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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

DR. ALBERT HALL, ILLISAGVIK COLLEGE
Utqiagvik, Alaska
October 2, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Regional Council Coordinator, Gisela Chapa

Recorded and transcribed by:

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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Utqiaġvik - 10/2/26)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Good morning, everybody. I guess we'll get reconvened here. So, to begin, we'll start with introductions for new meeting participants online. So, please state your name and affiliation. To get unmuted, press star six, please.

(No response)

All right. So, hearing none. We'll move to introductions for new meeting participants in the room. Please state your name and affiliation at the mic. I think it's the same crowd as yesterday, maybe a little less. Good morning.

(No response)

Hearing none. We'll move on. So, Meeting Announcements, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Since we have the same people attending, I will just remind everyone to sign in if you're in the room to let us know that you are here. For those online, the meeting materials can be found online. I will repost the link to those. And your lines are automatically muted. If you want to address the Council, if you're on the phone, please raise your hand. And that is by using star five. If you're online, just use the raise your hand button. Star five to raise your hand, star six to unmute. And also, those of you in the room, if you want to address the Council, please fill out one of those blue testifier forms in the back of the room. And it just helps us keep a queue of who wants to address the Council. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, thank you for the announcements. So, we'll move on to Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items. This is available each morning. So, anybody on the floor or online, feel free to raise your hand or fill out the forms. So, Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items.

(No comments)

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1 So, we didn't have anything initially?
2 No?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 All right. Hearing none. I think --
7 what's that? Okay, hearing none. We'll -- if anything
8 pops up, I think we'll give it time and availability
9 later, but we'll move on. So, item 11, Action Items.
10 We've got Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
11 Subsistence Resource Commission's Dall Sheep Management
12 Hunting Plan. I guess we can.....

13
14 (Talking)

15
16 MS. CHAPA: Thank you for the reminder.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: We'll move on to
19 Action Items. A confirmation of the quorum. Roll call,
20 please.

21
22 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. I was eager to get
23 started. So, I'll do a roll call. We'll start with
24 Leonard Barger.

25
26 MR. BARGER: Here.

27
28 MS. CHAPA: Wanda Kippi is not here and
29 excused. Peter Williams is not here and excused. Quincy
30 Adams.

31
32 MR. ADAMS: Here.

33
34 MS. CHAPA: Martha Itta.

35
36 (No response)

37
38 Ms. Itta, if you're online, you'll need
39 to unmute yourself with star six.

40
41 (No response)

42
43 I see you in the attendees, but muted.
44 So, we'll go back to Martha. Esther Hugo.

45
46 (No response)

47
48 Ms. Hugo, we are doing roll call. If you
49 can hear us, can you let me know? Star six to unmute.

50

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1 (No response)

2

3 I'll do an audio check. Can you hear me

4 online?

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, we can.

7

8 MS. CHAPA: Okay, thank you. Well, I do

9 see. Ms. Hugo?

10

11 MS. HUGO: I don't know how to unmute.

12 Star six?

13

14 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, you're unmuted, Ms.

15 Hugo. We can hear you. Just need confirmation. Since I'm

16 doing roll call, if you wouldn't mind.

17

18 MS. HUGO: I'm here.

19

20 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. Thank you. Brower

21 Frantz.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Here.

24

25 MS. CHAPA: Here. Jenysa Ahmaogak.

26

27 (No response)

28

29 And I also see you in the participants,

30 Jenysa, if you can unmute yourself for roll call.

31

32 MS. AHMAOGAK: Are you able to hear me?

33

34 MS. CHAPA: Yes, we can hear you. Thank

35 you. And I'll go back to Ms. Itta. Martha Itta. We're

36 doing roll call.

37

38 (No response)

39

40 Okay. We'll try her again later, but,

41 Mr. Chair, we have five Council members present, so we

42 do have a quorum.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So now,

45 up next, we have Gates of the Arctic. Is that Marcy

46 Okada?

47

48 MS. OKADA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair,

49 Council members. Can folks hear me all right?

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, we can hear
2 you.

3
4 MS. OKADA: OK, thank you. I'd like to
5 refer you to page 91 of your meeting packet.....

6
7 (Simultaneous speech)

8
9 MS. ITTA: Good morning. Can anybody hear
10 me?

11
12 MS. CHAPA: Yes, we can hear you, Martha.

13
14 MS. ITTA: Yeah, it wouldn't unmute me,
15 but it wouldn't do anything. I'm here.

16
17 MS. CHAPA: Thank you.

18
19 MS. OKADA: Okay, so I'd like to refer
20 you to page 91 of your meeting packet. What you have
21 before you is a cover letter from the Gates of the Arctic
22 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission, and then
23 behind that cover letter is their Dall Sheep Management
24 Hunting Plan Recommendation. I will be going over the
25 highlights of the hunting plan recommendation and the
26 request from the Subsistence Resource Commission is for
27 review and comments from your North Slope Regional
28 Advisory Council.

29
30 So, Subsistence Resource Commissions
31 were created under Title VIII, Section 808 of the Alaska
32 National Interest Lands Conservation Act, otherwise
33 known as ANILCA. Subsistence Resource Commissions such
34 as the one for Gates of the Arctic National Park advise
35 National Park Service Subsistence Management through the
36 creation of hunting plan recommendations. It's similar
37 to how RACs advise the Federal Subsistence Board through
38 discussions on subsistence regulations. SRCs submit
39 hunting plan recommendations to the National Park
40 Service, which then go on to the Secretary of Interior
41 for approval. So, under ANILCA Section 808A, the Gates
42 of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource
43 Commission approved and submitted a Dall sheep
44 management hunting plan recommendation at their April
45 meeting. And the SRC is currently sharing this hunting
46 plan with affiliated Federal Regional Advisory Councils
47 and also State Local Advisory Committees to offer the
48 opportunity to review and share comments. The SRC thinks
49 this recommendation is timely due to the importance of
50 Dall sheep as a subsistence resource. Just like to point

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1 out that this recommendation is only for Gates of the
2 Arctic National Park and it doesn't pertain to any other
3 Federal lands in the North Slope Region. Before I move
4 on to any highlights of the hunting plan, do folks have
5 any questions?

6

7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It doesn't sound
8 like we have any questions. Any questions online for
9 Marcy?

10

11 (No response)

12

13 Hearing none. You can proceed.

14

15 MS. OKADA: Okay, so Esther Hugo, we have
16 two seats on our SRC from Anaktuvuk Pass. Both seats are
17 filled. Esther Hugo, of which your RAC has appointed to
18 our SRC, is on our commission. And then also, we have
19 the other seat filled of which Susan Mekiana-Morry holds
20 that seat. I'll just quickly give the highlights of this
21 hunting plan. The management recommendations that are
22 included is for remote weather monitoring to continue
23 by Park Service staff. Mainly because winter weather
24 events should continue to be monitored and there should
25 be open dialogue and sharing of findings between Park
26 Service managers and local rural subsistence users. In
27 relation to survey timing and methodology, Park Service
28 managers should strive to manage sheep within the game
29 management units and subunits they reside in. Sheep
30 aerial surveys should be conducted in July to sample the
31 entire population. July survey dates have been widely
32 used for decades in Alaska. Repeatability of and
33 comparability to previous surveys are important for
34 comparative purposes and in order to estimate population
35 trends. Sheep surveys should be -- sheep populations
36 should be surveyed with distance sampling methods, which
37 are scientifically rigorous and cost effective. Another
38 important thing is that ram groups need to have
39 composition documentation with curl classification as
40 half-curl, rams, three-quarter curls, and greater than
41 or equal to full-curl.

42

43 Where logistically and financially
44 feasible, the SRC recommends supplementing distance
45 sampling with focused, detailed, on-the-ground
46 composition counts. Acknowledging that there's limited
47 availability of full-curl rams could increase reliance
48 upon utilizing counting the rings on the horns for aging,
49 which can be difficult in the field. And then the final
50 category is allocation of Dall sheep on Federal lands.

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1 The highest priority is to maintain healthy populations
2 of Dall sheep. When survey data isn't available or
3 incomplete for a sheep population that might be
4 struggling, Federal management should default to
5 restrictive management. And then when sheep populations
6 show declines or missing age groups, it is important for
7 Federal managers to inform the Subsistence Resource
8 Commission and Regional Advisory Councils in order to
9 discuss needed actions.

10
11 So, one thing I forgot to mention is
12 that Gates of the Arctic covers three different regions.
13 In addition to the North Slope Region, it also includes
14 the Northwest Arctic Region, and then the Western
15 Interior Region. This hunting plan has already been
16 shared with the North Slope State Advisory Committee.
17 And then last week, it was shared with the Northwest
18 Arctic Regional Advisory Council at their meeting. Next
19 week, it'll be shared with the Western Interior Regional
20 Advisory Council. And then when the Koyukuk River
21 Advisory Committee on the State side meets, it'll be
22 shared with that committee as well. So, if folks have
23 any questions or comments, hope to entertain them at
24 this time.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions from
27 Council members for Marcy?

28
29 (Pause)

30
31 MS. HUGO: Hello. Good morning.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good morning,
34 Esther.

35
36 MS. HUGO: Good morning. Thank you,
37 Marcy, for the information on the sheep plan
38 recommendation. So, this is for the east side of the
39 Brooks Range, and it doesn't involve our area on the
40 west, I believe.

41
42 MS. OKADA: So, Esther, this hunting plan
43 recommendation would be for the entire Park, and it would
44 include Anaktuvuk Pass.

45
46 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Marcy. Mr. Chair,
47 Esther. So, it will include us. Do we have numbers for
48 this year or aren't available? Because we've been out
49 hunting, not me, but the young guy's been going out all
50 summer. And I think we got about three or four sheep

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1 just recently. A couple days ago or yesterday, somebody
2 got sheep, so that's good news for us, for the community.
3 But it's not affecting our side, or the west side of us,
4 or around -- or near home?

5
6 MS. OKADA: So, Esther, this is a hunting
7 plan recommendation and it's just recommendations for
8 sheep management but as of yet it has not been enacted.
9 Sheep surveys were conducted in Gates of the Arctic this
10 past July, but unfortunately the area -- not all of the
11 areas around Anaktuvuk Pass were surveyed, mainly
12 because of bad weather. So, it's good to know that on
13 Anaktuvuk Pass local hunters haven't really seen much
14 sheep, but a Park Service survey wasn't conducted around
15 the community this past July. It was only conducted
16 around -- in the northeast portion, which is Itkilik
17 Preserve, and then the southeast portion of Gates, which
18 is the Koyukuk River area. But again, this sheep hunting
19 plan is just going through the process for review and
20 comments, and then it'll be discussed further at our
21 upcoming Gates of the Arctic SRC meeting the first week
22 of November.

23
24 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is
25 Esther, again. Marcy, thank you. You know, it's not good
26 even when we're in July, after July 15th, not seeing
27 sheep. Our young folks go out there climbing the
28 mountains and look where their salt licks are. And a lot
29 of times they'll come home with nothing. And after the
30 fact, I think in August we got like a couple. And just
31 a couple weeks one, and then a couple days ago one. So,
32 due to no caribou migrating, we're really happy that at
33 least there's a sheep that can provide for us. Thank
34 you.

35
36 MS. OKADA: Yeah. So, the Park Service
37 does acknowledge that after caribou, sheep is pretty
38 much the next important subsistence resource for that
39 community. We do try to continue to monitor the sheep
40 population around Anaktuvuk Pass from year to year, but
41 again, this past year, due to bad weather, the surveys
42 weren't conducted. And also, just to let folks know,
43 Anaktuvuk Pass has a community sheep hunt that starts
44 July 15th. Our surveys are conducted in that area in
45 early July to avoid any sort of overlap with when their
46 community hunt starts. So, they try to -- our biologist
47 tries to survey the sheep around Anaktuvuk in early July
48 and then gets out of there before the community hunt
49 starts on July 15th.

50

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1 So again, the request is from the SRC
2 for comments that this Regional Advisory Council might
3 have on the hunting plan, and then requesting that a
4 comment letter be submitted if the RAC so chooses to do
5 so in time for the SRC to review comments at their early
6 November meeting.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Do we
9 have any comments or recommendations from the Council?
10 Esther, do you have any recommendations, comments,
11 input, concerns?

12
13 MS. HUGO: I do have concern because this
14 -- after July 15th is very -- we don't find stragglers
15 (indiscernible). And a lot of our young men who hike the
16 mountain (indiscernible), they're pretty close to home.
17 The one in (indiscernible) is really close to home. And
18 so is the one west of us -- east of us, where we always
19 sight the caribou -- I mean, the sheep. It's concerning
20 to see where they're all at, especially to our -- we
21 didn't even have any stragglers to find. That was really
22 something that we look forward to every day. Every time
23 we take a day's trip, way down into the mountains, way
24 down south. But now that we have access to get over the
25 boundaries, we're able to check where maybe they may be,
26 but I guess not this summer. It might be due to weather
27 or some -- Lord knows what, out there. I'm just concerned
28 about that because a lot of times summertime, like mid-
29 June, July, August, when we take our day trips, we'll
30 see caribou, but then it was odd enough that a lot of
31 our sheep weren't where they used to go salt lick.
32 Hopefully the count will be done next year. It's just
33 concerning because that's a very source of meat that we
34 do have to catch if we don't have any stragglers out
35 there. That's a concerning thing. And I'm just afraid
36 that, you know, the State permits a lot of permits to
37 the sport hunters. And I'm just afraid they'll be going
38 west of us, where most of the population is probably
39 healthy. That's a concern. Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.
42 Any other comments from the Council, or any suggestions?
43 This is in the form of a motion, it sounds like. Go
44 ahead, Quincy.

45
46 MR. ADAMS: Through the Chair, this is
47 Quincy. Marcy, one question. What's the current
48 allowable harvest numbers?

49
50

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1 MS. OKADA: So, for Anaktuvuk Pass, the
2 community harvest hunt allows for -- there's a community
3 quota of 60 sheep for the community, and currently,
4 there's also -- so, as if you were to break that down,
5 it's currently -- the community harvest quota of 60
6 sheep, no more than 10 of which may be used, and a daily
7 possession limit of 3 sheep per person, no more than one
8 of which may be a ewe. And if folks have their Federal
9 Subsistence Regulation book in front of them, that can
10 be found on page 137. And then I also want to point out,
11 for the National Park portion of Gates of the Arctic,
12 that is only open to rural subsistence. So, preserve
13 units are open to sport hunting and subsistence, but the
14 Park is only open to rural subsistence users of our
15 resident zone communities, of which Anaktuvuk Pass is a
16 resident zone community, along with Nuiqsut. And then
17 we have communities that are east and south of the Park.

18
19 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

22
23 MR. ADAMS: I'd like to make a motion on
24 accepting the recommendation for Gates of the National
25 -- Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence
26 Resource Commission Dall Sheep Recommendation.

27
28 MS. HUGO: Second.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Esther.
31 Do we have any discussion on the matter?

32
33 MR. BARGER: Question.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been
36 called for all those in favor of approving or the Gates
37 of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource
38 Commission's Dall Sheep Management Hunting Plan say aye.

39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
43 sign.

44
45 (No response)

46
47 Hearing none. We've passed the
48 Subsistence Resource Commission Gates of the Arctic
49 National Park Dall Sheep Management Hunting Plan. All
50 right, so.

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1

2

MS. OKADA: Okay. Thank you.

3

4

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Anything else,
Marcy?

6

7

MS. OKADA: No. Thank you, Mr. Chair,
Council members. Sorry about that echo. We'll be
providing.....

10

11

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No, it's okay.

12

13

MS. OKADA: a Park update later in
your agenda.

15

16

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you.

17

18

MS. OKADA: Thank you.

19

20

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, Action
Items, item d. Alaska Board of Game Proposals for Western
-- or Arctic -- Western Arctic -- Western and the
Interior and Eastern Arctic Regions. Carmen Daggett.

24

25

MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
before we get -- Carmen Daggett, for the record, with
Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Before we get into
these proposals, many of these proposals are addressing
Western Arctic Caribou Herd changes and regulations. And
I think it's important to go back and review where we're
at with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd before we start
to really dive into these proposals. And so, Alex Hansen
is online. And he's going to be giving that presentation
about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd before we start
to talk about these proposals. So, I'm going to -- Alex,
I don't know if you want to -- Gisela has got the
presentation up here. I know you mentioned you might
want to screenshare instead. So, you guys can work
through that. I'm not sure which way you want to do it,
but.

41

42

MR. HANSEN: That's perfect. Have you
gotten it?

44

45

(Simultaneous speech)

46

47

MS. DAGGETT: Yes.

48

49

MR. HANSEN: Yes, through the Chair,
members of the Council. This is Alex Hansen, Alaska

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1 Department of Fish and Game in Kotzebue. I've been the
2 caribou biologist for the Western Arctic Herd in
3 Kotzebue for about 10 years now. So, if you can jump to
4 the next slide for me. What we're going to focus on is
5 the Western Arctic population. So, I'm sure you're aware
6 the population of Western Arctic has been declining for
7 over 20 years now. Our most recent photo census was last
8 summer in 2025. And we counted 121,000 caribou, in our
9 estimate. And that's been declining since 2003. That
10 population peaked around 500,000. Unfortunately, this
11 summer conditions didn't come together for a count, so
12 we were unable to get a new number. In general, this
13 population has been declining the last several years,
14 by about 10 to 12% per year. We don't see any indications
15 that the population's turned around at this point, so.
16 So, we expect the population is still declining. Next
17 slide, please.

18
19 So, this is basically an illustration
20 of our censuses or counts over time. We began counting
21 this herd in the early 70s. And you can see it bottomed
22 out around 1975 in that population, 76- to 75,000. So
23 that's the lowest number that we counted on record.
24 Obviously, you know, our time counting of this
25 population is pretty limited in the grand scheme of
26 things, but we can see that the Western Arctic grew over
27 a period of time fairly rapidly. And so, like I said,
28 around 2003 they peaked at nearly half a million, and
29 then generally, has been declining since that point in
30 time. Next slide, please. So, we look at a lot of
31 different metrics. We're trying to understand what's
32 going on. Like, you go to the doctor, and they check all
33 your vital signs. This is one of them, the calving rates.
34 So, we're looking at calving rates in the spring.
35 Basically, we're looking at the collared cows to see if
36 they have a calf at heel or calf with them, right? And
37 this is what that survey tells us. Basically, we know
38 that our calving -- our long-term average is about 70
39 calves to 100 adults, 100 cows. And then our calving
40 rate most recently, 2025 -- we have a more recent one
41 in '26, but (indiscernible) yeah -- was 83 calves to 100
42 cows. So, generally speaking, those caribou that are
43 making it to the calving grounds, those cow, the females,
44 are calving at high rates and doing relatively well
45 there. Next.

46
47 Another thing we look at is recruitment.
48 So, we're trying to understand the -- basically, a ratio
49 of the number of calves that are making it through the
50 winter. So, that's what that number represents. That's

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1 17 to 100. The 17, we call them short yearlings. So,
2 they're about 11 months old, something like that. And
3 11 months old at the time compared to the number of
4 adults. Now, that includes bulls and cows. So, that
5 number has been pretty average for a long time, around
6 17 calves to 100 adults, which we don't have any real
7 concerns there. It kind of goes up and down a little
8 bit, but really balances around (indiscernible). Next
9 slide. Also, looking at the composition. This is, you
10 know, how many bulls, how many cows, how many calves?
11 This is something we do in the fall. And that has been
12 above our recommended rate of 30 bulls to 100 cows for
13 quite some time, as long as we've ever reported this
14 data. And, you know, the last estimate on that was 2024,
15 44 bulls to 100 cows. So, we don't have any concerns at
16 this point on the bull-to-cow ratios. I will say that,
17 certainly, there are a few different ways to change the
18 equation when we're talking about bull-to-cow ratios.
19 We can remove a bunch of cows and that will bring up our
20 bull-to-cow ratios or not. We can remove them at the
21 same rate. So, we can remove bulls and then that bull
22 number will go down. So, it's just really, basically,
23 looking at a snapshot of the population at that point
24 in time to see the male-female composition. Next slide.

25
26 Where we spend the bulk of our focus is
27 on the adult survival. And we track that primarily
28 through the collar sample. We don't have very many bull
29 collars out there, so we focus entirely on adult female
30 survival. So, the cow survival, as we all know, is what
31 drives a population. And the adult female survival most
32 recently is then below average at 79%. In the long-term
33 average, it's been about 80%. So, if we look way to the
34 left of this chart, you know, maybe around the early
35 2000s, and the 80s, and 90s, we can see that they were
36 above the line there. And when we start getting above
37 the line in the mid to high 80% survival rates, we would
38 expect to see growth. You can see to the right, below
39 about center and then to the right. A lot of that falls
40 below the line, a little peak around 14 and 15. But for
41 the most part, our adult female survival has been below
42 average and below what we need to support growth in this
43 population. So, that's the biggest concern in our
44 present. Next slide, please.

45
46 Now, just sharing this here to maybe
47 bring a little bit into context, but our non-resident
48 harvest, we talked about that briefly yesterday. Some
49 of this will come up when Carmen starts talking about
50 the Board of Game proposals. There are proposals in the

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1 works to reduce/eliminate non-resident harvest. And just
2 wanted to point out that in general, biologically
3 (indiscernible) all the harvest from non-residencies
4 focused on bulls. So, in our most recent that we
5 finalized, at least report from non-resident harvest,
6 which was last fall, they harvested about 255 bulls from
7 the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk population. So, that's
8 about, you know, a third of the State roughly, a quarter
9 of the State. And that was the hardest there. So,
10 generally speaking, non-resident harvest doesn't really
11 matter on a biological scale at this point. But there
12 are proposals that we'll be talking about here shortly,
13 but we'll discuss closure to non-resident citizens for
14 other reasons as well. The reported harvest, that's
15 something that we're really struggling with is getting
16 good reports from local harvest or resident harvest. Our
17 most recent report from resident harvest is 628 bulls,
18 65 cows for RC907, which would include the Western Arctic
19 and the Teshekpuk, also including the RC800. But we know
20 through other efforts that our historical harvest, our
21 long-term average harvest, probably gets closer to
22 12,000 animals per year. And we're trying to fill that
23 gap. Our friends over in Subsistence with
24 (indiscernible) Wildlife or Alaska Department of Fish
25 and Game are working on a survey to better understand
26 harvest within this. So, the better we can understand
27 the harvest, the closer we can manage to the line, or
28 the closer we can get to understanding how many we can
29 actually take. Next slide, please.

30
31 So, as I mentioned, the main driver of
32 the population, of any population, is female survival.
33 You know, I did some management of mule, deer, and elk,
34 and other species in the past. And kind of like, if you
35 go to college and you're looking at a wildlife degree,
36 the number one tool for managing a population is the
37 removal of females. Let's say you have a population of
38 elk, and you have too many because they're getting into
39 fields and causing problems. So, the first thing you do
40 is you remove cows. That's how you reduce population.
41 That is the number one tool of wildlife management as
42 far as reducing populations, remove the females. And so,
43 to bring that back around to our conversation here, we
44 need to get to a point where we're talking about not
45 reducing the population. And so, as you can see, that
46 line there, how the red line is, eye on objective. We've
47 been below that for a number of years. Our harvest
48 objective is between 12- and 20,000. And we're at a
49 point now where we can't sustain that level of harvest.
50 And another point there, the Western Arctic and

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1 Teshekpuk and this is the amount necessary for
2 subsistence is a number that the Board sets and basically
3 tells us that there needs to be at least that many
4 animals allocated for subsistence needs. Now we're at
5 the very end of that. We take what is called the
6 harvestable surplus for the Western Arctic and the
7 Teshekpuk, and we add them together and we're barely,
8 barely passed the line at 8,000 there. And that's a
9 concern because when we drop below that line, when you
10 start talking about -- when you start having a discussion
11 about whether or not there is reasonable opportunity for
12 subsistence harvest. If there's not reasonable
13 opportunity for subsistence harvest, the Board needs to
14 talk about taking actions to discriminate between
15 subsistence users. Now, bear in mind that this
16 population is harvested by approximately 40 communities
17 if they put themselves, you know, close to those
18 populations. And we think about people who travel great
19 distances to harvest Western Arctic Caribou. We heard
20 from Leonard yesterday who took a trip down to Buckland
21 to get caribou. So, that happens as well. And there's a
22 lot of sharing that takes place. The Chair was talking
23 about sharing products around the State. So, Anita.....

24
25 (Simultaneous speech)

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Can I stop you here
28 real quick?

29
30 MR. HANSEN: Yep.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I wanna [sic] make
33 some comments right here because you have a threshold
34 for subsistence. Why are we not putting sport hunters,
35 fly-in hunters, and modifications to this? Why don't
36 they have their own threshold? Why are we like dipping
37 well below subsistence threshold, and then changing
38 subsistence before changing out non-federally qualified
39 users and such? Why isn't there a system for that? Why
40 do we have it only for subsistence? You know, this is a
41 smoking gun right here.

42
43 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, great question. If I
44 may.....

45
46 (Simultaneous speech)

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48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: There's a hard
49 number here. I mean, you just stated it to us, but yet
50 you don't have anything for subsistence hunts. I mean,

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1 the fly-in hunters, sport hunters. Why do you not
2 implement that just like you did for subsistence here?
3 Just my observation here.

4
5 MS. HANSEN: Yeah, if I may address
6 through the Chair, thank you for the question. So, there
7 have been ongoing changes for the non-resident, non-
8 local hunters that have been taking place for a number
9 of years since at least the 90s, starting with CUAs,
10 they've been reducing opportunity for non-residential
11 or fly-in hunters, if you will, cutting out sections of
12 land that are unavailable to those types of
13 (indiscernible). That's been ongoing for a number of
14 years. If we go back in time, not -- probably, a decade
15 or beyond that, you know, the bag limit for non-resident
16 hunters used to include a cow. The bag limit used to
17 include two bulls. So, they've been chipping away at
18 non-resident for a number of years. At the last Board
19 of Game meeting at 23, there was a proposal put in that
20 basically change the -- or created a draw hunt for non-
21 resident owners in 23. So, prior to that, there was, you
22 know, over-the-counter harvest ticket available to non-
23 resident hunters. That instituted a draw hunt with up
24 to 300 permits. So, that first year, we issued 300
25 permits. And then last year, I cut that to 50 permits.
26 And this year, we're proposing a smaller number. As we'll
27 get into it here shortly, Carmen has the information
28 there to talk about the Board of Game proposals, but
29 there are, I believe, four different Board of Game
30 proposals that will be directed at the State to eliminate
31 non-residential in Units 22, 23, 26A. So, there's a very
32 good chance -- you know, I don't make the decision, but
33 there's a very good chance that when they go to Board
34 of Game in Kotzebue here, in late January, that the non-
35 resident hunt will go away.

36
37 In addition to all that, Federal land
38 closures, which really began in about 2016, have been
39 removing opportunity for non-resident hunters. Which is
40 part of what you're seeing, you know, when you're talking
41 yesterday about your SAR folks up there picking up
42 hunters, which I apologize for that. It's certainly not
43 a good look on anybody's part. But, you know, that those
44 folks kind of got displaced up there. They used to have
45 Unit 23, not when they're entering north of the range,
46 the weather being what it is causes, you know, some
47 challenges there. So, unfortunately, that's kind of
48 where that's gone. We're hopeful that, you know, we can
49 move past all of that, but we're kind of at the point
50 now that -- you know, we're to the point where the Board

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1 is going to be asked some hard questions. We're going
2 to need to talk about allocation and how to decide --
3 how to divvy up this opportunity. At present, you know,
4 last year, those non-residents harvested 255 bulls. Now,
5 if we're just talking about biology, that's not
6 important. When we talk about biology, we talk about
7 cows and what drives the population at that level, right?
8 But we're to the point now where we're at the bottom end
9 of the ANS and, you know, we're almost to where we need
10 to start talking about Tier II, this population.
11 Automatically at Tier II, a lot of things happen,
12 including removal of non-residents. I think we'll
13 probably circumvent that here moving forward at the
14 Board of Game with those proposals. But, you know, my
15 encouragement to you is, you know, show up at the Board
16 meeting, much like you guys did in 2024, and talk to the
17 Board about this, share your concerns. Because they're
18 interested in hearing that. Does that address your
19 comment there, Mr. Chair?

20
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Kind of, it still
22 doesn't give me a good reason why they're making these
23 changes, saying that you've made these changes, "Hey
24 we've addressed it." You know, but still, there's a
25 threshold there and you've got it clearly lined out for
26 one thing but not the other, but yet you're saying you're
27 still -- we're doing things, but not the same way for
28 subsistence.....

29
30 (Simultaneous speech)

31
32 MR. HANSEN: Oh, because, you know,
33 subsistence has much more opportunity. We have to take
34 it a lot more seriously.

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36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, so.....

37
38 MR. HANSEN: It's kind of getting to the
39 next part of the.....

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I mean, I would
42 appreciate it if there was some kind of threshold to
43 where you showed us that you started making these changes
44 for sport hunters at this level. You know, it just --
45 this doesn't show me any accountability for that. That's
46 all. Thank you, though. I don't want to dive too deep
47 into that. I just want to make it known that I want to
48 see it.....

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50 MR. HANSEN: Oh, I guess.....

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: implemented.

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MR. HANSEN: I can get you more information later or I can funnel through Carmen. But just let me reiterate that changes to non-resident sport hunters have taken place for at least two decades. They've been restricted for a number of years. When I got here in 2017, there was a blanket closure on all Federal lands in 23. So, all the sport hunters were, you know, without a place to operate. So, that has been ongoing for a number of years. We'll see continuation of that. My expectation, and I'm not a Board member, I can't say this for certain, is that we'll probably see a going away of non-resident hunters, if that makes sense. So, just stand by for that and we'll see what happens at the Board.

18

19

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. I still want to see a threshold, though. Thank you.

21

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MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

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MS. HUGO: I didn't catch the name of the person because there's something in the background, but I can hear him. I'm just wondering, why does the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council on the regulations? And I see on the first regulation, it's all Unit 22A. There's 11 of them. And on the last two, it says Unit 23 and 26A. Why would somebody from Seward Peninsula want to come all the way up here and do a proposal in which it's not their area? And I think it will affect the villages of Wainwright, Point Lay and Point Hope, and Barrow. I oppose this. I -- it doesn't make sense. Because why would somebody want to do that? I would be okay if we were talking about the 23 and 26A. I would be very comfortable, but not -- now, my question is, why from the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council? This proposal is -- their work -- their work place down there in 23A and B, D, E. They're down to work -- no, that's too far from our side, other than the villages that we have under the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. And also, this -- I just oppose is -- thank you, that's just my decision. And how about if it depicts the rest of us after the fact? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther. It sounds like Gisela might have some clarification. Or Kyle.

1
2 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
3 is Gisela Chapa. Ms. Hugo, I'm also the coordinator for
4 the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council. And at
5 the time of the winter meeting, the Council voted to
6 submit Board of Game proposals for the public and other
7 Councils to consider. And so, this Council will have an
8 opportunity to provide comments on Board of Game
9 proposals that are relevant to your region. And at that
10 time, the Council can decide to support or not a
11 proposal.

12
13 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.....

14
15 (Simultaneous speech)

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17 MR. HANSEN: Through the Chair, I'm happy
18 to answer that question. Alex Hansen, Fish and Game.
19 Yeah, through the Chair to Member Hugo. The reason that
20 they're commenting on, you know, caribou that exist in
21 23 and 26A is because it's the same caribou. This herd,
22 the Western Arctic Herd, basically occupies a quarter
23 of the State of Alaska, you know, 157,000 square miles.
24 So, you folks, not so much anymore at Anaktuvuk Pass,
25 but you know, the folks definitely in Wainwright and
26 Point Hope, see a lot of Western Arctic caribou. Those
27 are the same caribou that are making it through Kotzebue,
28 and down to Buckland, and into the Seward Peninsula. So,
29 it's the same herd and, you know, approximately 40
30 communities, historically, have shared this herd. And,
31 you know, it's their caribou as much as it's the caribou
32 for the people on the North Slope or the caribou of the
33 people in Selawik or Buckland. Thank you.

34
35 Now, if I can wrap up here very quickly,
36 I'm happy to take any questions if anyone would like.
37 But if you can go back one slide for me, I just want to
38 wrap up on one point there. Right there, on the upper
39 right-hand side, Western Arctic Herd Management Plan.
40 We have a plan and it kind of gives us some direction.
41 So, one of the direction that gives us -- one of the
42 things that tells us is, you know, where to manage this
43 population. And that suggests harvest rates. So, we are
44 at the bottom most corner of this plan. We -- when this
45 plan was written many, many years ago, nobody expected
46 this population to drop as far as it has. Because at
47 that time, it was very high. But we are at the point
48 where we have no room on the plan to go. And the plan
49 at this present time suggests that we should harvest
50 less than 6,000 animals. So, we're at the critical level.

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1 Now, if we take that and we look at the inference from
2 the recommendation at the preservative level, we should
3 not harvest more than 5800 animals. Now, I'll push that
4 a little bit further. And when we talk about the
5 harvestable surplus here at 5800, that should be
6 entirely bulls. Because basically, if we talk about
7 harvestable surplus, we're talking about the number of
8 animals we can remove from a population without doing
9 additional harm or driving that population more. So, as
10 I've been pointing out, the harvest of cows is the number
11 one tool to reduce the population. So, if we wanna reduce
12 the population, we kill more cows. If we wanna grow a
13 population, we don't kill cows. And so, our harvest bull
14 surplus is entirely bulls at this point. As we can look
15 to the left there, you know, our harvest objective and
16 our ANS, you know, that 5800 is quite a bit lower than
17 that. And so, we have to be very cautious at this point.
18 We still have the ability, you know, we have enough
19 animals that this population can grow very fast if it
20 is allowed to. And that's where we need to make some
21 hard decisions. Next slide, please.

22
23 So, in summary, to wrap this up, our
24 continued decline is likely to continue until cow
25 survival improves. We know there's a number of things
26 that can cause caribou mortality, but there's a limited
27 number of things that we can control. I don't know
28 anybody in my life that can control the weather. There's
29 some, you know, big weather components that are probably
30 driving some of this. We're monitoring for disease.
31 We're not seeing anything there that is causing alarm.
32 So, when we talk about what we can change, the number -
33 - the list is very, very small. And the first thing we
34 can think about is how we interact with this population.
35 And the first thing we can do is reduce the number of
36 cow harvest. And that number should be reduced to zero.
37 Like, there's no room for growth if we're removing cows.
38 And I understand, you know, the desire is there to
39 continue to harvest caribou. But I think we need to
40 weigh the desire to harvest caribou now against the
41 desire for our children or our grandchildren to harvest
42 caribou in the future. If we look at some examples to
43 the east in Canada, we look at populations that numbered
44 nearly 800,000 that have dropped to, you know, in the
45 neighborhood of 9,000. So, 99% reduction in population.
46 We could go there. We look at other populations in
47 Alaska. You know, we might say the Mulchatna, for
48 example, that, you know, was a population of 140,000-
49 ish. Now that population dropped into the 12,000-ish.
50 So, what we want to do is avoid that type of catastrophe.

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1 We want to continue to manage a sustainable population
2 so that the people in these 40 communities can continue
3 to rely on it and to harvest it. But for now, we need
4 to step back and take care of it. Because if we don't
5 take care of it, if we don't do our part, then there's
6 a possibility this population might just dip so low that
7 we won't have an opportunity to recover it very easily.
8 Next slide, please.

9
10 And just bringing that back, this is the
11 chart that I talked about in the Western Arctic Herd
12 Management Plan. That bottom left-hand red square there,
13 that's where we're at. There's no room to dip below
14 that. One of the recommendations that perhaps we'll talk
15 about in this meeting later is a recommendation from
16 this group. The recommendation from them, from the
17 working group, is that if we dip to a population below
18 75,000, that we enter a moratorium that no more harvest
19 occurs. And I'm doing my best to help people understand
20 that they're responsible for preventing that to the
21 extent that we can, right? We're gonna -- we all need
22 to work together so that we can prevent dipping below
23 that line because at some point, you know, there will
24 be zero harvest opportunity. And I don't think that's
25 good for anyone. You know, we all need to do our best
26 by this population, and hopefully, we can turn it around.
27 And final slide, please. I think that's all I've got.

28
29 So, you know what's coming. We've talked
30 about the Board of Game. Carmen will go through the
31 proposals that are pertinent to your body there. And we
32 can discuss those in depth, if you'd like. But my advice
33 is, comment on those proposals at the Board of Game.
34 Comment on whatever you think is important for you. But
35 within that context, please consider the health of this
36 population, and the future of this population, and how
37 you interact with it will affect how this population
38 survives into the future. So, please show up at the
39 Board of Game meeting and make comments. The North Slope
40 did an outstanding job in 2024 showing up at the meeting
41 and, you know, making your voice heard. So, we really
42 appreciate that. And I believe that next slide is just
43 a closing slide. So, if anybody has any questions or
44 comments, I'll be here. I'm happy to address them as the
45 best I can. Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Alex. Any
48 questions, comments, concerns from the Council?

49
50 MS. ITTA: Oh, yes, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Martha.

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MS. ITTA: Thank you for your report there. I know we were in another session when I brought this up, but I do have a concern and a question. I know we regulated sports hunting, and that's a really big factor in our impact of our subsistence hunting. The sports hunting is everywhere now. There's way more hunters than before. Last year, I thought we regulated that for no sports hunting to be allowed on the Dalton or anywhere until our numbers went up. Over the summer, they were all over the road, the Dalton from Prudhoe Bay all the way to the Yukon Bridge. I mean, there was nowhere to really pull over to use the bathroom or anything. Because they're at every pullover, hunters, campers were there. And I've seen one hunter with like five bulls, five racks in the back of his truck. One hunter. And there was a few of them like that. So, that being said, what are -- what's being done on the enforcement side of these regulations, and how are they being enforced? And is it working to be able to address that concern? Cause I don't feel comfortable to keep lowering our numbers for the subsistence users if nobody is enforcing the regulations. I mean, what's the point in that, to make these regulations and nobody's enforcing them? Because that's what I'm seeing on the Dalton Highway. And nobody's paying attention to that. I mean, I don't see wildlife troopers out there doing, you know, what they're supposed to be doing. There's a lot of wanton waste and you guys want to regulate the subsistence hunters is really, really wrong. You guys are working backwards. So, that's my question. And I don't feel comfortable lowering our numbers any more than we already are. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Martha.
Looks like we have Brent Vickers here.

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MR. VICKERS: Thank you. This is Brent Vickers. I'm the subsistence coordinator for BLM. First of all, you're right. I have seen that there is definitely an increase of sport hunters along the Dalton Highway. I think with the closing of Nelchina Herd and some of the unpredictability of other hunts, there's been a big push up the road access going up the Dalton and it seems like that's become a big hot spot. However, there's two things. First of all, the BLM used to manage the lands within the corridor. And ever since, basically the beginning of 2026, those lands were selected by the

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1 State and are now managed by the State. So, they're no
2 longer Federal lands, which means this Council and the
3 Board, there's no -- has no -- there's no -- the Federal
4 priority doesn't exist there anymore. For as long as we
5 know, it's going to be managed by the State. And so,
6 this Council can't recommend closing those lands to the
7 -- to non-federally qualified, to non-locals, to people
8 driving up there. It's just -- that's one of the big
9 changes that happened in this area in this past year.
10 And I'm sorry that what -- you're experiencing this. I
11 know others living in your region are also dealing with
12 these pretty big changes.

13
14 And the second thing I wanted to say is
15 that the hunt there is for a different herd. And the
16 closures that were implemented by the Federal Board were
17 on the Unit 26 West -- Southwest, which is over way on
18 the other side of Unit 26 from the Dalton. It's closer
19 to Point Lay, Wainwright, Point Hope. And those lands
20 are closed, but mostly any non-federally qualified, all
21 the non-locals are flying in -- would be flying in there,
22 probably from Kotzebue. And we are trying to address --
23 making sure that there's -- if anyone is going there
24 from Kotzebue, that we're trying to address that. We're
25 talking with Brower about, you know, some potential
26 transgressions there by non-locals. So, I -- sorry that
27 you're experiencing that increase, but unfortunately,
28 that's just not something we're focusing on with this
29 particular herd. Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Brent.
32 Did that answer your questions there, Martha?

33
34 (No response)

35
36 All right. So, let's see.

37
38 (Simultaneous speech)

39
40 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, go ahead. Ho
43 ahead.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 Was that you, Martha?

48
49 MS. ITTA: Can you hear me?

50

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, I can hear you
2 now.

3
4 MS. ITTA: Okay. Well, it doesn't really
5 make sense to me the way he just explained it. I mean,
6 I know we're not talking about that area that I'm
7 specifically talking about, but we're talking about our
8 caribou subsistence issues and everything. So, whatever
9 herd we're talking about, it's all -- you know, we're
10 all facing the issues within our areas. You saying that
11 we -- us not having that authority or the say in to the
12 Federal Board or the higher ups to address our concerns,
13 that's like telling me, you know, "We can't help you
14 because it's the State of Alaska." Well, we all worked
15 with the State. We worked with all the organizations
16 bringing up our concerns, whether it be at our own Tribal
17 Council or our own city government meetings. It should
18 be addressed. It should go on to the higher ups. So,
19 that's telling me that, you know, these meetings -- I
20 mean, our concerns don't matter because nobody's willing
21 to elevate them from our -- or from the Council or from
22 our point. And I remember the State of Alaska changing
23 that to where they're accepting the tribe that their
24 constituents, you know, including the tribes in the
25 Federal and to the State of Alaska. Whatever they did a
26 few years back, I'm trying to recollect, but shouldn't
27 that be considered like the State, whatever they did
28 like a few years ago, recognizing the tribes into their
29 processes. So, that's telling me that, you know, they
30 are listening to their tribes, is what we're being told.
31 But you saying -- the way you said it, that's telling
32 me, you know, we don't have a say in this. So, thank
33 you. That's my concern.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thanks, Martha.
36 We've got Carmen Daggett here with some clarifications.
37 Go ahead, Carmen.

38
39 MS. DAGGETT: Good morning, Martha. This
40 is Carmen Daggett, for the record, through the Chair,
41 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. So, I wanted
42 to give you some avenues to actually have your voice
43 heard. So, what Mr. Vickers said was that the Federal
44 Subsistence Board doesn't have the ability to change
45 these sorts of things. However, the governing body that
46 can change these events that are happening on the Dalton
47 are -- is the Board of Game. So, the Federal Subsistence
48 Board governs being able to change proposals or to change
49 regulations on the Federal side for Federal lands, and
50 now that those lands have switched from Federal to State

1 jurisdiction, the Board of Game needs to be the body
2 that makes those changes on the Dalton Highway Corridor.
3 And there are actually several proposals that will be
4 discussed in your February meeting to address potential
5 changes in non-resident seasons and resident bag limits
6 for the Central Arctic Caribou Herd. And I believe that
7 this RAC is planning on addressing those proposals
8 during that time. Today, we are discussing proposals
9 that are focusing on the western side of 26A and Unit
10 23 because we have a Board meeting coming up in January
11 that is going to be discussing Western Arctic Caribou
12 Herd related proposals. And so, it was decided to split
13 these two meetings worth of proposals because there are
14 so many. And so, I want to let you know that there is
15 an opportunity to have your voice heard. And you can do
16 it through this RAC on State proposals for this upcoming
17 March meeting, which would cover the Eastern Interior
18 and Arctic proposals during that time period.

19
20 So, I want to make that clear because I
21 hear your frustration. I hear your frustration, your
22 voice, Martha, and also your passion. And I can
23 appreciate both of those feelings and caribou is super
24 important to everyone that utilizes them on the North
25 Slope, especially. And so, there are some tools here to
26 work with to get your voice heard and to try to make
27 some changes that are going to help address some of
28 these issues. I will also say too that there are people
29 in the other parts of the State who fill their freezers
30 with caribou as well, that are residents. And some of
31 them are hunting to feed their families in a similar
32 way, even though people up here have a higher cost of
33 living and all those sorts of things. I want to
34 acknowledge that difference, right? But I think that
35 those people that live in other parts of the State that
36 want to fill their freezers with caribou are getting
37 pushed around as a lot of these closures are happening
38 in different areas. And Brent kind of alluded to that,
39 but I think, as areas of the State get closed off to
40 caribou hunting, it's going to push these individuals
41 around and concentrate them in places where they can be
42 able to harvest. And so, I suspect that some of what
43 you're observing over on the Dalton Highway, in addition
44 to what Brent was saying. So, I hope that gives you some
45 tools to work with, Martha. And your voice can be heard
46 in that way through the Board meetings. And I think this
47 RAC is planning on addressing those Eastern Interior and
48 Arctic proposals. You and I can talk a bit more, and
49 maybe you could talk with the Chair too about specific
50 proposals that you would want to focus on for the next

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1 meeting. There's several proposals that talk about
2 resident bag limits, and non-resident seasons, and all
3 kinds of things. There's lots of different proposals
4 during -- to discuss for that meeting, for the Central
5 Arctic Herd. So, I'm going to stop talking, and
6 hopefully, that helps satisfy your concerns in some way,
7 Martha.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Carmen.
10 All right. I'm going to suggest we take a break before
11 we start on the next section of this. So, it looks like
12 we have proposals next. All right. So, yeah, we'll take
13 a 5-minute break.

14
15 (Off record)

16
17 (On record)

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. We're
20 back from our break. And I guess we'll get started again
21 with Carmen. Go ahead, Carmen. You have the floor.

22
23 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
24 is Carmen Daggett again, Alaska Department of Fish and
25 Game, for the record. So, as we discussed earlier,
26 there's been a proposal submitted to the Board of Game
27 to close -- restrict non-resident caribou harvest in
28 Game Management Unit 26A, 23, and 22. I put this map on
29 the slide just so that you guys have some reference
30 points here. So, Game Management Unit 26A would include
31 everything Nuiqsut west. So, it would not include the
32 Dalton Highway and east of the Colville, basically --
33 east of the Itkilik. It would include the greater
34 Kotzebue area, which is Unit 23, and the greater Nome
35 area, which is Unit 22. This proposal was submitted by
36 the North Slope Fish and Game Advisory Committee,
37 acknowledging that the decline has been happening, and
38 they suggest for no non-resident hunters to be allowed
39 within this specific area. I think that one thing that
40 we should keep in mind, as we were talking earlier about
41 shift in harvest happens. That if you close all of 26A,
42 it's just going to shift people around, as far as non-
43 residents go. So, keep that in mind as we're talking
44 about this. But I think that I'll leave it at that, open
45 for discussion. And let me know if you have questions
46 related to this particular proposal.

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48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And you said this
49 was proposed by our own Fish and Game Management
50 Committee, North Slope?

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MS. DAGGETT: That is correct. It was submitted by the North Slope Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Those two operate as the same entity to reduce confusion there.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions on this one? You guys created it.

(No response)

Any questions online from the Council for Carmen, on this particular proposal? Go ahead, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. Gisela Chapa, for the record. So, if the Council wants to submit a comment in support or opposition on a proposal, it would require motion, a second, and a vote.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it sounds like, if we would like to back this as the RAC, would need to be in the form of a motion. So, I think, just my own general thoughts, to restrict non-resident caribou harvest in the selected regions. I would support this. Although, the only thing I see that isn't really consistent with anything that we've done, at least while I was here, was restricting the hunt in other units that we were not really a part of. So, I think that one would be Unit 22. But I don't know. Do we have any real justification or customary and traditional use in the area?

(No audible response)

No? So, we don't have C&T in 22? Oh, this is State. Okay. So, we can get away with it. Go ahead, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: I think there are other Board of Game proposals submitted by the Northwest Arctic RAC and the Seward Peninsula RAC requesting something similar. I think each proposal might have like slight variations in language, but ultimately, those two Councils also proposed, or submitted a proposal, to close non-resident caribou harvest in their units.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, they're all in consensus, which makes it a little bit easier, I guess. So, what's the wish of the Council?

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MR. ADAMS: I'd like to make a motion to restrict non-resident caribou harvest in Game Management Units 26A, 23, and 22, in support of Proposal 16 and in support of Proposal 17, closing caribou hunting to non-residents in the same units.

MR. BARGER: Second.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we've got a second. Any discussion on the matter? Quincy.

MR. ADAMS: Let's see. Mr. Chair, I see that in Proposal 16, 17 and 18, it's closing all non-resident huntings. But, you know, Proposal 16, it says restricting non-residents. I kind of feel we should just close it all to non-resident hunts in those units. Because if you look at Proposal 16, it says restrict non-residents. And then 17 and 18 say to close caribou hunting and close all non-resident caribou hunts.

MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair, to Member Adams. I just want to point out a few things as we start to delve into these other proposals. There's some nuances that are not in the list that you're referring to right now. That help kind of flesh out the intent of the proposal. So, Proposal 16 and 17 would accomplish the same things. Proposal 16 says no harvest for non-residents in the other parts of the proposal book that you're not looking at right now. So, they would essentially ask for the same thing. Proposal 18 is a little different because it specifies a different area. So, it says units 22, 23, and 26, which would include 26B and C. So, I just want to point those details out. Because I think if you voted to support 16-17 together, they would accomplish the same thing, largely. But 18 would be slightly different. But you understand that includes a different section of Game Management Unit 26. So, if you look at that map I have up on the board there, on the slide, the two areas to the right, in the Northern section on the North slope, those are 26B and 26C, and those would be included in this proposal. Whereas if you are supporting 16 and 17, those two areas would not be included.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

MR. ADAMS: I see Proposal 18, closing off non-resident hunts in 26B and 26C would help a lot of what Martha was saying earlier about seeing a lot of

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1 non-residents coming up and getting five racks in the
2 back of a truck. So, I would be in support of that.
3 Closing off the non-resident hunts in 26B and C.

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5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it looks like
6 essentially, item 18 would cover what is not covered in
7 item 16-17. It's the same unit.

8

9 MR. ADAMS: Yeah.

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11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, passing that, I
12 guess if it went through, would cover the entirety of
13 the area, but if 18 didn't pass and 16-17 did, then they
14 would have flexible uses. So, supporting both of them
15 at the same time, I guess, would accomplish the same
16 thing as long as they both passed completely through the
17 whole process.

18

19 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
20 understand your statement there. And I think -- just to
21 clarify, I think those -- that those two areas are going
22 to have to be discussed in the later meeting anyways
23 because they're in a different region's cycle. So, if
24 you want to do that, you can do that but just recognize
25 that those comments should be submitted to both
26 meetings' comments then. It should go to both the Region
27 3 comments that would happen in March, that March
28 meeting, and then also to the comments that are gonna
29 go to the January meeting. Thank you.

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31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

32

33 MS. CHAPA: Also, a reminder that there's
34 a motion on the floor to support Proposal 16 and 17, and
35 the Council can vote on it or then -- and then take
36 Proposal 18, or you can amend your motion to also include
37 Proposal 18.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, at the next
40 meeting, is there still room in the time frame to adjust
41 this had we suggested the change now? Or not the change,
42 but the motion to support. So, is it -- so, if we made
43 the motion and passed it to support this, do we still
44 have time at the next meeting to make modifications to
45 this? Go ahead, Quincy.

46

47 MR. ADAMS: I'd like to amend the motion
48 to include -- to support the Proposal 18. You know, I'm
49 in support of Proposal 16, 17, and 18, to close all non-
50 resident hunts. So, I'm amending the main motion.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, was that proper?

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MS. CHAPA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. So, to -- according to Robert's rules, to amend the motion the Council would need to vote on the amendment first and then follow up with a vote on the -- yeah, the main motion. Exactly.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, so there is a motion on the floor.

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MR. BARGER: Second.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It's been seconded already. So, we were under discussion and.....

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MR. ADAMS: Question.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been called for all those in favor of supporting Proposal 16-17 say aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Anybody else online?

MS. ITTA: Aye.

MS. HUGO:

MS. ITTA: I don't know if you heard me, but I said aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, we heard you. Those opposed, same sign.

(No response)

Hearing none. The motion passes to support Proposal 16-17, as written.

MS. CHAPA: Well, let's start from the beginning. So, there was originally a motion on the floor to support Proposal 16 and 17, and it was seconded. And it was up for a vote. And then, there was a motion to -- by Quincy, to amend the original motion to include 18. And so, I believe that the Council just voted to amend the original motion. So, now the Council will vote on

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1 the original motion, which would be support Proposal 26
2 -- sorry, Proposal 16, 17 and 18.

3
4 MR. ADAMS: So, I'd like to make a motion
5 to support Proposal 16, 17 and 18, the main motion before
6 it was amended.

7
8 MR. BARGER: And I second it.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So,
11 there's -- help me with that, yeah.

12
13 MS. CHAPA: Okay, Mr. Chair. Gisela
14 Chapa, for the record. So, Quincy made a motion to --
15 for this Council to support Proposal 16, 17, and 18. And
16 it's been seconded by Council Member Barger. And so, now
17 the Council is ready to vote on supporting Proposal 16,
18 17, and 18.

19
20 MR. ADAMS: Question.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
23 called for all those in favor of approving the main
24 motion to include Proposal 18 on top of Proposal 16 and
25 17. All those in favor say aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is there anyone else
30 online? Got one aye online. Yes. So, we'll do a roll
31 call vote on this. I think we only heard one aye online.
32 So, Gisela.

33
34 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
35 again, the proposal that is up for a vote right now is
36 to support Board of Game Proposal 16, 17, and 18. And
37 I'm going to do a roll call vote just to ensure I have
38 all the fors and against. Leonard Barger.

39
40 MR. BARGER: Yes.

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42 MS. CHAPA: Quincy Adams.

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44 MR. ADAMS: Yes.

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46 MS. CHAPA: Martha Itta.

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48 MS. ITTA: Yes.

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50 MS. CHAPA: Esther Hugo.

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MS. HUGO: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Brower Frantz.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Jenysa Ahmaogak.

MS. AHMAOGAK: Yes.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The vote carries by unanimous consent.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. All right. Up next, or you can continue, Carmen, with your list.

MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela, can we go to the next slide, please? Okay, thank you. So, Proposal 12, you guys addressed this somewhat in your WSA26 discussion earlier, but it's important to discuss it in the State context and in State conversations. So, basically, Proposal 12, again, was submitted by the North Slope Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and it seeks to reduce resident caribou bag limits to five and to eliminate the cow harvest. There's a similar proposal written by the North -- the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group that delineates 26A Southwest, which is -- would basically include Wainwright, Point Lay, and Point Hope, to be crystal clear what we mean by 26A Southwest. And that proposal would seek to reduce caribou to 4 per year, only 1 of which can be a cow. That's the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Proposal, with the similar sort of discussion topic about resident caribou bag limit reductions. Again, the Proposal 12 was submitted by the North Slope Advisory Committee.

(Pause)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Now that would be the entirety of it, whether or not it was State land of 26A Southwest?

MS. DAGGETT: So, this would include State land in the discussion.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it includes State land or be...?

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MS. DAGGETT: Only State lands within that.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, this would only pertain to State lands on there.

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MS. DAGGETT: Mm-hmm.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Not anything else outside.....

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(Simultaneous speech)

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MS. DAGGETT: So, there would have to be -- the Federal Subsistence Board would have to make a decision on Federal lands to close Federal lands and to change back when it's on Federal lands. I shouldn't have said closure. Forget I said that. And then, the State Board of Game needs to make decisions about closures and changes that happen on State lands in this context.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So what's the wish of the Council?

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MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

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MR. ADAMS: Looking at this Proposal 12, you said, to modify the caribou bag limit in the Game Units 23 and 26A to 5 bulls. We had voted yesterday in support of modifying the caribou bag limit to 10 for Game Management Units 23 where a drainage for Point Hope north, and also in the southwest portion of 26A. So, this kind of contradicts of what we had agreed upon yesterday.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, I would agree. And that's kind of why I was also questioning whether this was just specific to State lands in this section because in all honestly, State lands in this section is pretty small-ish in comparison. I think you're right, you know, for -- trying to go for something that we should make it consistent. Otherwise, we open up the opportunity for them to try stick with the smaller number have they, you know, the State excepted the smaller number. That they would try to reflect it on the Federal proposals side. Carmen.

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1 MS. DAGGETT: I just want to clarify one
2 thing here. When we are talking about State lands.....

3
4 (Simultaneous speech)

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6 UNIDENTIFIED: We've lost the RAC
7 meeting.

8
9 (Pause)

10
11 MS. CHAPA: I am getting messages that
12 online folks cannot hear us in the room. We still have
13 connection.

14
15 UNIDENTIFIED: We can hear you now.

16
17 MS. CHAPA: Okay, perfect. Thank you. And
18 Mr. Chair, I also got a notice that Esther was trying
19 to speak up.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.
22 You can hear us?

23
24 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I agree
25 with Quincy there on yesterday. We voted 10 for the
26 people that are within the communities of the North
27 Slope, that's Point Hope, Point Lay, and Wainwright. We
28 did put down the number of 10. And will it affect our
29 area if we chose to accept this?

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it's really up
32 to us for what we want to do here. But I mean, this was
33 made from the North Slope AC. Go ahead, Carmen.

34
35 MS. DAGGETT: Just two pieces of
36 information to add to this discussion. I believe when
37 the North Slope discussed this proposal in their
38 meeting, they amended it to 26A Southwest. So, I just
39 want to make that clear so that they would not include
40 other areas that are outside the range of the primary
41 range of the Western Arctic Herd. And then, I also wanted
42 to clarify that State lands include the jurisdiction of
43 corporation lands as well. So, there are actually a fair
44 amount of corporation lands around Point Lay, and close
45 to the area one around Wainwright too. So, I just want
46 to -- like, the areas closest to those communities are
47 corporation lands, mostly. So, I just want to make that
48 clear so that you guys know what you're deciding here.
49 Thank you.

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for the
2 clarification. I think you want.....

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4 (Talking)

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6 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

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8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

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10 MS. CHAPA: If I may ask Carmen a
11 question. Since the AC amended their proposal to 26A
12 Southwest, I wonder if you could present the Council
13 like with their options as well. They could support,
14 they could oppose, they could also propose an amendment
15 just so you know kind of like what options you have with
16 this proposal.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. I think
19 we're kind of leaning in the direction of an amendment.

20
21 MS. CHAPA: And I have another question
22 for Carmen. Since this is going to be for the Board of
23 Game cycle, if this proposal were to pass, when does it
24 become effective? Because the Federal Subsistence Board
25 approved their special action to eliminate cow harvest.
26 They haven't taken action on the harvest limit for bulls.
27 But in their special actions, the cow harvest closure
28 is effective until June 30th, 2028, unless there's
29 additional proposals considered during the Federal
30 wildlife regulatory cycle. And it also depends on their
31 decision at the upcoming February meeting regarding the
32 harvest limit for bulls. But the original special action
33 was for '26-'27, I believe. Actually, I don't think so.
34 I think it was just for the remainder of like -- well,
35 I'll double check on that. But I'm just saying, like the
36 timing as well of when the Board of Game proposals would
37 become effective would be helpful.

38
39 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair, to the
40 Coordinator, this is Carmen Daggett, for the record,
41 again. So, it would take effect at the beginning of the
42 next regulatory year, which is July 1, 2027.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quinsy.

45
46 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, just looking at
47 Proposal 12, how it says to modify the caribou bag limit
48 in Game Units 23 and 26A to 5 bulls and eliminate cow
49 harvest. I'm not in support of this.

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1 (Pause)

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Because we're voting on just Proposal 12. Just Proposal 12. We're not going through any other proposals right now, just that proposal. And it contradicts from what we did yesterday. So, I'm not in support of Proposal 12.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So would you suggest we amended the numbers to 10 to make it consistent?

MR. ADAMS: I believe we can modify the number to 10 to make it consistent from what we said yesterday, because that 20 -- if it's including all of 26A, you're coming all the way up here.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we want to amend the proposal to include 26A Southwest, and change the bull limit to 10, and eliminate cow harvest.

MR. ADAMS: Yes.

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is that correct...?

MR. ADAMS: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: In the form of motion? Oh.....

MR. ADAMS: In the form.....

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Carmen.

MS. DAGGETT: I was -- you can do whatever you want. If you look at Proposal 8, it already delineates 26A Southwest. And you could just request the amendment to the bag limit, and it might make it a little bit cleaner. It's up to you how you want to do it. You can do whatever you want, but that might make it a little cleaner.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. The one I'm looking at just doesn't have the 26A Southwest.

(Pause)

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1 MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair, if I may.
2 Gisela Chapa, for the record. So, the Council doesn't
3 have to vote or submit comments on every proposal. I
4 think what Carmen is suggesting is that rather than
5 amending Proposal 12 for the area and the harvest limit,
6 that Proposal 8 might be a proposal to submit comments
7 on and just amend the harvest limit.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. so what's
10 the wish of the Council?

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12 MR. ADAMS: I'd like to make a motion on
13 not supporting Proposal 12.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there's a motion
16 on the floor to not support Proposal 12. GMU 23 and 26A,
17 reduce harvest -- or reduce resident caribou bag limit
18 5 and eliminate the cow harvest. There's motion on the
19 floor.

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21 MS. HUGO: Second.

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23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Esther.
24 Any discussion on the matter?

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26 MR. ADAMS: Question.

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28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
29 called for all those in favor of not supporting Proposal
30 12 say aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
35 sign.

36
37 (No response)

38
39 Hearing none. We have not supported
40 Proposal 12. All right. Go ahead, Carmen.

41
42 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair and Council, I'm
43 not sure if you would like to have discussion about
44 Proposal 8 while we're on this slide or if you would
45 like to move on to a different topic. I am flexible to
46 whatever you want to do.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. What's
49 the wish of the Council?

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1 MR. ADAMS: Discussion for Proposal 8.

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4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, on Proposal 8,
5 reduce the bag limit for taking caribou in Units 22, 23,
6 and 26A Southwest to 4 caribou per year, only 1 of which
7 can be a cow, Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.
8 So, what would you like to discuss on the matter?

9

10 MR. ADAMS: Be consistent, Mr. Chair, if
11 I may. Be consistent with what we agreed upon yesterday.
12 In Game Units 23, where we included Point Hope and the
13 Singoaluk drainage, and then the southwest portion of
14 26A, which includes Point Lay, Wainwright. We had agreed
15 upon that it's 10 bulls, none of which can be a cow. So,
16 we need to stay consistent on that portion. We greatly
17 appreciate it.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So would
20 we need a motion to amend on this?

21

22 (No audible response)

23

24 So, it sounds like we need a motion to
25 amend to make it consistent.

26

27 MR. ADAMS: Yes, so let's make a motion
28 to amend the number from 4 caribou to 10 caribou per
29 year, none of which can be a cow, as we agreed upon
30 yesterday. For these Units in 23, Singoaluk drainage,
31 including Point Hope in the southwest portion of 26A.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there's a motion
34 on the floor to make it -- so, on Proposal 8 to reduce
35 the bag limit for taking caribou in Units 23, 22, with
36 the Point Hope section, and 26A Southwest to 10 caribou
37 per only -- or none of which can be a cow.

38

39 MR. BARGER: Second it.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
42 Barger. Any discussion on the matter?

43

44 MR. BARGER: Question.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been
47 called for all those in favor of amending Proposal 8 say
48 aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
2 sign.

3
4 (No response)

5
6 Hearing none. We've voted on amending
7 Proposal 8 from what we discussed to make it consistent.
8 All right. Go ahead, Carmen.

9
10 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you very much. I
11 appreciate that. So, Proposal 6 seeks to close the
12 caribou hunting season in Units 22, 23, 24B remainder,
13 24C, 24D, and 26A if the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,
14 that's WACH, Western Arctic Caribou Herd, declines to
15 fewer than 75,000 and reopen it only when the population
16 exceeds 100,000 animals and a harvestable surplus
17 exists. This proposal was submitted by the Western
18 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. And you'll see my
19 note at the bottom there, sister Proposal 87 will be
20 taken up on -- in the Eastern Interior meeting in March
21 as well. So, if -- whatever you decide to do with this
22 proposal, it would apply to the Eastern Interior meeting
23 as well. And you would be voting on both at the same
24 time, largely.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, this is the
27 entirety of 26A is what it says.

28
29 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

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31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That's not going to
32 work. Go ahead, Esther.

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34 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

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36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yep, go ahead
37 Esther.

38
39 MS. HUGO: Where do I find that Proposal
40 8? I'm looking in the packets, but I can't find it.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Proposal 8? We're on
43 Proposal 6 now, but.

44
45 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

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47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

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49 MS. CHAPA: So, sorry, Esther. This is
50 Gisela, for the record. And sorry, Esther, but when our

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1 meeting materials went into production, the Board of
2 Game proposals had not been made available to the public.
3 So, it is not in your meeting materials or your
4 supplemental materials. This proposal book just came out
5 fairly recently. And I have only a few printed copies
6 in the room and was not able to send you this packet.

7

8 MS. HUGO: Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Do you have a
11 Proposal 6, though?

12

13 MS. DAGGETT: Would you like me to reread
14 it for you, Esther? Would that be helpful since you
15 don't have it in front of you?

16

17 MS. HUGO: Yes.

18

19 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. So, it's about
20 caribou intensive management with a population-based
21 closure. It seeks to close the caribou hunting season
22 in the Nome area, in the Kotzebue area, 24B, which I
23 believe is just south of you, remainder, 24C, 24D, and
24 26A if the Western Arctic Caribou Herd declines to fewer
25 than 75,000 animals and reopen it only when the
26 population exceeds 100,000 animals and a harvestable
27 surplus exists. It was submitted by the Western Arctic
28 Caribou Herd Working Group.

29

30 MS. HUGO: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And just for
33 clarification, they're proposing to close all of 26A,
34 which includes Barrow, Nuiqsut, Atkasuk, Wainwright,
35 Point Lay, and Point Hope. So, the entirety and half --
36 over half of that section is really reliant on other
37 caribou herds that are not involved with the Western
38 Arctic Caribou Herd. Although, they do occasionally see
39 them stray in certain areas in those -- in that unit,
40 in our unit. But for the fall or in the wintertime, a
41 lot of their migratory paths for the Western Arctic
42 Caribou Herd dip below the Brooks Range. So, for the
43 majority of the year, we don't see really any of their
44 caribou within our 26A Unit, which really is not a good
45 look for this. I would highly recommend that we either
46 exclude 26A from this or modify this. Because we're
47 talking about a full closure. And there are multiple
48 other herds that we rely on here. So, this -- you know,
49 this is just a -- in my eyes, this cannot be passed for
50 the North Slope. As written, anyways. So, we need to

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1 really discuss this one, so this is closing of our
2 livelihood here. I mean, this is not something we want
3 to support. So, can we get this? Can we get this out to
4 Esther like right now?

5
6 MS. CHAPA: Yes, I can. Yes, Mr. Chair.
7 Esther, are you at the Borough's office or are you
8 calling in from home?

9
10 MS. HUGO: I'm here at the Borough's
11 office.

12
13 MS. CHAPA: Okay. So, can I email this
14 to Lawrence or Susan?

15
16 MS. HUGO: Yes.

17
18 MS. CHAPA: Okay, I'll go ahead and do
19 that right now.

20
21 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

24
25 MS. HUGO: Yes, I think we need to
26 further discuss this because I don't want to see the
27 (indiscernible) struggle. Because it pertains to all of
28 us here in the (indiscernible) or the coastal villages.
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thanks. We'll try to
32 get you the printout of it here. So, I guess we can see
33 the entirety of it. And yeah, this is not good.

34
35 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Martha.

38
39 MS. ITTA: Can I also get a copy of what
40 she's sending? I don't have it either. Thank you.

41
42 MS. CHAPA: Yes, Martha. I will email it
43 to you as well.

44
45 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

48
49 MR. ADAMS: I'm looking at all the units
50 because 20 -- was it -- 24B, C, and D, are not even in

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1 our region. And also, is it Unit 22? That's also not in
2 our region as well.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it looks like
5 they're sticking every unit on there that is in
6 association with their migratory pattern due to the
7 threshold, which is -- you know, it's -- and this is
8 only if it hits less than 75,000 animals. So, we're
9 still 45,000 away from that -ish, or a little more,
10 actually. Yeah. I can't count right now. Go ahead,
11 Carmen.

12
13 MS. DAGGETT: So, the current population
14 estimate, just to refer back to Alex's presentation is
15 roughly 121,000, and that was a 2025 estimate. So, we
16 did not get an estimate this last summer. So, that is a
17 year old, and we've been on this path decline. So, we
18 might be -- you're right that we have some -- a little
19 bit of breathing room here before we get to this point,
20 but just so that you're -- those are the numbers you
21 were asking for, so.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. So, I just
24 want them to all be aware, though, that this closure,
25 you know, just doesn't fit with our other herds,
26 migratory patterns and the ones that we rely on here.
27 It just doesn't fit the bill right now. So, this one,
28 you know, I hate to go through this without really
29 hashing this one out. Either some heavy modifications
30 need to be done or a complete exclusion of 26A. One of
31 the two. So, we'll wait to have the other folks get
32 their copies and have some real good open discussion
33 about this. Because this one is -- this -- if this does
34 happen, and they close pretty much the entirety of the
35 North Slope other than Kaktovik on here, that's not going
36 to -- I don't think it's going to go very well. That's
37 almost another Duck-In type of thing.

38
39 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

40
41 MS. HUGO: Go ahead, Gisela.

42
43 MS. CHAPA: I'm going to stop sharing my
44 screen because I think there -- some other staff are
45 looking at maps that show the seasonal range of the herd
46 and if that would be helpful to the Council.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think it would,
49 especially for the fall-time harvest. I mean, if they
50 have any type of satellite tracker data that'll give us

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1 some discussion time while they're receiving their other
2 paperwork. So, if you have any data for the Western
3 Arctic Caribou Herd in their migration timeframes, that
4 would be helpful for us. Go ahead, Carmen.

5
6 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I just sent a
7 seasonal distribution, a panel to Gisela to share. And
8 hopefully, that will be -- help fill in some of this
9 discussion too. Let me know if you need something
10 different.

11
12 (Pause)

13
14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I guess for the sake
15 of discussion and trying not to have a lull, at the
16 current drop rate of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,
17 how long are we looking at for a potential timeframe if
18 it keeps dropping at the same rate that it is to see
19 that -- you know, worst case scenario, if it keeps
20 dropping at the same rate it is, when are we looking at?

21
22 MS. DAGGETT: Good question, Mr. Chair.
23 I'm going to punt to Alex Hansen to answer that question.

24
25 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, through the Chair,
26 this is Alex Hansen. You know, if we were just
27 speculating, we would say -- you know, if we're still
28 looking at a 10% reduction rate, you know, right now,
29 we're probably 109,000. So, if we're losing, you know,
30 10,000 a year, we're just a few years away from -- as
31 you pointed out, you know, from the 2025 estimate, we're
32 about 46,000 above that cut line of 75,000. So, you
33 know, 3-4 years, if we continue in the current rate of
34 decline.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, within 3-4
37 years, and if we didn't modify this, and it actually
38 passed, we're looking at a full closure of caribou for
39 everybody on the North Slope, with the exception of
40 Kaktovik? Full closure.

41
42 MR. HANSEN: And as per, you know, your
43 discussion, the recommendation that I would suggest you
44 consider is just including 26A Southwest. You know, the
45 intent of this is to deal with Western Arctic range. And
46 as you pointed out, primarily we're looking at, you know,
47 just that Southwest portion of 26A through the
48 (indiscernible).

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, so if that
2 were to happen, I -- so, what I wanted to show was their
3 migration pattern here and go through it. Because if
4 that went through, I would almost even suggest a seasonal
5 timeframe closure, instead of just a full closure for
6 the full year. Because they are not on the North Slope
7 the entire time, they go south, well south. and there
8 may be stragglers here and there, but the evidence shows
9 here that the Western Arctic Caribou Herd does not stay
10 up here, and there should not be a full closure here
11 for, you know, specific times of the year. Because we
12 do hunt year-round up here, whether it's winter or
13 summer. You know, a lot of these locations are fall-
14 time, especially for the fly-in hunters, sport hunters,
15 and they target this specific area to where they're at,
16 which is just to the east of Point Hope. But if we're
17 talking about Wainwright and Point Lay at certain times
18 of the year, you know, they're vanished from there.
19 They're not there and other caribou are there. So, that's
20 kind of the discussion I wanted to have, was to point
21 out that we're not reliant on this herd completely.
22 There's probably Point Lay and Point Hope that would see
23 this the most. You may get some at Wainwright at certain
24 times of the year, but you know, once they start moving
25 south, and they go well south, way south, all the way
26 down to, you know, almost the Nome area, they're not up
27 here. And it just wouldn't fit the bill for us to be
28 completely shut down. Just doesn't fit. It doesn't seem
29 right. I get it. But you're getting low numbers, but we
30 need to look at this. And I feel like we're not showing
31 this pattern, though, of their migration and when enough
32 to the communities, at least for the North Slope
33 communities. I know you've got Kotzebue meetings for the
34 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, but it's like we're almost
35 -- not really, but it's almost like we're kind of being
36 excluded from that discussion. So, I would really like
37 to see more accurate data of when and where they are.
38 But if we could -- can you go through this and, you
39 know, per season and, you know, show us for the North
40 Slope RAC, what we're looking at and where they are at
41 each time of the season? Gisela.

42
43 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. I also just wanted
44 to note that Kyle Joly, with the Park Service, has his
45 hand up and would also like to speak on the subject.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Kyle, go
48 ahead.

49
50

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

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: You're a little low,
5 but yes, we can hear you.

6
7 MR. JOLY: Okay, I'll try and speak up.
8 Just on the map that's getting up there now is the winter
9 distribution of the Western Arctic herd. And so, you can
10 see that there is actually quite a bit of use in 26A by
11 the herd in winter, all winter. The areas of heaviest
12 concentration use is up by Wainwright, but along the
13 coast all the way down through Point Hope. And so, the
14 Western Arctic Herd does spend a considerable amount of
15 time in 26A; about 40% of the time the herd is in 26A.

16
17 (Distortion)

18
19 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, he's breaking up.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: You're -- yeah,
22 you're cutting out pretty heavily. We didn't hear the
23 last 30 seconds of that.

24
25 MR. JOLY: Hang on, I'll switch mics.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 Is that better, Mr. Chairman?

30
31 (Simultaneous speech)

32
33 MS. CHAPA: Hey, Kyle.

34
35 MR. JOLY: Yeah.

36
37 MS. CHAPA: Never mind.

38
39 MR. JOLY: Can you hear me now?

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, we can hear
42 you.

43
44 MR. JOLY: All right. Sorry about that.
45 Bad headphones. So yeah, the Western Arctic Herd spends
46 about 40% of their time in 26A, kind of on a year-round
47 basis. And this map up here is just GPS locations,
48 satellite GPS locations of winter range use. And you can
49 see that there is quite a bit of overwinter use by the
50 Western Arctic Herd. The primary areas of concentrated

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1 use are around Wainwright, but down the coast to Point
2 Lay, and all the way to Point Hope, and even further
3 south. But the herd does get quite a bit of use and I
4 would second the recommendation by Alex Hansen, that the
5 Council consider amending the proposal to just be
6 Southwest 26A.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, this is --
9 this really isn't an active functional migration route
10 -- this is like an overall GPS pattern here, you know,
11 I don't even see a legend down here. So, maybe if we can
12 go back to the slide we were just looking at.

13
14 All right. So, looking at the late
15 summer, and then if you can go down to the fall. Go down
16 one. So, if you look at the high density versus the, you
17 know, lower density, which is the purple, or sorry the
18 -- what are we looking at? Yeah, go ahead.

19
20 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
21 is Carmen Daggett, for the record. So, depending on which
22 one of these maps you're looking at, the colors mean
23 slightly different things. So, if you're looking at the
24 fall migration map, your purple areas are a low-density
25 migratory area, and the hotter yellow and green colors
26 are your higher density migration use corridors. If
27 you're looking at the maps that are the three shades of
28 green, then those maps -- the higher density is the
29 darker green and the lower density distributions are
30 lighter green, and the mid-level of green is the mid-
31 level of density. So, I'm happy to answer any further
32 questions there, but that's generally how these are
33 made.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, these are, you
36 know, the areas. The majority of what we're looking at
37 for the fall migration really -- and the routes are, you
38 know, it's fairly low on the North Slope. And these are
39 the times that we're actively -- it's not even a very
40 long time either for us, for at least this section. But
41 a little bit later, if you could maybe find the -- try
42 to going up. Is there anything winter related on this?
43 The spring, winter, and then -- so, the darker green is
44 the shaded higher concentration? Is what you're saying?
45 And the lighter green is the lower concentration areas?

46
47 MS. DAGGETT: That is correct, Mr. Chair.
48 For panels A, C, D, E, and F, that's true. And then,
49 those migratory pathways, the areas of highest migratory
50 density are green, yellow in color, and the purple are

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1 a lower density migratory pathway.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, yeah. I mean,
4 as you can see, there may be some kind of migrational
5 walks through the middle of nowhere here, but the
6 majority of our locations are unaffected, or should be
7 unaffected by this. So, the longer hunts in the winter,
8 you know, it's a fairly low concentration up here. And
9 then down over towards the fall migration is when they're
10 more over to the Western section and Southern portions
11 of the Brooks. And really, if you look where we hunt
12 here in Barrow, you know, we're going to be completely
13 affected by this and we're the majority population of
14 the North Slope. So, you know, there's gotta be some
15 kind of change to this. And, you know, I look forward
16 to your guys' modification. Because a full closure of
17 26A just doesn't fit the bill.

18

19 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

22

23 MS. CHAPA: I also have other messages
24 coming in that, perhaps, what you're looking for is on
25 page 60 of your meeting materials.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Martha, Esther,
28 have you guys received any of it yet?

29

30 MS. HUGO: Yes, we -- I did. I'm looking
31 at page 60 for now.

32

33 (Pause)

34

35 MS. ITTA: That's the BOG proposal book?

36

37 MS. CHAPA: No, Martha. We are looking
38 at the page 60 of the meeting material. So, that is the
39 bound book that I sent you for this meeting. And Mr.
40 Chair.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

43

44 MS. CHAPA: I believe Tom Plank can walk
45 the Council through the maps on page 60.

46

47 MR. PLANK: Hi, Mr. Chair and Council
48 members. This is Tom Plank, a wildlife biologist with
49 Office of Subsistence Management. And I just want to
50 kind of help you through a little bit since you're

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1 looking at different migration routes. And I know that
2 one blue map that was shown didn't have a legend. And
3 it was -- you know, it was kind of out of blue for you.
4 But if you look in the -- your meeting material, back
5 when we were talking about WSA26-01, I believe it's going
6 to be about page 60 in your Council books. And that
7 shows the spring, summer, fall, and winter migrations,
8 and then it has a map of the overall match from 2020 to
9 2026. I just want to make sure you had -- you know, I
10 know with all the different maps, sometimes the little
11 points can be hard to determine. So, I just want to kind
12 of point the Council to that for just more information.
13 And I'm still online if you have any questions on that.
14 Thanks.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think what we have
17 -- I mean, we've got a little bit more detailed maps
18 than -- these only looks like they spill paint all over
19 the map. But yeah, so we had kind of a little more
20 functional GPS pattern and use areas, or migration
21 traveling areas, at least here in Barrow. This will work
22 for, I guess, the ones that didn't have the screen
23 available. But yeah, so what we're really getting at
24 though is the locations and -- I mean, in all honesty,
25 in order for that closure to occur, I feel like we should
26 have our other herds and all of their data to be provided
27 and, you know, to counter this full closure effort for
28 26A. I don't -- I really don't think that's -- this is
29 gonna work. So, I guess for our Council's needs, maybe
30 we should look at the other -- do you have any other
31 information for the other herds that we might be able
32 to look at in timeframes?

33
34 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
35 certainly have similar sort of distribution images of -
36 - and I believe I have them for the Teshekpuk. And I
37 think I have one for the Central Arctic Herd. I'd have
38 to double check. But I certainly have some more
39 information I could share there. I do wonder if it's
40 worth considering taking a break and facilitating the
41 exchange of information there.

42
43 So, Gisela just handed me some
44 supplemental meeting materials that she had for you
45 guys, looking at page 19. This is a caribou herds range
46 map, and it kind of just shows general distribution, but
47 it does not really -- to show the entire seasonal
48 distribution, which it sounds like is what you're
49 interested in. You were happy with the eight-panel
50 imagery, and you feel like you get the most out of that?

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1 Okay. Let me see what I can pull up there, but I wonder
2 if it's worth taking a break to allow the information
3 transfer to happen from my stuff to Gisela's stuff. And
4 then we can continue that discussion if you wanna look
5 at it more in that context.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I would like that.
8 So, I think we're headed to a break. 10-minute break,
9 15? 10, 15? Yeah, 15-minute break.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, we're
16 back from our break, and we'll give the floor to Carmen
17 for a little more extensive look into caribou. It looks
18 like this is the Teshekpuk Herd. Go ahead, Carmen.

19

20 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
21 Council. So, the information being provided in this
22 imagery is the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd distribution, the
23 seasonal distribution, and this data is based on the
24 1990 to 2022 collar data. So, similar to the multi-green
25 colored maps we were looking at before, the highest
26 density is dark green, the medium density distribution
27 is kind of this neon green, and low-level density is in
28 kind of a cream-colored, greenish shade. So, just so
29 that you kind of get an idea of a Teshekpuk distribution
30 throughout the year there.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, it
33 looks like this distribution range covers -- you know,
34 it looks like this lives -- this is our main herd for
35 the North Slope, for the majority of the North Slope.
36 So, this is why, you know, closure of 26A would
37 completely not work for us. This would just be appalling
38 because, you know, the majority of their time spent is
39 completely away, and off in the middle of nowhere, which
40 is kind of the entirety of the western section here that
41 is not covered for our main herd. And also, if you look
42 at the population data of those communities, it's --
43 what is that? You know, it's maybe 3,000 total. How many
44 are in Point Hope? 900. You got a couple hundred in
45 Point Lay. And then, what is Wainwright's population? I
46 think it's like 2,000, isn't it? How big is it? 600? For
47 some reason, I thought it was bigger. Maybe, it's the
48 size of the town. So, I mean, population-wise, you're
49 talking half of Barrow alone, you know, just Barrow. So,
50 closure for the entirety of 26A would be completely out

00050

1 of the question to me, should be. Yeah, so maybe go down
2 and look at the other sections of the migration. And
3 also, what is the status of this herd?

4

5 MS. DAGGETT: The most recent population
6 estimate for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd is around
7 65,000. And that estimate was from 2022. We have not
8 been able to get a more recent population estimate
9 despite our best efforts.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And for the take of
12 the North Slope, I mean, what is -- I mean, is it in
13 good standing?

14

15 MS. DAGGETT: So, the Teshekpuk Caribou
16 Herd is at its second highest historical peak, according
17 to that survey, that most recent survey. And so, it is
18 in relatively high numbers in comparison to what it has
19 been historically. That being said, that population data
20 is a couple years old.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it seems like
23 at least for our take here, for our main herd, we're in
24 really good standing. And this is with all of our take.
25 So, blows my mind that it's even being talked about
26 right now for the entirety of 26A to be shut down for a
27 herd that will go in an area that is in the middle of
28 nowhere, and we have a really low population there. But
29 yet, you want to close all of 26A. It just does not make
30 sense to me. So, just to give an example of how difficult
31 it is to even get to that area, I mean, you have flying
32 hunters that are being rescued right now, and it's a
33 two-hour helicopter flight to get there, and there's no
34 other way to get them. Nobody hunts there other than
35 outside residents. Fly-in hunters that come in from all
36 over the world, and chances are they're not even taking
37 the meat home. So, that area is almost exclusively being
38 hunted. On the outside, where this zone is, to where the
39 Teshekpuk Herd doesn't go, that is highlighted for the
40 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, the majority of those --
41 that land is being utilized by sport hunters. I mean,
42 we have super low population there. If you're worried
43 about Point Lay and their 200 people, you know, you've
44 got a small community of Point Hope and Wainwright. But,
45 you know, the majority of their area is completely
46 inundated by fly-in hunters. I mean, like we were saying,
47 we've rescued over 40 of them in the last couple of
48 years. And they're specifically going for these caribou.
49 So, I mean, they talk about their numbers are low, so
50 they've adjusted them. But, you know, they're still

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1 allowing them, and it's targeting the Western Arctic
2 Caribou Herd caribou, which is -- you know, it doesn't
3 make sense to me.

4
5 Anyway so, I just wanted to give this
6 information to those that are affected by it and, you
7 know, to take a good, hard look at this. And we're not
8 in bad standing with our herd of caribou, and the
9 majority of our caribou are caught from this herd. It
10 does not make sense for us to shut down all of 26A for
11 the fact that, you know, another herd is in decline. It
12 is, but like -- I mean, if our herd was in decline, but
13 yet we decided to shut down the other unit, but Western
14 Arctic Caribou Herd was fine, just -- you know, if the
15 tables were turned, I think we'd be having a lot
16 different conversation. The majority hunters of all of
17 the villages south of the Brooks Range, you know. What's
18 the population of that versus the population of where
19 they spend 40% of their time versus 60% of their time?
20 You know, it doesn't make sense to me. So, this may be
21 a long and drawn out, but I think this is the most
22 important thing we have on the agenda, is this. Any
23 discussion, questions or anything from the Council?

24
25 (No response)

26
27 This one I think is -- it's not
28 immediate, but it sounds like it's coming up. And it may
29 be here sooner than we know it.

30
31 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

34
35 MS. HUGO: I definitely agree what you're
36 saying. I'm not going to repeat, but I see what you're
37 saying. And it does not affect our area. And if this do
38 pass, I think it's going to just close caribou harvest.
39 And that's not going to be good. It's not even relevant.
40 That's how I feel. And like you said, maybe the portion
41 of Point Hope, Point Lay, and Wainwright, but they're
42 part of the Western, I understand. But, you know, it
43 doesn't include the Central or the Teshekpuk. And I just
44 want to state that within a couple of years, the Western
45 Herd -- I don't know, but they've been south of us,
46 probably down the trees, further from us, but it's close
47 to where I think they are. Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.
50 All right. We're gonna have to move on this at some point.

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1 Quincy.

2

3 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, I believe we
4 should take off 26A altogether from this proposal.
5 Remove 26A from this proposal. Because we don't just
6 depend on one herd. You know, 24B, C, and D, that's
7 south of us. That's -- I know, I understand that as part
8 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, but we shouldn't
9 make decisions for people that use the area away from
10 us. So, if we can just take off 26A altogether. I would
11 be in support of removing 26A from this proposal.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any other
14 recommendations? Discussions on the matter from the
15 Council?

16

17 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, just one quick
18 question. This is Esther.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

21

22 MS. HUGO: Okay, let's just say that the
23 Western Arctic Herd are south of us during the winter.
24 Do we have the right to get there to catch a couple of
25 -- I mean, we're not going to be looking for the bulls
26 because we don't do that till springtime, due to rutting.
27 And there was a hunter that catch a -- in January or
28 February, and the elder noticed right away the meat is
29 red, it's different, you still can have a little taste
30 of the rut. So, I'm just wondering -- let's just say
31 next month, within October to February, if the Western
32 Herd are down south of us where we can get access to
33 travel there, snow machines, yeah, it's easier. What do
34 we do? We just watch them or what? You know, we need
35 some more information.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, I would say it
38 would be based on the jurisdiction. I mean, it just
39 depends on what unit you're in and what they're allowing
40 at that specific point in time. So, it just depends on
41 if you're.....

42

43 (Simultaneous speech)

44

45 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: across the
48 boundary there. Go ahead.

49

50

1 MS. ITTA: I just wanted to state my
2 thoughts and my concerns as I made them before. The
3 concerns that I have are the sports hunting, and the
4 enforcement of the regulations that we recommend and
5 that we make. I just want to stress that enough to where
6 something's being done to the non-residents that are
7 hunting out there, opposed to them giving -- you know,
8 giving us -- making us make decisions for our subsistence
9 hunters. So, I agree with Quincy, you know, we shouldn't
10 support this if -- you know, if it's not addressing our
11 concerns. I just wanted to make that comment. Because
12 it's not making sense at this point, you know, trying
13 to -- taking away the bag limit from our subsistence
14 hunters as opposed to the sports hunting that's really
15 affecting our subsistence hunting. You know, I just want
16 to prioritize that. That something's being done and
17 enforcement is being done to the regulations that we put
18 forth. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So -- oh, go ahead.

21
22 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
23 members of the Council. This is Robbin La Vine,
24 subsistence policy coordinator. I have not been up on
25 the North Slope as much as I have in other parts of the
26 State. And I'm finding that all of these different
27 jurisdictions are challenging for me. And so, I want to
28 clarify right now, we are -- you guys are looking at
29 Board of Game proposals, and you're looking at
30 recommendations on what happens on State lands and State
31 managed lands. And subsistence regulations, and
32 subsistence means something different under the State
33 regulations. It means all Alaskan residents. And so,
34 when we talk about sport, let's say, maybe what we're
35 talking about is people from under the State regulatory
36 framework. When we talk about sport, we might be talking
37 about people from the Lower 48. Because within the State
38 framework, all Alaskans can participate in subsistence
39 on State lands. When we talk about our Federal proposals
40 and regulations -- so, you guys will remember making
41 recommendations on Federal proposals and special
42 actions. And you'll also remember making recommendations
43 on State proposals and regulations. They mean -- they
44 address the same issue, but under a different framework.
45 So, I just want to make sure that we know we're talking
46 about State lands right now. And that's -- for me, I
47 guess, that's to help me understand how to listen to
48 your recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, let's
2 just put this in a nutshell real quick. So, if we went
3 and closed this, would we still have our Federal
4 subsistence hunt with whatever we voted on for 10 without
5 a cow? That would still be in effect?

6
7 MS. LA VINE: Yes, on Federal lands.
8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Now that changes
11 things. But the State would not allow anybody else in,
12 had we closed this through the State? So, we only
13 wouldn't be able to hunt on State lands? Go ahead.

14
15 MS. LA VINE: Another thing to be aware
16 of, and someone mentioned it earlier today, I can't
17 remember who, but that private lands, corporation lands,
18 or village corporation lands are considered private
19 lands, and they're also managed under the State. And so,
20 those might be the lands that are closest to some of
21 these communities. So, that's another thing to be aware
22 of, but then it's also -- and those private lands really
23 won't invite people from out of the region to subsist
24 under State regulations there, if I understand how those
25 things work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, is there
30 a map? I need a map. Yes.

31
32 MS. CHAPA: And for those that are
33 online, if you cannot see us in the room, we're going -
34 - the map that you can find on the regulatory book and
35 also at the back of the meeting materials, it is the map
36 of the region showing all the Federal lands within the
37 North Slope Region.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And once again, this
40 is only if it hits that threshold. So, 75,000 or less.
41 As long as they didn't drop the numbers on the Federal
42 side, I think we might have something here. So, this may
43 benefit us more than hurt us, it looks like. But we
44 still have the opportunity to subsist. Currently.

45
46 MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair, if I may. So,
47 this is an action item that the Council wants to submit
48 comments on this particular proposal. It'd be comments
49 in support, it could be comments in opposition,
50 an amendment as well. And that is if the Council wants to

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1 submit comments to the Board of Game.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: and what's the
4 deadline for this one?

5

6 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, so the comments for
7 this meeting will be January 9th. So, this is the
8 opportunity for the Council to develop comments as a
9 Council.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

12

13 MR. BARGER: I just want to bring up
14 Esther's comment, like when I brought too about, you
15 know, are they going to watch the cow during wintertime?
16 You know, she was talking about, you know, are they
17 going to watch it? Since they didn't (distortion), but
18 she brought it up earlier. So, I just want to bring it
19 up. You know, her concern was, are they going to watch
20 the cow wintertime? Because, you know, the rut times
21 should -- you know, so -- and that's another issue, so.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it's basically
24 what we had voted on -- yeah. Well, for the Federal --
25 on the Federal side, so there would be no cows allowed
26 on that. So, that would be it, you know, it's as long
27 as it passed, and it's what we voted on, it passed.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

34

35 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Leonard. Now, it's
36 getting me confused. So, if we pass this in our area,
37 we cannot catch a cow, regardless of our late migration
38 or of the running of the caribou?

39

40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I don't think it
41 matters either way if we voted on this or not, that's
42 something we voted on for the Federal side already. And
43 that was no cows.

44

45 MS. CHAPA: And no cows, and it was
46 specifically to -- in 26. It was 26A Southwest.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, yeah, sorry. 26A
49 Southwest. So, what is -- yeah, that modification did
50 not include Anaktuvuk Pass.

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2

MS. HUGO: Thank you. It's just scary to hear it. I mean, it got me confused a minute, but I know the southwest mean, the portion of Point Hope, Point Lay, and Wainwright. Thank you.

6

7

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, I mean, even if we pass this to close it, it would not affect our subsistence hunts, federally.

10

11

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

12

13

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

14

15

MS. CHAPA: If I may direct the Council to the map on the wall. So, this map includes all the different jurisdictions, including, Tribal land, corporation land, State land. And Anaktuvuk Pass is the residents and community of the Gates of the Arctic National Park. But they've also -- we've heard from Council Member Hugo that there's a lot of issues and complaints on the State side of things. So, there is, if you look -- I'll show a point. So, the brown is, ANCSA or Tribal? Can you see? It's a Native village corporation -- Native village or corporation lands. So, this potential proposal could directly impact people from that community.

28

29

MS. HUGO: This is Esther. Did you say it will impact our community?

31

32

MS. CHAPA: Yes, Ms. Hugo, I'm going to take a picture of the map, and I'm going to text it to you. So that -- hopefully, that provides a little bit of context about what I just shared.

36

37

MS. HUGO: This is Esther, again. Mr. Chair, if it's going to impact us without any food on our table for now, it will be a great impact for us if it's going to affect the area here. Because we didn't even have the migration come this way. We don't have food to put on the table for the winter. That's really going to hurt.

44

45

MS. CHAPA: And this is Gisela Chapa, for the record. So, for those that are online and don't have a visual in the room, we're still looking at maps and trying to understand the implications of Proposal 6 to the region.

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, Esther, it looks
2 like if we had passed this, it would kind of seem like
3 a gift and a curse for Anaktuvuk Pass. Because it looks
4 like if they closed it, that they would not be able to
5 have any fly-in hunters north of you guys. If this had
6 gone through. If the threshold gets less than 75,000.
7 But since you guys are around private lands, those would
8 fall under the jurisdiction of State, and you would not
9 be able to hunt immediately around Anaktuvuk Pass.

10
11 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

14
15 MS. HUGO: I will repeat. That will not
16 help us.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, yeah, I don't -
19 - there would be opportunity if you went outside of that
20 private land section, but you would have to be careful
21 about that. But the biggest thing though, if this
22 happened and we did meet that threshold, there would not
23 be any allowable fly-in hunters at all for caribou. Go
24 ahead, Carmen.

25
26 (Simultaneous speech)

27
28 MS. HUGO: I definitely agree with that.
29 But it's a question whether we can survive without any
30 caribou at all. (Indiscernible) is closed.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Carmen.

33
34 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I -- in this
35 discussion -- so, Point Lay -- there's not a
36 representative on this committee from Point Lay. And I
37 just want to share that the area around Point Lay, there
38 is quite a lot of State land, corporation land, State
39 jurisdiction land. And I also want to share that I've
40 heard hunters express that they have walked to go caribou
41 hunting from Point Lay and that their resources to really
42 get out away from town are somewhat limited. And so, I
43 feel like I need to voice that for them because there's
44 not someone here from Point Lay to express that. I'm not
45 trying to dissuade your decision either way. I just want
46 to give you more information when you're making this
47 decision.

48
49 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

2

3

4 MS. HUGO: I definitely agree with the
5 hunters not coming our way at all. Because it's been
6 impacting us for so long and we've seen it, feel it,
7 we're out here. But we still need some food put on our
8 table, which we haven't gotten yet. Otherwise, I'd go
9 for -- we're going through asking to approve or oppose
10 this.

11

12 MS. CHAPA: And for those that are
13 joining online, there's some discussion. I don't know
14 if you want to share. Yeah.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 Still some discussions here in the room.
19 That's where the silence is coming from.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think we should
24 have maybe a little more conversation over lunch. So,
25 one hour? One hour? 1:30? We'll be back here at 1:30.
26 So, yeah. Yeah, we'll discuss over lunch and we'll be
27 back at 1:30. Have a good lunch.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. We're at
34 1:37. We do have enough for a quorum right now. But we
35 were waiting to see if Esther shows up. Is Esther online?

36

37 (No response)

38

39 All right. Do we wanna move forward with
40 the next one or should we -- and hold this one until
41 Esther arrives? All right. So, I guess we'll move forward
42 with the next item on the list for proposals. Go ahead,
43 Carmen.

44

45 MS. DAGGETT: So, there are a couple of
46 proposals that were submitted with the intent of looking
47 at control of wolves and brown bears in the context of
48 intensive management to address the decline in the
49 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. The proposal that was
50 selected to at least start this conversation is Proposal
23. It was submitted by the North Slope Advisory

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1 Committee. And it would seek to remove wolves and bears
2 within the range of the Western Arctic Herd for a minimum
3 of 5 years. There are 3 other proposals that were
4 submitted with similar things in mind. One by Fish and
5 Game, one by the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory
6 Council and one by the Northwest Arctic Regional
7 Advisory Council. They all essentially ask for the same
8 thing. I will say this that similar to some of the other
9 proposals, there's a sister proposal for the Interior
10 meeting as well. And that proposal number is 87. So,
11 when you -- whenever you decide to vote on Proposal 23,
12 you may also want to say that you're voting for that one
13 as well because it's the same on both sides of the
14 equation there for the different regional meetings.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: And which was the
17 other one?

18
19 MS. DAGGETT: The Interior meeting
20 proposal number is 87.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, 87.

23
24 MS. DAGGETT: And 23.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, if you wanted
27 to include the -- do you have the dialogue on it?

28
29 MS. CHAPA: And for those that are
30 joining us online, my name is Gisela Chapa. I'm just
31 showing our Council Chair the proposal index for the
32 Interior and Eastern Arctic Region. And Proposal 87,
33 like Ms. Daggett mentioned, is the sister proposal to
34 23. Proposal 23 is for the Western -- Arctic Western
35 Region, and then 87 is for the Interior and Eastern
36 Arctic.

37
38 MS. DAGGETT: And to be specific, it
39 would be a departmental of Fish and Game removing wolves
40 and bears. I just want to make that clear.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, on this it does
43 -- it just says to add a population-based closure for
44 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd under Proposal 87 to
45 amend 5 AAC 85 -- or 85.025. One second.

46
47 (Pause)

48
49 All right. So, my question on it was,
50 what is the.....

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2

(Talking)

3

4

5

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, all right. We'll disregard that. So, yeah, I was gonna [sic] say it's pretty open-ended on providing a closure. I don't know that I would want to.....

8

9

(Talking)

10

11

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay.

12

13

(Pause)

14

15

16

17

18

All right. So, we're looking at Proposal 21 and 23. Establish an intensive management plan for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd in Units 22, 23, and 26A Southwest. All right. Any questions? Comments?

19

20

(No response)

21

22

23

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: What is the definition of intensive management plan?

24

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MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will do my best to answer that question, and I'm going to let Alex Hansen answer additional things if he so wishes. I believe he's on. Largely, when you have a population that dips below the intensive management objective which Alex outlined in his presentation earlier. We are below that management objective at this point. There are a series of measures that are put in place in order to address the population level and try to figure out what we're going to do about the population being below that management objective. So, one of them might be looking at habitat. One of them is looking at regulatory changes like we've been talking about. And one of them is to take a look at what's happening predation wise. To try to determine what measures can be taken that will be the most effective for dealing with the population at that time. And so, that is part of the intensive management plan. And it has to be approved by the Board of Game in order to take place. It can't just be randomly done by Fish and Game biologists. So, there's definitely a process to go through with. And I'm going to stop there, and if Alex wants to add anything, he has definitely been at the forefront of thinking about intensive management with a Western Arctic Caribou Herd for the last several years. So, he is definitely the expert on the matter. And he's

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1 free to add in as he wishes.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. Just
4 to, I guess, discuss a little more openly is, I mean,
5 do you have a selected list of items? You know, a tactics
6 list or something, that we might be able to look at?
7 Cause [sic] that is pretty open ended. So, you know, we
8 don't know exactly what intensive management plan is.
9 So, I guess -- yeah. So, yeah. Alex, you got anything
10 on it?

11

12 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, I might be able to
13 provide some clarification. Through the Chair, this is
14 Alex Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. So,
15 basically what we're looking at here is we are required
16 under State statute to address populations that have
17 intensive management ruling when the populations fall
18 below that line that Carmen outlined. And so, it just
19 basically opens the bag of tools, if you will, to operate
20 outside normal methods and means. So, normal legal
21 methods and means for harvesting wolves and bears are
22 what they are, but this can open that up a little bit.
23 So one, you know, potential tool could be the department
24 could come in and do targeted removal of bears or wolves
25 in specific areas. So, if we look at other examples that
26 have taken place around the State, the Alaska Peninsula
27 had a wolf removal program that was targeted for the
28 SAPCH or the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd a
29 few years ago. So, basically, during a certain time
30 period, staff went in and removed the wolves and saw an
31 increase in calf production. So, we're able to look at
32 and evaluate populations that need help. And if it seems
33 that removing predators for a certain period of time in
34 specific areas will be helpful for the herd to recover,
35 then that's the method that we have to address it.

36

37 Another, you know, example that's
38 happening in the State now is the Mulchatna Herd. Brown
39 bears primarily are being targeted on the calving
40 grounds of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, which is allowing
41 them to, you know, recover at that level. So, it's
42 something that takes place at specific times and places
43 for specific purposes. There's no desire from the
44 department to eradicate bears and wolves in any specific
45 region or area. The goal is to find a balance so that
46 the caribou can recover. There, you know, one of the big
47 things that precedes any of these programs is a
48 feasibility assessment. So, we're drafting a document
49 that the Board will look at and it will provide some
50 guidance there. This, you know, to be completely clear

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1 and upfront and honest, this would be the largest attempt
2 at IM that the State has ever undertaken. The scale of
3 what we're looking at is much larger than anything else
4 that's ever been attempted. So, what we wanna do is make
5 sure that we can be successful in the project. These
6 attract a lot of scrutiny, lawsuits, other things. And
7 so, we don't, you know, jump into them lightly. But we
8 are required under State statute to consider this as an
9 option. And so, basically what we've asked through this
10 proposal or these proposals, as Carmen mentioned,
11 there's a few different ones, including one from us, is
12 we're going to ask the Board of Game to look at it and
13 evaluate the information that we've been providing and
14 see if it's an option that will work to help recover
15 this population. Hope that helps.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That does help. Go
18 ahead.

19
20 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Robbin La Vine. And I just want to clarify that you're
22 considering an intensive management strategy under State
23 regulations, which would be on State lands. The Federal
24 Subsistence Management Program does not -- will
25 basically recognize that intensive management or
26 predator control is the responsibility of the land
27 managing agencies. But right now, what you're
28 considering is something under State jurisdiction. Thank
29 you.

30
31 MR. HANSEN: Through the Chair, if I may.
32 Robbin points out, you know, one of the challenges that
33 we deal is we have a lot of Federal land that we're
34 operating in and it kind of depends on where the caribou
35 set up shop. So, for instance, if they decide to winter
36 -- obviously they're spread out across the map, but if
37 we have big groups that decide to winter on Federal
38 lands that we can't operate on for this and the wolves
39 are considered a problem and taking more caribou than
40 the population can sustain, then there's probably not
41 much we can do about it.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, I
44 guess one thing I'm looking at through the proposal is
45 for, you know, intensive management of identified big
46 game prey populations. It does say establish an
47 intensive management plan for the Western Arctic Caribou
48 Herd. But it doesn't specify from what or if it's
49 management plan for the caribou or if it's like
50 specifically for the predators and what predators you're

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1 going for. So, I mean, an intensive management plan,
2 like if that -- just in that sentence itself I mean does
3 that mean you're going to change something within the
4 caribou and our take on that? That is a pretty open end.
5 I do see, you know, the differences there, but can we
6 clarify if that just means specifically doing stuff for
7 predators to benefit the caribou without having anything
8 to do with.....

9

10 (Simultaneous speech)

11

12 MR. HANSEN: Mr. Chair, that is.....

13

14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

15

16 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, we're dealing directly
17 with predators. And if you look at the State proposal,
18 Carmen can provide that proposal number, but the State
19 proposal is directed at removal of brown bears and wolves
20 specifically. So, these intensive management programs
21 do nothing to address harvest, subsistence harvest, non-
22 resident harvest, anything like that. This is tied
23 directly to interactions between predator and prey.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is wolverine
26 included in that?

27

28 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, if I may. No,
29 it is not written in the Proposal 23 and I don't believe
30 it was written into Proposal 20 either, but I will just
31 double check here quickly. It's just specifically wolves
32 and brown bears.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Would we be able to
35 add those?

36

37 MS. DAGGETT: You can always offer
38 amendments.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Well. Okay. No, if
41 that's how it's written, just wanted to see what was on
42 there. Because I think the only sentence I have is
43 establish an intensive management plan for the Western
44 Arctic Caribou Herd. So, okay, no. Thank you. Any
45 questions for them from the Council? Would we say we're
46 -- oh, go ahead Esther, welcome.

47

48 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

49

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, go ahead,
2 Esther, welcome.

3
4 MS. HUGO: I just want to ask who's going
5 to create the intensive management plan. Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Carmen.

8
9 MS. DAGGETT: So, through the Chair to
10 Member Hugo. I think that the intensive management plan
11 would be something that the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
12 biologist would need to work on in cooperation. And I
13 would like to defer some to Alex too, because I think,
14 again, he's steeped in the details of this far more than
15 I am, and I don't wanna step on his toes. So, I'm gonna
16 let him further answer that question.

17
18 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, through the Chair,
19 member Hugo. It's, you know, we don't have the authority
20 to create the plan. The proposal is to ask the Board for
21 the option of creating plans. So, the plan will be
22 basically developed through the feasibility assessment
23 and the direction of the Board. So, we'll be using the
24 best available science to help understand the potential
25 implications of removing brown bears and wolves. And
26 opportunity to provide input is, you know, with you all
27 as well. But we're creating a plan through the Board of
28 Game process is kind of what happens. And, you know, we
29 don't get into a lot of details in these proposals
30 because some of that will have to be fleshed out as we
31 go through the Board of Game process and work to
32 understand what we can actually accomplish. But in
33 general, kind of the high-altitude look at this is, you
34 know, from my perspective as the biologist, you know,
35 my concern lies within the wintering areas of the caribou
36 for wolves specifically. And as we all know, that
37 changes. Those wintering ranges do change from time to
38 time. And specifically within the calving area for the
39 brown bear removal. So, you know, one of the big
40 challenges with calving area for this population is it's
41 a very large area. And we do see quite a bit of brown
42 bear predation when the caribou calve or within those
43 animals that calve in the kind of southern extent of the
44 calving area. So, it's, you know, it's a very targeted
45 approach to where we can address specific problems and
46 still maintain viable populations of predators. You
47 know, the State does not want to wipe out bears or
48 wolves. We want to help the caribou recover.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: With that being
2 said, this targeted area does not include the other
3 portions of 26A, to be clear?

4
5 MR. HANSEN: Highly unlikely because, you
6 know, we've talked through this, but the occupancy of
7 this population is primarily bounded in 26A Southwest.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there's
10 evidence that the remainder of 26A or the main portion
11 of 26A isn't your main focus?

12
13 MR. HANSEN: No, it's not the main focus.
14 And probably the main focus for the wolves would be in
15 23. But that, you know, it's somewhat subject to change
16 based somewhat on where the caribou winter. We know where
17 they calve, calving ground is proper -- properly in a
18 26A Southwest. So, that's really kind of the target area
19 for that. In my perspective, targeting bears in 22 and
20 23 will do nothing to help this population. So, really
21 the focus in, you know, Unit 23 is wolf related and 26
22 is probably going to be brown bear related. But, you
23 know, to help us better understand this, we've started
24 a wolf monitoring program here in 23 where we're
25 attempting to capture and collar wolves and, you know,
26 better understand those interactions between wolves and
27 caribou that's, you know, in development now.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, I
30 think I have enough information for this. What is the
31 wish of the Council?

32
33 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

36
37 MR. ADAMS: I move in to make a motion
38 to support Proposal -- what is it, 21? And 23.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there's a motion
41 on the floor to support Proposal 21 and 23, establish
42 an intensive management plan for the Western Arctic
43 Caribou Herd in Units 22, 23 and 26A Southwest.

44
45 MR. BARGER: Second.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
48 Barger. Any discussion on this matter? I think the
49 discussion and justification would be that removal -- I
50 think we're all in a general consensus that removal of

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1 brown bears and wolf in these areas would benefit the
2 herds and therefore would benefit our communities, to
3 where it would positively support the Western Arctic
4 Caribou Herd end result. Any other discussion on the
5 matter?

6
7 MR. ADAMS: Question.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question been
10 called for all those in favor of supporting Proposal 21
11 and 23, establish an intensive management plan for the
12 Western Arctic Caribou Herd in Units 22, 23, and 26A
13 Southwest say aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
18 sign.

19
20 (No response)

21
22 Hearing none. We are supporting Proposal
23 21 and 23. Thank you. Go ahead, Carmen.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
28 I think that other than revisiting the intensive
29 management lower objective Proposal 6, you've really
30 gone through and addressed the major caribou related
31 proposals that are before the Board of Game this year,
32 the major topics associated with it. There are several
33 other proposals, as we mentioned, that address these
34 similar issues, but you've really made decisions about
35 how you would like to deal with each of these major
36 topics other than Proposal 6.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, I
39 guess we're circling back now that Esther's back online
40 to the Proposal 6 before we moved on. I guess we need
41 to finalize this and make a motion. But I guess we need
42 to clarify how we're going to go about this. So, we have
43 a couple different options that we had discussed. And
44 just to, I guess, read it out.

45
46 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

49
50

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1 MS HUGO: No, you go ahead if you're
2 gonna read it.

3
4
5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, yeah, so
6 Proposal 6 as written. So, this is just to re-update
7 everybody of what we're working on. Proposal 6,
8 population-based threshold for Western Arctic Caribou
9 Herd. Notwithstanding any other provision of this
10 section, when the Western Arctic Caribou Herd population
11 has declined to 75,000 animals or fewer, the hunting
12 season for caribou from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
13 or Western Arctic Herd, shall be closed in Units 22, 23,
14 24B Remainder, 24C, 24D, 26A. The season shall remain
15 closed until the department determines that the
16 population exceeds 100,000 animals and that a
17 harvestable surplus exists.

18
19 So, that was the original one that we
20 were discussing before lunch. And how we were going to
21 determine our motion is what we were discussing. So,
22 there are a couple suggestions that we had. And one of
23 them was completely removing 26A from this. And once
24 again, this is only when it's declined to 75,000 or
25 fewer animals for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd or
26 leaving it in place, and we also had a discussion of
27 possibly modifying for some of the other communities
28 that are not within the main migration route for the
29 Western Arctic Caribou Herd that depend on caribou. So,
30 there's a couple different things. So, if we left the
31 restriction in place for the entirety of 26A, that we
32 would be susceptible to perimeters around each one of
33 the villages because some of the private lands around
34 every village would fall under State jurisdiction. And
35 that we would not be able to hunt within a certain
36 distance. This would really affect Point Lay and Point
37 Hope from getting to where they need to get to for
38 caribou hunting because we would still be allowed under
39 subsistence -- Federal subsistence hunts provided that
40 they don't mirror, which is normally what they do. With
41 -- they try to mirror the State. So, if we do do that,
42 the chances are they're going to try to mirror the
43 closure. You know, that's a possibility. So, if we do
44 that, we're kind of -- either way, we're going to have
45 some type of -- so, we're kind of in a rock and a hard
46 place on this if it does happen. So, we're trying to
47 find the best route to where we're affected as little
48 as possible as, you know, the entirety of the North
49 Slope. So, if we choose one, we're going to lose
50 something. If we choose the other, we're still, you know,

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1 kind of on the edge of losing our subsistence. So, we're
2 trying to hash this out as best we can. Go ahead, Robbin.

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4 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
5 I'm just providing reminders as you discuss this really
6 important issue for your region that the Board has not
7 acted on the special action that you provided your
8 recommendations for yesterday. That's going to happen
9 after the Board of Game meets on this and other proposals
10 in January. And I would just note that my -- I work for
11 the Office of Subsistence Management, I have colleagues
12 that work for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
13 and everyone is very concerned about this herd
14 regardless of whose regulations we are working under.
15 And as that herd declines, we will likely also see
16 further proposals and special action requests under the
17 Federal program, to either reduce, limit or eliminate
18 harvest for a time. So, you're discussing about what
19 kind of recommendations do you want to make for this
20 State Board of Game proposal but there are so many other
21 things happening around at the same time, right? So, I
22 just wanted to air that and let you know that we're all
23 watching this very closely. And I think it's going to
24 be really important what happens in Kotzebue. And then
25 it's going to be really important what happens when the
26 Board takes up Wildlife Special Action 26-01. Thank you,
27 Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. And once
30 again, you know, if we went through worst-case scenario,
31 it looks like it would be at least a few years before
32 something like this took place and we would have to meet
33 this low threshold. But there are also other options to
34 where if we did accept this, that we have further
35 discussion about, you know, that's -- that gives us
36 enough time to have multiple meetings and discussions
37 about this particular. I mean, we could have workshops
38 in between and hash it out. But I really think if that
39 was the case, that we would be splitting another border
40 to some degree. Because, you know, if they did want to
41 completely cut out for where the Western Arctic Caribou
42 Herd really is and, you know, we obviously have a good
43 sustainable herd in our area that we're gonna have to
44 make some sort of a compromise. So, you know, the other
45 option is to accept this but with, you know, in details
46 to where we should be having this discussion a lot more
47 in-depth about the sustainability, about the areas that
48 are not really affected by the decline in that herd. But
49 we would be completely affected by the closure and still
50 have a herd that was viable for taking. So, that's

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1 another option. So, it's just a matter of what we want
2 for the Council.

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4 (Pause)

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6 What do we want? What is acceptable to
7 us?

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9 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

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11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gissela.

12

13 MS. CHAPA: I also -- a little bit more
14 guidance to the Council that the Council could also
15 submit a neutral comment that expresses that specific
16 conflict that you've -- the Council has been talking
17 about.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think right now
22 where I would be sitting, just to speak openly here
23 about it, is that I would not be in support of this. And
24 maybe just leave it at that with the details of, the
25 population of the actual affected communities within the
26 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. You know, it's a low
27 population there. The majority of everything is out in
28 the open. And we do have a sustainable herd that over
29 half of this, 26A depends on. It is not really affected
30 by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd number decline. But
31 yet we're still in the proposal as being closed after a
32 certain threshold. That -- I don't think we have enough
33 research done or input from the communities that are
34 affected here. And I think we need to have a greater
35 discussion on the matter, but I would not be in support
36 of this. So, that -- that's kind of where I would be
37 sitting right now. I don't think we should make any real
38 determination about what is laid out here in front of
39 us because I don't think this is the answer. We
40 definitely need to have more discussion on this, but
41 that's my opinion. Go ahead, Quincy.

42

43 MR. ADAMS: Quincy Adams for the record.
44 I also am not in support of this proposal. We've been
45 depending on the caribou for generations upon
46 generations. We know the herd fluctuates. Every herd
47 fluctuates. And just to close it altogether, it's like
48 telling everybody to stop hunting. And that's kind of
49 what I don't want to do, even if it affects other regions,
50 other game units. So, I'm not in support of this proposal.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Quincy.
And it looks like we have Jenysa, you got your hand
raised.

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MS. AHMAOGAK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
Jenysa Ahmaogak, for the record. I have been thinking
throughout this entire discussion. I do agree with you
guys. It is unfair for the communities that don't get
the Western Arctic Herd to also face intensive
management when they have, you know, a harvestable
surplus. And, you know, it's sustainable for the other
communities that don't get the Western Arctic Caribou
Herd, which leads me to question, would we be able to
revisit the unit map and kind of revisit how we have the
communities almost all on one side of the game unit? And
possibly try to figure something out so that the
communities that don't get the Western Arctic Herd are
affected by something that doesn't really affect them
because they have a whole different herd. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Jenysa.
So, from what I'm seeing, 26A Southwest is really the
only differentiation that we have so far. But a lot of
stuff isn't consistent right now. They want to close all
of 26A, but they also only want to go after predators
within 26A Southwest and not the rest of 26A because
they say that, their focus is not mainly on the larger
portion of 26A. So, there's a lot of inconsistencies
here. Yeah, I think we need to have more of a discussion
in greater detail. But unfortunately, up next is the
Board of Game, too. They're going to be talking about
this in a larger quorum, larger group discussion about
making determinations. And it seems like other units are
trying to make that determination for us. Well, I don't
like that. That's not the norm, is for somebody else to
change somebody else's unit. All of us are definitely
not accepting this, you know, I don't think it's right.
So, that's kind of why I'm sitting where I'm at, to
where I wouldn't move forward with this proposal. I would
not support it. It's somebody else trying to make a
determination for us. And we've got enough detail here
to at least cut off most of 26A out of that discussion.
So, it's -- it doesn't work for me. But in reality
though, it's up to us as a Council and what we really
want. It's not just me. You know, I can talk the way out
as much as I want. But Point Hope is here, Wainwright
is here, AKP is here, Nuiqsut. All of us have to make
this decision. So, it's a matter of making it acceptable
for all of us within our unit -- units, 23 as well.

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MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Martha.

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7 MS. ITTA: I just want to agree with the
8 Council that I do not support this action until we fully
9 understand what it is we're deciding on and changing,
10 given that most of us don't really have that input. I
11 agree. I do not support this. Thank you.

12

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Martha,
for your comments.

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MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

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MS. HUGO: Yes, Mr. Chair, I do not agree
with this proposal. It's a very vast open country in the
26A Unit, looking from our mountains down north, and we
need more discussion. We just can't make that decision
and I'm not for this either. Thank you.

25

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.
It sounds like we're all in the same general consensus.
Do we have anybody that wants to make a motion on our
decision?

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MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quinty.

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MR. ADAMS: I'd like to make a motion not
in -- not supporting Proposal 6.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: There is a motion
on the floor to not support.

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(Distortion)

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Seconded by Leonard Barger. Any
discussion?

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MR. BARGER: Question.

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MS. AHMOAGAK: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, go ahead,
Jenysa.

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MS. AHMOAGAK: Yes, I also wanted to state that I know this is exactly what we faced when we had gone to the last Board of Game meeting when we went to Kotzebue. And they were doing the same thing. They were trying to make decisions on our behalf. And I do agree that this is something that we shouldn't be supporting. Especially if we have communities that aren't solely relying on the Western Arctic Herd. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. And I -- under discussion, I would just like to add that the justification behind this, you know, we've talked pretty extensively about. But there's not enough detail put into them justifying why all of 26A should closed when we have a viable to Teshekpuk Caribou Herd for the majority of this area. Yep, or the Central, but it's a -- it's just a blanket that they're trying to put over the entire North Slope and just not fair for all of us that subsist up here. And this is our livelihood. We need to have food in our tables, in our freezers. Food security is a big thing up here and to have that kind of resource given to us, but yet taken away by somebody that doesn't live in this location, to know what we're actually going through, is -- I don't think is acceptable. The other thing is they have enough information here to where they can plainly see that we're, you know, not all of us are completely affected by this herd. And also, you know, it's not in our North Slope the entirety of its time or when we hunt. At certain times of the year. So, a lot of this detail isn't really thought about or inputted for the proposal at hand. So, I would say that that is a pretty good justification about why we're pursuing what we're pursuing in rejecting this proposal. So, any other discussion?

MS. AHMOAGAK: Question.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been called for. All those in favor of rejecting Proposal 6, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign.

(No response)

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2 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing none.
3 Proposal 6 has failed, North Slope Regional Advisory
4 Council. Go ahead, Gisela.
5

6 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
7 Chapa, for the record. And so, now that the Council has
8 gone through Board of Game proposals and developed your
9 comments for those proposals. I wanted to remind the
10 Council that, if you so choose to send a representative
11 to the Board of Game meeting, in Kotzebue, in January,
12 that would require council action in the form of a motion
13 and a vote.
14

15 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair.
16

17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.
18

19 MR. BARGER: I make a motion to send at
20 least 1 or 2 people to the Board of Game to represent
21 the North Slope Borough RAC. And I recommended the
22 Chairman and Esther Hugo to attend.
23

24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, we've got
25 a motion on the floor from Leonard to send 2 individuals.
26 The Chair and Esther Hugo, to the Board of Game, which
27 is in Kotzebue, in January 2027.
28

29 MS. AHMOAGAK: Seconded.
30

31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Jenysa.
32 Any discussion on the matter? So, I guess justification
33 would be to discuss in greater detail the issues we're
34 having within the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and the
35 changes that we think will be necessary to ensure that
36 we have adequate subsistence use, with modifying a
37 closure that has been, or not just that closure but also
38 other numbers for some of the subsistence use -- to have
39 a more open discussion for our units 26A and 23 around
40 Point Hope. Any other discussion?
41

42 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do you
43 guys accept? You or Esther? I just wanted to bring that
44 up. If you guys accept?
45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, under
47 discussion, I would go. Esther, are you open to going?
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49 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I sure am. I'll be
50 ready.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Sounds good. Any other discussion on the matter?

MR. ADAMS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been called for. All those in favor of sending Chair Brower Frantz and Council Member Esther Hugo from Anaktuvuk Pass to the Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue, 2027, January say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign.

MS. HUGO: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign.

(No response)

Hearing none. Looks like we're sending to 2 members to the Board of Game. Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, I gotta [sic] talk a little bit about process for that. So, this -- now the Council has selected a couple of Council members to represent the Council at the Board of Game meeting, but this will still have to go through our internal approval process. And I will work on that and I will notify the selected Council members if you are able to attend through our travel arrangements.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you for that. All right. What do we have next on our agenda?

MS. CHAPA: So, Mr. Chair, yesterday, the Council was talking about the 2028 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Priority Information Needs for the Northern Alaska Region and wanted to take a little bit more time for the PINs to be refined or the list to be refined, and we can resume that conversation. The action item portion of this agenda item is that the Council needs to finalize the PINs list in the form of a motion and a vote.

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we've gone
2 through the whole list?

3
4 MS. CHAPA: We will revisit the list, I
5 believe. Yes.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. All right. So,
8 Anna Senecal, OSM Fisheries, you have the floor.

9
10 MS. SENECA: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 For the record, my name is Anna Senecal, I'm a fisheries
12 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. And
13 we are here to finalize PINs. So, I'm going to share a
14 document and we'll step through -- I propose we step
15 through this list. And then you can make any changes you
16 would like, wordsmithing, adding PINs, deleting PINs.
17 And then you will have the opportunity to vote on this
18 list and those will be your Priority Information Needs
19 for the FY, Fiscal Year, 2028, Notice of Funding
20 Opportunities so folks can apply to this funding source
21 and serve the subsistence users and resources of your
22 region. So, I'm just going to go through and start at
23 the top again and read these PINs. I'm assuming they
24 will be adopted because you liked them yesterday, so it
25 should be a speedy process.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, does everybody
28 remember the list from yesterday? Is there anything you
29 didn't like on the list? I think maybe we can expedite
30 it. If -- I mean, we went through it yesterday and we
31 were okay with it. Would you guys just like to approve
32 the list as it sits, or would we like to have it read
33 out to us again?

34
35 MR. BARGER: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, go ahead,
38 Leonard.

39
40 MR. BARGER: Yeah, I'd like to make a
41 motion to approve the list now. Since we already went
42 through it yesterday. So, if everybody remembers.

43
44 MS. SENECA: Can I make a point of
45 clarification? There are -- there's one, the one PIN
46 that's been.....

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48 (Simultaneous speech)

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50 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, put into one.

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MS. SENEAL: squished together.

So, the two became one. And then we have two potential new ones that you may want to consider in addition to the ones that you looked at. So, we can skip over the ones you've already seen and just focus on those three and then vote.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sure. Okay. So, you made a motion. So, you do have to.....

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, so once the Council reviews the edits to the PINs list and you are okay with it, you can go ahead and make a motion to approve the PIN list.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. Sure. I think we're okay with that.

MS. SENEAL: Okay, very good. Through the Chair. For the record, Anna Senecal, still fisheries biologist. Okay. Our first new-ish PIN, this is a combination of the two, is to evaluate habitat and water quality changes. Especially water levels, discoloration and mineral deposits, siltation, water temperature and dissolved oxygen in major rivers and tributaries important to subsistence fishing for North Slope communities. Investigators are encouraged to include overwintering areas. Successful proposals will explicitly connect habitat changes to subsistence resource harvest. Is this a Priority Information Need for the North Slope Region?

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: You guys' online okay with that? Sounds good to us.

IN UNISON: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Alright. Next.

MS. SENEAL: Thank you. This one is new based on conversations yesterday. It reads, document changes in subsistence practices and harvest uses of North Slope fisheries in the context of changing access, harvest opportunities and other subsistence resource [sic] such as caribou abundance.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Does that sound good to you online?

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UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

MS. HUGO: What was that, Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Maybe we can read that one again for Esther in AKP.

MS. SENEAL: Certainly. Through the Chair, Council Member Esther, the proposed new Priority Information Need reads document changes in subsistence practices and harvest uses of North Slope fisheries in the context of changing access, harvest opportunity and other subsistence resource abundance, (caribou).

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think that sounds good to me. Does that sound good to you guys? Esther, or anybody online?

MS. HUGO: I think it is. Thank you.

MS. SENEAL: Good to go?

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Good to go.

MS. SENEAL: Make short work of this. Okay. Final one here is investigate and document the importance of customary trade and barter of subsistence-harvested fish in the North Slope region with particular attention to the role of how this customary trade and barter supports the continuation of hunting and fishing subsistence practices.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is that good or...?

(Pause)

I think this one we should remove just from the discussion we had yesterday. But I would remove this one just due to the fact that it's not completely pointed at a -- like a fish portion of the research, portion of it, you know, the biology of it. I don't think that -- yeah, I would remove this one. That's what I would do.

MS. SENEAL: Okay. So, the draft list becomes final after you make a motion and you approve it. It includes many of the previous PINs with slight modifications, one combined PIN, and one additional PIN.

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Are you
2 guys okay with how we have modified the structure?

3
4 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

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6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

7
8 MR. ADAMS: Move to approve the fish
9 documents, PINs list as modified.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So,
12 there's a motion on the floor to approve the PINs list
13 as we have adjusted it as modified.

14
15 MR. BARGER: Second.

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17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
18 Barger. Any discussion?

19
20 MR. BARGER: Question.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
23 called for. All those in favor of approving the list
24 we've just modified say, aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
29 sign.

30 (No response)

31
32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing none. The
33 PINs list has passed. Thank you.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 All right. What do we have next? All
38 right, so moving to item Echo, 11 Echo. Annual Reports.
39 You guys good or you want to break? We good?

40
41 (No audible response)

42
43 Okay. All right. So item 11.e, Annual
44 Report, Federal Subsistence Board Work Session Report
45 Out. Gisela.

46
47 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela
48 Chapa, for the record. And I want to clarify that this
49 portion of the annual report agenda item is
50 informational, but it provides relevant information to

1 a couple of items that are coming right after. So, I
2 wanted to -- I want to point you to page 116 of your
3 meeting materials. And that basically gives you, a
4 summary of what the Board did during their summer work
5 session. Now, the summer work session is usually the
6 meeting where the Board reviews all the annual report
7 topics and they approve the replies to each Council. And
8 this year, the process was slightly different. If you
9 look at pages 118 and 119 of your meeting materials,
10 you're going to see how the annual reports were
11 synthesized and presented to the Board. Rather than
12 taking this on a Council-by-Council basis, OSM compiled
13 all of the different topics across all Regional Advisory
14 Council regions. And you can see that there are pretty
15 strong trends across the State. So, what you see on the
16 top of page 18 and 119, are all of the issues that are
17 kind of shared across regions. So, you have salmon and
18 marine issues, monitoring and research gaps,
19 enforcement, user conflicts, program admin or
20 communication, environmental and land use issues, and
21 caribou declines and management.

22
23 Okay. So, that was slightly different
24 this year at the work session. Another difference was
25 that this year, most of the Council Chairs or a Council
26 representative, attended the Board summer work session,
27 and they had an opportunity to discuss these regional
28 topics directly with the Board, in addition to what was
29 included in the annual report. And so, if -- I'm gonna
30 pause to see if there are any questions. And if there
31 are no questions, I will go ahead and proceed to the
32 next item on the agenda.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seems pretty
35 straightforward to me. Any questions from anybody on the
36 Council? Are you guys following along on 118? 119? If
37 not, we'll move forward. You guys good online?

38
39 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

42
43 MS. HUGO: Yes, I'm on page 22 and 19.
44 Under the last column, where it says caribou decline and
45 management. Caribou migration (indiscernible). What does
46 that explain? Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Gisela.

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1 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, so Gisela again for the
2 record. And Member Hugo, so what you see under the last
3 column are basically the items that 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,
4 different Councils reported in their annual reports
5 regarding caribou declines or the management of caribou.
6 So, at the bottom row you will see North Slope RAC. The
7 Council submitted topics in your annual report regarding
8 issues with caribou, DIY hunters, lack of enforcement,
9 and concerns about caribou deflection. So, that's
10 basically what that means. So, in addition to the North
11 Slope, 5 other Regional Advisory Councils also expressed
12 concern about caribou declines in other parts of the
13 state. That's what that means.

14
15 MS: HUGO: Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Any other
18 questions on the overview?

19
20 (No response)

21
22 Hearing none. Go ahead.

23
24 MS. CHAPA: All right. So, this leads me
25 to the next agenda item. Which is a potential Joint
26 Council Letter regarding Fisheries Resource Monitoring
27 Program and wildlife resource monitoring program funding
28 requests. So, now I'm going to point you to page 23 of
29 your supplemental materials and that is the stapled
30 packet. So, throughout the discussion at the work
31 session, it was pretty evident that there are a lot of
32 information gaps regarding fisheries and wildlife
33 monitoring and that these are significant issues that
34 need to be addressed. And so, for that reason, the Chairs
35 discussed the need to elevate this issue to the
36 Secretaries. So, on page 23 of your supplemental
37 materials, you have a Draft Joint Council Letter that
38 requests the Federal Subsistence Board to elevate and
39 ask to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture
40 for adequate funding and staffing for fisheries and
41 wildlife monitoring in Alaska.

42
43 And so, this letter basically asks for
44 3 things. One, because FRMP is an existing program, the
45 Councils potentially want to request that FRMP funding
46 is restored at least to the Fiscal Year '25 levels
47 adjusted for inflation with dedicated staff. Second, the
48 letter also asks for the Secretaries to establish an
49 equivalent wildlife resource monitoring program with
50 staff. If you recall in 2024, the Council submitted a

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1 request to the Federal Subsistence Board to establish a
2 wildlife resource monitoring program. That is not a
3 program that OSM currently has. And if I recall
4 correctly, the Council discussed the need to the better
5 address muskox hunts and they there were there were
6 information gaps. So, in 2024, North Slope RAC submitted
7 that request to the Board and in this letter, potentially
8 all Councils will request something similar. And the 3rd
9 thing that this letter addresses lifting the hiring
10 freeze and adequately staffing Alaska Resource
11 Management Agencies and OSM.

12
13 So, this letter goes on to explain why
14 stable monitoring matters for management and subsistence
15 opportunity and cites the research responsibilities in
16 ANILCA Title VIII Section 812. So, this letter is only
17 an action item if the Council wishes to join into that
18 letter. And again, it's a request to the Federal
19 Subsistence Board to elevate the needs to have funding
20 for FRMP and WRMP to the Secretaries.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, the
23 big question is, do we want to be a part of this letter?
24 But I think the majority of the other RAC committees or
25 the Councils is that they are all having some type of
26 massive fishing issue, whether it be trawling or, you
27 know, the Yukon's got their issues. And so, the rest of
28 Alaska really has a fish problem. And it looks like
29 they're voicing their or combining their letters of
30 support to, you know, all act as one. So, it's a matter
31 of do we want to assist and put our name down and support
32 them is the way I look at it. So, I honestly don't think
33 we have any fish issues up north at all. Other than, you
34 know, we haven't seen it in a while, but the fish mold,
35 but that seems like it's being at least looked into and
36 dealt with in both the wildlife section and also the oil
37 field section as well. But so, other than that, I
38 honestly don't see any real fish issues or any need up
39 here. So, it's just a matter of wanting to put our name
40 down as a, you know, a letter of support, maybe for the
41 rest of our RAC members across the State is the way I
42 view it, you know. Go ahead, Gisela.

43
44 MS. CHAPA: Yes. And I think that in
45 addition to the fisheries issues, the letter also asks
46 the Secretaries to fund a wildlife resource monitoring
47 program. so, that program is not in existence right now.
48 And if you see that 9 Councils -- if you see on page 118
49 of your meeting materials, you see that 9 Councils
50 reported issues at some point or another with a resource

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1 -- not necessarily specifying a resource in particular.
2 But 9 Councils express the need for monitoring and
3 research because there's information gaps and Councils
4 or the Board make decisions based on the information
5 that is available. So, it doesn't just addresses funding
6 deficiencies with Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,
7 but it also requests a wildlife resource monitoring
8 program to be established.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: What's the wish of
11 the Council?

12
13 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

16
17 MS. HUGO: I wouldn't support so much on
18 the fishery side, but then when you look at research for
19 subsistence management to figure out what's going on
20 with our caribou and that would really tell me that it's
21 something that personally gets me, is that. But I support
22 the -- we need more research up in our area. That's what
23 I'm trying to say. But the fishing part, I think we're
24 good with that. We should have done it different,
25 separate, but that's fine. I understand. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Yeah,
28 it's up to us. I mean, it's really up to us if we're
29 okay with it. I don't see anything that is repelling to
30 me anyways. So, this is in the form of a motion though?
31 So, this is an action item. So, do we want to move
32 forward or do we want to be removed and just not have
33 our name in the letter? Pretty simple.

34
35 MS. AHMOAGAK: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead.

38
39 MS. AHMOAGAK: Thank you, Jenysa Ahmaogak
40 for the record. I truly believe that we should be
41 supporting other regions. Especially if they are facing
42 issues just like this, because on our end, you know,
43 we're facing issues with caribou and on their end,
44 they're dealing with issues with fish and maybe one day
45 our support would actually benefit us and we'd get
46 support too. That's just my opinion.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I would be in
49 support of this. So, just my general standing. It sounds
50 like maybe this may be an attempt to put funding back in

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1 place that was removed. Maybe. Is that correct?

2

3 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, so, I do believe
4 that the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program funding
5 has continued to decline. That's partly the reason why
6 you look at the Priority Information Needs and I believe
7 our fisheries biologist, Anna Senecal, mentioned that
8 the funding continues to decrease. So yes, I believe so.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, yeah, I would
11 be in support, I think. So, what's the wish of the
12 Council? In the form of a motion.

13

14 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

17

18 MR. ADAMS: I'd like to make a motion in
19 support of this letter to the other regions.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, you've got a
22 motion on the floor to support the letter as written.

23

24 MR. BARGER: Second.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
27 Barger. Any discussion on the matter?

28

29 MS. AHMOAGAK: Questions.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
32 called for. All those in favor of approving the letter
33 as written, say aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
38 sign.

39

40 (No response)

41

42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing none. The
43 letter has passed in support. Gisela.

44

45 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Now
46 this leads us to the Federal Subsistence Board Draft
47 Communications Policy, and that will be presented by
48 Robbin La Vine.

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: You have the floor,
2 Robbin.

3
4 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
5 members of the Council here in the room and online. My
6 name is Robbin La Vine, I'm the Subsistence Policy
7 Coordinator for OSM. And I will be walking you through
8 this draft communication policy that was preliminarily
9 developed during this summer's work session. As you just
10 heard, at the summer's work session, this was the first
11 time we had a majority of Council Chairs and Council
12 representatives attending the summer work session. And
13 that's really important because the summer work session
14 focuses on your Regional Advisory Council annual
15 reports, any of your Council correspondence, and it also
16 focuses on Council nominations. So, it's a real Council-
17 focused session and it's a meeting that's open to the
18 public. Leading up to the work session, we recognize
19 there's a lot of challenges with -- and frustration with
20 the Council members and the Board members about being
21 responsive to annual reports, about being responsible -
22 - responsive to correspondence. And as we were
23 discussing the annual reports and the correspondence,
24 we were talking -- the Board was talking to Council
25 representatives face-to-face. So, this was the first
26 time Council representatives could actually really
27 provide backup and context to the reports or further
28 background information to letters.

29
30 So, the Board directed staff to come up
31 with this policy and explain how it responds to both
32 correspondence and annual reports. So, that's why it's
33 called a communication policy. And it's supposed to
34 define what the Board will and will not respond to or
35 basically how the Board is going to respond. One of the
36 primary purposes of this policy is to create a public-
37 facing document. Will be posted on the website. It's
38 meant to provide general direction. And one of the first
39 messages that came out of this summer's meeting was that
40 the Board will respond directly -- and this is the
41 Federal Subsistence Board, will respond directly to
42 anything within its relatively narrow authority. And
43 that authority is over subsistence take of fish and
44 wildlife on Federal public lands. So, that's really
45 regulations, right?

46
47 If an issue is outside of the Federal
48 Subsistence Board's authority, such as funding,
49 projects, or State management, the Board may elevate
50 those issues to the Secretaries of the Interior and

1 Agriculture and only those Secretaries. The Board will
2 not forward Council communications directly to the
3 Congressional Delegation, State authorities or other
4 Federal Department Secretaries. So, basically this
5 communications policy acknowledges that the Board's
6 primary authorities are the Secretaries of the Interior
7 and the Secretaries of Agriculture. Anything that the
8 Board cannot act on or respond to goes through them or
9 to them. So, that information will be represented in the
10 draft communication policy that you see before you. We
11 recognize that timelines for Board responses have been
12 continual concerns for many Councils. And we want to
13 acknowledge that. Putting a time frame in this policy
14 may set the Board up for policy violations if deadlines
15 can't be met. Therefore, we haven't said we will respond
16 within a particular amount of time. One possible
17 solution could be updates on outstanding correspondence
18 as a standing agenda item at every Council-Board
19 meeting.

20
21 So, I'm wondering, actually, how many
22 letters does this Council produce? Are you guys big
23 letter writers to the Board? No? So, that's not going
24 to mean as much to you guys. As far as the annual report
25 goes, the Board is really interested in focusing on the
26 part of your responsibility as a Council, which is to
27 keep them informed on the important issues in your
28 region. So, an annual report does not have to be a bucket
29 list of complaints or issues you want changed. You don't
30 have to ask for anything in -- during an annual report.
31 You need to share your knowledge, your expertise, your
32 observations because this is a public document that
33 tracks your emerging issues, sometimes at the very get-
34 go, right? Before they're documented in any other
35 reports. So, the Board wants to focus on that. The Board
36 wants to focus on bringing the Council representatives,
37 the Council Chair, to each summer meeting to present
38 your information to the Board, so the Board is informed,
39 the Board understands what's happening across your
40 region. And this is also a time for the Council Chairs
41 or Council representatives to see how much overlap there
42 may be. So, from here, I heard you already acknowledge,
43 like, sounds like the rest of the State has a fish
44 problem, and we don't have that up here. But you are
45 recognizing that your region and many of the other
46 regions have a caribou problem. And when we hear about
47 the caribou from a number of different regions at the
48 same time, it really paints a full picture. It helps the
49 Board understand what's on the line when they make
50 decisions on regulations.

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1
2 So, with that being said, while this is
3 still a draft policy, we recognize this potential change
4 may affect how the Council writes your annual reports
5 from here on out and what topics you may choose to
6 include. And this concludes my overview. If you have any
7 comments on this, any comments on the draft policy,
8 please share them now and we will take this back to the
9 Board.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any comments,
12 questions, suggestions, concern, from the Council for
13 Robbin on the communications procedures policy?

14
15 (No response)

16
17 Hearing none. And this is actionable,
18 no? Just information?

19
20 MS. CHAPA: Yes, Mr. Chair, it's
21 informational and then any discussion that the Council
22 wants to have on an issue will be enough information
23 that could be provided back to the Board. It doesn't
24 have to be in the form of a motion or anything, like,
25 it could just be general discussion.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think we're okay.
28 We wrote a letter once and they came back and said,
29 sorry, we can't help you. Thank you, Mr. Christianson.
30 Not knocking. Good guy. No questions, sounds like. Thank
31 you very much for the information. And yeah, maybe we'll
32 work on our letter writing skills here, or at least
33 putting pertinent information. Yeah. Thank you. What do
34 we have next? Gisela

35
36 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am
37 going to go over the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report
38 Reply from the Federal Subsistence Board to the North
39 Slope RAC. And this report is in page 135 of our meeting
40 materials. I will mention that this is informational and
41 this is not an action item, but the action -- but the
42 items that follow this item, will be. Okay. So, if you
43 recall last year, the Council developed the Fiscal Year
44 25 Annual Report. And you had one topic in the report
45 that range from monitoring issues, State and Federal
46 enforcement issues, collaboration, all related to
47 caribou. So, important to note of the Board's response
48 to the Council, is that the Board's jurisdiction on some
49 of the Council's asks in the report were rather limited.
50 And the Council already knew this as you were even

1 developing this report, but you felt that it was
2 important to make these recommendations to the Board,
3 regardless. About law enforcement presence and
4 collaboration, the Board also noted that 2 neighboring
5 Councils, the Northwest Arctic and the Eastern Interior,
6 have also reported similar issues, in recent years. And
7 they -- the -- in your report reply, Enclosure 1, which
8 is page 138 of your meeting materials, is a letter that
9 was recently sent by the Eastern Interior Council to the
10 Federal land managers informing them of their concerns
11 and the recommendations to address the issue of air
12 taxis, transporters in the region. And the Board
13 encouraged the North Slope Regional Advisory Council to
14 work with these other Councils or submit a letter to
15 Federal managers of the region expressing also your
16 concerns.

17
18 The Board also encouraged the Council
19 to engage with the Wildlife Troopers in the form of a
20 letter for increased collaboration and direct
21 communication. And I do believe that yesterday we had
22 Major Aaron Frenzel call in and the Council can submit
23 an official -- like a letter on behalf of the Council
24 to the Wildlife Troopers expressing all of the concerns
25 and the issues that you've seen in the region. As an
26 official form of a report that the Wildlife Troopers
27 could follow up on. And if you so choose to write this
28 letter, that will have to come in the form of a motion
29 and a second and a vote. Okay. Another recommendation
30 from the Board is to engage Federal and State law
31 enforcement officers in your meetings, as well as ASRC
32 and the North Slope Borough to help address concerns --
33 address the concerns that you expressed in the annual
34 report. And at this meeting, we've had the engagement
35 and the presence of the North Slope Borough Planning
36 Department and some of their inspectors and their staff.
37 They're aware of your concerns. We've also had the
38 presence of BLM law enforcement rangers. And I believe
39 that we had a law enforcement officer from the Fish and
40 Wildlife Service who called into the meeting earlier
41 today. I'm not sure if he's still online. But -- so, we
42 are doing that as a Council, trying to engage more law
43 enforcement officers and exchange that information so
44 that they're aware of the issue. And on the issue of the
45 factors that impact caribou migration, the Board
46 provided a list of references published by the National
47 Park Service in Enclosure 2 of your report. And yeah,
48 lastly, the Board encourages the Council Chair to
49 continue this dialogue through the Board's Summer Work
50 Sessions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Gisela.
Any questions from the Council?

(No response)

Go ahead, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: And I have heard Council Member Hugo express her concerns with deflection of caribou, people being impacted when they're trying to harvest -- practice subsistence of harvest caribou by other users in her region. And I believe, Mr. Chair, you also shared that earlier in the year there were issues in 26A about some hunters that were rescued. So, if the Council wants to share these specific concerns with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, again, this would come in the form of a letter. And basically in the form of a motion from the Council, I'll draft the letter, submit it to you for review and approval before it gets sent out.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, if I recall, I think that's what we sent a letter on last time and they basically said they wouldn't help us or couldn't help us. It wasn't in their realm. Go ahead.

MS. CHAPA: If I may, that may have been a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board. And yes, and the Board stated in the reply that their jurisdiction is fairly limited, but they're encouraging the Council to pursue other ways to help address the issue. And it'd probably be in the best interest of the Council to send a letter to the Wildlife Troopers with these concerns and see if there's some follow-up that could happen.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That sounds good. We're also directly in touch with BLM as well. So, we're going to get you guys that stuff.

MS. CHAPA: And Cody Smith is available, but he is with U.S. Fish and Wildlife's law enforcement office based out of Fairbanks. He chimed in on the chat, just wanted to share that. But anyway so, if the Council wants to send a letter to the Wildlife Troopers, it'll have to -- it's an action. in the form of a motion.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, what do we want? To send a letter to the Wildlife Troopers as the Regional Advisory Council for the North Slope?

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1 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

4

5 MS. HUGO: Thank you, (indiscernible). I
6 just wondered or I should say, will this be working? And
7 we can give it a try here or around our area. And I
8 would support this, because, you know, they're -- the
9 troopers are in Bettles, Coldfoot, maybe Prudhoe Bay.
10 To eliminate or the disturb our caribou migration that's
11 been happening for so long. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.
14 And I think we have enough to go off of. There are
15 closures -- certain closures in effect. I think more
16 investigative efforts need to be done to ensure that
17 these closures are actually being monitored and abided
18 by. So, I think that kind of warrants maybe we should
19 discuss with them at least for those particular closure
20 areas that are being infringed upon. So, thank you. So,
21 what's the wish of the Council? Do we want to send a
22 letter to the Wildlife Troopers?

23

24 MR. ADAMS: Yeah, we can send a letter
25 to the Wildlife Troopers.

26

27 MR. BARGER: Second. Okay. Mr. Chair. I
28 make a motion to write a letter to the troopers.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there's a motion
31 on the floor to send a letter to the Wildlife Troopers.
32 Any second?

33

34 MS. HUGO: Second.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Esther
37 Hugo. Any discussion on the matter? So, I think it should
38 be as discussed. We did discuss that there are specific
39 closures in effect and there are reasons to believe that
40 certain areas are still being flown into by commercial
41 air carriers and flying hunters into areas that may be
42 potentially in that closed area. So, I believe that
43 should be reason enough for us to write a letter formally
44 as the North Slope RAC. Any other discussion on the
45 matter?

46

47 (No response)

48

49 MR. BARGER: Question.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been
2 called for. All those in favor of sending a letter to
3 the Wildlife Troopers, for the reasons discussed, say
4 aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
9 sign.

10 (No response)

11
12 Hearing none. Sounds like we're writing
13 a letter. All right. We continuing on?

14
15 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Gisela
16 Chapa. Now, next up, we have: Identify Issues For The
17 2026 Annual Report To The Federal Subsistence Board.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Robbin,
20 you have the floor again.

21
22 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
23 members of the Board. Myself, actually, and my
24 colleague, Mr. Brett Vickers from the Interagency Staff
25 Committee representing BLM. We're both here to help
26 facilitate your identification of topics for the annual
27 report. And this kind of goes along with the presentation
28 I gave on the communication policy. Which is basically
29 the focus on important issues, observations and trends
30 in your region that can help the Board make informed
31 decisions. Even if they're not like about proposals that
32 are coming up, if you see something that is critical
33 that impacts your subsistence way of life -- oh.

34
35 MS. CHAPA: And just for those not in the
36 room, just to let you know what's happening, the BLM LEO
37 Rangers are on their way out and just making sure that
38 there's connections and networking happening.

39
40 MS. LA VINE: So, thank you. While
41 they're saying goodbye, just for the folks -- Council
42 members that are here in the room and listening online,
43 you shared a lot of information during this meeting.
44 Some of it was during your Council member reports, which
45 I thought were very informative, very interesting, some
46 through the discussion. A lot of what you discussed here
47 today could be part of an annual report. For example, I
48 heard -- let me just look, I took some notes. I heard
49 somebody describe receding water, islands emerging in
50 the channels outside their community, which really

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1 prevented people from being able to move around and
2 practice their subsistence way of life the way they
3 usually do. That was interesting to me. I heard that
4 there are a lot of wolves, bears, and foxes that are
5 coming into the village, because they are hungry,
6 because the caribou are not being harvested nearby, or
7 they're not coming close to the villages. I have heard
8 that there are summer recreationalists getting stuck out
9 on the land and that takes local resources. I heard a
10 number of people harvest moose, which folks reported as
11 being kind of unusual, but potentially becoming more
12 common. I heard people report that there were -- the
13 fishing was good this year. That there was no disease
14 found in the birds or the fish, that people were catching
15 fat, healthy animals. That kind of information is good
16 to have.

17
18 And of course, plenty more. So, I --
19 those were things that I picked out during your Council
20 member reports. And I don't know if Brent heard anything
21 during discussions during the last 2 days, but I'm sure
22 he heard a lot. I heard lots. He heard the same things
23 I heard. But it's up to you all to decide what you think
24 is most important to share with the Federal Subsistence
25 Board so they can be informed about what's happening in
26 your region.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTS: All right. Any
29 questions, comments, concerns for Robbin? Anything else
30 there, Brett?

31
32 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 This is Brent Vickers, BLM. I think it's worthwhile --
34 you guys had hours of discussion and contemplation about
35 the proposals for the caribou, West Arctic Caribou Herd.
36 I think it's worthwhile to note in your annual report
37 the issues you're having, I mean every -- why it's so
38 hard for you guys to make recommendations on these
39 things. Because you're dealing with -- you're trying to
40 help your people, but notice -- recognizing the decline
41 of the caribou. All the jurisdiction issues. You know,
42 what's dealing with the State lands and then the Federal
43 lands. And then the fact that communities are actually
44 surrounded by State-managed lands. And so, it's just so
45 hard to make a -- one, kind of, blanket recommendation.
46 I think all of that stuff you considered going into one
47 for the Board just to read. I think that that would be
48 particularly helpful. Even though they're gonna have the
49 Board of Game's gonna [sic] meet in, what is it, January,
50 and then the Federal Subsistence Board will act on the

1 special actions, it's very likely that there will be new
2 proposals. Because the special actions will run out in
3 2 seasons that, you know, and there's going to be new
4 wildlife regulation proposals coming up. And so, reading
5 -- you're like kind of summarizing, like, rather than
6 we support or oppose, but like, this is why it's so hard
7 for us to make a decision would, I think, be helpful for
8 the Board to go forward. That's all. Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I would have to
11 agree. I don't even think I'm done arguing with myself
12 about that one. There's, I mean, I do see some massive
13 benefits, but there's going to be a handful of locations
14 that are definitely going to take a loss because of it.
15 But I know one of them would just make me completely
16 happy is just to have a closure on State fly-in hunters,
17 like State approved lands just north of AKP. If that
18 closure were to take effect, I would be happy just for
19 that fact. I think it's been like 30 years that we've
20 been hearing about this in meetings. There's never been
21 a closure of that. So, if that were to take place, that
22 would be a win in itself. Just to have AKP have some
23 kind of closure for the fly-in sport hunters north of
24 them, just to see what it does. If it would make an
25 effect on their migration patterns, that would be, you
26 know, something to document. That would be something
27 [sic] research. I don't know, maybe we can put that in
28 a proposal and close it for 2 years and we'll research
29 what happens and just see if it happens. But yeah, it's
30 definitely one that we're going to be wrestling with if
31 the decline happens. Well, it is happening, but if it
32 reaches the threshold then, you know we're gonna have
33 to hash this out and I think it would be good if we
34 hashed it out beforehand and expected it. Versus trying
35 to do it on a reaction phase. So, I don't know a little
36 bit proactive on this would be -- I think it'll take us
37 a long ways. So, just don't be reactive to it. Expect
38 it. No surprises, you know. That would -- I think that
39 would be greatly beneficial is to know what's coming,
40 and to have some form of control over it, at least make
41 us think we do. I don't know. But this kind of stuff is,
42 is great to discuss. Anything else from the Council?
43 Todd, Honorary Council member.

44
45 MR. SFORMO: Present. Todd Sformo, North
46 Slope Borough. I guess one of the things I was wondering
47 about was one of the new PINs was to look at maybe
48 compensation of using more species, a different species
49 than one that's declining. And so, and I'm just making
50 this up, but if things got so bad with caribou, one of

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1 the likely places might be Wainwright. And yet, a big
2 subsistence fish there is in the lagoon. So, the whole
3 Federal Subsistence Board, I don't think would be
4 wanting to look at that, or can't look at that. Because
5 it's not exactly the waterway that qualifies. So, I could
6 be wrong, but I mean, if that's a problem, you might
7 want to just consider this kind of -- yeah, yeah, at
8 least, yeah. So, thank you.

9

10 MS. LA VINE: So, Mr. Chair, once again,
11 we're talking about your North Slope Regional Advisory
12 Council's Annual Report. And what are the issues that
13 you've discussed, what are the issues that you've heard
14 about in your communities that you think are really
15 important to share with the Board. And I found your
16 discussion regarding the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,
17 the Teshekpuk Herd, and a number of issues in your region
18 to be really relevant, and whether or not it comes in
19 the form of a recommendation just having a public record
20 of your unique circumstances here on the North Slope
21 regarding caribou, I think would be valuable.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think if there's
24 something that sticks out to me, is that on both ends
25 of the North Slope, we have other regions that are, you
26 know, they have kind of a foothold on 2 of the herds
27 that we subsist on. And we generally don't have a problem
28 with caribou up north. I think the problem is -- I won't
29 say the caribou is not the problem because it is, but
30 if they're not the main portions of it. But it's outside
31 entities that are making the threat to our locations.
32 It's in a sense like.....

33

34 So, there lies the problem. A lot of our
35 issues are outside entities coming in. It's a, you know,
36 a lot of them not from Alaska, but it's -- if there's
37 one thing that we don't have right now is like a home
38 problem here. With a lot of our, at least the larger
39 areas that take a lot more. We don't have an issue with
40 our -- the Teshekpuk Herd and it seems like the trending
41 is going upwards. So, it seems like a lot of the resource
42 issues that we have seem to be stemming from somewhere
43 else. So, that's what I think. Just my thoughts. But as
44 far as an annual report, though, that's just me in my
45 opinion. But I will say though, some of the other annual
46 report stuff that we had discussed have been somewhat
47 mitigated, especially like the -- upping the muskox
48 numbers. That was definitely a portion that I had put
49 onto our annual report like a year or 2 ago. So, the
50 muskox permit numbers have gone up and it seems like

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1 people are actually taking them. Now I actually traded
2 for some from one of the guys that got a permit, so
3 yeah, those are definitely working. Although I haven't
4 gotten a permit yet. But it's working and it's effective.
5 So, some of the stuff in the annual reports, I am seeing
6 actual change and improvement done. So, appreciative of
7 that. Anybody else got anything? Gisela.

8
9 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And so,
10 I was just gonna go over the process again of the annual
11 report. So, what Robbin and Brent have basically shared
12 with the Council is like a summary of things that could
13 be relevant items to include in the Fiscal Year 26 Annual
14 Report to the Federal Subsistence Board. As far as
15 process goes, the Council needs to select the topics
16 that you really want to push forward to the Board in
17 this report. And then I will re-listen to the meeting,
18 try to understand the context of the discussion to draft
19 the report. I'll present it -- I'll bring it back to the
20 Council at the winter meeting. And at that time you all
21 can make edits to what's in it, you just can't add
22 additional topics. And again, the finalized version of
23 the report then goes to the Federal Subsistence Board
24 at their work session -- their summer work session,
25 sometime in the summer. And that could be a platform or
26 an opportunity to discuss the items that are in your
27 report with more detail. Because a letter sometimes
28 isn't super, like the best way to communicate and share
29 information. And the report could serve as an insight
30 into the region for those decision makers that aren't
31 here to, you know, look at all the complicated
32 jurisdictions that you all deal on a day-to-day basis.

33
34 Yes, so this is your opportunity to
35 draft a report. Again, all you -- all the Council has
36 to do is, select the topics that you want. I will draft
37 the report based on the discussions that you've already
38 had from the meeting, and I'll bring a draft to you at
39 the winter meeting. And so, here's basically what the
40 bigger thing that took the longest time to discuss. That
41 while you all were trying to make a decision on the
42 Board of Game proposal, it was Proposal 6 on that
43 threshold limit. And all the complications and
44 implications of potentially supporting or not supporting
45 that proposal that could paint a better picture about
46 those complexities that you experience on a day to day
47 basis as a subsistence user, as you know, a resident of
48 the region, and it can provide better context to the
49 Board. And yeah, so that's -- that was the biggest
50 discussion that dominated in the meeting. In the past,

1 the Council has expressed a lot of concern about
2 enforcement. Those enforcement issues are still out
3 there. The Board might not have jurisdiction, but it
4 could continue to serve as a record of the issue. And
5 what else have I heard? In the previous meeting, not
6 necessarily this meeting, the Council talked a lot about
7 the need for outreach, education, the public to be
8 engaged. And it's not necessarily something that the
9 Council could do, I mean, the Council, the Board could
10 do something about. But again, it could just serve as
11 an indication of a need in the community that we need
12 to do a little more outreach. So, those were the three
13 major things that stood out to me as a listener, but not
14 necessarily the topics that the Council has to select.
15 It can be more. If it was provided in the context of a
16 discussion that was had in the meeting, then I will have
17 an opportunity to re-listen to the meeting and make sure
18 that I develop those topics for the report.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, what
21 do we want to add to this annual topics report? I would
22 definitely put down that this year we had a fall-through
23 of communication for the closure that we had. That was
24 discussed openly in a Fish and Game Management Committee
25 meeting that I attended. So, it sounds like Point Hope
26 wasn't aware of the closure, hadn't reached at least
27 even some of the Fish and Game Management Committee
28 members. So, outreach and maybe effective communications
29 with the communities. Sounds like it was being mitigated
30 already but that, you know, I would put down as maybe
31 we can be a good avenue for outreach or resources for
32 that. How do we want to word this threshold issue?

33
34 I definitely want to put down that I
35 wish there was some kind of visual threshold for like,
36 when do you start adjusting the non-federally qualified
37 users, sport hunters, or commercial fly-in recreational
38 use, even the ones that -- there's got to be a better
39 way to go after at least the ones that are fly-and-do-
40 it-yourself hunters, because they're less regulated, but
41 still commercial. Because then you don't know what
42 they're going in for, they're just flying somebody in.
43 And, you know, you don't know if they're caribou hunting
44 because they don't have to report that, because they're
45 not guides at that point. So, be a little more cautious
46 of who we're flying in and when, especially when there's
47 closures. So, the threshold though, I'm getting into the
48 weeds of that. The threshold, it should just, you know,
49 just like you have the number for when we're starting
50 to change subsistence. That shouldn't be the first

1 threshold line we see on there. We should be seeing the
2 ones, when do you start changing the number of commercial
3 sport hunters and guided hunts. It should be before --
4 well before the changing of subsistence users. I realize
5 this one's a State meeting, but, you know, if they're
6 gonna reflect this type of stuff within the Federal side
7 as well, you know, they typically try to reflect things,
8 you know, we should have some kind of notification.
9 Because normally when we ask about these things, they're
10 just like, well, we did change some things. Well, what's
11 the threshold? Where's the threshold? So, Brent.

12
13 MR. VICKERS: Brent Vickers, BLM. As a
14 suggestion, I think that's a great idea. And from my
15 understanding, it's the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
16 Working Group that develops these recommendations and
17 thresholds. And there is a West Arctic Caribou Herd
18 Working Group in December -- meeting in December, in
19 Anchorage. I believe you have a West Arctic Caribou Herd
20 Working Group representative somewhere in this general
21 table. Perhaps he, or I will also be there. And I could,
22 voice, that your -- your thoughts on that. Of developing
23 at thresholds for non-resident hunters and then, what a
24 non-local, since this is a working group and I'm not so
25 sure how open they are to Federally qualified versus
26 non-federally qualified, but. Essentially fly-in
27 hunters, such like that, and look at thresholds to get
28 a little bit more nuanced on what these different levels
29 would look like. And so, it's not just a -- you want to
30 keep more -- a ratio that there's more going to
31 subsistence with each -- as you decline, a larger
32 proportion go to subsistence is what I think you're
33 visualizing.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, I mean, it
36 doesn't have to be centralized. I mean, I know they're
37 having a meeting coming up, but it should be for more
38 than just caribou. For -- there should be a guideline
39 for everything. If you're within a certain threshold of
40 whatever animal it is that you're using, so it doesn't
41 have to be just for this one herd. It should be for
42 anything in general. There should be some type of
43 population threshold limit, the TLV, threshold limit
44 value. So, it's a -- go ahead, Leonard.

45
46 MR. BARGER: Yes, I know you're talking
47 about threshold. There's a lot of, you know, I see a lot
48 of -- if you go to YouTube or TikTok, you see a lot of
49 guys from down States fly on the coast looking for a
50 walrus tusk. And these are not Natives. They're all

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1 flying and stuff. So, I, you know, really, you know,
2 watch that stuff. And, you know, I'd bring it up
3 sometimes and I'd say, hey, nobody's not watching them.
4 And there was this guy, he's based out of Anchorage, he
5 lives in Anchorage, but, you know, he goes on the coast
6 and, you know, he got some walrus tusks and cut tusks
7 and brought it home, I guess. I don't, you know, those
8 kind of thresholds too, like they're always bringing
9 them. So, yeah.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Turn to Fish and
12 Wildlife. Any other -- anyways, we'll write that down.
13 I don't think I'll dive anymore into that. We'll write
14 it down as an issue. Let's see, annual report. Anything
15 else to put in for the annual report? Go ahead, Robbin.

16
17 MS. LA VINE: Is there anything unusual
18 in regards to trends that you've noticed? Doesn't have
19 to be like, you know, a bad trend. But is there anything
20 you know population declines or population increases?
21 Are you seeing other fish and wildlife in your region
22 that you didn't see before? Those kind of things are
23 also kind of interesting to track in the public record.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, yeah, predators
26 should be a pretty easy shoe-in for this year. Wolf.
27 Wolf is high in numbers. Obviously don't have any
28 population numbers going, but it seems like every other
29 day we've got somebody posting videos or -- of wolves
30 howling next to them. Yesterday we had -- they estimated
31 8 to 12 wolf next to some guys that were drifting down
32 the Colville. Then we've got videos of wolf at Wainwright
33 within the same week. Wolf near Atkasuk last week. So,
34 it seems like -- and Anaktuvuk. Anaktuvuk's got wolf
35 running around their locations pretty frequently. So, I
36 would put down that it's a -- it's been a high predator
37 year in regards to wolf. There have been some brown
38 bears sighted, but they were actually dispatched of as
39 well. So, wolf I would say would fit the bill this year.
40 I would put down wolf, high wolf numbers across the 26A,
41 at least. I haven't heard anything about 26B or C. The
42 26A in its entirety is a high wolf year. Go ahead,
43 Leonard.

44
45 MR. BARGER: Again, was just reminding
46 me. I said it in my report, on the Point Hope report.
47 So, you know, we've seen some wolffish. So, those are
48 unusual. So, those are new. And also, sheefish. So, I
49 just wanna..... They're like piranhas, they're real --
50 got real.... sheefish in Point Hope, yeah.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, sheefish and
3 wolffish. Wolffish. Not wolves, wolffish. So, the.....
4

5 MR. BARGER: I took a picture of it and
6 I sent it to Billy. And so, Raphael showed me the picture
7 of the fish, you know, and she told me it was a wolffish.
8 So, that was unusual for here.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. I want
11 to put something down for the last issue we were having
12 with..... I need a brain break. So, with our -- not our
13 jurisdictional issue, but the 26A as a whole, you know,
14 I think that I would put that entire discussion down for
15 the annual report. That we need to be having this
16 discussion to a larger scale and maybe even a workshop.
17 Yeah, that's a pretty big ask, but once again, we're
18 looking at a threshold. We'll have to meet that threshold
19 in order to -- but it's there. It's definitely something
20 that is a possibility for us to be seeing. I don't know
21 how to word that, but I would put that in the annual
22 report. Go ahead, Gisela.
23

24 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, I'm
25 trying to just figure out if I'm capturing all of the
26 items, to be included in the report. So, the first one
27 that was brought up was about the need for outreach and
28 effective communication with rural communities in the
29 region as a need. And you specifically mentioned the
30 fall-through on communication, the cow closure. I
31 believe that was on the State side, but the Federal side
32 also had a cow closure, not sure how that went through.
33 You also mentioned a threshold issue, a visual threshold
34 to address other hunters that are harvesting caribou.
35 And then you both chimed in and shared a couple of
36 current trends in the region. It was mentioned that it's
37 been a high predator year for wolves. Not -- there was
38 no specific unit mentioned, but it would be helpful to
39 note, if relevant. And then the presence of sheefish and
40 wolffish in Point Hope, which is unusual, I believe.
41

42 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: 26A for the wolf.
43

44 MS. CHAPA: And 26A for the wolf. And
45 then you also just mentioned the threshold of 26A as a
46 whole, but I'm not quite sure what that means.
47

48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, the -- not for
49 the threshold -- 26A, well, I guess it would be the
50 threshold issue. Or moreover, the action that would be

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1 taken once we hit that threshold. That's kind of what
2 I'm looking at is, why are we having a complete closure?
3 Because, you know, there's more than adequate
4 information about another herd that we subsist on as our
5 main herd for the majority of 26A. So, it seems like
6 there are decisions that are wanting to be made to close
7 our unit without having adequate discussions or adequate
8 information being looked at. It seems like they're one-
9 track-minded to go directly shutting down your whole
10 region just because our caribou is low. Doesn't focus
11 on our concerns here. Yes, Robbin.

12
13 MS. LA VINE: Mr. Chair, with that
14 clarification, that, you know, that -- what happens when
15 you reach a particular threshold, especially in your
16 region where you've got other caribou herds in the mix,
17 other regions may not have that same thing. You could
18 also, just direct or ask for a summary of your discussion
19 that occurred during the Board of Game proposals.
20 Because that covered the tension, you know, if we do
21 this, this might benefit, but this might be the downside.
22 And so, just capturing that, is -- would keep that
23 discussion, not just in the transcripts, but you know,
24 in a document that is more easy to find. So, I just
25 would -- I found your discussion, between the Council
26 members, online, in the room, staff, to be really, really
27 informative.

28
29 MS. CHAPA: And so, Mr. Chair, if I may.
30 So, I have 1, 2, 3, main topics basically. Communication,
31 the threshold issue, which involves -- it's like a pretty
32 broad issue. I think I could elaborate a lot more on
33 that in the draft report presented to the Council. And
34 then a couple of trends that were identified by Council
35 members.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay. All right.
38 Anything else? Robbin.

39
40 MS. LA VINE: Just for clarity, when you
41 say the threshold issue, maybe you can say the caribou
42 or Western Arctic Caribou Herd threshold issue that --
43 that'll help focus. Thanks.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: A lot of thresholds
46 we're talking about. Anybody else, any other Council
47 member got anything to add to the annual report? Anybody
48 online?

49
50 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, go ahead.

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MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, this Esther. I just want to thank you for the comments you had put on. That was very strong felt. (Indiscernible) my people behind me, I'm sure they hear you. I'll probably take a closer look. (Distortion). This time of the year, you're looking out the window (distortion) and almost feel that the caribou are just right up the line, so we're beginning to feel it be coming our way, which it's not. We got hope and fully they'll come.

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MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. I'm more than happy to be fighting for your side of the territory here. So, it's -- yeah, if there's anything we can do to make things better over there, you know, I would be all for that.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, go ahead. Who's online?

MS. ITTA: This is Martha. I just had a question. I didn't hear much about the enforcement portion of it, like the consequences and how enforcing the regulations and making sure that they're helping with our subsistence issues. Is that something that can be in the annual report? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, we will put that in now.

MR. YASKA: Mr. Chair, this is George.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, George, you have the floor.

MR. YASKA: Well, thank you. Yeah, George Yaska, Native Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I had a clarification, a question, when you talk about intensive management. The -- your neighbor, Northwest Arctic, had requested last summer, last fall, I think it was, of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game a review for intensive management. That along with all of your other cutbacks in hunting opportunity and considering all of the sacrifices that you guys are making, that they wanted to see where they were in terms of the numbers of grizzly, numbers of wolves in the

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1 region, and the effect of predators upon the herd, the
2 precise effect on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. And
3 so, when you say intensive management, I was asking for
4 a clarification where you -- is that what you were
5 talking about or is this the Board of Game intensive
6 management threshold? I wasn't clear on that
7 specifically. Perhaps if the ADF&G person is still there
8 for the Board of Game. Or did you guys ask for review
9 for intensive management for predator control?

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it was for the
12 -- which one was that?

13
14 MS. LA VINE: Proposal 23. Board of Game
15 Proposal 23.

16
17 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. I'm sorry, Gisela
18 Chapa. I think I'm a little confused. So, intensive
19 management was Board of Game Proposal 21 and 23, which
20 the Council acted on to submit comments. But then when
21 we're talking about the threshold that was in reference
22 to Proposal 6, which was the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
23 population threshold.

24
25 MR. YASKA: Of 75,000.

26
27 MS. CHAPA: Yes, of 75,000. So, the
28 Council had a very lengthy discussion about the
29 implications of Proposal 6, which would implement a
30 threshold that if the caribou population decline below
31 the -- that 75,000 threshold, it would basically
32 implement a closure. And I see Carmen Daggett over there.
33 Okay. So, the Council had a very lengthy discussion about
34 the implications of what that proposal would mean to
35 residents of the North Slope Region. And I believe that's
36 what the Council was referring to when discussing this
37 threshold in the annual report.

38
39 MR. YASKA: That clarifies it. So, that's
40 what you mean by intensive management. And you are not
41 specifically referring to intensive management by
42 predator control.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No. So, my initial
45 question for the intensive management plan for the
46 Western Arctic Herd, Units 22, 23, and 26A Southwest.
47 So, what I would -- I just wanted clarification on that
48 from them earlier because it doesn't say whether they're
49 going to be changing things within the caribou herd or
50 the way they're going to be, I guess, administering

1 numbers or regulation-wise, or if they meant by changing
2 things within the predator control. So, but yeah, I think
3 that's -- my biggest concern was that they were, you
4 know, were they changing things within our take numbers
5 for an intensive management plan. And that wasn't the
6 case. So, that's kind of what I initially -- I was more
7 worried about asking the question. Because it doesn't
8 clarify in here whether they're doing this for the
9 predator side of it or if it was specifically going for
10 the caribou side of it. So, -- and they answered it
11 earlier. It wasn't something that they were using for
12 like a take, changing our take per person for like an
13 intensive management plan. It just didn't clarify in
14 there.

15
16 MR. YASKA: Okay. And then if I could ask
17 one more. Are your respondents from Point Hope and Point
18 Lay familiar with the grizzly populations and were they
19 rising or were they decreasing?

20
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I don't think we had
22 any discussion on that. But I don't know if we have
23 anybody here with the population. Carmen?

24
25 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
26 George. This is Carmen Daggett for the record with Alaska
27 Department of Fish and Game. Our understanding of brown
28 bear populations on the North Slope are pretty thin. We
29 do not have regular surveys for brown bears on the North
30 Slope. So, I would say that our -- we don't really have
31 a good population estimate for up here. If you're
32 wondering why, brown bear surveys are generally very
33 expensive. They cover huge swaths of area and the data
34 that we get from them is pretty -- it doesn't provide a
35 very good estimate. We get huge confidence intervals
36 that basically give us meaningless data. So, that's why
37 we have not been doing surveys for brown bears on the
38 North Slope. There was one that was done historically
39 by Harry Reynolds that was like in the 70s and we have
40 not really done that since. So, hopefully that answers
41 your question. Basically we don't have good brown bear
42 data for the North Slope.

43
44 MR. YASKA: Okay, thank you. Thank you,
45 Mr. Chair.

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47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah. Leonard, what
48 do you think? You guys seeing more or less brown bears
49 in Point Hope?

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MR. BARGER: I talked to quite a few hunters and even ladies that go pick berries way up there and they see a lot of brown bears and stuff, so yeah. But from previous years, so they.....

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That's the closest we got to a population estimate.

(Laughter)

MR. YASKA: Yeah, that's significant. Traditional knowledge. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, George, for your comments. Yep.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, to take us back to the agenda, this is an action item to identify the issues for the 2026 Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board. So far, the Council has 4 topics. One, which was communication. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd threshold issue. Current trends observed, and that includes predators, specifically wolves in 26A. And the presence of sheefish and wolffish in Point Hope, and then enforcement. So, if these are all of the topics for the report, they will require a motion and a second and a vote.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, and I would put in there if they're going to be on the topic of predator control, that we request that they move with 26A entirety as a request. I don't know. Is that something you guys would want? If they were looking into predator control for wolf and grizzlies.

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. So, the Federal....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Or even as some -- just a thought for later, you know, it doesn't have to be a proposal change.

MS. CHAPA: Okay. Got it.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: But just to put it down that we may be looking for -- is that something we would be interested in if they were already doing it in

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1 26A Southwest? Because they're -- they too have it in a
2 proposal. Is that something we would be looking at?

3

4 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

7

8 MR. ADAMS: I think that's something we
9 could look at for and then have a little more discussion
10 about, the Southwest area for 26A.

11

12 MS. CHAPA: So, Mr. Chair, I think what
13 you were referring to the predator control issue, is in
14 relation to the Board of Game proposal. That included
15 26A Southwest in the intensive management plan, right?
16 And so, that is an issue with the -- that the Board of
17 Game addresses through the proposal process. On the
18 Federal side, I think Robbin explained that the
19 management is left to each agency on the ground, and the
20 Board itself does not do predator control. Now, if the
21 Council believes that the issue of predator control is
22 important enough, the Council could choose instead of
23 including it in your annual report, submit a letter to
24 the Federal land managers to ask or inquire even, kind
25 of like what they do, to address predators. But -- and
26 I'll just leave it at that. If the Council wants to go
27 back and modify your comment to the intensive management
28 proposal, Board of Game proposal, we can do that as
29 well.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: That's alright.

32

33 MS. CHAPA: Okay.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, sorry. Anything
36 else for our annual report? It looks like they're looking
37 for a motion to.....

38

39 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, Esther.

42

43 MS. HUGO: Before we make a motion or we
44 go on further. It says, identify issues for FY 2026
45 Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board. That's
46 where we're at.

47

48 (Simultaneous speech)

49

50 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah.

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MS. HUGO: So, somewhere in the report, can we put the, or just for the record. We're still waiting for our caribou migration. It's been a long wait, cause we knew they would be here in September, like always, but never. We need to take action or to a proposal to the United Caribou Association of the Nunamiut. Where do we do that? Or what - how -- can it be in the annual meeting reports, the issue?

10

11

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yeah, we can write down the caribou issue that you're experiencing for the annual report. Just -- I guess we'll write down however you explain it to us and we'll write it down.

15

16

MS. HUGO: I would really appreciate. This Esther. It wouldn't be so much if we had our regular migration as always, but we've been doing this for so long. Get tiresome and like for me, for instance, right now I feel like I haven't done enough for my community or my people. Now we can put that in the issues for the report, I'd appreciate it. And maybe we can start somewhere along the line or before too long, before next year again, like I said last year. It's the same issue. It's still happening. Thank you.

26

27

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther. We'll get it written down for the annual report. Gisela.

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30

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And to Council Member Hugo, yes, I will add that to the annual report topic. But I wanted to let you know, like what that'll do. I will basically put it on paper and it's going to be a report provided to the Federal Subsistence Board to inform them that, the community of AKP is still waiting for caribou and explain more of the trend that you are seeing in your region. Does that sound good?

38

39

MS. HUGO: Yes, thank you.

40

41

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther. Anybody else have any input, or are we good for a motion?

43

44

MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make a motion to input the report as discussed.

46

47

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: There's a motion on the floor to input the annual report discussions as discussed.

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000106

1 MR. BARGER: Second.

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3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard
4 Barger. Any discussion on the matter?

5

6 MS. AHMOAGAK: Question.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
9 called for. All those in favor of approving the topics
10 for the annual report, say aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
15 sign.

16

17 (No response)

18

19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing none. We
20 have an annual report topics list. Gisela.

21

22 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay,
23 I'm just doing a post-check on our agenda. So, we just
24 have one more action item left. Okay, that is the Future
25 Meeting Dates. And then after that, we have a lot of
26 informational topics for the Council. That is the Update
27 on the Council Chairs Meeting on Alaska Salmon Crisis,
28 the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program Update
29 Reports and Other Business. And again, these are,
30 particularly other business, it's entirely informational
31 for the Council. Okay. And yeah, that is my update, Mr.
32 Chair.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, looks
35 like we'll move on to the last action item.

36

37 MS. CHAPA: And that will be me, Mr.
38 Chair. If you give me a second, I'll put the calendar
39 on the screen. So, just want to either confirm or change
40 the Winter '27 meeting date and location. Right now, our
41 Council is scheduled to meet February 23rd and 24th in
42 Utqiagvik for the Winter '27. I wanted to bring to your
43 attention that the Seward Peninsula and the Northwest
44 Arctic Councils had been discussing since their winter
45 meeting the need to meet together and talk about caribou.
46 And so, this -- they are aware that the North Slope RAC
47 is an important piece of that puzzle and wanted to see
48 if the Council can consider February 17 and 18 as your
49 Winter '27 meeting dates to have a joint Council meeting
50 with the Seward Pen and Northwest Arctic Regional

000107

1 Advisory Councils. And 2027 will be a Federal Wildlife
2 Regulatory Cycle. So, the winter meetings will coincide
3 with this regulatory cycle and an opportunity for the
4 Council to submit Federal Wildlife Proposals.

5
6 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

9
10 MR. ADAMS: So, Northwest Arctic and
11 Seward Peninsula, they've been wanting to meet. You
12 know, looking at the dates, February 17 and 18, we're
13 gonna be having our biannual (In Native). And we still
14 don't know what dates those are going to be. I think we
15 can have for potential days to be meeting in Kotzebue,
16 to meet with these 2 other RACs. Now, we can hash out
17 any discussions that we need to have. I'm guessing the
18 biggest one is gonna be the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,
19 which is why they want to have a joint meeting with us
20 along with their RACs as well.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, generally when
23 we have our (In Native), it's around the first or yes,
24 I would say it's normally around the 5th of February, I
25 would say. I think 17-18 might be okay, or a safe bet,
26 at least. But yeah, you're right, we don't have the
27 dates confirmed. But I think we can -- I don't know, I
28 would say set those. It seems like it's far enough away.
29 And if it changes, then maybe we'll just have to modify
30 along the way.

31
32 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

35
36 MS. CHAPA: Yeah. So, and I don't believe
37 that the Council needs to overlap those 2 days entirely.
38 There could be an opportunity to overlap at least 1 day,
39 either on the 17th or the 18th, so that you at least
40 have time to talk about this issue, together. The 3
41 Council. And alternative two, understanding that this
42 event, I can't pronounce it, could potentially be an
43 issue for North Slope RAC to meet on those dates. The
44 Council could select a couple of representatives from
45 your Council to attend the joint meeting between
46 Northwest Arctic and Seward Peninsula. But you wouldn't
47 have quorum, so you would just be there to listen and
48 perhaps provide your input you couldn't make any actions
49 or take any action as a Council. So, that's also a
50 potential alternative.

000108

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Leonard.

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MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Talking with the guys at the last meeting, and it's not
in record with them. That's why they said to be
determined. They were hoping it would be here in Barrow.
So, they wanted, even Louie, so yeah. They would see --
they wanted to come to Barrow, so they (In Native). So
-- but yeah, I just want to bring that up when I was at
Northwest RAC and also talking with Louie. They're
waiting for us to have the meeting, so they rather have
it here in Barrow than not, you know.

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MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

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MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

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MR. ADAMS: I think February 17 and 18
would be ideal. Because that would work for us as well
too.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Is that a motion?

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MR. ADAMS: That is in a motion.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. So, we've got a motion on the floor. February 17 and 18 for the North Slope RAC Winter Meeting 2027. That's to be determined. They'll come up with the best location

MR. BARGER: Second.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard Barger. Any discussion on the matter to be determined by Gisela and the group. So, any other discussion?

MR. BARGER: Question.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been called for. All those in favor of setting the Winter North Slope RAC meeting dates in February 17 and 18, 2027, say, aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign.

(No response)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing none. We have our winter meeting date set for February 17 and 18. Location to be determined.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Gisela Chapa, again. So, next up is the final action item of today's meeting and that is the Fall '27 Regional Advisory Council meeting dates. The North Slope had talked about meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass in October. So, your current dates are October 5th and 6th, 2027, in Anaktuvuk Pass.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Esther, does that work for you on Anaktuvuk Pass, October 5 and 6 of 2027?

MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

MS. HUGO: I move that we have our meeting here in Anaktuvuk Pass in the fall of 2027, October 5 and 6.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion on the floor to, looks like keep it in Anaktuvuk Pass, October 5 and October 6, 2027. Any second?

MR. BARGER: Second it.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Leonard Barger. Any discussion on the matter? It looks like it's same on the page. So, no change to the location and dates. Any other discussion?

MR. BARGER: Question.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question has been called for. All those in favor of having our Winter 2027 North Slope RAC meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass on October 5th and October 6th, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same sign.

(No response)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing none. Looks like we're going to Anaktuvuk Pass in October of 2027.

MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair, if I may.

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Gisela.

MS. CHAPA: I neglected to share a tiny detail that yeah, I apologize. So, the.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Do we need to set a second -- secondary.....

MS. CHAPA: Potentially, you may need to set a second -- okay. So -- and let me explain what's happening. So, the North Slope has one identified regional health community that is Utqiaġvik. So, all of your -- that is why all of your meetings happen here. Any meetings outside of this hub community need to go through our internal approval process. And so, I will go ahead and request approval, but in case that doesn't happen, it would be good for the Council to have a backup

000111

1 location such as your regional hub community.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any suggestions for
4 a backup community else other than, or are we just going
5 to make it Barrow for the backup? Leonard.

6

7 MR. BARGER: Chair. I would like to take
8 Wainwright, if possible. Okay, sorry. Let's have it in
9 Fairbanks.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Las Vegas? All
12 right. I don't know. Well, if we -- if they don't approve
13 Anaktuvuk Pass, they're probably not going to be in the
14 approving mood. So, how about we just make it Barrow as
15 a secondary backup. Do we have to motion that one for
16 the secondary? Form of a motion.

17

18 MR. ADAMS: Form of a motion to have
19 Barrow for backup. If we don't get approved for Anaktuvuk
20 Pass for our winter meeting.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right, we've got
23 a motion on the floor to have Barrow on -- as the North
24 Slope Regional Advisory Council Winter Meeting on
25 October 5th and October 6th as a backup secondary
26 location in case we do not get approved for Anaktuvuk
27 Pass. All those in favor -- oh wait, no, sorry.

28

29 MR. BARGER: Second.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded.

32

33 MR. ADAMS: Question.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
36 called for. All those in favor of approving Barrow as a
37 secondary location, say aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
42 sign.

43

44 (No response)

45

46 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing none.
47 Barrow is a back-up location for Winter 2027. Quincy.

48

49 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair I just got
50 information that our winter dates might be in conflict

000112

1 because we have our Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission in
2 Barrow, February 16 to 19, 2027. And I think (In Native)
3 is a week before that. So, those days might conflict for
4 our winter meeting. Cause I'm usually either -- both me
5 and my wife go to the AEWC meetings. February 16 to the
6 19th.

7
8 MS. CHAPA: And Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Gisela.

11
12 MS. CHAPA: So, if having that joint
13 meeting doesn't work because of dates, the Council can
14 still choose to send a representative to attend the joint
15 session. The joint session, excuse me, the joint
16 meeting, with Northwest Arctic and Seward Peninsula. And
17 so, I will also share that the Northwest Arctic Regional
18 Advisory Council already met and just set their winter
19 dates. And the Seward Peninsula Council meets October
20 14 and 15.

21
22 (Pause)

23
24 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

27
28 MR. ADAMS: I think even if we just have
29 a couple of members over there would be good. That way
30 they can get some of the information as what we discussed
31 at this fall meeting. And we can bring it over to the
32 possible Joint RAC Council meeting with the Northwest
33 Arctic Borough and the Seward Peninsula RAC as well.
34 Even if we don't take action items, at least our presence
35 there.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: I think that should
38 work. So, if they're already set for the days, yeah, I
39 think we'll stick with that. Just to where we don't have
40 a quorum, at least have the interaction and discussions.

41
42 MS. CHAPA: So, Mr. Chair, with that
43 said, the Council can -- we need to make 2 motions. So,
44 1 would be to establish your new winter meeting dates.
45 And the new motion will supersede the previous one, and
46 then choose the representatives to attend the Northwest
47 Arctic and Seward Pen RAC meetings.

48
49 Yeah, so, before confirming the Fall '27
50 meeting dates, member Adams made a motion for the North

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1 Slope RAC to meet on the 17 and 18. It was seconded by
2 Leonard and the motion carried by unanimous vote. And
3 so, excuse me, I guess the new information is that the
4 Eskimo -- Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission is meeting
5 the 17th through the 19th, which conflicts with the North
6 Slope RAC meeting. And so, if the Council needs to change
7 those meeting dates, 17th and 18th, you would have to
8 make a new to set your new Winter '27 meeting dates. And
9 if the Council wishes to send representatives to meet
10 with Northwest Arctic and Seward Peninsula, that also
11 requires a motion.

12
13 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

16
17 MR. ADAMS: I think in a motion, to set
18 new dates, I believe February 23 and 24 would work.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, there's a motion
21 on the floor to have our North Slope RAC meeting on
22 February 23-24, winter.....

23
24 MR. BARGER: Second.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Meeting February.
27 Seconded by Leonard Barger. Any discussion?

28
29 MR. BARGER: Question.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Question's been
32 called for. All those in favor of moving our dates to
33 February 23, 24, 2027, say aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
38 sign.

39 (No response)

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing none. We
42 have new dates. Form of a motion for the participants
43 for February 17 and 18. Anybody got any suggestions?
44 Form of a motion.

45
46 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

49
50

000114

1 MR. ADAMS: To attend those meetings over
2 with the Joint Council, I'd like to exclude myself with
3 my participation within the AEW. C.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Who would
6 we suggest is going?

7
8 MR. ADAMS: I'd like to make a motion to
9 send Leonard and Esther to the Joint Council meeting.
10 If they do so to accept.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any objection
13 before we move on with the second? Leonard and Esther?

14
15 MR. BARGER: I accept.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Esther, you're open
18 to going to the February 17-18 meeting. For a the
19 location, to be determined.

20
21 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes, Esther.

24
25 MS. HUGO: If the timing is right and all
26 goes through. Yes, I can.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, sounds good.
29 All right. Now, there's a motion on the floor to send
30 Leonard Barger and Esther Hugo to a location to be
31 determined for the Northwest Arctic RAC and the Seward
32 Peninsula RAC, February 17 and 18, 2027. Do I have a
33 second?

34
35 MR. ADAMS: Second.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Quincy.

38
39 MR. BARGER: Question.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
42 called for.

43
44 MS. ITTA: I have a question. Discussion,
45 Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Discussion. Go
48 ahead.

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50

000115

1 MS. ITTA: If they're unable to make it
2 the last minute, do we need to choose alternate?

3
4 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, we can do that
5 under discussion? Creating an alternate?

6
7 (Talking)

8
9 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sure, would you like
10 to put your name in as an alternate?

11
12 MS. ITTA: Yes, if I'm available and
13 nobody else isn't able to go.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Anything
16 else under discussion? Anybody else want to go? Question
17 was called for. All those in favor of approving our 2
18 participants with the exception of an alternate, say
19 aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed, same
24 sign.

25
26 (No response)

27
28 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing none. We
29 have our participants. Now are we done with action items?
30 All right. Gisela.

31
32 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 So, I will point you to page 30 of your supplemental
34 materials. This is an informational topic unless the
35 Council wants to -- I'll get to that in a few minutes.
36 Okay. So, you have a summary of a Chairs meeting that
37 happened right before the Federal Subsistence Board Work
38 Session. And why is this important and relevant to this
39 Council? It is relevant to you because it was the first
40 meeting where Council representatives met to discuss the
41 single topic of the Alaska Salmon Crisis. While this
42 issue doesn't necessarily impact this region, this
43 potentially can set the stage to help address other
44 subsistence issues such as caribou declines because
45 they're experienced across regions. And then because
46 this was the first meeting of its kind, the Chairs spent
47 time trying to find the beginning, you know, find common
48 ground, finding common strengths, identify challenges
49 that are faced by the Council, discussing opportunities
50 to work more collectively rather than tackling the

000116

1 salmon crisis itself. And one of the immediate outcomes
2 of this meeting was a request for the Board to pursue a
3 meeting with Council Chairs, the Board, and the
4 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to discuss
5 the salmon crisis.

6
7 And this request was sent up the chain
8 to the Secretaries on September 10th. You should also
9 have a copy, it's a handout of this letter for your
10 reference. And the rest of this document kind of like
11 summarizes some of the activities and the outcomes that
12 happened during the workshop. And among them came this
13 desired vision, identifying the obstacles that they need
14 to overcome and 3 main strategies that could lead the
15 group forward. Now you have the question of, so what?
16 So, this workshop was just the beginning, again, to try
17 to find a starting point to figure out what addressing
18 the salmon crisis would look like. And the most relevant
19 question for this Council is, would this Council want
20 to be part of this collective effort with the other
21 Councils and potentially meet as a group? And if the
22 answer is yes, I have some follow-up questions for you.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Anyone feel the need
25 to be part of the Alaska salmon in crisis? I don't think
26 we have any salmon issues up north or -- I don't think
27 that what was described pertains. So, it's up to the
28 Council though. What do you think? What are your
29 thoughts? Should we bypass this one? It's informational.

30
31 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Quincy.

34
35 MR. ADAMS: If it's an informational
36 thing, maybe we should keep it an informational
37 dialogue.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. So, are
40 we skipping this one for today? Yes.

41
42 MS. CHAPA: And so, next up on the agenda
43 is the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program Update.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. We
48 have.....

49
50 (Simultaneous speech)

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MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Anna again.
Oh, Martha, go ahead.

6

7

8 MS. ITTA: Hi. I couldn't get unmuted in
9 time before you guys went -- moved along, but I just had
10 a question on the salmon issue. I don't know if any of
11 you guys know or hear that we do get salmon up here.
12 Which is kind of rare to us by, you know, like we've
13 been asked, do you guys normally get salmon? Back in the
14 day, we didn't -- we would get some, but now we are.
15 We're getting more than we usually did back then. And
16 I'm wondering, you know, I've been asked like, is there
17 a connection to the salmon from the Interior and our
18 salmon that we're getting up here? Thank you.

18

19

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Todd.

20

21

22 MR. SFORMO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. This is
23 Todd Sformo, North Slope Borough Wildlife. Martha, we've
24 been looking into that. And what we're seeing is that
25 there is a real possibility that some of the salmon that
26 are on the North Slope are coming from the kind of the
27 Yukon area, but also there might be a number of them
28 coming from kind of the Japan-Russian area too. So, we
29 are looking for salmon heads in order to look at the
30 otoliths to look for any kind of hatchery marks and to
31 look at different chemicals in those otoliths to try to
32 pin down where the salmon are coming from. But there was
33 also a 2018 study that was conducted and elders from
34 Barrow and Nuiqsut were asked a number of questions and
35 the result was that -- it was sort of 50-50. Half of the
36 elders thought that the same amount of salmon in the
37 past are what we're seeing now. And then the other half
38 said, nah, there seems to be more. So, it was kind of
39 inconclusive from the elders point of view of things are
40 increasing or not, at least in 2018. Thanks.

40

41

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Did that

42

answer your question there, Martha?

43

44

45 MS. ITTA: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Thank you, Todd, for that. That's something that I
47 couldn't answer, getting some salmon in our net. Thank
48 you.

48

49

CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Anna, you

50

have the floor.

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3 MS. SENEAL: Thank you so much, Mr.
4 Chair. If I may, I'd like to circle back to the salmon
5 crisis workshop briefly, just to point out that -- one
6 of the intents of the -- so, I was privileged to
7 facilitate that workshop. That was a big honor and it
8 was very interesting and hopefully worthwhile. But one
9 of the outcomes is the opportunity to work collectively
10 in general, not just on salmon issues. And if that is
11 of interest to this Council, there is an opportunity for
12 Council Chairs or representatives, Vice Chairs, to meet
13 before the February Board meeting. And the topics have
14 not been discussed, but basically to continue to work
15 collectively as Regional Advisory Councils together as
16 opposed to within your region alone. And you already
17 work collectively. You're meeting or you're sending
18 representatives regularly to attend Seward Pen,
19 Northwest Arctic meetings. It's kind of
20 institutionalizing that, normalizing that, on a bigger
21 scale. That may be interesting, it may not be.

21

22

23 CHAIRPERSON BAKER: Yeah. We've been to
24 the all Council meeting. And we've had letters put
25 together with big get togethers with all of our
26 representatives. I think we're actively doing that
27 already. It's just a matter of staying active with it.
28 But no, we're pretty familiar with them all. We've got
29 a pretty good barter system with some of them now. So,
30 we get to keep in touch with them.

30

31

32 MS. SENEAL: Okay. That sounds great.
33 Okay, for the record, Anna Senecal, fisheries biologist,
34 Office of Subsistence Management. So, we talked about
35 the other funding opportunity that funds projects, FRMP.
36 We talked about that a lot. Done with that. This one is
37 Partners. This is the one that funds people. It's
38 capacity building. This one, the Notice of Funding
39 Opportunity is going to open soon. It's not open yet,
40 but when it is, I can reach out to you through Gisela.
41 And if you have -- if you know folks that are either
42 Tribal members or Alaska Native organizations that are
43 interested in funding programs that hire biologists,
44 social scientists, that fund culture camps, that pertain
45 to subsistence harvesting in your region, that's what
46 this funding source speaks to. So, there's lots of
47 information on our website and there are specific
48 contact people on our staff that can help applicants
49 navigate that and can give you more information. But
50 this is an informational topic to let you know
this funding opportunity is coming up. And I am happy to

000119

1 answer any questions if you have any.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions for
4 Anna on the provided information?

5

6 (No response)

7

8 Hearing none. Thank you very much for
9 your presentation.

10

11 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Go ahead, Esther.

14

15 MS. HUGO: Can we take a break a moment
16 or 10 minutes?

17

18 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. We are
19 taking a break for 10 minutes.

20

21 MS. HUGO: Thank you.

22

23 (Off record)

24

25 (On record)

26

27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Alright, we're all
28 back. Carmen, you're on the floor.

29

30 MS. DAGGETT: All right, I don't want to
31 talk you guys ears off anymore. I know you guys are
32 exhausted. So, I generally have some information here
33 on this update for you guys. We did a survey this last
34 spring for moose, so there's an updated number for the
35 Colville moose population. And then we've got some
36 slightly more updated information for Teshekpuk Caribou
37 and then the results from the 26A muskox survey that we
38 did last year. So, I don't -- what do you guys want to
39 talk about here? I could just run through it if you want
40 me to, or you can pick and choose what you'd like to do
41 and get through more quickly, whatever you want to do.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Just, yeah, I would
44 go through, this is probably the most interesting,
45 informative section that we're gonna have. This is
46 our.....

47

48 (Simultaneous speech)

49

50 MS. DAGGETT: Thanks!

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(Laughter)

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CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sorry, I mean, I don't mean to put people down or anything. But no, this is actually our jurisdiction, so it all pertains to us.

MS. DAGGETT: Okay. So, if you look on page 149 of your meeting booklets, there's this update that I've provided through the meeting materials. And for those of you online that want to follow with, again, page 149. So, to start out with, we're going to talk about the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. We did not get a population estimate this last summer despite Joelle Hepler's best efforts. She is the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd researcher that I work with out of the Fairbanks office. So, the most recent estimate that we have for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd, as I mentioned before, 61,600. This last spring I did a short-yearling survey. We looked at roughly 3600 animals during that survey in April. And there were about 17 percent short-yearlings that we observed, which is a bit higher than the 10-year average of about 15 percent. So, short-yearling populations are looking pretty good coming in for them.

During the summer calving surveys, we noticed that there were about 57 percent of them were pregnant. And there were 6 calves observed. The average pregnancy rates are about 66 percent. So, it's a little bit on the low side this year. A couple of interesting things that, kind of add to this discussion item, this particular topic is that, we had -- my counterparts over in 26B that were looking at the Central Arctic Herd. They do post calving surveys in addition to the summer calving surveys. And they noted that their calving surveys slightly underestimated their pregnancy rates. And that might be the case for this too, just because there were a lower number of calves observed. We had a very late spring this year, and it's possible that females maybe came into calving a little bit thinner than normal and that may have impacted things. There's a number of factors that can affect the number of calves that we were observing. But seeing 6 calves is pretty low in comparison to what we normally would observe. Although I can't pull that number out of the ether at the moment, exactly how many we would normally observe there, but it seemed very low to me. So, on your copy there is not the adult female mortality data because I hadn't calculated it yet but you can write this in. The 2025 mortality rate was 15.5%. And the 10-year average

000121

1 is 14.6. So, it was a little bit higher adult female
2 mortality this year, both in 2025 to 2026. It's done
3 through collar-year, and we usually do our collaring in
4 June. So, it's a little delayed in our reporting numbers
5 because of that collar-year effect.

6
7 So, I'm happy to answer any questions
8 about that. I do want to note that maybe you -- some of
9 you have seen advertising for our fall composition
10 surveys. They're scheduled October 9th through 11th. And
11 while I recognize that this is a very unfortunate time
12 for doing a survey because people are typically hunting
13 during that time period, particularly in the Anaktuvuk
14 Pass area. We've actually not done this survey in many
15 years because of that fact. And it actually hasn't been
16 done since 2016. Partially keeping in mind that we were
17 only going to do it when we absolutely needed to do it.
18 But with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd decline, it's
19 important that we make sure that our proportions of bulls
20 to cows are stable, so. There's gonna be both a fixed
21 wing aircraft and a helicopter use during that time
22 period. And so, if people have concerns about it, they
23 can certainly call my office and we can talk about it
24 in more detail or we can talk about it now, whatever
25 people wish. I'm gonna stop there.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Alright. It sounds
28 like maybe we had some discussions over the last month
29 or so about helicopter use over there and the efforts
30 that were being put in already. It sounds like they're
31 pretty well aware of them. You guys have anything further
32 there, Esther? So, maybe some outreach that they're
33 going to be doing these at certain times. Now would be
34 the time.

35
36 (Simultaneous speech)

37
38 MS. HUGO: (Indiscernible). And what was
39 your question? Sorry.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, just outreach
42 maybe for informing the community that these surveys
43 will be done. And maybe reiterate the timeframe.

44
45 MS. DAGGETT: October 9 through 11. And
46 it would probably just be for a day or two. At most, so.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, expect those
49 very recently. And for people to be aware.

50

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1 MS. HUGO: Okay.

2

3

4 MS. DAGGETT: And there has been notices
5 out on Facebook. I believe the North Slope Borough shared
6 it. And I think ICAS might have shared it too, and we'll
7 continue to share that as so public is aware of that.
8 So, any other questions about caribou related data or
9 Teshekpuk related stuff?

10

11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No, I think we
12 touched on that one throughout the day. So, I don't have
13 any questions here.

14

15 MS. DAGGETT: All right.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: It sounds pretty
18 good to me for now. So, we'll wait for anything further
19 that shows up.

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: Sounds good. Shall we talk
22 about moose?

23

24 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Absolutely.

25

26 MS. DAGGETT: Okay, I know you like your
27 moose. Okay, so we did a minimum count survey this
28 spring. And during that survey, we counted 557 moose,
29 10 percent of those were short-yearlings or
30 approximately 10 months old. There were 4 sets of twins.
31 In comparison to the 2021 minimum count, there just to
32 kind of give you a reference point, the 2021 minimum
33 count had 427 moose. So, we've increased about 100 since
34 the previous survey. And during that survey, there were
35 about 20 percent short-yearlings and 18 sets of twins.
36 So, overall numbers have grown a little over, I guess
37 it'd be like 125 increase roughly. And the reproductive
38 information is a little bit less exciting this time, a
39 little bit lower reproductive information there with
40 less short-yearlings. And seeing twins is a good sign.
41 It gives us an indication of -- that the moose are --
42 have lots of forage, it can be used as a proxy for that
43 in some instances if you're doing actual twinning
44 surveys. But either way presence of twins is generally
45 considered a good sign. Lower percentage of twins this
46 time though from this most recent survey.

47

48 The next survey for this would be next
49 spring. We'll do a trend count survey. So, just looking
50 at an abbreviated portion of the Coville River drainage.
Usually we do the Chandler, the Anaktuvuk, and then a

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1 section of the Colville from about the Killik up to
2 Ocean Point, on the Colville River there. So, we do that
3 annually and then every 3 years we'll do a full drainage
4 survey. So, this information I just provided that we did
5 this last spring was for the full drainage survey. And
6 we'll do that again in 2029. Pending there's not other
7 weirdness that gets in the way. Any questions about
8 moose?
9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No, it sounds
11 promising. And it sounds like there have been a good
12 amount of take for the year. They were successful in
13 those areas. So, that kind of reflects the higher
14 numbers. So, nothing outrageous, but they have been
15 successful, which is really good. And I bartered for
16 that as well. So, I was very happy for that.
17

18 MS. DAGGETT: Good deal.
19

20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Since I didn't go
21 moose hunting this year.
22

23 MS. DAGGETT: Just an encouragement thing
24 for everyone. Harvest tickets are really helpful for
25 moose. And just encourage people to get their harvest
26 tickets if they're planning on hunting moose. And they
27 can contact me if they have any questions regarding that.
28

29 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Will do.
30

31 MS. DAGGETT: Perfect. All right. Muskox?
32

33 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Yes.
34

35 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. So in 2025 we did a
36 survey looking at muskox from the Cape Thompson muskox
37 population. There were 547 muskox observed in Western
38 26A, in Unit 23, in comparison to the 605 muskox observed
39 in the 2020 survey. So, a little bit lower than the
40 previous survey. You can see the proportions of age
41 groups. We can kind of get an idea of age. We've tried
42 doing composition surveys a little bit differently
43 recently, where we've been taking photographs of the
44 groups of muskox and then aging them based off of the
45 photographs. As opposed to going out with a helicopter
46 landing and aging them on the ground with a helicopter.
47 It's quite much more cost effective doing it that way.
48 We have a few more -- we do have some unknowns that we
49 can't identify from the photographs. But overall it
50 seems to be giving us enough information to make good

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1 management decisions with -- at the moment. So, we're
2 gonna probably keep doing that sort of approach into the
3 future when we look at proportions of bulls and cows and
4 short-yearlings. There's a muskox hunt, application
5 period is opening November 1. If people are interested
6 in applying for TX109 and TX108 hunt areas. So that's,
7 both sides of the Game Management Unit 26A. So, I'd
8 encourage people to apply for those. There's 5 permits
9 available in the TX109 hunt. And I think there's maybe
10 like 4 available in the TX108 hunt. If there's someone
11 online that wants to correct me there, they can.

12
13 I also wanted to mention, this is not
14 in your report, that we actually, one of my coworkers
15 out of the Unit 23 office, Christie Osburn, she's the
16 23 area biologist. She recently put out some muskox
17 collars so that we can get a better idea of muskox
18 distribution on the North Slope and try to understand
19 muskox movement as they expand their range. I think this
20 is an area of research that we don't have really good
21 understanding of. And we've kind of been relying on
22 traditional knowledge and understanding from people on
23 the ground, which is always useful, regardless of
24 whether you have collars or not.
25 But so, that's a project that started this last year.
26 She was going to do some sheep work, but ran into some
27 issues with that. And so, she ended up using the money
28 to collar some muskox instead as part of our research
29 project, so. All right, that's what I've got.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. It
32 seems like from observations, there have been more
33 frequent sightings of muskox traversing the Chipp and
34 Topagoruk Rivers, more over the Chipp side. So, it's
35 it's been pretty well documented and observed. Even
36 through Facebook posts it was pretty apparent that there
37 were more than a couple of them moving frequently in the
38 same routes. And some of them were right next door cabin
39 I was trying to get a hold of you guys for that one,
40 but. So it seems like observations of them are getting
41 more and more in specific locations and moving further
42 north so, that's some interesting news for us.

43
44 And they're becoming more I guess not
45 habituated but they're getting more used to traveling
46 in the area while we're around there. And people have
47 been watching them right outside their cabin and as
48 they're watching them one will pass by our cabin at the
49 same time so within 30 miles or so. So, they're moving
50 north and they're becoming well acquainted with our

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1 areas. So, that's kind of a good sign because we like
2 their meat and the more permits we get at certain times
3 the more opportunity we may have for some good meat. So,
4 good signs. Thank you though for that.

5
6 MS. DAGGETT: You're welcome. Thank you,
7 Mr. Chair.

8
9 (Pause)

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Up next,
12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

13
14 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Oh,
15 sorry. I'm not Fish and Wildlife Service. Gisela Chapa
16 for the record. It's late. And Clayton Merrill was going
17 to provide an oral report to the Council, but he had to
18 step away. He had another commitment and mentioned that
19 he would provide this update at your winter meeting.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Sounds good. Thank
22 you very much. Who do we have next? National Park
23 Service, Marcy Okada.

24
25 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Council
26 members. This is Marcy Okada, subsistence coordinator
27 for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. And
28 I'd like to refer you to page 151 in your meeting packet.
29 And I'm just going to give just some quick updates. As
30 mentioned before, our Gates of the Arctic National Park
31 Subsistence Resource Commission met in April. And one
32 of the things that came out of this meeting is a Wildlife
33 Special Action for a winter moose hunt in Unit 24A,
34 which is the section of Gates of the Arctic along the
35 Haul Road. For December 15th to April 15th, the hunt was
36 passed by the Federal Subsistence Board. This hunt is
37 to offer an opportunity for residents of Wiseman to get
38 into the park and hunt moose. Mainly because the Dalton
39 Highway Corridor was BLM lands and it has since been
40 transferred to the State. So, now we're offering an
41 opportunity for Wiseman folks to hunt in the park for
42 moose in the winter. Esther Hugo is on our SRC, and
43 we'll be meeting on November 4th and 5th in Fairbanks.
44 So, we'll be having more of an open dialogue on
45 subsistence management with park staff available to
46 discuss various wildlife species.

47
48 So, the next page of this update is
49 basically old news. It shows a migration timeline for
50 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. From mid-April to

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1 August on their migration. Latest news based off the GPS
2 collars is that as of late September, there hasn't been
3 much fall migration activity occurring. As of late
4 September, collared caribou had not even crossed the
5 Noatak River. And then also there's information about a
6 study that was done using GPS-collared caribou in the
7 Western Arctic Herd based on areas that they use on the
8 proposed Arctic Mine in the Upper Kobuk area of the
9 Ambler Mining District.

10
11 So, that was our update on caribou. And
12 then I know you folks are interested mainly in what's
13 going on in the North Slope region, but we do have a
14 moose monitoring study that just started this past
15 spring. And it's -- our biologists have put GPS collars
16 on moose in the southern portion of Gates of the Arctic
17 and then also accompanying that study is moose were
18 collared in the in Kobuk Valley National Park as well.
19 So, that study is going to be ongoing. And then lastly,
20 we've already discussed sheep. A survey was not
21 conducted around Anaktuvuk Pass this past July due to
22 bad weather. But the other 2 portions of the park that
23 were surveyed is the northeast portion at Killik
24 Preserve and then the southeast portion of Gates of the
25 Arctic. Results are currently being worked on for the
26 survey and it'll be shared at our upcoming Gates of the
27 Arctic National Park and Preserve SRC meeting in
28 November. So, that's just a real quick update if folks
29 have any questions.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, I would be
32 interested to see what type of movement the moose in
33 that area are doing and whether they're staying in one
34 particular location and living there or if they're
35 transient or not or moving up north to our locations
36 just as a kind of an observational deal for me. I'm
37 pretty interested in moose and I don't think we have any
38 collard stuff for -- on the North Slope. So, just getting
39 an idea of what type of movement you get from moose
40 would be interesting for me.

41
42 MS. OKADA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you.

45
46 MS. OKADA: Yeah, our next update, if
47 moose start heading up into 26A, we can put that in our
48 update.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Okay, yeah, even if
2 they're not moving up here, just what type of trends
3 they're having for that location.

4
5 MS. OKADA: Okay, thank you.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you. Does that
8 conclude your updates?

9
10 MS. OKADA: Yeah.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Thank you
13 very much, Marcy. Up next, item f, BLM, Brent Vickers.

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 MR. VICKERS: Brent Vickers, BLM. I don't
18 have anything written down, but there was a few things
19 that were brought up during the meeting. I thought I'd
20 talk on them a little bit from the BLM perspective. So,
21 where did I put my notes? Sorry. Okay. So, yeah, first
22 of all, the closure to non-federally qualified
23 subsistence users hunting caribou Unit 26A Southwest,
24 as we explained, this was implemented for Wildlife
25 Special Action. And this is west of the Colville River,
26 if I'm not mistaken. There are maps for it, you can --
27 anyone listening, Gisela has them, they're on the
28 website. Mainly I just want to re-say like to emphasize
29 that, please reach out to BLM, if you see people out
30 there that shouldn't be out there hunting caribou. I
31 mean, obviously people can be flying out there to hunt
32 grizzly, whatever else, camping. They're allowed to
33 recreate, but they should not be -- they cannot -- should
34 not be hunting caribou. And if people in the communities,
35 we need your help in locating these things. I wish they
36 were here, the BLM law enforcement officers, Officer
37 Morningstar and Arnold, you know, they -- no one told
38 them to come up here. They came up here because they
39 really want to help, they want to figure out ways to
40 help. They're brainstorming ways and really, I think
41 it's going to come through bigger connections with the
42 Borough and with the communities. And so, please, if you
43 see people out there, call.

44
45 Let's see. I did mention that along the
46 Haul Road, the very southern part because of a long,
47 long standing or long process of conveyances to the State
48 that came with the Statehood Act, BLM is trying to work
49 out some of the final pieces to that. The last 5 percent
50 of that whole conveyance puzzle. And in this last year,

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1 lifted up some, 5150 was revoked. So, some of the land
2 that was BLM on the very south part of your unit or on
3 the Haul Road, but the getting towards the mountains
4 there. If you're driving down from Prudhoe Bay, that was
5 BLM land, but has been now State selected. So, the
6 Federal subsistence no longer applies in those lands,
7 which is a shame for the community residents that have
8 been using that land for, you know, well, 50 years at
9 least, but long before that, obviously.

10
11 The muskox draw hunt that corresponds
12 with the lands, if I'm not mistaken of -- it's basically
13 the western portion. 109, Thank you. I didn't want to
14 miss it. It corresponds with the State TX109 Tier hunt,
15 but this is a Federal subsistence draw hunt. So, anyone
16 who is a resident essentially of this area, it's a draw
17 hunt. It is not open to sport hunters throughout the
18 rest of Alaska. So, this is a good thing for subsistence
19 users to put in cause it's going to be a much smaller
20 pool, especially for those who don't get the Tier Hunt.
21 There's -- there was last year 4 permits available. This
22 is all run through BLM. Ted Inman is the contact at BLM,
23 he's the lead for the Arctic resources team. He's got a
24 fun email to remember, just tinman at BLM. He's
25 responsible for administering this hunt. The
26 applications were -- last year were due July 8th. And
27 he does the drawing process and he'll contact those. So,
28 I, you know, I don't know how much the word is out on
29 that, but it is a good opportunity to get a muskox tag
30 year after year.

31
32 And the third -- fourth one I wanted to
33 -- oh, there is a -- right now there is a comment period
34 open for a new Federal -- I'm going to mess up on the
35 terminology, this isn't my -- I'm not the best one at
36 this. But I do want to let people know that there is a
37 comment period opening for, and maybe it's a not a final
38 rule, but a rule with that. Yes, there's a draft EIS.
39 So, the NPRA, which is most of the BLM lands that you
40 use, has a draft environmental impact statement out. And
41 there is -- the purpose of that is to essentially
42 streamline what I understand to be routine actions that
43 through the development process, things that have been
44 kind of reoccurring over the last 30 years, and they are
45 time consuming to put in applications for what they're
46 looking for -- they want to be able to streamline those
47 to make them move quicker. The comment period is open
48 now on that. There are -- the draft EIS is online. I
49 shared that link with Gisela if you want to see it. I
50 think the comment period is open until November 9th. And

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1 so, while I'm not very well informed on it, you can find
2 it online. Gisela can help you. You can look at it and
3 you can comment on how you feel like this would be a
4 good idea or not a good idea for you and your community
5 members. So, please, I encourage you to look into that
6 and make comments. And that's it. Just wanted to like I
7 said, fill in some gaps that were brought up. Any
8 questions?

9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: No questions. Yeah,
11 we're pretty involved with this EIS, just reading it
12 now. So, we're pretty well aware, I guess, within the
13 community.....

14

15 (Simultaneous speech)

16

17 MR. VICKERS: Okay.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Of what's
20 happening. And they're having fights for this as well.
21 We have been getting calls for helicopters when they're
22 flying. But thank you for the information. Any other
23 questions for Mr. Vickers?

24

25 (No response)

26

27 Hearing none. Thank you very much for
28 your presentation.

29

30 MS. ITTA: Yes, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Oh, yeah, we do have
33 it. Yeah, go ahead, Martha.

34

35 MS. ITTA: I don't know if he was online
36 when he heard me spoke, my question and concern. I had
37 asked earlier about the State of Alaska recognizing
38 Tribes. Does that apply here when we're advocating for
39 our subsistence rights as in BLM being the decision
40 makers and the higher ups, below the Department of
41 Interior working closely with the Department of Interior
42 and the President. So, my question earlier is -- are,
43 you know, the State in these decisions recognizing the
44 Tribes that was passed back in 2022? We're always talking
45 about jurisdiction. We're talking about, you guys
46 talking about the State of Alaska, this, and then, you
47 know, these land users that to utilize that land before
48 it was just recently taken away. Now they have no right
49 to it. Did that apply here in these decisions?
50 Recognizing the (distortion).

000130

1
2 MR. VICKERS: This is a really good
3 question, Council Member Itta. I just stepped in to BLM
4 earlier this spring. This decision had been made before
5 I started there, but BLM is entitled, obligated to go
6 through Tribal consultations with its decisions. I don't
7 -- so, I wasn't here for that process, but I -- we do
8 have a Native Liaison, Donna Bach, if you as a Tribal
9 member or another Tribal member would like to reach out
10 to her with any questions, I know Gisela can get you her
11 contact information. I don't have that knowledge because
12 I wasn't at BLM at that time, but I do know we take the
13 -- we -- it's an obligation to do Tribal consultations,
14 and Donna would have a better -- would be a better source
15 to ask that question about that process during that time.
16 I -- I'm sorry if I can't answer your question any better
17 right now, but hopefully somewhat lead you in the right
18 direction. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: So, it sounds like
21 we'll get you the contact information and get you to ask
22 the question to the to the liaison, but it sounds like
23 they do do Tribal constant consultations.

24
25 MS. ITTA: Thank you for that. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Mr.
28 Vickers. All right. What do we have next? Robbin. Looking
29 at the wrong paper. You have the floor.

30
31 MS. LA VINE: Good afternoon, early
32 evening, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. Once again,
33 for the record, I'm Robbin La Vine, subsistence policy
34 coordinator, and I have the Office of Subsistence
35 Management report for the fall meetings. The Federal
36 Subsistence Board met in April for the wildlife
37 regulatory meeting. The final rule for the '26-'28
38 wildlife harvest regulations has still not published.
39 So, all of the actions the Board took, all of the changes
40 the Boards approved to regulations have not yet been
41 published in the final register. So, until publication,
42 the '24-'26 Federal subsistence harvest regulations
43 remain in effect. However, please be sure to check for
44 temporary regulation changes via special actions. Such
45 as those that are in place in your region before heading
46 into the field.

47
48 There is a secretarial review of the
49 Federal Subsistence Management Program, still ongoing.
50 While there are no major developments to report at this

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1 time, Kara Moriarty, the Senior Advisor to the Secretary
2 of the Interior for Alaska Affairs, has noted that all
3 comments that were submitted earlier this year by the
4 Councils will be reviewed and that no decision has been
5 made on whether the review will result in any program
6 change. As a reminder, any tribe can request a separate
7 consultation on this topic at any time. The Federal
8 Subsistence Board met in Anchorage in August for the
9 summer work session, and we have had some significant
10 discussions about what occurred there, review of the
11 annual reports, correspondences, approval of the
12 Regional Advisory Council Member nominations, and as
13 well discussion of the Council and Board
14 correspondences. The Chairs met for the Alaska Salmon
15 Crisis Workshop. The Board approved Wildlife Special
16 Action 26-04. That was a winter moose hunt in Unit 24A
17 and approved a delegation of authority letter for Unit
18 7 caribou. Also, they approved Wildlife Special Action
19 26-08 to implement a Board action approved at their April
20 meeting. Again, these began to happen in part because
21 the permanent regulations had yet to publish. The Board,
22 the Council representatives and OSM staff benefited
23 greatly from direct interactions and we do hope to make
24 Council representative attendance a regular part of the
25 Board annual work sessions. So, it will be great to see
26 you there, Mr. Chair.

27
28 We're right now in a fisheries
29 regulatory cycle. As you know, 11 fisheries proposals
30 and 10 fisheries closure reviews are being considered
31 during this fisheries regulatory cycle. Of course, none
32 really in your region. Tribal consultation opportunities
33 on these proposals and closure reviews occurred August
34 18th. There'll be another opportunity after the fall
35 Council meetings on November 10th. The Board is going
36 to meet to take action on those fisheries regulatory
37 proposals February 1st through 5th of 2027. And the Board
38 will also consider 3 Deferred Wildlife Proposals and 2
39 Wildlife Special Actions, including 26-01 for which you
40 provided your recommendation for.

41
42 As a reminder, public testimony provided
43 to the Council on regular regulatory proposals does not
44 go directly to the Board. So, any kind of discussion
45 that occurs here at these meetings, I think is just
46 Gisela has said is for your benefit as you develop your
47 recommendations to the Board. If anyone listening and
48 in attendance here at this Council meeting which is to
49 address the Board directly on regulatory proposals, you
50 can attend that meeting in person or you can call in.

000132

1 There will be opportunity for public testimony on agenda
2 items as they come up on the agenda. And there will be
3 one day where there is going to be public testimony on
4 non-agenda items, like the kind you guys accept the
5 beginning of your meetings every day. And that will be
6 on the -- I think the Wednesday the third, the morning
7 of Wednesday the third. So, this is a change from
8 previous years. There's going to be another opportunity
9 for Tribal consultation immediately preceding the Board
10 meeting on February 1st with virtual and in-person
11 options available.
12

13 The Board's recommendations on the
14 Council Member appointments are right now being reviewed
15 by the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. And it's
16 expected that the next set of appointments will be issued
17 this December. Fingers crossed. Although the official
18 call for Council membership applications is currently
19 not open, if you know anyone who's interested in
20 applying, we will take those applications at any time.
21 OSM will keep them until the next appointment cycle
22 starts. So, you know, we don't have to wait. Anybody who
23 is interested listening online, anybody as far as you,
24 the Council members, have -- you got in your sights, you
25 can start the process for getting them to apply now.
26

27 So, there are many vacancies that still
28 remain within OSM. However, we've had a number of
29 staffing changes occur that are both a delight and then
30 a loss. In the loss department, Glenn Westdahl, our
31 executive secretary retired in April. In the gain
32 department, Kristen Morrow, our Pathways Anthropology
33 intern, completed her PhD in anthropology. Woohoo! And
34 was successfully converted to a permanent cultural
35 anthropologist position with OSM. Grace Cochon has
36 lateraled into a Council Coordinator position for the
37 Northwest Arctic region. We have Christopher Paulson,
38 he was formerly with Fish and Wildlife Service. He's
39 laterally into a financial specialist position at OSM.
40 And we're really, really excited to have all of these
41 folks accepted on permanently.
42

43 I will say kind of in the like yay, a
44 lost but also a gain former Anthropology Division
45 Supervisor Brent Vickers has transferred over to BLM.
46 However we get to keep him because he is in the
47 subsistence -- the Federal Subsistence Management
48 Program so we get to work with him still. There are a
49 lot of vacancies still left, and we have a lot of people
50 at OSM that have been stepping into those vacancies,

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1 sometimes not just to do the position that is open, but
2 to still keep up their former duties. One of those people
3 who is in the room now is Kendra. Kendra, who's
4 wonderful, she is a wildlife analyst in the Wildlife
5 Division, but she is also right now stepping into the
6 permit specialist position as well to help in the loss
7 of that very important role. So with that, I am done
8 with my presentation and happy to answer any questions.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions?
11

12 (No response)
13

14 It's like Hotel California there, Brent.
15 Check out, but you can never leave.
16

17 (Laughter)
18

19 All right. What do we have up next
20 there, Gisela?
21

22 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Now we
23 are on agenda item 15, Other Business. And the first
24 item is the 805(C) Report Summary. And I will just refer
25 you to page 155 of your meeting materials. The 805(c)
26 report basically provides the Council with a summary of
27 the recommendations that you provided during the
28 previous wildlife regulatory cycle and the Board's
29 actions and those recommendations. And basically when
30 the Board -- the Board generally defers to Council
31 recommendations. But it may choose not to follow
32 recommendations for specific reasons, such as it
33 determines that the recommendation is not supported by
34 substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of
35 fish and wildlife conservation or would be detrimental
36 to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. And so, when
37 the Board does not follow the Council recommendations,
38 it is required to provide a factual basis and the reasons
39 for those decisions. And that's why it's presented in
40 your 805(c) report.
41

42 I'll go through the highlights. And the
43 first one is Wildlife Proposal 26-65. It was a proposal
44 to establish a muskox hunt around Selawik National
45 Wildlife Refuge in Unit 23 Remainder. This was a
46 crossover proposal. The Council voted in favor, whereas
47 the Board rejected the proposal in deference to the
48 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council. So, the
49 North Slope Council was the first one to see the
50 proposal. And let me backtrack. The Northwest Arctic

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1 Council was a proponent but after receiving the analysis
2 and discussion at the Council meeting, believed there
3 were too many unknowns to actually establish the hunt.
4 And then the difference in recommendations was because
5 North Slope met before and Northwest Arctic met
6 afterwards.

7
8 Okay. The next one, another crossover
9 proposal that was Wildlife Proposal 26-66. A proposal
10 to increase the harvest limit and extend the wolf hunting
11 season in Unit 23. And the Board supported the proposal
12 with a modification to create refugia for wolves on
13 national parks as recommended by OSM. I'm sorry, not the
14 Board, the Council. Whereas the Board adopted the
15 proposal as written aligning with the recommendations
16 of 2 Subsistence Resource Commissions. And WP26-69 was
17 a proposal to increase the trapping season for mink and
18 weasel. And the Council supported the proposal with the
19 OSM modification, again, to exclude national park lands.
20 And the Board voted to adopt the proposal as written in
21 deference to the Northwest Arctic RAC. And that is the
22 end of the report, Mr. Chair. I'll be happy to answer
23 questions if there are any.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions for
26 Gisela?

27
28 (No response)

29
30 Sounds like most of it were outside. And
31 hearing none. I think we're good to go. Up next, we have
32 Kendra.

33
34 MS. HOLMAN: Good evening. All right,
35 let's try and do this quickly but get you everything you
36 need to know. So, this is going to be an update on
37 Wildlife Proposal 26-01. This was the proposal that
38 requested moving authority for managing the Federal
39 hunts via delegation of authority letter, out of the
40 letters and into unit specific regulations, and
41 rescinding those associated letters. If you're
42 interested, the last page of the book, page 160 of your
43 regs book, actually has the list of the book delegation,
44 sorry. This one, the reg book. Just for your information,
45 it has the list of the delegation of authorities that
46 are applicable to this region. So, in April 26, at the
47 request of OSM, the Federal Subsistence Board deferred
48 this proposal to the February 2027 regulatory meeting.
49 Since April, OSM has confirmed in consultation with the
50 Solicitor that the delegation of authority is

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1 administrative, not regulatory. And functions and all
2 of that in-season management actions are subject to
3 special action regulatory requirements, such as holding
4 public hearings, regardless of where they appear in the
5 letters or in regulations. So, we are no longer proposing
6 to transfer them -- transfer the delegation of authority
7 letters into regulations. But instead changing this to
8 a new approach. It will improve consistency with
9 information, accountability, public transparency and
10 tracking of the actions. OSM has incorporated the
11 Council's recommendations into WP26-01, into the new
12 approach. These recommendations came from the Council's
13 based on different things that were found.

14
15 Some of the letters that we have
16 currently, there's over 60 of them, there's some that
17 have overlapping in-season managers. We have one area
18 that has 3 in-season managers for one area. So, we'll
19 address kind of some of those things like that. It'll
20 be in a table and associated guidance will be published
21 on the program's website providing transparency. OSM
22 provides -- plans to provide annual training to in-
23 season and managers and associated staff. So, initially
24 we considered withdrawing WP26-01, but realized with all
25 of the regulatory cleanup that needs to be done, we'll
26 continue keeping that housekeeping items such as the
27 combined hunt areas, identical regulations, deleting
28 those duplicative delegations of authorities where
29 they're at, and changing any to-be announced seasons to
30 may-be-announced seasons. Because of this they're -- we
31 are revising a recommendation to retain all the
32 regulatory cleanup, but not transfer the delegation of
33 authority into the codified regulations. Again, this
34 will go back before the Board at the February meeting.
35 This is -- all the Council supported the regulatory
36 housekeeping portions of this proposal when they took
37 this up last fall. So, this isn't an action item, we're
38 just giving you an update. So, if you have any questions,
39 let me know.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Any questions for
42 Kendra?

43
44 (No response)

45
46 Hearing none. Thank you very much. Item
47 17. No, I'm just kidding. Item 16. So, closing comments.
48 So, I guess we'll start with Martha, Nuiqsut. Closing
49 comments.

50

1 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
2 want to thank everyone that participated and did their
3 reports and answered questions to the best of their
4 ability. And I look forward to the next meeting and
5 hearing more feedback on our concerns and questions that
6 we provided during our meeting. And I apologize that I'm
7 not there in person, but I am with you guys all in
8 spirit. And thank you all. And I hope you guys stay safe
9 for those of our traveling. Good evening.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Martha.
12 Thanks for your valuable input, insight. And yeah, we'll
13 talk to you on the next one. Up next we have Esther,
14 Anaktuvuk Pass.

15
16 MS. HUGO: Good evening, Mr. Chair. Thank
17 you. Had to make myself stand up and look at up the
18 window looking north, just hoping those caribou are on
19 their way. That's all I can say and do say. We still
20 have hope about getting them caribou before rutting, but
21 time is running out, again. And this will be a hardship
22 for us again but as long as you guys don't stop us from
23 killing them cows, and I'm sure in the future that the
24 numbers will be okay. It's just that we're so desperate
25 for our main diet, what we've been hoping for, for so
26 long. I'm very disappointed from last year because I
27 knew this year was coming, another year. It just hurts.
28 Thank you so much for your time and all the people that
29 we speak with today. There's still hope for us and I
30 just pray every day may be one of the guys that are
31 going up, look out hill, will tell us, they're down
32 there. And they know exactly where to look. That's all
33 I gotta say, thank you.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Esther.
36 Yep, we'll continue to keep fighting for your area. And
37 one of these days, we're gonna come up with a solution
38 and rejoice. So, thank you very much. And you have a
39 good fall-season. Enjoy the sunshine while it's here.
40 Well, it's here anyways in Barrow. All right.
41 Wainwright, Jenysa.

42
43 MS. AHMAOGAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Jenysa Ahmaogak, for the record. I would like to thank
45 you all for attending this meeting and showing us and
46 providing us some really good information. It's always
47 good to attend these meetings and grab all the knowledge
48 that I can, not just for myself, but for my community
49 and my region. Because ultimately we are serving the
50 people and we must always have the people's best

1 interests at heart. And I wanna say that I am glad that
2 our Council, we're always fighting, you know, for
3 sustainable subsistence. And this uphill battle that
4 we're having with the caribou, you know, it's something
5 that we do have to fight for because food insecurity is
6 real. And, you know, there are people that literally
7 cannot, they cannot tolerate beef, they cannot tolerate
8 pork. And the only thing that their bodies are used to
9 is but what's offered on our lands from the ocean to the
10 tundra. And I wanna thank you all, all my Council --
11 fellow Council Members for always putting in a good fight
12 and always doing your best to, you know, keep your
13 subsistence going in each of your communities. It's not
14 an easy job, you know, sitting in our seats and making
15 these hard decisions for our people. There's always
16 gonna be, you know, things that we have to outweigh
17 within each decision that we make. And I want to thank
18 you all for your service. Thank you for trusting me to
19 be a public servant to my people too. It's, you know,
20 it's really an honor. Thank you all.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Jenysa,
23 for the kind words. It is tough and we look forward to
24 moving forward. So, we'll try to have a positive outcome
25 for the North Slope. All right. I think that's everybody
26 online. Next we'll go with Mr. Barger, Point Hope.

27
28 MR. BARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well
29 said, Jenysa. Thank you, all, for having me here at
30 Barrow. Good luck to all the whaling captains again. You
31 know, Lord willing and be safe out there and you know,
32 it's always a blessing when the captain catch a whale
33 and they got to prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas
34 time. That's a tradition of a whale life of hunting. So,
35 I just want to thank, especially like I said, you know,
36 I like do all the search and rescue, you know, that, I
37 don't know, Brower is always on call. And all the people
38 in the villages, it's -- we've got to start getting
39 these younger generation learn [sic] to start, you know,
40 volunteering and stuff. Cause you know, we're getting
41 old. You know, I've been -- a lot of people think I'm
42 an elder. So, there was this one lady at the hotel,
43 she's like, I called the cab and she's like, senior van
44 can I pick you up, it's free. Oh, I'm not there yet. I
45 got a few more years to elder. And also when I go to
46 watch basketball in Anchorage, State, my daughter's with
47 me. The lady was saying, oh, elder's go in free. My
48 daughter was, don't say nothing, dad. Don't say nothing.
49 You get a free pass. I said, no, I have to be honest.
50 So, but yeah. And also, you know, giving, you know, all,

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1 you know, food and stuff that we provide and stuff. I
2 mainly give to widows and elders and stuff. Like I've
3 always say, half of my share during whaling time in
4 Point Hope I sent to the Senior Center and, you know,
5 it's a blessing when I go over there and go visit them.
6 They always try to give me something. I told them, no,
7 I just want all you guys to pray for us whalers out
8 there. We're doing it for you guys. And, you know, I've
9 always go visit them and they're always happy to see me.
10 You know, I know people here in Barrow, I know they, you
11 know, go give their elders here at the Senior Center,
12 you know, but I'm just passing it on. But I just want
13 to let you guys know that, you know, we got to get these
14 younger people to be involved. So, you know, encourage
15 a lot of other people that, you know, as a whaling
16 captain. Quincy, you know, get the -- I know you're
17 teaching the younger generation, your kids and other
18 people. And so -- but, thank you all for having me here.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Leonard.
21 Thanks for being here. And yeah, means a lot to us. And
22 keep bringing (In Native). Yes. Yes, yes. All right, Mr.
23 Adams over here. John Quincy Adams, Utqiaġvik. You have
24 the floor.

25
26 MR. ADAMS: All right. I just want to
27 thank you guys, for your guys time, your sacrifices,
28 even the OSM members, all your colleagues, your co-
29 workers. Thank you for your time coming up here. I know
30 it's hard getting away from your families. And then
31 having to deal with us on top of that, but you know,
32 it's all the dialogue we've been talking about that we
33 don't just do it for ourselves. You know, we do it for
34 our whole region, our whole North Slope. So, they can
35 have the food that -- the soul food that we really love
36 to eat. And then, you know, the -- like Leonard was
37 saying when you give to the elders and, you know, the
38 happiness that they have, you know, it comes to the
39 point to where some of the elders even cry happy tears.
40 Because they really get to -- because they really enjoy
41 the food.

42
43 And Esther we'll be praying for you guys
44 over there in AKP hoping you guys get your tuttu and
45 hoping you guys get some really fat tuttu as well too.
46 But, you know, some of the decisions that we make is
47 hard. And, you know, sometimes we'll either lose sleep
48 over it or we're gonna -- but our outreach and our
49 education is -- we also have to do our part reaching out
50 to the young the young people, the younger generation

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1 and informing them of what's coming down the pike with
2 all the population, you know, giving them education
3 about population wise and what's -- how regulated it can
4 and might be in the future. Is what is going to be a big
5 deal for our people as we get older and as our children
6 and maybe generations to come. But I just want to thank
7 you guys for your time and it's fun coming to these
8 common kind of meetings, but it's also, you know, we got
9 to put in our work as well. And just to end on a little
10 bit of a humor that we always talk about sometimes when
11 we working on our guns and our gear getting ready. Our
12 joke is it works 60 percent of the time all the time.
13 But, you know, just trying to end it on a good note.
14 Just want to thank you guys again for your time and your
15 guys sacrifices, you know. Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Thank you, Quincy.
18 All right. I guess I got to come up with something now.
19 Well, I'd like to thank OSM, BLM, everybody that came
20 out, ADF&G. Yeah, it's been an interesting last few
21 years. And yeah, it's always something to deal with the
22 different things that get thrown at us. But, you know,
23 who else is going to be there for the communities? Yeah,
24 we've got a handful of guys. It's kind of difficult
25 because a lot of these meetings, most people know about
26 them, but they won't either show up to the meetings or
27 everybody's got something else to do. But I'd like to
28 thank all the guys that are here and dedicate their time
29 to ensuring that we continue to have food on our tables.
30 These issues are very real to us. And one small misstep,
31 if we approve the wrong thing, you know, could be in a
32 world of hurt for us. So, making sure we make the right
33 decisions is always paramount for us. And we look forward
34 to serving the communities of the North Slope and
35 continuing our progress and making sure every one of
36 them has a say in it.

37
38 So, yeah, we need to get on Board
39 though, with getting some of our other community members
40 outside of, you know, who's on the Board right now. So,
41 I think discussions with Kaktovik, Point Lay and even
42 some of the locations may be on Anaktuvuk Pass. A lot
43 of us are -- it's good to have more insight from the
44 areas that are directly affected by a lot of our changes
45 and yeah, the more insight we have, the better. So, we
46 need to keep collecting the right information so we can
47 make informed decisions. Not just from the regulatory
48 side of it, but more importantly, the subsistence side.
49 So, that's what I'm fighting for. That's what we need
50 to be fighting for, is to keep our subsistence going and

1 our freezers full and everybody happy. That would be a
2 good day. But I'd be lying if I didn't -- if I said I
3 didn't lose sleep at night for some of these issues
4 because a lot of them are directly affecting myself.
5 Moose, muskox, caribou, you name it. A lot of my friends
6 are all over the Slope. And if we make the wrong
7 decision, if we made a rushed decision, we could be
8 directly impacting their livelihood. So, it -- it's fun,
9 though. I enjoyed doing the stuff, but thank you to
10 everybody else that's here making this -- these
11 communications happen and connecting the dots. Well, I
12 think that's what I've got for now. Thank you, everybody
13 here and everybody else that already took off. I'm glad
14 BLM was here. So, it shows that they're actually making
15 a real effort into doing at least the right thing for
16 things that they're putting out and enforcing. So, glad
17 to see they're here. That's all I've got. Gisela.

18
19 MS. CHAPA: Well, thanks have been
20 shared. I really thank all of you for being here, all
21 the Council members are being here on the phone. I
22 recognize that it is time taken away from your paid
23 jobs, from your family, sometimes from subsistence. So,
24 making the effort to be here, it shows how important
25 your community is to you. And I always appreciate that.
26 I also thank you for making me feel so welcome. I think
27 I speak for the rest of the team. We feel welcome when
28 we come into the community. And that's always
29 appreciated. If you have any contacts or connections
30 that you want to make with Federal agencies, we'll make
31 it happen. It's important to your people and for you to
32 make decisions and having all the right representatives
33 at the table is important. So, I'll make an effort to
34 make that happen for you. And as far as engaging youth,
35 yeah, just let me know who to call. I -- I'll make the
36 call, I'll make the visit. I always enjoy visiting with
37 people when I'm here. So, all you got to say is contact
38 this person. I'll do it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: All right. Just want
41 to double down on the thanks and want to let you all
42 know on the RAC that you guys are doing a really good
43 job. Keep up the good work. And don't leave here without
44 thinking you did something right. So, you guys did a
45 good job today. I appreciate you. And thank you, for
46 taking the time. With that, we have item 17.

47
48 MR. BARGER: I make a motion to adjourn.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Motion on the floor
2 to adjourn.

3
4 MR. ADAMS: Second.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Seconded by Quincy.

7
8 MR. BARGER: Question.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Questions been
11 called for. All those in favor of adjourning, say bye.

12
13 IN UNISON: Bye.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Those opposed.

16
17 (No response)

18
19 CHAIRPERSON FRANTZ: Hearing none. Thank
20 you, guys. Have a good evening.

21
22 (Off record)

23
24 END OF PROCEEDINGS

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 141 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II recorded on the 2nd 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