

1 OI-CA-10-0361-I

2 Interview of Jeffrey Gleason

3 January 20, 2011

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5 ERIC MAY: It is January 20, 2011. This is Special Agent
6 Eric May with the Department of Interior, Office of Inspector
7 General. I'm accompanied by Special Agent John Meskel with the
8 Department of Interior, Office of Inspector General, and we're
9 with Jeffrey Gleason. Jeff, do you consent to the tape recording
10 of this interview?

11 JEFFREY GLEASON: I do.

12 ERIC MAY: Okay, we're located at 1201 Elmwood Drive
13 Boulevard in New Orleans, Room 665B. And Jeff has signed the
14 Garrity warning. Jeff, can you tell me your current title and
15 how long you've been with this agency?

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: Avian Ecologist or General Biologist,
17 either/or. I started here, would have been around July 18th or
18 20th of this year, 2010, right around there. Previous to that,
19 I'd worked with the Fish and Wildlife Service in North Dakota
20 on a Wetland Management District for a period of about two years.
21 The year prior, I was with the Fish and Wildlife Service in
22 Division of Migratory Bird Management in Portland, Oregon about
23 a year, and prior to that, about two, two and a half years with
24 MMS in Alaska.

25 ERIC MAY: Okay, your position now, what are, in a nutshell,
26 your responsibilities?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: Contracting Officer Technical
2 Representative on potential avian projects primarily, research
3 projects in which the agency funds research relative to potential
4 impacts, offshore oil and gas resources, so pretty similar
5 duties and responsibilities as my position in Alaska. So I'm
6 just starting, of course, so I'm trying to catch up and get
7 to know the resources, avian resources and marine mammals
8 and that sort of thing here as well. Very similar duties
9 and responsibilities as when I worked in Alaska.

10 ERIC MAY: Okay, when you worked in Alaska, what was your
11 title?

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: Wildlife Biologist.

13 ERIC MAY: Okay, so let's go into your work with the bowhead
14 whale migration surveys.

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

16 ERIC MAY: Let's start at the beginning and take me through
17 the -

18 JEFFREY GLEASON: At that time, the agency contracted the
19 actual aircraft time out, and I think, starting in 2007, it was
20 done through an interagency agreement with NOAA, I think. But
21 they've since basically taken over the entire program.

22 ERIC MAY: NOAA has?

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: NOAA NEMS, yeah. Before that, MMS
24 would staff the aircraft, and I was typically either an observer,
25 primary observer or sort of the crew leader on the aircraft. So
26 the survey started around the first week of September and would

1 run typically up to freeze-up, which, you know, mid- to late
2 October. So we counted, of course, primarily bowhead survey,
3 but we counted all marine mammals along transects offshore, and
4 I did that for 2004, 2005 and 2006. And the time spent on them,
5 doing that, for me varied from two weeks to a month at a time, so
6 we'd kind of trade off.

7 But one of my first duties, once I got to Alaska in June of
8 2004, was the previous bowhead Project Manager had submitted a
9 paper for publication, and it got rejected from my supervisor at
10 the time. And I said I would sort of revisit that, and he ended
11 up publishing that like a year later or something.

12 ERIC MAY: What was the publication?

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: I've got a copy of it. Let's see -

14 ERIC MAY: And you said this was previously submitted for
15 publication, and it had been rejected?

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right, it had been previously submitted.
17 Steve Treacy was the Project Manager prior to my arrival, and
18 he was, you know, the originator of the article. So I spent
19 a fair amount of time reworking the paper and resubmitting it,
20 so we got it published.

21 Other than that, I collaborated with Dr. Chuck Monnett on
22 several papers stemming from the survey work. I worked pretty
23 closely with him on some of the survey design issues and that
24 sort of thing in the final reports. I think there were probably
25 two final reports during my time there.

26 ERIC MAY: You're talking about the bowhead whale survey?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, the BWASP annual reports. I helped
2 him out with those, but as far as the contracting, any aspects
3 of the contracting stuff, I never dealt with any of that.

4 ERIC MAY: Okay, did you have to have any experience or
5 qualifications to be an observer on these?

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: We did. There were some safety - we had
7 to meet with both the contractors who actually did the aircraft
8 and go through safety briefings before each flight, of course.
9 And then there was a safety briefing for equipment, safety
10 equipment on the aircraft, before each year, and we would do
11 that as well.

12 ERIC MAY: So as an observer, you didn't need any specific
13 experience or qualifications to observe the bowhead whale
14 migration?

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: I had previous experience doing waterfowl
16 and migratory bird surveys from aircraft, so I did have some
17 experience.

18 ERIC MAY: So you did have some experience, okay. And how
19 many surveys did you conduct during that period of time?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: We'd have to look at those annual reports,
21 and I don't have those handy. It really varied by weather. Some
22 days, we just couldn't get out. I mean, in some years, you'd
23 have weather seven to 10 days straight where you simply didn't
24 fly. In a perfect weather year or a really good weather year,
25 you might fly two months. You might get in 45 flights over a
26 period of two months in a good year, but it might be as few as

1 20 flights. The flights varied, you know, from maybe two hours
2 up to about eight or 10 hours. Typically, we'd refuel in the
3 case that the aircraft had extended capacity, you know, internal
4 fuel tanks. But, typically, six hour I think was max capacity
5 for the fuel.

6 ERIC MAY: So describe to me a typical day conducting an
7 aerial survey. What did you do?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: Sometimes, I was a data recorder, which
9 is basically the computer person. Each individual, typically
10 there were pilot, copilot, data entry and primary and secondary
11 observers in the back of the aircraft. And everybody had
12 headphones, and everything was linked to the computer. You know,
13 they had a software and hardware program set up on the aircraft.
14 You get geospatial referenced information with each sighting.
15 So you would call out a sighting, they'd hit "enter," and then
16 this access database would pop up, and the data recorder would
17 populate that with information: species, weather-type variables,
18 sea state and that sort of thing. So it's actually a very
19 amazing program.

20 ERIC MAY: So if you spotted a whale, what would you call
21 out to the data person, what type of information?

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: A bowhead whale.

23 ERIC MAY: And that was it?

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, mark bowhead whale, and then
25 you might give size of the whale, if it's a single or a group,
26 behavior, feeding or swimming. You'd take a clinometer; you'd

1 get an angle, and that would give you sort of a distance, how
2 far that whale is away from the transect line. So there is -

3 JOHN MESKEL: What's a "transect line"?

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Sort of the imaginary path that the plane
5 is going. So when they push the GPS coordinates, it gives you
6 the location of the aircraft but not the whale. Theoretically,
7 with the inclinometer reading, you can get the distance from the
8 transect line, straight line distance. Basically, it's, you
9 know, get the reading, you can get the distance to the whale.
10 So I can't remember, there's probably 20 different sort of cells
11 that you'd have to populate for each observation.

12 JOHN MESKEL: Cells in this database you were talking about?

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yes, yeah, so you had to be pretty quick
14 because a lot of times there were multiple sightings. And in
15 some cases, we'd have to divert from the transect and do some
16 circling to get a better count.

17 ERIC MAY: How far up in altitude were you?

18 JEFFREY GLEASON: Typically 1,500 feet, which was I think
19 the marine mammal permit that we were working under, so I think
20 it was 1,500. We could go down to 1,000 but, typically, between
21 1,000 and 1,500 feet.

22 ERIC MAY: Okay, the data operator, was it always the same
23 person?

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: No. Typically, we tried to get people
25 that had done it before, but that wasn't always possible. So
26 sometimes I would do it and, you know, the first time is always

1 a little stressful. But it's something you kind of pick up on
2 the shortcuts in the system and picking up on it pretty quickly.
3 But over the course of three years, we probably had four to six
4 different data recorders, I would think.

5 ERIC MAY: And then how long would a typical survey take?

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: In a given day, you might be out six to
7 eight hours, but it might be as little as an hour. You know,
8 the weather might be fine right at the terminal where we were
9 taking off. Deadhorse has a small airport facility, and the
10 aircraft was basically stored inside. And we'd look at all these
11 different weather things online, and you might go, you know,
12 50 miles one direction and fog, so we can't do any surveys, so
13 you basically turn around and go right back. So it was pretty
14 variable.

15 I'm trying to think the first, 2004, 2005 were pretty good;
16 2006, as far as weather goes, wasn't quite as good conditions, so
17 we didn't get near as many flights I don't think in 2006. But
18 real specific information regarding the surveys themselves and
19 number of transects and number of hours, I think if you look in
20 the BWASP Annual Reports, the 2005, 2006 reports should have all
21 that information, very detailed.

22 JOHN MESKEL: What was that program, BWASP?

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: BWASP, Bowhead Whale Aerial Survey
24 Program.

25 ERIC MAY: It's the acronym.

26 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

1 ERIC MAY: And there's an annual report for each year,
2 correct?

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: Basically for each year, yeah.

4 ERIC MAY: So the observations in 2004 would fall under -?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: Typically that calendar year.

6 ERIC MAY: Okay. Do you participate in putting that
7 together, the report?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: Very limited assistance with that report.
9 It's sort of an update from the previous year's report, so it's
10 almost a cut-and-paste job from one year to the next. You create
11 new figures, which the software, the program basically spits out
12 for you, and there's very little what I would consider details,
13 statistical analysis treatment of the data in a given year. It's
14 just sort of an overall report.

15 ERIC MAY: Okay, back to the process of this survey, so you
16 land. What do you do with the data that was inputted into the
17 laptop on the plane?

18 JEFFREY GLEASON: Typically, we would store it on the memory
19 stick. We'd bring that from the aircraft to a laptop in the room
20 and download it there and get it on the hard drive there. At
21 that time, we'd print sort of a daily report and, typically, that
22 got faxed back to the office.

23 ERIC MAY: Okay, you mentioned earlier other mammals, so are
24 all mammal observations recorded in that database?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yes.

26 ERIC MAY: Okay, so give me an example, what other mammals?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: Bearded seals, walruses, ringed seals,
2 polar bears, beluga whales, gray whales. That's sort of the big
3 ones.

4 ERIC MAY: So if you see another mammal, you just call out
5 what it was?

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, like I said, when you call out, the
7 data recorder would hit "enter," and this menu would pop down.
8 And one of the first items was a species list, and there was
9 10 to 12 species. And once they entered that information,
10 we'd provide them with a lot of this auxiliary information,
11 the observer or secondary observer.

12 JOHN MESKEL: What program was this?

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: It's an Access database that was created
14 specifically for the BWASP program probably 2003 or 2004, and
15 it's pretty cutting edge in that it allows you to get geospatial
16 information, you know, when you call it out. Basically, you
17 hit "enter," and there's a length to the aircraft GPS. And it
18 basically plugs that information right in, so it gives you a
19 point. It's an excellent, excellent database program.

20 ERIC MAY: How many observers are typically on a flight?

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: Two observers, primary and secondary, and
22 a data recorder, and then the two crew members.

23 ERIC MAY: So if you call out a sighting, is it verified
24 or validated by the other observer?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: Only if there's a question about the
26 observation.

1 ERIC MAY: For instance?

2 JEFFREY GLEASON: For instance, if we were in the Eastern
3 Beaufort Sea over along the Canadian border, and we saw somebody
4 said a gray whale or a killer whale or something that you
5 wouldn't typically expect in that area, the primary observer
6 ultimately made the decision on what it was. So we might do some
7 circling. And typically it was either Lisa Rotterman or Chuck
8 were the primary observers. And, you know, if it went down, and
9 it never came back up, if there were questions, it'd probably
10 be "unidentified whale" at that point. But for the most part,
11 the species are pretty easy to identify at the altitude we're
12 flying.

13 ERIC MAY: Now other than your observation, do you record
14 it in any other manner, photographs or video or -?

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: Occasionally, if there were ships, we
16 might take pictures of ships, that sort of thing, but anything
17 to do with sort of the habitat on that day or anything like that,
18 we'd probably take pictures. Feeding aggregations of bowhead
19 whales, where there are multiple animals, and there's mud, and
20 we took pictures of those. The quality of the pictures, even
21 with the camera that we had, were typically not that good because
22 of the vibration and shooting through glass and that sort of
23 thing.

24 Now, the NOAA aircraft have multiple cameras in the belly
25 of the aircraft, and they're motion sensitive, so the quality of
26 the pictures are so much better and remotely triggered. I'm not

1 exactly sure, but they're pretty amazing now compared with what
2 it was back then.

3 JOHN MESKEL: So were you having to shoot through the
4 windows of the plane?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yes, so the quality of the pictures were
6 often pretty poor.

7 ERIC MAY: What kind of camera were you using?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: It was an EOS, one of the upper-end EOS
9 Rebels, great camera, and it had a good lens. But between the
10 vibration in my hands in the aircraft and shooting through glass,
11 it just -

12 ERIC MAY: Pretty difficult.

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: Pretty difficult, yeah.

14 ERIC MAY: When you did take the photos, were you able to
15 tell what they were?

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: Most of the time, yeah. We saw some dead
17 polar bears at one time, and it was pretty obvious with the naked
18 eye what it was. But the pictures, they just kind of turned out
19 to be a white blob in the photos. And I can't remember, we
20 probably took three or four pictures, and it's sort of white
21 blob floating in the ocean, so it's pretty hard to tell.

22 ERIC MAY: Dead polar bears, how far off the land were you?

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: I can't remember. We published a paper on
24 that as well, 20 to 50 kilometers I suppose.

25 ERIC MAY: And were you the primary observer on those?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, I think Chuck was the primary on
2 those.

3 JOHN MESKEL: Chuck who?

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Chuck Monnett, Dr. Monnett was the
5 primary, and he's the Project Leader for that program.

6 ERIC MAY: He was the primary, so you were the secondary
7 observer?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah. Basically, I was in charge of all
9 the camera operation during my three years, but we did take quite
10 a few pictures. But for the most part, it was habitat, ice
11 conditions, weather, you know, and some marine mammals, but most
12 of the marine mammal pictures I think were taken probably that
13 first year. And having downloaded them and looked at the
14 quality, we'd keep the camera, you know, I'd keep it between
15 my feet, but I knew that such poor quality and resolution, that
16 I took very few pictures the next two years.

17 ERIC MAY: The photos, what did you do with the photos at
18 the end of the survey?

19 JEFFREY GLEASON: They're downloaded to the laptop, the
20 working laptop.

21 ERIC MAY: That was used by the data recorder?

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

23 JOHN MESKEL: Is that the one on the plane or the one you
24 referring to in the office?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, the one back in the room, and also I
26 would put them on my work machine back at the office.

1 ERIC MAY: Okay, do you have those by chance?

2 JEFFREY GLEASON: I don't. All those files were left on
3 that machine.

4 JOHN MESKEL: Where was your office?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: I can't even remember which floor. It was
6 in the Centerpoint, the main office in Anchorage. Yeah, I can't
7 remember which floor I was on.

8 ERIC MAY: How did you like Anchorage?

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: I loved it, yeah.

10 ERIC MAY: It's too cold for me, not that that's relevant to
11 this interview.

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: I gave you a copy of that first paper,
13 right?

14 ERIC MAY: Yes.

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: And here's a list of pretty much all
16 peer-reviewed publications that were generated, that I authored
17 or coauthored from the survey. And I included - there were
18 a couple posters that we presented at meetings. One was at
19 the Wildlife Society Meeting in 2006, I believe, and the other
20 was at the Marine Mammal Conference, and that was I think in
21 2005. But that's basically pretty much complete list of all
22 publications.

23 ERIC MAY: So, Jeff, and I looked at those, how many dead
24 polar bears did you observe during the - was it one year or both
25 years?

26 JEFFREY GLEASON: Just that one year.

1 ERIC MAY: What year was that?

2 JEFFREY GLEASON: Oh, boy, it's in that one paper.

3 JOHN MESKEL: This one?

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: No.

5 JOHN MESKEL: This one?

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: No. I'll have to get that one for you.

7 I think that was in 2004 maybe. And it was not just the dead
8 polar bears that was of interest to us, but it was the number of
9 swimming polar bears and the distance we observed some of those
10 polar bears offshore. And we went back, you know, you noted at
11 the time and I was pretty curious. So we went back into the
12 database, which is, you know, 30 years of records, and it was
13 the most swimming polar bears that had been observed and the
14 distances. And there were no records of any dead polar bears
15 floating out there.

16 You start thinking about probabilities, detection
17 probabilities, which is basically what is the potential that
18 I'll actually observe an individual on these surveys, on these
19 transects. It's not like you're covering the entire ocean. It's
20 a needle in a haystack. And when you start thinking about
21 seeing a swimming polar bear or a dead polar bear out in the
22 middle of an ocean from an aircraft moving that fast, covering
23 roughly an observation transect of maybe a mile, half a mile out
24 of each window under ideal conditions, it's staggering what the
25 potential is. I mean, it's really low.

1 So when we started putting it together, that particular
2 paper, there was a windstorm that came up. I'm trying to
3 remember how that fell out that year. There was a windstorm.
4 We had done some survey work about three days prior, and there
5 was about three days of very strong winds. And we had seen these
6 animals swimming offshore that last survey. And then, following
7 that windstorm, it was pretty calm, and that's when we saw the
8 dead ones.

9 ERIC MAY: So is that what attributed to them dying?

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: We attributed it to that. Of course, we
11 have no way to determine actual cause of death. We can't pick
12 them up. There's no way. But given the distances and the number
13 of polar bears we saw preceding the storm, and then the dead
14 polar bears after the storm, it seemed probably the most
15 parsimonious explanation for what happened.

16 JOHN MESKEL: The most what?

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: The simplest sort of rationale and reason.

18 ERIC MAY: Because from what I understand, the bears used
19 the scent from the land as a guidance to their swimming. Is that
20 correct?

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right, they can actually smell or detect
22 the ice from long distances, and at that period of time, using
23 satellite imagery, we estimated that distance from shore to ice
24 was something like 100 kilometers or 150 kilometers, something
25 like that. I'll print that paper out. I thought I got it for
26 you, but I can print that off for you.

1 ERIC MAY: So the windstorm, could that have contributed to
2 them losing ground possibly?

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think what had happened was some of the
4 bears decided, given the ideal, I mean, it was like glass out
5 there, so they just started to make the swim. They decided to
6 make that journey. Under glass conditions, an easy trek for
7 those individuals. Once out in it, the wind came up to like,
8 I can't remember, it's in the paper, like 30 knots or, you
9 know, something really crazy, and I think it was out of the
10 northeast. And we got weather data from one of the local weather
11 things. So we had pretty accurate information on wind speed and
12 direction and that, and the wave height, fighting big waves, if
13 you can imagine a Labrador retriever trying to retrieve a duck
14 under really heavy wind conditions, the waves are breaking over
15 the top of the animal and that sort of thing.

16 I think that happens probably more frequently than people
17 recognize, but you just don't see it, because there's nobody out
18 there doing these surveys. And I think there's a poster that's
19 recently been presented. One of the satellite transmitter to
20 animals up in Alaska, they have good data that they swam like
21 200 kilometers or some amazing distance. So they're capable of
22 doing it under ideal conditions.

23 ERIC MAY: Now you mentioned a poster presentation. Was
24 that your conclusions in that poster presentation, that the storm
25 caused -

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think we touch on it in this one. This
2 was the first poster.

3 ERIC MAY: That was at the 13th Annual Wildlife -

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

5 ERIC MAY: I'm familiar with that one.

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: This one was the one that led to *The*
7 *Wall Street Journal* article I think, and this is just basically
8 a blurb about it right there, and we talk about, you know,
9 distances. And soon after we finished this poster, then we put
10 that paper together. I mean, this one, it kind of talks about
11 changes in sea ice conditions over time and sort of distribution
12 of polar bears. And this one sort of led to this paper here.

13 JOHN MESKEL: Is there a quick title that we can refer to
14 these by so we can keep them straight?

15 ERIC MAY: Oh, that's a good point, yeah.

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: "Sea ice and swimming polar bears" for
17 this one, and then "changes in habitat in polar bears" for this
18 one probably.

19 ERIC MAY: And what was the date of the first one you just
20 mentioned?

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: I'd have to look at the file, the file
22 date. I guess there's a date on the inscription there. This
23 was September or October 2006 on that one, and that was I think
24 December. This was in San Diego, December 2005 on this one.

1 ERIC MAY: Now the one that's talking about the space
2 between the ice caps, what was the conclusion on that? What
3 was causing that?

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, we don't really get into, you know,
5 the distance in this paper to the pack ice edge, but rather the
6 change from BWASP data in ice conditions and how that related
7 to distribution of polar bears, both east to west and north to
8 south. So there's this tendency to see - early on in a survey,
9 there appear to be more polar bears further west and more of
10 them on ice. And later on in the survey, you seemed to get this
11 eastward shift, more over towards Kaktovic, and there were more
12 bears on land. At the same time, there were major changes in sea
13 ice conditions based on what we observed. So basically we were
14 trying to link some of these things and how that influenced polar
15 bear distribution.

16 ERIC MAY: Now back to the four polar bears you indicated?

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: I can't even remember the exact number.
18 I think we saw 10 swimming polar bears and there might have been
19 four dead ones. I can't remember.

20 ERIC MAY: Okay, other than you and Mr. Monnett, who else
21 observed those dead polar bears?

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: I'm trying to remember who was the data
23 recorder that year. The pilots obviously, and then the data
24 recorder for that year. I can't remember who it was, but it
25 would be in the Annual Report for 2005.

1 ERIC MAY: Actually, it was Mr. Monnett who called out the
2 observation of the dead polar bears, and you were the secondary,
3 or did you first identify them?

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: I have to look in my notebook. I think
5 actually one of them for sure I called out. I wasn't sure what
6 it was initially, a white blob out in the middle of nowhere,
7 and there were some birds around it. And so we spent a bit of
8 time circling, and it became pretty obvious, because I also had
9 binoculars handy. And though there is some vibration, it becomes
10 pretty obvious even at 1,000 feet.

11 ERIC MAY: Did you have a camera?

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: (Inaudible) get that aircraft to turn, and
13 it's almost standing still. (Inaudible) the Twin Otter is pretty
14 slow, and we circled it several times.

15 ERIC MAY: On all of the observations?

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yep. Yeah, I think if you actually got
17 into that database and looked at sort of the flight lines, it
18 would show at that particular point in time this sort of circling
19 of the aircraft in the database. It actually shows the track.

20 ERIC MAY: The database shows the track of the aircraft?

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: Exactly, so those polar bears, it was
22 obvious that those were dead polar bears.

23 ERIC MAY: Can you elaborate a bit on -

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, through binoculars, it becomes
25 pretty easy, the shape. And in the one case, you could actually
26 see what appeared to be almost looked like intestines coming out

1 of the rear end. So I'm assuming they got bloated, and they're
2 just sort of distended. And the presence of birds suggests
3 something dead as well. Gulls tend to congregate on floating
4 dead things, so it had become pretty obvious that it was
5 something dead. And much too small to be a beluga whale, and
6 it couldn't be a calf beluga whale because of the color. There
7 was no ice anywhere in the area. You know, it was pretty warm
8 during that period of time, and like I said, it was like glass.

9 And there were some cases where you could see bowhead whales
10 like way out in the distance. I mean, it was perfectly calm,
11 and that's so rare you get that kind of conditions. If the
12 conditions were different, you know, or it was really choppy
13 waves and overcast and, you know, there's a lot of things that
14 could influence it, and it probably went down "unknown." But we
15 had high skies, high ceilings, sunny conditions, basically glass,
16 the water was like a glass surface. It was amazing. So under
17 pretty much all those observations, I think conditions were
18 perfect for making those sorts of decisions.

19 ERIC MAY: And did you take photos of the -?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, I took of the one.

21 ERIC MAY: That's right, I asked you that before, of one of
22 them. Of the other ones?

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: No. No, we took, I don't know, three or
24 four I think, but they were such poor resolution. And we took
25 them to a camera place, thinking, you know, is there a chance

1 they could enhance the quality, and the original was so poor,
2 that there was nothing that could be done to those.

3 ERIC MAY: So you only took of the one dead polar bear,
4 photos of the one dead polar bear?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, and that was the one that appeared
6 to have intestines sort of coming down, almost like a thing
7 sticking out.

8 ERIC MAY: You mentioned you took it to what place?

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: There was a camera place. I didn't even
10 save it. I had it on a thumb drive, but I wanted them to look at
11 it and see if they could - you know, I had actually printed out a
12 hard copy, too, and they basically said there's nothing we can do
13 to increase the quality of that picture because it's so poor to
14 start with. Initially, in that paper, we were hoping to provide
15 an actual photograph, but when you start with a poor quality
16 image, and then you put it on paper, it's pretty bad.

17 ERIC MAY: Now why didn't you take photos of the other dead
18 polar bears?

19 JEFFREY GLEASON: I guess we either never thought of it or
20 the screen shot that I was giving on the first one was so poor
21 that I didn't think it was worthy of attempting again. That's
22 the only reason I can think of why we wouldn't do that again.

23 ERIC MAY: So the first dead polar bear you observed, that's
24 when you took the photos?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: We're pretty sure that was the very first,
26 yeah.

1 ERIC MAY: Then the subsequent one, you just didn't try?

2 JEFFREY GLEASON: Um-hm [yes].

3 JOHN MESKEL: Was this a significant thing at the time, to
4 observe these dead polar bears?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: Oh, like I'd mentioned before about
6 detection probabilities, it seemed pretty interesting to us, both
7 of us, in that there's a dead polar bear out in the middle of the
8 ocean. Now like I said, the chance of actually seeing something
9 like that, when they're on the ice, oftentimes, you'll see, not
10 all the time, but frequently, you'll see blood smears where
11 they've killed a ringed seal, and that stands out on the ice.
12 But while they're on the ice, they can be pretty challenging to
13 detect unless they're moving. Or the other advantage, if there's
14 snow on the ice, you see their tracks, and then you'll pick the
15 tracks, and then you'll pick the animal.

16 In this case, the swimming was interesting, given the
17 distance for several of the animals, and the dead ones following
18 that was interesting. It's just a needle in a haystack, the
19 chances of your transect line falling exactly on that spot,
20 because it's random. The start and end points of the transects
21 are random. The computer generates these random lines, and
22 that's where you fly.

23 And like I said, typically, your left and right observer
24 might only actually be able to see out maybe a half mile. It
25 varies a little bit by their conditions and lighting and that
26 sort of thing but, typically, you're flying right down a line.

1 So the chance that your transect intersects the presence of an
2 individual animal, and you see it, detect it, all those things,
3 I mean, infinitesimally small.

4 JOHN MESKEL: And if you did see something like this, and
5 you called it out, would the plane then deviate and circle, as
6 you've indicated before?

7 JEFFREY GLEASON: In that case, it did, yeah. If we just
8 saw a polar bear, typically no. Bowhead whales, for most things,
9 you typically don't want to deviate, but if there's questions
10 about numbers of individuals, or there's a big feeding group or
11 aggregation of whales, typically we would deviate to try and get
12 exact numbers, cow/calf ratios, that sort of thing. You might
13 spend, you know, five minutes kind of circling that area, and
14 then you get back on the transect.

15 ERIC MAY: Each dead polar bear observation was called out,
16 I assume?

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

18 ERIC MAY: Did it all occur within the same month, two
19 months?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: It did.

21 ERIC MAY: It did, within the same month?

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

23 ERIC MAY: Is there a possibility that you would see the
24 same dead polar bear during a different mission?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think all of these were, given the
26 distance between the transects, the probability of seeing the

1 same bear were pretty slim, and I think that most - I have no
2 memory, it's been so long since I've dealt with that one, but
3 we might have got two on the one survey, and one or two on the
4 other. And they're, you know, 50 to 100 miles apart, given the
5 ocean currents, they're not going to move that much. They're
6 basically stationary when it's calm, for the most part.

7 The probability is pretty small. And, again, the
8 probability of detecting one floating out in the middle of an
9 ocean, that's not like a big ocean cruiser out there, like, oh,
10 yeah, there's - see that, you know, 20 miles away. This thing
11 is a little white speck.

12 ERIC MAY: How big of a deal was the observation within
13 the scientific community?

14 JEFFREY GLEASON: A lot bigger than I ever anticipated.
15 I mean, the paper itself is just a note. It's six pages maybe,
16 fairly small, but it ballooned, the combination of the poster
17 and the paper. Out of all those papers I've published, it's
18 probably the most heavily cited, and you can get on the internet
19 and check. You know, just type in the title.

20 ERIC MAY: Of your paper?

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: Of the paper in Google Scholar, and
22 it'll pop up with a list of papers that are close in title.
23 And then, I think clear on the left-hand side, it'll give the
24 number of times it's been cited. Like I've done that just out
25 of curiosity, and the citations on that paper far outnumber any
26 of the others. And it's just an observation really. You know,

1 there wasn't a lot of stats, no modeling really. We observed
2 some dead polar bears and some swimming polar bears, and did
3 some basic measurements for the swimming polar bears and compared
4 that to the other years in the database and, you know, put some
5 figures together. But, I mean, that one figure down in the
6 lower right-hand corner is kind of one of the figures I think
7 we actually used in the paper. But I can certainly print that
8 out if you want it.

9 ERIC MAY: Oh, I have this. I have this one.

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, the actual paper.

11 ERIC MAY: Oh, the actual paper, yeah, I'd like that. What
12 are your conclusions as to, I know we kind of briefly went over
13 this, the scientific conclusion as to why this occurred, the dead
14 polar bears?

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, like I said, the most parsimonious
16 explanation, which is sort of principle of parsimony or Occam's
17 razor, is a paper published back in the '70s or '60s, the best
18 explanation for a given observation is often the most simplest.
19 And the timing of the weather event with the polar bears swimming
20 offshore suggested that these deaths were the result of drowning
21 or exposure or fatigue or a combination of those things.

22 ERIC MAY: Is that what you believe?

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

24 ERIC MAY: But that's not what the scientific community is
25 believing, is it?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: I don't think we've had any backlash
2 or any criticisms of that hypothesis. I mean, I haven't seen
3 anything. I haven't heard anything like that.

4 ERIC MAY: Has any of your work been published?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: That was published. All these are
6 published.

7 ERIC MAY: By who, though?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: That paper was published in *Polar Biology*,
9 which is a pretty good journal actually.

10 ERIC MAY: Didn't the *Polar Biology* paper, the manuscript,
11 didn't it conclude that global warming was to blame for that?

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, un-uh [no].

13 ERIC MAY: So if I were to read that manuscript, it would
14 basically conclude that the weather contributed to the drowning
15 of the four dead polar bears?

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: Absolutely, yeah. No, in that paper and
17 the subsequent papers on polar bears, there's talk about change
18 in the environment, but there's no reference per se to global
19 warming in any of these papers.

20 ERIC MAY: Okay. And then have you seen Al Gore's
21 *Inconvenient Truth*?

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: I have, yeah.

23 ERIC MAY: And what's your thoughts on his reference to the
24 dead polar bears?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: Of course, the problem with this sort
26 of research and observations - and it doesn't matter what the

1 research is - it can be spun. And I don't think that's a fault
2 of the original scientists. I think that's the fault of the
3 media and/or others' interpretation of the science and the
4 results.

5 Now if we had concluded in any of these papers that "X plus
6 Y equals Z," then that's something totally different, but in
7 almost all these cases, *The Wall Street Journal* article is a
8 prime example, there was a spin to it. I mean, sort of the
9 facts (inaudible), whether it's the posters or the publications,
10 provide the data, you're forced to interpret the data in the
11 discussion section. But in none of the polar bear papers that
12 I'm an author or coauthor do we say anything really about global
13 warming. It's something along the lines of the changing
14 environment in the Arctic. And beyond that, I don't think we
15 make any references.

16 JOHN MESKEL: So people took "change in environment" and -

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

18 JOHN MESKEL: And in your words, put a spin on it?

19 JEFFREY GLEASON: Put a spin on it. I mean, environment
20 change is day to day, year to year, and teasing apart natural
21 variation in the environment versus anthropogenic sources and
22 contributions becomes somebody else's issue.

23 ERIC MAY: Well, the reason I'm asking about the global
24 warming aspect of it, let me quote what you, in the abstract
25 summary of your manuscript paper.

26 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

1 ERIC MAY: It says, quote, "We speculate that mortalities
2 due to offshore swimming during late ice or mild ice years may
3 be an important and unaccounted source of natural mortality,
4 given energetic demands placed on individual bears engaged in
5 long-distance swimming." So can you elaborate on what you're -?

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, by "unaccounted for," what we're
7 talking about is that there's an allowable take for polar bears,
8 and this natural source of mortality had previously been either
9 not described or poorly described. And if there's some sort of
10 change in sea ice conditions over time, one can anticipate that
11 drowning may become a bigger mortality factor, so having a large
12 impact on the populations. Obviously, we set up that sentence
13 with "we speculate." When you set up a sentence with -

14 ERIC MAY: But there's no reference to the storm is what
15 I'm getting at.

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: Not in the abstract.

17 ERIC MAY: Right. Well, it's kind of touched upon, but the
18 whole basis of this manuscript was that the ice caps are farther
19 apart; therefore, more bears - because, "We further suggest that
20 drowning-related deaths of polar bears may increase in the future
21 if the observed trend of regression of pack ice and/or longer
22 open water periods continues."

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: "If."

24 ERIC MAY: But, again, before, you did mention your belief
25 that the four dead polar bears died was because of the windstorm.

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: The one that we observed, right. Now
2 we're talking towards the end of an abstract, you tend to
3 elaborate or discuss potential ramifications of your findings
4 for a given project, and you'll see that in any of these
5 abstracts. What we're trying to lay out here is what is the
6 potential impact of this single observation or these four dead
7 polar bears on a population level, given what we know about
8 the system, the ecosystem. And that's how we lay that out.

9 The "unaccounted for" is pretty true. I mean, I think if
10 you looked at a lot of the population models that were done prior
11 to this observation of this paper, this source of sort of natural
12 mortality was not really thought of as a major issue. You know,
13 polar bears die, of course, of natural causes but, you know,
14 infanticide, cannibalism, poor nutrition, these sorts of things
15 are pretty well documented, but this was not documented. So
16 that's kind of why we went down this.

17 JOHN MESKEL: When you say "this," what source are
18 attributing? What does that "this" mean?

19 JEFFREY GLEASON: This was a unique observation, and that's
20 basically why we decided to present it both as a poster and as
21 a paper. We did a quick letter to review and couldn't find any
22 reference to drowning polar bears, so that's why we decided to
23 go ahead with the publication.

24 JOHN MESKEL: Okay, "this source of mortality" means drowned
25 polar bears?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right, right. And I can recall at least
2 one, maybe one or two other papers that have referenced, they
3 either documented it and published it, or it was referenced in
4 a publication since this time.

5 ERIC MAY: Well, I want to quote again one of the emphases
6 here, "Polar bears in open water during 1987 and 2003, a total
7 of 315 live polar bears were observed during September and, of
8 those, 12 were in open water. No dead and floating polar bears
9 were observed. In 2004, a total of 55 polar bears were observed
10 during September; 51 were alive and, of those, 10 were in open
11 water. In addition, four polar bear carcasses were seen floating
12 in open water, the first such observations over the span of the
13 survey." But, again, I go back to the storm attributed to those.

14 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

15 ERIC MAY: Yet there's no mention of that in this.

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

17 ERIC MAY: Right?

18 JEFFREY GLEASON: Is that in the discussion?

19 JOHN MESKEL: That's the results.

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: That's in the results section.

21 ERIC MAY: Yes.

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

23 ERIC MAY: But, again, you're inferring a lot of the -

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Basically, what we're stating there is
25 over the life of the survey.

1 ERIC MAY: And you mentioned how other people were taking
2 too much out of -

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: Oh, I'm just, over the life of the survey,
4 which was roughly 30 years, there were "X" number of polar bears
5 seen. What proportion of those were seen swimming in open water
6 versus this single year where you had a larger number of polar
7 bears not only seen but seen swimming. And then it kind of jumps
8 out at you, like, well, what's so different, and that's where
9 those numbers come from.

10 ERIC MAY: In regards to this manuscript, you were an
11 employee with MMS at the time up in Anchorage with Monnett,
12 correct?

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

14 ERIC MAY: Was this peer-reviewed?

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yes.

16 ERIC MAY: By who?

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think we note the reviewers at the end
18 in the Acknowledgments.

19 ERIC MAY: Okay, was this supported by MMS?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: I have the sign-off sheet.

21 ERIC MAY: By who?

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: I could get it if you need a copy.

23 ERIC MAY: No, by who? Was this your supervisor or somebody
24 else within MMS?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think at the time, I'd have to look at
2 that sign-off sheet, but that form was initially signed off by
3 Cleve Cowles and I think the Regional Director at the time.

4 ERIC MAY: Okay, on the peer review process at MMS back in
5 2004, or you actually wrote this in 2005?

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, you can see on the initial, there'll
7 be some dates on there.

8 JOHN MESKEL: "Received 2005. Accepted 2005."

9 ERIC MAY: And that's pertaining to *Polar Biology*, though,
10 right, received?

11 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yes, right.

12 ERIC MAY: Okay. So explain the peer review process at the
13 time.

14 JEFFREY GLEASON: Within the agency or outside?

15 ERIC MAY: Explain the peer review process with this
16 particular manuscript that you guys went through.

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: Within the agency?

18 ERIC MAY: Yes.

19 JEFFREY GLEASON: Basically, it would go to the supervisor,
20 immediate supervisor, and he would review it. And we would
21 incorporate any comments or suggestions, and then it would go
22 to the Regional Director - a Regional supervisor and Regional
23 Director.

24 ERIC MAY: So the Regional Director signed off on this?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: I'm pretty certain.

1 ERIC MAY: And who was the Regional Director at the time?
2 Do you recall?

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: John Goll.

4 ERIC MAY: Did they have any questions about the numbers,
5 statistics or anything during the peer review process?

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think we extrapolate from the
7 survey methodology; given the line transect methodology, we
8 extrapolated out some numbers, and he was questioning some
9 of those numbers. And it's a fairly standardized practice in
10 the literature, but I think there was more sort of internal
11 heartburn over the poster than that paper.

12 ERIC MAY: I did read about that.

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

14 ERIC MAY: Now why was that?

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think because it ended up on the front
16 page of *The Wall Street Journal*, and it quoted (inaudible/mixed
17 voices).

18 ERIC MAY: Well, and that's why I'm referring to global
19 warming, because they extrapolated all that information as this
20 was the first tangible evidence of global warming. I mean, they
21 reference your study. I mean, this is all over the world.

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right, it's a leap of faith, again, to go
23 from Point A to Point Z.

24 ERIC MAY: Well, and that's why I bring up this manuscript
25 about the numbers, and let me tell you why. I had not just me,
26 but several people who have a lot more knowledge, and I was

1 asking, "If there was a mathematical error in your extrapolation
2 of the data used to predict the number of dead polar bears in
3 2004, would you expect that error to be disclosed or found during
4 the peer review process?" and from who you sent it to.

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: The numbers of polar bears that we
6 observed are solid numbers. Those aren't mathematically sort of
7 tweaked or modeled or anything. Those are simple observations.
8 The equations or formula we used to calculate potential number
9 of polar bears that would be observed, given this correction for
10 the line transect methodology, the numbers potentially swimming,
11 that's basically founded on peer reviewed publication, and
12 there's a book on line transect methodology. I think we cite
13 that in the paper as our source for that.

14 And I think the Regional Director was most concerned about
15 those numbers, not the fact that we observed some dead polar
16 bears. It was this sort of extrapolation. But it's not uncommon
17 when doing surveys, given the number of individuals who actually
18 see - attempt to correct for detection probability issues, which
19 is this line transect methodology. Is there some noise in those
20 calculations? Probably. I mean, you know, there's no confidence
21 intervals on our estimates at all. It's a simple "X times Y."
22 You know, it's a fairly straightforward calculation.

23 ERIC MAY: Well, and the reason I bring it up, this
24 "straightforward calculation," that's a great segue, because I
25 had my folks who are experts in numbers/statistics, and they
26 found that there was error in the extrapolation methodology

1 that suggests that the survival rate of the polar bears in 2004
2 was 57 percent as opposed to the 25 percent reported in the
3 manuscript. That's quite a difference in terms of 25 percent
4 is very, "Wow, that's huge."

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

6 ERIC MAY: Polar bears are going to be dying a lot more,
7 versus 57 percent. So how would you explain the difference with
8 the calculations there?

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: Is there a potential we made a mistake,
10 and the peer reviewers didn't catch it? Possibly.

11 ERIC MAY: But that's a pretty substantial mistake.

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

13 ERIC MAY: Because if you reported 57 percent in your
14 manuscript, what we talked about earlier, how people were taking
15 this and exaggerating the results, probably may have not have
16 happened in terms of the world taking your study as attributing
17 global warming.

18 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right. Well, I see the path you're
19 tracking. As I've stated, when you publish a paper, there's no
20 way to know what the potential ramifications within the media,
21 culture, world, etc., you don't know. You may have some idea
22 if it's something that's, you know, I just found the cure for
23 cancer, published it in *The Journal of Medicine* or something.
24 Okay, something that's huge, you map the genome for humans,
25 something like that, of course, it's huge. You're going to be
26 in *Science*, on all the talk shows, the radio, all this. This

1 was simple observation. Could we have somehow miscalculated
2 the math? Certainly. Did your guys use some other method of
3 calculating than we did? Possibly.

4 ERIC MAY: They used the same calculation as you laid out
5 in your manuscript.

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

7 ERIC MAY: So I don't think that occurred.

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: If they did something a little more
9 elaborate, like Program MARK or some survival modeling exercise,
10 where you can actually get a little finer detail, then that could
11 happen. Could we have made a mistake in our calculations? It's
12 possible. Did the peer reviewers miss it? That's possible. All
13 those things are possible.

14 Now if this error was intentional, as a scientist, that's
15 a different issue. If you're coming at me from that aspect, I
16 would say no, there's no -

17 ERIC MAY: Well, do you blame me for at least considering
18 that, based on what I'm presenting to you?

19 JEFFREY GLEASON: I guess that's your job, but it seems odd
20 that this four-page paper is having the impact on society, the
21 impression I'm getting from you, that it is. It's a four-page
22 paper (inaudible/mixed voices).

23 ERIC MAY: Well, as government scientists, our job is to
24 make sure that the true facts, the real facts are out in public.

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: I agree.

1 ERIC MAY: And as a result of this manuscript, a tidal
2 wave of speculation of global warming theorists, using your
3 manuscript, has pretty much occurred from the Al Gore -

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Is that the fault of the scientist?

5 ERIC MAY: No, but, I mean, this is a huge mistake, if you
6 will, even if it was an unintentional mistake, as you indicated.
7 But what I do want to elaborate on these numbers, up until 2004,
8 the observations of dead polar bears: 1, 0, 0, 1. And all of
9 a sudden, in 2004, you find four with an explanation of the
10 windstorm. And then, all of a sudden, you right this, and then
11 did you, Mr. Gleason, follow up with your study after 2004?

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yes.

13 ERIC MAY: Okay, what was your results on that?

14 JEFFREY GLEASON: By follow-up, did we see anymore swimming
15 polar bears?

16 ERIC MAY: Correct.

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: In 2005, I don't recall in 2005 or 2006 if
18 we'd seen anymore swimming polar bears. I think not, or if they
19 were swimming, they were associated with the ice pack or, you
20 know, within close proximity to a beach or a beach ridge or a
21 sandbar offshore, that sort of thing. So those aren't notable.

22 ERIC MAY: Well, the reason I ask is because I did do some
23 research on the sightings. And we found that through 2007, it
24 appears there were no subsequent sightings of dead polar bears
25 during the surveys conducted after your survey of 2004.

26 JEFFREY GLEASON: No dead polar bears?

1 ERIC MAY: No dead polar bears sighted.

2 JEFFREY GLEASON: That's not unusual.

3 ERIC MAY: Okay, well, and the reason I bring that up, up to
4 2004, you presented that manuscript in 2006.

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: That's 2005.

6 ERIC MAY: This in 2005, but the poster presentation talking
7 about the four dead polar bears occurred in -

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: December of 2005.

9 ERIC MAY: Okay, but this was published in 2006.

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right, that was basically a follow-up to
11 this work.

12 ERIC MAY: Okay, but these observations occurred in 2004.

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

14 ERIC MAY: So you didn't do any follow-up on your theory of
15 why they're finding dead polar bears, correct?

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: Follow-up, well, we didn't see any more
17 dead polar bears.

18 ERIC MAY: So doesn't that support the argument that you
19 spotted -

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: The wind (inaudible/mixed voices).

21 ERIC MAY: Right.

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yes. Primarily attributed -

23 ERIC MAY: But that's not indicated in here.

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Primarily we attributed the dead polar
25 bears primarily to the swimming and the wind event, right?

1 ERIC MAY: I'll reiterate. You lightly go over the
2 windstorm in your manuscript.

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think in Discussion, it's a pretty major
4 section, in Discussion.

5 ERIC MAY: But you don't talk about a windstorm. You talk
6 about -

7 JEFFREY GLEASON: Wind event.

8 ERIC MAY: Wind event.

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

10 ERIC MAY: But you lightly touch upon it, is what I'm
11 getting at, and that's why the world is referencing your study
12 as an indication of global warming. I was just wondering why
13 did you go over the wind event so little when that was probably
14 the biggest reason why the dead polar bears died.

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: Is it proportionally in the Discussion
16 the smallest proportion of the text?

17 ERIC MAY: Yes. The majority of this text of your
18 manuscript is talking about the distance between the ice caps
19 getting larger. As a result, the polar bears have to swim
20 farther distance.

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, now you're talking about proximate
22 versus ultimate factors influencing the deaths of the polar
23 bears. Those are two different things.

24 ERIC MAY: Okay, all right.

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: Proximate is the wind.

26 JOHN MESKEL: Okay, can you explain that a little bit?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: Ultimate is the distance from the shore
2 to the ice. That's the ultimate. Proximate is the actual thing
3 that happened, and that's the wind event. So those are two
4 different things that potentially caused this to happen.

5 ERIC MAY: So all these other articles, they just have a
6 political agenda? Is that what you're suggesting?

7 JEFFREY GLEASON: All the other -?

8 ERIC MAY: Scientists in the world referencing your study?

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: No.

10 ERIC MAY: Because none of the articles and periodical
11 reports that I read about your study with the other scientists
12 mentioned the windstorm.

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: (Inaudible/mixed voices) mentioned this
14 as a source of mortality.

15 ERIC MAY: Right.

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think it's the source mortality
17 that's the pull-in. Now this is not uncommon when you do the
18 references. They're documenting swimming events as a source
19 of mortality, and I think, like I mentioned, it's pretty well
20 cited by researchers that the swimming seems to be unusual.

21 Now another thing that's happened recently is infanticide,
22 cannibalism and, you know, these sorts of things seem to be
23 occurring more recently. And whether that's a function of
24 more survey effort or more time out in - it can be a challenge
25 to tease those things apart. But like Stirling, et al., Ian
26 Stirling is a polar bear guy. He's been doing polar bear

1 research for his whole career. There's a couple of folks out of
2 Alaska that have been doing polar bear. Steve Amstrup has been
3 doing polar bear research in Alaska for his whole career, and I
4 think he's one of the authors on a couple of these papers.

5 ERIC MAY: Okay, let me read an email from Monnett to you,
6 and it says, "Just got off the phone with my co-supervisor from
7 my PhD, who's an Arctic ecologist, and I mentioned the dead polar
8 bear sightings. He thought we might be onto something with the
9 global warming angle. In any case, he recommended we get in
10 touch with Ian Stirling" - who you just mentioned - "to discuss
11 our observations. It might be worthwhile to get his views on
12 the topic." I mean, you're talking about global warming, and
13 this was back in -

14 JEFFREY GLEASON: Chuck mentioned that.

15 ERIC MAY: Yes, but it was a discussion with you.

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: It was an email. I recognized I guess at
17 the time that there was a potential that the paper itself had a
18 high probability of getting published because of the uniqueness
19 of the observation. Now as I've mentioned, the spin from this
20 and the outfall or tidal wave, so to speak, is beyond my control
21 as a scientist. I wasn't coming at it from any angle other
22 than I wanted to publish an observation that I thought was
23 interesting, and I thought we did a fairly decent job of
24 writing it. Peer reviewers, if there were any mistakes, peer
25 reviewers missed them relative to those calculations. I don't
26 know what else to tell you (inaudible/mixed voices).

1 ERIC MAY: Well, no, but again, I'm bringing this global
2 warming, because you discussed it soon after your observations,
3 and then Ian Stirling, Monnett -

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: We never mentioned global warming in the
5 paper.

6 ERIC MAY: But it's inferred. That's why the world took it
7 up as a global warming tangent.

8 JOHN MESKEL: Were there follow-on discussions from this
9 email about the global warming aspect?

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: I don't think I contacted Ian. I think
11 Chuck probably contacted Ian. If I recall, Ian thought that the
12 observations were very interesting and something along the lines
13 of, "In my years of "X" number of years of survey work, I've
14 never observed dead polar bears floating out in the ocean."

15 So the poster was interesting, and from the poster, we
16 thought, after talking to Ian, some other polar bear ecologists,
17 biologists, they thought it was worth attempting to publish it.
18 Therefore, we went forward with the publication.

19 JOHN MESKEL: From the email, it sounds like, you know, from
20 all the data that was gathered, all the information that did go
21 into your manuscript, in the publications, some the key issues
22 that were identified there were your observations and global
23 warming. Were they interrelated? Was one an indication of the
24 other? So what came of the follow-on discussions about those?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: I don't know if I was ever involved
26 in the sort of talk about, okay, what's the potential of this

1 paper relative to the global warming sort of mantra or scare or
2 whatever. My perspective was purely scientific in that I wanted
3 to publish a paper on a unique observation that had previously
4 not been documented for polar bears.

5 Like I said, we do talk about changing ice conditions and
6 the potential that, given the distance, this might be potentially
7 more important if, in the future, it continues down the path.
8 I don't think there's any direct reference or use of the term
9 "global warming." I can see how the media would glob onto this.
10 Again, I don't think that's the fault of the scientist per se.

11 I think it's one of those issues. It's easy to jump on a
12 bandwagon from a four-page paper with the polar bear as the icon.
13 I wasn't a polar bear biologist. I'm not. My background is
14 avian ecology. I have a pretty strong analytical background,
15 and that's where I've contributed most of what these papers from
16 analysis. The calculation, I think the original calculation in
17 that paper was not mine. Chuck kind of took the lead on that
18 paper. I did quite a bit of -

19 JOHN MESKEL: Was it his calculation?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, I did quite a bit of the writing,
21 the actual writing, but the calculations and figure preparation
22 and that sort of thing, he was the primary.

23 ERIC MAY: And that's what I wanted to ask you. How much
24 did he have involvement with drafting the manuscript?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: I did a lot of the discussion and a fair
26 amount of the intro, a little bit of the methodology, but I got

1 all the weather data from various stations and (inaudible/mixed
2 voices).

3 ERIC MAY: I did see that in your emails. You did -

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, and gathered all that information.
5 As far as the calculations, and I guess that's partly my fault,
6 I never really sort of reevaluated or looked at the calculations.
7 It seemed pretty straightforward to me, so I guess I never sort
8 of went over it. And, you know, the fact that if there's a
9 mistake, and the reviewers miss the calculation, that surprises
10 me, because that doesn't happen.

11 ERIC MAY: And the reviewers you're talking about, the
12 manuscript did reference or they're in the manuscript, correct?

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: It's supposed to be a blind review, but
14 in some instances, the reviewer will actually sign the review for
15 the journal.

16 JOHN MESKEL: What was done in this case?

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: If it says "anonymous reviewers," then I
18 don't know who it was.

19 ERIC MAY: It wasn't anonymous. They actually list some
20 names, Lisa Rotterman for one. That's Chuck's wife, correct?

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: She was one of our colleagues, yeah. I
22 think she did an internal review.

23 ERIC MAY: Ian Stirling, did he -?

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Ian.

25 ERIC MAY: He did a review?

26 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think may have.

1 ERIC MAY: What's his title?

2 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, he works for the Canadian Wildlife
3 Service as a polar bear biologist, yeah.

4 ERIC MAY: And then he had some of his friends look at it,
5 but I don't think -

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think Andy Derocher. He's a prof at
7 University of Alberta.

8 ERIC MAY: Mostly up in Canada did this?

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: Canadian, yeah.

10 ERIC MAY: Is that protocol for peer reviews, at least from
11 your knowledge?

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: It is pretty typical. You might have an
13 internal review process, and then you'll send it out to others
14 in the field, in this case, polar bear biology. Basically, you
15 might get a {friendly} review. Now the next step is you submit
16 to the journal, and they send it out. Typically, it's a blind
17 review. They have a list of potential reviewers, given the
18 subject matter. And like I said, the actual reviewer for the
19 journal may sign it or they may not. But, typically, it's blind
20 review.

21 I'm fairly certain that Andy was an actual reviewer from
22 the paper or for the journal and not a friendly reviewer. So
23 I'm trying to think, friendly reviews, we had Lisa. I think
24 Dick Shideler from Alaska Game and Fish may have been a friendly
25 reviewer.

26 ERIC MAY: Yeah, he was one of the (inaudible).

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: And he I think provided us with some
2 observations. You know, he'd seen what behavior on the coast.
3 And I think he may have reviewed it, a friendly review. I can't
4 remember if Ian was a formal reviewer, but I know Andy Derocher
5 was.

6 ERIC MAY: And then once that's done, then that's when your
7 supervisor, Cleve Cowles, signs off on it?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: Typically, it's before that, and I can't
9 remember, I'm pretty sure I have a copy of that form.

10 ERIC MAY: Yeah, when we're done here.

11 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

12 JOHN MESKEL: Actually, maybe a break would be good sometime
13 soon; we could get those papers.

14 ERIC MAY: Yeah, yeah.

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: You've got a copy of the paper itself?

16 ERIC MAY: Yeah, and then you mentioned it went up to Goll,
17 the Director?

18 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

19 ERIC MAY: And then he signs off on it?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

21 ERIC MAY: And then it's released to *Polar Biology*, because
22 they're based out of the UK? They're not a local -?

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: No.

24 ERIC MAY: Were you guys paid in any way?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: No.

26 ERIC MAY: Compensated in any way?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, none of the scientific journals pay
2 you for - I mean, as a scientist, it's basically a privilege to
3 publish.

4 ERIC MAY: Well, it's good for scientists.

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

6 ERIC MAY: All right, and then we'll take a -

7 JEFFREY GLEASON: Okay.

8 ERIC MAY: Just one question: This email was from you to
9 Monnett, and he says, "Four dead polar bears." And then he
10 comes back in an email saying, "Three dead polar bears." Why
11 the discrepancy there?

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: I probably just missed it.

13 ERIC MAY: So there was only three dead polar bear
14 observations?

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, the event numbers are there, the event
16 numbers for the four dead polar bears, as I described.

17 ERIC MAY: So you don't know why Mr. Monnett came back and
18 said "three dead polar were sighted"?

19 JEFFREY GLEASON: Un-uh [no], because there's four points,
20 so that would have been four.

21 ERIC MAY: So it's a typo potentially?

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

23 JOHN MESKEL: Four points?

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, the other thing is when you enter
25 a point in the database, it's one point, but you might have
26 multiple animals associated with a point. I don't think that's

1 the case here. I think there were four single, you know,
2 individual animals observed.

3 JOHN MESKEL: So does "point" refer to a geographic location
4 then, or what does a point mean?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: It refers to a couple of things, a
6 geospatial point, a reference, but it's also an event number.
7 So event number, and that's what I'm talking about here, event
8 numbers for the four dead polar bears for that year. And I
9 think you can go into the database, in that Access database,
10 and retrieve those event numbers.

11 JOHN MESKEL: For the four?

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, for these four.

13 ERIC MAY: Well, and that's the discrepancy, because then
14 Mr. Monnett does come back with the four points, and I just want
15 to know why - I mean, it's not like there is a lot of narrative
16 here.

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, no, I don't know.

18 ERIC MAY: So he can typo. He said three, but there were
19 four sightings.

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

21 ERIC MAY: Okay. Let's take a break. If you could get the
22 documents -

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: I'll see if I can find that form.

24 ERIC MAY: All right, stopping interview.

25 (End of Audio Track 1)

1 ERIC MAY: Okay, this is a continuation of the Jeffrey
2 Gleason interview. It is still January 20th, 11:38, and we
3 will continue. All right, Jeff, you brought back some papers.

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, I'm trying to find the -

5 ERIC MAY: I got a question while you're looking through
6 there. When your manuscript was published in the *Polar Biology*,
7 what reaction did you see from MMS Public Relations, because this
8 was pretty big news when it was released?

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, you know, to be honest, remembering
10 back, I think there was more sort of outcry or - I'm trying
11 to think of the term I want to use. There was probably more
12 internal agency response from that poster and *The Wall Street*
13 *Journal* article than that paper itself. I didn't present
14 the poster; I wasn't there. It lays out changing sea ice
15 conditions, and we provide some information on the swimming
16 and dead polar bears in that poster. But Chuck presented that
17 in San Diego, and there seemed to be quite a bit of interest
18 in it.

19 ERIC MAY: Well, the media was at that presentation, because
20 I believe the Director was there. No, the Secretary was there.

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

22 ERIC MAY: So that may be what occurred then, because the
23 media was there during the presentation.

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right. Like I said, I was back in my
25 office at the time and, typically, there aren't a lot of messages
26 on my phone at the office.

1 ERIC MAY: That was going to be my next question.

2 JEFFREY GLEASON: That particular morning, there were
3 several. John Goll came into my office as soon as he got in,
4 the Regional Director, and he and my supervisor, Cleve Cowles,
5 basically spent about an hour in his office kind of going over
6 the paper and the numbers and, you know, what's going on and that
7 sort of thing. And, I mean, at the time, I guess I hadn't really
8 (inaudible) the numbers, but I know enough about the methodology
9 that it's pretty straightforward. It's like I don't understand
10 why you're being bent out of shape over the numbers. The numbers
11 are the numbers.

12 I guess I can understand because of the snowball coming down
13 the mountain but, again, that was like I'm just providing some
14 information in a paper. I wasn't thinking about, worried about.
15 Retrospect, you know, maybe {the note} wasn't that good an idea,
16 but at the time, it was a unique observation, and we had a lot
17 of interest from polar bear researchers in that observation,
18 and they wanted it in the literature. They thought it was very
19 interesting. And, you know, for me, like I said, my background
20 is primarily in avian ecology, and most of the work that I've
21 done is more from the analytical aspect and my interest in
22 research, the bowhead whale papers.

23 And, you know, Cleve basically said, "Can you fix this?
24 Can you get it in? Can we get it published?" You know, it took
25 me some time, and in that form, there was no way it was going to
26 get published. So I spent, you know, a couple of months putting

1 it together, and we ended up getting it published, but that was
2 more from the analytical. You know, my understanding of bowhead
3 whale ecology and polar bear ecology, it's not trivial, but I'm
4 not a polar bear biologist or a bowhead whale biologist.

5 ERIC MAY: And *The Wall Street Journal* was published soon
6 thereafter, and is that the first time global warming theory
7 was connected to your manuscript?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: I believe so, yeah, and I don't know
9 if I still have a copy of that article or not. Yeah, it was
10 like, "Wow, this is drawing a lot of attention." And like I
11 said, I didn't think it was that big a deal. I thought it was
12 interesting, from a research and from a potential population
13 perspective, that the agency in charge, Fish and Wildlife Service
14 is in charge of polar bear management. I thought, well, if they
15 include this in their sort of models as an additional natural
16 source of mortality that hadn't been thought of before, maybe
17 it's going to actually help the species in the long term. You
18 know, so -

19 JOHN MESKEL: How so?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, if you miss a source of mortality
21 in your population in the harvest projection, you overharvest
22 basically, that sort of thing, your allocation. Then,
23 potentially, you have a potential problem long-term, and
24 that's sort of the perspective I came from. It was not
25 "Here's the snowball coming down the hill."

1 To be honest, I'm a numbers guy. Put me in the back corner,
2 let me crunch the numbers. I like to publish, because I like the
3 process, but being in a spotlight, that's not what I want.

4 ERIC MAY: So how much did you work with Mr. Monnett during
5 this whole process? Did you call him on a daily basis? I mean,
6 how much did you discuss this?

7 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, he was at the meeting. He got back
8 from the meeting, and we probably ended up -

9 JOHN MESKEL: What meeting?

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: The Marine Mammal Conference meeting in
11 San Diego. He was actually presenting the poster, and we talked
12 about it some after. And then he would task me to, okay, you
13 know, draft the introduction or whatever. And I think where I
14 came into play on this particular paper was the introduction,
15 gathering the weather data and working on the discussion. For
16 the most part, he did the numbers, put it all together, did the
17 figures and that sort of thing, but I was helping, but I wasn't
18 sort of the lead on it.

19 ERIC MAY: Are you good friends with him?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, we're good colleagues, yeah.

21 ERIC MAY: Would he have any reason to present false numbers
22 like this?

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: I can't imagine why, no.

24 ERIC MAY: Do you stay in contact with him now?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yep, yeah. I mean, we work for the same
26 agency, so we're in touch.

1 ERIC MAY: Because you miss Anchorage so much, {want} to go
2 back?

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: Believe it or not, it's not the weather
4 so much. It's fishing and the beautiful country. It's just a
5 unique, very unique place in the United States. I mean, it's
6 basically, to me, it's a wilderness that's just amazing.

7 ERIC MAY: We got to go to Fairbanks, -22 degrees right now.

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: That's a little different, yeah.

9 ERIC MAY: Get your document. You're looking for the -?

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

11 JOHN MESKEL: Sign-off.

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: This is a draft of the abstract for the
13 poster. I'm trying to actually find that form number, MMS -

14 ERIC MAY: For the peer review?

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, and I might not have it. They
16 should have copies of that. I might not have copies.

17 ERIC MAY: "They" meaning MMS in Anchorage?

18 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, yeah.

19 ERIC MAY: Who would I talk to?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: You could try Chuck, or he could give you
21 the names of the records person. And I can look it up when we
22 get out of here.

23 ERIC MAY: Okay, that would be good.

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: The form number, it's 1282, or there's a
25 document number in that.

26 JOHN MESKEL: For the peer review?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

2 ERIC MAY: So is there a manual for peer review, like a
3 step-by-step protocol to conduct a peer review?

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Manual? I don't think there's a manual
5 per se. I think after this poster hit the market, DOI-wide
6 changed their policy.

7 JOHN MESKEL: As a result of that?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: As a result of that. And depending
9 on which agency you work for, there's a little different
10 flexibility or different guidelines or guidance. U.S. Fish
11 and Wildlife Service, your immediate supervisor basically has
12 to review it and I think his or her immediate supervisor. But
13 it doesn't have to go to Headquarters or Regional Director
14 or anything. And there's been some changes, again, after the
15 last Administration, sort of going back to sort of what it was.
16 The onus is on the scientist. In almost all the government
17 publications, peer-reviewed publications, there's a disclaimer,
18 and I think that's provided in that paper as well, "The views
19 of this paper are those of the scientist and not of the agency,"
20 trademarks, that sort of thing. Those are sort of standard for
21 any government paper.

22 ERIC MAY: I did see that. But that would be different if
23 this was released through MMS, correct, because this manuscript
24 was the result of an unofficial - you're doing the bowhead whale
25 migration survey.

26 JEFFREY GLEASON: Which was an official -

1 ERIC MAY: And this was a byproduct of the official
2 objective of that survey, correct?

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right, right. Like I said, at the time,
4 it's kind of weird, the agencies each had sort of individual
5 policies, and there was quite a bit of variation before the
6 poster.

7 JOHN MESKEL: This policy on peer review specifically?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, and submitting for publication.
9 After the poster, under the previous Administration, things
10 changed dramatically, and the peer review process in Alaska
11 changed. Basically, after this, you had to have sign-off clear
12 to Headquarters, and before that, it just went to the Regional
13 Director. Since the previous Administration, it went more
14 back towards what it originally was, where the onus is on the
15 scientist and the immediate supervisor. So there is some of
16 that going on.

17 The papers, I don't know if I can find those. After we're
18 done, if you can give me a few minutes in my office, I'll look
19 some more for the review paper for the poster and the review
20 paper for the paper.

21 JOHN MESKEL: That would be great.

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: And those are the two forms I think you're
23 really looking for. And I seem to recall, in one case, where
24 John had initialed, but he didn't sign. And we unknowingly
25 interpreted initials as the same as a signature. We didn't know
26 that there was a difference. On the form, initials basically

1 say, "Okay, but, hey, you know, you need to spend more time with
2 it," or something, whereas actual sign-off is, "It's good to go."
3 And I can't remember whether it's for the poster or for the
4 paper, but we misinterpreted the initials as a signature.

5 JOHN MESKEL: Where is that difference spelled out?

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: On the back of the form in very fine
7 print. There's like a little subscript or asterisk on the form.

8 JOHN MESKEL: And was that intentional then, if he initialed
9 it, that he was giving a more limited -?

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: I don't know that.

11 JOHN MESKEL: Was there ever discussion of that after the
12 fact?

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: There was after the fact. It was like "I
14 didn't know that," and he didn't say anything at that point in
15 time. I figured if there was a problem at that point in time,
16 you know, and I can't remember which one it was. But those
17 forms, hard copies of those forms should be available through
18 the Alaska Region, if I can't find them. I might have a copy.
19 I've since -

20 ERIC MAY: Well, if you have it, that would be great to
21 have.

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: I've since moved Portland, North Dakota
23 and here, so I think I'll have them, but I can't guarantee it.

24 ERIC MAY: All right, let's get this, back on December 2,
25 2004, from Monnett to you, is this what the observations from the
26 database that you're talking about on the laptop would look like?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

2 ERIC MAY: Okay, so this is what you're talking about?

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

4 ERIC MAY: Does this look familiar, the four?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, the events would be - yeah,

6 whatever that previous email you had. But there's an event

7 number associated with each observation and then a date, the

8 ice conditions, presence of ice conditions, type of ice, status.

9 It's basically live, dead, swim. I mean, the status might

10 be behavior. I can't remember. And then distance to shore,

11 distance to ice, number and that sort of thing.

12 ERIC MAY: This is from the software you mentioned?

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think it is, yeah. I have copies of

14 some of the earlier drafts of the paper. Yeah, these are just

15 all early drafts.

16 JOHN MESKEL: Eric, are they of interest, earlier drafts of

17 the paper?

18 ERIC MAY: Yeah. I have some of them for your peer review.

19 See if these look familiar, Jeff. Was this part of the peer

20 review when you -? This is August 31, 2004.

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, this is for a camera purchase, I

22 think.

23 ERIC MAY: Oh, that's the camera.

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, this is for the purchase of a

25 camera.

26 ERIC MAY: And the type of camera, do you remember the -?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, it was Canon EOS Rebel something.

2 ERIC MAY: What about this one, swimming polar bears and
3 floating carcasses?

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, this is basically an early draft
5 that Chuck was going to send to Ian and Andy for -

6 ERIC MAY: But this was part of the peer review process?

7 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think so. It might have been him
8 sending them a copy of that poster. I'm not sure. I don't
9 know what two figure means (inaudible).

10 ERIC MAY: I saw the track changes and -

11 JEFFREY GLEASON: Oh, okay. Yeah, that's an early draft of
12 the paper.

13 ERIC MAY: They have several of these and one to Ian and the
14 individuals you mentioned up in Canada.

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah. Yeah, see, this one is dated
16 9 November '05; 7 April '05 with Cleve's reviews and edits; a
17 very early draft that's not dated. This one is dated 1-29-05.

18 ERIC MAY: And you had used the email system to forward the
19 drafts mostly?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

21 ERIC MAY: Okay, I have a lot of that with the drafts.

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: Okay.

23 ERIC MAY: All right, let's move this forward. The camera,
24 you took the photo of the only one attempt to take a photo of the
25 dead polar bears, correct?

26 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah. I think so, yeah.

1 ERIC MAY: This is some photos that you took that you sent
2 to Cleve Cowles, Mr. Cowles.

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

4 ERIC MAY: Do you recall?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, those are just bowhead whale
6 pictures.

7 ERIC MAY: Was this around the time you observed the dead
8 polar bears, because this is pretty clear.

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

10 ERIC MAY: And I obviously have the dead polar bear photo.
11 Why is this so much more clear than the polar bear shot that you
12 took?

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: Angle, where the sun is versus where
14 we are. The size of the animal, of course, is dramatically
15 different.

16 JOHN MESKEL: What altitude do you think you were at there?

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: This might be 1,000, yeah. We're
18 typically working in a 1,500 to 1,000 feet.

19 ERIC MAY: And then these are the photos.

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

21 ERIC MAY: And you're saying that these photos of the dead
22 polar bears in my possession are the same polar bear?

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: These two for sure are. I can't tell on
24 this one, if that's a different one or not. Like I said, I can't
25 remember -

1 ERIC MAY: Were these taken from the Rebel, the Canon Rebel
2 camera?

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah. And, I mean, basically, you can see
4 the form that you'd expect, a head, a rump, the legs, hind legs,
5 four legs. And in this case, you see this sort of white thing
6 hanging down.

7 ERIC MAY: Is that what you referenced as being intestines
8 possibly?

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, possibly. Yeah, and I mean, I think
10 these are probably blown up and not the originals. The originals
11 are much smaller, but we attempted to blow them up in the hopes
12 that, you know, better identification, in the hopes that we could
13 actually put one of these figures or both in the paper, but the
14 quality was so poor.

15 ERIC MAY: What did you use to try to -

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: Just whatever was available on the work
17 machine, Paint or one of the package. We didn't do any sort
18 of enhancing or anything. We didn't use any special software
19 really, just whatever is Microsoft Paint or, you know, something
20 like that.

21 ERIC MAY: The design place that you forwarded, they
22 couldn't do anything to it?

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: Un-uh [no].

24 ERIC MAY: What did they say, just too -?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, that the original quality, just said
26 between the vibration and the fact that it's a bit out of focus,

1 they said there's nothing we can do to enhance the quality of the
2 figure.

3 ERIC MAY: But do you have the original? I think I asked
4 you before.

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: I might have copies of the original.

6 ERIC MAY: That would be great if I could it, yeah. But
7 would it be on your computer here?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: I might have a copy on one of my thumb
9 drives, yeah.

10 ERIC MAY: So you have it at your desk?

11 JEFFREY GLEASON: I might. Yeah, I can't remember if I kept
12 those or not.

13 ERIC MAY: Okay, I would love to have that.

14 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

15 ERIC MAY: All right. Do you have any questions about the
16 photos, John?

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: I mean, it looks like a white blob
18 probably to the untrained eye.

19 ERIC MAY: Well, it does, and how far were these taken from
20 the plane?

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: We might have dropped down under 1,000 to
22 get these.

23 JOHN MESKEL: And were you the one that actually took the
24 photos?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

1 JOHN MESKEL: Okay, I assume or this discussion would never
2 (inaudible).

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, I basically formatted the camera and
4 spent a lot of time reading about, you know, and basically I was
5 the cameraman. But like I said, some of the pictures, you know,
6 obviously this was off of land, on the ground, and the camera
7 will do it. And this is pretty close to - I mean, the quality
8 of these pictures, which is pretty good but, again, (inaudible)
9 on a solid - basically on a tripod situation.

10 JOHN MESKEL: Where were you taking these from, like through
11 a window in the plane?

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah. I think in these cases, I was the
13 secondary observer, so there was two seats in the back. Chuck
14 would be in the right rear, and I was in the left rear, had a
15 camera in my bag ready to go, right between my legs all the time.
16 So in that case, we would have probably been circling, banking
17 left so I could take pictures out the window. The problem
18 is, again, between my vibration of holding it and shooting
19 through glass, the quality tended to be not very good. And,
20 occasionally, I think that first year, you know, these are
21 pretty decent, but these are pretty poor.

22 ERIC MAY: Do you recall taking these photos from that
23 camera?

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

1 ERIC MAY: Now when were these taken? And I'm showing the
2 pictures with the ship in the background with the bowhead whales
3 as well.

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: I don't know if I took those. No, because
5 this looks like a seismic array. Is it whales or seismic?

6 ERIC MAY: Well, I assumed, since they were taken from that
7 camera, and you don't recall taking these photos?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: Un-uh [no]. You could look at the date
9 stamp on the file. It would tell you. I remember taking some
10 of a just ship, but I don't remember seeing or taking any of the
11 ship with bowhead whales anywhere near it. So I think this was
12 probably after I had left, yeah.

13 JOHN MESKEL: Do you know what kind of lens you were using
14 there?

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: It was like a 8200; it was a pretty decent
16 lens. I mean, you could probably track that information down
17 through the email records, because there's probably some record
18 of -

19 ERIC MAY: That you purchased a high -

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

21 ERIC MAY: Yes, I do have a record of that.

22 JOHN MESKEL: It's hard to -

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: And like I said, these are probably post -
24 you know, I might have tried to kind of blow up the image, crop
25 it and thinking that I would get better resolution, but no.

1 These actually might have been one of the few instances where
2 we dropped down to like 500 feet.

3 JOHN MESKEL: So even from 500 feet and with a good
4 telephoto lens, this is all you can get?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: You're shooting through glass. Shooting
6 through glass is bad.

7 ERIC MAY: And the reason John is asking that is because
8 these photos seem so much clearer, and these are probably also
9 shot from glass.

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

11 ERIC MAY: So that what we're getting at, why the difference
12 between these photos and these photos?

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right. Potentially, the settings were
14 different. The operator of the camera may have changed the
15 settings in the camera, and because it's basically automatic,
16 once you have the settings sort of set, you know, to me, this
17 is a decent picture in that you can clearly identify what these
18 are. But it's really blue, and there's this sort of resolution
19 issue, which is shooting through the glass. Like I said, I'm
20 not sure these are originals. I think these might have been
21 for cropped, and you get this even blurrier.

22 JOHN MESKEL: What else was in the picture then that was
23 cropped out from these?

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Basically, that's it, open ocean with
25 the polar bear.

26 JOHN MESKEL: How do you even tell that that's a polar bear?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: You can see the head, the front leg, rear
2 leg, front leg, hind end, and you see that here, too, the back
3 legs.

4 JOHN MESKEL: How do you tell that it's dead and what the
5 cause of death was?

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: And, again, we talked about cause of death
7 earlier, and I think we mentioned that in the paper. "Cause of
8 death could not be determined." I mean, there's no way. If
9 you have a helicopter with a basket, maybe you've got a chance
10 to scoop it up, go in and do a necropsy and blood work and, you
11 know, a full suite of that sort of thing. But we didn't have
12 that opportunity flying in a Twin Otter on tires.

13 JOHN MESKEL: Well, I've seen the description "drowned polar
14 bears" several times. How do you determine that's a drowned
15 polar bear if you can't do the things you just described?

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: There were no Native subsistence whalers
17 in those areas at that time. We thought, well, maybe somebody
18 shot it. Having talked to subsistence whalers, the Game and
19 Fish biologists, there were no whaling activity during that time
20 in those areas, so we eliminated that. Again, we sort of fell
21 onto this principle of parsimony, which is often the easiest
22 explanation or sort of the clearest interpretation is often the
23 easiest, the most simple. And given the events that happened
24 over a course of three to four days with the surveys, the
25 swimmers, the wind and then, the next day, we get out, and we
26 see these dead ones, it strongly suggests that these bears sort

1 of transpired or died in route from Point A to Point B. And
2 whether it was exposure, they just ran out of energy, and there
3 was something to do with the physical process, it's hard to say.
4 But this seemed like a pretty reasonable explanation for what we
5 observed.

6 JOHN MESKEL: Well, again, from a layperson's viewpoint,
7 you know, looking at it years later and in the light of all the
8 controversy or the media attention that the study got, it seems
9 odd that given the significance of it at the time, that there
10 were no photographs taken of the other polar bears or what you
11 thought were dead polar bears on subsequent visits, subsequent
12 missions.

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

14 JOHN MESKEL: And you said before you weren't sure why,
15 but perhaps it was because of the poor image quality. If you
16 knew that you had poor image quality, and you subsequently saw
17 something that was this significant and so unusual, I would think
18 that you would spend more time and effort trying to get images to
19 document that. So what am I missing?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: The problem with getting good images is
21 the permit that we're working under only allows us 1,000 feet
22 minimum. And in this case, I think we probably broke permit
23 and were down around 500. But the permit says what, 1,000 to
24 1,500 is the operating range because of disturbance and potential
25 effects on the animals. I think in this case, we may have went
26 to 500 to try and get better pictures, and the picture quality is

1 the fault of the camera operator, being me. Interpretation of
2 what I saw and what Chuck saw and what the pilot saw and the data
3 recorder, if it was one person seeing something like this, I
4 could see where you'd be, "That's just a white blob." But we're
5 all like, "Jesus, those look like dead polar bears. Look at the
6 head, look at" - you know, we were close enough that you could
7 distinguish the characteristics.

8 Now the reason for it not showing up on the camera, that's
9 my fault. And like I said, it's a combination of operator error,
10 the settings on the camera, shooting through glass, vibration,
11 moving, so you get that sort of splash effect, whereas this,
12 the distance was quite a bit further I think, and it turned out
13 a little bit better. I don't know. But like I said, other than
14 sort of seascape, landscape, having taken these really bad photos
15 after that, I don't know if we ever took very many sort of photos
16 after this, because you just couldn't get the level of precision,
17 resolution that warranted taking a bunch of pictures. And like
18 I said, those pictures, I don't recall that event, so that's
19 probably after I had left.

20 ERIC MAY: The color of the ocean, why the difference if
21 it's the same photograph?

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: I'm not sure that it's the same. This
23 might actually be one of the other ones. But what we're doing is
24 circling. And the sunlight, and the color of the water actually
25 will change sort of, depending on which angle you are and where
26 the sun is relative to the image. And it almost looks like

1 there's this {trace string} here coming down this way, so we're
2 banking, we're coming around this way. This is almost straight
3 overhead, because that line is pretty much straight down. This
4 is we're either banking this way or this way, but we're on this
5 side. And this one would suggest we're coming back around, and
6 now it's on my left side. And I'm shooting down, because it
7 looks like this white thing is trailing that way. I can't be
8 sure, but it looks to be sort of a trail.

9 Like I said, the difference in the contrast of the water I
10 think is a function of the light and the angle. I don't think
11 it's a different bear. Now, like I said, I can check on my
12 thumb drive to see if it is. I don't think it is. And I've
13 got a notebook with some notes on this stuff, too.

14 ERIC MAY: When you were trying to make this more clear,
15 for what purpose?

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: To put the image actually in the paper.

17 ERIC MAY: For the manuscript?

18 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

19 JOHN MESKEL: Again, so you recognized if you could get a
20 picture of a dead polar bear, that's significant enough that you
21 would want to use it in -

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: In a publication.

23 JOHN MESKEL: In your publication.

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

1 JOHN MESKEL: But when you saw them on subsequent missions,
2 you didn't think it was worth it to try to get pictures? It just
3 doesn't make sense to me.

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, I know. I would look at the dates
5 of those from the database printout.

6 ERIC MAY: Oh, the sightings?

7 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah. I'm not exactly sure if they were
8 subsequent missions or if they all happened on the same date.

9 ERIC MAY: No, one happened on the 16th of September, the
10 other on the 18th, then the 22nd, then the 24th of September,
11 all the same month of '04.

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: Okay. Yeah, I can't remember exactly how
13 they fell out.

14 ERIC MAY: But you didn't observe more than one dead polar
15 bear on the same day?

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, like I said, it's been so long since
17 I've looked at that stuff. I can go to my notebook, because I
18 recorded a lot of information, so I should have the pictures
19 taken of polar bear, event number, because in my notebook, I
20 kept event numbers down. I'd get that from the recorder, so I'd
21 write, "Event number, polar bear sighted," and any information.
22 And if I took pictures, in my field notebook, I should have that.

23 ERIC MAY: Do you know what address belongs to
24 sonnytaylor@bellsouth by chance? Sonny Taylor, do you know
25 who that is?

26 JEFFREY GLEASON: Un-uh [no]. Is that an email address?

1 ERIC MAY: An email that had it on, yeah.

2 JEFFREY GLEASON: Un-uh [no].

3 ERIC MAY: You don't recognize that at all?

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Un-uh [no]. No.

5 ERIC MAY: Did Mr. Monnett try to manipulate these photos
6 to make it more clear?

7 JEFFREY GLEASON: Not that I'm aware of.

8 JOHN MESKEL: So was that you that was using that program,
9 whatever it was you referred to, to try -

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, like I said, it was just something
11 on the computer, Paint or one of the - in the hopes of trying to
12 make it clear. And it allows you to do some things, but I could
13 never get it to where I thought it was worth including in the
14 manuscript. And like I said, we took probably that file to an
15 image processing place to see if they could enhance it.

16 JOHN MESKEL: What place was that?

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: I don't recall. They didn't keep it.

18 JOHN MESKEL: Did you take it to somewhere physically around
19 your Alaska office?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yes.

21 JOHN MESKEL: Some kind of company that does photo
22 processing?

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

24 ERIC MAY: I have that information.

25 JOHN MESKEL: And did you take them the original file to
26 work with?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: I believe so, yeah.

2 ERIC MAY: You forwarded the original file to the -

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, we didn't send it electronically, I
4 don't think. I think we actually had it on the thumb drive and
5 asked them to look at it. And I think we might have provided a
6 hand printout, something like this, and said, "Is there anything
7 you can do?", that sort of thing. But I don't remember which
8 camera shop it was. I simply can't recall.

9 JOHN MESKEL: Who took it?

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: The picture? I took the picture.

11 JOHN MESKEL: No, I mean, to the camera shop.

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think I did.

13 JOHN MESKEL: Was there anybody else with you?

14 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think Chuck might have been.

15 ERIC MAY: Well, according to this email, you sent it
16 electronically, this photo.

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: Oh, I did? It's probably this one here.

18 ERIC MAY: "Maybe later today or even tomorrow before I'm
19 given the okay to proceed, before we" - who are you talking about
20 there, "okay" from whom?

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: Probably Cleve to pay, to cover the cost
22 if there is something that's -

23 ERIC MAY: So management knew about these photos?

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

25 ERIC MAY: Okay, "Before we agree to have the work done, it
26 would be good to know if the image can be manipulated enough to

1 be of publication quality, that is, if you look at it." The
2 "manipulation," what do you -?

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: Basically clarifying the image, not
4 distorting it in any way, no.

5 ERIC MAY: And you only sent one.

6 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

7 ERIC MAY: So is this the original then, the original photo?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, and that I think is this one.

9 ERIC MAY: Okay, and you have this one?

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think so.

11 ERIC MAY: Okay, that would be very helpful if I could get
12 that.

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: Okay.

14 ERIC MAY: This shop, does that look familiar?

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: Could be, yeah.

16 JOHN MESKEL: One of the things that also puzzled us was
17 the digital image that's with that email. We did forensics on
18 it, and we can't tie it to that camera as we would expect to be
19 able to if it were the original image. There is what's called
20 "EXIF data" that's produced, if you're familiar with that, that
21 it is embedded in the digital image.

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

23 JOHN MESKEL: The version that was sent by email has
24 that data stripped off. It's no longer present. From our
25 interpretation is that image was probably opened in some sort
26 of editing software, Paint being one possibility.

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

2 JOHN MESKEL: And something was done to it, and it was
3 resaved.

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: That could have been.

5 JOHN MESKEL: And in that process, it strips off some of
6 the data.

7 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right, that could have been. Anything
8 related to the quality of the images or the file characteristics
9 is on me, because I didn't know - I may not have known there was
10 an SOP or policy procedure for sensitive images. It looked like
11 a wildlife picture to me, so I just thought "When I get it to my
12 work machine at the office, I'll try and enhance the quality of
13 the image myself." Again, had I known, you know, as with the
14 NRDA process, if you're familiar with the oil spill impact sort
15 of research that's going on, any images that are taken with the
16 camera, there's a sort of chain of custody, and this is how - I
17 mean, that wouldn't have even occurred to me in my wildest dream.

18 I mean, looking back, I probably should have handled the
19 images differently, and there's a good chance that those images
20 are in the Alaska Region on one of those machines, the originals
21 as well the manipulated. And there should be both the original
22 images and the manipulated or altered images available.

23 JOHN MESKEL: Would that be on your old computer?

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Should be, yeah, unless they wiped the
25 hard drive. But typically I think what happens is they back up
26 all that information, you know, when they have a new employee

1 come in. If somebody leaves, they basically back up the hard
2 drive, so all this information should be on that hard drive.

3 The images I have, if I have the images, I'm not sure if
4 they're going to be originals or not. You'll be able to tell by
5 looking at - typically if they're renamed, they're not a numbered
6 and date stamped, obviously they've been manipulated. Chances
7 are that's what I have is polar bear, you know, with the date
8 or something. But anything related to the files mismanagement,
9 that's my fault, but it's because I didn't know. I mean, I
10 wasn't aware that there was some sort of procedure and process
11 for images.

12 ERIC MAY: Anything else on the photos?

13 JOHN MESKEL: The email where you were sending this to, who
14 was it?

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: Something Pacific Rim Photography or
16 something.

17 JOHN MESKEL: Was that the same place you were referring to
18 taking it in person?

19 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

20 JOHN MESKEL: So why both? Why did you email it as well as
21 go there?

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, rather than waste my time going
23 over there, I wanted to have them look at the image initially
24 via email and, you know, if they said, "Well, if that's as good
25 as it gets," then there's no reason for us to take time off work
26 or whatever and go take the image over there. And I'm pretty

1 sure we ended up going there sometime after this email, and I'm
2 certain we got the okay to have the images printed in better
3 resolution if possible.

4 So I'm pretty sure we went like a day or two after that,
5 and I'm pretty sure I had an image on one of the thumb drives.
6 I don't think it was on the camera, but I can't remember for
7 sure whether the image I brought was on a thumb drive or whether
8 it was still on the memory card in the camera. I can't remember.

9 JOHN MESKEL: Did you get a response to that?

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: I don't know if we got an email response
11 or not. I can't remember. Like I said, the way I sort of
12 remember it is we went there the next day or the day after or a
13 couple of days later, and they had looked at the images and said,
14 "We can't do anything with them."

15 JOHN MESKEL: So you sent them an email asking them, "Take a
16 look at this. Tell me if it's worth our time," basically.

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

18 JOHN MESKEL: You're not sure if you get a response, but you
19 then go and take it in person anyway.

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: I'm sure we did get a response, but I
21 don't know if I have that email.

22 JOHN MESKEL: What was the response?

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: If we got a response, it probably was
24 something along the lines that the file that you provided is
25 of insufficient quality or resolution to do anything with.

1 JOHN MESKEL: So why go in person to take them something
2 else?

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: Because I think I may have had the actual
4 camera with the data card in the camera, the original. Like I
5 can't remember exactly how it all went related to these images,
6 but the reason for us trying to enhance the quality was for
7 publication. I mean, (inaudible/mixed voices).

8 JOHN MESKEL: For the manuscript?

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, for the manuscript, right, yeah.

10 ERIC MAY: You see where John's - it doesn't make sense for
11 you to email it, and then you still go down there.

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right. I don't remember exactly. There
13 was probably a follow-up email. Maybe we didn't go down there.
14 I can't remember. I remember taking my personal camera to a shop
15 right around the same time to have some work done, so I might be
16 mixing, you know, sequence of events up. But I know we did get
17 confirmation from a professional that we can't do anything with
18 the images that you provided, so we basically dropped it.

19 ERIC MAY: And who else in MMS in Anchorage knew about this
20 photo? I'm talking about upper management.

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, I know Cleve did. I don't know if
22 John was aware of the images or not.

23 ERIC MAY: But you did discuss this photo with Cleve?

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah. I think his opinion was that it's
25 not a very good picture, you know. I think he said, "Could be
26 anything."

1 ERIC MAY: What was Cleve's title at the time?

2 JEFFREY GLEASON: He was the Science Coordinator,
3 Environmental Studies Chief at the time.

4 ERIC MAY: Did you email this photo to him?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: I don't know if we emailed it. I think
6 we might have just printed out a hard copy. I mean, he would
7 have copies of some of the earlier reviews with his comments and
8 such. And we were hoping we could get the photo included in the
9 paper, but it was such poor quality. But like I said earlier, I
10 think there was more internal issue relative to - well, I know
11 there was. There was more internal issue relative to the poster
12 and the subsequent media blitz than the paper. The paper just
13 kind of came out and very little response to that. But the big
14 issue was how the poster, and next thing you know, there's all
15 this - like I said, I had probably four phone calls, four or
16 five, a couple of which were from the Headquarters, PR, etc.

17 ERIC MAY: Regarding the poster presentation?

18 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah. And the poster presentation was,
19 from my perspective, we were just presenting some information.
20 It was peer-reviewed internally and, you know, that basically
21 what you do when you're presenting at a conference is you submit
22 an abstract. There's a limited number of spots available at
23 any conference, and it was selected.

24 So, you know, during the process, I'm sure we had the form
25 signed. And like I said, I don't know exactly. One of those
26 forms was initialed, and one was, and I don't remember which.

1 And we misinterpreted initials versus actual signature. And like
2 I said, DOI policy, MMS policy, presenting scientific research
3 changed almost overnight after this happened. And they basically
4 told us, "You will not talk about sea ice change, climate change,
5 polar bears, bowhead whales to any outside scientists, including
6 cooperating agencies. You will not talk to media outlets,
7 anything." And that was from the Director. It's like "Wow."

8 JOHN MESKEL: You didn't expect to have that effect?

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, no.

10 ERIC MAY: Curious, the *Inconvenient Truth*, did you know
11 this study was referenced in that movie by Al Gore?

12 JEFFREY GLEASON: You know, it's been a long time since I
13 saw that, and like I said, it's been so long. I think these
14 sorts of things tend to mushroom, and the interpretation gets
15 popularized. Something very small turns into this big snowball
16 coming down the mountain, and that's I think what happened with
17 this paper.

18 ERIC MAY: Did anybody call you from the production of that
19 movie?

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: No.

21 ERIC MAY: Nobody called to verify information?

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, not that I'm aware of. Nobody called
23 me.

24 ERIC MAY: What about Mr. Monnett?

25 JEFFREY GLEASON: I can't speak on his behalf. I don't
26 know.

1 ERIC MAY: Just I was curious

2 JEFFREY GLEASON: But the other thing is the alternative
3 interpretation of something that seems pretty black and white to
4 authors of a scientific paper, you know, it's happened with this,
5 but it happens all the time when the media picks up on it. Some
6 of that stuff relating to the oil spill, people doing research,
7 next thing you know, it's splashed all over, and it's huge. And
8 they may have found something or provided some information or a
9 technical report or a publication, and the next thing you know,
10 it's like, "I didn't say that." I mean, it gets spun into this
11 weird - it goes into the -

12 ERIC MAY: Well, it's all over the media as of even today,
13 about the polar bears.

14 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

15 ERIC MAY: Car commercials are using polar bears drowning to
16 encourage the purchase of hybrid vehicles.

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: It's become the icon for global warming.

18 ERIC MAY: See what you've done, Jeff? (Laughter)

19 JEFFREY GLEASON: It wasn't my fault. I'm just presenting
20 a paper, you know? It's interesting when you talk about, I mean,
21 we're here today in that when this paper came out, my Ph.D.
22 supervisor sent me a pretty nasty email. I probably don't have
23 a copy of it, but he's like, "Are you kidding me?" He's just
24 like, "You just set off a time bomb." And I kind of elaborately
25 stated, "Well, this is what I was thinking when we were doing
26 this. It's simply a paper of an observation of polar bears in

1 the ocean." There's no way I could have anticipated what
2 happened, and like I was telling you before, I like to sit
3 in the corner and play with some numbers, you know, just do
4 the science, and all this is not my thing. I don't like the
5 spotlight. It's not what I'm about at all.

6 ERIC MAY: Where is your Ph.D. out of?

7 JEFFREY GLEASON: University of Western Ontario.

8 ERIC MAY: Oh, in Canada?

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah. And I knew of and had probably met
10 Ian and Andy in '95. Summer of '95 and '96 I was working up at
11 a goose camp up at Churchill, so I got to know some of the polar
12 bear guys and interacted with some of them up in Alaska as well.
13 But, yeah, my Ph.D. supervisor was pretty critical of -

14 ERIC MAY: The manuscript part?

15 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

16 ERIC MAY: What was he critical about?

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: Some of the highlighted things you sort
18 of touched on. He's like, "You got to expect this." I'm like "I
19 didn't expect anything. I just wanted to publish the paper in a
20 journal, and that's that." I can't anticipate. Now, hindsight,
21 you know, things look a little different. Now my eyes have been
22 opened. I had no - that's not (inaudible).

23 ERIC MAY: What's the name of the supervisor?

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: Dave Ankney.

25 ERIC MAY: Did you get your Ph.D.?

26 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

1 ERIC MAY: Okay, what was your dissertation on?

2 JEFFREY GLEASON: Canada goose reproductive behavior and
3 interactions with sympatric snow geese. So there's the influence
4 of this increasing snow goose population on this island nesting
5 population of Canada geese. Like I said, my background is
6 primarily avian ecology. When I went to Alaska, there was
7 opportunity to sort of broaden my background with the first
8 bowhead whale paper and on some of the polar bear papers and
9 then a beaver manuscript and mallards eating salmon and that
10 sort of just observational type stuff. But for the most part,
11 most of that stuff, I come at it more from the science aspect.
12 Policy and big decisions, that's not my thing, and I try to
13 avoid this sort of situation.

14 JOHN MESKEL: Well, I guess again, from a curiosity
15 perspective, looking back on it, are you still convinced that
16 those were dead polar bears that you all observed?

17 JEFFREY GLEASON: Absolutely, yeah. Yeah, and you could
18 look back, if you had that report, 2004 or 2005, if you had that
19 final report, it'll tell you who was on what flights on what
20 dates. So it was me and Chuck. He was the primary; I was the
21 secondary. I can't remember who the data recorder was. I'm
22 trying to think who it might have been. I can't think of her
23 name right off the top of my head, but she still works at MMS in
24 Alaska. And that's hard to say who the two pilots were, because
25 they rotated every five days or something. But there's your five
26 sort of observers and everybody is -

1 ERIC MAY: But you don't agree with what's being thrown out
2 in the media about your report, do you?

3 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think it's went a long ways away
4 from where the paper initially went. You know, I think it's
5 mushroomed into this huge thing that we saw some dead polar
6 bears, which was interesting. And there's potential with this
7 additional source of sort of previously poorly documented or
8 undocumented source of natural mortality that might have an
9 impact on the population. But to go to selling cars, you
10 know, or a few years back, there were Coke commercials or
11 Pepsi commercials and all this stuff.

12 JOHN MESKEL: The polar bear drinking a Coke?

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah. All this stuff is odd.

14 ERIC MAY: Well, let me ask you, as a scientist, and you see
15 all this false information being blown into a mushroom, as you
16 state, as a scientist, do you think you're obligated to follow up
17 with your findings in here for further research on this issue?

18 JEFFREY GLEASON: If I was a polar bear scientist, and I was
19 still working up in the Arctic and doing research on polar bears,
20 absolutely I would follow up with it. But like I said, at that
21 point in my career, in my job, I had went from doing my Ph.D.,
22 taking a Federal position, still having that sort of research
23 mentality where, you know, as a faculty member, you're pretty
24 much almost protected from about anything. You can publish,
25 and nothing happens. Well, wow, this was a sledgehammer. I
26 hadn't even ever in my wildest dreams imagined, both from the

1 change in the regulations and publishing, the sort of hush policy
2 on agency scientists, "You will not talk to X, Y, Z." Basically,
3 we can't talk to anybody about this issue, this issue and this
4 issue. I don't think it's changed. And all this stuff is like
5 mindboggling, from a scientific perspective.

6 ERIC MAY: Was Mr. Monnett your mentor then, coming in,
7 learning how to do research within the government?

8 JEFFREY GLEASON: I had developed that from my master's
9 supervisor and my Ph.D. supervisor and some of like the
10 colleagues that I had worked with during my Ph.D. He was
11 probably a mentor while I was in Alaska. He pushed me - I
12 wouldn't say "pushed." He was pretty positive about publishing
13 because, you know, other than one of the early papers that
14 Treacy, the bowhead paper, which basically happened when I got
15 there, there was very little of that sort of research and science
16 and peer review and hadn't been done up to that point. And I
17 think we worked well together but, like I said, I'm more of a
18 science guy for science. That's sort of my background. All
19 the stuff that's mushroomed into this -

20 ERIC MAY: Understood. The last question, the manuscript,
21 Mr. Monnett, am I pronouncing that correctly?

22 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, Monnett.

23 ERIC MAY: He was, like you said, the lead of the numbers.

24 JEFFREY GLEASON: He's the lead author, yeah.

25 ERIC MAY: And he was the lead signoff person of the final
26 product.

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think on that form, both authors, I
2 think we both have to sign, and then it would have went to Cleve,
3 where he would have signed. Then the Regional supervisor at that
4 time was Paul Stang, and then it would have went to the Regional
5 Director at that time.

6 Now, after this event, then there was a Headquarters
7 addition on top of that, but up to that point, it was just
8 within the Region. And like I said, it got very stringent.
9 I think the DOI policy changed at that point, entire Department
10 of Interior changed, as far as scientific peer-reviewed
11 publications or presenting at scientific meetings. But then,
12 when the Administration changed, I think it's since reverted
13 back to a little more within Region, immediate supervisor or
14 the Regional supervisor's signature.

15 Like I said, I think publications here and when I worked
16 for the Fish and Wildlife Service in North Dakota, as long as
17 you had the disclaimer, that was a big part of it, too, and, of
18 course, we included that in that paper.

19 JOHN MESKEL: Yes, you did.

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: But, you know, each agency has their
21 own policy within DOI framework, and they've kind of went back
22 and forth a little bit. And I think since Administration has
23 changed, it's been more relaxed and more like it was prior to
24 this big event (inaudible/mixed voices).

25 ERIC MAY: The Administration you keep referencing, you're
26 talking about BOEMRE?

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: No, no, I'm talking about the President.

2 ERIC MAY: Oh, the President? Okay, and then Mr. Salazar
3 came in, correct?

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah, as Secretary, yeah. I think Obama,
5 Secretary Salazar have changed it back more to what it was before
6 the Bush Administration, so there's more weight on the individual
7 scientist within the framework of the policy, which, you know,
8 as a scientist, I guess if I wanted just to do science, I should
9 probably get a different job, maybe a faculty position. But at
10 that point in time, there was this opportunity to publish on
11 bowhead whales and polar bears and that sort of thing and, you
12 know, it was just a unique opportunity of timing. And with the
13 survey and everything, there is just so much data available, and
14 the potential is virtually unlimited. You had to know a lot
15 about the database and the inherent sort of problems with the
16 database, multiple observers and years and that sort of thing.

17 But that being said, there was this opportunity, and I
18 just enjoyed it, enjoyed that opportunity to publish. But
19 I'm a little more cautious about working for an agency and
20 understanding policy and trying not to repeat mistakes that I
21 didn't know maybe about. So it's been a big learning experience
22 and, yeah, I never would have guessed that that little paper
23 would have had such a big impact on things.

24 ERIC MAY: I don't have any more questions.

1 JEFFREY GLEASON: As a side note, talking about my former
2 supervisor, he actually sent me an email at one point saying,
3 "You're the reason polar bears got listed."

4 ERIC MAY: Oh, endangered?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yes.

6 ERIC MAY: Yeah, that's recently, too.

7 JEFFREY GLEASON: That's a bit of a stretch.

8 ERIC MAY: Your boss just indicated that?

9 JEFFREY GLEASON: My former Ph.D. supervisor, yeah. "It's
10 your fault." I'm like "Come on."

11 ERIC MAY: Well, because they do reference this. Like I
12 said, this paper is referenced everywhere pertaining to global
13 (inaudible).

14 JEFFREY GLEASON: Well, in this case, polar bear, we call
15 it (inaudible/mixed voices).

16 ERIC MAY: Polar bear extinction up there, because they're
17 all drowning.

18 JEFFREY GLEASON: Yeah.

19 ERIC MAY: And they're referencing your paper.

20 JEFFREY GLEASON: They are, but I think if you follow up,
21 there's a cannibalism paper by Amstrup, et al., and there's a
22 couple of other event-type papers where they're seeing more,
23 what is the other one, dead cubs that are being eaten by males,
24 the frequency of these sorts of events. So they're kind of
25 laying out this picture now.

1 ERIC MAY: And that's my point, because laws are changing
2 based on your report and being referenced at least, or being used
3 as support of something.

4 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right.

5 ERIC MAY: There's currently legislation in Alaska
6 referencing your report, about how they conduct business up
7 there, environmentally speaking, and so that's why I really
8 pushed the numbers, because if the numbers are incorrect, then
9 decisions are being made based on erroneous information.

10 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right, and I can't imagine that this
11 single report is leading to all of this.

12 ERIC MAY: Well, it does have the emotional -

13 JEFFREY GLEASON: There's probably some stepping -

14 ERIC MAY: Well, you know legislatures; emotion carries a
15 lot of weight in passing legislation.

16 JEFFREY GLEASON: Right. Well, like I said before, it was
17 never my intent and never my expectation that it would have the
18 impact that it's had.

19 ERIC MAY: Do you have any working papers of the numbers
20 that you came up with?

21 JEFFREY GLEASON: I think I looked through that.

22 ERIC MAY: That would be helpful, too.

23 JEFFREY GLEASON: Like I said, I think Chuck derived the -
24 when we're done, I can go into my cubical and see if I can find -

25 ERIC MAY: Okay, John, do you have any additional?

26 JOHN MESKEL: No.

1 ERIC MAY: One last thing, because this is an ongoing
2 investigation, I need to ask you not to discuss what we discussed
3 in here with anybody, particularly Mr. Monnett, you know, talking
4 with us, because it is an ongoing investigation, okay?

5 JEFFREY GLEASON: Okay. And if I might ask,
6 "investigating"?

7 ERIC MAY: The validity of the paper and the photos.
8 Nothing? All right, that concludes our interview. It is
9 now 12:42.

10

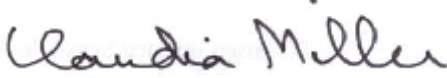
11 (End of Interview)

1 **CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST**

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3 I, Claudia Miller, do hereby certify that the above was
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