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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

DR. ALBERT HALL, ILLISAGVIK COLLEGE
Utqiagvik, Alaska
October 1, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Utqiaġvik - 10/1/26)

(On record)

MS. CHAPA: All right. So, good afternoon everyone. Once again, welcome to the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. My name is Gisela Chapa and I'm the Council Coordinator for the Council. I think we are ready to get started, so I'll hand it over to our Council Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Gisela. Welcome, everybody, to Day One. Time is just after 1:05. So, I guess we'll get started with the agenda. We'll go with item 1, Invocation. And, Mr. Barger, could you lead us with a with a prayer here?

MR. BARGER: Thank you all. Lord, give us the opportunity to gather good information for our communities and, you know, work together as one. And thank you all that, you know, that you bring us all together on the phone or in person, that, you know, that we all go for all of our food that we provide for our people, so. And thank you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Amen. Thank you, Leonard. All right. We'll go with item 2, Call to Order. It's about 1:06 now. So, officially call to order the Regional Advisory Subsistence -- the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. Fall meeting. And item 3. We'll go to Roll Call and Establish Quorum. And do we have Wanda? No. So, all right, Gisela. I guess we'll -- you'll be Wanda today. So, item 3, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: All right. Leonard Barger.

MR. BARGER: Here.

MS. CHAPA: Wanda Kippi. Currently not available. We'll try to -- we'll see if she can make it by tomorrow. Peter Williams has an excused absence. Quincy Adams.

MR. ADAMS: Here.

MS. CHAPA: Martha Itta.

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1 MS. ITTA: Here.

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3 MS. CHAPA: Esther Hugo. We'll see if Ms.
4 Hugo can join us shortly. Brower Frantz.

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6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Here.

7

8 MS. CHAPA: Jenysa Ahmaogak.

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10 MS. AHMAOGAK: Here.

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12 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With
13 five council members present, we do have a quorum.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Gisela.
16 So, it sounds like we can take action as needed and
17 continue with our meeting. All right, moving on. Item
18 4, Meeting Announcements. Gisela.

19

20 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again,
21 my name is Gisela Chapa. I'm the Council Coordinator for
22 the North Slope RAC, and I'm also the Designated Federal
23 Officer for this meeting. My housekeeping announcements.
24 Just a reminder that this is a public meeting for this
25 Council, and this meeting is being recorded and
26 transcribed. For those attending the meeting in person,
27 please make sure to sign in at the front table. There's
28 a signage - sign-in sheet each day and appreciate if you
29 can sign in every day that you attend the meeting. The
30 meeting materials are also located in the back of the
31 book. We do have a meeting book and a supplemental
32 material with a couple of flyers that will inform the
33 meeting so you can find a copy there. And you will find
34 a copy of the latest agenda, which is a handout. For
35 those joining us online or over the phone, the agenda
36 can be found at doi.gov/subsistence/. Under the Regional
37 Advisory Councils' tab, choose North Slope. And then
38 also choose Meeting Materials. And as soon as I get a
39 moment, I will share the link to the meeting materials
40 online, on our chat.

41

42 At this meeting, the Council will be
43 approving the 2028 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
44 Priority Information Needs, develop recommendations on
45 Wildlife Special Action WSA26-01 regarding the Western
46 Arctic Caribou Herd and also discuss other issues
47 related to subsistence. There will be an opportunity for
48 the public to comment during each agenda item, and
49 likewise, there will be time for comments on non-agenda
50 items. That is item 10 in our agenda. And this

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1 opportunity is available each day of our meeting. If you
2 would like to speak on a particular agenda item, there
3 is a blue sheet of paper where the sign in sheet is. We
4 call it the testifier form. If you can please fill that
5 one in and give it to me, I will be sure to hand it to
6 our Chair to help address your comment. For those that
7 are joining us online, to raise your hand -- please
8 raise your hand for a turn to speak. And those that are
9 calling in, you'll need to press star 5. And that will
10 let us know that you want to address the Council and
11 we'll add you to the queue of speakers. For all
12 participants on the phone or online, your lines will be
13 automatically muted. You will have to unmute yourself
14 to speak. If you're on the phone, you'll need to press
15 star 6 to unmute yourself. And finally, please state
16 your name for the record before making a comment or
17 presenting a topic. This just helps us to make sure that
18 we have an accurate record on a speaker and with our
19 meeting minutes. And thank you, Mr. Chair. That
20 concludes my meeting announcements.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for those
23 announcements, Gisela. It sounds like we can move
24 forward with the information. All right. So, item 5,
25 Welcome and Introductions. So, we'll start off with
26 introductions for people in the room, if you could. Maybe
27 one at a time, come up to the mic, state your name,
28 where you're from, who you're with. And we'll go through
29 that.

30
31 MR. SFORMO: Todd Sformo, North Slope
32 Borough Wildlife.

33
34 MS. DAGGETT: Carmen Daggett, Alaska
35 Department of Fish and Game.

36
37 MS. SENEAL: Anna Senecal, Fisheries
38 Biologist, OSM, out of Anchorage.

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40 MS. MORROW: Hello, this is Kristen
41 Morrow, Anthropologist with OSM.

42
43 MR. LIND: Cama'i. Orville Lind, Native
44 Liaison for OSM. Good to see you all.

45
46 MR. VICKERS: Good afternoon. Good to see
47 you all again. Brent Vickers. I've been up here before
48 with OSM, but now I am the BLM Subsistence Resource
49 Coordinator based down in Anchorage so, thanks.

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Welcome, newcomer.

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3 MS. LA VINE: Good afternoon everyone.
4 I'm Robbin La Vine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator for
5 OSM. It's really good to see you all, be back up in the
6 North Slope. Thank you.

7

8 MS. HOLMAN: Good afternoon. Kendra
9 Holman, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

10

11 MR. OLEMAUN: Josiah Olemaun with the
12 North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife.

13

14 MS. LEAVITT: Doreen Leavitt, Natural
15 Resources Director for Iñupiat Community of Arctic
16 Slope.

17

18 MR. ADAMS: Good afternoon. Billy Adams,
19 North Slope Borough Wildlife Department.

20

21 MR. HOPSON: Charles Hopson, NVB Wildlife
22 Department.

23

24 MR. AQPIK: Robert Aqpik, Jr., North
25 Slope Borough Department of Planning. Good afternoon.

26

27 MR. AHTUNGARUAK: Wesley Ahtungaruak,
28 North Slope Borough Field Inspector.

29

30 MR. KALEAK: Good afternoon. Ralph
31 Kaleak, Lead Field Inspector, North Slope Borough
32 Planning.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Welcome,
35 everybody. Got a pretty good attendance list. All right.
36 So, introductions for people online. So, if everybody
37 could, online, press star 6 to unmute yourself and call
38 yourself in, please.

39

40 MR. RISDALH: Hi, this is Greg Risdahl.
41 I am the Subsistence Program Lead for the Forest Service
42 and the Interagency Staff Committee member to the
43 Federal Subsistence Board. Glad to be, (distortion),
44 listening in today. Thank you.

45

46 MR. SCANLON: Hello. Good afternoon. This
47 is Brendan Scanlon, Fisheries Biologist with the
48 Department of Fish and Game out of Fairbanks.

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1 MR. MERRILL: Good afternoon. This is
2 Clayton Merrill, Subsistence Coordinator with Arctic and
3 Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges.

4
5 MS. ITTA: Good afternoon. Martha Itta,
6 North Slope Subsistence Council member for Nuiqsut.

7
8 MR. FRENZEL: Good afternoon, Aaron
9 Frenzel, Alaska Wildlife Troopers Deputy Director.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon. This is Eva
12 Patton with the National Park Service, Subsistence
13 Program Manager in Anchorage. And great to see you all
14 online and hear you today.

15
16 MR. HANSEN: Good afternoon. This is Alex
17 Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm in
18 Kotzebue. Work with Western Arctic Caribou and Regional
19 Supervisor for Region 5.

20
21 MS. MIKOW: Good afternoon. This is Beth
22 Mikow, Anthropologist for the BLM Arctic District
23 Office.

24
25 MR. VALENTINE: Good afternoon. This is
26 Dan Valentine with Alaska Wildlife Troopers based out
27 of Fairbanks, Alaska.

28
29 MS. KIRKEY: Good afternoon. This is
30 Grace Kirkey. Just calling in as myself.

31
32 MR. UBELAKER: Good afternoon. This
33 is.....

34
35 (Simultaneous speech)

36
37 MS. HUGO: Good afternoon.....

38
39 MR. UBELAKER: Sorry. Go right ahead.

40
41 MS. HUGO: This Esther Hugo with the
42 North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, AKP.

43
44 MR. UBELAKER: Good afternoon. This is
45 Brian Ubelaker, Acting State Liaison for the Office of
46 Subsistence Management.

47
48 MS. OKADA: Good afternoon. This is Marcy
49 Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic
50 National Park and Preserve, based out of Fairbanks.

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MR. JOLY: Hello, everyone, this is Kyle Joly. I'm a Wildlife Biologist. Study the Western Arctic Herd. I'm with Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Good afternoon.

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MS. DAY: Good afternoon, everyone.

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(Simultaneous speech)

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MR. STONE: Good afternoon, everyone. Sorry, Janel. Go ahead.

13

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MS. DAY: Go ahead, Jarred.

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MR. STONE: Good afternoon, everyone. Jarred Stone, Fish Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

19

20

MS. DAY: Good afternoon, everyone. This is Janel, Cartographer with Office of Subsistence Management.

22

23

24

MS. AHMAOGAK: Good afternoon. My name is Jenysa Ahmaogak. I'm the Council Member for Wainwright. I wasn't able to make it into the meeting in the winter, in February, because I happen to have her just days before the meeting. She was about a week old when the meeting took place so, I was just too busy adjusting to my new life. But my daughter is here attending the meeting, too. So, I just wanted to show you all the baby. Good afternoon.

32

33

34

MR. NASHOANAK: Jadon Nashoanak, Native Village of Nuiqsut.

36

37

MS. WESSELS: Hello, this is Katya Wessels. I'm Council Coordination Division Supervisor with OSM.

40

41

MS. KLEIN: Hi. I'm not sure where we are in introductions, but this is Jill Klein. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator, joining from Anchorage.

45

46

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you and welcome everybody online. Do we have anybody else that hasn't called in and stated your name or who you're with?

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1 (No response)

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All right. Hearing none. I think that should be it for introductions for people online. And - all right, we welcome the new RAC member there, Jenysa. All right. In training, yeah, in training. All right, I think that is everybody for introductions, I mean unless we want to go through here because we've introduced ourselves. All right. Item 6, Membership Update. Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to take an opportunity to give you an update on the 2026 Council nomination cycle. And before I do that, I should give you the update on the 2025 nomination cycle. It concluded with the reappointment of incumbent Council Members Williams and Kippi. It became effective April 2026, which is a little later than usual, but I wanted to make sure that even though they are not present right now to congratulate them for their reappointment.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Congratulations on your reappointments. Is that it for membership updates?

MS. CHAPA: No, no. Now I go into 2026 one. So, after the reappointments that left our council with a total of five voting seats and one non-voting seat for the young leader to fill. And if you recall from the previous meeting, the Council had encouraged OSM to increase our outreach efforts and try to target representation from Kaktovik for the 2026 nomination cycle. We did ramp up our outreach efforts, but we did not receive any applications to represent that community. On the plus side, I think the increased outreach efforts helped because we received more applications than seats to fill this time around. And that means that there will be competition for council members to be appointed this cycle. And where we stand in the process with that is that the Board's recommendations on council member appointments has been reviewed and sent up to the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. And we anticipate that the next set of appointments will be issued in December. That's it, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the updates, Gisela. I think with the recent changes in our subsistence world and the things that were thrown at us kind of opened up a few ears and eyes that, you know, they did actually start asking about this Council and where to apply because of these concerns with the, I

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1 think the caribou numbers. And it was -- I think it was
2 good overall, you know, we don't like to see the numbers
3 drop like that, but it did kick up enough dust to where
4 we had people actually concerned and wanting to apply
5 and I guess become informed on the item. So that was
6 good. Go ahead.

7
8 MS. CHAPA: Now the next appointment
9 cycle isn't officially open, but I do have applications
10 in the back of the room for anybody who's interested;
11 has questions, I'll be happy to answer. We're taking
12 applications as we receive them. And so, those are
13 available for the public.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good, but I
16 think we should still continue to encourage people in
17 some of the smaller locations that are not on the on the
18 chair or on the on the Council. So, I think we should
19 move forward with continuing that. Go ahead, Leonard.

20
21 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Chairman. It's
22 Leonard. You know, I brought up the Point Lay one too,
23 member. I know one of the guys applied for -- to be on
24 Board so, I've been bugging Lee Kayotuk in Kaktovik to
25 apply, too. So, I'm trying to bug them so they can have
26 their own representation for all the North Slope. So,
27 thank you.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank
30 you, Leonard. All right, where are we? Item 7, Review
31 and Adopt the Agenda. Looks like that's for me. So, it
32 looks like the latest draft is a handout. So, you should
33 have that with you. Go ahead and take a look at it if
34 you need to. Otherwise, what is the wish of the Council?

35
36 MR. ADAMS: Move to approve the agenda.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: We have a motion on
39 the floor to approve the agenda. Quincy.

40
41 MR. BARGER: Second.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
44 Barger. Any discussion on the matter? Gisela, did you
45 have anything to add for this? Was [sic] there any
46 changes or anything made?

47
48 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I just
49 wanted to note, for the agendas that are printed in the
50 back of the room, the changes are highlighted in yellow,

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1 and we basically included items to provide additional
2 context on the FY25 Annual Report Reply, item 11 E2. And
3 we also added a presentation from OSM with information
4 about tribal, government and ANCSA corporation
5 consultations. Those were the only changes made.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any further
8 discussion or questions for Gisela on the changes?

9
10 (No response)

11
12 MR. ADAMS: Question.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been
15 called for all those in favor of passing the agenda say
16 aye.

17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
21 sign.

22
23 (No response)

24
25 Hearing none. We have an agenda. Right.
26 Item 8, Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes. So,
27 this this looks like it's in page 7 of the meeting
28 materials. Requires a motion and a second.

29
30 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair. I make a motion
31 to approve the meeting minutes.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: A motion on the
34 floor to approve.

35
36 MS. HUGO: Second.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by -- is
39 that Esther? Esther Hugo. Any discussion on the meeting
40 minutes?

41
42 UNIDENTIFIED: Call for question.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been
45 called for all those in favor of passing or approving
46 the meeting minutes on page 7, say aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
2 sign.

3
4 (No response)

5
6 Hearing none. The meeting minutes are
7 approved. All right. Moving on, item 9, Regional
8 Subsistence Reports. This one will be the Council Member
9 Reports. I guess we'll start with online. Maybe Nuiqsut?
10 Martha.

11
12 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
13 afternoon, everyone. Good afternoon, Council. Okay. I
14 wanted to welcome all those that are listening in and
15 participating in our meeting. I hear there is quite a
16 few new people that are attending. I welcome you all.
17 Good to have you guys here. Okay. So, for subsistence
18 issues, concerns. We've had a good moose hunting season,
19 and it's still ongoing right now. Quite a few moose
20 that's been caught. I think, so far, there's like 5 --
21 4 or 5 that's been caught. Our whaling season was a
22 success. We got more whales than the last 2 or 3 years.
23 So, now we have a lot more food of muktuk and unaaliq
24 in our freezer, so that's really good. Good to have our
25 freezers filled of muktuk again.

26
27 There were a few issues with whaling.
28 Our waterways, our ocean and our rivers are draining
29 really bad to where there's island popping up
30 everywhere. We've had a whaling boat that got stranded.
31 We -- I -- it was one of the ones that went to go help
32 on that rescue mission. And I -- we were in the water
33 for over six hours trying to get the boat unstuck. We
34 didn't have -- Search and Rescue couldn't get out there.
35 ACS couldn't get out there to the -- to us to help out.
36 So, there was a lot of land popping up and a lot of
37 boaters getting stuck, it's getting hard to get out of
38 our channel. From leaving the village to get to the main
39 channel. The land is shifting, the land is getting
40 closer. It seems like our river is kind of closing up
41 on that end on Napasalu area, trying to get out to the
42 main channel. We're wasting a lot more gas and time
43 trying to get unstuck from those issues, so. A lot of
44 changes. It's changing more and more every year. It's
45 no -- not how it used to be. It's getting harder and
46 harder to get out. It would be really nice if those
47 responsible for our subsistence road, the only
48 subsistence road that we have that's not surrounded by
49 development to our main channel was supposed to be for
50 whaling, but due to gravel and construction issues, that

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1 is no longer in service so, you know, if somebody,
2 anybody, can look at that, the responsibility, because
3 it is supposed to be a subsistence road that was offset
4 for oil and gas development. So that, the weather during
5 our whaling season getting more dangerous. We've had a
6 few close calls. Our safety. And the land is shrinking.
7 And I brought this up a few times before and our
8 concerns.

9
10 Traffic. Our caribou hunting. It's
11 really depleting more than animals are there, but
12 there's more sick animals. It's -- accessibility is more
13 harder than before, now that there's more development,
14 more roads, ice roads that goes [sic] in every direction
15 so, there's a lot of traffic. I've had, I was hunting
16 out there over a few months ago and just when a caribou
17 was coming our way, there's a worker, oil field worker
18 truck that was speeding on the road and scared the
19 caribou away. So, there's a lot of violations out there
20 that's happening that's affecting our subsistence
21 hunting. Air traffic. Road traffic. That's turning our
22 caribou away. There's a lot of them that's still not
23 crossing. There's some that are lost on the road so
24 they'll just walk on the road for miles and miles not
25 knowing which way to go. I've observed that. I have some
26 pictures and videos of caribou doing that.

27
28 The muskox are more on the Prudhoe Bay
29 side that I've seen. There was a few that came into
30 town, but they're more on the Prudhoe Bay side. And
31 they're finally -- Fish and Wildlife is finally here
32 today to give the two muskox permits so, that's good.
33 Let me see. There was geese. Yeah. The geese hunting was
34 good. A few of them reported sick geese. But it was good
35 overall. Let's see. I'm looking at my notes on if I'm
36 missing anything else.

37
38 The -- okay, the spills, there's a lot
39 of spills and stuff that are happening out there that I
40 asked before if they can do such studies on the animals
41 to us eating it. And I saw in the report in our request
42 or the letter response back that they are not going to
43 include the studies that we asked for. They're not going
44 to fund it. That would that would really give answers
45 to our consumption of food from our land and our rivers.
46 Because there are a lot of spills that hasn't been
47 cleaned up in our area and they're still trying to figure
48 out how to clean them up in a lot of places and there's
49 a lot of accidents out there that are affecting the
50 animals and possibly our health but there's no way to

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1 tell that. The request that we ask, you know, such as
2 the studies are being denied. So, unless I'm wrong, if
3 you guys have an answer on that, something I've been
4 asking for many years. That would really give an answer
5 to our people and, you know, make us more aware.

6
7 I talked about education in the past,
8 in my last reports. And I think those that are trying
9 and putting things together for our community and trying
10 to get the word out there for our young people. The one
11 thing that, you know, the Search and Rescue I want to
12 bring up, again. Because we're trying to find ways to
13 teach our young how to read the land, know the land. Our
14 Search and Rescue is in demand now because of the changes
15 and people having to travel farther to try to get food
16 on their table. There has been incidences where we have
17 no response from Search and Rescue, and we have to figure
18 it out on our own, and that's really scary. So, I'd like
19 to bring that concern up again on the Search and Rescue
20 side. If we can get help to have classes to educate our
21 people, you know, come here and talk about how to read
22 the rivers, what to look out for, you know, how to
23 prepare for Search and Rescue, if anything, because we
24 do need to get our young people involved. I think that's
25 pretty much what I have. If there's any other questions,
26 Mr. Chair. Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No, but the last one
29 I think I can probably assist with, maybe. But thank you
30 for your insight. We're taking notes as we go, and we'll
31 pass off each of these concerns to whoever they may be
32 directed to. Even if it's outside the Council. But we'll
33 make sure to take these notes down and make sure they
34 get somewhere and are not overlooked. But you do bring
35 up some very good points. And those are very important
36 things for the community, and I would agree with them.
37 So, we'll work on passing these notes out to the
38 responsible parties for each of the concerns. Thank you.
39 All right. Up next -- oh! Oh, go ahead! We have Todd.
40 Sounds like we have a question.

41
42 MR. SFORMO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Todd
43 Sformo, North Slope Borough Wildlife. Martha, I just had
44 one comment. North Slope Borough is doing a study looking
45 at potential hydrocarbons in fish. And so, the last batch
46 of fish went to the Mote Marine Lab, probably just got
47 there, probably just yesterday. And so, we've been
48 looking for, just to see if we could detect any
49 hydrocarbons and these would be fish from Nigliq
50 Channel, main channel and the Fish Creek area. So,

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1 hopefully we'll be concluding that and getting you a
2 report on the findings after that's done. And then the
3 second thing was you were talking about these islands
4 popping up, but I didn't exactly hear where.

5
6 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Todd, for that
7 information. And I look forward to seeing those reports.
8 I did mention it's leaving the village down here at our
9 river, going to the main channel on the Napasalu, going
10 out to the main channel. And not only there, but all the
11 way to the ocean side. It's harder for the whalers to
12 come in because the land popping up and shifting. It's
13 happening, you know, we've had a lot of issues so, that's
14 up and down the Channel. Thank you, Todd.

15
16 MR. SFORMO: Thank you. I just wanted to
17 remind you that there was a group from NASA that was
18 supposed to go to Nuiqsut, I think just last week. And
19 the trip was canceled for some reason, but they are
20 really interested in looking at those channels. And so,
21 I'll make sure I get you their name and number. Thanks.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Todd. All
24 right. Some good insight there. Up next, we'll go with
25 Esther in Anaktuvuk Pass. Esther, are you online?

26
27 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can you
28 hear me? We had some phone problems earlier.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, we can hear you
31 loud and clear. Good afternoon.

32
33 MS. HUGO: Good afternoon to you all up
34 there. Sorry I couldn't make it to the meeting. I got a
35 family situation so, I need to tend to that before I do
36 anything like going to meetings. But I'm thankful that
37 we do have teleconference. Mr. President, here we go
38 again. Where's our caribou? It's not so much on the
39 global warming. We -- our old folks knew that a long
40 time ago. We're waiting. I went to the meeting last
41 couple weeks ago, and they were about a hundred miles
42 or less. The last before I hopped the plane, it was 50
43 miles just under the mountains. So, we're getting all
44 prepared. Now as I speak, they all return north. There's
45 so many activity up there, they're diverting the
46 caribou. The little planes to hunt, sport hunters. We
47 had so much hope when they were 50 miles north of us,
48 into the mountains. Cause that's close, close by. But
49 now we're sitting here waiting for them and by the time
50 they come, our (In Native) will be rugged. And so, here

1 we go again, to catch all the cows we can to fill our
2 freezers. Knowing that the cow ratio is the one very
3 important because they deliver the fawns or the babies.
4 But we have no choice up here. We need to fill those
5 freezers for the harsh winter. It's the same old cycle.
6 I wish I can use the magic wand like a witch and just
7 snap it all and let you all know how it feels living
8 here, at the prime time of our migration that should be
9 here. It's over and over and over, meeting after meeting
10 after meeting. Still the same thing. You got -- I got a
11 community that's hurting. They're crying for their soul
12 food. When I was picking berries out there -- every time
13 I pick berries, there's always caribou droppings, all
14 over. I just don't go one spot. I go all over with my
15 (indiscernible) to pick berries. That's how come they
16 said that (In Native) translate Anaktuvuk Pass to a place
17 of caribou droppings, which is really true. But now we're
18 waiting again to put food on our table. And the sport
19 hunters, the little planes, they are all diverting and
20 they're catching them as they're coming this way.
21 They're being diverted, we see -- we know and we feel
22 that activity. I don't know what else to say. But like
23 I say, like last meeting, that was last year. We need
24 to take legal action as a community. We can't go on like
25 this. We're getting older, us older ones. I think we got
26 36 that are just turning 60 or over 60. We were from the
27 generation, from our parents and grandparents. All our
28 parents have passed. There's just three of the original
29 (In Native). They are women that are here. Doris Hugo,
30 and Ruth Rulland, and Marie (indiscernible). And it's
31 hurting us. We're so hurt. The more I tried to say,
32 like, I'm not doing my job for my people. It's just
33 talk, talk, talk. Never nothing done. But I'm not easy
34 to give up. Cause I'll take this all the way, as long
35 as I can, even to my last breath. We had a reason our
36 parents chose this area. We live here. We've survived.
37 They've survived, but they're gone. Now it's our turn.
38 And we're going through the same thing they did. Our
39 grandparents and our parents. We're completely stomped
40 on. Nobody listens. Nobody hears. That's how come I keep
41 bringing up the legal action. I wish we could use a good
42 lawyer, an attorney. But we're hurting as I speak. We
43 know the caribou are coming this way, but they'll be
44 here after rutting because it's October 1st. God that
45 hurts. Trying to be where you're from. What's your main
46 diet? Us, caribou. We need that caribou.

47
48 I'll just go on to say that the
49 strikers, June and August, to August, maybe only 2 or 3
50 caught compared to 5 or 10 in June to August. There's

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1 probably 4 -- 2 to 4 sheep that was caught right after
2 the opening July 15th. There's a lot of wolves, bears
3 and foxes that come to our village and damn, they're
4 skinny, they're hungry. They go to our trash bins. We
5 know they're hungry because we don't have caribou to
6 catch to feed them the scraps that we always leave out
7 there. The berries. We had so much rain. We snowed two
8 days in July, middle of July, which killed all our aqpiks
9 up north, where we usually go camping for a week to
10 pick, aqpiks. But we snowed in July too, and it killed
11 them all. Fortunately, we were fortunate there was some
12 growing around the village nearby. I know I picked two
13 quarts. We ate them up and we'll have to wait till next
14 year. If I can just have a moment of silence for 30
15 seconds. Just for my community, for my people, the tuttu.

16

17 (Pause)

18

19 Thank you. But that's where we're at
20 again. I don't know what else to say, because I'm trying
21 to represent the people I love and where I was born and
22 raised and how we depend on the caribou. But we're out
23 powered, we're stomped on, we aren't being listened to.
24 Nobody hears. And I just want to say that, even though
25 it's State land, Federal land, NPR-A north of us, it's
26 all in this piece of paper. The government, how they
27 want it done up here, even though they never step a foot
28 in our lands. Just in a piece of paper. And we're always
29 overpowered or turned away because we'll be repeating
30 the same thing I've been repeating for so long. Not to
31 give up though. I love my home, my community, my
32 relatives, my family. But without caribou, it hurts.
33 Without the main diet, it hurts so bad. It just hurts.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Esther.....

36

37 (Simultaneous speech)

38

39 MS. HUGO: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I got a couple
42 questions. Yeah, thank you there, Esther. I have a couple
43 questions just in addition to your comments in your
44 report. So, I know they had the recent Gates of the
45 Arctic change and your use that was approved for going
46 on to the lands for the Gates of the Arctic. Has anybody
47 utilized that with ATVs or Argos for hunts?

48

49 MS. HUGO: Yes, we did, the summertime.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, people are going
2 in there.

3
4 (Simultaneous speech)

5
6 MS. HUGO: (Indiscernible). Yes, we are.
7 Soon as they told us, we can go over the boundaries and
8 we were collaborating with them (distortion).
9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Have you heard of
11 any successful hunts in that location?
12

13 MS. HUGO: No. No stragglers. The sheep.
14 I don't know where the sheep are. They've been going up
15 on the mountain, and sometimes they come home with
16 nothing And wonder where all the sheep at.
17

18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Well,
19 hopefully we get some reports of successful hunts in
20 that area now that they've opened it up to you guys. But
21 the other thing I had was, I know I keep hearing a lot
22 of hunters and hikers as well as other people utilizing
23 the Gates of the Arctic are inundating your flights. Is
24 that true? I mean, your seats for the local community
25 to fly in and out.
26

27 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, Mr. President. Yes.
28 We have seen a lot Hikers, hunters that dare to land
29 here. But we turned to Coldfoot or Bethel.
30

31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes. I've talked to
32 a couple individuals that they had enough hikers as well
33 as flying do-it-yourself hunters and rafters that were
34 inundating their flights and their day-to-day flights.
35 Everybody was trying to leave or come back home and
36 their flights are completely inundated with summertime
37 recreational or commercial hunting enthusiasts. So,
38 that's -- that might be something to think about if
39 anybody knows of any avenues to see if we can help them
40 out, at least on that aspect of it, because it's
41 affecting their, you know, their community traversing
42 to and from home. So, just wanted to point that one out.
43 I had more than a couple individuals pointing that out
44 during the season this year. Anything else for your
45 report there, Esther?
46

47 MS. HUGO: Yes. Thank you for mentioning.
48 Just a little bit of what I know it's been going on
49 right there. Like persons, like the Medicaid person or
50 person goes to dentist or the doctor, it's so hard to

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1 get back home. Cause you can't get home until Tuesday.
2 You just went there Thursday or Friday for the
3 appointment. You're seeing a lot of that, right? Flights
4 that have been booked and when we go to the plane,
5 there's two extra seats. Hunters talking all the seats.
6 I know Wright Air are transporting a lot of hunters.
7 Either to Prudhoe or Umiat. But that is one of the things
8 that on us, for so long, especially those that are going
9 to doctors. And. A lot of them may have to (distortion)
10 or for the weekend or -- and have to wait till Tuesday.
11 It's not a Monday, but it's going to be until you get
12 home and these people are just going to see their doctor
13 or appointment. That's been going on a long time. Thank
14 you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank
17 you, Esther. Those were the only two we had online,
18 right?

19

20 MS. CHAPA: Jenysa.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, Jenysa.
23 Wainwright.

24

25 MS. AHMAOGAK: Hello, good afternoon.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good afternoon. We
28 can hear you.

29

30 MS. AHMAOGAK: This year, we were able
31 to get 3 bowhead whale in the spring. I don't think I've
32 seen anybody going out for fall whaling. And I haven't
33 heard anything about fall whaling yet either. This
34 summer was pretty good to us. We did have a warm summer.
35 The berries were actually able to grow and they did a
36 lot better than the previous years. As for the caribou,
37 I know that's a big pressing issue. I know it's been a
38 pretty busy year. I'm considering that I did welcome a
39 new addition to our family, and it's been pretty hard
40 to keep up, but I've been doing my best. We did see two
41 different locals catch moose this year, which is pretty
42 unusual. I haven't heard of anybody getting moose around
43 here in years. But right now, it seems like our fall
44 boating season is coming to an end. We're just about to
45 freeze up, the snow has been sticking on the ground. I
46 don't think I've heard much concerns this year about
47 anything. But I know that, from my perspective when it
48 comes to whaling, it seems like it's getting harder and
49 harder to, I wouldn't say harvest the whale, but to
50 actually butcher, you know, take the time to get up, get

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1 it up on the ice and butcher because it seems like
2 there's just less and less people coming out to help.
3 And that's something that we've been struggling with.
4 And I'm pretty sure that's one of the reasons why we
5 only got 3 bowhead this year. I know we are going through
6 some pretty difficult times. Changing times. Things just
7 keep happening left and right. But our community has
8 been doing our best to just keep moving forward and
9 continue practicing the traditions we've always
10 practiced subsistence-wise. Besides that, I don't really
11 have anything else.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I've got a question.
14 I did hear about a couple instances where they were
15 finding dozens of caribou that were dead and they were
16 correlating that with some wolves that were running
17 around. Have you heard anything about high predators
18 this year?

19

20 MS. AHMAOGAK: I believe my cousin had
21 talked about it. He didn't come to me directly about it
22 though, but I've seen -- I have seen some of his posts,
23 now that you bring it up. I know there's a bunch of
24 people here that do their best to do predator control.
25 I'm still hoping to see more people, more young people
26 willing to learn. Because the predator control does, you
27 know, really does help us with our subsistence.
28 Especially when it comes to the caribou, because, you
29 know, caribou will always be a big staple to our diet
30 as Iñupiat people. But besides that, nobody came to me
31 directly.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Yeah. No, that
34 was just an observation I thought I'd ask about. So,
35 what I had seen was that there was -- they said -- well,
36 it was a couple, it was a dozen caribou or so. And wolves
37 were running around killing them and leaving them
38 probably for the, maybe the second half of their pack
39 to come around, but. So, that was some observations we
40 had seen around the Wainwright area, I just wanted to
41 point it out. Thank you. Thank you though, for your
42 report.

43

44 (Distortion)

45

46 Yeah. All right. We'll go with --
47 anybody want to take a break? Oh, we have a question for
48 Jenysa. Go ahead, Carmen.

49

50

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1 MS. DAGGETT: Hello, Jenysa, this is
2 Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
3 for the record. Thank you for your report and for
4 everyone else's reports we've heard so far. I -- you
5 mentioned that there were two moose that were caught.
6 I'm curious if people mentioned if they were bulls or
7 cows at all? If that was mentioned at all, and then just
8 encourage people to get harvest tickets for their moose
9 for that side of things and to contact me if you need
10 help figuring out how to do that, I'm always available.

11
12 (Talking)

13
14 Yeah, yeah. Thank you, Brower, for that.
15 So, there's certainly a season, an antlerless moose
16 season, for that neck of the woods of the North Slope.
17 And so, during that season is legal to take an antlerless
18 moose which includes cows. So, it would be good to just
19 get an idea. I have to give a report to the Board every
20 year about how many are being taken and without getting
21 harvest reports from people, I don't really know how
22 many are being taken during this hunt. And so, it would
23 be helpful for me to understand that a little bit better.
24 So, I appreciate you bringing that up. I'm not trying
25 to get anyone in trouble, just trying to understand how
26 much harvest is really happening in that hunt. And then,
27 also interesting to hear about, hearing more wolves
28 around. There's definitely going to be some discussion
29 later about that particular topic, during the proposal
30 discussion so, I will leave that for that particular
31 discussion because it'll probably generate quite a bit
32 of discussion. But I did just recently get back from
33 Wainwright, I was there Tuesday and got back yesterday,
34 to talk about the cow closure in that area and had a
35 successful meeting with about 20 people in Wainwright
36 to discuss that issue and to talk about the Western
37 Arctic Caribou Herd decline. So, thank you for --
38 Wainwright, for being a welcoming community and, and
39 listening to that, too. So, thank you for that. And if
40 you have any other further information about the moose
41 hunt, I sure appreciate it, Jenysa. Thank you.

42
43 MS. AHMAOGAK: Thank you for that,
44 Carmen. I believe they were two bull moose. Those are
45 the only ones.....

46
47 (Distortion)

48
49 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you so much. That's
50 all.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, after that report, I think we're going to move to take a 10-minute break. Break time. We'll be back in 10 minutes.

(Off record)

(On record)

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. I think everybody's back from our break. Might be a little over time, but. So, we're still on item 9, Council Member's Report. And I think we got everybody online already. So, we'll move along to Point Hope. Mr. Barger.

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MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Leonard Barger, for the record, Point Hope. A lot of things happening in Point Hope. Right now, they're getting a lot of caribou and Western Arctic Caribou migration so, they're still over there. And a lot of people down at the NANA area, they're still waiting for them. Kivalina, Noatak, or -- got people calling me and asking me, "Where's the caribou?" "They're still at Point Hope, so." So, I'll do -- the young hunters, they finally have the, you know, because all these years they've been scaring them towards, you know, Red Dog, Kivalina and stuff. So, now they go around and keep them around our area until, you know, the area, but.

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Fishing went good this year. A lot of salmon. A lot of trout. Both on south side and north side of our beach. And oogruck season went good this year. And we had some people from Fairbanks went to Point Hope and get some more samples with a bearded seal samples so, that went good. And our whaling was pretty good this year. And 9 whales, and all the captains, a total of 71 belugas they caught the springtime, and I tried to go wait at the camp and try to get summer beluga, but my wife don't like summer belugas, but she liked the spring ones, so there's a different taste on the belugas so. My wife always told me to "Get the beluga you catch summertime, trade them for berries." So, I had a lot of -- I caught two belugas summertime. One on north side and one on south side beach so, when I see him, I call all my hunters and stuff and so, they come right away so people won't have a chance to shoot belugas and stuff because. And my wife was trying to tell me to get a -- put a Starlink and, at the camp there were no communication whatsoever at camp. So, that's my peaceful, quiet place where I go, so. Yeah. Point Hope,

1 we had a good year this year. And like I said, these
2 last meetings, my father and I keep on bugging me to be
3 a captain. I tell him, "heck no." You know, a lot of
4 people know about, you know, I say it all the time, if
5 you catch your first whale in Point Hope, you know, you
6 lost your wife's car or my snowmachine, and so, that's
7 a tradition at Point Hope. So, he said he's getting old.
8 I said, "Yeah I'm getting old, too, so I don't want to
9 be a captain, I'm good where I'm at so." But yeah,
10 anyway, that's it. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you
13 for your report there, Leonard. Any questions for Point
14 Hope? Carmen.

15
16 MR. BARGER: Wait.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh. Go ahead.

19
20 MR. BARGER: Sorry, I forgot. Yeah.
21 Quincy. About the (In Native). We see a lot of -- right
22 now, they're showing up by Point Hope, and about a week
23 and a half ago, one of my nephews caught a polar bear
24 on the north, right by the point, so. That was a healthy
25 polar bear, fat one, so. Jacob Lane, he caught one and
26 -- so, also I want to bring up a point I forgot about
27 Point Lay, a hunter from there said this summer they saw
28 beluga, walrus and narwhal, all together. So, I just
29 want to bring that up, so.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That's an
32 interesting observation here. So, we'll definitely be
33 keeping our eye out, I think even in Barrow for that
34 kind of stuff. So, go ahead Carmen.

35
36 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Carmen Daggett, for the record, with Alaska Department
38 of Fish and Game. I just wanted to ask if the -- if it
39 seems like the word is getting out about the cow closure
40 more in Point Hope. I know that the last meeting that
41 we had, that Michael Tuzroyluk had mentioned that,
42 somehow, people were not getting the message there and
43 so, we've kind of doubled down on our efforts to try to
44 get that information out to that community. And I'm
45 curious if you hear more people talking about it. We've
46 sent out electronic flyers and tried to send them out
47 through the Borough, too. And I know that the Kotzebue
48 office had mailed physical flyers to Mr. Tuzroyluk, but
49 it doesn't sound like they've gotten there yet. So,
50 I just want to see if there's been more discussion and

1 people are becoming more aware of that cow closure.

2

3 MR. BARGER: Yeah. Thank you, Carmen.

4 Yes. And I brought it up in our last meeting, our Fish
5 and Game. And I brought it up, you know -- as hunters,
6 you know, as a whaling captain, you know, we don't go
7 hunt. And I brought it up in the Northwest meeting back
8 over there. And I told him, I said, "are we going to
9 watch our caribou during the wintertime?". We're not
10 allowed to hunt the cow, and that's what we hunt. And,
11 you know, I had, one time I had to go up to Buckland
12 just to go in caribou. My captain, "hey, go get caribou
13 from Buckland and I'll give you gas" so, I went all the
14 way to Buckland just to get caribou. I got one, but a
15 lot of people filled up my sled. "Here, bring this." You
16 know, "good luck for whaling." You know, I told my
17 captain so when he caught a whale, he brought a lot of
18 muktuk and stuff to those people that, you know, provide
19 the meat that we depend on during whaling time. So, but
20 yeah, there's a lot of people at Point Hope, really. And
21 also, on North Slope Borough went to Point Hope and had
22 a meeting. Billy was there and I, you know, hardly any
23 people show up, hardly any. And I addressed it. I said,
24 "when you guys -- because you guys -- they spend a lot
25 of money to, you know, have meetings". We, you know,
26 tell people, "oh, they're having a meeting", but hardly
27 any people, they'll wait till, "oh, are they going to
28 have door prizes?" You know, that's the thing. You know,
29 door prizes, that's all they want. But, you know, the
30 concerns that we are having right now is the caribou
31 crisis. And they don't understand. We have to hear their
32 voice. And I tell hunters too, to come in. So -- but
33 yeah.

34

35 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Leonard. Always
36 good to hear your perspective. Appreciate you.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you
39 for that. Up next, I think we'll go with Quincy,
40 Utqiavik.

41

42 MR. ADAMS: Good afternoon, Quincy Adams
43 for the record. We had a good turnout for the spring
44 and summer hunts. To my knowledge, there was at least
45 seven beluga that were caught during the summertime. But
46 I also know there was one more caught in the spring from
47 when they were passing by. So, that was a good spring
48 and good summer. You know, got some pretty good beluga
49 oil and meat that were drying up and we got them in the
50 freezers right now. Now, springtime hunt wasn't so good

1 for the whale. One whale was landed, but we are making
2 up for them in the fall. Because so far there's been
3 eight landed and one struck and loss on the bowhead
4 whales. (In Native) was good. We had to go, you know,
5 all the way past (indiscernible) when we caught ours so,
6 we're going over a hundred miles through the rivers to
7 go out, to go get our tuttu. I hear concerns from Nuiqsut
8 saying that, you know, they're having a hard time going
9 (In Native), but we're going far for our catch. You
10 know, we also depend on that as well. One of the trips
11 we went out, you know, me and my family, we didn't see
12 no tuttu at all, you know, not, maybe, or we just saw
13 maybe five. We saw 5 tuttu, but they were mamas and
14 babies over at the mouth of Chipp River. We did pretty
15 good on fishing, we came back home with about 25 fish,
16 just a couple nights that we were there. And then we
17 went back out the next week, and we were able to go a
18 little bit farther up the river. And after that trip,
19 me and my son, my cousin and his family, we came back
20 home with 11 tuttu and we were happy with that. So, we
21 came back home, I heard the Topagoruk River was pretty
22 good as well for tuttu. It was, how many (indiscernible),
23 Josiah? All together? From Topagoruk?

24
25 (No audible response)

26
27 There's about approximately 20 to 25
28 tuttu that came back up from Topagoruk River. You know,
29 they go about, I want to say 60 to 70 miles, 60 to 70
30 miles away from Barrow to catch theirs. A lot of the
31 people are going Honda, going on down the coast, going
32 for a Honda ride, four-wheeler ride down the coast but
33 they weren't catching any at all. A lot of people were
34 coming back home with empty Hondas. So, most of the
35 tuttus that we know were up the rivers. On the different
36 trip that we went on, went out boating, it was the first
37 time going over to Cape Simpson, that was a lot of fun.
38 A lot of fun when you catch so, we came back home with
39 5 tuttu on that trip. So, our freezers are okay full
40 wise.

41
42 (Indiscernible). Oogruk hunting was
43 really good. There's a lot of drying. A lot of people
44 with some full dry racks with the oogruks, the bearded
45 seal. Quite a few people had gotten walrus, you know,
46 with (In Native) coming up, they're going to be sharing
47 all that good food. All the bounty that were blessed
48 with in the summer and the fall. Geese hunting was always
49 good up here, you know. A lot of people going up the
50 rivers, coming back with almost loads of niglingaq

1 ducks. We caught a few snow geese as well. First time
2 we tried that, man, that was so good. It's better than
3 niġlingaq I think. Snow geese is pretty good. Duck season
4 in the springtime was good. We didn't see any sick birds.
5 We didn't see any sick geese or sick snow geese or
6 anything like that. So, all the birds that we got were
7 healthy.

8
9 There was about a handful of polar bears
10 that were caught and all of them healthy, all of them
11 fat. One of them was my son that got his first one so
12 that was a good sight to see. A lot of bears, kind of,
13 hanging around all spring. And a few of them during the
14 summer and all those are nice and fat. I mean, it's good
15 to see a lot of healthy animals, a lot of good, fat,
16 healthy animals around. So, that's always a good sight
17 to see. Other than that, you know, we're just blessed
18 to have some meat hanging up for the wintertime. Oh, and
19 we're at Chipp River when it was just we brought up my
20 family, the first trip that we found, we were hearing
21 wolves by Chipp 4, you know, and they were just across
22 the river on the east side of the river. You know,
23 they're out howling at night. And my son, on the second
24 trip, we went out and after those two tuttu that we
25 caught by Chipp 4, you know, right before nightfall,
26 right before it got dark he said he was able to see at
27 least 4 wolves just eating the gut pile. Just not too
28 far from where we caught the tuttu. And we also saw
29 another pack out of the river. And I was talking with
30 one of the guys that just came up a few days ago. He was
31 over at his cabin. He said there was some wolves over
32 by Chipp 6 and they went all the way down. And then they
33 finally and then he's heard about a pack over at Chipp
34 12.5 away from his camp so, there's quite a few wolves
35 hanging around. And, hopefully, they'll be a little bit
36 less from the wintertime. People go out hunting, but
37 other than that, you know, there's a few muskox around,
38 running around here and there, you know, not as much
39 muskox as we saw last fall. But other than that, we've
40 had a real good, blessed summer, spring, summer and fall
41 hunt. And hopefully, God willing, that we can bring back
42 home some more whales so we can feed more people. And
43 that concludes my report.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Quincy.
46 Congratulations on your guys' whale. Very tasty. Yeah,
47 we want to go help and we went to go get the serving.
48 So, yeah, appreciate all the whalers and all the hunters
49 for all they do. I would -- oh, looks like we have a
50 hand raised. Carmen, go ahead.

1

2

3 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair, thank
4 you. This is Carmen Daggett again, for the record, with
5 Fish and Game. So, your mention about muskox. I just
6 wanted to let people know that the number of permits
7 available has increased and that the application period
8 for the State muskox hunts opens November 1st. You can
9 apply online for the draw. I believe there's five permits
10 available on the State side. And I think the number of
11 Federal permits has been increased too, so. The Federal
12 application period has been closed already. It happens
13 through the summer, mid-July to the beginning of August
14 until the season opens, basically. But this application
15 period would be -- you would apply this year and it
16 would be for next fall. So, if people are interested in
17 the TX109 hunt or the TX108 hunt, the division is kind
18 of at the Lakutaq River area, Eastern Admiralty Bay. You
19 can apply for either. And there's permits available
20 around Point Hope area, too, in that draw for the TX107
21 hunt. I think it's you guys. So, just know that that
22 opportunity is available to people and that they can
23 apply for those. Last year we had 5 permits available
24 and 2 people applied. So, 3 permits went into the ether.
25 Nobody got those because there weren't enough
26 applicants. So, let's not have that happen. Let's apply
27 for those. Thanks.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: If that happens and
29 somebody happens upon a muskox with that -- never mind.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 All right. Thank you for your report,
34 Quincy. Any other questions for Quincy in Utqiaġvik?

35

36 (No response)

37

38 Hearing none. We'll move forward with -
39 - that's all of them, right? Yeah, Chair's Report. So,
40 that'd be me, I guess. So, it's been an interesting
41 hunting season in Barrow. So, similar to what Quincy had
42 mentioned, belugas were observed, caught, and actually
43 I happened to get a share of that. We were eating it
44 last night with a combination of moose soup and beluga,
45 dried beluga and beluga oil. So, that was pretty good.
46 And we made the pickled (In Native). If you haven't
47 tried any yet, there's some in the back. Sorry, I didn't
48 ship anybody to everybody online, but. So, whaling, like
49 he had mentioned, in Barrow, was slow. Only one whale.
50 Fall time has been rolling around nicely, but I guess,

1 in the observation we only did get one whale in Barrow,
2 but there were a lot of whales observed that went by.
3 So, it was just the hunt that was not successful. So,
4 observation for whales, just wanted to point it out, it
5 looks like the numbers were normal and fine. It was just
6 ice conditions and conditions of the hunt itself. So, I
7 wanted to make that known so, it wasn't like they were
8 not here. It was just getting to them was a little
9 difficult.

10
11 Yeah. Caribou around has been good.
12 There has been moose caught around -- well, it was from
13 a Barrow hunter, but it was halfway to Atqasuk on the
14 Meade River. So, there was a bull moose caught on the
15 northern side, which is kind of out of place, but almost
16 expected when you have a high number of predators in the
17 area. We did see muskox roaming around Chipp 4 pretty
18 frequently, almost every other day walking in front of
19 the cabin while we were there this fall. I was really
20 trying to find an avenue because I wasn't successful in
21 getting a permit. I did apply at least for one of them,
22 but I guess not the state side. But that being said,
23 there are predators and muskox around the areas that I
24 hunt. And there was a pretty low number of caribou. I
25 mean, we were successful, but pretty low number of
26 caribou for the area overall, we used to see thousands
27 of them just walking between the cabins. And you could
28 take your pick at that point, but it seemed like there
29 was a lot of predator activity in the areas, a little
30 higher than normal. And there were some videos going
31 around of a wolf just off Nunivak Road here, maybe
32 a week or two ago, so. No? Okay. Well, predators are being
33 at least reported. But the numbers, though a lot --
34 every pretty much everybody this last winter season has
35 gone out. And if they did go out, they either ran into
36 wolves and wolverine or came home successful in hunting
37 them. So, the numbers are definitely up for predator.
38 Just wanted to point that out. And those were confirmed.
39 They did get them.

40
41 But other than that, though successful
42 season. Berries were okay up river. I mean, even the
43 cranberries. Sometimes you don't even get those on the
44 ground. Fishing was great. We did have a lot of fish.
45 No problems with the fish. Geese were plentiful. But a
46 couple observations, since being the Chair Report not
47 really localized to my hometown, but we do have a lot
48 of issues that are with sport hunters and fly-in hunters
49 that are coming and getting dropped off and left out
50 there. You know, they're trying to avoid the, you know,

1 the guided hunts. So, it's, you know, a little bit less
2 reporting that they have to do. But the -- a lot of do-
3 it-yourself hunters are getting stranded out there and
4 their air carriers are not able to pick them up and they
5 are, I want to say it's over 40 of them in the last few
6 years that we've had to go and rescue. And all of these
7 hunters are within the new section for the Western Arctic
8 Caribou Herd within 26A so, or -26 -- that remainder.
9 Every single one of those rescues are happening where
10 you want to lessen the caribou numbers. But yet, you
11 know, we're trying to change the numbers for our local
12 communities, but yet we're not restricting any fly-in
13 hunters or do-it-yourself hunters from that area. And
14 there's tons of them that are getting rescued and it's
15 starting to really stick out like a sore thumb. So, that
16 being said, we've been talking about it for years now.
17 You know, if you're listening to this and we have
18 expressed the concern, but you haven't done anything
19 about it, that you should probably look into that.
20 Beings, you know, State, Federal, whoever is in charge
21 of that land and those restrictions, you know, we've
22 been wanting it, we've been asking for it, for our
23 communities here. And yes, it is a direct -- you know,
24 directly, it does directly affect our subsistence hunts.
25 And you're doing nothing to get rid of them, not even
26 to lessen their numbers or to restrict them from flying
27 into that location. But yet you want to change and you
28 are and have changed our numbers for our local community
29 subsistence hunters. Why is that? Why have we not at
30 least pushed that off the table like you're supposed to,
31 before you change the local community and subsistence
32 hunters numbers.

33
34 So, that being said, we've had rafters
35 within that area of 26A being rescued this year. We've
36 had fly-in hunters from Kotzebue, numerous, more than 3
37 instances of that, multiple people. You know, they're
38 getting dropped and, you know, these guys are actively
39 hunting out there. Why are we not restricting these guys?
40 On top of that, they're, you know, affecting our
41 livelihood and our equipment and resources within the
42 North Slope Borough. So, those, you know, those are
43 things that I would like to point out from my report
44 that we have observed in this season and also the last
45 few seasons. But other than that, the hunting and I
46 guess all of my other observations are -- have been okay
47 otherwise, but I mean, if we're talking about affecting
48 our local communities you know, why are we not following
49 procedure on how these things are changed? I guess that
50 concludes my report. Other than, you know, seeing muskox

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1 and moose. Yeah. Numbers are good for my area up north.
2 Any questions for me? I think that's it for my Chair
3 Report. Go ahead, Mr. Vickers.

4
5 MR. VICKERS: Thank you. Brent Vickers,
6 BLM. I just wanted to ask a little bit about the -- that
7 reports of the stranded DIY hunters. You're saying it
8 was down in the Unit 26A, southwest area?

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes.

11
12 MR. VICKERS: So, the west of the
13 Colville River.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah.

16
17 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Because that -- so,
18 on the Federal lands, BLM lands mostly, there was a
19 Wildlife Special Actions this past summer. And so, the
20 Federal land should -- are, they are closed to non-
21 federally qualified subsistence users. So, if they are
22 on Federal lands, which I don't know exactly where,
23 because there are State lands in that area as well but
24 they're not allowed to be hunting there, assuming
25 they're not being flown in from one of the local
26 communities for caribou.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Definitely.

29
30 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.

31
32 (simultaneous speech)

33
34 I was assuming caribou. So, thank you
35 for -- and that's, yeah. For caribou and not for other
36 species. They can hunt. Anything else up there.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds like you guys
39 have some research to do and this was recent.

40
41 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Well, I mean, you
42 know, we might only know when we're getting told about
43 these things. So, this is a good forum for people to
44 say, "hey, we see people in these areas", as you heard
45 earlier this morning, we don't have a lot of law
46 enforcement that's able to just patrol the areas. So,
47 what we will get was from people reporting, like you and
48 other community members who are actually seeing people
49 out on the land.

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1 (simultaneous speech)

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Coming out of
Kotzebue.

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7 MR. VICKERS: Oh, you weren't here this
8 morning. Okay. Yeah, well, we'll have to see that. We'll
9 ask more about it later, but yeah. Okay. That's good. I
10 mean, thanks for sharing that. So, maybe I'll have some
11 more questions just on the side later about where you
12 might -- we might be seeing some of these people and
13 what we might be able to do on it about it, if it is on
14 Federal lands. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. More than
happy to share that. We'll talk soon. All right.

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MS. LEAVITT: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
Doreen Leavitt, for the record with Inupiaq community
of the Arctic Slope. There are things happening. The
last administration, this administration, ICAS, has had
government to government consultation with BLM Director
themselves stating these exact concerns. They did shut
down. So, they said -- on NPR-A lands, Federal lands,
it's out-of-state hunters, but if they are residents of
Alaska, they still can hunt within that region. That's
what I've been told. We have a trilateral with North
Slope Borough Planning, North Slope Borough Wildlife and
ICAS on a regular basis to talk about these permitting
issues. I have requested from BLM Director himself, I --
- we want to know exactly who is recreational permitting
and when. So, we have been in negotiations with that,
with ICAS having more direct involvement with
recreational permitting. So, we are working on that.
We're well aware -- we have shared examples of the
rescues that have happened. That's costing the North
Slope Borough \$50,000 a rescue for out-of-state
residents and taking away our own local resources from
our residents who may need that rescue. So, we are
working on it. We make them aware at every tribal
consultation that we have. It's just not an easy process
to try to cut them off. So, just to let you know, we --
we're aware of it and working through that process
through the tribal government side of things as well.
Thank you.

46

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that.
Very helpful information. It sounds like recent
adjustments have been made, but you know, just shy of not
selling them fuel. No, I'm just kidding. Go ahead, Kendra.

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3 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, Members of
4 the Council. I will go into the specifics and make sure
5 that the Special Action and what's closed to who later
6 on in the agenda. Just to put that out there, I will
7 make it very clear, exactly what it is and what's closed,
8 where and to who. Okay? So, but for now, I just wanted
9 to give you the information because I'm hearing so much
10 talk about wolves. There are hunting and trapping
11 regulations under the Federal Subsistence Program for
12 wolves. The hunting regulations for wolves in Unit 26
13 is 15 wolves per person, August 10th through April 30th.
14 So, I know the State has their own, so depending on what
15 land you're on, State or Federal it might be worth it,
16 since you're seeing such an influx, to keep in mind. The
17 other thing is the Federal little handy dandy books are
18 now available digitally on our website and I believe you
19 can even down -- I believe you can download them like
20 onto your phone so, you don't have to take the paper
21 book with you. You may be able to have a digital copy
22 out there with you, so.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That's very helpful
information, but I believe we're aware of that. But
there's a real issue up here. Things are extremely
expensive up here. I mean they're expensive. So much so
that everybody is really having an issue, trying to
purchase these \$25,000 snow machines on top of, you know,
seven bucks a gallon for gasoline. Then you break parts
up here pretty frequently. And the parts and things --
so, I don't think people not knowing that they can catch
X amount of wolves is the issue. The other thing is we
are a long ways away from here. If we want to catch ten
wolves, we have to go over 100 miles to find them. One
way. So, you're talking 200 miles just to go to and
from. And then, once you break something out there, like.
So, I think the issue is the logistics of the hunt itself
and the extreme expense. For an avid wolf hunter, it's
not cheap. You know, we're talking over a thousand bucks
just to go one way for one hunt. So, we went twice. You
know, that's -- you're talking your livelihood. And then
once we get them, it's a very limited market for the
furs. I mean, and on top of that, you have to pay to get
the stuff processed, which is super expensive. I mean,
you have to ship it out for one with the tags. And then,
you know, I think that I shouldn't have to spell it all
out, but I don't think a lot of people realize how hard
this is. This isn't -- it's very difficult for us
compared to anywhere else in the world. And just getting
the resource to be able to do this stuff, I mean, you

1 almost have to be a rich person to do that. It's -- so
2 -- and you know, I speak for all the communities here
3 to where you would almost have to pay us to do this. So,
4 I guess what we should be saying though, as a Council
5 is, we need to either monetize something or incentivize
6 something. And provide us with these things so that we
7 can go out and do these things. I mean, it's not like
8 we want you to hand us a snowmachine, but something
9 helps, you know? So, it looks like we have an additional
10 comment. Thank you, though, for that.

11
12 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
13 your comments. And they're well heard. I think anyone
14 that lives in this community feels the expense of living
15 here and I'm not a wolf hunter, but I can wrap my head
16 around what it costs to do some of those things, I think.
17 So, I appreciate that statement. I think we have a series
18 of proposals that we're going to consider later on in
19 the agenda that seek to try to address several of the
20 issues that you've mentioned from increased predator
21 presence to non-resident harvest concerns, to looking
22 at different bag limits and trying to deal with the
23 Western Arctic Caribou Herd decline issues. And I think
24 at least on the state side of things, the Board of Game
25 meeting coming up in January, we're going to be talking
26 about all of these issues on the state side of things.
27 And so, I don't want to belabor that conversation right
28 now, but it's coming, on this agenda. Thank you, Mr.
29 Chair.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. All
32 right. We'll hold comments on it, I guess. Move on. So,
33 that was it for Chair's Report. A lot of insightful
34 information. Couple things I wanted to get off my chest
35 for those ones because it's always something up here.
36 But, you know, it's hard to find people that are actively
37 wanting to fix things up here. You know, for what it is.
38 And, you know, it's a -- everybody's got a day job and
39 everybody -- you know, this stuff is not our day job.
40 And it's, this is something that we're volunteering to
41 do. So, it's always good to have these discussions and
42 have meaningful discussions with the individuals that
43 are involved with the situation. All right. Oh, go ahead
44 Leonard.

45
46 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
47 want to recognize everybody in the North Slope Search
48 and Rescue volunteer work. They put their lives to help
49 other people. They're not being recognized all over.
50 Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, I know you're Search and

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1 Rescue. And a lot of other villages, they hurt to get,
2 you know, Search and Rescue help. And some guys just
3 want money. But we have a lot of people that volunteer
4 their time to help another life. Up in Point Hope, just
5 me and my friend, (indiscernible), we call it, we're
6 always on call when there's a Search and Rescue. We
7 don't wait for the -- my nephew, he's a coordinator.
8 Jacob. We're always on, where's that person? We know the
9 country. We know the land, me and him. Every time we go,
10 wintertime or summertime, we know the land. And we --
11 Lord, you know, Lord willing, we find that person, you
12 know, good, healthy, not sick. Sometimes, you know, we
13 lose people and it's sad. But, you know, we're out there
14 volunteering our time. And, you know, I just want to
15 recognize Search and Rescue. They haven't been really
16 recognized a lot because they're out hunting for these
17 animals that we're talking about. So, thank you, Mr.
18 Chair.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you
21 for that, Leonard. Item 10, Public and Tribal Comment
22 on Non-agenda Items. This is available each morning. So
23 far, anything online?

24

25 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. If you're online if you
26 can press star 5 to raise your hand, lets us know that
27 you want to address the Council. And you are
28 automatically muted so, star 6 to unmute yourself if
29 you're on the phone.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Public comments?
34 Tribal comments? Anything about your community? There
35 are a lot of folks here. Anything happening that you
36 want to talk about?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 All right. Hearing none on -- oh, we do
41 have one. Yes.

42

43 MS. LEAVITT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Doreen Leavitt for the record with ICAS. I'll just give
45 some reports on just what we -- our activities that
46 we've been doing with subsistence. We continue to have
47 our Hunter Gatherers Program. It's been a successful
48 program. We have delivered and sent (In Native),
49 caribou, fish, ducks, geese as far as Seattle,
50 Washington to children in foster care. Anchorage elders.

1 We've had volunteers, even in Anchorage, when we had
2 like, sent sacks of fish to go deliver to elders they
3 knew of in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Sent to the villages
4 for Thanksgiving feasts and Christmas feasts when we --
5 if we had enough. So, the program has been successful,
6 we're running into some funding issues because that
7 program was started with COVID food security monies. We
8 purchased freezers for -- walk-in freezers for the
9 villages. All of them have been installed. We purchased
10 them for the native village tribes, with the
11 understanding that we purchase them, install them, after
12 that, it's up to them to maintain them, manage them.
13 That happened. That -- this has been like a three-year
14 project in the making. The installers came up and then
15 we're just waiting on the electricians to come up, the
16 contractors to hook them up. But they are installed even
17 Native Village of Barrow got one here. ICAS got one. And
18 so, that project was successful. We still have the
19 Thermosiphon Project going, we have 5 Thermosyphons. For
20 (In Native), ice cellars. We have installed one and then
21 we ran into some issues due to, this current
22 administration cut a grant that would have got us a
23 couple drill rigs. But we were able to install one here
24 in Barrow, successfully. It is running his ice cellar,
25 which was thawed out as frozen and working, but we do
26 have 5 more. The -- you can submit it. We have the
27 applications on our ICAS website. The stipulation is you
28 have to own the land where it is, and it has to be
29 reachable with the drill rig. So, spread the word. I'm
30 the contact for it. We just have to find -- if it's in
31 the village be -- have a drill rig available to borrow
32 or loan or rent or something, so. And so, that project
33 is going so, I think that's pretty much all I have to
34 report. But if you know of any elders who have needs for
35 (In Native), contact us and if we have some available,
36 we'll get it to them. If you have any questions.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions for
39 ICAS, Doreen?

40
41 (No response)

42
43 No. It sounds like you're doing some
44 really good work for the communities and we appreciate
45 it. Thank you very much. Any other public or tribal
46 comments on non-agenda items?

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

035

1 Guess hearing none. Maybe I'll share
2 something though. I guess in the last few years it's --
3 I found that really working with other communities and
4 bartering, this season, you know, if we don't get what
5 we need. Like this year I didn't get moose, but I sure
6 traded at least 3 different communities and got to try
7 3 different samples of moose from all across Alaska. But
8 bartering, making sure that we keep that alive and well
9 just, you know, I got clams and Bristol Bay, salmon and
10 all kinds of stuff over the last few months just for,
11 you know, putting the effort into shipping and bartering
12 with people. And, you know, that that is definitely a
13 great way to get other resources from, you know, areas
14 that you normally don't get, you know, salmon or getting
15 muktuk to AKP and I'll get some AKP moose or Nuiqsut.
16 It's been really helpful for, at least, my fridge. But,
17 yeah, I just want to encourage people to keep that
18 tradition of bartering and trading alive. All right.
19 Last call for public and tribal comment on non-agenda
20 items.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 Hearing none. You guys get to move on
25 or you want to break? Good to go? All right. Item 11,
26 Action Items. It's like, that's Mr. Chair. So, 11.a,
27 we've got 2028 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
28 Priority Information Needs for the Northern Alaska
29 Region. Anna Senecal, OSM Fisheries. You have the floor.
30 And once again, these are action items. They require a
31 motion and a second upon completion.

32
33 MS. SENECA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Council members in the room and online. My name is Anna
35 Senecal. For the record, I'm a Fisheries Biologist with
36 the Office of Subsistence Management. This is our
37 fisheries regulatory cycle. We don't have a lot moving
38 and shaking up here in the north, but we have something
39 to bring you. And that's in terms of these two funding
40 opportunities we run. The action item is focused on one.
41 So, we have two programs: one funds projects, and one
42 funds people. This one, the FRMP Fisheries Resource
43 Monitoring Program is the one that funds projects. And
44 we're just kicking off the cycle to issue awards that
45 would start in 2028, FY2028. The first piece of that
46 process is identifying -- going to each region and
47 identifying what the most important information needs
48 are that support the management of subsistence fisheries
49 resources. And again, up here in the north, it's a
50 little bit of a unique situation as compared to the other

1 regions throughout the State.

2

3 So, backing up a little bit, I
4 introduced myself, I neglected to introduce my colleague
5 Kristen Morrow, who is an anthropologist, and she's here
6 as well. We administer the program. What is it? It is a
7 funding program that funds researchers. So, these could
8 be university researchers. These could be State of
9 Alaska investigators, biologists. This could these could
10 be tribal folks. These could be folks from Alaska Native
11 organizations. Anybody. Anybody can be a funding
12 recipient. And the projects specifically fill
13 information gaps about those subsistence management and
14 fisheries conservation issues. So that's the purpose.

15

16 Projects that tend to get selected speak
17 really strongly to those information gaps. And they also
18 leverage partnerships between agencies and local on-the-
19 ground managers, tribes and rural organizations. So,
20 those are the things that are prioritized. So, why am I
21 here talking at you right now? I hope to be talking with
22 you. We're looking for program feedback. What works?
23 What doesn't work? We're looking for input on those
24 information needs from yourselves and also hopefully
25 from community members, on the ground managers, the
26 Borough perhaps. And then at the end of the day, we'd
27 like to walk away with a list of finalized priority
28 information needs that we can roll into this new Notice
29 of Funding Opportunity that people can apply for and
30 hopefully be competitive and walk away with. And then
31 we get the information and you eat your fish. However,
32 I've heard in your reports saying that you don't have
33 fish issues, you got your fish. So, it's going to take
34 a little bit of thought around what's necessary for this
35 region because it is different. Showing up with the same
36 model is not working in the North Slope. The same model
37 as we do, we show up in other regions. So, that's that.
38 I can go into more of the nuts and bolts of how the
39 program works. How we get from the priority information
40 needs all the way to issuing awards. But I don't know
41 that that's not necessary right now. So, I guess I would
42 pitch that to you. Do you have any questions about what
43 this program funds or how it is administered before
44 hopefully going into a more open conversation?

45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, I would point
47 out one issue that we all have, you know, I don't think
48 it's the fish necessarily that are out -- because our
49 need -- we are a very low population location, which is
50 different than the rest of the world. So, we're not as

1 affected by population fluctuation on fish, just because
2 of the low number of our population and our need for it.
3 We do have a couple folks that go out and subsist on
4 this and they come in and provide for a lot of the
5 communities. But I think the real issue that we're having
6 is similar to the wolf issue that we're having and the
7 lack of hunters going out to go out and do it is because
8 it's too expensive. Having some kind of assistance
9 program for that kind of issue, I think would help. That
10 is probably the number one issue that we have on the
11 North Slope is that obviously expensive and it is
12 inhibiting our ability to go out and do the things that
13 we want or used to be able to do.

14
15 So, like they're saying, certain things
16 are -- you have to go a long ways for the whitefish
17 here. If you go out for whitefish, minimum, you're going
18 out 30 to 70 or 100 miles to go out and get this. And
19 that's at a very specific time of year, the fall time.
20 I mean, we'll get some in the summer, but just having
21 the ability to go out and do that is difficult. It's
22 expensive. It's difficult. The people that I know that
23 are going out now, you go out and let's say it's 30
24 miles away, well, you have to go out there at least you
25 know sometimes daily. If it's fall time or, like
26 November, when you're doing under ice nets, it's every
27 two days you have to check. But you're doing 100-mile
28 round trip. Once to set, 100 miles. Once to check it the
29 first time, 100 miles. Two days later you're doing
30 another 100 miles. And if it's any further than that,
31 that's at the closest point. So, you're going 1- to 500
32 miles round trips, just depending on where you're going.

33
34 Having the equipment to do so, you know,
35 a lot of the folks are borrowing people's equipment now
36 because when you break it down, you're paying almost 200
37 bucks an hour to fix a snowmachine. And the gas to get
38 there is outrageous, too. You know, a hundred miles
39 you're burning a tank basically every trip. So, you're
40 talking another hundred bucks just for setting the net,
41 another hundred bucks just to check the net. And that's
42 just one snowmachine. Well, you need three to go check
43 the net. So, you're burning 300 bucks just to go check
44 a net. So, that is a massive problem up here for us. You
45 know, we make it happen. And then when we get it here,
46 you know, some people will try to sell some of the fish.
47 Well, you can't really knock them for that because it's
48 so expensive for them to get you that fish. But at the
49 other hand, people think, well, it's subsistence, you're
50 not supposed to sell that. Well, that's -- it's really

1 hard to have that discussion. Well, who's going to buy
2 my stuff for the busted snowmachine? I, you know, I just
3 broke checking the net. So, there's a big issue with
4 that. You know, a lot of people won't even talk about
5 this stuff. But it's there and it's very real. This
6 stuff has gone on for generations. You know, they would
7 sell the -- a certain amount of the fish just to go back
8 out and do it again. To have enough money to go do it
9 again. But -- so, there is a monetary issue, like, a
10 money issue with, you know, having that subsistence
11 aspect of our lives and it's expensive. So, I don't
12 know, I guess to each their own, but that is what I
13 would say is one of our issues, is it's just the money
14 side of it, it's very expensive to go out and do these
15 things. I don't expect everybody to agree with me. But
16 you're not from here. You don't see it day-to-day. You
17 know, it's a, it's cumbersome. So, just wanted to point
18 that out. Thanks. Leonard.

19

20 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, once again,
23 that's, this is all pertaining to.....

24

25 MR. BARGER: Fish.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep. The fish. Yeah.

28

29 MR. BARGER: So, yeah, I agree on cost
30 of money. I know you're talking about fish and it costs
31 a lot of money to get a net. \$500-\$600 just to get a net
32 shipped to a village, you know, to catch those fish so,
33 yeah. I agree on the cost of living and stuff, and that's
34 pretty expensive, so. Talk about these vehicles, you
35 know, snowmachines and stuff. But yeah, you don't see
36 and realize how much you get a net in Anchorage and
37 they'll tell you, oh, 500 or 600 bucks just to -- 100-
38 foot nets so, just to get your fish. So, thank you.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, go ahead. Do you
41 have anything further? Any other questions for the PINs?
42 Oh. What's that? Somebody online raised their hand?
43 Press star 6.

44

45 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
46 is Brendan Scanlon. I'm a Fisheries Biologist for the
47 Department of Fish and Game out of Fairbanks. The last
48 call for proposals, there was 12 PINs identified by the
49 North Slope RAC for funding for a project. And I think
50 only one of those or two of those got funded, so if

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1 we're a little stuck for ideas, that may be a good place
2 to start, just look at the ones from the last call in
3 2025, I think. Thank you.

4
5 MS. SENECA: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

8
9 MS. SENECA: Through the Chair. Anna
10 Senecal, for the record. Yeah, you're absolutely right.
11 There were about 25 PINs for the northern region, which
12 is comprised of 3 RACs so, North Slope, Northwest Arctic
13 and Seward Peninsula. One project was funded out of the,
14 I think 6 that were put forward. Those -- that number
15 may not be exactly right, but given the limited budgets
16 last time around and it looks like we'll have similarly
17 limited budgets at least for the next funding
18 opportunity only one project per region, with the
19 exception of Southeast was funded. And that project was
20 looking at Pike in Selawik. So, the North Slope region
21 has not, in fact, had a project funded since 2018. There
22 are about 12 PINs that were put forward in 2026. The
23 reason I didn't put those up on the board here was to
24 try and not have those PINs just move forward, to try
25 to have the conversation first about what really is
26 important. What could develop a good -- solicit a good
27 application. Because not only were projects not funded,
28 there was no project put forward that was specific to a
29 North Slope PIN. So, we need to ask a good question, and
30 we need to recruit good investigators. Interested
31 investigators. So, that's also why we are this cycle or
32 kind of bringing it back to those folks who are the
33 investigators. But if it pleases the Chair I'm happy to
34 show the 2026 PINs.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think it would
37 help, just to give us a good general idea of what we're
38 -- what we should be at least looking for to compare to.
39 Or maybe just give us some ideas of, you know, what we
40 may be able to come up with for ideas. Go ahead.

41
42 MS. LA VINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin
43 La Vine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator. Just while Anna
44 is pulling up the materials, I -- you were talking about
45 selling fish after such significant investment of time
46 and resources into going to get it. And I wanted to let
47 you know that under federal subsistence regulations that
48 kind of exchange is covered by customary trade. And that
49 customary trade is the name given to the traditional
50 exchange of cash for subsistence harvested fish and

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1 wildlife. And it is -- it kind of differs from one region
2 to the next. But here in the northern region, let me
3 see, which is the -- yeah. I believe that it -- as long
4 as it takes place between rural residents, that it is
5 approved. You've got it? Page 21.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And this
8 documentation would settle a lot of discussion that
9 happens locally.

10
11 MS. LA VINE: Well, that would be if, you
12 know, harvested under federal regulations in federal
13 public waters.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. No, I think
16 having this, at least presentable or something that we
17 can have on hand, will definitely alleviate a lot of
18 different extracurricular conversations that happen
19 locally. Go ahead.

20
21 MS. MORROW: Sorry, Mr. Chair. For the
22 record, Kristen Morrow. I just wanted to specify that
23 fish can be sold to both other rural residents and non-
24 rural residents. And in the northern region there is no
25 limit on the value of -- in some regions they say, you
26 know, no more than \$500 worth of sales. There are
27 restrictions in place because commercial sales become
28 kind of an issue. But in the northern region there are
29 no caps on that. So, the you know, customary trade for
30 cash is allowed under federal regulations. And we -- I
31 think could certainly get with our team to put together
32 an informational flyer about this, if that would be
33 helpful.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sure. That would be
36 really great to have, you know. I remember finding this
37 probably 5 or 6 years ago, but I wasn't able to locate
38 it again. But there are a lot of local discussions about
39 this matter and just having documentation to back it up.
40 But I find it hard that we would have to argue with
41 ourselves, locally, about what we've been doing for, you
42 know, a long time. It's some people don't agree with it,
43 but they don't have to, you know, it's been here and
44 it's been part of the lifestyle up here for a long time.
45 So, it's, you know, it's a -- I guess, yeah, just having
46 the documentation that they -- it is recognized and has
47 been around for a while and that's all we really need,
48 is just the proof of it. But yeah, I think having a,
49 maybe a, something provided that that you can give to
50 us would be great. Go ahead.

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3 MS. SENECA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Through the Chair, Anna Senecal. As you were sharing
5 your experience, I was writing down some notes and
6 thinking about the types of projects that this program
7 funds. One type of project is a lot of what you see the
8 PINs up here. And that's the stock status and trends.
9 So, documenting effects of climate change, looking at
10 population dynamics, looking at how fish use habitat,
11 where they are, how it's changing. Those are all stock
12 status and trend projects. And a lot of the PINs speak
13 to that. The other type of PIN, and again that stands
14 for Priority Information Need, they fall under HMTEK.
15 So, harvest, monitoring and traditional ecological
16 knowledge. And what you were sharing would fall under
17 that category. You talked about there not being a super
18 high population density of people. So, we're not seeing
19 resource issues associated with overexploitation, like
20 too much fishing and populations going down. You are
21 seeing shifts in use tied with changes. So, social
22 changes, economic changes, maybe tied to changes in
23 other subsistence resource populations like caribou. How
24 the land is changing, how access is changing. And that
25 is something that's interesting. And a PIN could be
26 developed around that. These other PINs, you see the
27 date that they were developed and many of them are from
28 2022. Some are from 2024. No new PINs were put forward
29 for the 2026 period. So, I feel -- I'm feeling a little
30 bit of stagnation in the program, and maybe it's time
31 to wipe the slate a little bit and breathe some life
32 into it. So, we can go through these one by one. If you
33 like. We can also take what you offered here and try to
34 craft it into a new PIN. And If I have help from my team
35 back here, we can maybe try to do it in the moment or
36 if Council Coordinator is okay with it, bring it back
37 tomorrow for finalizing. Be flexible. But what would you
38 like to do, Mr. Chair?

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, I guess I'll
bring that back to the Council and ask the Council what,
I mean, do you have any ideas or are you seeing any of
this online for the 3 communities that we're sharing
this with? Or do you understand what we're looking for
here as far as the PINs? Nuiqsut. Wainwright. Anaktuvuk.

(No response)

So, I think one of the things that I
would be interested in would be, I guess, similar to
what you were just talking about, what the fluctuation

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1 would be of -- because I know there's a certain amount
2 of fish that are traded, sold and or other from different
3 communities that are, you know, pretty big staple across
4 the North Slope, like qaaktaq fish, the arctic cisco.
5 You know, if there was a low number or trend on that
6 would, you know, people switch over and collect more
7 whitefish or maybe the fluctuation in the years on that.
8 I know there are certain years that have less arctic
9 cisco and they provide a pretty large amount of food to
10 all of the communities. And we know that Nuiqsut is the,
11 really the prime location for that. So, maybe some kind
12 of study that would monitor that versus, you know, would
13 they be shifting to other fish if, you know, had they
14 not had that resource or they had a low number of year.
15 Because I know certain years are worse than others, just
16 depending on the tides or the currents coming in and out
17 of the Nigliq Channel or the main locations where they
18 get some of these. So, that would definitely affect the
19 North Slope. You know, if Nuiqsut had not gotten arctic
20 cisco that year, that would definitely affect everybody
21 that I know in Barrow. Yeah, we do trade for it,
22 purchase, you know, acquire it somehow. And it's yearly,
23 you know, we know our friends over there and that's, you
24 know, we have a pretty big trading system for Nuiqsut.
25 So, I think that would be an avenue to look at, if it,
26 yeah, if it changed our diet, had they not had arctic
27 cisco. Yeah, I think that would be a good one. Anybody
28 else online? Martha, you got any ideas, input?

29

30 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. We can hear.

33

34 MS ITTA: I don't have any maps in front
35 of me, or I can't see anything that's being shared with
36 you guys, but I do have the booklet material that was
37 sent to me.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, I guess I just
40 came up with, kind of, a suggestion that we put in
41 something to where, you know, had Nuiqsut had not gotten
42 any cisco for the year, that they can do some type of
43 research on, you know, how that affected the rest of the
44 North Slope and would it shift diets or would people
45 shift to other fish. So, I think that would be kind of
46 an interesting research aspect for the PINs suggestions.
47 Since you guys are the main cisco location for the North
48 Slope; arctic cisco.

49

50 MS. ITTA: Can you hear me? Mr. Chairman?

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes.

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MS. ITTA: Oh, okay. Yeah. I think that would be a really good thing to look into. And thank you for that. It would change, and it does change our diet and it does because there -- I've heard a lot of, from elders and people that we barter with that, you know, they can't eat certain kind of fish, you know, and they love the arctic cisco. You know, just people, there are elders that have different diets and some people that can't eat certain fish. So, you know, it would change and affect other people's diet hearing from elders and people that we barter with. But for Nuiqsut, a lot of us we eat all the fish we catch every kind. All the animals we are able to get, we eat. So -- but it's different with the other villages. So, it's really good to keep the bartering alive and well because the groceries are so expensive and, you know, a lot of them, a lot of the elders rely on the subsistence food. They'd rather eat fish, you know, other than store bought food so, you know, some of them, they I can eat that fish every day. You know, I don't have to go to the stores. You know, I love your fish. I need more fish. So, yeah, it's really important that we keep that alive and well and looked into because it does change and it does affect other villages' appetite and their food that they eat. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you for your input there, Martha. Yeah, I just wanted to make sure you guys chimed in on that, since it -- that would pertain to Nuiqsut. Quincy.

MR. ADAMS: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Thank you. Does it -- Anna, does it matter what species of fish?

MS. SENEAL: Through the Chair. No, it does not. It just, it could -- it would have to be a fish that would fall under the Federal Subsistence Fishery umbrella. So, not halibut, for example here, is an example.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair. Since you mentioned the qaaktaq over in Nuiqsut, I know a lot of us in Barrow and maybe even Atqasuk, and I know Wainwright is the biggest one, they do a lot of tomcod fishing, and we also try to do some bartering or some

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1 kind of exchange that we do for the cuts or the smelt.
2 Smelt, right?

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Smelt.

5
6 MR. ADAMS: Yeah, the smelt fish. Because
7 we do a lot of -- we have a bunch of relatives over in
8 Wainwright that we try to barter with or do some kind
9 of exchange with the smelt over there and Wainwright as
10 well, too. Because they, I mean, they get them by, maybe
11 the thousands, I'm guessing every year. And that's some
12 of this -- that's some of the best tasting, like sweet
13 fish that you can have over there. So, I was wondering
14 if that -- if the smelt would kind of be under the
15 umbrella, as you said.

16
17 MS. SENEAL: Through the Chair. So, are
18 the smelt harvested? Where do you, how do you catch the
19 smelt? Where do you catch them?

20
21 MR. ADAMS: I think Jenysa would be --
22 but you just jigging hook.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we've got Jenysa
25 with her hand up, as well. Sounds like she's got some
26 comments. Go ahead, Jenysa.

27
28 MS. AHMAOGAK: Yes. Pertaining to
29 Quincy's question. Wainwright, we do get a lot of smelts.
30 And, like you said, when people are out there and they're
31 getting their smelts, there's usually, you know,
32 thousands of fish that are taken each season from
33 everyone that goes out to go fishing. Because there are
34 a lot of times where people will go home, you know, with
35 sacks of like hundreds and hundreds of fish. And it --
36 the season does last a while, you know, as soon as it
37 starts to get cold, pretty much. And that would be a
38 good thing to include too, is the smelts, because smelts
39 is probably one of the biggest things that we catch here
40 in Wainwright pertaining to fish, besides grayling. I
41 would say that if you do include smelts, you would have
42 a really high chance of getting some to you and being
43 able to do some studies on them.

44
45 MS. SENEAL: Through the Chair. Thank
46 you. The questions that I'm asking, forgive my
47 ignorance, it's to try to tease out jurisdiction and
48 whether or not they might be eligible. Our program is
49 limited to mostly freshwater systems and then the mean
50 high tide. So, the smelt coming into estuaries and moving

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1 into freshwater systems, if the focus is on that part
2 of their life cycle, that could be something to explore.
3 The tomcod being a marine fish, it doesn't fall under
4 our umbrella, unfortunately. But anadromous fish that
5 move between fresh and salt water could.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, this is in
8 brackish water. Yeah, it's in brackish water. So, this
9 is inside the inlet is where the -- so I think it would
10 fall under that umbrella. So, where they're catching it
11 is, they've got a barrier at Wainwright, they've just
12 got the inlet or the opening to the ocean. So, but they
13 do get an influx of tide from the ocean, every now and
14 then, but I would say the majority of it would be the
15 outflow from the river system. So, I would say it's
16 definitely falls under brackish water, bAut.

17
18 MS. SENECA: For the record, through the
19 Chair, Anna Senecal. The question from the Borough was,
20 does that fit -- would that fit under the jurisdiction?
21 Likely, no. Our jurisdiction extends, typically, to mean
22 high tide. So, it would not include a lagoon, for
23 example, unless it did. There are these exceptions, and
24 I don't know that off the top of my head so, that's
25 something I would have to look into. Or maybe somebody
26 listening online has that answer on the tip of their
27 tongue. But that one is not as clean cut as the cisco.

28
29 MS. MORROW: Through the Chair, this is
30 Kristen Morrow with OSM. One thing to maybe clarify based
31 on what I'm hearing, a lot of what we're talking about
32 is sharing and bartering of these resources. And so maybe
33 good to clarify. Are you interested in, like, an
34 ecological study looking at the abundance of these fish?
35 Or, you know, the spawning or are you interested in a
36 study that may be looking at how are people sharing this
37 resource and how much are they harvesting? And those are
38 potentially two different information needs that can
39 both be listed. But proposing something like examining
40 the harvest and barter of subsistence fish can be a
41 pretty broadly open information need, if that was
42 something that you're interested in. So, just wanted to
43 clarify that option, if that was what folks are trying
44 to get at here.

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No, I think if we're
49 going to do that, maybe we should have a separate
50 discussion on that. But, otherwise, we're taking up the

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1 entire day coming up with reasoning behind this other
2 than just a -- it's my thoughts anyways. Go ahead.

3
4 MS. ITTA: I had a question. I was asked
5 by some elders and community members if anybody ever
6 tests the lakes. Our lakes, we have so many lakes and
7 ponds and what kind of fish are in there? So, I was
8 asked that a few times so, is that something that the
9 people are studying out there? Thank you.

10
11 (Pause)

12
13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we've got
14 somebody with their hand raised online. Brendan.

15
16 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
17 is Brendan Scanlon again, with Fish and Game. One late
18 project that we were involved in that was funded through
19 the FRMP was to look at the population of lake trout in
20 Chandler Lake near Anaktuvuk Pass. It was a PIN about
21 ten years ago now. And we were able to estimate the
22 abundance and size and age composition of the population
23 to determine if the harvest there was sustainable. And
24 it looks like it certainly is. But that also turned into
25 looking at mercury bioaccumulation in fish. People
26 eating fish is, I think is the number one way people
27 accumulate mercury in their bodies. And larger and older
28 the fish is, the more mercury it will contain. And
29 there's really not much older or larger on the North
30 Slope than big lake trout. So, that portion of the study
31 was conducted by the Alaska Science Center. Her name is
32 Sarah Laske, and I have a copy of her paper. It shows
33 that there are elevated levels in all the samples of
34 lake trout she caught. So, that's one lake trout study
35 that I'm familiar with or lake study that I'm familiar
36 with that that was funded by the FRMP. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Anna.

39
40 MS. SENEAL: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
41 through the Chair. I have a process suggestion. I heard
42 two potential new PINs that fall under that HMTEK. One
43 was the one you talked about, Mr. Chair, and how
44 harvesting methods have changed over time given expense
45 and whatnot. And the other one is looking more broadly
46 at trade networks. Those are very good. And we can put
47 specific words to those and bring them back to you
48 tomorrow. I'm wondering if it's also useful to just step
49 through the old PINs, one by one, and you can up or
50 down. Yes, we -- this is still relevant. No, we don't

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1 want this anymore. And then tomorrow we bring a clean
2 slate, and you can vote on it and we can move on. That
3 is my process suggestion. What do you think, Mr. Chair?

4
5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, I think we
6 should do that just to avoid reinventing the wheel here
7 again. So, it seems like we're a long ways from that,
8 but yes, I think we should do that. I mean, is that
9 something you guys would want to do? As the Council? Go
10 ahead, Doreen.

11
12 MS. LEAVITT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
13 regards to the PINs, ICAS and North Slope Borough
14 Wildlife, did some water temperature studies through our
15 EPA IGAP grant. When was that? It was a number of years
16 ago, and then we ran out of money for that project. But
17 I know that was on one of your lists. I would consider
18 continuing with that project. And looking at that
19 though, we did Point Hope and Nuiqsut and Atqasuk. And
20 looking at that, I know that there was also some PFAS
21 concerns in the waters. I would also ask you to consider
22 that. And then Carla Sims-Kayotuk, who was our ICAS
23 Council person, she had some concerns over the fish in
24 Kaktovik. I do not remember what they were, but she said
25 she had wanted to see their rivers looked at and studied
26 for water temperature and just how their fish were
27 running differently. So, wanted to just ask you to
28 consider that.

29
30 And then, Mr. Chair, I'm going to get
31 very controversial. You had said nobody wants to talk
32 about it, but I'm going to speak as a tribal council
33 member, a tribal member. What you're asking to put
34 monetary value on our subsistence foods goes against our
35 cultural values. Asking to do an ecological study to put
36 monetary values is not our way of life. It's not our
37 cultural values. It costs money to hunt. It costs money,
38 but we should not be selling our traditional and Inupiaq
39 foods for money. I don't care what the federal regulation
40 says. That is not our Inupiaq values. It goes against
41 our tribal and customary traditions. I don't care if
42 it's today. It's a different world, younger age. It costs
43 more money. If you can't afford to hunt and fish and
44 want to sell it for money, then you -- then you shouldn't
45 be going. I'm going to say that. Have you talked to our
46 elders about that? Has one elder said, yeah, sell, sell,
47 sell, I'll buy your gunny sack of fish? No. Would you
48 ever ask an elder to do that? You know, so to bring that
49 up in a public meeting without having your culture and
50 your Inupiaq people say that, I'm just going to say that

1 goes completely against our cultural values of sharing,
2 respect for our elders, our cultural traditions. To even
3 bring it up is goes against our cultural values. So,
4 that's all I have to say. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I'll save my
7 comments for that one. I'll talk to you afterwards. But,
8 directly, from family and yes, I have actually. So,
9 anyways, I'll leave that outside of the controversial
10 portion of this. So, well, thank you for the comments
11 though. Yeah. So, I think though to clarify though, I
12 wasn't asking to put a monetary value on subsistence. I
13 was asking for supportive measures for subsistence
14 hunters. So, I think ICAS is doing a very similar thing
15 that they're providing this for people and paying people
16 to go hunting. So, there's that. It's, you know, I'll
17 leave that out of it though. It's, yeah, I think there's
18 a misconception of what I was talking about there, but
19 yet pointing out the fact that this has been done before.
20 I was not trying to put a monetary value on it. So, what
21 I was asking was support for local hunters, because it
22 is hard to get out there. But you know, I just wanted
23 to clarify the difference in that. Thank you. Lucy.

24
25 MS. LEAVITT: Hi. Lucy Leavitt, for the
26 record. One thing I didn't hear about the fish is, this
27 summer, people were catching so much char, and that's,
28 like, not a norm for Barrow area. And so, I don't know
29 that the warm waters are causing them to come this way.
30 What's in our lagoon that's out here? Char it's a pretty
31 good once you try it. I've never seen so much char
32 caught, ever, so. Just, I don't know, study what comes
33 in and out of our lagoon here or surrounding Barrow, so.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think a char study
36 would be good. And I think there was a discussion we
37 were having so, you know, as a char or is it Varden,
38 which one is it here? Go ahead, Todd.

39
40 MR. SFORMO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was
41 wondering with going over these, would it be possible
42 just to, kind of, look at these tonight and be able to
43 talk about them maybe tomorrow? I haven't seen these in
44 a long time. And I thought it'd be nice just to take
45 some time to look at this and, you know, maybe not get
46 rid of something too hasty or something like that. It's
47 just a thought.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Well, what's the wish
50 of the Council? How do we want to proceed here? Quincy?

1
2 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, through the Chair,
3 Quincy Adams, for the record. The recommendations that
4 Doreen had brought up about some of the rivers in
5 Kaktovik would be a good thing. And that's in --
6 considered fresh water going to the rivers, would be one
7 of the good studies to do so. You know, there's -- we
8 have a lot of rivers up here. A lot of fish, you know,
9 some fish that we probably don't even -- never caught
10 and that we don't know about but, you know, some of the
11 past studies that were done before, if those can come
12 up again, you know, just to get a better understanding
13 it would be very helpful.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think that would
16 be great, as well. I just wish we had more input from
17 the community itself on it, but to put something in
18 there for, I guess that section would be good. Thing is
19 it was brought up before, I don't recall that. But yeah,
20 I think that would be great. Anna.

21
22 MS. SENEAL: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
23 through the Chair, Anna Senecal. I -- either today or
24 tomorrow, whichever, I think it would be good to step
25 through these PINs, because some of them speak to the
26 concerns that have been raised. Maybe not specifically.
27 There may not be a specific mention of char but looking
28 at how species are moving. New things are showing up,
29 is in here. Maybe the Kaktovik is in here. The water
30 temperature is in here. The PFAS would not be because
31 our program can't fund water quality or contaminants
32 rather, unfortunately. So, going through one by one and
33 seeing what's already captured will help us understand
34 if we need to make a new one.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think we'll go
37 with what's already captured, is what we were looking
38 at, I guess, for making it a little more streamlined so,
39 we can go through the list and go by them one by one.
40 So, I think that's where we should keep it. Yeah.

41
42 MS. SENEAL: Okay, I can -- would you
43 like to do that now?

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sure. Yeah. Yeah, I
46 think -- Go ahead, Gisela

47
48 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, I can also try to
49 get a printout of these PINs, if it would be easier for
50 you all and also email them to Martha, or we can just

050

1 go through the list online. We don't have to get a
2 printout.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think we can go
5 through with the list that we have here.

6

7 MS. SENECALE: Okay, great. So.....

8

9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Leonard.

10

11 MR. BARGER: Thank you. Yeah. Thank you.
12 I just got -- I know new species and stuff, you know. I
13 don't know if you guys see any new species here in
14 Barrow, but Point Hope seen wolffish. It's like a
15 piranha. A lot of teeth in there, you know,
16 (indiscernible) so, people have been getting them in
17 their nets and sheefish. Yeah, a different kind of
18 species, I just want to bring that up. I don't know if
19 Barrow get any different kind of species of fish and
20 stuff, so. Thanks.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Anna.

23

24 MS. SENECALE: That's a great segue way.
25 Anna Senecal, for the record. So, the first PIN that
26 dates from 2022 is using traditional ecological
27 knowledge and or harvest monitoring to document the
28 impacts of new or expanding species on other fish that
29 are important to subsistence in the North Slope region.
30 Is this still relevant to your region?

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, I would say. I
33 think so.

34

35 MS. SENECALE: Okay. The next PIN is
36 document the effects of climate change, including late
37 freeze-up on subsistence fishing access, harvest and
38 preservation, and the impact of these changes on
39 community-wide harvest levels and food security on the
40 North Slope. Research could investigate adaptations for
41 continuing community-wide harvest levels where
42 traditional preservation methods are impacted.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think that
45 pertains, I mean, some years we're melted clear up until
46 almost November, some years, such as now, we start
47 freezing up just before October. It used to be September
48 15th. I think this is relevant to the North Slope. So,
49 it does change the dates of subsistence harvest
50 directly.

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MS. SENECA: Is the bit about traditional preservation methods being impacted. Is that still relevant?

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes. So, if it's warm out and we cannot freeze our fish above ground in the times that we're, you know, if we've got a thousand whitefish set out to freeze and put in the cellars, if they're not frozen on time, you put them inside the cellar and they turn (In Native). So, they turn to stink fish. So, it does change the methods because some of the folks that go out and subsist and collect thousands of fish, Danny Edwards, Arnold Brower used to be Arnie, it just depends on the conditions, if they don't have the cold there, in the times that they're harvesting fish with the eggs, then they'll have to buy freezers, chest freezers or walk in freezers to mitigate that because, you know, we used to use the cold to do it, kind of, similar to how everybody uses snow to have whale during the fall hunts, to keep it clean. If the temperature changes, you know, from month to month, they'll have to completely change the way that they're freezing and providing these fish to people. So, yes, that has an impact.

MS. SENECA: Okay. Thank you. The next PIN is baseline fish habitat and water quality monitoring, especially temperature, dissolved oxygen and silt on the rivers and tributaries important to subsistence fishing for communities of the North Slope region. Investigators are encouraged to include overwintering areas. Is this a Priority Information Need for the North Slope region?

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes. With regards to what was brought up about the temperature and also the dissolved oxygen. And so, I think we had something happen around Prudhoe Bay that, you know, the oxygen levels were depleted within a certain area and they found a, you know, a realm of dead fish with no oxygen. So, I think those are definitely items that are being talked about and happening on the North Slope. So, yes. Relevant.

MS. SENECA: Is there a specific river system or systems you'd like to call out or would you like to leave it open?

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, I don't know.
2 Maybe Doreen would know about the -- which river systems
3 we're doing the temperature. Todd.

4
5 MR. SFORMO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah.
6 We were -- let's see here. The river, is it (In Native)
7 River on -- in Point Hope. Their main river. So, we were
8 there a number of times and ICAS was there. Meade River
9 and Colville River. Nigliq Channel. So, those are the
10 main ones that we've looked at for a few times, you
11 know, as Doreen said, the funding did run out and so,
12 we haven't been back to these rivers and we haven't even
13 looked at other rivers within the North Slope so. The
14 whole plan was to really have North Slope Borough and
15 ICAS work together, go to the different villages and
16 allow the villages to select the rivers that they thought
17 would be important to monitor. And so, we made a number
18 of trips, but as I said, the funding ran out and there
19 were some difficulties in getting some of the devices
20 to the villages to do this work. So, it was a mixture,
21 you know, we did some things, but it wasn't the perfect
22 but I think we learned a lot on how to do this. So, I
23 think we could easily continue this activity. But we
24 were going to leave it to the villages to choose what
25 they thought were the important rivers.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds like that
28 covers the vast majority of them, but I don't know. I
29 would input, maybe, the Chipp or Topagoruk Rivers, if
30 there were any expansion to that.

31
32 UNIDENTIFIED: Mr. Chair, and it started
33 with Nuiqsut, when they had the fish rot that was
34 happening and that that they brought it to ICAS and
35 North Slope Borough Wildlife and we did it through our
36 EPA Indian General Assistance Program funding. And then
37 -- so, we continue to do it and then spent my entire 3-
38 year budget in 1 year. So, we did so well, but definitely
39 our villages wanted to see it continue.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I know they're still
42 working on -- That was the fish mold issue, but I haven't
43 heard of any, at least on the last year's report for
44 that. Todd.

45
46 MR. SFORMO: Mr. Chair. We haven't
47 either. I've received no phone calls or samples of any
48 moldy fish at all. And so, we have 1 or 2 -- 2 grants
49 that are still in the works, but I have no samples to
50 work on. So, in some ways, I mean that's a positive

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1 because we're not seeing any fish with mold at the
2 moment, so. But we are still monitoring it and we do
3 have grants for it.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. It may
6 be the year to do some monitoring, then to document the
7 change, or if there's a change. But okay, yeah, I think
8 that should really sum it up. I think, as long as they
9 have some background from before to continue the
10 project, you know, if it got selected, that would be
11 good. And we can always adjust that, you know, if we
12 have to. If it gets approved for more money, we'll dive
13 deeper into it.

14
15 MS. SENEAL: That sounds good, Mr.
16 Chair. All right. Moving right along you get to witness
17 my terrible pronunciation. So, distribution, abundance
18 and stocks of broad whitefish on the Sag, let me cheat,
19 Ikpikpuk, Meade, Inaru, Topagoruk, sorry, rivers and
20 other rivers important to subsistence. Corrections
21 welcomed. Is this still a Priority Information Need for
22 the North Slope?

23
24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, that's one of
25 the main, I, you know, with the exception of the Sag
26 River, I don't know anybody that that catches anything
27 over there for the Sag River. I mean, there's the aspect
28 of it being next to the oil field so, there's always
29 that. But as far as subsistence hunts, you know, nobody
30 goes over there for subsistence. You know, if you're
31 looking for changes over there, you might be looking for
32 hydrocarbon changes versus, you know, I don't know. I
33 guess it would affect subsistence, though, so having
34 something there may affect one of the outer lying
35 communities, maybe Nuiqsut or Kaktovik of the area, but
36 nobody subsists around that area of the Sag River.

37
38 MS. SENEAL: That sounds like an
39 argument to remove this PIN so that others can be
40 highlighted.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I mean, the rest of
43 the rivers on there are, you know, I would still keep.
44 But it's just having the Sag River there. Abundance and
45 stocks. Oh, you know, it would be nice to know,
46 especially if they had a massive spill that entered the
47 water system. But then, that you're talking you might
48 be looking at research there. If it doesn't really affect
49 any of the communities, you might be doing something
50 outside of what it is for subsistence though.

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MS. SENECA: Okay, so I've crossed out the Sag. Does that capture what you were saying?

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes.

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MS. SENECA: Seeing nods. Wonderful. Moving right along, next.

9

10

11

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: But we don't have, I guess it says, "and other rivers" so, we'll leave it there. That's the "other duties as assigned" portion of it. Yeah, that'll be good.

14

15

16

MS. SENECA: Okay. Seasonal movement and overwintering habitat of whitefish on the Colville Delta. Is this still a Priority Information Need for the region?

19

20

21

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think so. That one is relevant. You're also talking about, that's the same area for where they are capturing the fish mold so, I think it would be worthwhile having more than one PIN for this location just to up the chances of trying to get research done in an area or the only area that we're experiencing fish mold. So, I think it would be good to leave that there. It's still relevant.

28

29

30

MS. SENECA: Very good. Next one is document population structure of abundance and health of lake trout and grayling in Peters, Schrader, Chandler, Shainin and other lakes. There's your duties as assigned, again. Is this still a relevant question for your region as it pertains to harvesting subsistence fish?

36

37

38

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, I would leave this one. Schrader, Chandler, Shainin and other lakes. So, those are kind of the area that we're talking about that we wish we had more input for, is the Kaktovik side and that also expands a little more to the west. But, I would leave that in there as we don't have anybody to speak for their section right now. I think that's relevant.

45

46

47

MS. SENECA: Okay. Next one is health and abundance of Arctic grayling populations in Anaktuvuk Pass area and Point Hope.

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Looks like we're
2 leaving that one.

3

4 MS. SENEAL: Very good. Evaluate changes
5 in water levels, discoloration and mineral deposits,
6 water temperature and reduced oxygen in major river
7 systems associated with subsistence fishery resources
8 in the North Slope region, and how these changes will
9 affect fish vital for subsistence.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That sounds similar
12 to one of the other. I think that's relevant, though.
13 You know, I haven't heard anything about the oxygen
14 levels so much in our river system. So, I think that
15 would be good to have.

16

17 MS. SENEAL: So, here on the screen are
18 the 2 PINs looking at habitat characteristics, changing
19 habitat characteristics and water quality. I can try to
20 -- you could select one. You can keep them both. You can
21 select one. I can try to combine them and bring it back
22 to you as one tomorrow.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Maybe consolidating
25 them might be good. And I mean, either way, you can have
26 2 of them and if you win on one of them that you can add
27 the additional to it. But I think combining them as one
28 would be good.

29

30 MS. SENEAL: That sounds good. That
31 gives me a win, too. Less PINs. Everybody wins. Okay,
32 last one. Document and investigate the possible causes
33 of mold, disease and discoloration on broad whitefish
34 and other subsistence species in the Colville River in
35 the vicinity of Nuiqsut. Compare environmental
36 conditions in the Colville River, including temperature,
37 with those in the Ikpihpuk River, where whitefish are
38 healthy and mold has not been observed to date.
39 Investigators are encouraged to draw on both stock
40 status and trends and traditional ecological knowledge
41 research methods.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That one's a little
44 different. I mean, it's more focused on two-river
45 systems. But I think it's relevant with what's brought
46 up on it so, the other one doesn't win. And this one
47 does just because it's got more language, then we can
48 leave it. Yeah. I think we should leave it. Those are
49 two of the main rivers that we collect whitefish from.

50

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1 MS. SENEAL: Okay. Very, very good. I
2 will -- here's my proposal, I will clean these up,
3 consolidate the two water quality PINs into one. We'll
4 draft language for the 2 additional HMTEK PINs. And then
5 you can vote on them tomorrow. Still consider these
6 draft. You can receive additional community input if you
7 wish. You can change the words. You can choose not to
8 adopt PINs and whole, you can do whatever you want, but
9 so, the action item would come back to you tomorrow.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good to us.
12 Yeah. So, we don't have to move on this until tomorrow.
13 All right. I think I'm ready for a break. You guys ready
14 for a break? So, yeah. 5-minute break? 5-minute break.

15
16 (Off record)

17
18 (On record)

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right,
21 everybody. We're back online from our break. And we're
22 continuing with our action items. So, I guess before we
23 move on to action items we have our quorum still online,
24 in the event that we make a motion later?

25
26 MS. ITTA: I'm still here, Mr. Chair.
27 This is Martha.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. It sounds
30 like we have more than enough for quorum online still.
31 All right, so, we've got 11.b, Wildlife Special Action.
32 Kendra?

33
34 MS. HOLMAN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
35 Members of the Council. For the record, Kendra Holman,
36 Wildlife Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
37 Management. So, we're going to kind of walk through a
38 couple of different slides here. So, this first one is
39 a summary of the Wildlife Special Actions. I'm going to
40 initially, kind of, skip over WSA26-01. We're going to
41 go straight down to 26-02 and 26-03. So, WSA26-02 was
42 adopted to close federal public lands in Unit 22 to
43 caribou hunting by non-federally qualified subsistence
44 users for the '26 through '28 Regulatory Cycle so, that
45 is in effect until the end of June 2028. WSA26-03 was
46 adopted to close federal public lands in the Unit 26A
47 Southwest to caribou hunting by non-federally qualified
48 subsistence users, again for that same time frame until
49 the end of June 2028. So, if for interest, for the list
50 of who are federally qualified subsistence users, that

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1 is part of the analysis for WSA26-01 and can be found
2 on page 30 of your meeting books. If you're interested
3 in seeing, it is broken down by unit so you can see who
4 all is federally qualified to hunt there. Do you have
5 any questions about these 2 special actions?

6
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions on
8 these 2 special actions from the Council?

9
10 (No response)

11
12 No questions.

13
14 MS. HOLMAN: Okay so, WSA26-01. Oh, okay.
15 So WSA26-01 was taken up by the Board. It was requested
16 to reduce the caribou harvest limit in Units 22, 23, 26A
17 Southwest to 4 caribou per year and only 1 of which can
18 be a cow for the 2026-2027 regulatory years. So, this
19 was adopted with modification by the Board to eliminate
20 the cow caribou hunt through the 2027-2028. So again,
21 through the end of June 2028. And they deferred the
22 action on reducing the bull caribou harvest limit until
23 the regulatory meeting of the fisheries in February of
24 2027. In the meantime, maybe this -- oh, we have a
25 network issue. Hold on.

26
27 (Talking)

28
29 MS. ITTA: Hello.

30
31 MS. HOLMAN: All right, this is Kendra
32 Holman. Can you hear us online now?

33
34 MS. ITTA: Now I could hear you. It got
35 cut off as she was talking. Thank you.

36
37 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. Thank you. So, we did
38 notice pretty much hopefully, immediately, that we'd
39 lost everything in the room. So, I don't think you guys
40 missed anything online. So, we've been sitting here.
41 Okay. So, we're on -- just starting slide 2 here. So
42 just, kind of for information, the Board -- on the left,
43 you can see when the Board made this emergency order
44 closing -- excuse me, the State made the emergency order
45 closing the cow caribou harvest, as well, in Units 22,
46 23 and that portion of 26A, what we're calling the
47 Southwest. And then the flyer that they've been posting
48 online regarding their portion of the closure for the
49 cows, as well.

50

1 Okay. So, now we're going to get into
2 Wildlife Special Action 26-01 a little bit more here.
3 So, this starts on page 19 of your meeting book. So,
4 this one is an action item. I'll try to kind of keep
5 this a little bit brief. You were -- you did hear about
6 it at your winter meeting. So, Wildlife Special Action
7 Request 26-01, really what we're looking at now is the
8 reduction in the harvest limit for bulls only. So, when
9 the Board made their initial consideration to adopt the
10 reduction in cow harvest, they had concerns about making
11 Federal regulations more restrictive than State
12 regulations. And so, that's why they deferred that bull
13 harvest portion to the February meeting, because it'll
14 happen after the State Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue
15 in January. So, we are bringing this back out to you.
16 And since this has happened, I'm going to lay out a
17 couple of bullet points here just to make it very clear.
18 Cow harvest has been closed on both State and Federal
19 sides for Units 22, 23 and 26A Southwest. Federal public
20 lands in Unit 22 are closed to caribou hunting by non-
21 federally qualified subsistence users. Federal public
22 lands in 26A Southwest are closed to caribou hunting by
23 non-federally qualified subsistence users, both until
24 the end of June 2028. Current state regulations are 15
25 bulls and Unit 23 is closed to caribou hunting on the
26 federal side by non-federally qualified subsistence
27 users from August 1st to October 31st, until the Western
28 Arctic Caribou Herd exceeds 200,000 caribou.

29
30 So, right now, this opportunity is for
31 the Councils to make recommendations specific to the
32 bull harvest in units 22, 23 and 26A Southwest. And your
33 recommendations, we would like you to please be specific
34 if you do or do not support this reduction or state.....

35
36 (Distortion)

37
38 any modifications that you would
39 like to make. And, specifically, to any user groups that
40 you would like to see these applied to. I can also
41 provide you the Council's recommendation that was
42 provided in January or at the winter meeting to, kind
43 of, help you remind you of what you had recommended,
44 because there was a modification in that, but if -- I
45 will leave that up to you, Mr. Chair, if you'd like me
46 to read that.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, what's the wish
49 of the Council here? Go ahead, Quincy.

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1 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, Quincy Adams, for
2 the record. I remember when we went to the Board of Game
3 meeting, we had closed off the Units 22 and 23, but with
4 the 26A Southwest area because it affects Point Hope,
5 we -- the modification was 15 caribou per year, per
6 hunter. And that was our recommendation that we have
7 brought to the Board of Game and they had accepted that.
8 No, go ahead. There's 15. The number was 15 when we had
9 brought it to the Board of Game, and they had accepted
10 that for the Unit 26A Southwest portion.

11
12 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, through the Chair. That
13 is what the regulations are currently. This new proposal
14 is for 5 bulls per person. And then, I also -- if the
15 Council is interested, have the recommendation that was
16 provided by the Northwest Arctic Council, at their
17 meeting a week or two ago. And I know we have a -- I'm
18 sorry, I said 5, it's 4. And then, I know Member Barger
19 was at the Council at Northwest Arctic, as well.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Auincy.

22
23 MR. ADAMS: Okay, Mr. Chair. So, from the
24 last decision to this one right here, they're wanting
25 to reduce the harvest to 4 per year. So, that's.....

26
27 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair, that is
28 correct.

29
30 MR. ADAMS: Okay. Without a cow. Okay.
31 I don't support this just to -- that's just from my
32 personal view. I don't know about the rest of the
33 Council, but because the -- where we had it set was to
34 try to defend as much as we can for Wainwright, Point
35 Lay and Point Hope, which is in the southwest or part
36 of the southwest area of 26A. So, they're trying to cut
37 that off, or their recommendation is to reduce that level
38 to match with Units 22 and 23?

39
40 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair, the
41 recommended -- the current proposal is request for 22,
42 23 and that 26A Southwest portion to all still remain
43 the same. I know at the Board of Game meeting they had
44 kind of cut out that northern portion because that's a
45 lot more where the Teshekpuk is. And so, there had been
46 a lot of discussion about that. So, this request is for
47 still that 26A Southwest, as well as 22 and 23.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And also keep in
50 mind, this is per person, right? Yeah. Per person. So,

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1 if you have 3, you can get 12 a year and just bull, so
2 no cows. So, if you have 5, that's 20. Go ahead, Leonard.

3

4 MR. BARGER: Yeah. So, like I brought it
5 up in the northwest. Like I said earlier, you know,
6 taking the cows, you know, we're just going to watch all
7 the animals all winter and not get a cow. So, that's,
8 you know, that's my other concern that, you know, not
9 taking a cow. And, you know, we want to go whaling and
10 stuff when we depend on the caribou for soup. And, you
11 know, the bulls are in rut so you don't you don't want
12 to get a caribou during the winter time. They stink. So,
13 I just want to verify that, so.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. All
16 right. So, what's the recommendation? I mean, are you
17 looking for? Okay, I guess it is. What's the Council's
18 recommendation then? So, what is the consensus for us?
19 I mean, we don't have to agree with it. I mean, we can
20 come up with our own, but what do you think is adequate?
21 Go ahead, Quincy.

22

23 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, Quincy Adams, for
24 the record, I think from, you know, 5 and 15, I think
25 it would be good to meet in the middle with 10. I'd be
26 happy with the recommendation to put and to keep it at
27 10 per year for just for the southwest portion of 26A.
28 Keep the Units 22 and 23 the same but bring it to the
29 southwest portion of 26A, to bring that to 10 because,
30 you know, we go through a lot of tuttu a year, per
31 person. And it's just.....

32

33 (Simultaneous speech)

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Without a cow?

36

37 MR. ADAMS: Yeah, without a cow. And it's
38 not just our families. We don't just hunt just for our
39 families. I don't go out hunting just for mine. We go
40 out for at least 3 or 4 different families and 3 or 4
41 different elders that we give to, so they can eat as
42 well. That was one of our arguments that -- when we
43 brought over to the Board of Game.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is that agreeable?

46

47 (No audible response)

48

49 All right. Anybody? Oh. Go ahead,
50 Gisela.

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3 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, Jenysa has her
4 hand up, but before I wanted to remind the Council that
5 at your winter meeting, this was your recommendation.
6 So, it was "support WSA26-01, with a modification to
7 reduce the caribou harvest limit to Unit 26A Southwest.
8 And the portion of Unit 23 north and west of, and
9 included the Singoalik River drainage to 10 caribou,
10 only 1 of which can be a cow." But the Board already
11 made a decision on the cow harvest. So, just wanted to
12 refresh your memory about what was the original
13 recommendation from the Council from your winter
14 meeting. And Jenysa also has her hand up.

14

15

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Jenysa.

16

17

18 MS. AHMAOGAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Jenysa Ahmaogak, for the record. I wanted to touch on
20 to this subject. It is a little touchy and, you know,
21 it's very conflicting with the realities that we're
22 facing right now. Especially with the herd population
23 going down. You know, at some point we're just going to
24 have to accept the fact that the population is going
25 down, it's on a downward trend, and try to do our best
26 to comply, at least until the numbers go back up. I know
27 there are people that are -- that argue, you know, that
28 the numbers fluctuate, they always go down and then come
29 back up but I feel like if we were to, like you said,
30 meet in the middle, like Quincy said, meet in the middle.
31 I think that would probably be the best choice and have
32 all of our best interests at heart. Thank you.

32

33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Jenysa.
35 So, it sounds like 10 caribou per person. No cow. So,
36 it sounds like we want the same thing that we wrote just
37 without a cow, is what it sounds like. Gisela.

37

38

39 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Also wondered if
40 the Council would be interested in hearing what the
41 Northwest Council -- Northwest Arctic Council
42 recommended. In addition to them, the North Slope,
43 Seward Peninsula will also provide the recommendations
44 to the Board.

44

45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I guess we can hear
47 them. Sure.

47

48

49 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair. So,
50 the Northwest Arctic, theirs was "to support with
51 modification to eliminate the cow harvest and apply

1 harvest limit restrictions to the entire 2026 through
2 2028 regulatory cycles. The Council continues to be
3 extremely concerned over the declining Western Arctic
4 Caribou Herd population and it believes harvest must be
5 reduced now to preserve the herd and assist herd and
6 subsistence harvest opportunity in the future. The
7 Council has submitted comments to the Alaska Board of
8 Game supporting similar restrictions under state
9 regulations. As the closure of all federal public lands
10 in Unit 23, to caribou hunting by non-federally
11 qualified users is effective August 1st, October 31st,
12 restricting all users to 4 caribou per person, per year
13 ensures this harvest limit restriction will be effective
14 on federal public lands in Unit 23 from November 1st
15 through July 31st." So, my notes don't have a specific
16 number for what the Northwest Arctic, excuse me, had
17 voted on, so I -- unless someone has those specific
18 numbers, I would -- these lead me to believe that it's
19 based on what the original proposal is.

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: I'm going to look for that.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Carmen.

24

25 MS. HOLMAN: I'm being confirmed that --
26 Oops, sorry. Confirmed that it is 4 caribou. Yes.

27

28 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair. Members
29 of the Council, this is Carmen Daggett with Alaska
30 Department of Fish and Game. I wanted to provide you
31 with some data. Because I think -- I just want you to,
32 kind of, have some numbers to wrap your head around,
33 okay? So, according to the most recent harvest or most
34 recent population surveys, there's a harvestable surplus
35 of about 5,800 bulls. And the harvestable surplus of
36 cows that is zero. And I would like to also give you
37 some historical context. In the 1970s, when the Western
38 Arctic Caribou Herd population decreased to 75,000, the
39 hunt was closed. And so, I think -- I'm telling you
40 these numbers because I want you to understand that we're
41 getting close to those numbers. We are at 120,000 with
42 the most recent population estimate from 2025 and no
43 sign that the decline has slowed at all. So, the reason
44 why I'm bringing this up is because, you know, there's
45 been a lot of discussions about other ways to deal with
46 this decline and different options on the state side,
47 talking about Tier II hunts and different hunt
48 structures to try to reduce harvest. So, this is one way
49 that we can talk about doing that. I'm not trying to
50 convince you to do any specific thing. I just want you

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1 to have more information to make your decisions with.
2 Okay? Thank you.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Carmen.
5 Do you have anything else to add? I think you were
6 talking about something.

7
8 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead. Who is
11 that online? Is that Martha?

12
13 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, can you hear me?
14 Martha.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes. Go ahead.

17
18 MS. ITTA: I wanted -- I had a question.
19 I know we made that decision last, what was it October
20 on the numbers? And we also addressed the sports hunting.
21 My question is, because I know we didn't allow sports
22 hunting to go on. We didn't want to decline subsistence
23 numbers opposed to sports hunting numbers. Given that,
24 are there any -- are they enforcing that part of the
25 regulation of no sports hunting? Because after we did
26 that, I mean, all summer long there's been nothing but
27 sports hunters all the way down the Dalton from -- going
28 into Coldfoot and all the way to Prudhoe Bay. I mean,
29 I've seen 1 hunter with like 4 bulls, 4 racks in the
30 back of his truck, maybe more. So, my question is, you
31 know, based on our last decision, is that being enforced?
32 Before we make this decision of decreasing the number
33 once again, because that was a really touchy subject at
34 our last meeting. And, you know, we made some good
35 arguments trying to protect the subsistence hunters. So,
36 that's my question. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Martha.
39 Just for clarification purposes though. So, this one was
40 for a different unit. That -- or a section of the Unit
41 26. Sounds like you're talking about 26B. 26B does not
42 have that change in effect. So, it's only the 26A
43 Remainder side or the, the western 26A portion of
44 Wainwright, Point Lay and Point Hope. But yes, to answer
45 that question for that area, they are supposed to be
46 closed to non-federally qualified users. Not so much
47 specific to sport hunters. So, any non-federally
48 qualified users should not be hunting caribou in that
49 section, the 26A western portion, southwestern portion.
50 But it sounds like we may have issues over there, but

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1 they're currently looking into it. So, that was put into
2 effect though, as far as it's being enforced, you know,
3 that's yet to be determined. Go ahead, Kendra.

4
5 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair.

6
7 (Simultaneous speech)

8
9 MS. ITTA: I asked that -- oh, sorry.

10
11 MS. HOLMAN: I was just going to let you
12 know, there -- if you have your book with you, on page
13 29 of your meeting book, there's a map and that actually
14 has the map of the area that we're specifically talking
15 about. If that helps to see that.

16
17 MS. ITTA: I do see it. I asked that
18 question because we talked about the migration route a
19 lot and, you know, the route that they travel. So, I
20 just wanted to point that out. If that could be a factor
21 also for their migration route. Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, it
24 sounds like we kind of know what we want to go with. And
25 I don't think any of us want to go with 4. So, I think,
26 I mean, is this supposed to be in the form of a motion
27 or just, right? In the form of a motion is what it is.
28 So, is there a motion on the floor for what we would
29 like to see?

30
31 MR. ADAMS: Yeah. I like to put in the
32 motion to where it's 10 bulls instead of 4 for the
33 southwest portion of Unit 26.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: With no cow.

36
37 MR. ADAMS: With no cow.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: With no cow.

40
41 (Pause)

42
43 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, if I may.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So -- oh, go ahead,
46 Quincy.

47
48 MR. ADAMS: If we can keep Units 22 and
49 23 the same but for Unit 26A, the southwest portion,
50 have that at the number of 10. Because Units 22 and 23

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1 doesn't -- I mean it's, I know it's a Western Arctic
2 Caribou Herd but that area is -- we don't go all the way
3 down towards Kobuk or Ambler or anywhere else to go
4 hunting.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. And I don't
7 think it's anything that was -- traditionally that we
8 would do is try to change other people's units, numbers,
9 so. All right. So, in the form of a motion, without,
10 Unit 23 on there. So, there's a motion on the floor to
11 -- oh, was that second?

12
13 MR. BARGER: Second.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Seconded by
16 Leonard Barger. Any discussion on this? So, I guess maybe
17 under discussion we'll put that we remove 23. It's not
18 normally something that we would do to change another
19 unit's numbers in our proposals. What's that? And? So,
20 just 26A. 26. Just our, without any other units on it.
21 Just to be clear, I guess. Yeah. Yeah. Not -- I don't
22 think I've made any suggestions for changing other
23 areas' numbers.

24
25 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, Gisela Chapa, for
26 the record. And yeah, I'm not trying to convince the
27 Council to do one thing or the other but just remember
28 the discussion at the winter meeting that, "the specific
29 portion of 23 pertained to the area of Point Hope,"
30 around Point Hope. Because Point Hope is a unit -- Game
31 Management Unit 23. And so, at the winter meeting, the
32 council supported WSA26-01 with a modification to 10
33 caribou in 26A Southwest and the portion of Unit 23
34 north and west of and including the Singoalik River
35 drainage, because of Point Hope.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, Unit 23 and what
38 was the other language behind it? It's a very, it's --
39 can we just change it to Unit 23 Remainder?

40
41 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, if I may.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

44
45 MR. ADAMS: That was the actual language
46 for -- because Point Hope and Unit 23.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes. So, oversight
49 on that. So, technically it's not somebody else's unit.

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1 It's still -- all right. So, do we have to rescind this
2 motion? So.....

3

4 MR. ADAMS: I'd like to rescind the last
5 motion.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion to rescind
8 the motion.

9

10 MR. BARGER: Second.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
13 Barger. Any discussion on the matter? Because we need -
14 - discussion being we need to re add Unit 23, because
15 we forgot Point Hope was in Unit 23 north and west of
16 and including the Singoalik River drainage.

17

18 MR. ADAMS: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any other
21 discussion?

22

23 MR. ADAMS: Question.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question. For all
26 those in favor to rescind the motion, say aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye

29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
31 sign.

32

33 (No response)

34

35 Hearing none. We rescinded the motion.
36 Any new motion? Go ahead, Quincy.

37

38 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair. Once
39 -- on page 164 of your meeting book. Oh, I thought it
40 was on there, maybe it's not. Page 19 of your meeting
41 book. Sorry, wrong page. The North Slope Regional
42 Advisory Council recommendation has the language that I
43 believe you're looking for. If I'm wrong, use something
44 different.

45

46 MR. ADAMS: Yes, that's the right. That's
47 with the support, with the modification. So, that was
48 the correct language that we were trying to put into a
49 motion.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, just without the
2 cow, though.

3
4 MR. ADAMS: Just without the cow. Yes.
5 Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

8
9 MR. ADAMS: Make a motion to support
10 WSA26-01 with the modification to reduce the caribou
11 harvest limit in Unit 26A Southwest and the portion of
12 Unit 23 north and west, of and including the Singoalik
13 River drainage to 10 caribou without a cow.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. There's
16 a motion on the floor. Any second?

17
18 MS. AHMAOGAK: Second.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right.
21 Seconded. Any discussion on this? So, we want to keep
22 the number high enough to where it's acceptable for our
23 uses. And -- but with the exception of -- eliminating
24 the cow. I guess in order to assist with maybe the
25 numbers, but also slightly lowering ours for Unit 26A
26 and Unit 23. This is per person. So, any other discussion
27 on the matter?

28
29 MR. BARGER: Question called.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
32 called for all those in favor of supporting WSA26-01
33 with modification to reduce the caribou harvest limit
34 in Unit 26A Southwest and portion of Unit 23 north and
35 west, of and including the -- yeah, river drainage to
36 10 caribou without a cow, say aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
41 sign.

42
43 (No response)

44
45 Hearing none. We've made our
46 modification. And time is 5:00. What are we doing?

47
48 (Pause)

49
50

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1 What's the wish of the Council? It's
2 5:00. You guys want to reconvene tomorrow or what's going
3 on? Gisela.

4
5 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. So, just whatever
6 is left in your agenda. We still have to revisit action
7 items 11.a, the FRMP PINs list. The Council will also
8 hear about the Gates of the Arctic National Park and
9 Preserve Subsistence Resource Commission's Dall Sheep
10 Management Hunting Plan. It's also an action item. You
11 will also hear about Board of Game proposals for the
12 Western Arctic western region. You also have your Annual
13 Report. An overview of the 2025 Annual Report and develop
14 your 2026 Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence
15 Board. Future Meeting Dates. And after that you have
16 non-action items which include the Council Chairs'
17 Meeting on Alaska's Salmon Crisis. Partners for
18 Fisheries Monitoring Program Update, Agency Reports and
19 Other Business.

20
21 (Pause)

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, what's the wish?

24
25 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair. Are we, I mean,
26 are we, are you pointing anything out that needs to be
27 done for now, or are we good to...?

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we still have
30 action items, hopefully we have a quorum in the morning.
31 Unless there's something pressing for today. Yeah.

32
33 MR. ADAMS: We reconvene at 9 a.m.
34 tomorrow?

35
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, 9 a.m. tomorrow.
37 Hopefully we'll have a quorum again. So, we'll reconvene
38 at 9 a.m.

39
40 (Off record)

41
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 68 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 1st day of October;

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 19th day of October 2026.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager