
11 subsistence in Southeast Alaska. So, it's a combination
12 of Forest Service, Sitka Conservation Society,
13 University and then other partners, whether that's
14 tribes or nonprofits.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Now, the reason for
17 the question is you know, there's donations from ANCSA
18 corporations that go into that stuff. There's -- you
19 write a proposal to them and there's funding there.

20
21 MS. BAUSCHER: We should talk. I would
22 like to talk. That's a -- that's in a future slide. So,
23 next slide.

24
25 (Simultaneous speech)

26
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Need to go somewhere.

28
29 MS. BAUSCHER: But yes.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Where did it go, you
32 know. If there was.....

33
34 MS. BAUSCHER: So, how do we build this
35 for -- Gg ahead, I'm sorry.

36
37 MR. AUKONGAK: Heather. Honored to meet
38 you. Thank you for being here. I know I could get the
39 money from our ANCSA. And what is your limit? Could you
40 take 2, 20? And are you going to promise me you're going
41 to be here? I mean, what's your limit, like, right now?
42 You have your youth down there, I don't want to take
43 your time away from them, but would you be able to be
44 up here if we get the funding?

45
46 MS. BAUSCHER: I would love to come back
47 and help set something up or help support it or help
48 train people, but part of it's going to be finding the
49 right people in this region to also help support that
50 program. Because, like you said, I'm one person and I

1 can only be so many places so that's the other reason
2 for creating this guide, too. With the hopes that other
3 regions can build this and I'm happy to help and train
4 people or come back. But it's going to have to come from
5 local people to support it for any sort of longevity.
6

7 MR. AUKONGAK: I'd like to show you our
8 (indiscernible) program, too. Back in '09, I got a
9 quarter million for our CAT simulators for the youth,
10 and it was through our ANCSA and it's working today. And
11 you -- we could build whatever you're doing in the
12 program out there. We got plenty of room.
13

14 MS. BAUSCHER: That'd be amazing. And I
15 think multiyear agreements are better. I piecemeal it
16 together for years, like trying to find funding every
17 year. But that was a little crazy. So, it's been really
18 nice just to have a multiyear agreement for the last
19 round. And that would be the most ideal situation, I
20 think.
21

22 MR. AUKONGAK: And don't let me down.
23

24 MS. BAUSCHER: Next slide. Yeah. So, it's
25 a combination of the facilitators, the instructors, the
26 funders, the educational institution and the community
27 champions, all working together to support the program.
28 So, finding the partners, that's a good first step. Next
29 slide. The facilitator right now is Sitka Conservation
30 Society. We're connecting the partners, administering
31 the funds, handling the travel and classroom logistics.
32 We just hired a person, that's whole job is just going
33 to be coordinating all the different schools and folks,
34 because I'm one person and that's hard, you know. So,
35 it's cool that it's gotten this big and now we've started
36 to hire more people to help. Next slide. So, that answers
37 your question, Louis, the Sitka Conservation Society.
38 Currently, I'm one of the instructors, I'm an adjunct
39 professor at UAS. But then, I also -- I should highlight
40 that this whole guide, it's all very discussion-based
41 instruction and we have guest speakers for every single
42 class. So, it's not just me. There's, you know, lots of
43 people that we're bringing into the classroom every
44 time. I think that's a really important component to
45 make sure you have a guest speaker every class. And
46 sometimes that's people that are, you know, like Justin
47 used to do that or other members of the Forest Service.
48 Ashley Bolwerk is a Subsistence Biologist. She basically
49 helps co-instruct the class and the community workshops
50 now. And then, we bring in members of the regional

1 Council. The kids always get to talk to Tony before they
2 go to the Federal Subsistence Board, and that makes a
3 big difference, because then, when they show up, they're
4 like oh, I already know these people. I already talk to
5 these people a little bit.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Tony's the
8 Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board, Anthony
9 Christianson. Where is he from again?

10

11 MS. BAUSCHER: Hydaburg.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Hydaburg, yeah. He's
14 really good with kids. Great.

15

16 MS. BAUSCHER: We're lucky to have him
17 as Chair, I think. Next slide. We talked about the
18 funding right now. It's USDA Office of Tribal Relations
19 and the Forest Service. And in the past, that has been
20 somewhat restrictive to our region. So, I would be very
21 much interested in trying to figure out how we try to
22 talk to some of the other agencies that administer the
23 lands in other parts of the state, to see if there's
24 funding support we could, potentially, get from those
25 agencies. And I'm very interested in those
26 conversations, too. Next slide. We're working with the
27 University of Alaska Southeast. We're starting to figure
28 out how this would scale up across the state with the
29 other components of the university system. But this is
30 how we're providing college credit. It's dual enrollment
31 credit. They get two credits for the four-week effort.
32 And now, the classes count towards policy credit in the
33 Fish Tech program, towards a certificate in that. And
34 we're starting to figure out if there's ways to build
35 this into other things, with the other parts of the
36 university system. Next slide.

37

38 Community champions are critical. I
39 cannot say that enough. And, like I said, it's not a
40 specific recipe. It's about finding the right people and
41 the right combination of partners. And the school and
42 the community outreach is also really critical. And I
43 think it works best when you can either go in person to
44 the schools or you have people in the communities going
45 to the schools to do the outreach. And building those
46 relationships is also an important part. You want to
47 have some sort of partner with the school district,
48 whether it's a specific teacher or administrator. Next
49 slide. So, what are your ideas and how can I help?

50

1 CHAIRPERON GREEN: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. AUKONGAK: I need to show you our
4 (indiscernible) program. Louis knows about it. It does
5 help a lot of our students, whether they want to be a
6 welder, a doctor, you know, or an operator, like me. But
7 to have our food -- them knowing our food and to someday
8 have them be on our Board, I think you'd like that
9 program or you can be part of it.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It's situated out by
12 the high school and it's pretty effective. These kids
13 come from all around the region to attend this thing.
14 Sometimes it's like ten days or these programs that
15 you've already had out there, but what you're talking
16 about, on this four-week thing, that would kind of extend
17 some of their stays, if they were interested in it. Did
18 I see something about fisheries projects in there or
19 something? There was something that I noticed, but I
20 didn't get to read it all. Maybe not. It's all about the
21 process, right?

22

23 MS. BAUSCHER: It's all mostly about
24 navigating the process and the system. I will say that
25 we've had a lot of students also go on to have seasonal
26 jobs with different agencies, and it's been effective
27 for workforce development. Some of the kids in those
28 pictures, you know, went and worked a season with Fish
29 and Game or two kids got to go up the Stikine and monitor
30 salamanders and frogs one summer because of being at the
31 meeting and meeting the agency folks. I think it was
32 Josh Rheaum that took them up to do that, years ago. But
33 yeah, this is really good for workforce development and
34 exposing them to jobs that they didn't know about,
35 whether that's, like being an anthropologist or some of
36 the other parts of the process and the biology jobs and
37 all of that.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, that's, kind
40 of, what I picked up on, is what you've been talking
41 about here. I thought that it would lead to stuff like,
42 (indiscernible) could actually teach, you know, present
43 this plus leading into these -- the job arena.

44

45 MS. BAUSCHER: And there's multiple ways
46 to develop -- or share this material. And there's going
47 to be an online tool kit that's available, too, when all
48 of this is done. And that includes, like a 30-minute
49 quick presentation. So, this could be shared, whether
50 it's like a short presentation, you could do the four-

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1 hour community workshop, or you could do the four-week
2 class. So, there's lots of different ways to integrate
3 this into things, like you're sharing. And I would love
4 to follow up with that, you know, after the meeting.

5

6

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi, go ahead.

7

8 MS. IVANOFF: I do want to note, I did -
9 - I already talked to Heather about it, but the teacher
10 that had students in -- from Unalakleet yesterday, we've
11 already been talking -- or I've already been talking to
12 him and he's very interested in taking this up in
13 Unalakleet and, kind of being helping be one of the
14 community champions there. So, it's very exciting and
15 all the students are really excited about it, too.

16

17 MS. BAUSCHER: That's awesome, Kelsi. I
18 really hope we can find a way to build a cohort for
19 Unalakleet. And I think, just the missing piece is the
20 funding. Yes, exactly. Is, how do we find the funding
21 for the region?

22

23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What (indiscernible)
24 does is, on the two boards that I'm on, with Bering
25 Straits and Sitnasuak Native Corporation, is they
26 submit, we have the drive for the scholarship drive and
27 then there's monies that we -- proposals that you can,
28 kind of tell her what you do there and send our way.

29

30 MR. AUKONGAK: Yeah. I'll write the
31 letter to the corporation and we'll find the funding.
32 But our corporation does really good with, helping out
33 our youth. And, like I said, we got 250,000 for the CAT
34 program and it really worked.

35

36 MS. IVANOFF: I think under 2, a certain
37 amount Bering Straits can fund -- provide donations
38 under 2,000, is it, without Board approval?

39

40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There might be some
41 through the president or the CEO. I can't remember
42 offhand.

43

44 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah. There's some amount
45 that they have where they can fund it without having to
46 bring it to the full Board meeting. So, that might be
47 an avenue.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Could be like a CEO
50 has a pocket of money and there's a limit to what they

1 can donate to an individual entity or whatever.

2

3 MR. AUKONGAK: Even our Health Board --
4 I was their Chairman for the Health Board here, we got
5 a program back in 2014, and I flew in students from
6 every village for every Board meeting, and I funded 2
7 of them with a teacher, and they come into the Board and
8 present what they need in their community. So, that's
9 another avenue I could hit up. And I have a lot of
10 knowledge with that part. And being with our food in the
11 Health Board, it's very healthy. So, I could get funds
12 from them, too.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: He's not kidding.

15

16 MS. BAUSCHER: Okay. Well, it sounds like
17 we're starting to figure out how to connect all these
18 dots. Next slide. And this is, like some of the things
19 I want to offer here is, the possibility of those
20 presentations, as I mentioned. We could do a community
21 workshop, we could do a trainer training and then, you
22 know, build other opportunities for engagement and
23 identifying the cohort coordinators. Would love to see
24 this Seward Peninsula RAC members and other
25 organizations partner to implement this train-the-
26 trainer kind of program so we can set up people to
27 support cohorts in other communities. Finding the
28 financial support, and very -- Sitka Conservation
29 Society is very interested in shared funding agreements
30 or writing grants together with other partners so, let
31 us know if you want to do that, too. Next slide.

32

33 So, yeah, basically, we're just at the
34 gratitude. But this is like I mentioned before, it's
35 really because of the support from the Southeast
36 Regional Advisory Council and them including this in
37 their, like annual reports over and over again that
38 supported the federal funding to make this possible. So,
39 I think, similarly, thank you guys for including it in
40 the report to start with. I mean, actually, that's why
41 I'm here right now, is because, was it a year or so ago
42 that it was in your annual report? So, you for putting
43 that in there. That's why I get to be here. So, that's
44 a really important avenue for continued advocacy for
45 creating something like this. And I really think it's
46 best when it comes from the RAC. Go ahead.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there somebody on
49 the line?

50

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1 MR. HANSEN: Alex Hansen, Fish and Game.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, we just heard
4 something, like somebody wanted to speak.

5

6 MS. BAUSCHER: Somebody want to speak?

7

8 MR. HANSEN: I just called in. Can you
9 hear me?

10

11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. You're loud and
12 clear.

13

14 MR. HANSEN: Yeah. This is Alex Hansen,
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kotzebue.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. We have
18 presented this -- presentation going on right now, so
19 thank you for calling in. Say hi to Luke. Oh, he's still
20 here. Okay. Back to Heather.

21

22 MS. KATCHEAK: Hello?

23

24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, there's
25 somebody. Could you say your name?

26

27 MS. KATCHEAK: I know it's echoing. My
28 name is Marie Katcheak. I called early this morning. I
29 don't know, I'm still online here, as the elder's
30 assistant's person from Stebbins-Fairbanks. And
31 listening to the workshop that they're presenting there,
32 I think that, when we look at our region, we need to
33 really consider Savoonga, Shishmaref, and Stebbins.
34 Those are the bulk of our students that are in rural
35 Alaska. Noatak is fine, but a lot of times the ones that
36 are selected, it's, you know, it's coming from the
37 school. It should be coming from the community. It's,
38 like, is what I'm saying, trying to say here. If at all
39 possible, it should come through the tribe, for the
40 students that are selected. If this is ever formed then,
41 it would be my suggestion.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for your
44 comments.

45

46 MS. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Heather,
49 you got the floor.

50

1 MS. BAUSCHER: Well like I said we need
2 community champions and partners. So, I think all of
3 those ideas are good. And it should be coming from people
4 in the communities to build this. I have one more slide
5 that's, basically, just another thank you, but. This is
6 my contact information there. And then Kim is our new
7 Coordinator, she's helping to organize the cohorts and
8 the different schools. So, you could contact me or
9 contact her. And I'm really excited to -- yeah, Kim's
10 great! Yeah, it's been really wonderful to have her.
11 That's, like, a total game changer. But yes, I'm really
12 excited to work with you all to figure out how we can
13 make this happen for this region. And thank you for the
14 opportunity to speak today.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Heather,
17 for coming all the way up here to do that. It's an
18 interesting prospect here. And you know, when we first
19 heard about it, we jumped on it. So, I guess it's over
20 a year ago, right? So, we were saying. So, thank you.

21
22 MS. BAUSCHER: And thank you, Louis, also
23 for always being so supportive of the students that I
24 do bring to the meetings and interacting with them and
25 helping to explain how it all works. Yeah, you've really
26 -- it's been great to have that be part of it over the
27 years.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Anybody
30 from the Council on the phone? Ron? Robert? Any
31 questions? Comments?

32
33 MR. MOSES: No questions.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Ron.

36
37 MR. KIRK: Not right now. But maybe she
38 can look into contacting NSEDC to see if they can support
39 her program considering our youth throughout the region.
40 It's -- it would be very beneficial for our children to
41 get educated on Federal Subsistence Management. Thank
42 you.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for your
45 comment, Ron. Anybody here in the room?

46
47 (No response)

48
49 Kelsi?

50

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1 (No response)

2

3 Elmer?

4

5 MR. SEETOT: He summed it up.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: He summed it up. So,
8 he's something. Martin, you already made your comments,
9 and you'll be calling Heather, I'm sure, so. Thank you,
10 Heather, for your presentation. Thank you. Okay, so,
11 that leads us into the next phase here.

12

13 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Mr. Chair, so, from
14 yesterday's meeting, we had set the Board of Game
15 proposals for a time, certain today, at 10 a.m. so that
16 we could -- or the Council could get more information
17 regarding proposals that involve intensive management
18 and predator control.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sara's got -- okay,
21 we got a book. Okay. Here, we got another book. We're
22 going to have to get a library.

23

24 (Talking)

25

26 Yeah, I can still smell the ink. All
27 right. You have the attention of all of us. Thank you.

28

29 MS. HENSLEE: Okay. Good morning, Mr.
30 Chair. For the record, this is Sara Henslee, the Area
31 Manager for the -- Unit 22. I guess I'll start out by
32 just checking to see if Alex, it did seem like he was
33 tuned in, the Western Arctic Herd Caribou biologist, if
34 he is available to speak and provide some comments about
35 the, I guess the RAC's desire to submit some sort of
36 intensive management predator control proposal.

37

38 MR. HANSEN: Alex Hansen present.

39

40 MS. HENSLEE: Mr. Chair, so.....

41

42 MR. HANSEN: Have you got me?

43

44 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, Alex is available to
45 speak to the intensive management. He's the Western
46 Arctic Caribou Herd biologist, so he -- I would give him
47 the floor to speak to this, if that's okay.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Alex, you're on the
50 on the air, sir, as yielding to your comments.

1

2 MR. HANSEN: All right. And I'm, here,
3 I'm kind of catching up on the discussion yesterday. So,
4 feel free to stop me and ask questions or clarification,
5 but I can, kind of speak to it to the best of my ability.
6 So as, you know, many of you understand intensive
7 management involves operating outside the normal bounds,
8 for when we see that prey populations are below what we
9 think they should be for sustainable harvest for our
10 subsistence users. And so, when we get into these
11 scenarios, sometimes the state will step in and provide
12 opportunities for individuals to harvest predators or
13 the state will step in and harvest predators, as needed.
14 And, typically, these, you know, these projects include
15 wolves. Sometimes they include bears. And, you know,
16 there are a few projects going on in the state currently,
17 mostly that is wolf removal. In the -- we have one
18 project including bear removal, as well, right now, in
19 the Mulchatna Herd. So, I guess my question to you is,
20 what is your desire? What are you looking to get out of
21 your proposal? And what are you hoping for?

22

23 MR. AUKONGAK: I gave one to Sara and if
24 she could read it to you that, I hope we get that
25 started. You know, I know it ain't going to happen
26 tomorrow, but it's a start.

27

28 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, through the Chair,
29 this is Sara again. So, the proposals I have heard so
30 far related to just brown bears and then to this
31 intensive management conversation. Martin -- Member
32 Martin had mentioned the sale of gallbladders, which I
33 think can be as simple as submitting that proposal and
34 seeing where it goes. As well as, Kelsi had mentioned,
35 the take of brown bears over bait. I don't think those
36 are necessarily related to the conversation of intensive
37 management and predator control, necessarily. So, to me,
38 those look like separate proposals that can be submitted
39 outside of this. And yeah, whether I should draft --
40 help draft that proposal with the RAC, I guess, would I
41 work with Gisela would be my question? Okay. So, I can
42 do that, in the meantime. That's no problem. Same with
43 the brown bear baiting for Unit 22. But then, the
44 proposal about intensive management, I think Alex is
45 trying to get more information of like what the desire
46 is for what that proposal might look like. Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I think it was just
49 pretty much the idea of understanding how it works is,
50 for me, I would want to know how it would work and a

1 duration of time, who's involved, you know, those type
2 of things. There was a -- several years ago we had
3 predator control. I wasn't at the meeting, I just
4 happened to be out of state at the time. But this group
5 here, actually facilitated a presentation from, I don't
6 know why I can't think of the man's name now, but it was
7 somebody that was involved in this type of stuff. And
8 so, a refresher course for me on understanding it would
9 be important. I think the -- Kelsi, go ahead.

10
11 MS. IVANOFF: Just to give you a little
12 more background, we were looking at the declining
13 caribou numbers and that's how we came about, possibly,
14 submitting a proposal for an intensive management plan
15 for Units 22, 23, and 26. Yeah. For wolves, bears. Any,
16 yeah, any predators.

17
18 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, if I may, this is Alex
19 Hansen, through the Chair. So, I think it could be as
20 simple as you simply submitting a proposal to institute
21 an intensive management plan for the Western Arctic
22 Herd. And then we can hammer out the details, you know,
23 as we address that proposal before it goes to the Board
24 of Game, and we'll have opportunity to respond to that
25 through the process, as well, prior to going to the
26 Board. Typically, I think what we would see in other
27 experiences, if we're looking at, say a wolf project,
28 there's currently a proposal that's coming from Western
29 Arctic Herd Working Group for aerial removal of wolves
30 by public permit. So, an individual having an airplane
31 could apply for a permit and harvest wolves from the
32 air. What we know from experience and many studies is
33 that, if we want to be successful in wolf removal
34 programs, we need to have a targeted effort. So, evidence
35 has shown that we need to remove about 80% of the wolves
36 to have enough impact on the population to, you know,
37 keep them from recovering too quickly to be negligible.
38 So, what we would typically do in a scenario like that
39 is, if we had that public permit, and we had a good
40 understanding of what the wolf population was in a
41 specific area, and we would target that area to wolf
42 removal area. Then, let's say, hunters and airborne
43 shooters were to remove, you know, 50% of our target
44 number, then we could step in as a state, ideally, and
45 remove the other 50%, so I get functional.

46
47 I do, you know, based on our collar
48 recovery, you know, the removal rates of Western Arctic
49 caribou from predators is about 70% of the collars that
50 I pick up is from predation. So, that's pretty

1 significant. And, you know, I certainly make that case
2 to the Board. The other component to that I want to talk
3 about bears, is we do have some evidence to suggest
4 that, at least, in the southern extent of the campground,
5 we can have issues with bears removing calves on the
6 calving grounds. We did a three-year study, beginning
7 in 2017 and looked at predators, the predation on the
8 calving ground for the Western Arctic Herd. Typically,
9 what we saw was, you know, in the northern extent of the
10 calving area, there was not much predation but in the
11 southern extent we saw pretty high removal rates by brown
12 bears. Wolves are not a factor on the calving grounds,
13 necessarily.

14
15 And, you know, I've -- we have to go
16 through a process to put together a feasibility
17 assessment. So, this is a, basically a write-up, a
18 document that kind of walks through all of these
19 scenarios and gives us a probability of success. Because
20 when we go into these projects, we want to be successful.
21 We don't have a desire to just, you know, go remove
22 predators if we don't feel like it's going to allow the
23 prey population to rebound. So, we have this document,
24 we're still working on it. We'll have that available for
25 the Board of Game discussion, as well. But, you know,
26 within that, we've identified an area where, just north
27 of the Brooks Range coming to the southern extent of
28 calving grounds where bear predation can be significant
29 and could be a way to slow down predation on this
30 population.

31
32 So, we've identified essentially two
33 components: the bears and the wolves. We're launching a
34 wolf study here, in a couple of weeks, hoping to collar
35 some wolves and get a better understanding on wolf
36 populations in Unit 23, at least a component of that.
37 So, that's kind of where we're going with that. And I
38 would encourage you, if you like, put in a proposal that
39 would basically just, you know, request that the Board
40 of Game institute a predator control program or IM
41 program for the Western Arctic Herd. And, I guess, I
42 would also, you know, suggest you think about one of the
43 biggest challenges that we have, at least in Unit 23,
44 is that we have about 70% federal lands, and operating
45 in the land is very challenging. I don't know if you
46 could -- at this juncture, the other suggestion to the
47 Federal Subsistence Board that the federal agencies look
48 into allowing predator removal, if needed, on federal
49 lands. And that's my suggestion at this point.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Martin has a question
2 or comment.

3
4 MR. AUKONGAK: In my proposal, you know,
5 keep it simple. We're not going to reinvent the wheel.
6 Keep it very simple. I mean, we know we have, let's say
7 we get ivory. We have a tag number. Every person that
8 we know, we drill a little hole, we have a tag number.
9 So, if we do the gallbladder, just do the same thing.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thanks, Martin. So,
12 I was going to ask the question of, you know, you're
13 talking about a specific area, when you're removing
14 these predators out of a certain area. Would -- I hear
15 you saying stuff about the brown bears are effective at
16 cleaning house on the calving grounds. And then, I think,
17 our wolves, I imagine, are pretty effective at the
18 wintering grounds, too. So, would you do, like those two
19 different predators, would that be kind of a sort of a
20 scenario that you would operate under? One with the
21 calving area for the brown bears and, the other one, the
22 wolves wintering areas?

23
24 MR. HANSEN: Yes, that's exactly right.
25 So, we would be looking at two separate operations.
26 Basically, winter, spring, wolf removal and then brown
27 bear removal, which, typically, run into -- when the
28 (distortion) is migrating to the North Slope for
29 calving, for calving area, typically, I lose a lot of
30 collared individuals, they cross the Brooks Range, kind
31 of, going around (indiscernible) Lakes and then to the
32 west. And, you know, we pick up many, many collars every
33 year that go through that country. And then, we see
34 them, you know, quite a bit on the southern extent of
35 the calving grounds. So, yes, it's two separate
36 components to an intensive management project to address
37 both species of concern.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, I know I'm
40 kind of knowing what the carving area is. It's somewhere
41 around Point Hope area. Isn't that where they, and north
42 of there?

43
44 MR. HANSEN: Well, it'd be, kind of,
45 inland from Point Lay, southeast of Wainwright,
46 Utqiagvik uplands, (indiscernible) River. So, in that
47 country, mostly that's in PRA, BLM lands.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. And then the
50 same.....

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(Simultaneous speech)

MR. HANSEN: Mr. Chair.....

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: wintering,
potentially. Where would that be like?

MR. HANSEN: So, that's, kind of, the challenge, you know, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is very committed to going to certain areas for calving, right? So, we have to find calving areas. Wintering areas are more loosely defined and can change annually. So, we need to monitor that pretty closely. Our current study that we're planning on starting these next couple of weeks will be focused around the Kobuk, Buckland, Selawik drainages, and we often have wintering animals there. You know, as you know, in the past, we had a good portion of the animals wintering on the Seward Peninsula, that isn't currently the case. But logistically speaking, we would want to operate, you know, within a relatively close distance from a hub community. It would be pretty hard for us to operate a aerial removal project, for instance, on the North Slope for caribou or, sorry, for wolves. So, you know, kind of a striking out of Kotzebue, which is the heart of the winter range in the last several years. So, as long as that trend continues, I think we could be fairly successful that way. You know, the challenge is we have to have good tracking conditions and snow conditions to really be effective at finding these animals.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, well, thank you. Kelsi.

MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Given the constraints of the Federal Subsistence Board regarding predation, how would we go about getting permission to operate these intensive management plans on federal land?

MR. HANSEN: You know, I would say that would be a question for the federal partners, but you know, as a Council, you could put together a letter of recommendation that they investigate the ability to do that. So, you know, that's outside my wheelhouse, you know. I guess I would push that to the federal partners and see what they're willing to engage in this discussion.

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Elmer.

2
3 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
4 Mission. Over the past years living in Alaska, you hear
5 a lot of stuff from your elders. You hear a lot of stuff
6 from community members within the region. What you're
7 presenting right now is that legitimate way to, kind of
8 go after these animals. I keep telling -- or I keep
9 saying that over the meetings that, TEK, traditional
10 knowledge by our Natives having been the side, on the
11 side of all the time that we talk about negotiations. I
12 think there's, pretty much -- you have one option there
13 before us being the legitimate way, going through the
14 process. TEK is that you talk about the wolves in a way
15 to protect them or to finish them off or something. And
16 then, my way would be to say the opposing side. That's
17 one part of TEK: argue about the animals, they won't be
18 there for you. That's the easiest way that I think that
19 that can be taught, you know, from my experience. And
20 the other thing that is kind of overlooked when you're
21 talking about predator control is local community
22 hunting within these areas. I don't think we have too
23 much of a problem in our area. We have Wales, we have
24 Shishmaref, we have Teller, and then Brevig, pretty much
25 the western side of Seward Peninsula. These areas are
26 easy to access to for the wolves. They're only safe
27 haven is their den, and I would think so. With Unit 23
28 and Kotzebue area being heavily forested, then I think
29 that you would have a problem with trying to control the
30 predators within that area. I know that between Teller
31 -- on the Teller road system, brown bears are
32 overpopulating the area, because last year, our pickers
33 said that they saw pretty much 18 bears within, maybe
34 four-hour period, while they were picking berries, mile
35 10, so. I know that brown bear, grizzly bears hardly
36 harvested within our areas, other than, maybe 22E, but
37 there's a lot of ungulates, caribou, reindeer mix for
38 the bears and the wolves to feed on. Mostly the bears,
39 I think. I know that they go after muskox calves, too,
40 straight on. You -- when you live out in the country,
41 you experience a lot of things, you know, that many of
42 you, behind the computers, you know, that don't see these
43 things. I say, oh, I saw this in the computer. No, I saw
44 that 30 years ago. You know, that part of our experience,
45 living out in the communities.

46
47 But right now, I think if you're going
48 to try to do predator control, how many years it's going
49 to take? We've been talking about for a number of years,
50 a lot, a number of years. But I, don't forget, commute

1 to support our area. I've been there for many years,
2 pretty much traveled the lava beds. Pretty much went
3 around Seward Peninsula from north to south, from east
4 to west. Farthest east was Boston River. Farthest west
5 was Bering Sea. Farthest north Ear Mountain. Farthest
6 south, Cape Douglas. So, that area that we go through
7 or that we witness over the years, we know that our
8 predator control is limited for hunters because they
9 pretty much patrol and take care of animals that are
10 endangering our food sources. But we're going through
11 the legal way, it might take us forever. Or just let us
12 know, out in the communities we do know when we have a
13 predator problem, especially wolves, brown bears,
14 grizzlies. I don't know why, you know, they lost interest
15 of hunting those animals. I know that I -- growing up,
16 I used to have a bear steaks and, you know, meat from
17 the brown bears. And I think that's a good way, I guess,
18 for our Seward Peninsula at least being kind of wolf
19 free. If they got a local reindeer herder, I think, you
20 know, I think they do intensive management on their own.
21 But what brown bears, I'm not really too sure about
22 that, because early spring and then it's pretty hard to
23 get to these communities so, that wasn't active way. And
24 then the inactive way, I, like I say, we're arguing
25 about the animals that's TEK, you know, that's been
26 passed on. I've seen that happen. Not with natural
27 resources, but with other things that we rely on in the
28 past. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. So,
31 my reasoning for asking the potential of predator
32 control for, say wolves, and then the other one was
33 brown bears, actually doesn't have anything to do with
34 the Seward Peninsula, from what I can tell here by your
35 presentation or answering the questions there, Alex, it
36 was like the Kotzebue area is, kind of, the area that
37 you would, potentially, target predators such as wolves,
38 in that area. And you would pick a certain area to
39 concentrate on. It sounded like you said you could move
40 that around a little bit as time goes by, but the other
41 one was the calving grounds when it comes to brown bears.
42 So, that has nothing to do with the Seward Peninsula. I
43 think Elmer was alluding to the fact that there's,
44 hunters here that we have doing some kind of, a natural
45 predator control. But then, again, the cost of hunting,
46 you're talking about six and a half dollars a gallon for
47 gas just here in Nome, and the cost of snow machines and
48 whatnot you need, kind of prohibits and or slows that
49 ability for hunters to do that down here. But what I've
50 heard from you, Alex, is that any predation control would

00029

1 be probably up in Unit 23 and 26, if I'm not mistaken.
2 Correct? Am I correct on that one?

3
4 MR. HANSEN: That's what our feasibility
5 assessment suggests, that it makes the most sense,
6 (indiscernible). You know, we agree with Elmer, there
7 that, you know, wolf numbers are pretty low in Unit 22.
8 And so, really the current suggestion, at least coming
9 from my office, as we look at wolf removal in Units 23,
10 Unit 23 and bear removal in 26A.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, well that --
13 did you...? Oh, Kelsi, I guess has a question or comment.

14
15 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Did
16 you -- just clarifying you said the Western Arctic
17 Caribou Working Group was already putting in a proposal
18 for aerial wolf hunting?

19
20 MR. HANSEN: That's correct. So, their
21 proposal is for a public permit. So, say you own a
22 supercub or whatever, and you're pretty good at
23 following, tracking wolves and shooting them from the
24 air, then you could apply for a permit, assuming that
25 the proposal go through at the Board of Game. So,
26 typically, what we see is, I just reiterate this, you
27 know, we have an area, I believe it's around Tok where
28 we have some people that are very good at that. And
29 several individuals, but even, you know, their skill set
30 and using the tools that they have at their disposal,
31 they're not able to cross the finish line, so to speak.
32 You know, they can get say, and I don't know these
33 numbers offhand, but let's say they get 50% of the
34 objective. Then the state would step in and close the
35 gap to remove the target number. So, using both tools -
36 - because the state doesn't want to be unsuccessful in
37 this, we take all animal very seriously. We want to
38 manage them carefully. But if we can step in and suppress
39 predator populations momentarily, to allow the prey
40 populations to rebound, you know, we can have that
41 discussion and see if it's a viable option. But we don't
42 want to fail. You know, if we're going to start this,
43 we want to do it and do it successfully, not just kill
44 things to kill things.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Alex.
47 Kelsi.

48
49 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
50 curious, since this management plan wouldn't include our

1 Unit, if we should be -- instead of putting in a
2 proposal, I'm wondering if we should encourage, and I
3 don't know if that would be attending their meeting,
4 public testimony, encouraging them to put in a proposal
5 for -- I don't think it should come from this Council
6 since it's more directly affecting 23 and 26.

7

8 MR. HANSEN: I guess, if I could make one
9 quick comment.

10

11 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

12

13 MR. HANSEN: So, yes, currently, the RAC
14 is meeting in Kotzebue right now, I stepped out of that
15 meeting to call into this one. So, it's pretty
16 challenging to facilitate that conversation. I can, you
17 know, maybe have some conversation with folks, but as
18 users of the Western Arctic Herd, you know, I would say
19 that Unit 22 residents using Western Arctic caribou have
20 as much right as anybody in 23 or 26A to want to preserve
21 this resource for future use. So, I guess I would just
22 leave that with you.

23

24 MS. IVANOFF: Okay. Thank you. No, that's
25 super helpful.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you, Alex
28 and Kelsi. That -- the idea that -- I'm sorry? Oh, we
29 got Nikki over here, wants to make a comment here.

30

31 MS. BRAEM: This is just a suggestion.
32 And I will ask Gisela if this is possible. But we are
33 an age of real time communication. Is it possible that
34 you could communicate this to the RAC Coordinator for
35 that group? And they'll know that this group made this
36 suggestion at their meeting, right now? And then, the
37 question of -- we don't have to wait a week for us to
38 send a message to the Northwest Arctic RAC that this
39 group considered this idea, but felt it was in their
40 wheelhouse. I mean, if they're talking about a proposal
41 for Unit 23 or 26, and Kelsi just said, well, maybe, if
42 it's only 23 and 26, it should come from them. So, if
43 you don't want to make that proposal now, if that's what
44 you choose, for the reasons that she gave, then you
45 could, perhaps, direct Gisela to communicate what you've
46 just discussed. But that's up to you. You can put a
47 proposal in or you could communicate to your
48 counterparts up north.

49

50

1 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Thank you. And
2 yes, I actually shared the Council's recommendations on
3 WSA26-01 and -02 yesterday, to the Council Coordinator
4 so that they are aware, because it will definitely inform
5 the decision of the Northwest Arctic RAC. I can also add
6 some language and express that the Council had a
7 discussion about, potentially, submitting a proposal for
8 intensive management predator control so that they're
9 aware. But it is ultimately up to the Northwest Arctic
10 Council to make the decision to submit a Board of Game
11 proposal or not.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for your
14 comments, Nikki. And Gisela, thanks for bridging the gap
15 there. The idea of predator control, the end result is
16 22 might end up with animals back on the Seward
17 Peninsula. And whether it happens in 26 or 23 makes no
18 difference to me. It will affect us in the outcome. And
19 I think it would be a positive effect. So, supporting
20 Northwest RAC and Arctic Slope, if they were going to
21 be involved in it, I think is sending a good message
22 from us that we're -- we would be inclined to agree that
23 it comes out of their area, that's fine but the end
24 result is a benefit to our hunters. Our subsistence is
25 in the bucket right now with caribou. Right now, people
26 are targeting a residential herd and we're still trying
27 to figure out what that residential herd is all about.
28 So, myself, personally, my idea of predator control is
29 something that I think is necessary. This herd's down
30 to 120,000 from 500,000. So, somebody -- Elmer.

31
32 MR. SEETOT: In light of your comment,
33 our people, long time ago, to predator control right
34 from the start. They never mess around. If something was
35 -- if the polar bear came around and got some of your
36 stuff, then you went after the polar bear. The other
37 thing is that, whoever takes care of the muskox, you
38 know, they're protecting all the people that have access
39 to them. And that gives the animals a sense of security
40 that, oh, these people won't bother me. But I seen those
41 muskox in action. But in -- when I went to Nunivak, a
42 couple years back, the people there said that when the
43 muskox first came to their town, they scare them away
44 or they drove them off and and they haven't had any
45 problems around here. Around here, it's a different
46 story. You got so many different kinds of people that,
47 you know, they have no sense that these are wild animals,
48 that these are not pets. And that resulted in, you know,
49 some mortalities of humans. I've seen those muskox in
50 action, they'll flip a dog right up. You get as close

1 to the (indiscernible), your hair starts rising because
2 they use Port Clarence Spit, the LORAN station, as a
3 haven for security. Brown bear is on this side, muskox
4 on this side. Because their strip of land -- but we were
5 camping, right there, for subsistence spring hunts. And
6 those animals there, you can't really scare them. You
7 better get a wide track.

8
9 So, that's one of the things I think
10 that is, kind of missing. Community involvement. If you
11 see a problem there, they took care of it right away.
12 Not this, oh, we got a call Fish and Game to see if it's
13 legal or not. By the time I call them, oh, half my fish
14 rack is gone. You know, stuff like that. Some of our
15 people are regulation-minded or they want to do things
16 in a legal way. You know, like to a hunting license,
17 stuff like that. But our people, you know, they take
18 care of things. So, many of our things that we learned
19 from our ancestors is being, kind of mixed up with modern
20 technology and modern regulations. But I know where I
21 came from, I know what they stand for. And, and I still
22 practice it, whether I contact ADF&G, whether I contact
23 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Are you going to go come
24 and see me do it? I don't think so. You just have the
25 word from people within the the community. Oh, we don't
26 like it. We're going to report you or you, like my son
27 did. A couple years back, took a picture of a endangered
28 emperor goose. Some people scrolled through his
29 Facebook. U.S. Fish and Wildlife got a call from Texas.
30 Oh, I thought these were end -- so, better be careful
31 what you post online. That's what I told my son. Cost
32 him \$500. You know, for some, just, you know, chicken
33 feed. Others, you know that's many things, that's what
34 our young people really don't understand, too,
35 sometimes. They just go in and out, in and out, without
36 elders or community members telling them what is
37 required of them. Other than that, they have a
38 snowmachine, they have a means to get the animal, and
39 they know it's open. So, many of these things are trying
40 to be passed on to our young people, but most of them
41 are just too busy with their iPhones.

42
43 They get all the -- that's what I said
44 to myself when I was growing up. They, my parents tried
45 to tell me that the oogruk like to stay on clean, white
46 ice, free from land smell, free -- they want to smell
47 the wind, I mean, the sea breeze when -- I didn't believe
48 them. Why? I was going to high school, here. That other
49 part, you know, that I say that we're lacking. When they
50 don't teach you one thing, oh, you circumvent or go

1 around around that. So, there's, many things missing,
2 both on the Western society and in our society, that
3 half of us are implementing what we learned over the
4 past years, trying to pass on to our hunters, our young
5 people, while the younger generation, you know, they got
6 modern technology at their side. But many are very
7 excited, especially when fish come around, because they
8 have the hands-on experience. You got enough fish to --
9 for them to practice cutting the resource with the moose
10 or caribou or reindeer. You have to go out in the field
11 to butcher or to process it. But thank you very much.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Go
14 ahead, Gisela.

15

16 MS. CHAPA: Thank you for that. And I
17 just wanted to, also, give the Council a little bit more
18 real time information about other Council members
19 decisions. Again, the Seward Pen and the Northwest
20 Arctic RACs are the last Councils to meet for the winter
21 2026 season. The North Slope RAC met in February,
22 considered Wildlife Special Action 26-01 and -02. And,
23 in their discussions, they also were concerned about
24 predation and briefly discuss predator control. But,
25 because predator control is outside of the jurisdiction
26 of the Federal Subsistence Board, they decided not to
27 pursue it at the time. I think another option, though,
28 that the Council could potentially pursue is not
29 necessarily consider the Federal Subsistence Board to -
30 - not request the Federal Subsistence Board to consider
31 predator control, predator management, because it's
32 outside of the jurisdiction, but you could address the
33 agencies and perhaps, request to consider predator
34 management and, maybe see where that goes.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Gisela.
37 So, just kind of the overview that Elmer was kind of
38 giving, the elders that I knew and I'm, you know, say
39 I'm kind of old, some people say I'm old. I learned from
40 a lot of them, back in -- that were born in the 1918 and
41 1920 era. And their deal was, when a bear showed up,
42 that's competition. When you have women and children out
43 there gathering food, whether it's berries, greens or
44 whatever, they remove that bear, they followed that bear
45 until it was dead and gone. And so, there was a lot of
46 that management during a 600,000 reindeer running around
47 the Seward Peninsula with the Lohman Commercial
48 Brothers, and then it migrated into the herders. Now,
49 the herders aren't there anymore. They're not taking
50 those bears anymore. And it hasn't -- and with the

1 restrictions in hunting bears, it kind of taught the
2 hunter out there that we got to be careful if we're
3 going to take one of these, because Fish and Game -- we
4 might do something to violate the law. And so, I don't,
5 rather than pulling the trigger and shooting one, I'm
6 just going to avoid that. And that kind of mentality
7 became the thing in this, in the 70s and 80s, when the
8 bears were starting to come in there. Because in the
9 60s, there were hardly any bears. And I think that was
10 the result of reindeer herds, at the time. You know,
11 over several decades. So, excuse me.

12
13 Wolves. They had aerial hunts. My great
14 uncle, John (In Native), Sr., and his brother-in-law,
15 Floyd Wheeler, flew around in an airplane and took wolves
16 out in the 50s. So, there's nothing -- it's happened
17 here, already. It's nothing new. When a farmer has
18 chickens and a fox hits the henhouse, the fox gets dead
19 sooner or later. You know, you have to protect what your
20 human -- the human being is part of this whole nature
21 of things here, too, so. At one time, Elmer had asked
22 me, and we had a meeting, and it was about the bears
23 mounting up. Or maybe it wasn't you, maybe it was
24 somebody in an Advisory Committee meeting. Northern
25 Norton Sound Advisory Committee meeting, asked about the
26 bears. And I said, well, unfortunately, what's going to
27 happen, if we're not taking them, enough hunters are
28 targeting them, what's going to happen is people are
29 going to take that on, the law into their own hands and
30 start shooting them and leaving them lay. And that's
31 what happened. This was in the 90s now. And that's what
32 happened. And you hear about it all the time. Somebody
33 does something on those lines. So, rather than get
34 somebody in trouble and because it's illegal to shoot
35 and just leave a bear laying there, I think that
36 predation areas are essential. And I think we need that.
37 And, you know, the Fish and Game has a method of doing
38 this and, and it's under a great amount of control. I
39 hear that from Alex. It's not just -- we're not just
40 doing it to just do it half ways. We're going to do this
41 because we're serious at it and we want to make sure
42 it's successful. So, you know, looking at all that, I
43 don't -- I know that the -- we're to provide subsistence.
44 Right now, there's a problem providing that subsistence
45 of caribou for our people. And, and there's ways and
46 means of making sure that that takes place, whether we
47 say we agree with somebody, up there in 23 and 26A, I'm
48 inclined to agree that there needs to be that predation
49 control.
50

1 It's talking about muskox. My
2 interpretation of muskox, and I heard it from a Fish and
3 Game biologist here in Nome, is that they're pressured
4 to come into where people live, because that is where
5 the bears and the wolves don't want to come. So, when
6 you look at it that way, we wouldn't have muskox in our
7 backyards. And I'll give you three incidents of muskox
8 in recent years. I woke up to dogs barking in my
9 neighborhood in (In Native), at 2:00 in the morning, and
10 I get up and I look out the window and, across the
11 street, there's a bull muskox, young bull. And he's going
12 to do something, because I have a dog right there on
13 that corner of the house, and I have one over here. I'm
14 upstairs. I got to come all the way around. So, instantly
15 I didn't even think twice, I jumped in my slippers, down
16 the stairs, out the door, grabbed a piece of driftwood,
17 came around, the muskox was already trying to kill this
18 dog. So, me and the muskox got in a fight, and I beat
19 the hell out of it, to tell you the truth. And I'm sure
20 the guys down there, about three blocks away, could hear
21 me swearing at 2:00 in the morning, in my Hanes underwear
22 and my slippers. Well, that muskox got pinned up, I
23 pinned them up against the container van, and then his
24 out was charged after my other dog. And of course, I go
25 over there and I break the stick and another guy gets
26 involved there, and we chased the muskox off. Two weeks
27 later, I think it was, that same muskox that got taken
28 under the defense of life and property. But that was a
29 battle because, oh, she didn't -- this lady was incorrect
30 in how she did it. That was -- there, she was going to
31 get charged for shooting a muskox. Well, that got turned
32 over -- it got overturned, excuse me. So, that was a
33 done deal.

34
35 That's the second incident. Okay. And
36 the third incident was a trooper, out here, by the
37 airport, had a dog a lot up there and the muskox was in
38 the dog lot, doing something to the dogs. He got out and
39 got involved in there and he ended up losing his life
40 over it. Predators control is necessary. Those muskox
41 are in our midst and in our yards because there's too
42 much bear pressure, there's too much wolves out a little
43 farther out, I'm pretty sure, in these hills. And I'm
44 just speaking from experience. Now, on the Teller Road,
45 I went out there about ten miles out, one spring.
46 Probably about seven years ago. And I watched the bear
47 come all the way across the flats from, in the
48 springtime, come across the flats, across the tundra,
49 get in the willows there, at Ten Mile. And he was doing
50 something, then he came out. When he came out he had a

1 -- and there was some muskox just above me. This muskox
2 or this bear came out of the willows and started heading
3 out across the flats, he had a dead calf. He removed
4 that. I know how easy it is for them calves. I've
5 actually had one in my arms in the springtime, because
6 foxes and ravens were trying to kill it, and I removed
7 it from the area. It was by itself, brought it back to
8 the adults. But we have to do something. And,
9 unfortunately, because a couple of biologists did a
10 great thing for raising bears across the state, we have
11 bear problems all the way across the State of Alaska.
12 That was kind of an intentional deal. Now, we have to
13 do something to swing the pendulum the other way.

14
15 And Martin made a comment about
16 gallbladders. And we need to educate our hunters, our
17 young guys, to get out there, and women, to get out
18 there and take these bears. It's necessary, if they want
19 moose. It's necessary, if they want caribou and it's
20 necessary if they want the idea that our muskox moves
21 farther out of town, that's one way to look at it. I
22 understand that you can sell hides. Okay. Why not sell
23 gallbladders? I mean, it just encourages people to get
24 out there and pay for their, like I said, \$6.50 or 6.30
25 a gallon. You're talking about in the villages, it's,
26 like, \$10 a gallon. So, we want people to get out there.
27 So, a proposal like, such as what you're talking about,
28 Martin, makes sense to me because it gives encouragement
29 to people to get out there and actually do the work,
30 because it's not for -- it's not cheap. And so, predator
31 control, to me, is something that's necessary because
32 it's -- we've gone past the point of being able to do
33 it with just regular hunting. It's not working. There
34 was -- I don't know what the average is now, but it was
35 100 bears taken in all of Unit 22, per year. Is it still
36 at that level? It didn't change. It happened on 22. We
37 allowed a sport hunt on 22. Our elders at Native
38 Corporation got behind it and worked with it. It hasn't
39 changed anything. So, what is going to change? We have
40 to do it different. We can't do the same thing over and
41 over again expecting a different end result, you know.
42 Einstein said that was the definition of insanity. So,
43 I'll capitalize on that. We need to do something
44 different and intense management makes sense to me.

45
46 And, like you said, Alex talks about
47 where they would most likely do it at. It's not on the
48 Seward Peninsula, but we're going to benefit from it.
49 Our hunters are. We are here to provide opportunity and
50 if we have to have something like that going on and,

1 like the elders used to, I mean, they did not let them
2 live. They took them out because it was competition for
3 women and children to be out there. And it was a danger.
4 Muskox are a danger in town. I just gave you three
5 instances on what took place and it got to be a deadly
6 result on the last one. So, call me lucky or I don't
7 know. I got away with herding that goat out of my yard
8 with a stick. My dog, one of my dogs, did get injured
9 over it and actually survived, but we need to do
10 something different. We can't just keep doing the same
11 thing over and over again. So, that's why I gave you the
12 speech. Sorry. I think I'll end it there. Sara, have you
13 got anything else?

14

15 (No response)

16

17 Martin has something.

18

19 MR. AUKONGAK: You know, like the big
20 picture. I told you about the fire in Kenai, and it all
21 came up here. And then recently, a big typhoon in the
22 Bethel area. Guess what happened? They pushed those
23 bears more up here and they're in our backyard. And the
24 main diet for a bear is salmon. And we have a salmon
25 decline right now. What are they going to do? They're
26 going to adapt. They're going to want moose and caribou.
27 They need to eat. That's another thing, think about it.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Interesting. Thank
30 you, Martin. Salmon. Several years ago, in one of the
31 meetings we had, a good ten years ago here, I mentioned
32 salmon. I said, I had a dog in 2001 going into the river
33 there by Solomon, catching fish, salmon, and putting
34 them on the beach and I went, wolves are doing that.
35 They got to be. And I brought that up at the meeting
36 and, sure enough, the biologist got me out in the hall
37 and he says, you know, it's interesting you brought that
38 up, we did find -- we discovered that wolves are actually
39 feeding on salmon. So, there's another reason we don't
40 have salmon, guys, gals. The predators are getting the
41 salmon. It's not just bears, like you see on the TV or
42 they're sitting there at the falls and just eating,
43 getting fat and sassy. They're doing it here, too,
44 because the moose herds limited, there's no reindeer.
45 There's no caribou in our area. And muskox -- they
46 learned how to kill muskox they learned. I remember when
47 they learned how to kill adult moose. And we were telling
48 Fish and Game that and they argued that. But, finally,
49 they had the proof. Muskox, the same thing happened.
50 They learned how to kill muskox. They can take the young,

1 they can take the old. They're a problem. We need to
2 remove them somehow. So, we need to find ways for our
3 own hunters to be out there and be successful and not
4 go bankrupt trying to do predation control in their own
5 sense, when they're, under legal terms. Legal ways so.
6 The more we can encourage it, the better off we're going
7 to be, in the long run so. I just -- the salmon issue
8 is an interesting one. And they actually have videos of
9 wolves eating, you know, catching salmon and eating
10 them. But my dog taught me that one. I'd never even
11 thought about wolves eating fish so. Anyway, thanks for
12 that comment and brought that. Elmer.

13
14 MR. SEETOT: Just another thought. Don't
15 let our harsh words deter you from doing your job. You
16 guys are doing a good job. We're just putting out our
17 issues, you know, that that have been plaguing us or we
18 we've been seeing them for a long time. We do these
19 problem solvings within the communities when the problem
20 arises. Oh, what about regulatory agencies? Are they
21 going to hear about it? Maybe, if they don't like me,
22 maybe, if something happens, you'll hear something about
23 that. But I really didn't hear anything about the muskox
24 problem until the people notified me. So, that's some
25 of the things, you know, that we're aware of in the
26 communities, but not all is privy to, you know, this
27 information. Continue your hard work. But we come from
28 communities where these problems persist. What we
29 consider problems that persist in our community. So,
30 don't be deterred even though we come from harsh words
31 from the council members. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I think Elmer and I
34 are pretty passionate.

35
36 MR. SEETOT: My words kinds.

37
38 (Simultaneous speech)

39
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Martin.

41
42 MR. SEETOT: My words are kind. And.....

43
44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And he's the
45 politician.

46
47 UNIDENTIFIED: They're epic that way.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All right, so, there
50 we go.

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MR. HANSEN: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, Alex. Go ahead.

MR. HANSEN: I've got a sign up to get back to the Kotzebue meeting. If you have any other questions, I guess. Put them through Sara.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, yeah, that's no problem. I was just going to say we're, I think we're done with this. And you've heard enough. You got other business.

MR. HANSEN: Very good. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And thank you for your time.

MR. HANSEN: All right. Bye.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sara, do have you anything else?

MS. HENSLEE: Through the Chair, this is Sara, again. I don't think so. I guess I just want to summarize and acknowledge everything that you guys say. I really appreciate it. And in talking about the bag limit reductions. I know this isn't an easy time to be a hunter in Alaska and especially subsistence. So, I do appreciate these conversations. But, just to kind of conclude the caribou/predator conversation and the proposals that I've heard, as it stands. So, the bear baiting in Unit 22, I've heard the gallbladder conversation. I can work on that, absolutely. And then, I guess, just to summarize where we're at with this whole IM proposal, if there's interest in the intensive management submitting that or hoping that NWARAC will take that up today, I guess I don't know what they'll do. So, whether the RAC wants to defer to what they do, today or tomorrow, or if the RAC wants to submit something today would be helpful for me to know. And yes, Gisela.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I thank you, sir. Gisela's got something.

MS. CHAPA: Yeah. And again, I wanted to remind the Council that this is a potential action item.

1 If the Council chooses to submit the proposals that Sara
2 just summarized, you would need to act on it through
3 motion, a vote. And also a reminder to the Council that
4 you can also choose to take action and send a letter to
5 the federal agencies that could, potentially, consider
6 predator control on federal land. And just from looking
7 at the map in Unit 26A, that would be 26 -- sorry, 26A
8 and also 23, BLM in the yellow, Park Service in the
9 purple, in Unit 23. And I believe there's also Fish and
10 Wildlife Service land, in the pink, in Unit 23.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That was something I
13 was going to bring up, but I forgot. There's federal
14 lands that we're talking about right now. What Alex just
15 gave us, you know, in the areas that they would
16 potentially target, so. I think it'd be something that's
17 necessary. I hope that Northwest does something. We --
18 do we have something ready to go in case they don't and
19 put it to the Board of Game? I would like to hear -- go
20 ahead, Kelsi.

21
22 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
23 is Kelsi. I -- we can make a motion contingent on if
24 Northwest Arctic does something, for submitting
25 something for -- to direct the Board of Game to implement
26 or the Department to implement an IM. If Northwest Arctic
27 doesn't do something, then we could be the ones to put
28 it forward. But I think, again, considering all the --
29 all of it would be done in 23 and 26, it would be more
30 meaningful coming from them, and we can submit a letter
31 of support. And, on their proposal, there's a section
32 where you have to have, like, organizational support.
33 We could let them know that they can put our Council on
34 there, but yeah, if they don't, maybe we could do a
35 motion to say, if the Northwest Arctic doesn't, then we
36 can.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thanks for that,
39 Kelsi. I've been informed there's somebody on there, I
40 don't see those very well. So, there's a, there's George
41 online. George.

42
43 MR. YASKA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 This is George Yaska, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
45 Thank you. I can't speak from personal experience on
46 this issue, but I also, as a member of a regulatory
47 agency. Personally, I grew up in Huslia, just east of
48 your location and have a very strong internal tribal
49 member program to take wolves and to take bears. And
50 it's been in effect for many years. So, as a result, we

1 rarely see a grizzly bear and have knocked down the wolf
2 population down to that 20% level. And, if there were
3 100% of wolves, then now it's at around 20%. It's highly
4 controlled. And so, from the council member's comments
5 earlier that from Nome out to Mile Ten, that you saw ten
6 grizzlies, is an extraordinary amount of a grizzly
7 population in the Seward Peninsula. And that's just what
8 you see. So, that's a very high grizzly population, I
9 would suspect. And so, I just wanted to relay that
10 personal information. And that is my interpretation.

11
12 I also come from a background of
13 intensive management professionally, as a former
14 employee of Tanana Chiefs way back, for many years, for
15 two decades, I sat on the National Research Council and
16 we developed the State of Alaska's predator/prey policy.
17 And we developed this framework for you to go ahead with
18 an aerial program or an intensive program, or a
19 suggestion of a tribal management program. You would
20 need to know how many bears you have, how many distinct
21 wolf populations you have, and what type of habitat you
22 have. If you remove a certain amount of grizzlies and a
23 certain amount of wolves, the habitat adequate to
24 support the caribou population or the moose population,
25 what would it have an effect? So, there's a couple things
26 there. You need to know how many grizzlies there are in
27 the country and how many wolves there are in the country.
28 We do know -- we do have some of that information. The
29 Department of Fish and Game, I think Alex may have
30 mentioned that they are beginning the wolf collaring
31 program, up there in 23 and 26. And so, starting to
32 gather that information. And so, I just wanted to relay
33 that, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, thank you for
36 that, Mr. Yaska. Now that I know who the George is. We
37 served on the 1994 Fisheries Task Force in Kodiak
38 together, when Tony Knowles got elected.

39
40 MR. AUKONGAK: George of the tundra.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: George of the tundra.
43 Okay, George.

44
45 MR. YASKA: Yeah, that's right. Thank
46 you, Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. And thank you
49 for your comments, George, I really appreciate you coming
50 in here and speaking on -- at this meeting. Thanks.

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MR. YASKA: Going to get back up to the Kotzebue meeting. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Kelsi.

MS. IVANOFF: In talking about brown bears, I know with IMs might take some time, but an immediate one we could do that wouldn't -- maybe not encourage, but help our people control the bear population, is the bear baiting issue. Submitting a proposal to the Board of Game to allow bear baiting in Unit 22.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know the Council has had a very lengthy discussion about several issues, and I wanted to make sure that, perhaps, if it would be beneficial, to kind of go through each of the items that the Council has discussed and determine whether the Council would like to pursue a specific Board of Game proposal or a specific letter to be submitted. So, if that will be helpful, I'll try to summarize, kind of like what the actions I heard in the discussion and go through each of those as potential action items.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, thank you. And looking at the time right now, it's about three minutes after 11. I say, let's take a break till 11:15.

MS. CHAPA: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I think people need a little.....

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. We're back on and I think we're going to be looking at Board of Game potential proposals. And you have a list of those -- from the discussion we've been having here for the last ten hours. Kidding. So, go ahead, Gisela, and we'll take one at a time and see where we go with it, where we end up. Thanks.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I think Sara summarized them for us, but -- and I want to

1 make sure that these are still proposals that the Council
2 wants to submit. The first proposal that was discussed
3 was bear baiting in Unit 22 to, hopefully, address some
4 of the predation issues that can impact the Western
5 Arctic Caribou Herd. And, just wanted to confirm that
6 this is a proposal that the Council would like to submit.
7 And if you can please summarize, like, kind of like what
8 the intent of the proposal might be and some other
9 specifics that might need to include in the -- might
10 need to be included in the proposal.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, like, we
13 have the intent and then we'd want justification. I'm
14 going to center on the residential herd that we do have,
15 and we know it's here, and they're calving here, they're
16 not calving up on the North Slope. And also, it's heavily
17 hunted by our local hunters from the area so. I'm sorry.
18 Go ahead. Kelsi, go ahead.

19
20 MS. IVANOFF: I think we also need to
21 include the predation on moose. And then, given our
22 declining salmon runs, bears are also finding
23 alternative sources of food.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Great. That's great.
26 Put that in there. So, the justification is about, the
27 caribou herd that we are targeting now is not -- it's a
28 residential herd. They're calving on our grounds here.
29 We're talking -- we should be talking about bears. That's
30 what we're talking about, excuse me. That's not -- the
31 bear issue is bears are feeding on calves in the
32 springtime, right? That's, I think that's how Alex was
33 talking. Okay. Thank you, Sara. So, the justification,
34 along with that point there, that bears are targeting,
35 in the springtime, they're targeting the calves. The
36 other one is, we're asking our hunters to not shoot cows
37 and only bulls. Bulls only. The moose has suffered from
38 bear predation and our diminished, almost extirpated
39 salmon runs. Bears are targeting them too so, it's like,
40 there's 4 -- 4 or 5 points there for justification to,
41 at least, put it out there, if somebody wants to do it.
42 Anybody got -- Kelsi, did you, were you going to say
43 something?

44
45 MS. IVANOFF: Did we not want to do it
46 from the Council?

47
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We could do it from
49 the Council. That's what we're talking about. But
50 we're.....

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MR. MOSES: This is Robert. I got a comment on the bear baiting.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

MR. MOSES: Since Kelsi talked about bear baiting, you know, we live in Western Alaska. And there's our landfills, there's our dump and bears, they could smell miles. And I think about bear baiting, we should make a, like the bear baiting, make it five miles out of town or something, you know. At least five-mile radius from town. So, they won't get used to smelling the -- because I know some (indiscernible) go by smell. That's how they get their food and they could smell a dump from miles. White Mountain has had problems with their dump before with bears. People have gone there and try to bring their trash to a dump, but they couldn't go in there because there's bears. Like, for the bear baiting, the dump is for, you know, a bear bait. But this is in the village boundaries. But there should be a boundary for bear baiting in our Western Alaska villages. So, it could help protect our residents and our life and property, you know, so, they won't come so close. And another question was for Sara, they know how many wolves are in Norton Sound Seward Peninsula? And I've got something to add about them wolves there. They know every inch of their territory. When they come around here, above Golovin, we won't hear them in our seasonal tracks until a week and a half or two weeks, because they're making their rounds, going up to Monument Mountain, going across, towards Deer Mountain, American River by Brevig and coming down to Bendeleben and Kougarok Roads. We've seen tracks of packs coming from Kougarok Road going over to Council through Bendeleben. And they make their rounds right there and just wanted to know how much wolves -- if Fish and Game knows how much wolves are in our area. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Robert, thank you for your comments and your questions. They're good. So, Sara might have an answer for you on the wolf count. Sara.

MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, through the Chair. This is Sara with Fish and Game, the Area Manager. As far as the wolves, so I don't know, Robert, if you were here when Alex Hansen was speaking and he -- the project that we are planning to begin in the next couple of weeks is to address that exact question that you have,

1 is, how many moose -- how many wolves are kind of on the
2 Seward Peninsula. Specifically, he's looking at the
3 Buckland and Deering area. It's what we call Unit 23
4 southwest. Given the fact that that's where the Western
5 Arctic Caribou Herd has been overwintering the last
6 several years, in that general area. So, he is getting
7 at that question, with the intent that we will be able
8 to tell the Board of Game, next January, like, this is
9 our understanding of the density and how many wolves
10 there are in the area. So, that's for the Unit 23 area.
11 As far as Unit 22, we don't necessarily do any sort of
12 wolf population survey per se. We do follow trends in
13 wolf ceiling records. So, whenever somebody harvests a
14 wolf within 30 days of the close of the season or 30
15 days of kill, depending on if they have a hunting or
16 trapping license, they bring in the wolf to the sealer.
17 We put a tag on it. We get that information. So, that
18 kind of gives us a proxy for like an index to what the
19 wolf population is doing.

20
21 And additionally, we are out -- a lot
22 of the springtime, we are out in the field. We're looking
23 at moose habitat surveys. We're doing moose abundance
24 surveys. And during those surveys, we look for and record
25 times that we see wolves. And that being said, I think,
26 in all the years that I've been here, going on, I guess,
27 eight, which isn't a very long time but since the Western
28 Arctic Herd stopped coming onto the Seward Peninsula, I
29 have not really seen wolves in any sort of numbers.
30 Especially in the Western Unit 22, there's not very many
31 trees. Tracking is a little bit easier. I do not see
32 very many wolves. I think I -- we've reported one wolf
33 kill on a collared moose. And that is pretty much the
34 only time I can think of a wolf actually predating on
35 our collared moose, or muskox for that matter.
36 Additionally, like that being said, we do rely on like
37 hunter reports of wolf populations and, in the eastern
38 parts of Unit 22, where there's a lot of trees, tracking
39 is a lot more difficult, we may not necessarily see
40 wolves that are in the trees, older tracks. So, there
41 could be more. But generally, we accept that the wolf
42 population is limited right now because there aren't
43 that very many caribou. But when the Western Arctic Herd
44 does come onto the Seward Peninsula in numbers, we,
45 absolutely, expect to see more greater numbers of
46 wolves. So, hopefully that answers your question.

47
48 And then, I just really wanted to
49 quickly address the bear baiting comment you had about
50 staying out of residential areas. And I wanted to mention

1 that with this proposal, we -- with bear baiting, we do
2 have regulations. It's page 26 of the state regs, if
3 anybody wants to look at it. And it says, you may not
4 set up a bait station within one mile of any sort of
5 house, school business, campground, permanent dwelling.
6 That's folks cabins, fish camp, and setting up a bait
7 station within a quarter mile of any sort of publicly
8 maintained road. So, there are parameters on where you
9 can set a bait station. And, additionally, Fish and Game
10 may prohibit additional areas, which we would defer to,
11 you know, the RAC, the AC, the members of the public,
12 if they said, like within five miles of Golovin, for
13 example, we can set boundaries on that. But, yeah, if
14 that is something that you're concerned about,
15 absolutely provide comment and intent in the proposal
16 and we can address those things. So, hopefully I answered
17 your questions and Alicia has maybe one more comment.

18
19 MS. CARSON: Just for the record, Alicia
20 Carson. The additional comment I would like to say is,
21 also with bear baiting, there is a required online course
22 through the ADF&G website. And then, typically, the way
23 bait sites work is they are registered with the State
24 of Alaska, so we know the locations and we know when
25 people are there, as well as, they're legally required
26 to be marked.

27
28 MR. MOSES: Okay, I understand now. And
29 another comment about wolves for Fish and Game. Wolves
30 make their dens on a high mountain ridge. We found we
31 could see where there's wolf dens in Fish River mountain
32 ranges. They make their dens high up, where they could
33 see the whole basin. We noticed that, me and my son,
34 been looking up. Because we're going to plan to hunt
35 wolves later on, and we're just trying to find out where
36 they go and stuff. But we see dens where they're high
37 up on the ridge where they could see the whole basin. I
38 know they do that so they could see and they don't need
39 to waste energy. And they could see the animals that go
40 in the lower parts. They could see the whole field. And,
41 like, moose or muskox or caribou, and they go in there,
42 then they start to go hunt. That's just so the Fish and
43 Game, when -- maybe, when they do their spring moose
44 count or something, they could check for dens on ridges
45 because they make their dens where they could see the
46 whole valley or whole basin. There's one den in Paragon,
47 way up on the mountain. That one, you could see the
48 whole valley, through Fish River, looking south. And
49 there's more by Death Valley side, (In Native), by
50 Battleship, across from White Mountain, (In Native).

1 Those are what we know for now. But just to give Fish
2 and Game some advice to check on ridges and stuff, if
3 they want to do the wolf count or whenever they do that.
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
7 Robert. So, you ladies were nodding your heads in
8 agreement, I guess. Okay. Anything.....

9
10 (Simultaneous speech)

11
12 MR. AUKONGAK: About time you agree on
13 something.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We're on the same
16 page. Okay. So, is there anything else? Okay, so we're
17 talking about some justifications of -- we're talking
18 about bear baiting and being able to sell gallbladder.
19 The other one is IM predator control areas.

20
21 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Yeah. Yes, we will
22 get to that, but I want to make sure -- it's a lot of
23 information, I want to make sure that the record is
24 clear about what the Council wants to submit as Board
25 of Game proposals. So, at this moment, we are discussing
26 a proposal to allow bear baiting in Unit 22. And I wanted
27 to follow up and ask if the Council want to set
28 additional boundaries to bear baiting stations related
29 to Council Member Moses's comment. In addition to what's
30 already in the regs.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Excuse me for pushing
33 your panic buttons. I was just thinking out loud. I put
34 my notes down here. Anyway, so bear baiting. Any council
35 members?

36
37 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

40
41 MR. KIRK: Yeah. I like the idea of what
42 Moses had said. Robert -- This is Ron Kirk from Stebbins.
43 The bear baiting should be not close to the villages.
44 It should be quite a ways away from the villages because
45 the bears tend to not only go to the landfill, they're
46 coming to the villages at night when everybody is asleep
47 and they walk along the shoreline so, that's a good idea
48 to have the bear baiting away from the, really, just
49 away from the landfill. And another concern I have is,
50 wolf population in our area and the remainder of 22B

1 from (In Native) to (In Native), we have reindeer on
2 this island. We have our, probably, almost 10,000
3 (indiscernible) reindeer on this island. And we do have
4 wolf population that affects our deer. Our herders go
5 out there in the morning and they catch wolves. We need
6 to know how many wolves we have in the remainder of 22B
7 from (In Native) to (In Native) or -- well, isn't (In
8 Native) or the (In Native).

9
10 Anyway, I (In Native) left that
11 remainder area. And we also have big problems in this
12 area from (In Native) all the way to (In Native). The
13 problem that I see is there are various seasons open,
14 we can take two bears a year. The problem with that is,
15 once a young man takes a bear and butcher it like Elmer
16 stated earlier, he's going to take a snapshot of it and
17 put it on Facebook. And once Fish and Game sees that
18 snapshot on Facebook, they're going to go to that
19 individual and ask them, how come they didn't harvest
20 the meat? Back in our days, when I was young, like Elmer,
21 we were all young. You were young. But back in our days,
22 my dad was a bear hunter. I ate bear. Fried or boiled
23 in a soup. Nowadays, young kids, they're not going to
24 eat bear, they'd rather go to the local store and have
25 pizza. But that's another problem we have on predators
26 on this side of the island, from (In Native) to (In
27 Native). Our predators are getting more and more, and
28 we've seen wolves within our community this winter. So,
29 we need to know how many wolves we have in the remainder
30 of 22B from (In Native) to (In Native). Thank you, Mr.
31 Chair.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron.
34 There's two ways to take bear. One of them is
35 subsistence, and that's where you remove everything and
36 bring it in with you. You're subjected to harvesting for
37 food. The other one is the sport hunt, where you can
38 just remove the hide the skull and leave -- excuse me?
39 Yeah, and the claws, everything comes off. And that's,
40 then the rest of the carcass is left out in the field.
41 That's sport hunting law or rules. So, there's, two of
42 those different things. And in fact, in Nome, there was
43 a problem where people weren't subsisting in 22C, they
44 were allowed a bear every year, but nobody was doing it.
45 So, the elders got together and they worked with Fish
46 and Game. And there was a sport hunt. I think it was
47 increased, even. So, for the take, but asking Sara, did
48 it make a difference? Still 100 bears a year on the
49 average for all of 22. So it's helped, but it, maybe,
50 changed the place where the people were hunting at, so.

00049

1 Those are the two things that I would let you know there,
2 Ron, so you understood the difference between the
3 subsistence bear and the bear. Okay. Anybody?

4
5 MR. KIRK: I do understand, Mr. Chair.
6 I'm aware of that.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. All right.
9 Thank you. Martin.

10
11 MR. AUKONGAK: Two quick comments. You
12 know, with the online, is there a way you could simplify
13 and put it like on a -- you guys print all kinds of
14 books. Could you put one on paper? Because a lot of
15 people don't know the online password. I mean, I don't
16 know anything online. And the other one is, you guys
17 like comments, so. And, you know, in the community, we,
18 we are the EMS, we are the first responder to people,
19 like, in Golovin, you know. The Iron Dog, back in 2013,
20 me and another guy saved two people in the water, brought
21 them to our village, and we fed them our food. And a
22 month and a half ago, same thing happened. They were
23 stuck between Golovin and (In Native). Brought them
24 back. We gave them our food, the moose and everything.
25 So, we still got to look at the bigger picture. And
26 there's comments in the Nome Nugget, if you want to read
27 it.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Martin.
30 Kelsi and then Elmer.

31
32 MS. IVANOFF: On the topic of setting
33 boundaries. Since we are -- sounds like we are going to
34 move to put this proposal forward just curious what our
35 mileage from any city limits or facilities it should be.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you for
38 that. And I was -- I'm of the mind that -- just to follow
39 up on that, I'm of the mind of the more distance, the
40 better. And the one thing that I was thinking of, because
41 I experienced how bears are with their noses, is that
42 farther out of town, the better, maybe that'll track
43 them out there and not so much the dump. But, going back
44 to experience. I had a son, ten years old, had some
45 halibut heads and buried them outside our house where
46 there was some tundra. And after freeze up, mama bear
47 walked right up the street, walked up on my porch, went
48 back down and went over there and dug those heads up.
49 And they were frozen in the ground, so. It was a little
50 perturbed by it. But he was trying to get the bugs to

1 clean the skulls up for him. But that's how good their
2 noses are, so. If we have bear baiting and we find a way
3 to get -- and have it, the Board of game passes it, and
4 I think a ways away from the community is good. Elmer.

5
6 MR. SEETOT: I like to mirror our
7 members. Kirk's comment about the wash -- animals being
8 washed up on shore. We had a bear that was walking around
9 late at night, maybe only within two miles. Our dump is
10 about two-three miles from our -- at least two miles
11 from Brevig. But then we do have frequent storms. We're
12 on the northern shore of Port Clarence. And we do have
13 number of carcasses, marine mammal carcasses that do
14 wash up. Seals that sank, walrus that were shot in early
15 spring and that sank but made it into our bay throughout
16 the summer. The other thing is that when they talk about
17 predator control or predators, all they think about is
18 just the hide. Hide, skull, claws. What's forgotten
19 about the brown bear harvest, I guess, like that was
20 echoed was -- it's not being used for meat sources
21 anymore. Remember when they made a big hula hula hoo
22 about muskox. Another meat source. No one really went
23 after it. I was pretty much the first one that harvested
24 muskox under NPS. So, it -- I distributed all the meat.
25 You -- in some instances, you had to lie about the nature
26 of what you're cooking. That's what some elders were
27 telling me, saying that they were cooking moose for their
28 children, after they got done. Thanks for eating the
29 muskox, you know, stuff like that. So, this is a new
30 source, you know, that's been available for a number of
31 years but got extinct or got moved out. But that's one
32 thing that I say, when they're going bear hunting, hardly
33 anyone takes out meat for eating. So, that's kind of
34 mirroring our -- Member Kirk's comment. Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. I
37 recall my grandmother feeding me in the 70s bear meat.
38 I've eaten it over periods of -- during my lifetime. So,
39 I'm not against eating. I'm not. Yeah. It's a -- it's,
40 kind of like a cultural thing, I guess. People that
41 aren't used to it, don't do it. People that are around
42 it all the time, do it, so. Anyway, Martin.

43
44 MR. AUKONGAK: I'm not going off subject
45 too much, you know. I'll say this very boldly and loudly.
46 We, right here, this Board, is our Congress for our
47 food. We know, we learn from our parents, we know
48 everything about our food around the area, where we're
49 from. And saying that, you know, are you guys ready for
50 the 100 man camp of this port? I would like both of you

1 to orientation with Kiewit and Bryce and tell them, the
2 people that are coming here, you cannot go out there and
3 take what, you know, because they're going to be a non-
4 resident from Arizona or wherever. So, I hope, you know,
5 sometime soon, you guys do that with them.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Thank you,
8 Martin. A question we need to answer is Ron's question
9 about, or Robert was talking five miles from city limits
10 for bear baiting. Is -- are -- is everybody on that same
11 page? We need to decide. The state has a minimum of what
12 is it, a mile? Okay, so what are we going to say in our
13 proposal? I'm fine with five miles. Elmer.

14
15 MR. SEETOT: Yeah. They talk about limits
16 within -- from the community, but Mother Nature do have
17 other tricks up her sleeve. Like, you know, like
18 depositing washed up carcass right in front of the
19 village. We do have a number of carcasses that do wash
20 up from Brevig to Newt to Teller because Port Clarence
21 Bay is one where they pretty much hunt seals mostly
22 during the fall time for spotted oogruk, bearded, young
23 and old. So, that's something that -- we can say one
24 thing, but Mother Nature has other things up her sleeve
25 to remind us we're living in the real world. We like
26 things to be away from us. But where things now -- he
27 way things are going now, you know, it's where it is
28 what it is. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Thank you,
31 Elmer. You know, that brings to mind, most villages have
32 a loader or an excavator or something that they could
33 use. That would be -- if there was somebody in the
34 village that was interested in bear baiting, that would
35 be a perfect bait to go after, if you wanted to, if you
36 didn't care about the smell. But just removing is, you
37 know, potentially up to the community. I know that when
38 we built the bypass road, a loader operator grabbed a
39 walrus off the beach and threw it in my brother's truck.
40 It was a big joke. And it's buried somewhere, out there,
41 in front of the hospital, somewhere. So, it's actually
42 -- it was removed off the beach and put away. So, it's,
43 you know, a little bit of humor there, but it can be
44 done in the communities that have that.

45
46 And I don't have a problem with a five-
47 mile limit. I think that's adequate. When you look at
48 what goes on the North slope, when they kill a whale,
49 it's really close. There's bears all over town and it's
50 kind of -- I guess, they're happy, they're not going to

1 go after a human being or anything. But the potential
2 of having wildlife in the communities is -- it's
3 something we just live with. I've seen coyotes in
4 Kirkland, Washington running down the street, early
5 hours of the morning, you know, and you know what they're
6 looking for, cats or dogs. They're there. And we see
7 moose in Anchorage. We see moose in Nome. That's just
8 the way it is. There's nothing, like Elmer said, it's
9 just how it is. So, I'm good with five-mile. Is -- that's
10 one thing we're working on. What else do we need to do?

11
12 MR. AUKONGAK: We need a motion.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. How are we
15 wording it?

16
17 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Well, I don't
18 know. Maybe Kelsi already has language. Do you want to
19 go ahead? Okay.

20
21 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I move to
22 direct staff to submit a proposal to the Board of Game
23 on behalf of this Council to allow bear baiting in Unit
24 22, with the limit of five miles from any city limits.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Got a second?

27
28 MR. KIRK: Second.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Second. You can't
31 vote, Alicia. Just kidding. Okay. There's a second by
32 Ron. So, we're in discussion. Alicia.

33
34 MS. CARSON: For the record, Alicia
35 Carson, I would just maybe make a note that you want it
36 to be legal to take brown bears at a bait site.

37
38 MS. IVANOFF: Okay.

39
40 MS. CARSON: Because there are two
41 different kind of sets of regulations in the state, and
42 there are locations where brown bears are not legal for
43 bait sites, and there are locations where it is legal
44 at a bait site to take a brown bear. So, I would maybe
45 make that distinction in what you guys are putting
46 forward for a proposal.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that.
49 And are we legal? What we're talking about now with the
50 five mile? Okay. So, Kelsi was working on it, so.

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MS. IVANOFF: Yeah, to amend it to say to be legal to take brown bears from the -- where are they called? Bear bait stations.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Martin. Discussion.

MR. AUKONGAK: Let's say lynx is out of season and it goes in there. What applies? What?

MS. CARSON: For the record, Alicia Carson. So, for bait sites, you still have to follow your season limits and bag limits that -- according to species. And so, if lynx was legal during that season with a rifle and you were -- and you had your hunting license and everything, then you would be able to take it. If it was out of season and you didn't have everything lined up, then you wouldn't be able to take that lynx. You're talking about a brown bear bait site. Yeah. So, it's like dog food and donuts and pizza and your leftover brown bear.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. We're okay on that. So, species bag limits apply in this -- outside the bears, all right. At this bait sites, even, so. Okay. Puddles. Okay. Kelsi, were you -- you want to....?

MS. IVANOFF: Justify?

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. Do the whole thing. So, we're on -- we keep getting in the middle of your comments. So, we're going to let you say -- we're going to let you have the floor so, we can get it completely there so everybody knows what it is. Thank you.

MS. IVANOFF: All right. This is Kelsi. Based on the conservation concern for the local caribou herd, we believe taking of brown bears will help with this and the calving grounds. It'll be beneficial to our subsistence users given that brown bears do predate on moose, caribou and the -- given the declining salmon runs, bears are starting to go after alternative food sources.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thanks. So, that's caribou calves, bear -- moose calves and muskox calves. In the justification, okay. And it's a residential herd on the Seward Peninsula that we're talking about. Correct? Okay. Anybody? We had -- questions been called.

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1 All those in favor of introducing this proposal to the
2 Board of Game for brown bear bait, five-mile limit with
3 justification, say aye.

4
5 MS. IVANOFF: Aye.

6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All those -- same
10 side against.

11
12 (No response)

13
14 Hearing none, the motion passes. So,
15 we're working on that thing and -- for bear baiting. We
16 have a lunch request. We're at six past noon. Come back
17 here by 1.

18
19 MR. AUKONGAK: 15.

20
21 MS. CHAPA: Okay. MS. CHAPA: If I can
22 just.

23
24 CHAIRPERON GREEN: He thinks he's a
25 ventriloquist, but did he sound like me when he sent his
26 voice?

27
28 MS. CHAPA: And, Mr. Chair, if I may just
29 summarize, kind of like, what's still ahead. So, we've
30 addressed -- or the Council has addressed, pardon me,
31 one Board of Game proposal to allow bear baiting in Unit
32 22, with the specifications as discussed. Then, the
33 Council also spoke about submitting a Board of Game
34 proposal allowing the sale of bear gallbladder in Unit
35 22 and also, an intensive management proposal, as well.
36 The potential of developing and submitting letters to
37 federal agency heads regarding predator control on
38 federal land to help the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
39 The Council also has to -- another action item that was
40 moved to today's meeting is potential action on the Park
41 Service Proposed Rule. And after that, we have agency
42 reports from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And
43 I'm looking at, yes, aha. And, potentially, from the
44 Bureau of Land Management. We also have UAF study on
45 hunting ammunition and the Office of Subsistence
46 Management.

47
48 Yeah. And then I'm just letting you know
49 everything that is still on the table for the rest of
50 today. And then, lastly, Other Business, which it'll be

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1 just me providing updates and that can be very brief.
2 But just wanted to make everybody aware of what's still
3 pending ahead. Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, thank you for
6 that, Gisela. So, 1:15. It's almost.....

7
8 (Simultaneous speech)

9
10 MR. AUKONGAK: 1:20 now.
11 (Indiscernible).

12
13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It'll kind of migrate
14 to that, I'm sure. It's eight after.

15
16 (Off record)

17
18 (On record)

19
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. We're calling
21 the meeting back to order again and we're into Board of
22 Game proposals. Gisela.

23
24 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Mr. Chair, thank you.
25 So, the next on the list of potential Board of Game
26 proposals for the Council to submit is a proposal to
27 approve the sale and/or barter of bear gallbladder in
28 Unit 22. And again, that is a potential action item. If
29 the Council wants to go ahead and submit that proposal
30 as a Council, it will require action.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, we're
33 looking for -- I guess we could look for a motion and a
34 second and then go into discussion. Make a motion.
35 Microphone.

36
37 MR. AUKONGAK: Make a motion. For the
38 gallbladder, so. I'd say so, only I don't think anybody
39 would barter with.....

40
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Just because we
42 should add -- and make sure the avenue is there because
43 barter is on the books. It's forever. So, let's go sale
44 and barter. And you're good with that? Maybe go with the
45 motion, Martin. Second. Is there a second out there?

46
47 MS. IVANOFF: Second.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi, seconds.
50 Okay, we're in discussion. Who wants to comment?

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MR. AUKONGAK: I think it'll help out the economy. You know, for the state and for the local people.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Anybody else? Council members online, on the phone?

MR. MOSES: No, but I had a question. Did Fish and Game like Norton Sound residents know that they could -- not purchase. Get two bears when it's hunting time for that season?

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sara, can you answer that?

MS. HENSLEE: Yes, through the Chair. This is Sara Henslee, the Area Biologist. Yeah. There are two bear per year bag limits in Units 22A -- for residents, Unit 22A, B, D Delta, and E Echo. So pretty much everywhere except the Nome area you can harvest two bears per regulatory year under the resident bag limit. And then I guess the context I'll provide, just because we're talking about the sale of brown bear parts right now, you can sell the hide and skull of a brown bear with the hide, the claws need to be attached like Kelsi mentioned earlier. You can get -- when you're getting your bear sealed, you just need to get a permit from the department, and you can sell the skull or the hide with a permit. And I guess I'm only mentioning that because I wonder if that's where the gallbladder -- like if we were to proceed with that, if like that would be the permit to use. It is only an option for those two bear per year bag limits. So, you would not be able to sell the hide or skull or perhaps the gallbladder in one bear per year bag limit area. So that would be the Nome area only 22C, for Unit 22.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you, Sara. Is there any reason why it's not allowed in 22 or what's the justification? 22C, excuse me.

MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Mr. Chair, it's just the -- right now, the permit is for the two bear per bag limit. I guess nothing is stopping someone from submitting a proposal to allow the sale of brown bear hides and skulls in a one bear bag limit area that would include 22C.

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you.
2 Martin.

3
4 MR. AUKONGAK: Didn't the federal side
5 put for three and then state may follow along later?
6

7 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. No, I don't
8 believe that the -- I know that during the fall, the
9 Council had discussed increasing the bag limit to three
10 bears as a result of one of the wildlife proposals that
11 was on the table at the time. But the Council did not
12 submit a -- I mean, it was out of out of cycle. Exactly.
13 So, if the Council would like to submit a wildlife
14 proposal to increase the bag limit to three bears in
15 Unit 22, on the federal side, it would have to wait
16 until the next cycle, which I believe will open in 2027.
17 If the Council would like to submit a proposal within
18 the wildlife cycle, it would be at our winter 2027
19 meeting.
20

21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi, go ahead.
22 Thank you, Martin.
23

24 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I just
25 wanted to also bring up, there are predator control
26 permits that bears do get taken under. I know not for
27 our area, but that is an avenue. And those predator
28 control permits do not go against the bag limit or do
29 not go for the bag limit.
30

31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that.
32 I didn't know that. Elmer, are you good?
33

34 MR. SEETOT: Since you forced me to
35 comment. Elmer Seetot, Brevig. Are all these meetings
36 I've been going to, either through the state or through
37 the federal side, all we do is pretty much kind of talk
38 about what we're going to do. I never really see any
39 action taking place, especially for the sale of
40 handicrafts from some of these furbearers that are being
41 restricted by ADF&G. In the past, most of these were put
42 to use. I'm not really too sure other than brown bear,
43 maybe rug or something. But our aim at -- when I was
44 growing up was providing meat for the family, providing
45 meat for the community that was the main reason they got
46 brown bears in our area. Now it's not really for sport,
47 but it was something that our elders, our parents had
48 to do in order to survive. Thank you.
49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, Elmer. Thank
2 you. One of my thoughts about allowing the sale of bear
3 parts or bartering bear parts is the fact that it costs
4 money to go hunting. And I look at that as an
5 encouragement for hunters to be able to go out there and
6 knowing that they're going to be able to recover some
7 of the money that they go out there when they take a
8 bear. They're going to sell the hide, the skull, why not
9 the gallbladder? I know some of that stuff takes place.
10 I've heard about it. So why not just legalize it? You
11 know, then you don't have anybody criminalizing
12 themselves. It's just another -- but it's another
13 opportunity to have money on the table to pay for that
14 \$6-10 a gallon gas. And our younger guys out there and
15 gals that want to go out there and hunt, more power to
16 them. So that's my thought behind it. That justifies it
17 in my mind that it's a good thing to do. Anybody? Kelsi.

18
19 MS. IVANOFF: In the regulations it could
20 be added under -- so, it says you may not buy or sell
21 any part of a brown or grizzly bear except, and then it
22 has article of handicraft taken in brown bear control
23 areas and then brown bear hides with claws attached in
24 skulls. We could put it forward that we want gallbladder
25 to be included in those exceptions.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: That sound like a
28 place to fit it, Sara? Yeah, okay. Sounds appropriate.
29 Bear parts, whatever. Ron, you had anything to add or
30 ask?

31
32 MR. KRIK: No.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. We're just in
35 discussion. We already have the motion on the table. So,
36 Robert, how about you? Got anything to add or ask?

37
38 MR. MOSES: No, thank you.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. The Council --
41 so there's a motion and a second to the idea of the sale
42 of gallbladder or barter with the gallbladder being
43 added to the already regulation in there about selling
44 skulls and hides with claws and other parts, I suppose.
45 So, all those in favor of the motion, say aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: With that it's
50 unanimous. I don't even have to ask for the -- I can

1 hear everybody. So that one -- that motion, that has
2 passed. So, we're on to the next one. Thank you. Gisela.

3
4 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And the
5 other potential proposal that Council discussed was to
6 establish or implement an intensive management plan for
7 the benefit of the WACH. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Anybody
10 want to comment or ask questions to Sara on that?

11
12 MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair, if I may
13 follow up.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

16
17 MS. CHAPA: Sorry. I know that that is
18 very broad, but my need to specify the game management
19 units for that might be implemented. And yeah, the
20 justification on the record so that we can write the
21 proposal.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, so we already
24 heard from Alex Hansen about IM and the areas that they
25 would potentially target that made the most sense, and
26 that was Unit 23 and Unit 26A. I only made the comment
27 about -- is it important enough to include 22 because
28 of the fact that we have a residential herd and we just
29 trimmed everybody down. We want everybody to shoot four
30 male deer -- caribou and no females to protect the future
31 of the herd. Is that something we can think about, or
32 do we just go on what we already have? The residential
33 herd calves on the Seward Peninsula. That's why I brought
34 it up. Anybody have any comments or concerns or likes
35 or dislikes to that? Go ahead, Kelsi.

36
37 MS. IVANOFF: I think it'd be useful to
38 include 22 especially if they -- if this does bring them
39 back down into 22, the Western Arctic Herd in the future.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you. I
42 was going off of what Alex said that they might move
43 that area. You know, they might being able to move it
44 if we just put that on the books that it's open to do
45 that, we're okay with it. Is that something we might
46 think of? Like kind of like what you said. Anybody
47 on the line, on the phone, Robert or Ron. Any comments on
48 that?

49
50

1 MR. MOSES: I've got a comment about
2 caribou in our area. A few years ago, one of my friends
3 from Elim, he went hunting and they knew there was that
4 big herd back there. He told me that herd was 400 strong,
5 3 to 400 strong when they seen it. They were by Monument
6 Mountain. There was a lot of wolves and wolverine tracks
7 by that herd. They even seen wolf kills. I mean, not
8 wolf kills, caribou kills. But they could see from miles
9 that herd tracks. You know, the way they go on the snow
10 where they travel. They said they went from northeast
11 of -- facing north northeast of Monument Mountain,
12 followed that ridge and headed kind of easterly below
13 Deering and went over that way. The herd went that way.
14 It went up to Monument Mountain and he turned around
15 there. Even seeing the Deering Mining Trail, you know,
16 that way. That's how far he went. But he missed it. That
17 was last year in that caribou herd one up. He said it
18 was 300 strong, but I don't know where they all
19 disappeared on below Deering or Deer Mountain or
20 American River above Brevig. And they come back around
21 towards Kougarok, Bunker Hill and the (indiscernible)
22 and those ones by Paragon, and they come to this side.
23 They used to go through Death Valley, but since there
24 was cabins on the north facing east side, the caribou
25 don't hardly go in there anymore. But I don't know what
26 that population is now, but that's how big I -- that's
27 how I heard how big it was then or last year. Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for your
30 comments, Robert. Ron.

31
32 MR. KIRK: No comment.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron.
35 Somebody over here on the table. Martin, go ahead.

36
37 MR. AUKONGAK: Hey, Robert. Was it you
38 that told me a year ago when you went out caribou and
39 you saw a trail from heavy equipment, and if so that,
40 you know, was going into the Death Valley area or
41 wherever, how often do the state check on that mining
42 and keep them in code where they don't have a runoff for
43 our food?

44
45 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Through the Chair. I
46 would have to defer to DNR for that. I'm not very
47 familiar, but it's a good question. I'll look into it.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thanks for the
50 question, Martin. And thank you, Sara, for your

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1 response. So, we're at a -- we need to take a vote.
2 Right?

3
4 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, there's no
5 motion.....

6
7 (Simultaneous speech)

8
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: No motion, yeah.

10
11 MS. CHAPA:on the table yet,
12 and.....

13
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Excuse me, that's
15 what I meant.

16
17 MS. CHAPA:I also wanted to bring
18 up a couple of the comments that Council members, Kirk
19 and Moses brought up about the location of wolves around
20 their communities. I'm not sure if that's necessarily
21 relevant to this proposal, but I believe they mentioned
22 that they considered it necessary to know where the
23 wolves around their communities were. Again, I'm not
24 entirely sure if this is totally related to this
25 potential Board of Game proposal, but they brought up
26 and wanted to also share for your information.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you. So,
29 on this -- oh, my goodness. I need a motion if we're
30 going to take action on it. So how do you word it?
31 Intensive management. And we're talking about the areas
32 that -- you said be specific, right? Or -- well, that's
33 what we were told by Alex. And then we're thinking about
34 adding the 22 up north here. I guess that's D. To be
35 specific, that would be up in D Unit or something. That's
36 where -- the deer are up there between Bendeleben and
37 the (In Native) mountains. Well, go ahead. You got a
38 question.

39
40 MS. IVANOFF: Gisela also brought up
41 their comments on what Ron brought up about them being
42 in town in their areas. The wolves being in town in
43 their areas. So, is it beneficial to include all of 22
44 if it's also a problem down there?

45
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And we're talking
47 bear and wolves in this proposal. So, we could. I mean
48 what about the Council or what? What's the feelings here?
49 We're still in the -- we haven't made a motion so we're
50 just discussing it, trying to figure it out. My attitude

1 is at least you're saying all of 22. So that leaves it
2 up to the state if they want to use it somewhere in 22.
3 The options there. Because right now there's -- it's --
4 we already know it's not going to happen there. But he
5 said they do move it around a little bit. Go ahead,
6 Sara, please. Thank you.

7
8 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Through the Chair.
9 This is Sara. I just want to clarify. I know Alex had
10 mentioned most of this is going to begin in 20 -- Units
11 23 and 26 because that's where the caribou have been.
12 But there is always the chance -- I mean, ten years ago
13 there was the Western Arctic Herd throughout the Seward
14 Peninsula area into the western unit. So, I guess if I
15 could just make that one recommendation is to leave the
16 door open for that possibility again. And, you know, he
17 might plan to go in 23 southwest and right when they go
18 to start this intensive management, they might move into
19 -- I mean, they used to be in the Nulato Hills. They
20 used to be as far as the Kuskokwim. So, I just like with
21 the scope, I think Alex was just making sure that we
22 covered enough area to give him and us as the department
23 the flexibility to enact this where the Western Arctic
24 Herd is and ends up. So yeah.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So would we need to
27 specify all of Unit 22 and just include that in there
28 so if it's needed, it's an option already the way it's
29 been cleared? Kelsi.

30
31 MS. IVANOFF: It would also allow for
32 more like research opportunity, right? If we did include
33 Unit 22, that would direct the department to -- okay.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, so I need a
36 motion a second. And if we need further discussion before
37 we take the vote, where's the -- who's going to make the
38 motion? Kelsi.

39
40 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I move to
41 direct staff to submit a proposal on behalf of this
42 Council to direct the Board of Game to implement an
43 intensive management plan in Units 22, 23 and 26A.

44
45 MR. MOSES: Second by Robert.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Robert.
48 Thank you, Kelsi. Open for any more discussion before
49 we take a vote.

50

1 (No response)

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Hearing none. Question. All those in favor of with the inclusion of 22. That's how you said it. Okay. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sounds unanimous. Motion passes. Thank you. Thank you to the staff.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I may proceed. I just wanted to bring up another potential Board of Game proposal that I don't think that the Council discussed but based on your recommendations of wildlife special action 26-01 with the modification to have zero cow harvest, I wondered if the Council would like to submit a proposal to the Board of Game in line with your recommendations of no cow harvest in Units 22, 23 and southwest -- the southwest portion of 26A.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sounds like we ought to submit that and back what we just did. And then that way there's no worry about housekeeping. It's all one. Everybody's the same. Any other -- we could have a motion a second go into discussion. We have a motion?

MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I move to direct staff to submit a proposal on behalf of this Council to reduce the bag limit for caribou to four bulls, no cows, in Units 22, 23 and the southwest portion of 26A.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a second?

MR. KIRK: This is Ron. Second.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron. First and a second. Any discussion? Elmer. Okay. Ron or Robert? I just want to make sure nobody else wants to talk before you get -- no, I'm kidding. The -- let her read the motion again.

MS. IVANOFF: The motion is to decrease the bag limit from 15 caribou to 4 bulls. No cows. And for the record, for justification, with the decline of the herd we believe what we control -- human, you know, the human factor should be taken into consideration and the fact that there are 4,000 hunter killed cows last year is why we believe there should be no cows included

1 in this limit.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
4 Mission. I got a little mixed up on the question so far.
5 Has the Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish Wildlife
6 have contacted a predator association, wolf and bear
7 predator association to say there's no females to be
8 killed during this period imposed by the humans? I doubt
9 I -- get me at 100%. I doubt if they will ever follow
10 that, only bulls. They can after the rut. When the
11 animals lose their antler and then when they get a little
12 growth on their antlers, the elders tell me that that's
13 when the bulls, their meat gets sweet after September,
14 October, November. Month of rutting. So that's the bulls
15 I would kind of go for. It's either in late summer,
16 early fall before they rut, but they're not in our area
17 at this time. There might be other hybrids, you know,
18 like reindeer mixed caribou, caribou mixed reindeer. But
19 you -- I think that that would -- for me, I would have
20 to restrict my hunt for summer or late or start of
21 spring, like right now. So, it won't be followed. I'm
22 not too sure who the enforcement agency out there, but
23 it will still happen. Regardless of what we put out
24 there. I think it would be more aimed at the younger
25 generation hunter because that's what they've been
26 getting pretty much all these years. Good fat meat. I'm
27 not too sure if anyone has relayed to him that bulls
28 with nubs, new nubs that their meat is starting to
29 improve after the rut. But that was just my concern or
30 comment on that because, what can you say? Oh, you can't
31 get this. They still will get it regardless. And then,
32 when you mention that to hunters, who's going to check?
33 Who's going to enforce it? So that's one of the problems
34 I think that elders or committee members are leaders in
35 the community kind of face which direction do we take
36 after this ruling or regulations from these agencies.
37 Because during the early years we, the people, our elders
38 didn't have much trust in Alaska Department of Fish and
39 Game because they were just kind of biased against the
40 Natives in one way or another. But that's my comment.
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you Elmer. I
44 had a question for you, Sara, on the WACH Group. What
45 was it -- they did they propose anything?

46

47 MS. HENSLEE: Mr. Chair, this is Sara.
48 Yes. They recommended four caribou per year, one of which
49 can be a cow. They wanted to retain the cow potential.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, so was there
2 any other -- see Kotzebue's meeting right now. We don't
3 even know what they're going to say. What about North
4 Slope?

5
6 MS. HENSLEE: Mr. Chair, I'm not sure. I
7 think they did retain -- I shouldn't even speak to it.
8 I -- the one thing I will say, there's going to be a
9 suite of Board of Game proposals related to this, and
10 my only recommendation is to submit what this RAC feels
11 is best. And the Board is just going to have to hash all
12 of that out with the biological information. So yeah, I
13 would say do what you feel is best and they're going to
14 -- there's going to be tons of proposals about bag limits
15 for this range.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. And there's a
18 lot of, probably sport hunter interests in there too.
19 And that's what I'm -- what were you going to ask or
20 mention? Sorry, Gisela.

21
22 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was
23 just going to share what the North Slope RAC recommended,
24 but for wildlife special actions on federal lands. So
25 not necessarily Board of Game because they decided not
26 to submit Board of Game proposals with the expectation
27 that the North Slope Fish and Game Management Committee
28 could submit those proposals. But I do not have an answer
29 whether or not they submitted proposals.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you for
32 that, Gisela. So, I'll go back again. Our charge --
33 what's our charge? Subsistence. To provide for our folks
34 on our federal lands. I think that taking the cows off
35 of there -- we don't have any coming down to 22. And if
36 we do, I would not want anybody to be taking females.
37 You're not going to get this rebound, instant rebound.
38 And we need all the cows that we can have. It's you know
39 you hear the salmon issue. Every salmon counts. Well,
40 every cow counts, whether it's moose or muskox or caribou
41 or reindeer. So, I'm okay with that, but it's where we
42 talk about this intensive management. I guess you have
43 something to add there, Kelsi.

44
45 MS. IVANOFF: I just wanted to add if you
46 were wondering what North Slope might do just
47 historically based on the last Board of Game meeting, I
48 doubt they're going to put in any proposal to reduce the
49 bag limit on caribou. This will likely come from Kotzebue
50 area and our area, if anything. And then just on cows,

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1 again, education is going to be huge on that. And holding
2 each other accountable as leaders in our communities.
3 Making sure our young people know what they're hunting
4 and holding each other to the standard that we're trying
5 to conserve our caribou here and make sure our future
6 generations have it.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi.
9 Martin.

10

11 MR. AUKONGAK: I know you brought up the
12 Kotzebue being right now. Is there a way, Chapa, that
13 we could meet with Kotzebue sometime? Then we could all
14 blend. And, you know, I mean, it ain't only about the
15 caribou and everything else. You know, they got the Red
16 Dog Mine with the Graphite go through, we could see what
17 they got and you know, what's working for them and what's
18 not working. I mean, I kind of know, but it'd be --
19 might learn more.

20

21 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. We have a
24 motion on the table. Go ahead.

25

26 MS. CHAPA: Oh, just wanted to address
27 Martin's comment. I will see if the Northwest Arctic RAC
28 is available and are willing to have a joint Council
29 meeting. And I'm also going to check on process to see
30 how to make that happen and I'll follow up. I don't want
31 to interrupt the motion that's on the floor and get back
32 with you. Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I just made sure
35 everybody was still aware of it because sometimes we
36 forget these things. Thank you for your information.
37 You're fine. I'm not scolding anybody.

38

39 MS. IVANOFF: Just on Martin's note we
40 did talk about it being -- this proposal being contingent
41 on what Northwest Arctic was going to do.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, we left the
44 door open there and we didn't.....

45

46 MS. IVANOFF: Do we want to -- I can
47 rescind this motion. So that we can wait until if -- or
48 amend it and make it dependent on if the Northwest Arctic
49 submits or wants to submit one in conjunction with us or.
50 But they were in support of one cow, though, so that's.....

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. You're done for the moment. Yeah. Okay. Martin.

MR. AUKONGAK: The four without the cow, you know, we let them know why. Maybe they'll change and be like here.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh. Sara, go ahead.

MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Through the Chair. You want just justification for no cow harvest, so. Yeah. And one of the things that's going to come up with all of these proposals is Fish and Game, our responsibility is to speak to what's sustainable, right. And I mentioned yesterday at the beginning of the meeting that at this time, Alex and I, as the managers, we do not see any harvestable surplus of cows at this time. A lot of you might have received those postcards in the mail. I'm trying to look for them, and I don't see -- one of the things that we saw with that was one cow makes, 40? 50. So, the reproductive potential of one cow, right? So, if you guys, I really recommend taking a look at these postcards we got them in the mail, I think throughout the range of the Western Arctic Herd. And one of the bullets is stopping the harvest of cows is the single best thing we can do to help the herd. Taking a single cow means also removing 50 caribou she and her offspring could have added to the herd in her lifetime. So yeah, every cow, you're taking away 50 potential calves into that population. Multiply that by 4,000 and you've got a pretty substantial hit to what could have been right. So, I really wanted to just bring that up and underscore like how important cows are to the population. And yeah, I think the single best thing we can do for this population right now is to just ratchet back cow harvest even before the Board of Game or Federal Subsistence Board adopts this proposal and telling everyone that you can. Alicia and I manage this entire area. It's the size of West Virginia. There's only two of us. Getting the word out is incredibly difficult. We visit these villages once -- all the communities in Unit 22 once or twice a year, if that. And yeah. So, we're looking for help spreading the story. 50 caribou per cow. Every time someone takes a cow and 200,000, multiply it. Yep. So that's what could have been. So, I just want you guys to kind of think about that as we're looking at this proposal. And then I guess sidebar, I'm going to step out really quick. I have to go get my kiddo, but I'm going to try to tune in or come back depending on what's

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1 going on. So, thank you guys.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Sara.

4

5 (Talking)

6

7 You know, I'm not bashful with this, you
8 know, offering this to the Board of Game. We're looking
9 at it. We already did that with our federal lands. We're
10 pushing for that. It's up to the science, I guess. And
11 you heard Sara say it about what's going on and what the
12 Board of Game decides to do or the Federal Subsistence
13 Board decides to do. So, we can just say this is our ask
14 here. So, I'm not going to be bashful about voting for
15 it. It just mirrors what we did with the federal thing.
16 Right?

17

18 MS. IVANOFF: I was just going to say we
19 can submit this, but instead of making it contingent
20 upon whether Northwest Arctic Borough wants to submit
21 it, we can invite them to sign on to it if they want to.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah.

24

25 MS. IVANOFF: They were going to submit
26 this whether they want to or not. But if you would like
27 to help us strengthen it, then you are welcome to submit
28 it alongside us.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi.
31 Martin.

32

33 MR. AUKONGAK: How soon can we let them
34 know -- they're having our meeting right now. Let them
35 know what we decide. Can Sara call Luke?

36

37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Could do it right
38 away.

39

40 MR. AUKONGAK: There you go.

41

42 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 I am communicating with one of the coordinators that is
44 assisting with the Northwest Arctic RAC. And I asked
45 about the possibility of a joint meeting to discuss the
46 issue because the WACH is a resource that is shared
47 across these two units and you want to have that
48 communication exchange of information between the two
49 Councils. And we've shared that the Council is
50 interested in submitting this proposal with the changing

1 the bag limit to four bulls with no cows. And with the
2 understanding that you are concerned about the
3 implications that this proposal may have on residents
4 of Unit 23. I do not know where they are in their agenda
5 to see if they are already addressing the wildlife
6 special actions or Board of Game proposals. But I can
7 try to get that information from my counterparts with
8 the other Council as well.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you. So,
11 what we just listened to over here with the staff from
12 Fish and Game. Fish and Game says 4,000 cows were taken
13 times 50 calves per cow, multiplied comes out to 200,000
14 offspring, and that's ADF&G science. So, knowing that
15 cows are the pretty much more important than males were,
16 I think we're not going the wrong way. I think making
17 it four males and no cows is a smart thing. It's tough,
18 but it's a good thing. Excuse me? Right. It's per person,
19 per season. Alicia, ADF&G.

20
21 MS. CARSON: Through the Chair. For the
22 record, Alicia Carson. The other thing that I'm going
23 to mention that is a hard pill to swallow, but you guys
24 can always make Unit 22 regulations more restrictive on
25 yourself than the entire range of the herd. Nobody wants
26 to do that because you see your neighbor, will they get
27 something right? You can make a statement and make it
28 just for Unit 22 that you want that regulation for. It's
29 really hard pill to swallow, but it's possible if you
30 guys want that action.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And that was Dr. PhD
33 Alicia. Okay. Anything to add Kelsi, or Elmer? Okay.
34 Elmer.

35
36 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, Brevig. Most of the
37 issues that they talk about, maybe they're talking about
38 20 years ago. 20 years later, things have really changed.
39 On the ecosystem, on the people. It's not like 20 years
40 ago, like I say, orderly, everything went smoothly
41 without too many concerns from the outside, from outside
42 issues. Wanton waste, predator control, climate change.
43 It seems like they're still talking like 30 -- 20-30
44 years ago. Everything is ideal. What I've been trying
45 to get them to do is to put these issues at the present
46 time. Look at our conditions. How long will the food
47 last for the caribou? How long will the weather be? Will
48 it be like this for next years? Or is it good for the
49 animals? Is it good for the plants? It's good for this
50 and that. But that should be brought into consideration,

1 weather changes, climate changes. We do have a lot of
2 extreme weather over the years. With extreme weather, I
3 think it would kind of concern mostly the fish stocks
4 because most of our extreme weather comes in the fall.
5 And that's pretty much when the small fry or eggs or
6 something are at risk of being -- highwater damaging the
7 eggs, highwater displacing the fry or things in the
8 river. In Imuruk Basin alone, the salmon, the red salmon,
9 sockeye salmon, go to Salmon Lake. They have to go
10 through a gauntlet of beaver dams. Some of them are not
11 really beaver dams, I would say for other fish species
12 that have to go through the gauntlet of beaver dams
13 because I really haven't seen anything crossing Pilgrim
14 River or Kuzitrin River. At this time most of the lodges
15 are on the side of the banks. The other thing is the
16 northern pike. That basin, mouth of Kuzitrin River that
17 whole to merge that wetlands basin, that one is full of
18 pike. That's pretty much a hotspot for some of these
19 predatory fish that do come in and around those places.
20 So, a lot of things have changed. I would like them to
21 say we need to solve these issues not 20 years ago, but
22 the way conditions are right now. Erosion, water quality
23 a lot of erosion just too much human impact on the
24 ecosystem that natural resources thrive on. Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
27 Sara gave us a out there, if we don't want to impose our
28 -- whatever we want to do on our area, because here's
29 another thing, here's another justification for what
30 we're talking about with no cows. The Seward Peninsula
31 Herd, it doesn't go anywhere and people are targeting a
32 herd. And we probably shouldn't be allowing -- if it's
33 2000 or 3000 head, I don't know what the count is now.
34 I know that the got collars on, 25? maybe Alicia can
35 answer it but would protect and help our herd build up
36 by our hunters, not targeting cows. And so, Alicia, thank
37 you.

38
39 MS. CARSON: For the record, Alicia
40 Carson through the Chair. So currently those collars are
41 NPS collars. And there's, I believe there's 25 of them.
42 They do not have a number on the animals that are out
43 there, nor do we.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, both
46 managements -- sorry. Oh. Jeanette. Sorry.

47
48 MS. KOELSCH: Jeanette Koelsch.
49 Superintendent Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.
50 Through the Chair, I think I'm not sure -- Letty came

1 back yet from another meeting. I don't think she's on.
2 But we do have 25 collars. We worked with Alex Hansen
3 of ADF&G. Had those collars put on last April. So, we
4 are looking at just one year of having those collars on,
5 and they are working on some overflights to look at that
6 population pending weather this spring. I don't know
7 when. I don't know when, but I -- Letty's working on it.
8 She did let me know she had to leave for another meeting
9 really quickly. I don't know when she'll come back on,
10 though.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you.

13
14 MS. CARSON: For the record, Alicia
15 Carson. Tony does still fly for Fish and Game. Primarily
16 our moose and muskox surveys, but he does fly up to the
17 Western Arctic Herd for the photo census in the
18 summertime.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,
21 Alicia, for that. And thank you, Jeanette, for letting
22 us know what you know. Kelsi.

23
24 MS. IVANOFF: I do like Alicia's
25 suggestion of kind of setting an example and sending a
26 message that we are limiting ourselves and hoping that
27 other regions follow suit. We're doing, I mean, it'll
28 show that we're doing our job to conserve and make sure
29 our future generations have access to this herd. I do
30 want to bring up that there are a lot of different
31 regulations for caribou for Unit 22, including the non-
32 resident ones. And I don't know if we want to do a
33 sweeping four caribou, no cows, across 22 and possibly
34 eliminate a nonresident or what that would look like for
35 all of these.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, I appreciate
38 you bringing that to the table because if we're targeting
39 a residential herd, everybody knows it. And you know,
40 I'm going to give Tommy Gray stuff here. We know it's a
41 residential herd. We know that non-residents are
42 targeting it because it's in the books. She just alluded
43 to that. We know that our hunters and -- are targeting
44 this herd. So how can we protect it and help it? And the
45 only thing I can see is right now there's two things.
46 And thank you for bringing that up, Kelsi. Non-resident
47 hunters. This is a limited stock here. It's not something
48 that's just going to keep coming back from carving up
49 north. These guys are -- and gals are breeding on the
50 Seward Peninsula, and they're not leaving. They're just

1 like a reindeer herd. So, you know, it's like shooting
2 fish in a barrel. So, I do have a -- my thoughts are we
3 should protect the herd for residential use. It's a
4 residential herd. No cows. And maybe we should be looking
5 at non-resident hunters. Just bringing that up. Thank
6 you. Adding to it.

7

8 MR. AUKONGAK: Hey.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Martin.

11

12 MR. AUKONGAK: The whole reason why we
13 need to meet with DNR, see whoever's back there mining,
14 you know what if they're getting 10-20 caribou a day,
15 we don't even know it.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi, go ahead.
18 Thank you, Martin.

19

20 MS. IVANOFF: I have a question for
21 Alicia. What the number is on non-resident versus
22 resident in 22?

23

24 MS. CARSON: For the record, Alicia
25 Carson, through the Chair. So, I just pulled this number
26 up because I saw you guys going down this road. So, from
27 2025, non-resident harvest that we had in Unit 22 was
28 56 bulls. And their non-resident bag limit is 1 bull.
29 As well as that's the same for in Unit 23. And when Alex
30 has spoke to that before in the past he has -- it's
31 averaged 300 animals. And again, those are always --
32 that's bulls. And I -- the justification on that
33 historically has been that the bull-to-cow ratio is
34 above our management objective and the small number of
35 animals that are being harvested by non-residents hasn't
36 had a management implication.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: But you're talking
39 about the whole Western Arctic Caribou Herd, are you
40 not?

41

42 MS. CARSON: The 300 number that I gave
43 you was representative of non-resident harvest in Unit
44 23. The number that I gave of 56 is representative of
45 non-resident harvest in Unit 22.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. So, 22 and we
48 don't know. Let's just say there's 2000 animals. What's
49 the percentage there of take? 56. We don't -- in fact
50 they don't know the number. But we've talked about it.

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1 I've heard the number thrown around between 2000, 3000.
2 Oh. Oops. Are you okay? We just want you to feel that
3 we noticed you. Okay. Kelsi.

4
5 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you. This is Kelsi.
6 I was also wondering on the bulls that non-residents are
7 taking. I know the concern from the Kotzebue area was
8 that they are taking the big breeders up and want to
9 know what the department stance is on that.

10
11 MS. CARSON: For the record, Alicia
12 Carson. Unfortunately, I don't have a good answer for
13 you on that, and I would leave that to Alex. I could
14 definitely ask that question to him and get back to you
15 with an answer.

16
17 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you.

18
19 MS. CARSON: A quarter of a percent.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. We've gone down
22 the rabbit hole. So, what we're going to do here?

23
24 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Yes, I was going
25 to point out your procedure. So, the Council submitted
26 a motion and seconded the motion to submit a Board of
27 Game proposal, reducing the bag limit to 4 bulls, no
28 cows in Units 22, 23 and southwest portion of 26A. And
29 in the discussion, I hear that perhaps the Council wants
30 to amend the motion and not necessarily submit the Board
31 of Game proposal as stated in the original motion. So,
32 if that is the case, we'll have to go through a
33 subsidiary motion to amend our original motion. Or --
34 okay, go ahead. Okay.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What's that?

37
38 MS. CHAPA: On the.....

39
40 MR. AUKONGAK: We keep it like Kotzebue
41 (indiscernible).

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What do you think
46 maker of the motion?

47
48 MS. CHAPA: And if I also may follow up.
49 In the discussion just recently, you also spoke about
50 limiting the non-resident harvest as well. So that could

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1 -- in 22. So that be a separate proposal. Yeah.

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(Pause)

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(Pause)

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And as a reminder, the Council has a motion and a second at the table to submit a border proposal to reduce the bag limit to four bulls, no cows in Units 22, 23 and southwest portion of 26A and if the Council wants to proceed with that motion we will just need a vote.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: If we keep it the way it is, it's 26A southwest, 23, 22 and limiting the harvest to no cows, four bulls only. So, we're asking the other areas to go along with us to support the herd. Go ahead, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: And I also have information off the press. I was just informed that the Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Commission is submitting a proposal. A Board of Game proposal, just as the Council recommended. What you're talking about. Yes. For 22, 23 and 26A southwest.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay.

MS. IVANOFF: If they're submitting one, I think we should -- or we could sign on to theirs. Not say submit it. You know, there's that part that says submitted by, but it says, have you asked or do you have the support of other groups or organizations? We could let them know that they can include the Seward Peninsula.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. That's with the cow though, right?

MS. IVANOFF: No. It's exactly the same. Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Same thing. No cows.

MS. CHAPA: Yeah. No cows. But I do not know that we can do that because at Kobuk Valley SRC has already met and voted to submit the proposal as is. I think the Council can just -- I mean, you can just vote on it and as Sara mentioned earlier, that there are going to be plenty of proposals to address the issue, I think.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. I think we just vote this -- vote on this. And if we all agree and we submit it, submit it as is, it's just another proposal on the books. And if it matches somebody else -- Huh? Yeah. It'll be two for the same thing.

MR. AUKONGAK: Question.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Question's been called all those in favor of submitting the Board of Game proposal, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: One more, on the record.

UNIDENTIFIED: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And that's unanimous. So, motion passes. Kelsi, I think you have another one to bring up. Board of Game. Excuse me?

(Pause)

Excuse me. I'm okay with the no cow deal we just passed. Non-resident hunters. There's guided hunts going on.....

MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN:on this herd. And this herd is not -- it's a residential herd and it's not -- there's no science to back -- there's no science to -- excuse me. Go ahead.

MS. IVANOFF: So, would the motion be to remove the non-resident hunts in Unit 22 only, right?

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yes.

MS. IVANOFF: Okay. No, she's a resident of Alaska. It's not -- we're talking state, not federal.

(Talking)

Okay. So, I moved to direct staff to submit a proposal to the Board of Game on this Council's behalf to eliminate all non-resident caribou hunts in

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1 Unit 22.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, there's the
4 motion. I need a second. Martin, on the record.

5

6 MR. AUKONGAK: Second.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We have a first and
9 a second. Any discussion on this, Ron?

10

11 MR. KIRK: Question.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: He's calling the
14 question. Go ahead, Kelsi.

15

16 MS. IVANOFF: I think we should provide
17 justification for this. Just based on the fact that
18 there's no real science yet on this resident herd, and
19 we are limiting our own people who live here. We should
20 also be limiting the non-resident hunts.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I agree. That's my
23 take on it. We need to protect the Seward Peninsula
24 herd, is a residential herd. So, we've already done the
25 four cow -- or no cows. I don't have a problem with non-
26 resident state non-resident. So, we have a motion and a
27 second. Somebody called for the question. All those in
28 favor of the motion, say aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I think that's -- is
33 that unanimous? Council agrees. So, motion passes. Board
34 of Game 22 Unit and non-resident.

35

36 MS. CHAPA: Okay. And now following up
37 again on the discussion about predator control. The
38 Council had discussed the potential to submit letters
39 to the federal agency heads for BLM, NPS and Fish and
40 Wildlife Service to consider doing predator control on
41 federal lands because of the status of the Western Arctic
42 Caribou Herd or at least ask for guidance to see how
43 that may be -- that may need to happen if they would
44 allow it. Yeah. So, it's a potential action item if the
45 Council wants to submit these letters.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi.

48

49 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
50 is Kelsi. I do believe we should submit a letter, given

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1 the amount of federal land that is in these units. And
2 given how the 25,000 predation on cows from this -- from
3 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. I believe we need to
4 be covering as much ground as we can as far as predator
5 control.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You going to make
8 that motion?

9

10 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah. I can.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You'll cover it all
13 then and justification.

14

15 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah. I moved to direct
16 staff to submit a letter on behalf of this Council to
17 federal agencies to allow predator control on their
18 lands or to work with the state on doing so.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 MS. CHAPA: Perhaps that can be part of
23 the discussion if you want to include that as well.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I need a second. You
26 made the motion. I need a second. Then we can discuss

27

28 MR. SEETOT: Second. Elmer.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. So,
31 discussion. I just kind of mentioned the protection of
32 -- justification also further protects the -- excuse me.
33 It protects the -- it potentially could protect the
34 Seward Peninsula Herd. But maybe we don't need to add
35 that in there. Okay, well, we can add that in there
36 then.

37

38 MS. IVANOFF: I think the more
39 justification, the better.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, you're the
42 maker of the motion.

43

44 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah. That along with the
45 current population of the -- yeah, what I said before
46 the Western Arctic Herd.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any more discussion
49 on this motion? Ron? He already called. Robert.

50

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1 MR. MOSES: Nope. No discussion.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Okay. No
4 further discussion at this table here. We already done
5 -- took care of that, so let's go. All those in favor
6 of the motion, say aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And I'm also an aye.
11 So that's unanimous. Motion passes. Do we have another
12 one?

13

14 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. No other action
15 items related to Board of Game proposals or predator
16 control. But I did want to follow up that in regard to
17 Council Member Aukongak request to meet jointly with the
18 Northwest Arctic RAC. The Council would just need to
19 vote to submit a letter to our director and request
20 approval for a joint meeting. Because both Councils will
21 consider Board of Game proposals that are relevant in
22 the region. You could consider the fall 26 meeting as a
23 potential joint meeting. If Northwest Arctic is
24 agreeable to a joint meeting, we will know down the
25 line.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Do we have a -- it's
28 not an all RACs meeting. It's just a Federal Subsistence
29 Board with all Chairs. So, Okay. Kelsi, go ahead.

30

31 MS. IVANOFF: I know Eastern and Western
32 Interior RACs meet together. I say we propose meeting
33 with the Northwest Arctic RAC. Having it overlapping
34 just a day, and then we can, you know, having our own
35 separate day to meet.

36

37 MS. CHAPA: And if it is an action item
38 then I will need a motion, a second and a vote.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Kelsi.

41

42 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I moved to
43 propose a joint meeting between the Seward Peninsula RAC
44 and the Northwest Arctic RAC in the fall.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a second?

47

48 MR. AUKONGAK: Second.

49

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Second by Martin. Any
2 more discussion?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 Hearing none. The vote. All those in
7 favor of the motion say aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And aye, makes it
12 unanimous. Heard two on the phone. Okay. Do we have
13 another one? Okay. Now we got to do the proposed rules.

14
15 MR. AUKONGAK: Take a break.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Take a break here for
18 ten minutes. Okay. Till 2:50.

19
20 MR. SEETOT: Ten minutes. Okay.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. 2:50. We'll be
23 back on 2:50. All right. Thank you.

24
25 (Off record)

26
27 (On record)

28
29 MS. CARSON: For the record, Alicia
30 Carson, I just wanted to share what Alex Hansen shared
31 with me about non-resident harvest as we were talking
32 about that. He stated that last year, in 2025, the non-
33 resident harvest for Western Arctic Herd and Teshekpuk
34 Lake in Unit 22, 23 and 26 was 250 bulls.

35
36 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Gisela.

39
40 MS. CHAPA: We do have one of our
41 presenters that needs to step away at 3:30. So, if it's
42 okay with the Council to proceed with his presentation
43 before moving on to the Park Service proposed rule. I
44 can let him know.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yep. We're ready for
47 him.

48
49 MS. CHAPA: Okay, perfect. And Todd
50 Brinkman, I'm going to share my screen. And the Council

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1 does have the one-page document. That looks like this,
2 which will also be used as a reference. Thanks.

3

4 MR. BRINKMAN: Okay. Can you hear me,
5 okay?

6

7 MS. CHAPA: Yes, we can hear you. If you
8 can speak up. Okay. Go ahead, go ahead.

9

10 MR. BRINKMAN: Oh. Okay. I will do that.
11 My name is Todd Brinkman. I'm a professor of Wildlife
12 Ecology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Thank you
13 very much for the opportunity to talk today. I know you
14 have a busy schedule, so I'll try to be quick.

15

16 We are in the early stages of statewide
17 research project that is a collaborative effort between
18 UAF and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Our
19 research will focus on collecting information on Alaska
20 residents' use and perceptions of different types of
21 ammunition for hunting. We are especially interested in
22 learning about hunter thoughts on the use of lead-free
23 ammunition. Studies like ours have been conducted in
24 many other states in the U.S. and in European countries
25 such as Norway and Sweden. No studies like this have
26 been conducted in Alaska. One of the reasons I'm here
27 today is it's very important to us that we get good
28 feedback and participation from rural Alaska. Next slide
29 please or scroll down.

30

31 Our research is a two-step process. The
32 first step is to talk with Alaska hunters like you by
33 facilitating focus group discussions. From the
34 information that we collect from these discussions, it
35 will inform a larger survey that will go out to hunters
36 all across Alaska. Next slide please. This research will
37 fill a knowledge gap. It will help us understand and
38 document perceptions and concerns related to the use of
39 different ammunition. We are given special attention to
40 perceptions of lead-free ammunition because of the
41 potential negative consequences of lead on the
42 environment and certain animal species. We consider this
43 as an exploratory study aimed to learn more about what
44 hunters think about this topic. Next slide please.

45

46 The anticipated benefits of this project
47 are the advancement of knowledge on the barriers that
48 hunters may experience when trying to get different
49 types of hunter ammunition and will help us learn if
50 there are opportunities for using alternative ammunition

1 types in our state. This research will also document
2 perceptions on the relationship between ammunition use
3 and environment and wildlife health, hunting practices
4 and the role that ammunition options plays in
5 participation by hunters, especially young hunters. Next
6 slide. For this research to be useful and relevant to
7 Alaska hunters, we need hunters to participate in our
8 study and share their thoughts. So, my request and what
9 we're currently doing is recruiting hunters to
10 participate in focus group discussions. These
11 discussions will be with 2 to 3 hunters at a time and
12 will last 1 to 2 hours. Participants will be reimbursed
13 \$100 for sharing their time, knowledge, and perceptions.
14 Across the entire state, we're planning on facilitating
15 discussions with around 50 to 70 hunters between now and
16 the middle of summer. And eventually, then all that
17 information will help us develop a survey that will go
18 out to thousands of Alaska hunters next year. And for
19 hunters that may be interested in participating or
20 members of the Council, I can certainly travel to Nome
21 or surrounding communities on the Seward Peninsula to
22 facilitate a couple of these meetings. We can also set
23 up online Zoom or Teams meetings if Wi-Fi or cellular
24 services sufficient to do so. So, if this is of interest
25 or people are willing to chat with us about their
26 thoughts on ammunition please reach out and contact me
27 and I can set up a time with -- to meet with you or come
28 to your community. So, with your busy schedule, that is
29 all I have for you today. Please let me know if you have
30 any questions. Thanks again.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead, Martin.
33 Thank you.

34
35 MR. AUKONGAK: No questions. I'll meet
36 you at Cabela's.

37
38 MR. BRINKMAN: Got it.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So, Todd, this is
41 Louis. What -- where did this study -- what's the basis
42 behind it? Where did it come from originally?

43
44 MR. BRINKMAN: There's been an effort
45 over the -- through the Chair. There's been an effort
46 over the last few years. There's been different partners
47 involved in this, like Alaska Department of Fish and
48 Game, Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Alaska
49 Falconers Associations, and a few others have teamed up
50 to explore if there's opportunities to maybe get people

1 to use more lead free ammunition, but we really don't
2 know if hunters in our state are aware of this or if
3 they have any concerns about this. So, this is a pilot
4 study to address that. There's been a bunch of research
5 that has shown that lead ammunition unintentionally left
6 in gut piles can be a source of lead poisoning for
7 scavengers and wildlife, especially eagles like golden
8 eagles. So, we're trying to find out if there's enough
9 interest, how we can reduce barriers for hunters, maybe
10 to use more lead-free ammunition types.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that.
13 That's kind of interesting. Just kind of wonder what
14 we're going to do about lead batteries, because that's
15 usually what gets left out and things get into. I just
16 find it interesting about lead bullets, but I think
17 Alicia has something here at the table. Alicia.

18
19 MS. CARSON: For the record, Alicia
20 Carson. I do not have them with me, but ADF&G has kind
21 of like a postcard right now about hunters who can buy
22 two boxes of ammunition that then they get a gift card
23 or a check back to try and get people to change the
24 ammunition that they're using. I don't have them with
25 me right now. I will try and run to the office and get
26 them, but it's like you do a QR code, you submit your
27 receipt that you've purchased the correct type of
28 ammunition, and then you get the ammunition, and then
29 you basically get paid back for it and they give you
30 like \$40 a box. So even if you're buying it here in
31 town, it would cover that box of ammunition. So, you can
32 try it and see if it works for you guys. And if it does,
33 then potentially switch what ammunition you're using and
34 have an impact on the environment.

35
36 MR. BRINKMAN: Through the Chair to
37 member Alicia. That's right. That's the Alaska Copper
38 Ammo Challenge, where if you submit your receipts,
39 they'll reimburse you for up to 80 bucks off two boxes
40 of copper rifle ammunition, up to 50 bucks off of two
41 boxes of bullets if you reload yourself.

42
43 MS. CARSON: Yep. We like that here in
44 this community. Free ammunition is great.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you,
47 Alicia, for that info. Any questions for Todd? On the
48 line, Ron?

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50 MR. KIRK: No.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, Ron. Thank you.
Robert.

MR. MOSES: Yeah, I had one question. Is it for all rifles or any type of rifles what they're what he's trying to do the study on?

MR. BRINKMAN: Through the Chair. What I understand is they're willing to reimburse you for rifle loads, I think, but they got to be greater than, like a .22. I don't know the exact limit on the rifles size, though. It's a good question.

MR. MOSES: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Robert. Anybody at the table here? Martin.

MR. AUKONGAK: Is there an age limit or you got to be 18 or what?

MR. BRINKMAN: I'm not seeing anything about an age limit. So, purchase ammunition for your grandson. I think that that qualifies.

MR. AUKONGAK: I'm not that old. Pump the brakes. Pump the brakes, bro.

MR. BRINKMAN: Sorry about that.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I am.

MR. KIRK: You're getting there.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: is that? Ron.

MR. KIRK: I was just kidding, Martin. He'll get there.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. He's working on it. Okay. All right. So. All right, so we went through this with birdshot. And so now we're migrating into rifles of all sorts and sizes. What about .22?

MR. BRINKMAN: I haven't heard if they're going to be focusing on .22 yet, but that may come up in focus group discussions. And that could raise awareness on that caliber for sure.

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. So, I
2 guess I'm -- call me old school or whatever. I know I
3 can take lead and make my own bullets, but I don't think
4 I could do that very good with copper. So, I kind of --
5 I wonder where this is coming from. That's why I was
6 asking, so. But thank you for your presentation. Any
7 other council members?

8

9 (No response)

10

11 Hearing none. Appreciate your time
12 there, Todd.

13

14 MR. BRINKMAN: Yeah. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm sure this will
17 be going around the state here, in the region through
18 other means besides just us. Okay. Thank you.

19

20 MR. AUKONGAK: So, are you guys able to
21 bring that moose online to get your permit back?

22

23 MS. CARSON: For the record, Alicia
24 Carson, which moose permit are you referencing?

25

26 MR. AUKONGAK: Like for the fall hunt
27 or...?

28

29 MS. CARSON: The RM840 hunt?

30

31 MR. AUKONGAK: Yeah, that.

32

33 MS. CARSON: Okay. So currently the way
34 that is the RM840 permit availability is either at the
35 ADF&G office in Nome or through vendors that are within
36 our communities, in our region. For that permit to be
37 available online, you would have to go, I believe,
38 through Board of Game action because it was brought
39 through Board of Game action for that restriction. And
40 that was done, I believe by the Northern Norton Sound
41 and is how that became came about.

42

43 MR. AUKONGAK: I had an avid moose hunter
44 to ask bring that back. But we have to do a proposal
45 then.

46

47 MS. CARSON: It would need to be a
48 proposal.

49

50

1 MR. AUKONGAK: Okay. Can we do that,
2 Kelsi?

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 MS. CARSON: For the record Alicia
7 Carson. So, what Martin is asking is about the permit
8 availability on the RM840 moose permit, and that's for
9 in Unit 22. I believe what he is maybe attempting to do
10 is he would like to see that permit available online.
11 It is currently not available online. They're a reason
12 for the permit availability the way it is now, I'm under
13 the impression I'd have to double check is that the
14 Northern Norton Sound put that permit availability in
15 there, and that was to restrict non-residents and non-
16 locals from coming into Unit 22 to get that permit. By
17 changing that availability, you might have some impact
18 on that. But if you wanted to -- if that's what you
19 wanted and you wanted to see that permit online, I
20 believe you would need to go through the Board of Game
21 process, and I would also suggest getting some support
22 from Northern Norton Sound and Southern Norton Sound AC.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, that's like
25 July 25th through August 25th.

26
27 MS. CARSON: Yes. The permit is available
28 in person only through Nome ADF&G and licensed vendors
29 in our communities of Teller, Brevig, White Mountain,
30 Golovin and Unalakleet.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. And it was to
33 keep out of region hunters, making them spend more money
34 to come and get it and then go back home and wait to
35 come back up to go hunting. That's what that was all
36 about. I remember all that went through.

37
38 MR. AUKONGAK: A lot of times, I believe,
39 you know what I'm hearing from it's harder to be in
40 person or they forget. Then they get, you know what I
41 mean, it's a lot quicker doing it online. I see what
42 Louis saying. I get that, but you know, it did work
43 before, but I do agree with that too.

44
45 MS. CARSON: For the record Alicia
46 Carson, that is correct. It is challenging, especially
47 in the villages and with our local vendors and people
48 taking time off. We often get phone calls from people
49 in the community that do not -- the vendors closed, and
50 we work with them to try and get them a permit and find

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1 out when that -- you know, when they're going to open
2 again, if it's the IRA or whatnot. But again, that would
3 need to be a recommendation put forward.

4

5 MR. AUKONGAK: And the reason why I do
6 that, because Golovin, our mail, I get Louis mail all
7 the time and I don't want his mail and storms all the
8 time and he ain't gonna pay my bills, so. I strongly --
9 bring that back, please.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Put that back on.
12 That was all fun.

13

14 MR. AUKONGAK: We got the same zip code.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah, right.

17

18 (Talking)

19

20 MS. IVANOFF: Mr. Chair, I have a
21 question.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Kelsi, go ahead.

24

25 MS. IVANOFF: RM840 is for like 22D, C,
26 B.

27

28 MS. CARSON: For the record, Alicia
29 Carson, through the Chair. RM840 is the fall hunt for
30 22 Bravo, 22 Charlie, 22 Delta. 22 Echo has a harvest
31 ticket and then 22 Alpha is RM841.

32

33 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So like Koyuk and
36 Elim, that's -- what you just said the last one or am I
37 missing something?

38

39 MS. CARSON: That's another one. For the
40 record, Alicia Carson. Koyuk and Elim are east of the
41 Derby Mountains, and they are not under the RM840 permit.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: They're harvest?
44 Okay.

45

46 MR. AUKONGAK: And real quick. You know,
47 I'm here representing my people in Golovin, and I would
48 like to listen to them. And that's why I'm here at the
49 seat.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 Okay, Kelsi.

6

7 MS. IVANOFF: I'm just curious if this
8 is something that should go through the Northern Norton
9 Sound AC.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I think so. So,
12 what's next? Thank you, Martin. Thank you, Alicia.

13

14 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Gisela Chapa, for the record. So, what's left in our
16 agenda is one action item. The National Park Service
17 Proposed Rule. If the Council wants to take action. And
18 to kind of summarize some of the discussion that happened
19 yesterday. The Council thought about potentially
20 submitting a letter to the Acting Park Service Director
21 requesting an extension on the comment period for the
22 proposed rule. In addition to submitting comments to the
23 proposed rule, because the comment deadline is April
24 9th. And after that, we have some more agency reports
25 and other business, and other business should be pretty
26 straightforward and FYI mostly.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I thank you. I got
29 to ask you a question.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MS. IVANOFF: Okay. For the record, this
34 is Kelsi. I -- am I doing a motion, or do I just want
35 to bring...?

36

37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: If we start off with
38 a motion and a second, then we go into the discussion.
39 That's proper, I guess. Is there a motion to...?

40

41 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I move to
42 direct staff to submit a letter to NPS leadership
43 expressing that we would like an extension on this
44 proposed rule. I do not know the number of it, but it's
45 to restore state aligned hunting regulations on Alaska
46 National Preserves.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Is there a second?

49

50 MR. SEETOT: Second. Elmer.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
We're now in discussion. Kelsi. Go ahead, Kelsi.

MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. With this coming out after the RAC cycle already started and RAC -- a few RACs had already met, I think this needs to be -- this hasn't been heard by enough people and enough people haven't gotten a chance to comment on it with a April 9th deadline, was it? I will -- I think we should request either a 30-day or a 60-day extension.

One more note. And then another note on their press release. The press release did not give any specific date of deadline. It just said 30-day public comment period making it fairly vague. They did not give information on how to request a consultation with them. They also did not give the docket number to be able to submit comments.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So that seems to be a pretty incomplete process, so. Good reason for asking for an extension in time. Is there any -- is there going to be any other additional questions or concerns added to -- Okay. Martin, go ahead.

MS. CHAPA: Yeah, the deadline is April 9th, and I believe it's like midnight Eastern Standard time.

MR. AUKONGAK: So, when do we hear back from the vacation lady if we can't do it? She said they might not approve it. So, in that case, we better be on a phone call and have a meeting all together or meet up or -- to have something ready. Have a plan and have a backup plan.

MS. IVANOFF: That is why we're submitting this letter, is expressing our displeasure with the process.

MS. CHAPA: And if I may, Mr. Chair. Yeah, the Council is also -- if I understand this correctly, the Council is also planning on submitting comments on the proposed rule if -- as a backup, if the acting director does not consider or leadership in general does not consider extending the comment deadline on the proposed rule. But to what you are speaking of Council Member Aukongak is that it might be advisable to request a response by date just to help spread

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1 information locally, you know, or to those that might
2 be interested in submitting comments to also be ready
3 to meet the original deadline of April 9th.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: You okay? I mean,
6 you're not okay, but. You're supposed to go -- You're
7 supposed to jump I'm okay. Just fell down, right? That's
8 what our kids do. Okay, so. All right. Kelsi, do you
9 have anything else to add to that? We're -- you know,
10 there was discussion about some of these CFR numbers.
11 Okay.

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 Okay, I guess there's no more discussion
16 to be had here, unless Ron or Robert has anything.
17 Everybody's fine.

18
19 MR. MOSES: (Indiscernible).

20
21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: What was that,
22 Robert?

23
24 MR. MOSES: I don't have anything to add.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay? And I don't
27 think Ron didn't quite hear.

28
29 MR. KIRK: Hello. I don't have anything.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, good. All
32 right, we're ready to vote. So now the -- can you read
33 the motion again, so everybody knows what they're voting
34 on.

35
36 MS. IVANOFF: Yeah, this is Kelsi. The
37 motion was to direct staff to submit a letter to NPS
38 leadership on our behalf to request an extension on
39 comments for the proposed rule to restore state aligned
40 hunting regulations on Alaska National Preserves.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. There's been a
43 first and a second, discussion has been had. We'll take
44 a vote now. All those in favor of this motion say aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I'm an aye. Was that
49 unanimous? Robert, did you vote?

50

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1 MR. MOSES: No. Not yet.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. I'm waiting for
4 you.

5

6 MR. MOSES: What was the question again,
7 please? I was kind of busy on this side.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Oh, sorry. Okay.
10 We'll -- Kelsi, can you read the motion again to him?
11 We're just voting on the motion.

12

13 MS. IVANOFF: This motion was to direct
14 staff to submit a letter to the National Park Service
15 leadership requesting an extension on the comment period
16 for their proposed rule to restore state aligned hunting
17 regulations on Alaska National Preserves.

18

19 MR. MOSES: Yeah. I'll be for it. I'll
20 agree with them. Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And I'm a yes, also.
23 So that's unanimous. Motions passed. We got the next
24 thing. Next motion.

25

26 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I move to
27 direct staff to submit comments on the Interior's
28 proposed rule to restore state aligned hunting
29 regulations on Alaskan National Preserves on this
30 Council's behalf. Should I do specifics when we discuss?
31 Yeah. Okay.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: All right. So, I need
34 a second. One of you guys online?

35

36 MR. MOSES: Robert. Second.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Robert. So
39 now we got a first and a second. We're going into
40 discussion now. Kelsi, you have the floor.

41

42 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
43 is Kelsi. I -- in looking at the Federal Register, this
44 rule looks to do a number of things and rescind some
45 actions that happened between 2015 and 2024. And it's
46 stated, if adopted, this proposed rule would satisfy
47 multiple requests to restore fish and wildlife
48 management in Alaska to a regulatory framework
49 consistent with ANILCA that existed for decades, with
50 no impacts on NPS resources, as acknowledged throughout

1 this process. When that is not a true statement. It says
2 prior to '15, it worked for 35 years, but it does not
3 say who this worked for. The multiple requests do not
4 come from any subsistence users. They come largely from
5 -- let's see. It comes from the Outdoor Council, which
6 is an organization of outdoor clubs and individuals who
7 participate in harvest access and other activities on
8 Alaska's public lands. Let's see what else.

9
10 This would take away federal regulations
11 on Park Service land where federal regulations are put
12 into place to protect subsistence and the rural
13 subsistence priority. Without if we defer to the state,
14 that rural subsistence priority would be taken away. The
15 state does not have to comply with ANILCA, whereas
16 federal law has to. 13.400. 490.

17
18 MS. CHAPA: And if I may. Yeah, I think
19 if there's regulation referenced on the Federal
20 Register, you can also say it on the record and it'll
21 help me. Thank you.

22
23 MS. IVANOFF: 36 CFR 13.40, 36 CFR
24 13.400, 36 CFR 13.490, 36 CFR 13.470 and 36 CFR 13.50.
25 And 13.400 specifically, it would redesignate a
26 paragraph to allow the state of Alaska to regulate the
27 taking of fish and wildlife for subsistence uses within
28 park areas, to the extent such regulation is consistent
29 with applicable federal law, including to, but not
30 limited to ANILCA. 13.490 speaks to the closure of
31 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife. 13.470 speaks to
32 subsistence fishing. And then, 13.50 speaks to closures
33 and restriction procedures which we want to closure
34 procedures to stay within federal reach.

35
36 (Pause)

37
38 13 -- yeah. 13.470 was subsistence
39 fishing. Again, that's allowed in compliance with
40 applicable state and federal law. Provided, however,
41 that local rural residents and park areas where
42 subsistence uses are allowed, may fish with the net,
43 seine, trap or spear were permitted by state law. So
44 again, it differs to state laws rather than federal laws.
45 A lot in general, a lot of the language is not clear.
46 And it mentions also falconry, bear baiting. What else?
47 Anyways, either -- we do need an extension on this but
48 given most of these are -- would do away with federal
49 law that abides by ANILCA and defer to state, we do not
50 -- largely do not agree with this proposed rule.

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CHAIRPERSON GREEN: If that's what -- have you got everything you wanted to make sure we got in there? You are finished?

(Pause)

MS. IVANOFF: I just want to reiterate to -- again, sorry, this is Kelsi. Where it says pre-2015, they're stating that it worked for 35 years. But again, who did it work for? And before then what were our resources -- I mean, our resources have changed, our numbers have changed. Our climate is rapidly changing, and our regulations need to adapt along with us and along with the environmental factors that are changing.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay, you've got everything plugged in that you wanted in there. So, she's been putting it to words here, so let her read it. Gisela, please. Thank you.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela Chapa, for the record. And these are just very broad notes that I took that I think I can use to assist with the comment development. Council Member Ivanoff mentioned that in the Federal Register it mentions that it looks to rescind actions taken from 2015 to 2024 and if adopted, would allow and I just put dot, dot, dot because it was read from the Federal Register. So, I'll go back and make sure to read that statement, and you mentioned that it is really not a true statement. Prior to 15 years, you mentioned that it stated that it worked for 35 years, but it didn't really specify who it worked for. And in your most recent comment, you also mentioned that if it worked 35 years ago, perhaps the level of natural resources available were different, perhaps more abundant and resources have changed. The climate is continuing to change, and the regulations need to adapt with us and environmental factors that continue to change. You also stated that the request does not come from subsistence users. It comes from other organizations such as Outdoor Council. You also stated that the proposed rule would take away federal regulations on Park Service lands and these regulations were put into place to protect subsistence and rural subsistence priority. The state does not need to comply with ANILCA where federal law has to. You also mentioned that there's concerns on the language on 36 CFR 13.40, 13.400, 13.490, 13.470, and 13.50. In all of those in the items that they address the language is not clear

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1 and that an extension is necessary. And let me see if I
2 missed something else. That's most of what I captured.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Gisela.
5 Kelsi.

6

7 MS. IVANOFF: I think -- this is Kelsi.
8 I think too, adding that federal law prioritizes rule
9 subsistence users over residents of Alaska, general
10 residents of Alaska.

11

12 MS. CHAPA: Thank you for that. And I
13 also mentioned that -- forgot to mention that in your
14 statements, you mentioned that the Council does not
15 support this proposed rule. Just want to make sure that
16 I also bring that up because it'll be the position of
17 the Council along with the comments. And I will add that
18 federal law prioritizes rural subsistence users over
19 residents of Alaska.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: There was Alaska
22 Outdoor Council, but there was also the Safari Club
23 International who -- yeah. They filed a similar request
24 in DOI on September 15th, 2017, to rescind the entire
25 2015 rule and parts of the 2017 rule, noting strenuous
26 objections and new information. Yeah. And then yeah,
27 there's 2024 in there, so.

28

29 MS. IVANOFF: I don't know -- oh, Mr.
30 Chair.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

33

34 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I don't know
35 if we -- I mean, the Safari Club has -- this isn't the
36 only attack on subsistence that the Safari Club is
37 making. They have filed to take away subsistence or
38 public seats from the Federal Subsistence Board. They
39 have also requested that the Board defer to the state
40 of Alaska. So, I just want to note that, I mean, I'm not
41 sure if we want to note that in our comments, but this
42 is not the only attack that they're making on our users.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. We're in
45 discussion. So, I'll bring to light that also a petition
46 for new rulings back in -- regarding the hunting on
47 National Preserves in Alaska. It was a petition was filed
48 on August 9th of 2017 by the Sportsmen's Alliance
49 Foundation and the Alaska Professional Hunters
50 Association, seeking to repeal the 2015 rule to restore

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1 the pre 2015 status quo harvest and access administered
2 through well understood decades old procedures. Oh, I
3 mean another -- so, we got this motion. Okay. Gisela,
4 you got something?

5
6 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. I'll -- to the comments
7 about it that the Sportsman's Alliance and I did not
8 capture the other one, but I know it's in the federal
9 Register sought to restore and predate the 2015 rules
10 to establish the old procedures. Again, these are just
11 broad statements and that the SEI also had requested to
12 rescind the previous rules, I think making reference to
13 2015 and 2017 Park Service rules and a comment that
14 Kelsi also added to include that SEI. This is not the
15 first attack. They have filed and attempted multiple
16 attacks, excuse me, multiple attacks on subsistence and
17 subsistence users.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sport hunting.
20 That's basically where it's all coming from. Go ahead.

21
22 MS. IVANOFF: This is Kelsi. I also want
23 to note that the current process for -- on the federal
24 side allows for more public involvement than the state
25 closures. Have to go through a comment period where they
26 have hearings so allowing the users directly in that
27 area to have input is important. And that's why we want
28 to keep -- another reason we want to keep the federal
29 process as it is.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: So yeah, following up
32 on that. So generally, when the RACs make decisions, the
33 Federal Subsistence Board generally defers to the RACs.
34 Pretty much sums that up. And in times of shortage of a
35 resource, the RACs have the ability to ratchet down to
36 the point where the folks that are closest to the
37 resource -- say federally qualified users, they have the
38 resources and use of it and under state it doesn't define
39 it that it in times of shortage. I don't know if they
40 just close everything down pretty much. So, the federal
41 side allows subsistence to take place over everything,
42 so.

43
44 MR. AUKONGAK: Where are we at?

45
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: She's working on it.
47 We're doing the letter.

48
49 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Gisela Chapa, for the
50 record. To add to the comments and to summarize all the

1 involvement from these other organizations who've
2 petitioned in the past to restore pre-2015 Park Service
3 rule is -- are groups that support sport hunting. And
4 Kelsi also mentioned that the current process on the
5 federal side allows for more public involvement than the
6 states. These closures on the federal side have to go
7 through a comment period and public hearings. And this
8 is another reason why the Council recommends to keep the
9 rule as is and not change the rules, the proposed rule.
10 Not to adopt the proposed rule if that makes it a little
11 bit clearer and Louis, your comment to the Federal
12 Subsistence Board they normally defer to Regional
13 Advisory Councils and in time of shortages over
14 resources. The Regional Advisory Councils have the
15 ability to make decisions for the people who are closest
16 to the resource and under the state, they don't define
17 that in times of shortage. Did that summarize it? Okay.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Anybody else want to
20 add anything? Martin. Elmer. You're good. Ron.

21

22 MR. KIRK: No.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Robert.

25

26 MR. MOSES: What was that again?

27

28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Just asking if you
29 had anything to add or any questions about what we're
30 doing. We had a motion on the floor and second to.....

31

32 (Simultaneous speech)

33

34 MR. MOSES: No questions or nothing to
35 add. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. Are we
38 ready to vote or do we have any more discussion?

39

40 MR. AUKONGAK: I think we beat it up.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: We beat it up a bit.
43 It's a big rule. We don't want to miss anything. This
44 is our opportunity. So, I just want to make sure. Sounds
45 like we're good on this. Okay. I'm going to call for the
46 vote. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Aye. Unanimous.
2 Thank you, council members. That's what our letters are
3 going to consist of to the director. Comment, into the
4 comment period. Excuse me. Yeah. Okay, we're done with
5 that. What's next?

6
7 MS. CHAPA: Next on the agenda item is
8 reports, agency reports. And I did not have confirmation
9 from tribal governments or Native organizations
10 requesting to provide an update to the Council, but I
11 don't know if the Council will welcome any reports if
12 available right now.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: If there was, we
15 could. I'm off. Thank you. Reports under a: tribal
16 governments.

17
18 (No response)

19
20 Hearing none. B: Native organizations.

21
22 (No response)

23
24 Hearing none. C: National Park Service.

25
26 (No response)

27
28 Nope. I'll say no for you. Okay. And
29 that was Bering Land Bridge preserve was under that. And
30 so, then we moved to Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
31 Okay.

32
33 (Talking)

34
35 Sara's going to do it. BLM. I was just
36 -- that was under item. Item E: Bureau of Land
37 Management. Is that online?

38
39 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will
40 check to see if either Craig Townsend or Jacob Vialpando
41 or Brent Vickers are online and if they have a report
42 to the Council.

43
44 (No response)

45
46 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
47 Members of the Council. My name is Justin Koller. I'm
48 the -- excuse me. I am representing the Office of
49 Subsistence Management as the Regulations Division
50 Supervisor. I just have a summary of what happened with

1 the OSM and the Federal Subsistence Management Program
2 since the fall meeting cycle ended this winter, as well
3 as a preview of upcoming events.

4
5 The first update is on the wildlife
6 regulatory cycle. All ten Regional Advisory Councils
7 were able to hold their fall 2025 meetings, with most
8 being rescheduled for December and January. The Council
9 provided recommendations on wildlife proposals and
10 closures reviews, with only a few that needed to be
11 moved to the winter meetings for further discussion and
12 recommendation. We recognize this is quite a disruption
13 for the council members and others, and we really thank
14 everybody's commitment to making these meetings happen
15 a few months late. So, thank you very much for that.

16
17 Tribal and ANCSA Corporation
18 consultations on wildlife proposals and closure reviews
19 were held virtually on February 17th and 18th, and OSM
20 Native Liaison Orville Lind is the best person to contact
21 regarding tribal and ANCSA Corporation consultations if
22 you need further information. The Federal Subsistence
23 Board will hold its Wildlife Regulatory meeting on April
24 20th through the 24th at the Egan Center in Anchorage.
25 And as a reminder, public testimony provided to the
26 Council on Regulatory Proposals does not go directly to
27 the Board. So, for those who want to provide testimony
28 to the Board, the Board receives comments on non-agenda
29 items at the beginning of each day in the morning and
30 testimony on regulatory proposals when they come up on
31 the agenda. Another opportunity for tribal consultation
32 will take place right before the Board meeting on April
33 20th at 1 p.m., and that's going to be virtual and in-
34 person.

35
36 Next update is on the Secretarial
37 Review. A public comment period was opened on December
38 15th for the Secretarial Review of the Federal
39 Subsistence Management program. All ten Councils took
40 up this topic and submitted comment letters to the
41 review. A public listening session on the Secretary --
42 Secretarial review was held on April -- or excuse me,
43 February 3rd in Anchorage, and about 76 people provided
44 oral comments either in person or over the phone. The
45 period for written public comments was extended by 45
46 days, and closed March 30th. That was yesterday.
47 Statewide, tribal and ANCSA Corporation consultations
48 on the review were held March 10th and March 17th. And
49 we had quite a good turnout for those consultations. And
50 any tribe can request a separate consultation on this

1 topic at any time by contacting OSM tribal Liaison
2 Orville Lind or the OSM general phone number or email
3 address. Kara Moriarty is the Senior Advisor to the
4 Secretary of the Interior for Alaska Affairs, and she
5 noted that all comments will be reviewed and that no
6 decisions have been made on whether the review will
7 result in any program changes at all. So, lots of review
8 to do yet because a lot of comments received.

9
10 The third update I have is on the
11 Board's winter work session. The Board met in Anchorage
12 on February 5th for the winter work session, and during
13 that session they took care of the following two
14 administrative tasks. The Board accepted the 2026
15 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program plan as presented
16 to them with no changes. The Board approved the Regional
17 Advisory Council Transmittal letters with just a few
18 minor changes to those transmittal letters. The topics
19 for those letters are Council concerns about ANCSA d --
20 excuse me, 17(d)(1) lands, cross jurisdictional and
21 conservation related fisheries concerns and Regional
22 Advisory Council Member compensation.

23
24 The Board also received updates on three
25 ongoing topics. One was the request for reconsideration
26 RFR25-01 and that was a request that asked the Board to
27 reconsider its 2025 decision to designate Ketchikan as
28 a rural community, and the Board will decide during its
29 April regulatory meeting whether this RFR meets the
30 threshold for a full analysis and consideration of that
31 request. They heard an update on the federal subsistence
32 permit system. We began monitoring -- modernizing the
33 federal permit system and transitioning into a new
34 platform over a year ago -- going on two years ago
35 actually, and it's near complete. But the online option
36 for obtaining permits is still being developed. There's
37 a few hurdles we have to overcome before people can go
38 online and get permits without contacting and issuing
39 office. So, stay tuned for that. That will be broadcast
40 across the state when that capability is there, and we'll
41 have instructions on our website. Finally, the Board
42 received an update from the Senior Advisor about the
43 Secretarial Review, and I already covered that a few
44 minutes ago.

45
46 The Board will meet in Anchorage for its
47 summer work session August 4th and 5th, and this is a
48 great opportunity for Council Chairs to meet with the
49 Board and have face-to-face discussions on topics of
50 concern included in the FY 25 annual reports. The fourth

1 update is on the 2027 to 2029 Fisheries Cycle. The Fish
2 and shellfish proposed rule published on February 12th,
3 and this means that anyone can now submit a proposal to
4 change federal subsistence fish and shellfish
5 regulations and customary and traditional use
6 determinations, and also for non-rural determinations
7 for communities and areas. There's more information on
8 submitting proposals on the program website. And that
9 last day to submit proposals is April 3rd, right after
10 -- in a couple of days after this last Council meeting.
11 And the Council's will make recommendations on those
12 proposals affecting the region at the fall meetings. And
13 of course, the Board's going to act on those proposals
14 finally at the fisheries regulatory meeting in 2027. And
15 that's scheduled for February 1st through the 5th. So
16 that first week in February 2027.

17
18 Last but not least is just a quick
19 update on Council Membership. The 2025 Council
20 appointment application submitted during last year's
21 recruitment cycle. They're still under final
22 consideration at the Secretary of Interior's office.
23 There's been a few delays there, but we don't have much
24 additional to share other than the fact that, you know,
25 as soon as those results become available we will notify
26 everybody and we're hoping for that soon. February --
27 on February 13th, the Board opened the next call for the
28 Council applications -- the nominations, and the
29 application forms are available on the table over here
30 and also on the program's website or by contacting your
31 Council Coordinator. Although that deadline to submit
32 is April 2nd. So, if somebody wanted to, you know, it's
33 been open for a while, but the deadline is in a few
34 days. So, if somebody is interested, we'll need to get
35 an application filled out and submitted either in person
36 or via email or by mail again by April 2nd. I think
37 that's all I have for you today. So yeah, just thank
38 you, Mr. Chair, Members of the Council. Thank you for
39 having me in Nome. It's my first time. It was nice to
40 be here. Nice to meet you all and listen to your
41 deliberations and yeah. Much appreciated. Thanks for
42 your hard work and dedication to the program.

43
44 MR. AUKONGAK: Yeah, I gave him ultimate
45 tour yesterday.

46
47 MR. KOLLER: Yes. Yes. Thank you very
48 much for that, Martin. That was very nice.

49
50 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And thank you. Kelsi.

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MS. IVANOFF: Yeah, this is Kelsi. I just had -- I missed the update on the Secretarial Review. If they know when they're -- might I know the comment period literally just closed, but yeah.

MR. KOLLER: They received quite a bit of information, comments and tribal and corporation comments during the consultation. So, they have a lot of work to do to compile and review those comments. And I don't have anything definitive, but I think it's going to take a while. Yeah.

MS. IVANOFF: Thank you.

MR. KOLLER: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any questions or comments, Robert?

MR. MOSES: No comment.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Robert. Ron, do you have any comments or concerns?

MR. KIRK: No comments.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Nobody at the table. Everybody? Martin.

MR. AUKONGAK: You'll come back.

MR. KOLLER: I'd love to come back. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair, Members of the Council.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you, Justin, for your report.

MR. AUKONGAK: Like Sara brough her other secretary.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Sara was going to have her daughter come up there and give her a hand.

MS. HENSLEE: Okay. Through the Chair. I'm Sara Henslee, joined by my Assistant Area Biologist who's going to play with the microphone here. I'll try to make this quick. So, I'm bringing some good news for you to talk about moose right now. I've got this update before you. So, I've got a little bit of harvest records

1 and things that you can look at. But the main thing I
2 want to look at right now for you guys is the abundance
3 survey that Alicia and I just finished a couple weeks
4 ago and -- my notes, this is harder than I thought it
5 would be. I'm gonna [sic] put this away and just go off
6 the record. So yeah, basically we just finished our
7 spring survey for 22B and C, so that's everything kind
8 of Golovin west of the Derby Mountains in 22B, Fish,
9 Niukluk Rivers and then all of 22C that being the Nome
10 area going up to Gold Run. I guess nugget divide and
11 then Solomon area. You guys have the map. So 22B West
12 and 22C we just did a moose survey, and we found a
13 population increase. So, what you've got on the back
14 side, this blue graph here is just the population data
15 from the survey we just finished. So, the combined survey
16 area of 22B west and 22C we counted -- we estimate
17 there's 1715 moose in that survey area. An increase of
18 about 300 moose, an 8% increase since we got in there
19 last. So finally, some good news with wildlife
20 populations there.

21
22 We saw lots of calves in C not as many
23 in 22B, but I think there's probably movement happening
24 that it's not like a huge concern that there's not as
25 many calves in B and I also included on the front page,
26 there's a picture of triplet short yearlings that we
27 saw. So, we saw triplets in the springtime and as you
28 guys know, with all of the bear predation a lot -- we
29 just wouldn't have expected them to survive into the
30 spring. But here we go. We got photo evidence of it,
31 triplets happening. And I put all that information in
32 there to show you like there is a lot of reproduction
33 happening in our moose population. They -- our twinning
34 rates were 80% last year. That's among the highest
35 percentages in the state. We're sitting in a really good
36 position for the first time in a long time it feels
37 like. So, with that, we, Alicia and I are working on
38 quotas, finalizing that for the fall and winter seasons.
39 And I think we're looking at increased quotas for the
40 fall and for 22B, that's going to be that shared fall
41 and winter quota. I've got it there under the fall comp
42 update. There's at the very last bullet the RY26 quota.
43 We are going to allow 50 bulls and 22B. So that'll be
44 split between the fall and the winter season. And then
45 40 bulls and 22C for the next coming regulatory year.
46 So, I guess I'll stop there and take questions. But
47 yeah, the main takeaway, more moose and more moose to
48 harvest. So go ahead, Martin. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Okay. Thank you for
2 that, Sara. Martin.

3
4 MR. AUKONGAK: I know you missed it
5 earlier. You know, and I hope this Board, you know,
6 support my -- bringing back the online for the permit
7 because during that time, you know, I'm getting Louis
8 mail and our mail system is slow because we have the
9 same zip code. And the other reason is because, you
10 know, July is -- our people are gathering to berry
11 picking and the fish and everything like that. So, I
12 think the online, you know, bring that back. And I know
13 what Louis was saying earlier, just keep out of region,
14 you know, bring in funding. But you know, it's 2026,
15 man. I don't do anything online, but I know some of my
16 very avid hunters do it.

17
18 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Through the Chair. I
19 was listening a little bit. And that would have to be a
20 public proposal. Alicia and I -- the FIT department,
21 would not submit something like that because it's what's
22 called allocative. But absolutely I would -- whoever
23 wanted to could submit that. And we should talk, ao.
24 Yep.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Any other Council
27 members have comments or concerns or questions?

28
29 MR. MOSES: Yeah. This is Robert. I have
30 a question for Sara. The moose population is that as a
31 one hole or just a bulls only.

32
33 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah. Through the Chair.
34 The moose population that I just estimated that 1700
35 moose basically. That is all moose. So, bulls, cows,
36 calves.

37
38 MR. AUKONGAK: Is that one moose?

39
40 MR. MOSES: Okay. Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Robert.
43 Martin.

44
45 MR. MOSES: Oh, another comment about
46 when they were doing the fly around. We seen the plane
47 flying in Fish River. Didn't you guys flying 100ft above
48 -- 150ft above the ground? We always check if anybody's
49 flying in our country. We don't want no aerial hunters
50 around. And we thought -- we were going to call troopers

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1 and ask, but they said, oh, that's Department of Fish
2 and Game playing. So just we all try to keep an eye on
3 our hunting grounds too. Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Robert.
6 Martin.

7
8 MR. AUKONGAK: Is that one collared
9 still? That one went from Shishmaref to (In Native). Is
10 that still -- no?

11
12 MS. HENSLEE: Yeah, through the Chair.
13 That's a great question. I haven't looked at that collar
14 lately. The last I knew, she was south of the Golovin.
15 She popped into Unit 18. So yeah, her thousand-mile trip
16 keeps going. And I'd love to see where she ends up this
17 year if she stays.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It's interesting.
20 Anybody else on the Council for Sara?

21
22 (No response)

23
24 Hearing none. Thank you. And your
25 assistance. You have two of them now.

26
27 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Sorry I didn't get a chance to speak, but I thought I'd
29 jump in. Gisela Chapa, for the record. And at this
30 moment, we have gone through all of the agency reports,
31 and now we're down to Other Business, and I believe that
32 -- if we're ready to proceed. I can just give you more
33 information under Other Business, it's mostly
34 information and updates for the Council and the general
35 public.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Let it rip.

38
39 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Well, the first item
40 is Correspondence Update. Just wanted to point you to
41 page 61 of your meeting materials, just for reference.
42 You have a copy of the Council's comments on the
43 Secretarial Review regarding the Federal Subsistence
44 Management Program. And as an update to the Council, all
45 the Regional Advisory Council comments, I believe were
46 submitted and routed to the Secretaries for
47 consideration. Sorry, that is on page 63. On page 61,
48 you also have the Council's comments to the Chum Bycatch
49 Draft EIS by the North Pacific Fisheries Management
50 Council and these are the Council's recommendations. The

1 preferred alternatives that the Council recommended the
2 North Pacific Fishery Management Council to adopt and
3 it was submitted within the comment period. Okay. That
4 is the end of Council Correspondence.

5
6 Now the next item is hopefully a short
7 discussion. And I'm going to share my screen to show a
8 map. Okay. It's not the right map, but I will just use
9 our own maps as reference. Okay, so this item is the
10 land status on FSMP regulatory maps. And I will just
11 share that this was a request that the Eastern Interior
12 RAC made to the Federal Subsistence Board through the
13 annual report to incorporate Native corporation lands
14 and allotments to the maps that are used in our
15 regulations' books. And at the moment these maps only
16 reference federal ownership. I'm going to share my
17 screen so that you can see what is currently displayed
18 on our regulatory maps.

19
20 Okay. There we go. So, as you can see,
21 for our unit or for this unit in particular you can see
22 the -- that on the unit maps, we only reference federal
23 lands and what the Eastern Interior RAC wanted to convey
24 was -- that they to the Federal Subsistence Board was
25 the need to add Native corporation lands and allotment
26 to these maps. Through their report, the Eastern
27 Interior RAC stated that trespassing primarily by
28 hunters is a significant issue in the region that they
29 were trying to address through increased outreach and
30 hunter ethics initiatives. But the Council also stated
31 that the efforts wouldn't be successful if the public
32 did not have access to materials to reference land status
33 on regulatory maps and therefore requested the Board to
34 also add corporation lands and Native allotments into
35 these regulatory maps. The Federal Subsistence Board,
36 in their reply to the Eastern Interior Council requested
37 feedback from other Councils about whether this is
38 something that you would actually see on regulatory maps
39 in these books for your region and the Board and the
40 Eastern Interior Council would greatly appreciate a
41 little discussion with your thoughts about the request.
42 And this is not an action item, and just your general
43 thoughts and discussion on the record would suffice for
44 this purpose.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Gisela,
47 for that. Martin.

48
49 MR. AUKONGAK: I'm not talking about that
50 federal land, but you know, I did mention it earlier. I

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1 think we need to bring back someone who knows about the
2 seals. I know Robert is a big avid seal hunter, too.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. I wouldn't
5 mind seeing the Native allotments in any ANCSA
6 corporation lands on this -- on these charts.

7
8 MR. AUKONGAK: It'd be pretty covered.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It's okay. We want
11 to show them that it is pretty covered.

12
13 MS. CHAPA: I do have a mockup that I can
14 show the Council if you give me just a few minutes to
15 find it and I'm almost there.

16
17 MR. AUKONGAK: I know, I know for Golovin
18 we've got 98,885 acres.

19
20 MS. CHAPA: I'm going to try to share my
21 screen, see if it cooperates. Nope. I don't have it
22 handy. I apologize for that. But again, I guess that the
23 Eastern Interior RAC and both the -- and also the Federal
24 Subsistence Board would appreciate feedback on whether
25 to incorporate additional land status onto the
26 regulatory maps to help users.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: I think it stands to
29 reason, letting people know who owns private lands. It's
30 not just the government that has land. ANCSA
31 corporations are private lands. Native allotments are
32 private trust lands. And village -- ANCSA corporation
33 lands are there. And you got these apps that you can buy
34 now, that if everything's plugged into the system, you
35 can see where those lands are and these hunting apps.
36 So that definitely shows hunters from wherever they come
37 from that -- whether they're on private land or not. So,
38 this booklet -- these booklets would benefit from it as
39 far as I'm concerned. Thank you. Anybody else?

40
41 (No response)

42
43 Quiet here. Quite online.

44
45 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Go ahead.

48
49 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I just don't know.
50 Native allotments or corporation lands. They should

1 include them in that map so that, like you stated
2 earlier, people can be aware of where they're going and
3 whose land they're on, because if they walk on corporate
4 lands and the corporation of that -- the owner of that
5 land does not appreciate it, you know, it's going to
6 stir up a lot of trouble, especially with Native
7 allotments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Yeah.
10 They wouldn't have any excuse. They got a -- they get
11 these booklets when they go get their hunting licenses
12 and fishing licenses. So, if it's in the booklet and
13 people are paying attention, then it's obvious. Kelsi
14 and then Martin.

15
16 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
17 is Kelsi. Just wanted -- along those lines that every
18 corporation has different rules as well. So, I'm not
19 sure if they can note if they are going to include those
20 lands in these maps. Also noting that people should be
21 researching the roles from those Native corporations.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi.
24 Martin, Go ahead.

25
26 MR. AUKONGAK: Going forward with your
27 port of Nome there Louis, how long did it take or did
28 it affect the fishing going in the Snake River? Or was
29 it okay?

30
31 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: It created habitat
32 for beluga, seals, herring, ciscos [sic], salmon. I
33 worked on the project there one summer for the 12-inch
34 suction dredge with a cutter head on it that removes all
35 -- drops the levels in there, in the inner one and the
36 outer one. And the salmon didn't care. They just made
37 their way around where they were going. I seen whales,
38 cows, you know, female and a calf. Just go around the
39 dredging that was going on out there. The miners were
40 in full swing. Didn't seem to bother anything that I've
41 seen. And I've also noticed that down there at the Cape
42 Nome port area there, that it's -- if you want to go
43 hunting these -- that's a good place to go for marine
44 mammals. Springtime and fall time. And I've seen herring
45 spawn right there at Cape in the rocks that was put in
46 the water from that project out there, the rock quarry.
47 So, I don't see any issues. I've seen bull, big bull
48 beluga go right in through the narrows there and through
49 the beach and head in and under the ice in the inner
50 harbor to feed on tomcod. And they didn't bother. Nothing

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1 bothered them. They went about their business. So, to
2 me, I see habitat created by what took place, and I've
3 been fishing there for a long time before there was even
4 a harbor there. It was just that barge that was sunk.

5

6

MR. AUKONGAK: Oh, yeah.

7

8

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Yeah. So that's my
9 comments on that. And Gisela, you got some.

10

11

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And another update is that the Federal
Subsistence Board -- excuse me, the Board's wildlife
regulatory meeting is also around the corner this month.
It will be held in Anchorage with options to participate
remotely either through teleconference or Microsoft
Teams. And the Board normally has -- or is scheduled to
begin with their -- the public portion of the meeting
on April 21st through April 24th. And that concludes my
updates. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. What was
that?

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1 MR. AUKONGAK: Where's the meeting at,
2 in Anchorage?

3
4 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. The Federal Subsistence
5 Board meets in -- will meet in Anchorage. I believe the
6 meeting is scheduled to -- will be at the Egan Center
7 April 21st through April 24th. And I would recommend
8 people to visit our website for additional information
9 and the agenda. And that will be -- you can go to
10 doi.gov/subsistence. And then on the left-hand menu,
11 there's several tabs, there's Federal Subsistence Board
12 and Upcoming Meetings.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: And that is the end
15 of that, correct? So, are we down to...?

16
17 MS. CHAPA: I think we are down to
18 Closing Comments.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Closing Comments.
21 I'll start with you, Ron and then Robert online closing
22 comments.

23
24 MR. KIRK: Why you want to pick on me
25 first? I'd like to thank the staff for making this
26 opportunity for us to call in and attend the meeting.
27 It was very productive meeting. I enjoyed it. We need
28 to really have more meetings with the federal government
29 concerning them, what did you call it guys? Anyway, there
30 are people that are trying to take the seats off the
31 state and take over the state lands. We need to control
32 our federal subsistence way of life for our people
33 throughout the state, in the region. And other than that,
34 it was a productive meeting, and I enjoyed it. And thank
35 you, Mr. Chair. And thank the staff very much and hope
36 to see you next time. I just got stuck with a really bad
37 chest cold. That's why my voice isn't normal.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

40
41 MR. KIRK: Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Robert.

44
45 MR. MOSES: This is Robert. I'd like to
46 thank everybody online and those that are in Anchorage,
47 wherever they're listening online for their input and
48 those that went up to the seat and talk. Along with the
49 young kids from Nome and Unalakleet, that's a very
50 positive outcome for them to know what's going on for

1 the future. The kids are our future for this land and
2 what we teach them in the knowledge that we'll pass down
3 to them. And the Fish and Game, people that do their
4 studies and everybody else that gave input, especially
5 to Louis and Elmer, they've been there for a while. I
6 know Tom was there too, and he would be here if he was
7 still here.

8
9 And another thing is that probably will
10 come up in the future if our caribou keeps declining.
11 Sure hate to say this but might have to just follow
12 examples, Unalakleet. That's proof right there. It's on
13 black and white and people see it. People are using that
14 method. You might even have to everywhere cut off caribou
15 hunting for one year only. And I'm glad Kelsi made a
16 motion to meet with the Kotzebue area RAC to just talk
17 about caribou. And caribou been here since our ancestors
18 were here. My grandma's little (In Native). She was 6
19 to 8 years old when they came around. And then they did
20 their cycle. They died off and they came back when she
21 was in their 60s. She kept telling me, the caribou will
22 come back. Caribou will come back. They were here when
23 I was little. From that time on, I believed everything
24 every elder says, you know. They know what's going on.
25 They see it. They live through it. And they have the
26 knowledge, like Louis and Elmer, you know they know stuff
27 that we don't know even. And today we're still learning
28 stuff about stuff that's going on and happening. But
29 man, we use for food. And I thank everybody and we'll
30 see you guys' next time.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well, thank you for
33 those comments, Robert, and appreciate you guys online.
34 And I've done lots of online meetings and it's always
35 hard to sit there by yourself. And so, I'm just happy
36 that you guys are on. So, thank you. We'll start with
37 let's go with Kelsi and Elmer.

38
39 MS. IVANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
40 is Kelsi. Just wanted to thank everyone that's here. All
41 the staff that has held our hand through all of this
42 regulation, and proposal making and motion making. I
43 want to thank Heather for presenting and really excited
44 to learn about the youth program and get our youth more
45 involved. It was awesome to see youth from the ANSEP
46 program here as well as online from Unalakleet. I want
47 to thank everyone for being on the same page as far as
48 caribou goes, that's been such a big issue. I feel like
49 it's been an issue for a while now. I -- you know,
50 Unalakleet used to be -- we used to get caribou in the

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1 hills -- south of our hills back when I was in middle
2 school, and now they don't come down anymore. And we had
3 to adapt to being moose hunters. And I grew up -- my
4 first big game was a caribou. And just the difference
5 between my generation and my little brother's
6 generation. His first big game was a moose because we
7 don't get caribou anymore. So that shows just how quickly
8 things are changing. And yeah, I -- again, a big thanks
9 to all the staff here who has supported us and helped
10 us through everything.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Kelsi.
13 Elmer.

14
15 MR. SEETOT: (In Native). Elmer Seetot,
16 Jr., known as Teller Mission And then Brevig Mission. I
17 like Mr. Kirk and Mr. Moses have been doing and myself
18 at times, along with some of the council members of
19 virtual meeting. Mr. Kirk and Mr. Moses, thank you for
20 meeting and sticking it out all the way to the end, as
21 I noticed last two meetings, even though there's no
22 monetary compensation for speaking online or taking
23 part, I know that agency staff, whether it be state or
24 federal, they benefit largely from that because without
25 a quorum, nothing happens. And that's what I would like
26 to say, members that are not present at the table but
27 are present via video are considered members present and
28 that makes a quorum. So, big disparity between being a
29 volunteer, being paid or tenured. And then when our
30 Coordinator said that that my card was still up in the
31 air, you know, I would have said no the past two times,
32 but for some, I think it just -- like I just mentioned
33 Mr. Kirk and Mr. Moses, that dedication to the resources
34 of your region. Robert mentioned something about his
35 grandma. That's where we learned everything. Our
36 parents, our community members, our grandparents of
37 everything that we put out. Our biologists, our agency
38 staff, they look at computers. Okay. This is what we're
39 doing. I'm glad of that. But you can't replace TEK,
40 Traditional knowledge expressed by council members.
41 Growing up, I was fascinated with Mount Bendeleben
42 because it was a poster I used to see. Mr. John Elmer,
43 he was a guide for Bendeleben, and I knew Bendeleben was
44 right over here. And over the years, I always kind of
45 fascinated. I traveled over there Mr. Roger, Maniilaq,
46 one of the reindeer herders along with his assistant Mr.
47 Simon Jack used to go up on the south side of Mount
48 Bendeleben to get your reindeer off the top and then
49 drive them down. It happened more than once. So, that's
50 something that people have experience with is that,

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1 yeah, I was fascinated by Mount Bendeleben because of
2 what Mr. Elmer was advertising at that time.

3
4 The forum for this meeting today was
5 very good because we're able to talk on issues that are
6 not on the agenda. In the past. It was, oh, I got to go
7 home. I got nothing else to do, you know, that that's
8 the mindset of some people that are getting old, but not
9 people like me. People are, you know, we're more attuned
10 to what our community can provide. And then Mr. Green
11 mentioned about wolves having a spawn -- or salmon from
12 the (In Native) River, and then it's called (In Native),
13 portion of the place where the chum salmon go. But during
14 the past season, the summer chum were moderate, but the
15 fall chum were maybe half the size of the summer chum.
16 So, there's big changes that were experienced, but I
17 think the major change will be from the water. Period.
18 That's what my elder told me he was a local elder here
19 at Nome, but he knew a lot of stuff that was passed on
20 from his parents, grandparents to all the way from
21 Kuzitritin, Mary's Mountain. He knew pretty much all the
22 stories. Our stories were handed down on the caribou.
23 But pretty much spawned out salmon on the riverbanks.
24 My brother-in-law used to go pick those, and we used to
25 have them. Because they were aged and they were soft.
26 They were frigerated by mother nature along the sea bank
27 -- along the riverbed. So, there wasn't any form of, oh,
28 we're going to get sick from that. Eskimos know. They
29 eat, you know, fast food, (indiscernible), dried fish,
30 berries. You know, you don't need to prepare that. You
31 just know where to go. For that I -- running on my time,
32 so. Thank you very much. I thank everyone for coming
33 here. Even though, you know, for me, it's getting harder
34 to transport or walk around. Along with some of the
35 federal agency staff that were -- that I still see when
36 I first came under Seward Peninsula RAC. Thank you very
37 much.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. I
40 really appreciate your comments. Martin.

41
42 MR. AUKONGAK: (In Native). 1,2,3, are
43 you ready? I don't know everybody that know that
44 language, but anyway, I am a proud Iñupiaq from up here.
45 I grew up here. I had an awesome life in Golovin. I grew
46 up there. Everything Alaskan, I seen in the water and
47 on the land, and even bird hunting. I had a great mom
48 and dad and saying that, you know, it's pretty epic and
49 organic. This Board right here, we are our FDA. We
50 approve our food. We're not the Black Forest. We're up

1 here on the tundra in the water, and we're happy to
2 share you, you know our food, we won't go hungry. We
3 have issues on paper that limit us to get what we need
4 but we're doing it for our people and the people that
5 come up here and move up here. And we welcome you. And
6 I'd like to thank this Board and electing me as a Vice
7 Chairman. I know I'm a little rough, but that's who I
8 am. I'm -- my dad was a businessman, and I learned a lot
9 from him. I got a lot done, you know, and everybody you
10 can think of. And I -- like I said, look at look at
11 IPOP, the Tribe of Solomon, they fought for not having
12 that mining company go there because they would just
13 ruin their land. And I'm very proud of that tribe. I
14 stood with him, I went to the court meeting and I helped
15 him. I kind of guided him and I would do it all over
16 again if someone asked for help and I will go there and
17 help out. And don't say no when you have a tribal member
18 or a Native saying, hey, can you help me? I will be
19 there. And I do miss my pet lynx Puddles. And I'm happy
20 someday, maybe you guys will meet them. Thank you, Sara,
21 and thank everybody else again. And I'll be back.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
24 Martin. I guess my turn. There's lots to be said about
25 this Council. And we really did a lot more work than we
26 thought, it was on paper here. We spent more time and
27 some after-hours work, and I think we got documents that
28 are going out and speaking loudly from us and to make
29 sure our folks up here have their subsistence met. Let's
30 see, we have the Co-Chair of AFN over there, Gayla
31 Hoseth. I see your phone number. My lady -- my girlfriend
32 there. We just attended a -- what is it called? Protect
33 our way of life lock-in in Juneau and it was three days
34 of coming up with goals to be met and how to deal with
35 this current system we're dealing with on fish and
36 wildlife issues. And one of the things that struck me
37 that you were just talking about, Elmer, is you
38 mentioned, the water. The water is a big thing in this
39 deal with -- I don't have it entirely in my mind there.
40 But the water rights along Native allotments are very
41 important. And, you know, like the settlers when they
42 got there, 160 acres in the Lower 48, they got the water
43 rights. Well, you see how important it is down south.
44 It's truly the same thing up here. And I really
45 appreciated being able to attend, got invited and
46 attended with some very intelligent people at the table
47 there for those few days at the capitol city.

48
49 We got some Board of Game -- we pass
50 some Board of Game proposals in there, pushed forward

1 to do some tough, you know, on the tough side for us,
2 it's hard to limit your own people when you know, they
3 need the resource, but also it's our job to make sure
4 that that resource is on the ground and there for the
5 future. So, taking these hard cuts, it's easy and then
6 it's not easy. You heard us at the table here today. So,
7 I really appreciate the council members for really,
8 really chewing this one up and making sense out of it
9 so we could have those very important Board of Game
10 proposals going in. And the -- what do you call it? The
11 proposed rules on the national -- on the Federal Register
12 here, going through those, went through that last night
13 and went through a lot of it today and ironed it out to
14 where we've got a letter going in and in opposition to
15 basically what they want and realize that we're dealing
16 with the out Outdoors Council and Safari Clubs and all
17 these sport hunting and fishing, because that's a threat
18 to our subsistence way of life up here. And appreciate
19 everybody's input in there, to get to the point where
20 we have a good letter Gisela put together for us to send
21 forward to the director.

22
23 It's always good to be here and see some
24 nice weather. It's kind of foggy today. I don't know,
25 maybe it's lifted up a little bit, but it sure was nice
26 for a couple of days there. Looking forward to -- I'm
27 sure people are looking forward to getting out. I know
28 there -- these longer days make that happen. So, I
29 appreciate you guys on the phone. It's a tough life to
30 sit there and sit through a couple of days of this stuff,
31 so maybe I should cut it short. A little humor in there.
32 So anyway, I appreciate everybody's time here. And I see
33 George Yaska is up there too. He's on hold. It was nice
34 to hear what he had to say about you know, his point of
35 view from the Interior. And I guess I just like to say
36 thanks to the staff, Gisela. Folks are really good in
37 helping us get through there. Sometimes they stumble,
38 and sometimes I do alright, but you guys always make it
39 better.

40
41 And Heather came up from down south
42 there. We had a request to do this, I guess about a year
43 and a half ago to have a presentation and learn what she
44 had going on. Well, this time she -- when she comes up
45 here, she came up here with a better package than she
46 had back then. So, I guess it was meant to be that way.
47 And looking forward to seeing what we're seeing here
48 with the ANSEP, the children, the kids were here. It was
49 enlightening to see that there's interest. I know that's
50 not exactly all what they're about, but this program

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1 that potentially could come our way. Martin's kind of
2 spoke up for (indiscernible) might want to grab a handle
3 on it, and we need somebody to sponsor it up here. And
4 then Heather's help to get it going with -- I think
5 we'll have something pretty good in -- within the next
6 couple of years. Either, say, the next couple of years
7 where we have a grip on it. So, I appreciate everybody's
8 time.

9

10 MR. AUKONGAK: Anybody in the room want
11 to come in?

12

13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Anybody on in the
14 room want to comment? I was just going to ask that.
15 Gisela.

16

17 MS. CHAPA: I will make it short and
18 sweet. I just wanted to thank all the council members
19 for being here. Also, Council Member Kirk and Moses for
20 being with us through the duration of the meeting online.
21 Because it is rather difficult to participate and engage
22 in the discussion in very complex discussions that the
23 Council saw today. And also to the Council members who
24 are present again, thank you for being here. On the
25 agenda, it seemed like it was going to be a pretty
26 straightforward meeting, but there were a lot of issues
27 that required good discussions. So, thanks again for
28 your time and your dedication. As Council member pointed
29 out, you are volunteers, and ultimately help better the
30 Federal Subsistence Management Program. So, thank you
31 again.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you for that,
34 Gisela. Just a final, you know, this protect our way of
35 life lock-in was inspiring to me in a way that it just
36 showed me that there's others out there and there's some
37 pretty smart people that are really wanting to advocate
38 for their people from where they're from and then in an
39 entirety for the people, for the state of Alaska. And
40 it was -- the thing about it is there's not a lot of us.
41 And Gayla has mentioned that a few times over a time --
42 period of time here that, you know, we're out there,
43 we're a part of this process. It's hard work. It's
44 mentally hard work. To me it's mentally as much as it
45 is physically. So, it's like encouraging these young
46 people is a big deal to me, to see them be able to take
47 and fill our shoes because look at Elmer. He's been here
48 over 30 years and I'm 16. I miss Tommy Gray here, he's
49 been here for a long time, too. I don't recall all the
50 time that he put in here and all the organizations that

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1 he is a part of but it's truly a good piece of this
2 Council and is missed already. So, I just wanted to say
3 that for Tommy and I guess that'd be it. So, thank you,
4 Mr. Chairman. Oh. Go ahead.

5
6 MS. IVANOFF: Thanks. Mr. Chair, this is
7 Kelsi. I just spoke to -- or was texting with someone
8 on the Northwest Arctic RAC, and they are also proposing
9 the exact same proposal to the Game of Board, for four
10 caribou, no cows. And they are -- they supported WSA26-
11 01 with the amendment that no cows are allowed.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Well that just proves
14 that we're on the right road. So, we're not the only
15 ones thinking of that. That's great. Good news. Thanks,
16 Kelsi. And with that, if anybody else has anything to
17 say? No? I'm going to ask for a motion to adjourn.

18
19 MS. IVANOFF: Motion to adjourn. This is
20 Kelsi.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Thank you. We are
23 adjourned.

24
25 MR. KIRK: Second.

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27 CHAIRPERSON GREEN: Second. Third.
28 Adjourned at 4:51.

29
30 (Off record)

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32 (END OF PROCEEDING)

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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 115 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II recorded on the 31st 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 2027.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager