

**Proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sale
in the Diapir Field
(Sale 71)**

Public Hearings

Kaktovik

1982

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ALASKA O.C.S.

PUBLIC HEARING ON BEAUFORT SEA
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

K A K T O V I K

February 4, 1982

SPEAKERS IN KAKTOVIK

- 1 Archie Brower - Mayor of Kaktovik
- 2 Perry Akootchook
- 3 George Akootchook
- 4 Loren Ahlers
- 5 Herman Rexford
- 6 Edna Suplu
- 7 Zin Kittredge
- 8 Walt Audi
- 9 Marx Sims
- 10 Isaac Akootchook
- 11 Herman Aishanna
- 12 Jonas Ningeok
- 13 Michael Jeffrey
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AKULAW COURT REPORTING

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MODERATOR: I'm from the Alaska OCS Office in Anchorage. Our purpose here this evening is to hear your comments and testimony about the proposed oil and gas lease sale 71 out here in the Beaufort Sea area. It's being called the dipar field, a geological term.

We asked Emma Mongoyak to translate for us, and I think I'll stop at that point, Emma. Go ahead on that much.

INTERPRETER: (native language)

MODERATOR:we receive from you in time to incorporate into a final Environmental Impact Statement. This is a draft Environmental Impact Statement and your comments, concerns about this proposed lease sale will be incorporated, put into another document like this, the final Environmental Impact Statement. We can receive your comments up until February 12th.

INTERPRETER: (native language)

MODERATOR: Those comments can be mailed in or you can call us in Anchorage, or however you would like to communicate those concerns to us.

INTERPRETER: (native language)

MODERATOR: I'd like to introduce some of the people that are here tonight, some members of our staff. Marsha Bennett, she has been working with some of the subsistence and social cultural problems. Marsha.

1 Paul Dubski over here is concerned with the marine
2 mammals, endangered species.

3 Gary Em is in charge of the environmental studies
4 program in our Anchorage office.

5 On the panel here on my right is Barry Beaudreau with
6 the U.S. Geological Survey or the Minerals Management Service,
7 as it's recently been renamed.

8 And on my left is Ralph Anger from the Washington,
9 D.C. office, a project officer responsible for all of the
10 Environmental Impact Statements that are about the Alaskan
11 outer continental shelf. I don't know if that needs trans-
12 lated. Okay, all right.

13 When you -- formerly the testimonies were to be
14 limited to 10 minutes, but I don't know why I even mentioned
15 that. You can talk as long as you'd like to. These records
16 are being recorded and they will go into an official public
17 record so that what you're saying will be documented and be
18 a part of our records and are the basis for what we will be
19 responding to in this final Environmental Impact Statement.

20 INTERPRETER: (native language)

21 MODERATOR: Our first testifier, we'd like you to sit
22 down at the end of the table, please, if you would, so we
23 can kind of focus the discussion. For our first testifier
24 we'd like to have the Honorable Mayor Archie Brower, please.

25 ARCHIE: Thank you for the opportunity to talk with

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1 You this evening, the panel and ladies and gentlemen. On
2 this lease sale 71, I haven't had time to read it all but
3 what I understand little bit on it, I would make little
4 comments or testimony -- I did not have time to write --
5 what was in the EIS. But what I read, I'd like to say that
6 on the alternate one I like best is, I'd go for, is Alter-
7 nate No. 2. On account of that is where we do our whaling.
8 The migrating/^{routes}of the whales might be hampered if they start
9 any drilling down out on the ocean.

10 And besides that, the migrating routes of the fish
11 along the shore -- I don't know if that's going to be
12 hampered or not, but I've been catching fish that was tagged
13 all the way from Prudhoe Bay over at Griffin Point. That's
14 about 18 miles east of here. One fish I got that was tagged
15 at Prudhoe Bay and another one that was tagged over at 10
16 miles east of (indiscernible) Point. Those are the two fish
17 that I know was tagged over in that area and caught 20 miles
18 east of here in my fishing camp in the summertime.

19 MODERATOR: What kind of fish were those?

20 ARCHIE: Uh, Krisco. I got one more fish that was
21 tagged this summer but I haven't got where it was tagged.
22 But I should have some information on that before too long.
23 It was sent out about two months ago, the tag of the fish
24 that I got this summer. I don't know where it was really
25 tagged, but the tag was sent out already.

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1 On the whales, on that, the whales were engaged in
2 speeches and if this lease sale goes on out to about 37 miles
3 off shore I have seen whales that feed: not more than 1500
4 feet off shore on this area, and that's only about somewhere
5 around 15 to 20 feet of water. And if they be feeding along
6 the coast so they'll be pretty close to shore along the coast
7 if they're feeding in that area. If this lease sales goes
8 on or goes through the way it's being set for sale, it'll
9 hamper the feeding areas of the whales that migrate back in
10 the fall. And that's all I have. Thank you.

11 MODERATOR: Emma, would you like to sit up here, would
12 it be easier for you?

13 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

14 MODERATOR: Okay.

15 Do you know how to translate that, Archie?

16 ARCHIE: Yeah. (translating in native language)

17 MODERATOR: Our next testifier, Harry Acuchik.

18 HARRY: (native language)

19 INTERPRETER: He's going to speak in Inupiat.

20 HARRY: (native language)

21 INTERPRETER: The ones that you have marked for sale
22 I know the area and have crossed it many times. The currents
23 are very strong and I have seen big icebergs floating by. I
24 don't think you can even live with that.

25 HARRY: (native language)

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1 INTERPRETER: If you're going to drill on the pro-
2 posed sale area I don't think that we will ever see our
3 animals again.

4 HARRY: (native language)

5 INTERPRETER: Even in the summertime even if you make
6 a man made island the icebergs are going to be pushing it out
7 and I don't think your man made island or whatever you build
8 out there is not going to last.

9 HARRY: (native language)

10 INTERPRETER: When you reach 30 miles down, and I
11 know this, around Cape Halkett area it's very deep. We have
12 tested the area for the depth and even if you have drilled
13 through there I don't think you can even reach the bottom.

14 HARRY: (native language)

15 INTERPRETER: Our animals will be suffering and if
16 the animals quit crossing this area we will have no more food
17 to eat.

18 MODERATOR: Emma, would you mind asking him if he
19 could clarify what he means by 30 miles down?

20 INTERPRETER: The depths, how deep it is down.

21 MODERATOR: Water depth or is he referring to drilling?

22 INTERPRETER: Not from the land to the ocean, it's how
23 deep the ocean is.

24 MODERATOR: You mean to say....

25 INTERPRETER: They have tested that area as to see how

1 deep it was and they didn't know how far down they could
2 go and there's no way that anything could -- or you could
3 even drill as far as 30 feet down.

4 MODERATOR: 30 feet?

5 INTERPRETER: Or 30 miles down.

6 HARRY: I could see from 30 miles out from the ocean
7 I could see the land and little ways from the Cape Halkett I
8 can see the land and 30 fathom string can't hit the bottom.
9 That's what I talking about.

10 MODERATOR: That wasn't clear. Thank you.

11 HARRY: That's all I have to say. Yes. I know that
12 we are going down every summer about 10 years to bring the
13 food from the (indiscernible) That's all I have to say.

14 INTERPRETER: Sorry I misinterpreted that.

15 MODERATOR: No, that's fine. Thank you.

16 The next person we have down is George Acuchik. It
17 also says here "maybe".

18 GEORGE: (native language)

19 INTERPRETER: We have talked, the Eskimos have talked
20 and talked with the oil company people and with you people
21 about the dangerous conditions of the ice.

22 GEORGE: (native language)

23 INTERPRETER: The Eskimos have talked but the oil
24 drillers persist that they drill and we have tried to dis-
25 courage them because of the animals that we hunt and eat.

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1 And I am opposing the sale that you have shown.

2 GEORGE: (native language)

3 INTERPRETER: We will keep talking and talking no
4 matter how hard it is for us to keep telling you because the
5 ocean is very dangerous and you will lose people out there.

6 GEORGE: (native language)

7 INTERPRETER: That's all he has to say.

8 MODERATOR: Thank you very much.

9 Next, Loren Ailers.

10 LOREN: My name is Loren Ailers, a resident of Kaktovik.
11 I am also on the City Council and I would like to submit a
12 Resolution No. 82-2, passed by the City Council of Kaktovik.
13 I'll read the resolution for you and then submit it.

14 A resolution requesting the United States Department
15 of the Interior cancel the proposed outer continental shelf
16 oil and gas lease sale 71 dipar field. Whereas, the City of
17 Kaktovik currently has legal action in the courts questioning
18 the legality of off shore leasing in the Beufort Sea; and
19 whereas, the City of Kaktovik feels this lease to have long-
20 term and possibly devastating effects on the bow head whale,
21 an important subsistence mammal to Kaktovik and other in-
22 digenous people of the North Slope; and whereas, the City of
23 Kaktovik believes that technology for drilling in Arctic off
24 shore areas is not being developed at the rate necessary to
25 safely follow the current recent schedule; and whereas, the

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1 City of Kaktovik relies heavily upon the waters of the
2 Beaufort Sea to supply nutritional needs, upon which this
3 lease will have direct effects; and whereas, the people of
4 Kaktovik who have an unchallengeable knowledge of the Arctic
5 environment have and are expressing fear that this lease may
6 be one of the most potentially catastrophic and lasting mis-
7 take the government of the United States can make in the
8 Arctic. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the City of
9 Kaktovik requests an indefinite delay of lease sale 71 dipar
10 field.

11 There are four copies of this.

12 I will go into my personal comments now. I wish to
13 state hat I am against the off shore leasing of the dipar
14 field, sale 71, and some of the reasons I am sorry that I
15 don't have a written statement. Time up here does not permit
16 me to do all that should be done, for sure. And one thing
17 that I would like to ask for, before I forget it, is copies
18 of the translations, if it's possible to get them, after
19 they're made up of the testimony. I'll give you my address
20 later.

21 One thing -- or several things that bothered me the
22 most is one of them -- one is the lack of the ability at this
23 time to clean up oil spills during the spring and during the
24 fall. If the development of this oil field, especially in
25 far off shore reaches and the ice is moving, this may extend

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1 not only in the spring and in the fall, but into other times
2 of the year during storm when ice may start shifting or moving.
3 There's been no proven way at this time, that I know of, to
4 clean up any spill in this type of a situation. That alone can
5 be very dangerous, especially to the people up here.

6 And I also feel that it's very important that time be
7 considered as a learning factor. Things in the development
8 of the off shore oil in the northern part of the state or in
9 any ice-infested areas is new and time is needed to do proper
10 studies and to come up with safe ways to have an operation
11 out there. I think that one way time can be gained, I know
12 that we are dependent upon oil and that we also need to be
13 more self-sufficient -- the country needs to be more self-
14 sufficient -- and the only way we can get that way is to
15 develop, but I think it's important that we should not destroy
16 or take the heavy chance of destroying when it's not really
17 necessary. There are on shore areas that can be developed
18 that will, maybe not with the high potential that this area
19 has, but at least it would provide something while studies
20 are being done so that it wouldn't destroy this lifestyle
21 and environment that we have up here.

22 I also wanted to go in a little bit to the dangers of
23 an oil spill when it comes to subsistence, but I really
24 believe that's going to be covered by a number of people here
25 tonight, and I just want to state that I'm very concerned

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1 about it and most of the people, their expressions will also
2 be mine.

3 I have in every hearing that we've had, and we've had
4 numerous hearings, on the leasing and on shore/off shore state
5 this is being the first federal one. I've opposed them all
6 and I think that I will continue to do so until I have learned
7 enough or been given enough assurances that what they are
8 going to do can be done safely. At this time I don't believe
9 it can and considerations for this should be very strong.

10 I believe that that's probably going to cover about
11 what I have said. I thank you for your time.

12 MODERATOR: Well, we thank you.

13 There's a copy up here, if you would like to take a
14 few moments. Some of you people that don't have as easy
15 access to it, you can take five minutes here if you want to
16 make a move on the coffee pot, those of you that are having
17 trouble getting out back out there. Anybody like some coffee?
18 Take a few minutes.

19 - B R E A K -

20 MODERATOR: The next testifier is Herman Rexford.

21 HERMAN: (native language)

22 My name is Herman Rexford, formerly a resident of
23 Point Barrow. Moved from Barrow since 1941, that's 40 years
24 ago, and to this small village of Kaktovik. When I came here
25 there is not many tunic, that means white people, not many

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1 of them, there was few of them. Most all of these are fur
2 traders around the coast from Point Barrow to Demarcation
3 Point, there's a few left. A lot of them went to Barrow or
4 to Alaktak or Ulik, Canada, on account of looking for oil,
5 jobs or anything, you know, like that.

6 And these Eskimo peoples, like we, are hunters and
7 trappers for a living by the Eskimo way of life, the way of
8 life trying to find for food. And my first comment is I
9 would like to understand each others, like you and between
10 Eskimos and tunic, white people, so we can -- about this
11 lease sale. Be sure let us understand each other and talk
12 about the lease sale. And my other concern is about the
13 lease sale is because it's very dangerous for our subsistent
14 way of life, all the food where we've been getting mostly on
15 the ocean, Beaufort Sea all along the coast. That's what we
16 live on.

17 And it's about the food that we've been getting like
18 whale, seal, polar bear and all those things that are living
19 in the Beaufort Sea mostly. There will be disturbance of their
20 habitat, their food, where the lease sales are. The way I
21 look at it this evening. And I'd like -- and we all Eskimos
22 here -- looking for food all the time from the ocean or even
23 from the mainland, caribous and birds, and they come in the
24 springtime migrating, nesting, spawning, all of those things
25 like that we've been living on right now. We like to eat

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1 those foods because we are Eskimos.

2 And my other concern is about the oil spill damage of
3 the food the whales are living on. And I'd like to understand
4 how they gonna clean up the oil spill damage because I know
5 the ice conditions. If this oil -- if this happen, the oil
6 spill, boy that would be a lot of mess. When our animals,
7 food, or them to may be killed, I don't like to see that
8 happen. And now I don't know, I haven't understand yet how
9 they gonna clean it, this oil, this amount of oil spill, it
10 it happen. That's why I am opposed to this lease sale.

11 That's all I have for tonight.

12 MODERATOR: Thank you.

13 HERMAN: (translating in native language)

14 MODERATOR: The next testifier is Edna Sopalu.

15 EDNA: Me? (laughter)

16 MODERATOR: Supulou.

17 EDNA: Well, I would just say that I am opposed to
18 (indiscernible). Everybody in the village needs food to eat.
19 If there's no more animals, (indiscernible). I am opposed to
20 that lease sale.

21 MODERATOR: Thank you.

22 Next, Jimmy Supulou. Well, those are maybes. I guess
23 maybe not? Maybe later or, no, okay.

24 Next, Zin Kitred.

25 ZIN: My name is Zin Kitred. I'm a resident of

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1 Kaktovik and I'm a tunic. And I would like to back up what
2 George Acuchik said, if the translation was right, that we
3 have said time and time again that we, the village, are
4 against the off shore drilling, yet no one listens. I feel
5 that this whole DEIS and EIS procedure are an exercise in
6 futility. What is written in these impact statements has no
7 bearing on the outcome of the lease sales. They go on despite
8 what we say. I think most of the people in this room have
9 testified at no less than 15 of such meetings and to what
10 avail, none.

11 We are going to get run over on both land and sea by
12 the oil industry, whether we like it or not. Not a very
13 pleasant future, in many people's opinion.

14 In closing, I'm completely and totally opposed to your
15 lease sale. The end. Thank you.

16 MODERATOR: Our next testifier, Walt Audie?

17 WALT: My name is Walt Audie. I'm obviously not
18 Eskimo but I'm indigenous to this area. So I can't really
19 put myself on the level of the local people as far as
20 subsistence is concerned. I'm completely unprepared for this.
21 I didn't even know I was going to be here tonight. But I
22 guess what I want to say is that I don't believe the con-
23 servative summary of probable impact justifies the sale at
24 this time. I don't believe there has been near enough
25 research on the whale and polar bear, and I'm pretty close to

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1 those studies, I work with them.

2 MODERATOR: Could you speak up just a little bit.

3 WALT: Yeah, that's another problem, I don't like
4 speaking loud. It makes me nervous.

5 MODERATOR: You say you're doing research specifically
6 to the polar bear?

7 WALT: Polar bear and the whales. Well, I'm just
8 picking those two out because there's less known about those
9 two than the rest.

10 I say a sale shouldn't be justified at this time.
11 What I probably mean is development shouldn't be, even though
12 it's out there, just don't let them develop it. I think --
13 I haven't -- I've been out at some other village and haven't
14 been keeping up with the news but I have heard something about
15 the IWC contemplating the stopping of subsistence whaling.
16 I don't know what the outcome of the meetings were but, if
17 this is the case, and if the whales are that endangered, this
18 certainly isn't going to help, this development of the off
19 shore waters in that area, anyhow.

20 Oh, I wish I could think of something else to say.

21 MODERATOR: Take a few minutes.

22 WALT: I haven't had a chance to go over this stuff
23 hardly at all. Of course, like everybody else has said, we've
24 said it all before many times; in a little bit more detail at
25 times. That's about all I can say. I thank you for the

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1 opportunity to talk and I just want to reconfirm that I am
2 against the sale at this time. Four years from now, another
3 administration maybe. Thank you very much.

4 MODERATOR: Next I would like to hear from Mark Sims.

5 MARK: My name is Mark Sims. I've gone through these
6 hearings a few times before and sometimes it gets a little
7 difficult to keep coming up with the energy to come back and
8 keep saying the same thing over and over, as I'm sure others
9 are finding the same difficulty. But, still, it's worth the
10 effort if a few people will hear and listen to what's being
11 said. And as long as there's a chance that we can save the
12 lifestyle and the subsistence life that we've been used to,
13 we'll keep coming back time and time again regardless of the
14 amount of effort and regardless of the burden it places on us.

15 I've lived here for about 20 years. I've developed a
16 great respect for the Eskimo's skill, but understanding the
17 land that he lives in, his ability to live off of it, his
18 understanding of the animals, the weather, and from everything
19 that I've heard, they're trying to tell you there's great
20 danger out there. And I think it's time that you listened
21 very closely to what they are saying. There is great danger
22 not only to the people that are working out there, there is
23 also a great danger to their food supply. It's been described
24 before to you.

25 (Change of tapes)

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1 to the farmer's garden or the person down south in 48, their
2 garden and it's very true this is where all their food comes
3 from. And activity out there is certainly going to affect it.
4 It'd be just as easy for you to live off of seal oil and
5 whale meat and caribou as it will be for them to switch to
6 beef and chicken. And your difficulty in getting seal oil
7 and whale meat and caribou would be just as difficult as
8 theirs will be in getting beef and chicken and replacement
9 items. And if you think you get hungry for something, they
10 get just as hungry for it when they've been without it.

11 I'm totally opposed, as you've probably guessed, to
12 any leasing, especially in the water, primarily because of
13 the danger to the animals that are out there. There's no
14 method that's been described yet for an oil cleanup, especially
15 at times when it's stormy or when the ice is all rugged and
16 torn up, there's no way that anyone can get out there and
17 clean that up. And, contrary to what we were supposed to
18 believe a few weeks ago, there were some people over here
19 tried to convince us that a little oil is good for you, it
20 has medicinal effects. But I'm sure that polar bears and
21 seals and ducks can't ingest very much oil and feel any good
22 effects.

23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Where did -- who is the reference
24 to that source?

25 MARK: Was that when Teneco was here?

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1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Who?

2 MARK: Bob McCluskey, I believe.

3 Another problem that I don't see addressed, I've read
4 a lot of this EIS but not all of it, I'll admit, I do have a
5 few things to do, but one concern that's always bothered me
6 is that there's never very much attention given to accumulative
7 effects. They'll take isolated areas and show that certain
8 and certain thing has no effect, everything survives just as
9 it was previous. And this may be true in some small isolated
10 instances. But I believe a lot more attention should be
11 given to accumulative effect. A lot more attention should be
12 given to all areas of study, but I think that's the primary
13 thing that everyone's after, is to try and buy a little time
14 so that some of these studies can be done properly. Which
15 brings up another point. A lot of pressure's being put on
16 these people that are buying the leases, the oil companies,
17 because of the time limitation that's put in there. If they
18 don't produce within a certain period of time, they lose their
19 money, which brings all that money into play to develop the
20 area regardless of the risks that are involved. You have a
21 lot of money buying a lot of people to get stipulations
22 changed so that money can be made, which is the name of the
23 game. But perhaps without a time limit on there there would
24 be more incentive for the proper amount of research to be
25 done, which doesn't change my original position of being in

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1 total opposition at this time.

2 I just can't believe that the need for oil from this
3 particular area is so great at this time that it justifies
4 the tremendous hazards that you're placing on the Eskimo way
5 of life, their culture, and their food supply. That's all
6 I have.

7 MODERATOR: Thank you.

8 Next, Isaac Akootchook.

9 ISAAC: Me?

10 My name is Isaac Akootchook and I born up here am I
11 raising up here. I see lotta white people and I work for the
12 due line for 25 years next summer. And I learning and I seen
13 it, somethings the white mans doing and I eat tunik's food
14 the same time and them that eat our food, the Eskimo food is
15 the best. Because I raise with them and I like it. And I
16 agree with that Loren Ahlers says already about you. I pray
17 to that and the members of the village council the same. And,
18 sure, we believe that and we need our oil. We gotta have oil,
19 we gotta have electricity same as you guys doing but the lease
20 say but only when the lease says I want to say about it I
21 don't like it. Because I'm not going to hurt you people
22 because you come down here for us to listen because we live
23 up here, we hunt and trapping some people, some people working,
24 some people not working. And the native people all works --
25 look out for his friend, neighbor is always look at it. If

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1 they happen, the food on the ocean, the Eskimo's gonna die
2 out same time because them always look at it and helping.
3 That's the way the native are.

4 But we are live up here for so many years, many years
5 we get, have been living up here 50 years, 59 years and I see
6 the Barrow Island since old enough to know, understand. I
7 like to see the lease sale have to take care by the oil
8 company. I seen lotta time the trailing down the Bowl Bay
9 area or heard it, you say you gonna take care of it, gonna
10 do it; you better do it before. But never study really.
11 Forty years ago we know the current down there is always
12 pushing right on the shore, sometime there is built up 20
13 feet high. Today, after 20 years, they don't happen much.
14 We never see that much, any more up here. Now if they have
15 to 20, 40 years after what they gonna do? The current is
16 fast up, doing again like that. Nobody knows. I don't know
17 it. You do know it.

18 All of us like to work or we need money to do something.
19 I like that, you like that too. Same thing. But if we (in-
20 discernible) or something like that, we should help people.
21 You come down for help us? Maybe. We don't know. Maybe yes.
22 Hope so. That's the way answer, hope so. There's lot of
23 oil company always say come over, you know, maybe, maybe so.
24 Who knows? Nobody. Anyway, I like to see the animal sunny
25 sea, like to live like the way it is. Marx Sims talked about

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1 your food. Sure, I like to eat tunic food but I gotta change
2 it. Whale blubber, seal blubber can without days, we have
3 to have it. Thank you very much. And I think I have much
4 to say then.

5 MODERATOR: Thank you. Did you want to translate
6 yourself?

7 MODERATOR: When you said we have to work, what did
8 you mean?

9 ISAAC: We have to work honestly. Honest work. If
10 we have a job we have to work, help the people. That's what
11 I mean.

12 MODERATOR: Work together.

13 ISAAC: Together, right.

14 MODERATOR: Next we'd like to hear from Herman Aishanna.

15 HERMAN: My name is Herman Aishanna, resident of
16 Kaktovik since 1958. I always try to make this as a joke,
17 migrated from Wainwright, like the bow head; got stranded on
18 route. I'd like to speak on behalf of the Alaska Eskimo
19 Whaling Commission of which I am a member and representing my
20 fellow whalers here and knowing that our people up here has
21 been opposed to any drilling outside of their islands, that's
22 been our policy ever since oil industry has come up here. And
23 your proposal right here, looking at it, it's going down 37
24 miles off shore, which is quite a ways out. And it's quite
25 a large peice of property.

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1 I'm not going to make this too long but history has
2 already been made by my peoples and it's already been docu-
3 mented by a lot of departments since we've been up here.
4 And knowing for a fact that AWC has just started to work with
5 all kinds of departments to study the bow head like the
6 scientists from National Marine Creature Service and also
7 BLM. Even people from our federal government. We even had
8 people from IWC attending that last meeting we had down there.
9 And there was so many people in that one building that some
10 of us can't even find each other any more. It got so frus-
11 trating sometimes. But anyway we got through and we just
12 came back not too long ago and we have big convention coming
13 up this month, later part, and we have a lot of work to
14 do, the whole shebang of bow head whalers, Inupiat whalers
15 is going to get together in Barrow and we have a lot of work
16 to do on that.

17 And sometimes it's pretty hard for people to go to
18 these meetings, you know, and can't find each other, somebody's
19 gotta work and somebody's gotta go this way and that way and
20 it's getting kind of frustrating over here too. A lot of my
21 people know that. So knowing that they been opposed to this
22 off shore drilling which is beyond the Barrow Islands, the
23 limit they can probably go to is about 3 miles after Popas
24 Island and beyond that they've been opposed to it ever since
25 they heard about the oil industry. And knowing that very well,

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1 I can't very well say I'm with the lease sale. I have to go
2 along with my people and recommend that this lease sale be
3 at least postponed until a better technology of taking care
4 of your proposal. My people need some kind of a knowledge
5 that you have to present to them that you can actually take
6 care of an oil spill like that before they can say okay.
7 And that's going to take probably awhile. So knowing this,
8 I oppose to this lease sale along with my people. That's
9 about all I have to say.

10 MODERATOR: I have a question. When you say 3 miles
11 is about as far as they can go, is that what the oil companies
12 can go, to about technology wise, 3 miles off shore?

13 HERMAN: Not more than 3 miles. That's because everybody
14 knows the State's jurisdiction.

15 MODERATOR: Did you mean that as technology limitation,
16 that distance, depth, or something?

17 HERMAN: Well, you people don't know exactly how deep
18 beyond 3 miles out. We know that, for a fact, that at least
19 even sometimes within closer than 3 miles, this fast shore
20 ice doesn't move as much as the one out there.

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'd like a clarification of what
22 your point of view is, are you saying that you would not be
23 in favor of any leasing beyond the 3-mile geographical limit,
24 which is the State waters? In other words, no federal leasing?
25 Because that would be further than 3 miles off shore?

1 HERMAN: Well, knowing that you people have no clari-
2 fication of whether the State has 3 miles beyond the Barrow
3 Islands or from the mainland.

4 VOICE: There are some areas that are in dispute.

5 HERMAN: But I don't think you can clarify it. Any
6 point from the mainland down, is what we are talking about.

7 VOICE: Most of the Barrow Islands are considered as
8 islands and it's from that point 3 miles out that the State
9 still has jurisdiction.

10 HERMAN: We don't know this. Anybody know that?

11 VOICE: It's the islands, say like, some of those
12 islands disappear because there (indiscernible) that are still
13 in dispute.

14 HERMAN: I'm referring to this line right here, I'm
15 sorry. Yeah.

16 VOICE: From the mainland?

17 HERMAN: From the mainland, from right here too. The
18 Barry Islands, too. All the federal proposed lease sale is
19 what I am against.

20 VOICE: That's clear, thank you.

21 HERMAN: Thank you.

22 MODERATOR: Next testifier, Jonas Ningeok.

23 JONAS: My name is Jonas Ningeok.

24 (native language)

25 INTERPRETER: I came here to say what is on my mind

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1 because I like to hunt and eat the animals that I catch.

2 JONAS: (native language)

3 INTERPRETER: Every fall in October I go up to the
4 mountains.

5 JONAS: (native language)

6 INTERPRETER: I see animals roaming around up there
7 in the mountains. I see caribou and even sheep.

8 JONAS: (native language)

9 INTERPRETER: There are not many caribou roaming around
10 now as they used to long ago. They are diminishing.

11 JONAS: (native language)

12 INTERPRETER: There used to be lot of caribou here
13 before they put up the pipeline.

14 JONAS: (native language)

15 INTERPRETER: Ever since they put that pipeline around
16 this area the caribou have not been seen up here very much.

17 JONAS: (native language)

18 INTERPRETER: If they drill down on the ocean, the
19 same thing will happen to the sea mammals that we have here,
20 they will be diminishing every year.

21 JONAS: (native language)

22 INTERPRETER: This year I only saw less than 10 caribou.

23 JONAS: (native language)

24 INTERPRETER: Even though I went to the places where
25 there used to be lot of caribou.

1 JONAS: (native language)

2 INTERPRETER: I did not see any caribou at all.

3 JONAS: (native language)

4 INTERPRETER: If they start drilling down on the ocean,
5 the same thing will happen to the sea mammals, they will not
6 start coming through here, that is why I am opposing the sale.

7 JONAS: (native language)

8 INTERPRETER: It's a fact that if there is loud noises
9 starting down on the ocean or if there's anything that has
10 any oil in it they will destroy the animals.

11 JONAS: (native language)

12 INTERPRETER: No matter how big or small the animal
13 is, the oil will kill all these animals.

14 JONAS: (native language)

15 INTERPRETER: This is why I came to this meeting,
16 because I had something on my mind about this to say to you.

17 JONAS: (native language)

18 INTERPRETER: I cannot eat white man's food every day.
19 Even if I did, I get tired of white man's food and when I eat
20 my own food I am satisfied.

21 JONAS: (native language)

22 INTERPRETER: I have more strength in me and more
23 satisfaction in my stomach when I eat my own Eskimo food and
24 that maybe goes for you when you eat your white man's food.

25 JONAS: (native language)

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1 INTERPRETER: The white people do not -- a lot of
2 white people do not like our Eskimo food at all.

3 JONAS: (native language)

4 INTERPRETER: The only thing that he doesn't like is
5 limburger.

6 MODERATOR: How about onions?

7 JONAS: (native language)

8 INTERPRETER: He's giving that example, limburger
9 cheese. If he gave you a piece of fermented walrus meat,
10 you would do the same thing with our food, you would spit it
11 out.

12 JONAS: (native language)

13 INTERPRETER: I know that as a true fact.

14 JONAS: (native language)

15 INTERPRETER: I oppose the sale 100 percent because
16 I'm a resident of Kaktovik and I'm a hunter and when I hunt
17 I give whatever I catch to my people here that need it too.
18 Without having them buy from me.

19 JONAS: (native language)

20 INTERPRETER: Because this was passed on from my
21 father, to help those people that are starving or need food.
22 And in order for me to do that I think of my father's words
23 so that I could help.

24 JONAS: (native language)

25 INTERPRETER: If we worked hand in hand and understand

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1 each other, we will do it much better and we will be far more
2 ahead.

3 JONAS: (native language)

4 INTERPRETER: He doesn't have much more to say.

5 MODERATOR: Would you ask him then if he could identify
6 the herd which he usually goes looking for, for caribou, which
7 he states is diminishing? Is it in the Arctic National
8 Wildlife Range?

9 INTERPRETER: (native language)

10 JONAS: (native language)

11 MODERATOR: There is several herds that migrate up
12 and perhaps he could identify it by the name we know it by.

13 INTERPRETER: Peters Lake.

14 MODERATOR: Is that known by a particular name, that
15 migrates into this area here? Does it have a name, that
16 caribou herd?

17 VOICE: Porcupine?

18 MODERATOR: There are several of them that migrate
19 to different areas.

20 You say 10 caribou this year in that herd?

21 INTERPRETER: Less than 10.

22 MODERATOR: Can you give us an idea of what you have
23 seen in previous years, the number, in the same places?
24 Before the pipeline as well as the year before, is there a
25 trend?

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1 JONAS: Lotta caribou all over the place. Before the
2 pipeline all over the place, the caribou. But now -- before
3 the pipeline when I go to the mountains, a lot of caribou all
4 over the place. And once in awhile -- but now nothing. I
5 traveling around every day and last October when I go up
6 there looking for caribou, nothing. Every time when I go
7 there before, lot of caribou same place; but now, last
8 October, nothing. I don't know why. Something happen.

9 MODERATOR: How close is the pipeline to that area?

10 JONAS: I don't know how far.

11 That's all I have to say.

12 MODERATOR: Is there anyone else who would like to
13 testify this evening? Anyone that has testified that has
14 thought of something else they would like to say? Mike?

15 MIKE: Again, for the record, my name is Michael
16 Jeffrey. I'm a resident of Barrow. And I'd just like to say
17 a few things to supplement the comments that I made in Barrow
18 on Tuesday night. I think all of us who have attended these
19 three hearings on the North Slope have been inspired by what
20 people have had to say. There's some particular kinds of
21 points that different comments that people have made, including
22 ones tonight, that -- I'd just like to make some of these
23 particular comments. One is, the EIS does not bring out as
24 clearly as it could the migration routes of fish, of whales,
25 of seals, of birds. I was looking here in the Kaktovik City

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1 Office to see if I could see one of the final impact statements
2 for the Waterford project. As I remember, there are some
3 excellent graphics in there that do bring out these things.
4 And it's critical because, as was testified tonight, for
5 example by Archie Brower, very clearly he's caught fish here
6 east of Kaktovik that were tagged in this lease sale area,
7 in Simpson Lagoon. And that could be much more clearly brought
8 out than it is, I think, in the EIS. I think another point
9 that was brought up tonight again very specifically the lease
10 term. Now in the Beaufort Sea leases it was an 8-year term.
11 For reasons that are unexplained in this drafted Environmental
12 Impact Statement you are talking about setting it back to a
13 5-year term, which is then going to again put this kind of
14 pressure on the people who buy these leases. They're going
15 to say that they have to rush ahead and they don't have time
16 to do the studies, and they don't have time to do this and
17 that, because there's such a short lease term and they'd lose
18 their money. And one way to deal with that is if the leasing
19 happens, is to lengthen the lease term and allow these kinds
20 of studies to go ahead.

21 Another point is in the way the impact statement talks
22 about oil spill probabilities. It says, for example, that
23 it's not that likely that there would be major problems in
24 the Colville delta because in order for that to happen there
25 would have to be an oil spill at the same time there was a

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1 major storm surge. And that also applies to some of the
2 other possible impacts on marine mammals and whales, that
3 there would have to be some of these combinations of events
4 and that's not too likely.

5 I think that should be reexamined. It is not simply --
6 it is in fact more likely that there would be an oil spill
7 when the weather is bad, when the wind is blowing and it is
8 very cold and when there is a storm surge, in the middle of
9 a major storm. Isn't in fact that -- that's exactly the
10 time when an oil spill is the most likely to happen.

11 VOICE: I'd like to respond to that, if I may.

12 MIKE: Go ahead.

13 VOICE: In the records that we have about oil spills
14 that have occurred, there isn't a correlation between a climatic
15 event like this, especially of some extreme magnitude, because
16 with forewarning of the event has allowed the operation -- in
17 this case the drilling operation -- to shut down in anticipa-
18 tion and, therefore, they can in that way -- if it's a major
19 storm activity. For example, in our Gulf Coast area, in the
20 Gulf of Mexico, hurricanes down there are a very definite
21 phenomenon, well, as the approaching event comes to those
22 platforms, the oil companies can shut down in anticipation
23 of having that entire structure destroyed by a hurricane and
24 therefore there hasn't been that correlation. But I understand
25 how you would say that. But I'm not saying it totally rectifies

1 the concern there, but that is some of that statement.

2 MIKE: All right. Well, I think it's useful to point
3 out again, and is something that perhaps is not brought out
4 in the impact statement as well as it might be, is the
5 Canadian drilling experience. Now I remember when one of
6 the wells that did have a blowout kind of thing -- of course,
7 it didn't turn out to be oil. It was water and gas. And
8 so luckily there wasn't a major disaster, but in some of the
9 publications that I have read from Canada, the man that was
10 in charge of that drill ship was faced with a multimillion
11 dollar decision about whether to break off the well. He
12 made the wrong decision. He didn't break it off in time and
13 it resulted in this uncontrolled flow of what luckily was
14 water out of the -- it could have been oil. And that's the
15 kind of thing that is scary. I think the kinds of comments
16 that people have been making and certainly the kinds of
17 comments I've heard from elders in villages here and in
18 Wainright and in Barrow is that there have not recently been
19 the tremendous kinds of ice pushes that have happened in
20 their living memory. The EIS does bring out a couple of
21 testimonies but there is much more to be said of people, of
22 the elders, who have seen with their own eyes events that
23 happened in 1920s or in the 1930s.

24 One man in Wainright talked to me, that if the coast --
25 and it's Waldo Bodfish, Sr. in Wainright, he's a member of

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1 You have some confusion about how important whaling
2 is to this village. I think you've heard tonight how impor-
3 tant it is to this village. It is extremely important. Now
4 in the text of the EIS, whaling is said to be what's called
5 a secondary subsistence activity for Kaktovik; in other words,
6 there's other things that are more important. Yet, in the
7 EIS itself in one of the tables -- and I don't have the number
8 but the table it is at that point in the EIS it's said to
9 be primary, of primary importance, and I think your text
10 doesn't agree with your own tables. And I think the evidence
11 that you've heard tonight is clearly that whaling is of
12 extreme importance to the people here.

13 One point about whaling. Each whale is several tons
14 of food. If you consider the Environmental Impact Statement
15 that was written in 1978, about the possible halt to bow head
16 whaling that was being considered at that time, the government
17 the official government studies showed that there was no
18 possible way to replace whales. You can't hunt enough caribou,
19 you can't hunt enough birds, you can't hunt enough seals to
20 possibly replace the tons of food that come in from migrating
21 bow head whales that the Lord provides, that come by these
22 villages anyway.

23 There, also, was in that same Environmental Impact
24 Statement clear testimony, like from the Bureau of Indian
25 Affairs, saying that you can't have enough government programs

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1 that are going to replace that food. And that is what we've
2 been hearing tonight, too. I talked in Barrow about the
3 evidence that had been given in Kaktovik in 1979 Beaufort
4 hearings, about how nutritious the food, the native food, is.
5 And that's again what you've been hearing tonight. The
6 testimonies and the government studies agree that that can't
7 be replaced, can't be replaced, and that's what's so scary,
8 when you see in the impact statement about oil spills, 6 to
9 9 oil spills, over a thousand barrels, are probable.

10 There was a very wonderful statement that was made in
11 Barrow in 1980 by a woman named Bertha Levett, at the Coastal
12 Zone Management hearings. When the borough, the proposed
13 borough Coastal Zone Management Plan was being considered
14 by the state that was going to approve it or not. And I
15 think it's worth just bringing this out a little bit because
16 the situation was this. The hearing panel was late, they
17 knew that their pilots in the jet that they had had only a
18 limited amount of time, they were going to break for dinner.
19 They didn't, at the request of Mayor of Barrow and others
20 who insisted that they had come all this way to hear the
21 people talk and that they should stay and listen to the people.
22 You, of course, are staying here overnight and so you don't
23 have that problem, and that is a great step ahead. But they
24 weren't going to stay overnight. They had their jet to
25 catch and so they agreed to do that, they didn't break for

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1 dinner, their staff went back and had dinner. Their dinner
2 was brought in as a take-out, so all of us were there in the
3 hearing room at the SRC and the hearing panel was eating
4 their dinner. So Bertha Levett got up and she started to
5 talk in Inupiat and there started to be a lot of laughter in
6 the room while she was talking and when she got done, it was
7 translated. And basically her statement went something like
8 this: She said, "I love you and you love me, too. I can see
9 it in your faces. You are eating now and we are watching you
10 eat." And she said, "That is exactly what we are talking about
11 here. If the oil spills happen, all the people in the govern-
12 ment and the drilling people, they're going to be eating,
13 they're going to be having their food, but we will not be
14 eating. We will not have our food anymore. And that's why
15 we feel so strongly about this." And I think the subject of
16 food and health, that's something that we've heard a lot
17 about, especially here tonight. I think it's one of the basic
18 issues in all of these hearings, is that if the drilling goes
19 ahead and if the animals do die, as is predicted in the
20 Environmental Impact Statement, that we are talking about
21 people's health, people dying early, people being sick. I
22 mean that's what it's boiling down to, and that's what people
23 are worried about.

24 And, as I said in Barrow, I think when you consider
25 the kind of information that you have brought out in the

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1 impact statement about the dangers of this lease sale, that
 2 the alternative that this village has also brought out in
 3 this resolution, that the alternative No. 2, which is no sale,
 4 is certainly the one that the government, if it is going to,
 5 the government should choose. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR: (to interpreter) Do you want to try on
 7 that one?

8 INTERPRETER: No.

9 MODERATOR: I think they understood.

10 Is there any other testimony that should be brought
 11 forth tonight? You still have until February 12th to submit
 12 your concerns also to our office. I appreciate your
 13 attendance and appreciate your comments. This hearing is
 14 closed. Thank you.

15 *****
 16 END OF PROCEEDINGS
 17 *****

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