

PALMER AREA PROPOSALS

Board of Game Meeting
February 8 – 15, 2013

Proposal 93

Effect of Proposal: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts for Unit 14A.

Department Recommendation: Adopt

Moose Population Status

| GMU | Objective | 2011 | 2012 | |
|-----|---------------|----------|---------------|-----------------|
| | | Estimate | Bull/100 Cows | Calves/100 Cows |
| 14A | (6,500-7,500) | 8,000 | 26 | 28 |

Proposal 93



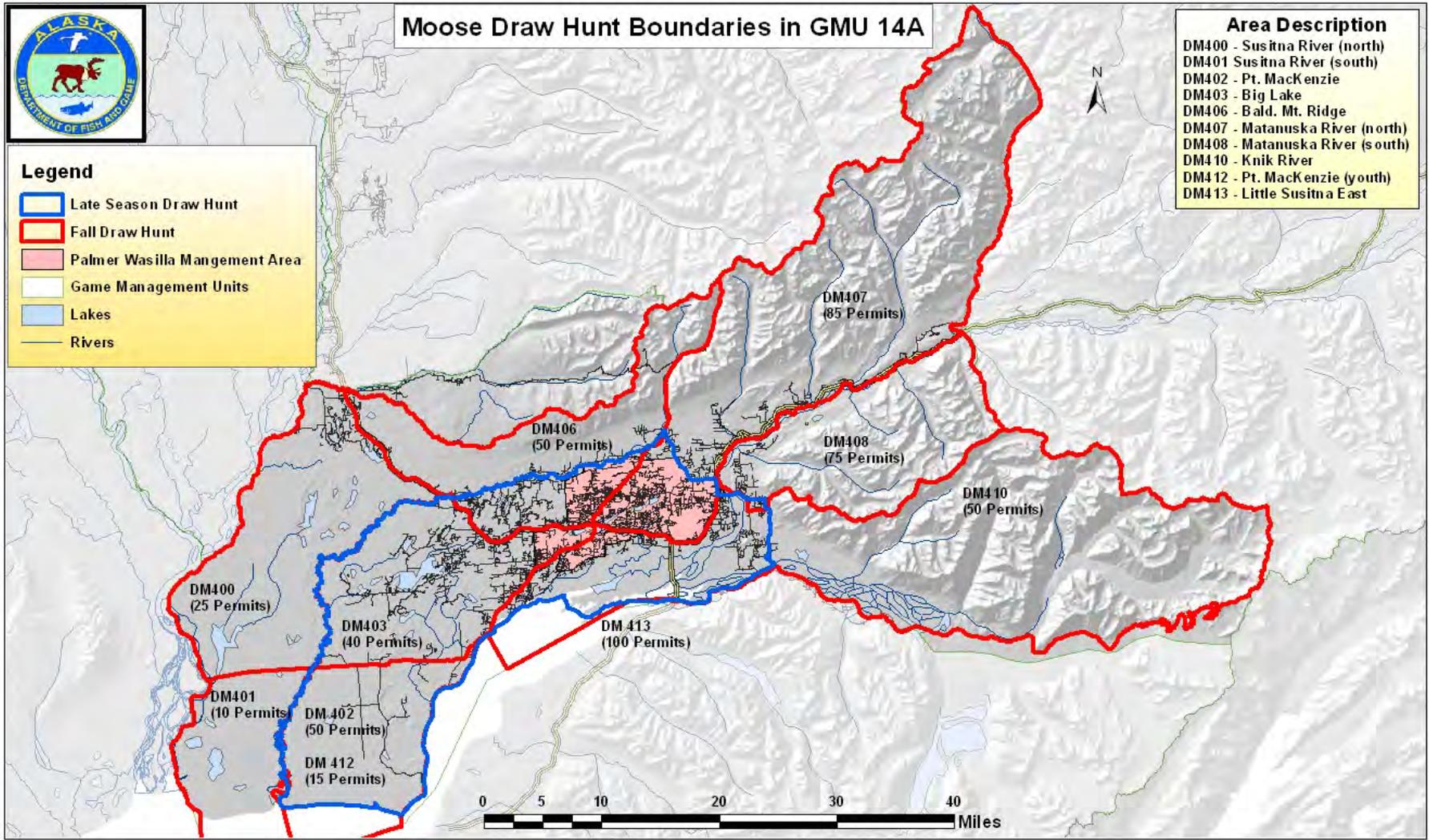
Moose Draw Hunt Boundaries in GMU 14A

Legend

- Late Season Draw Hunt
- Fall Draw Hunt
- Palmer Wasilla Mangement Area
- Game Management Units
- Lakes
- Rivers

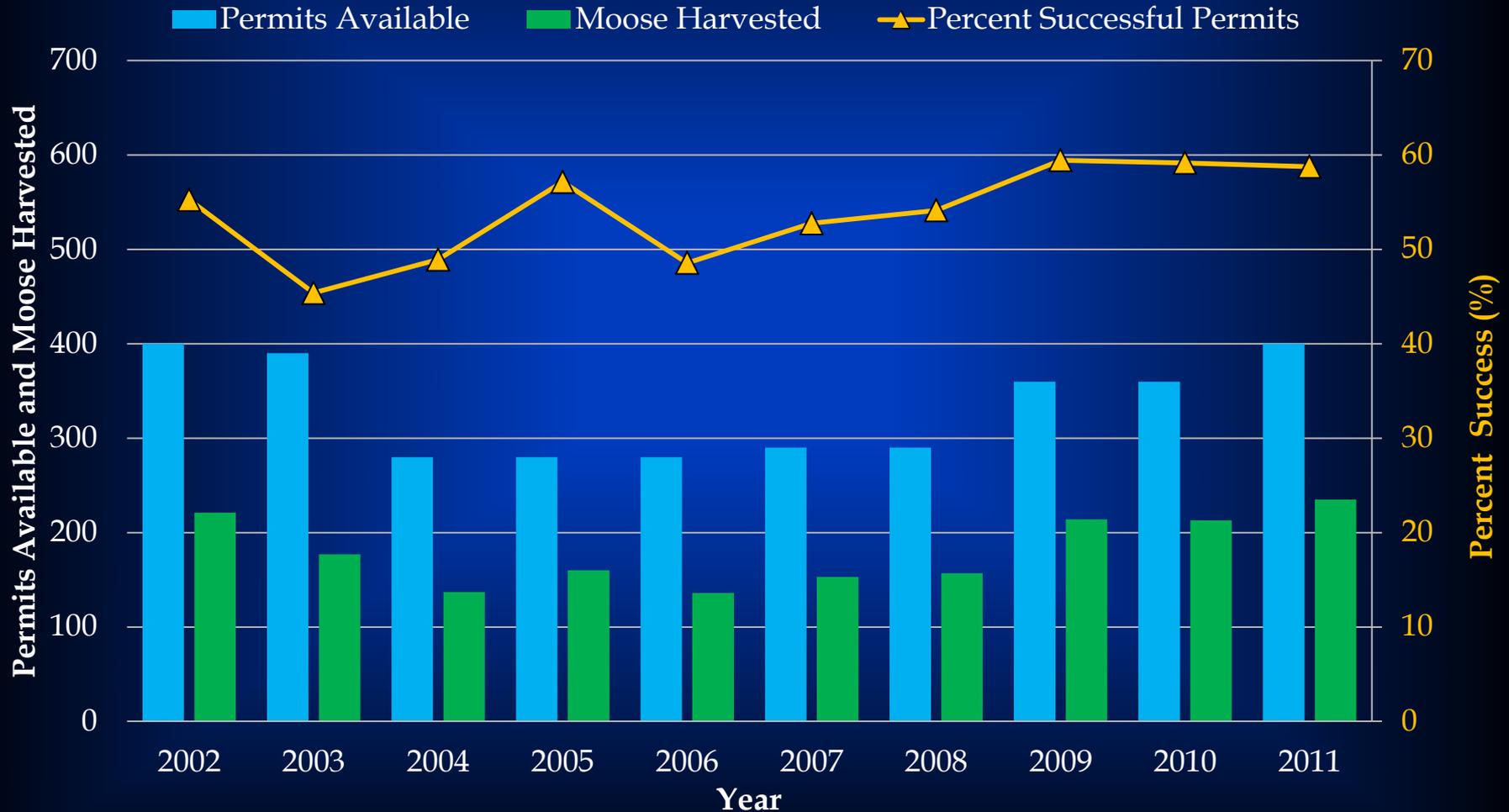
Area Description

- DM400 - Susitna River (north)
- DM401 Susitna River (south)
- DM402 - Pt. MacKenzie
- DM403 - Big Lake
- DM406 - Bald. Mt. Ridge
- DM407 - Matanuska River (north)
- DM408 - Matanuska River (south)
- DM410 - Knik River
- DM412 - Pt. MacKenzie (youth)
- DM413 - Little Susitna East



Proposal 93

GMU 14A Antlerless Permits



Proposal 93

Effect of Proposal: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts for Unit 14A.

Department Recommendation: Adopt

Proposal 94

Effect of Proposal: Reduce the general resident and non-resident moose season 5 days by closing Sept. 20 and remove the spike-fork component of the bull harvest in sub-unit 14A.

Department Recommendation: Take No Action

Rationale: The department would like to withdraw this proposal based on the results of a composition survey of moose in subunit 14A that was conducted in November 2012.

Mat Valley AC: Fail 0-12-1

Proposal 94

14A Bull Ratio Objective: 20-25

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Bulls:100 Cows</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 2011 | 19 |
| 2012 | 26 |

Proposal 94

Effect of Proposal: Reduce the general resident and non-resident moose season 5 days by closing Sept. 20 and remove the spike-fork component of the bull harvest in sub-unit 14A.

Department Recommendation: Take No Action

Proposal 95

Effect of Proposal: Require lower jaw and antlers of bull moose harvested in unit 14A to be brought in to an ADF&G office for aging and measuring.

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Proposal 95

Rationale:

- Moose Harvest in 14A – average 478 (2007-2010).
- The data collected will not provide answers to questions posed in the proposal.
- Some enforcement value, but may increase wildlife waste and decrease harvest reports when moose are sub-legal moose.

Proposal 95

Effect of Proposal: Require lower jaw and antlers of bull moose harvested in unit 14A to be brought in to an ADF&G office for aging and measuring.

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Proposal 96

Effect of Proposal:

- Reauthorize the antlerless hot-spot hunt in 14A
- Establish a winter antlerless hot-spot hunt in unit 14B
- Allows the use of archery equipment.

Department Recommendation: Adopt

Proposal 96

Hot-spot Hunt

- The Hot-spot hunt is designed to allow registration permit holders to selectively harvest moose that pose a threat to public safety and moose that are likely to die as a result of an injury.
- Two basic hunt types
 - Nuisance, Injured, or Depredation Moose
 - Moose Collision Reduction Zone

Proposal 96

| RM415 (Hotspot Hunt) | 2011 | *2012 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Applicants | 432 | 204 |
| Permits Issued | 50 | 93 |
| Harvested Moose | 44 | 62 |
| Cows | 34 | 51 |
| Bulls | 10 | 11 |

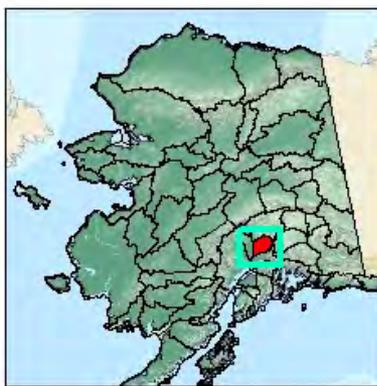
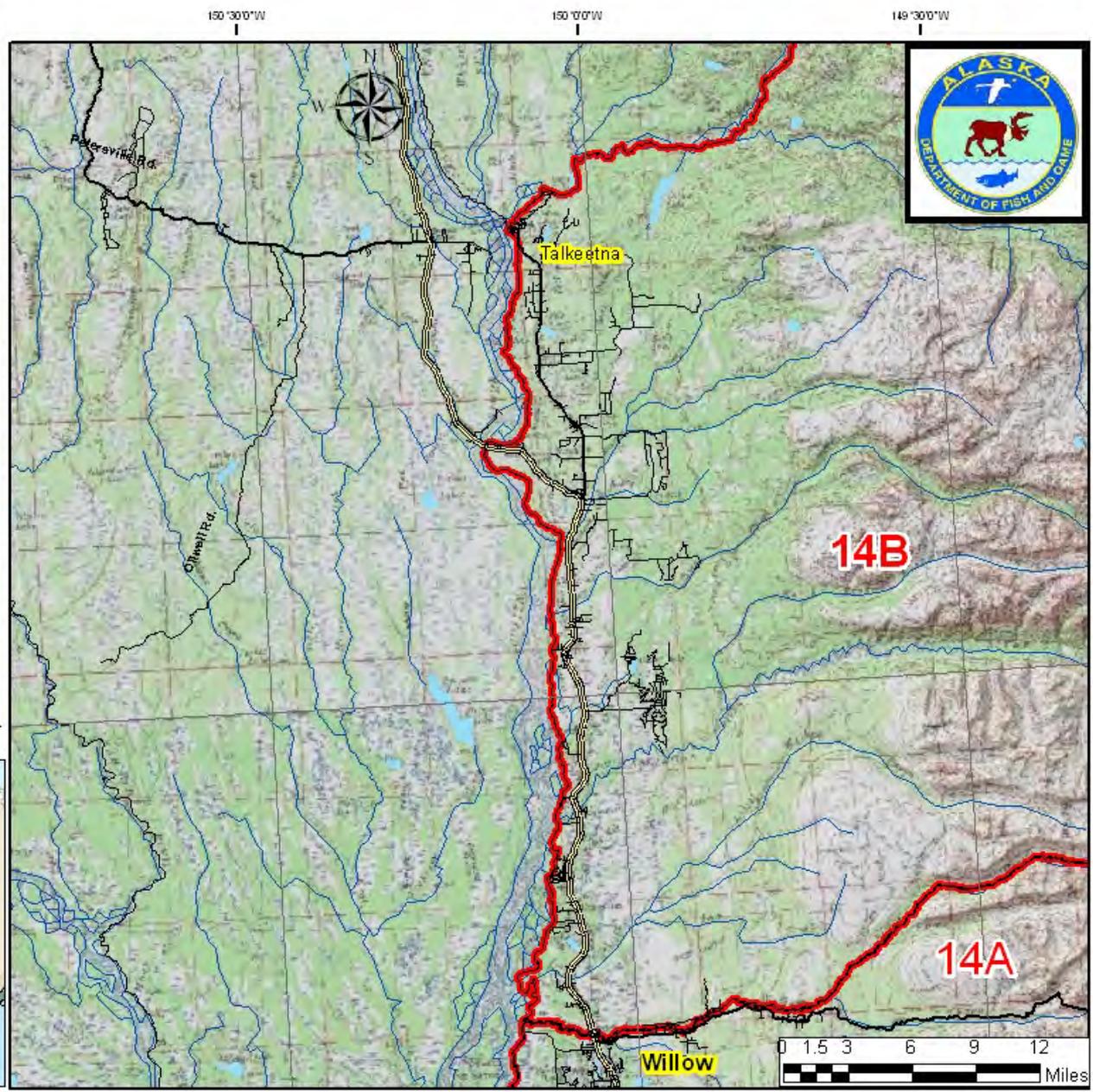
* Current as of Jan 27, 2013

Proposal 96

Legend

Road classification

-  HIGHWAY
-  MAJOR
-  MEDIUM
-  MINOR
-  Unit 14 Boundries
-  Lakes
-  Rivers



Proposal 96

Effect of Proposal:

- Reauthorize the antlerless hot-spot hunt in 14A
- Establish a winter antlerless hot-spot hunt in unit 14B
- Allows the use of archery equipment.

Department Recommendation: Adopt

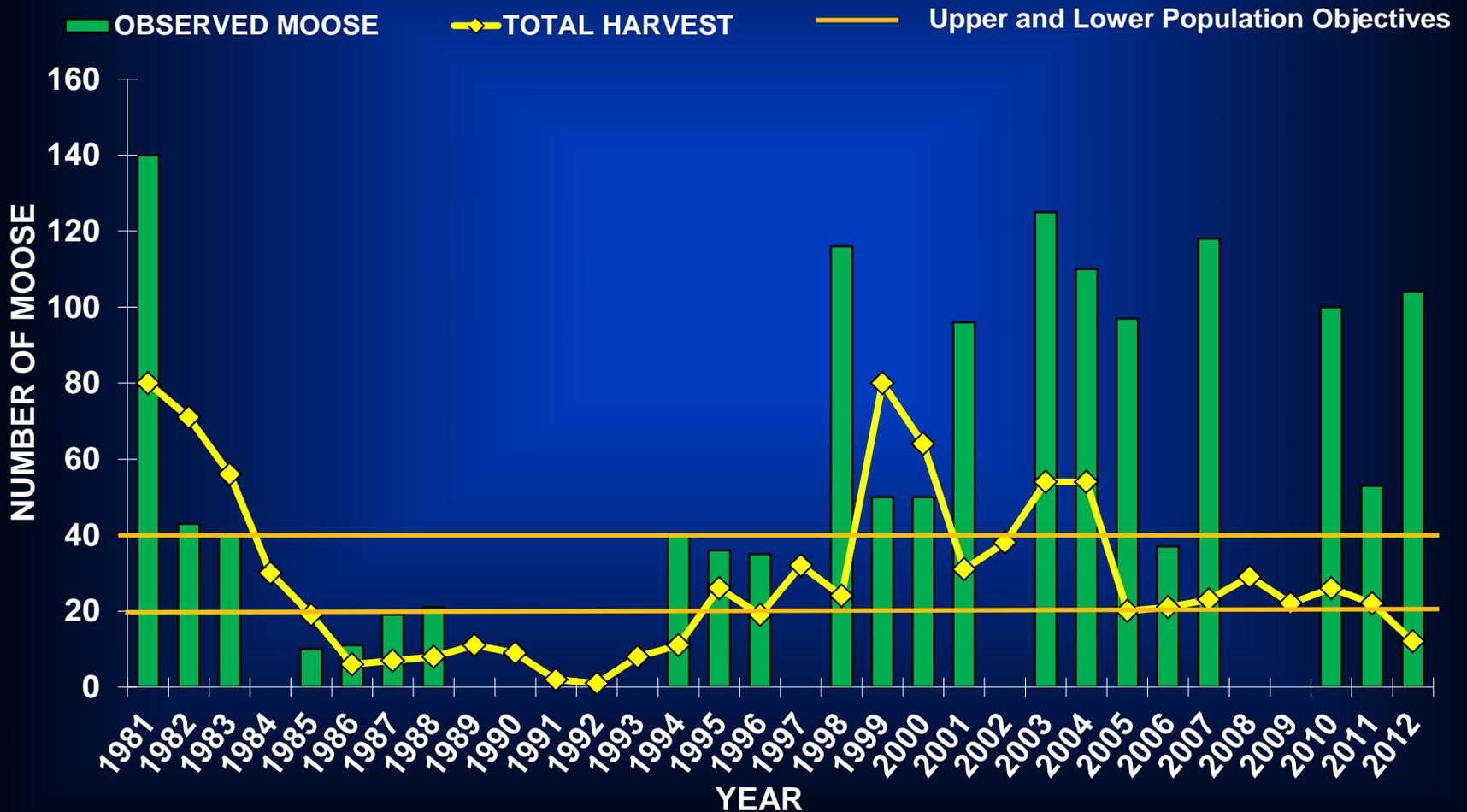
Proposal 97

Effect of Proposal: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in unit 16B.

Department Recommendation: Adopt

Proposal 97

KALGIN ISLAND MOOSE POPULATION SIZE AND HARVEST 1981 to 2012



Proposal 97

Effect of Proposal: Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in unit 16B.

Department Recommendation: Adopt

Proposal 98

Effect of Proposal: Modifies the season dates for general resident and non-resident moose hunting in unit 16A.

- Closes the season between Aug 10 – Aug 30.
- Adds a season for residents only Dec. 9 to Dec. 15. for spike/fork bulls.
- Adds 5 days to the September season (Sept. 1 – Sept. 30)

Department Recommendation:

No Recommendation – Eliminate the August Season and establish a December season

Do Not Adopt – Extend the Fall Season

Mat Valley AC: Fail 0-10-3

Proposal 98

Population and Bull Composition Estimates

| <u>GMU</u> | <u>Objective</u> | <u>2009 Estimate</u> | <u>Bull/100 Cows</u> |
|------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 16A | (3,500-4,500) | 2,600 | 26 |

Proposal 98

No Recommendation – Eliminate the August Season and establish a December season

Harvest

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Hunt Dates</u> | <u>Average Harvest</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| (2006-2011) | Aug 10-31 | 13 |
| (1999-2000) | Dec 1-15 | 18 |

Unit 16A Moose Harvest (1993-2011)



| | |
|------------------|--|
| 1993-1994 | Aug 20–Sep 20 (SF/50) |
| 1995-1998 | Aug 10–17 (bow), Aug 20–Sep 20 (Gen.SF/50/3 BT), Nov 20–Dec 15 (SF-only) |
| 1999-2000 | Aug 10–17 (bow), Aug 20–Sep 25 (Gen.SF/50/3 BT), Dec 5–15 (SF-only) |
| 2001-2006 | Aug 10–17 (bow), Aug 20–Sep 30 (Gen.SF/50/3 BT) |
| 2007-2010 | Aug 10–17 (bow), Aug 20–Sep 20 (Gen.SF/50/3 BT) |
| 2011 | Aug 10–17 (bow), Aug 20–Sep 25 (Gen.SF/50/3 BT) |

Proposal 98

Effect of Proposal: Modifies the season dates for general resident and non-resident moose hunting in unit 16A.

- Closes the season between Aug 10 – Aug 30.
- Adds a season for residents only Dec. 9 to Dec. 15. for spike/fork bulls.
- Adds 5 days to the September season (Sept. 1 – Sept. 30)

Department Recommendation:

No Recommendation – Eliminate the August Season and establish a December season

Do Not Adopt – Extend the Fall Season

Mat Valley AC: Fail 0-10-3

Proposal 103

Effect of Proposal: Review and modify the unit 16 intensive management program.

Department Recommendation: Adopt

Proposal 103

Proposed department amendments to clarify or improve the existing Unit 16 IM program 92.125(d) regulation, now 92.122

Proposal 103

Department Recommendation Summary:

1. Bull harvest should be liberalized in sub-unit 16B.
2. Allow the moose population to grow.
3. No cow hunts at this time.
4. The wolf control program should continue until the harvest objectives for the entire unit are met.
5. Suspend the wolf control program in 16B-South and consider suspending in 16B-Middle to inform operational planning.
6. Suspend the bear control programs.

Proposal 103

Moose



Game Management Units 16A & B

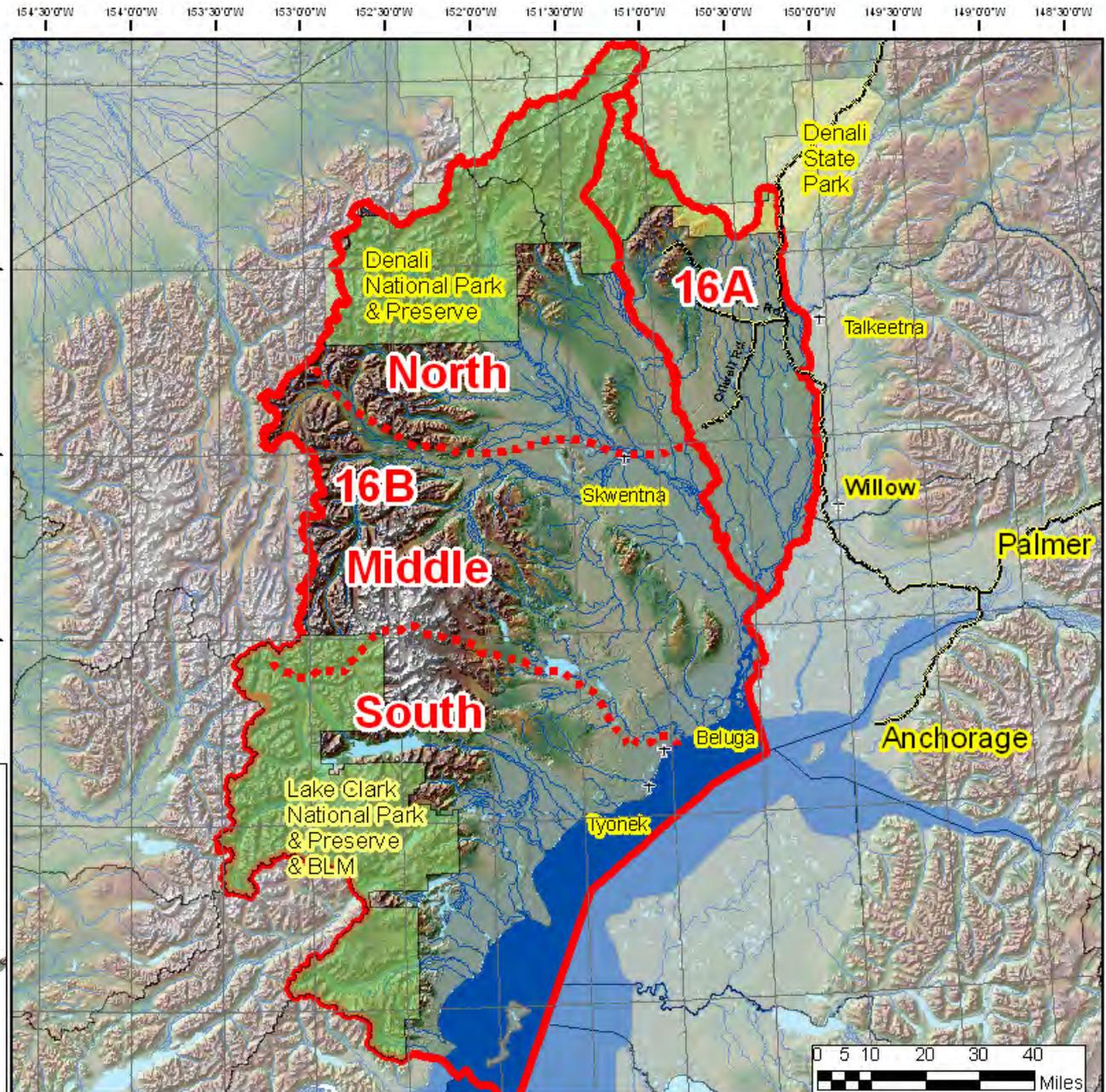


Legend

- Roads
- Lake Clark National Park
- Unit 16 Boundaries
- Denali State Park
- Denali National Park
- Lakes
- Rivers

16 A = 1,850 sq mi

16 B = 10,405 sq mi



Proposal 103

Subunit 16B moose population estimates and objectives subdivided into survey units

| Survey Unit | Population Objective per area (and midpoint) | Current Estimate | Percent Recovery to Objective Midpoint |
|--------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Subunit 16B | 6,500–7,500 (7,000) | 6,664 | 95% |
| 16B-North | 1,820–2,100 (1,960) | 834 | 43% |
| 16B-Middle | 3,120–3,600 (3,360) | 3,458 | 103% |
| 16B-South | 1,560–1,800 (1,680) | 2,372 | 141% |

Proposal 103

Subunit 16B moose population estimates and objectives subdivided into survey units

| Survey Unit | Population Objective per area (and midpoint) | Current Estimate | Percent Recovery to Objective Midpoint |
|------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Subunit 16B | 6,500–7,500 (7,000) | 6,664 | 95% |
| 16B-North | 1,820–2,100 (1,960) | 834 | 43% |
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Proposal 103

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Proposal 103

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| 16B-South | 1,560–1,800 (1,680) | 2,372 | 141% |

Moose Harvest

GMU 16B

Harvest Objective

310 - 600

Current Harvest

198

Bull/100 Cows

52

Surplus Bull Estimate

300 - 400

Proposal 103

Department Recommendation: **Moose**

1. Bull harvest should be liberalized in sub-unit 16B
 - Continue to offer fall and winter hunting opportunity. A winter hunt of some type should continue if harvest objectives are to be achieved.
 - Consider the addition of an a fall drawing hunt with a bag limit of any bull.
 - Consider the addition of youth hunting opportunity (any-bull draw hunt).

Proposal 103

Department Recommendation: **Moose**

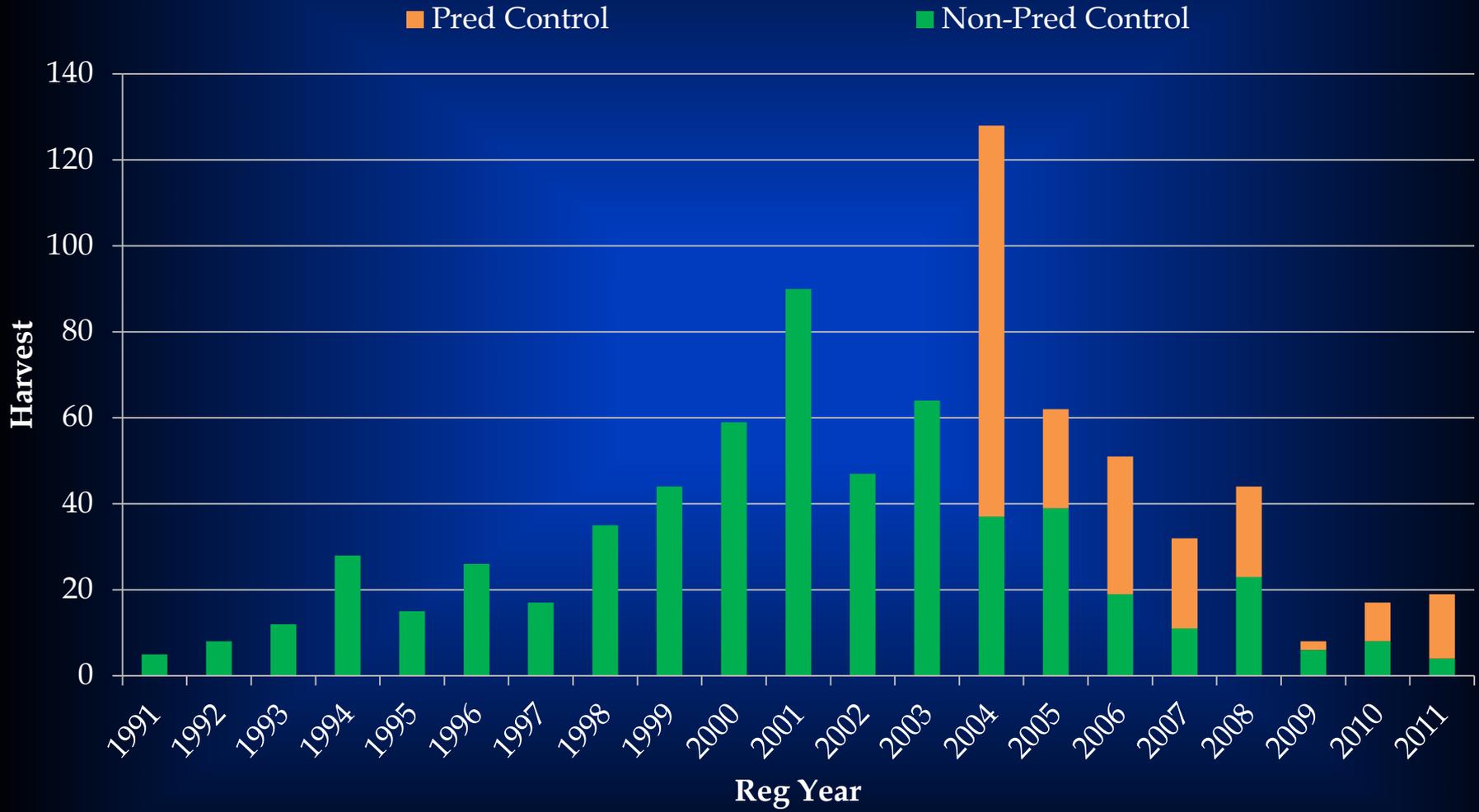
2. Allow the moose population to grow. Continue to monitor moose populations, overwinter survival, and nutritional indices.
3. No cow hunts should be considered until the population reaches the upper end of the objective.
 - If the population reaches the upper end of the objective and the mid-point of the harvest objectives is not met, cow hunts should be implemented but the population should be allowed to grow.
 - If a declining trend in nutritional condition of moose (e.g. twinning rates) is observed, cow hunts should be implemented to stabilize the population until nutritional status stabilizes.

Proposal 103

Wolf



Unit 16 Wolf Harvest (1991-2011)



Proposal 103

Subunit 16B moose population estimates and objectives subdivided into survey units

| Survey Unit | Population Objective per area (and midpoint) | Current Estimate | Percent Recovery to Objective Midpoint |
|--------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Subunit 16B | 6,500–7,500 (7,000) | 6,664 | 95% |
| 16B-North | 1,820–2,100 (1,960) | 834 | 43% |
| 16B-Middle | 3,120–3,600 (3,360) | 3,458 | 103% |
| 16B-South | 1,560–1,800 (1,680) | 2,372 | 141% |

Proposal 103

Department Recommendation: Wolf Control

4. The wolf control program should continue until the harvest objectives for the entire unit are met.
5. The wolf control program in 16B-South should be suspended.
6. Suspension of the wolf control program in 16B-Middle should be considered when objectives meet the midpoint .

Proposal 103

Bear





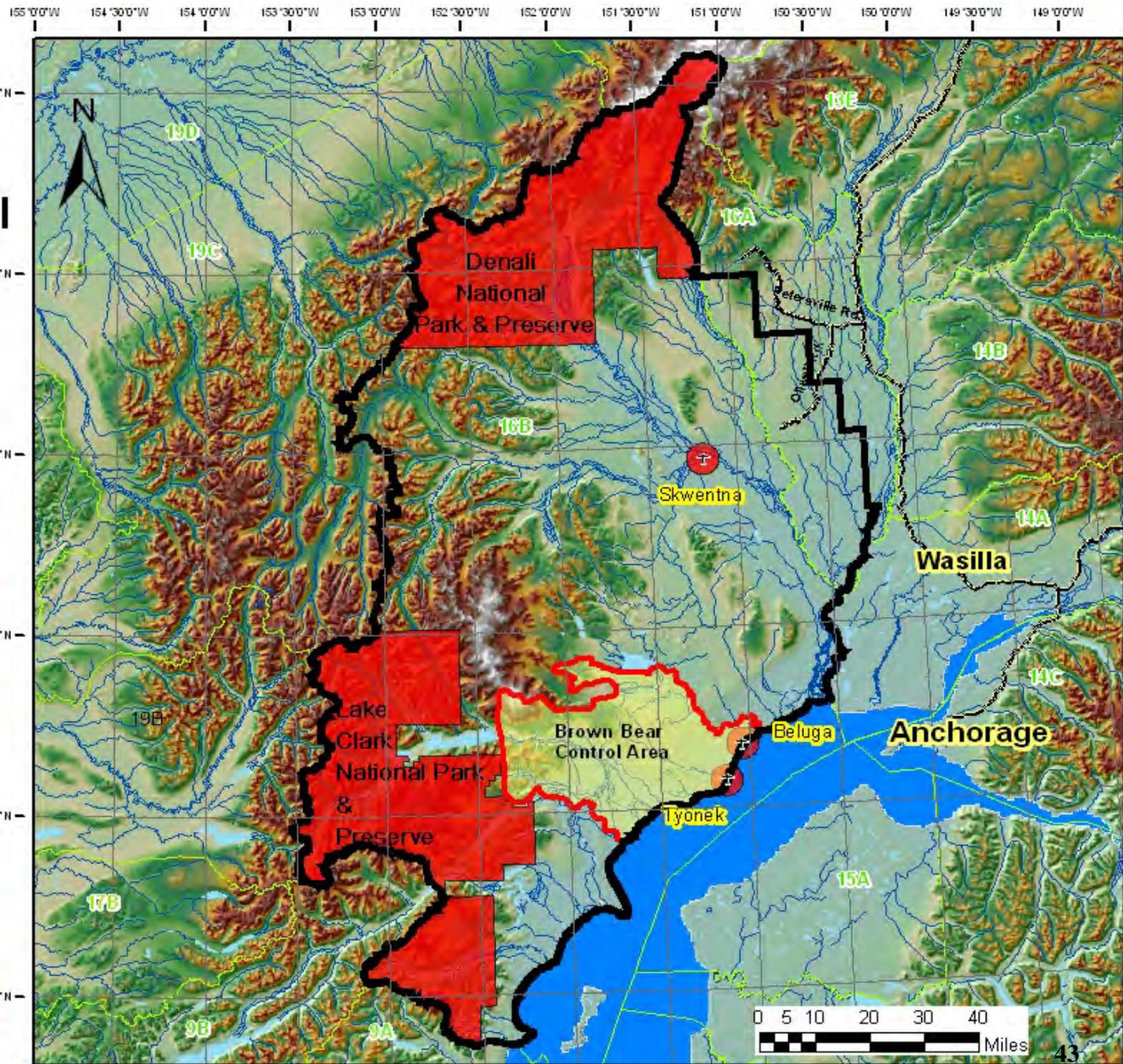
Predator Control Areas GMU 16

Legend

- Unit 16 PCA boundary
- Roads
- Brown Bear Removal Area
- Land closed to SDA
- Game Management Units
- Lakes
- Rivers

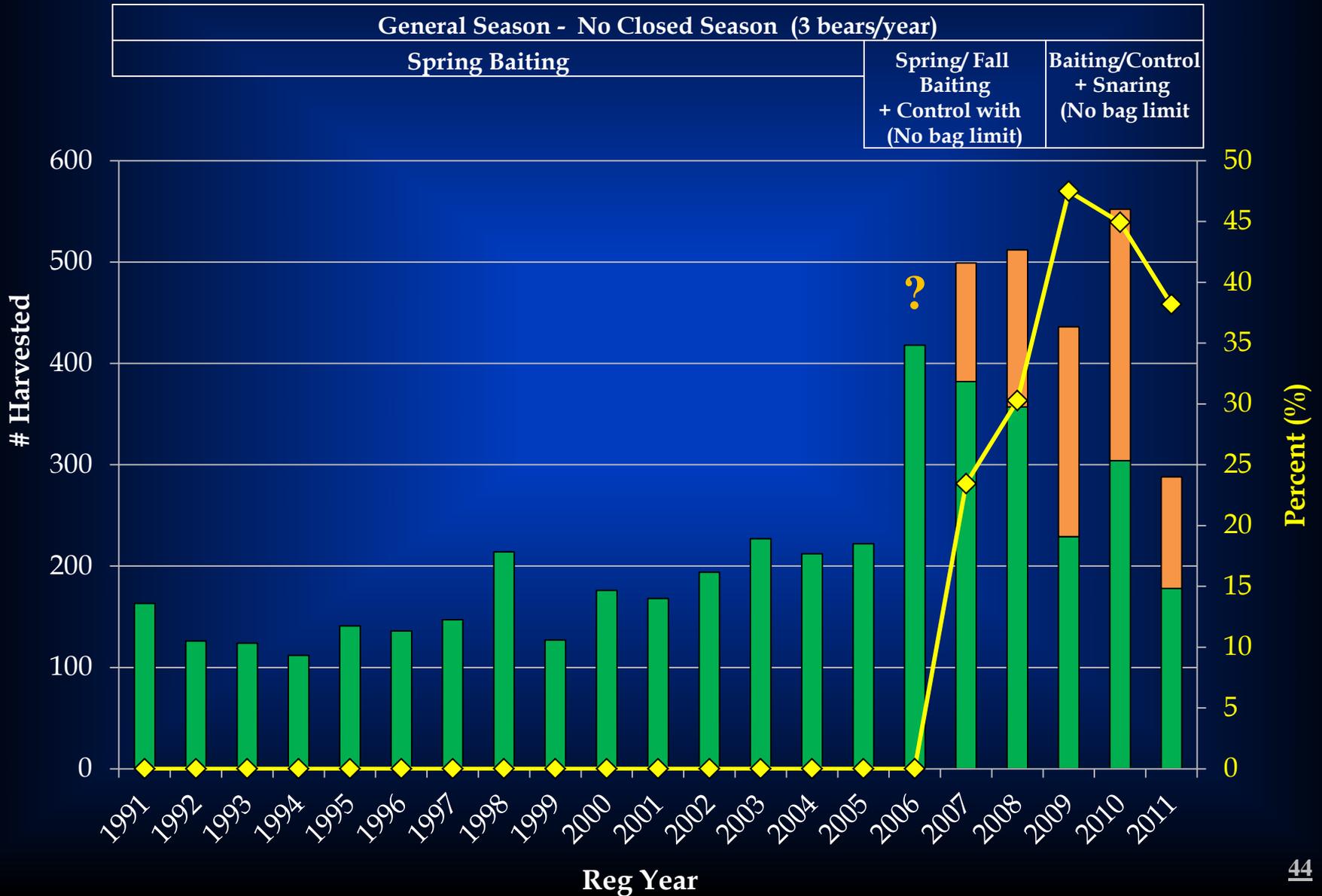


Map Projection: Alaska Albers NAD83 (WG S84)
 Data Sources: ADFG, USGS, BLM, AK DNR, DOT
 Alaska Department of Fish & Game
 Date: January 14, 2013



Unit 16 Black Bear Harvest by Permit Type, 1991-2011

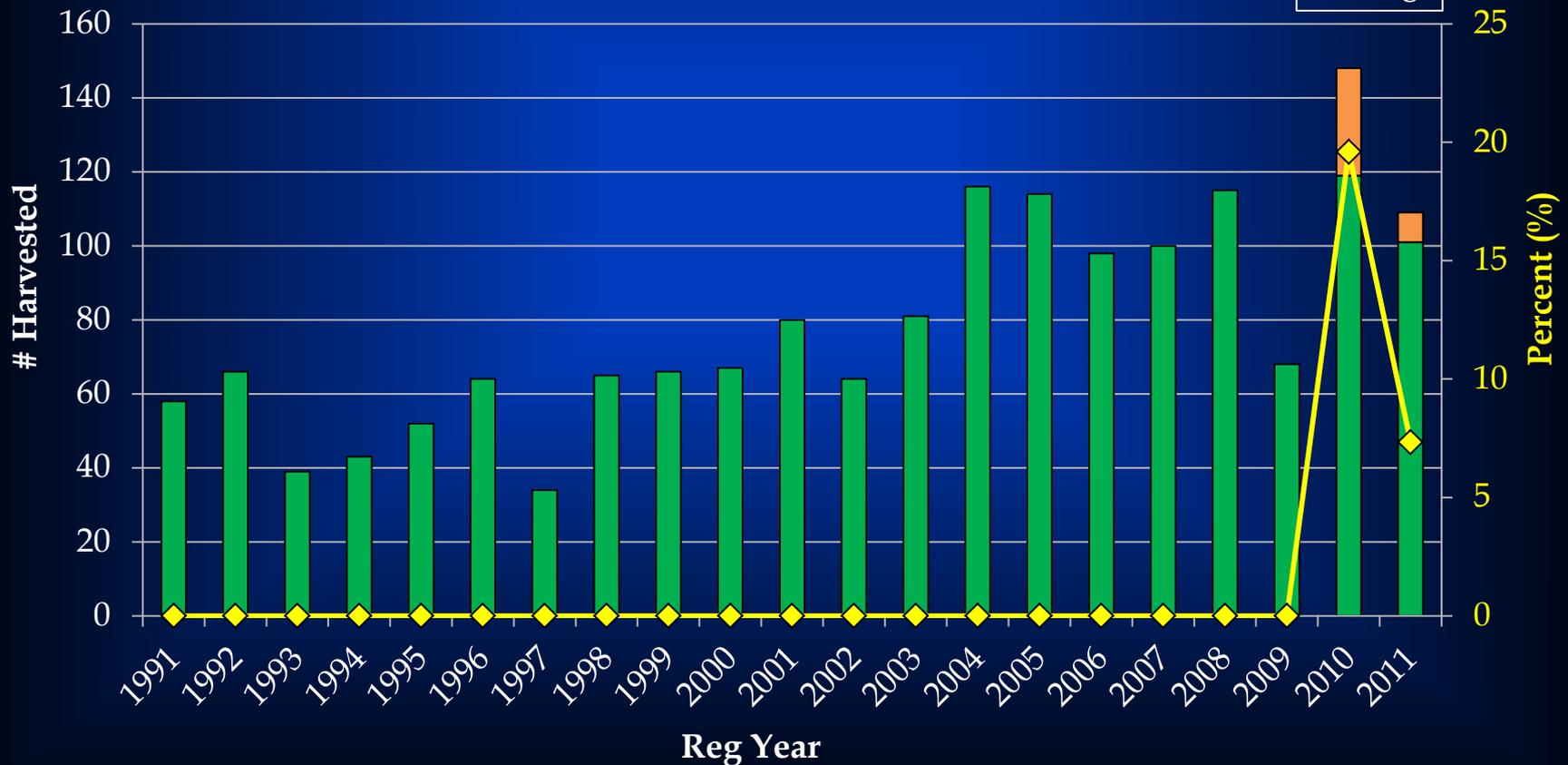
■ Pred Control
 ■ General Harvest
 ◆ % Harvest (Control)



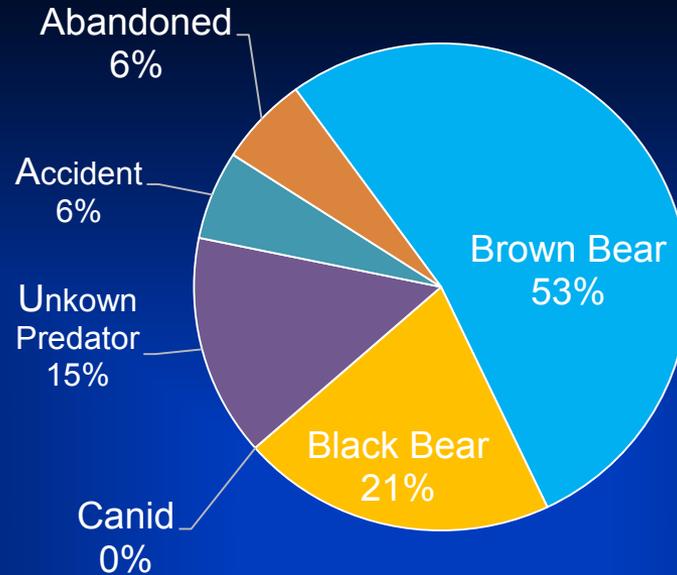
Unit 16B Brown Bear Harvest by Permit Type (1991-2011)

Control General Harvest % Control Take

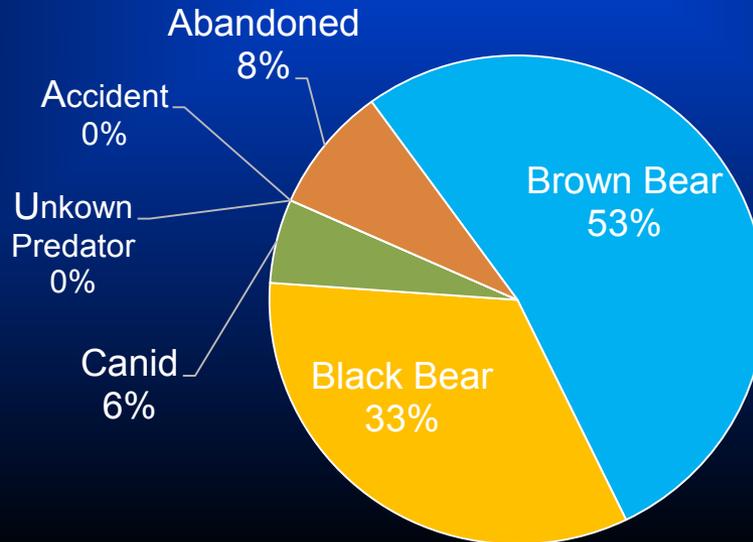
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sept 1 st - May 25 th | Aug 10 th - May 25 th | Aug 10 th - May 30 th | Jul 1 st - June 30 th |
| 1 bear in 4 yrs) | | 1 bear / yr) | (2/yr) |
| | | | Control/ Snaring |



16B - Proportion of Known Moose Calf Mortality by Cause (1)



U 16B - Proportion of Known Moose Calf Mortality by Cause (2)



Proposal 103

Department Recommendation: **Bear Control**

7. The bear reduction programs should be suspended.

Proposal 103

Department Recommendation:

8. Further investigation into the lack of response to predator control in 16B-North is warranted.

Proposal 103

Department Recommendation Summary:

1. Bull harvest should be liberalized in sub-unit 16B.
2. Allow the moose population to grow.
3. No cow hunts at this time.
4. The wolf control program should continue until the harvest objectives for the entire unit are met.
5. Suspend the wolf control program in 16B-South and consider suspending in 16B-Middle to inform operational planning.
6. Suspend the bear control programs.

Proposal 103

Effect of Proposal: Review and modify the unit 16 intensive management program.

Department Recommendation: Adopt

Proposal 108

Effect of Proposal: Suspend/relax the intensive management of wolves in unit 16.

Department Recommendation: Take No Action

Rationale: Based on action taken on proposal 103.

Proposal 99

Effect of Proposal: Align the non-resident moose season in unit 16B with the resident season of Aug. 20 to Sep 25.

Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

This is an allocation issue.

Mat Valley AC: Pass 10-0-3

Moose Population Status

GMU 16B

Population Objective

(6,500 - 7,500)

Estimate

6,700

Bull/100 Cows

52

Harvest Objective

(310 - 600)

Current Harvest

200

Sustainable Bull Harvest Est.

300 - 400

Proposal 99

- Current Non-resident season dates Aug. 25 – Sept. 15
- Proposed Non-resident season dates Aug. 20 – Sept. 25

Proposal 99

ANS Regulation

- ANS 199 - 240 for all 16B

Hunting Regulation

- < 199 moose, Tier II only
- ≥ 199 to < 241 Tier II and Resident Hunting
- > 240 Tier II, resident, and nonresident hunting

Proposal 99

Effect of Proposal: Align the non-resident moose season in unit 16B with the resident season of Aug. 20 to Sep 25.

Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

Rationale: This is an allocation issue and should be determined by the BOG.

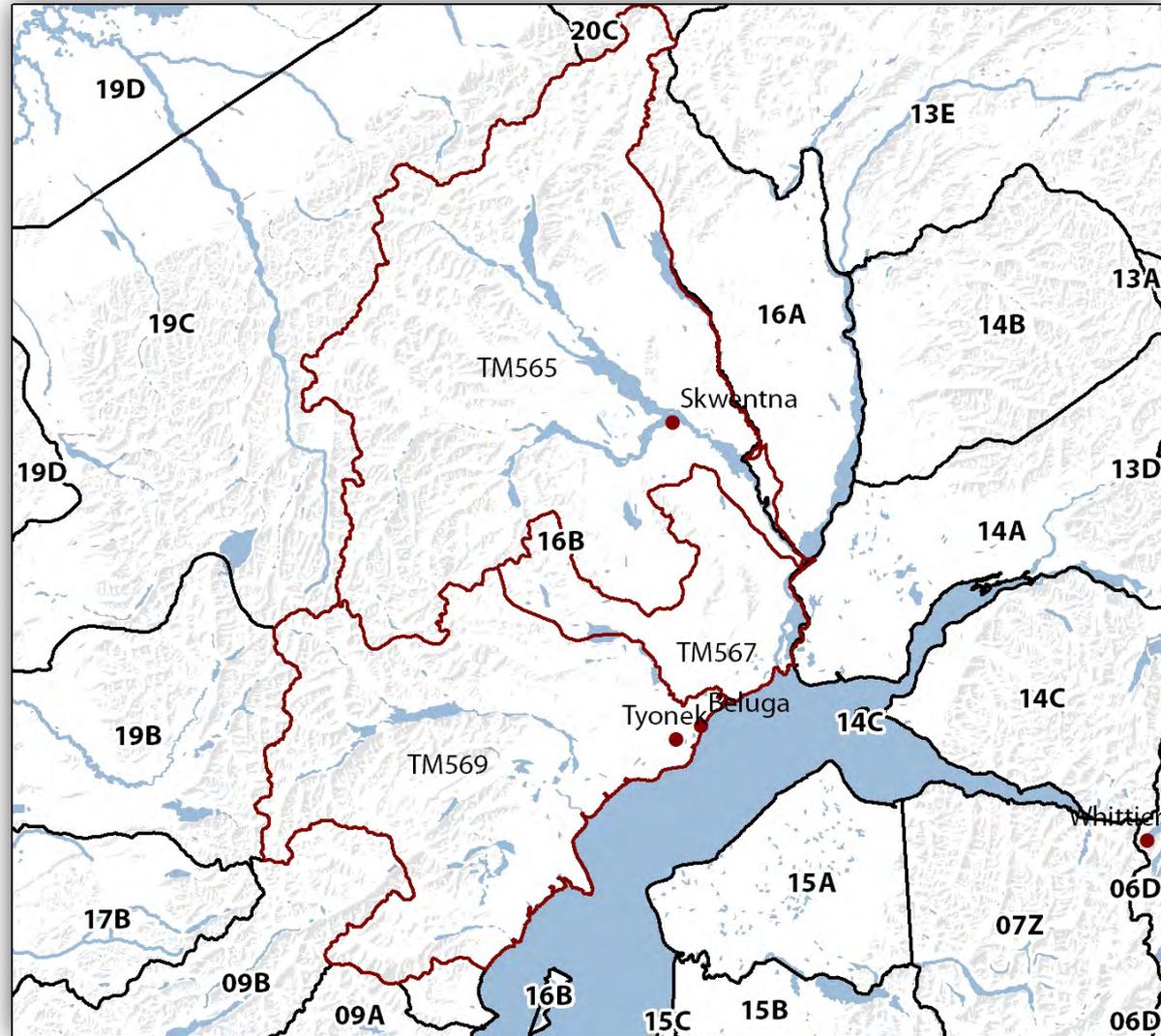
The Seasonality of Moose Hunting in Game Management Unit 16B

Davin Holen
Subsistence Program Manager

Southcentral/Southwest Region Meeting
February 8-15, 2013



Subunit 16B and Tier II Moose Hunting Areas



State Subsistence Procedures

Board Findings for 16B Moose

- Is there Customary and Traditional Use of 16B Moose?
 - Yes, positive finding in 1983; readopted in 1993.
- Is there a “Harvestable Surplus” of 16B Moose?
 - Yes, 300-400 bulls based on biological information.



State Subsistence Procedures

Board Findings for Subunit 16B Moose

- What is the Amount reasonably Necessary for Subsistence?
 - Unit 16(B) (Kalgin Island) 2
 - Unit 16(B) (Redoubt Bay drainages) 10
 - Unit 16(B), that portion south of the Beluga River and north of Redoubt Bay 29-37
 - Unit 16(B), that portion north of the Beluga River 160-180
- Does the harvestable surplus allow for all or only some uses?
 - This is a Board determination



Harvest and Use Patterns

Outline:

- GMU 16B moose hunt history.
- Population of 16B communities.
- Overall harvest by major resource categories, 2005-2006.
- Hunting effort, Tyonek and Beluga, 2005-2006.
- Moose harvest, Tyonek and Beluga, 2005-2006.
- Hunting area by season, Tyonek and Beluga, 2005-2006.
- Harvest of moose by season, 2005-2006.
- Harvest of moose over time by season, TM569.
- Harvest of moose over time by season, TM 567 & 569.



GMU 16B moose hunt history

- Winter hunt available until the mid-1970s in GMU 16B.
 - Hunt was stopped due to increased pressure by urban hunters.
- 1980 – Tyonek Village Council sent a letter to Division of Subsistence which said “My people have a hard time getting moose to eat.”
 - Mt. Yenlo Fish and Game Advisory Committee also identified moose as an issue.
- 1981-1983: Division of Subsistence spent 2 years studying moose hunting patterns in Tyonek and Skwentna.
 - 1983: Positive C & T finding made.
 - Winter hunt established in March 1983.
 - Hunt by registration permits available in Tyonek and Skwentna
 - 200 other permits available by random draw.
- 1992: Tier II hunt established for winter hunt.
 - Hunt established based on decline of moose populations beginning in the late 1990s.
- 1999: Current Tier II/Tier I program with triggers for when to apply Tier II only versus Tier I and Tier II vs Tier II, Tier I and general harvest.



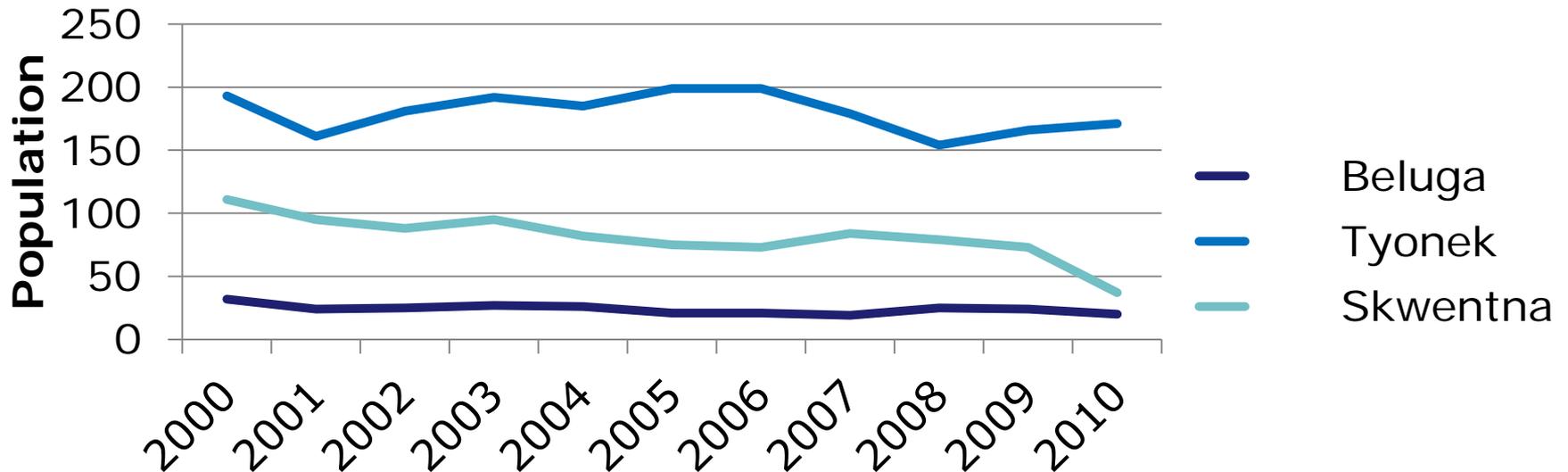
Populations of communities in GMU 16B, 2000-2010

| Year | 2000 | 2006 ^a | 2010 |
|----------|------|-------------------|------|
| Beluga | 32 | 39 | 20 |
| Tyonek | 193 | 202 | 171 |
| Skwentna | 111 | 73 ^b | 37 |

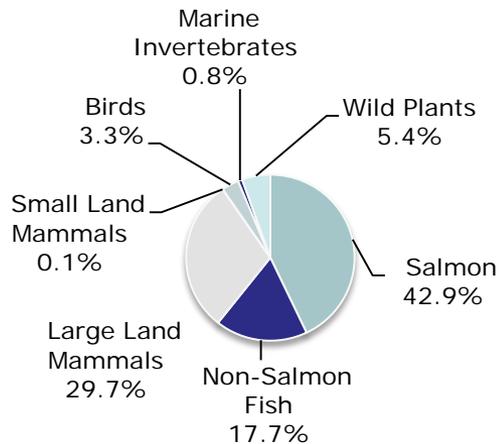
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2011

^a Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS) 2011

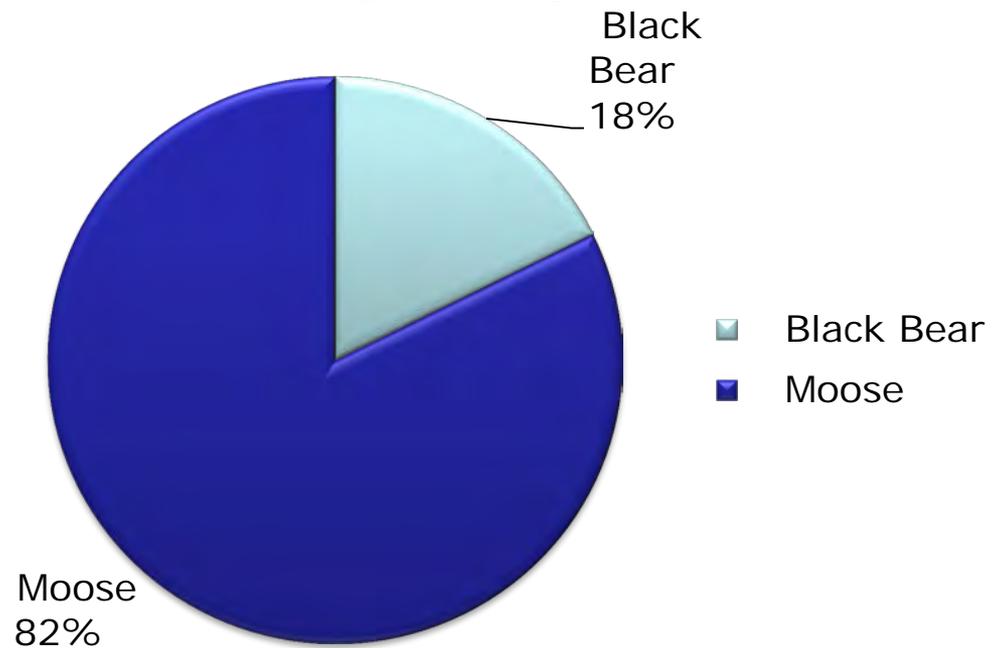
^b Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 2011



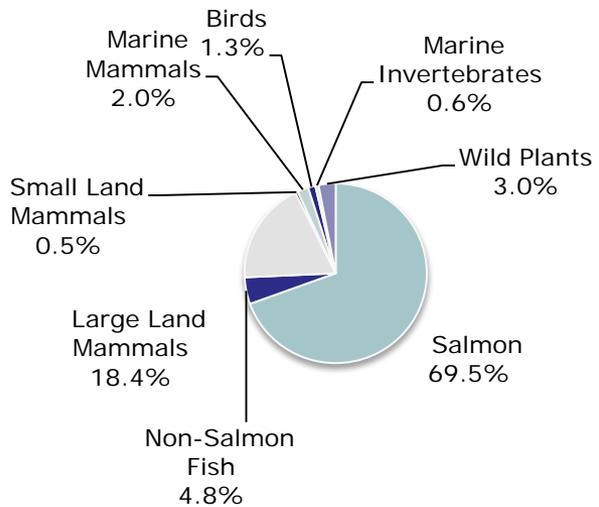
Wild Resource Harvests by Category, Beluga Residents, 2005- 2006



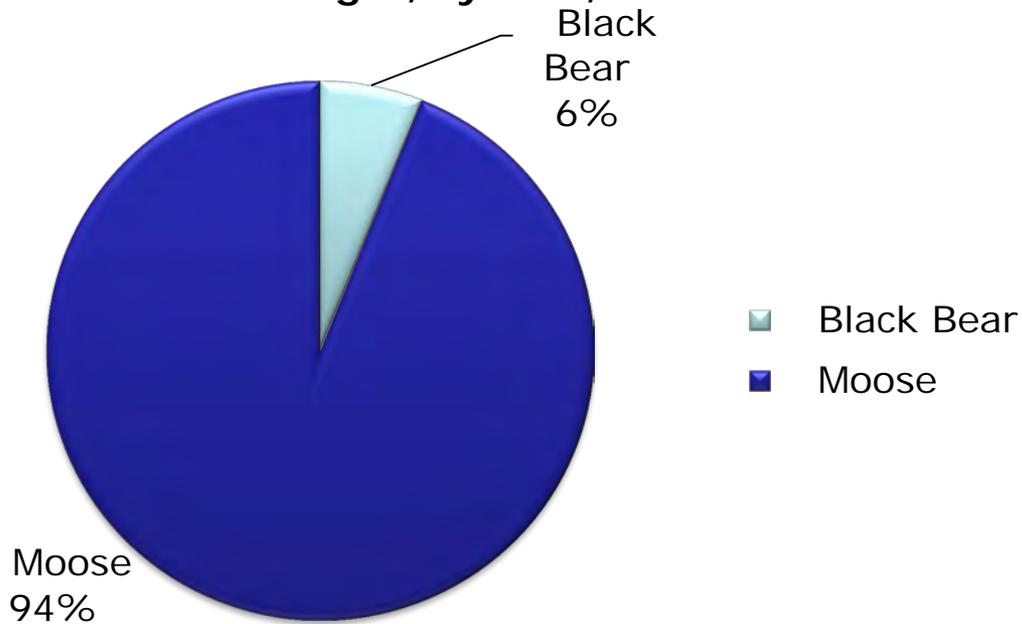
Harvest of large land mammals in lbs usable weight, Beluga, 2005-2006



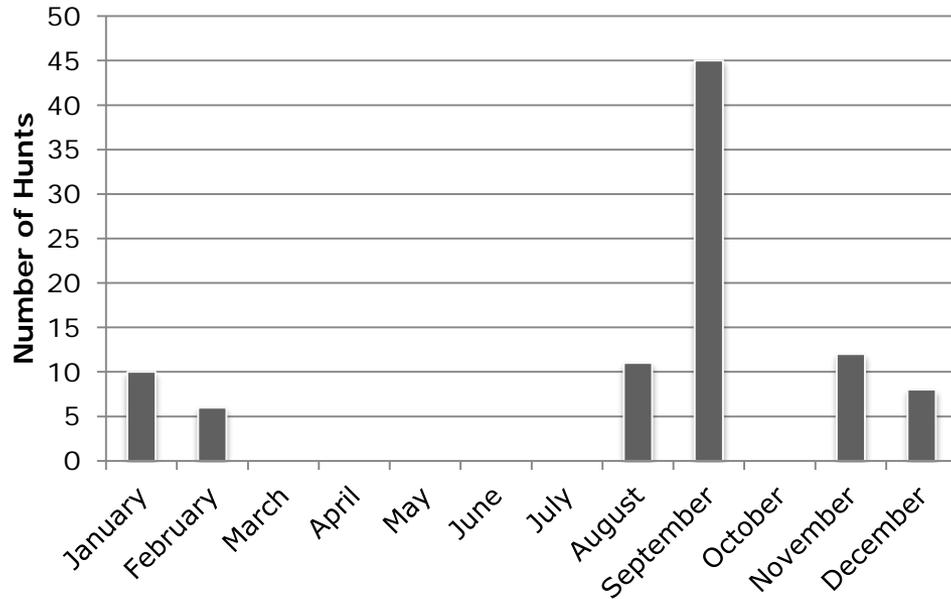
Wild Resource Harvests by Category, Tyonek Residents, 2005-2006



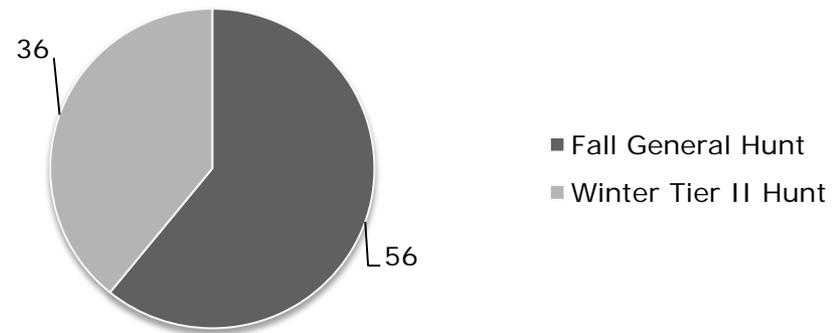
Harvest of large land mammals in lbs usable weight, Tyonek, 2005-2006



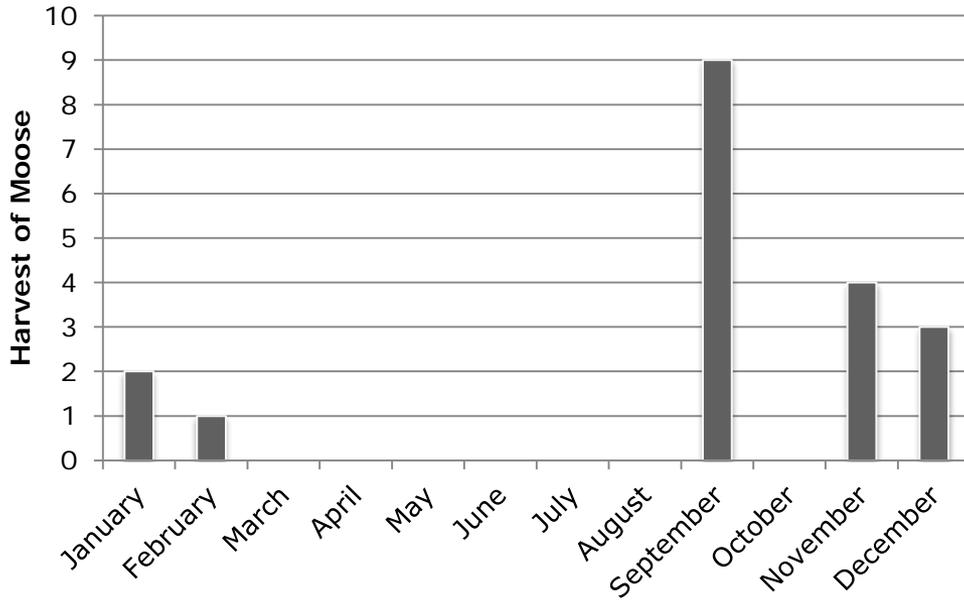
Hunting effort, Tyonek and Beluga combined 2005-2006



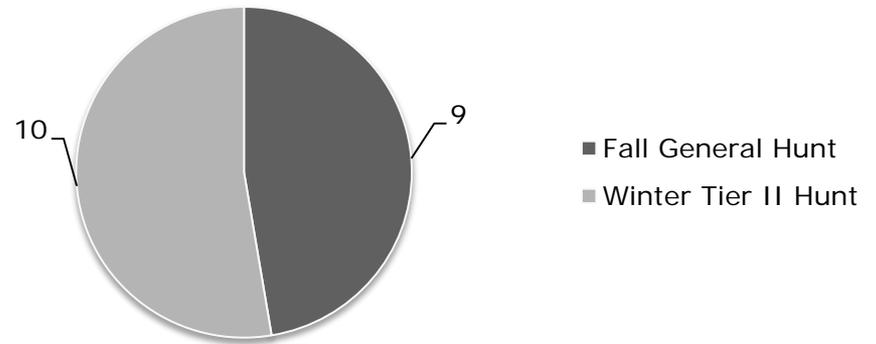
Number of Hunts, Tyonek and Beluga, 2005-2006

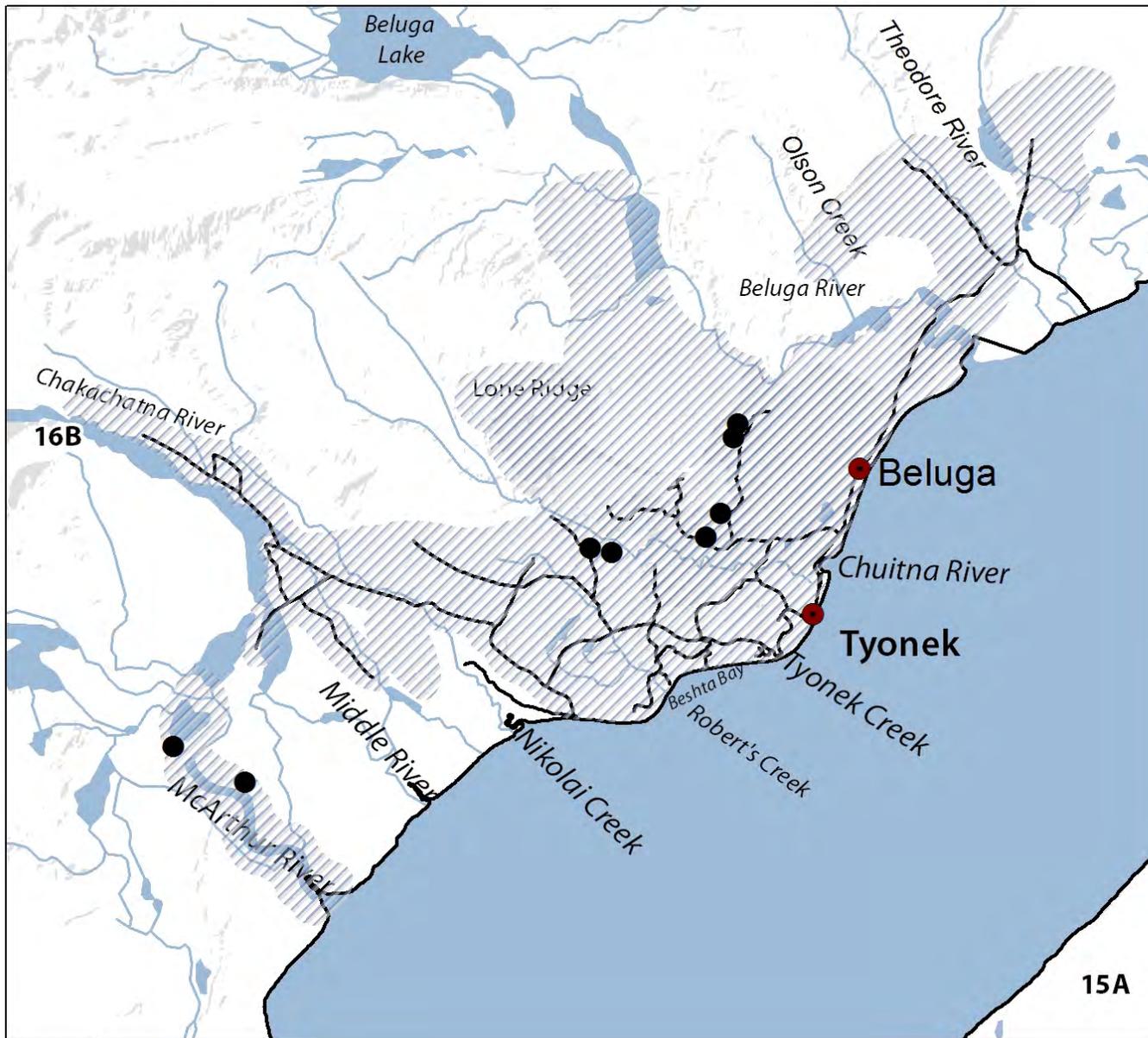


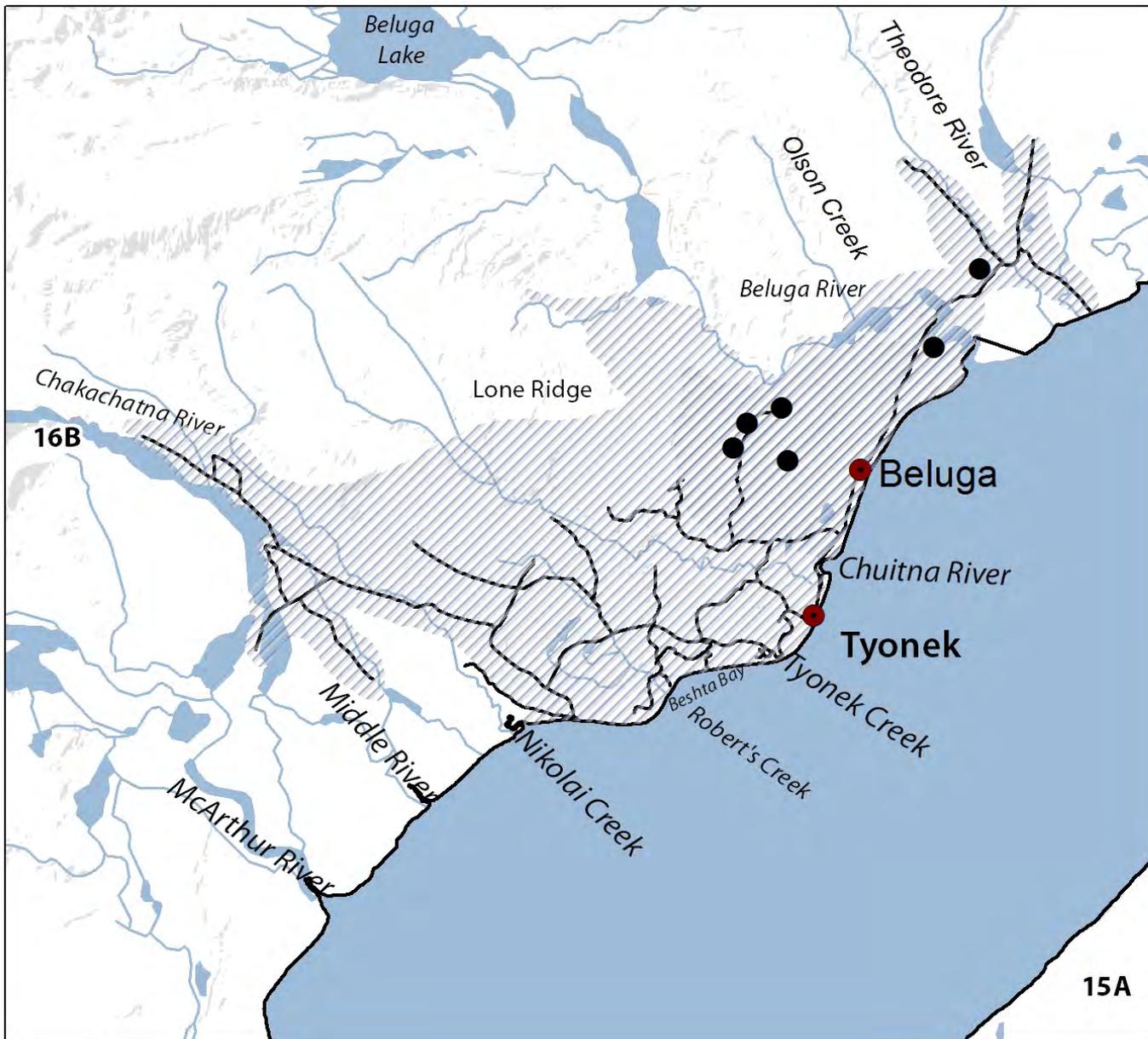
Moose harvest, Tyonek and Beluga, 2005-2006



Number of moose harvested, Tyonek and Beluga, 2005-2006



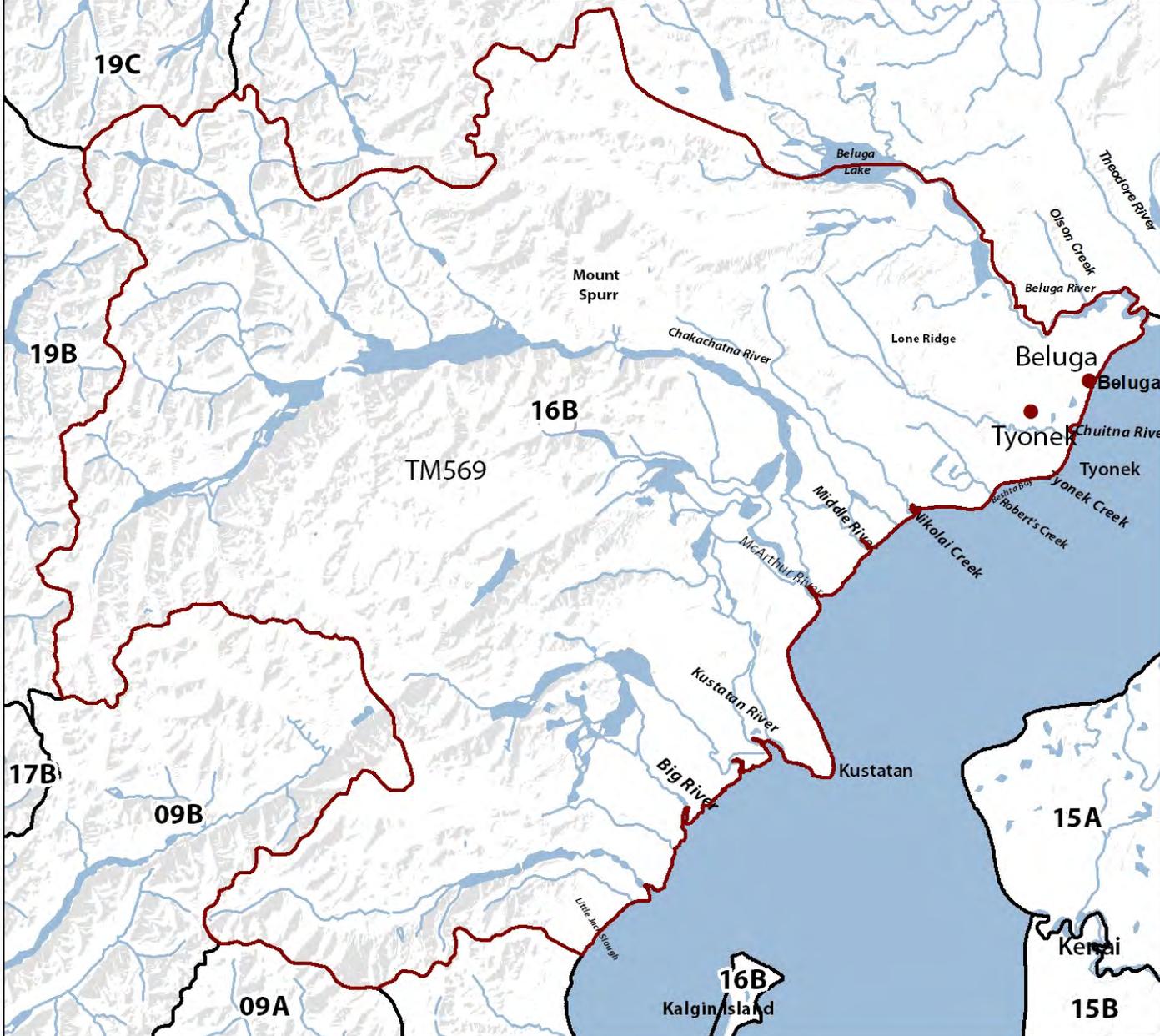




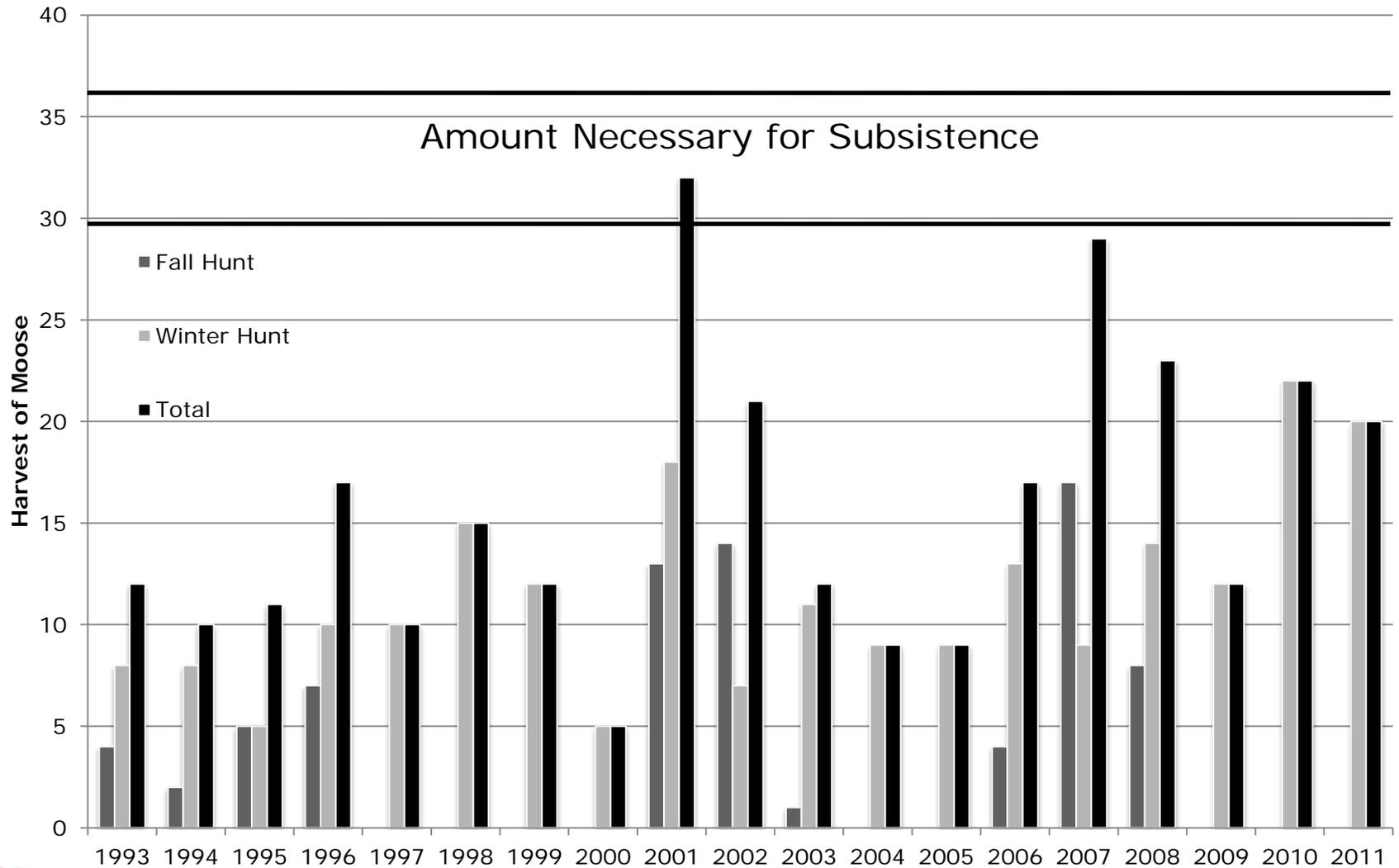
- Tier II Winter Hunt
Tyonek & Beluga
- 2066 Study Communities
- Moose Harvests
- ▨ Moose Hunting Area



TM569, Unit 16B south of the Beluga River



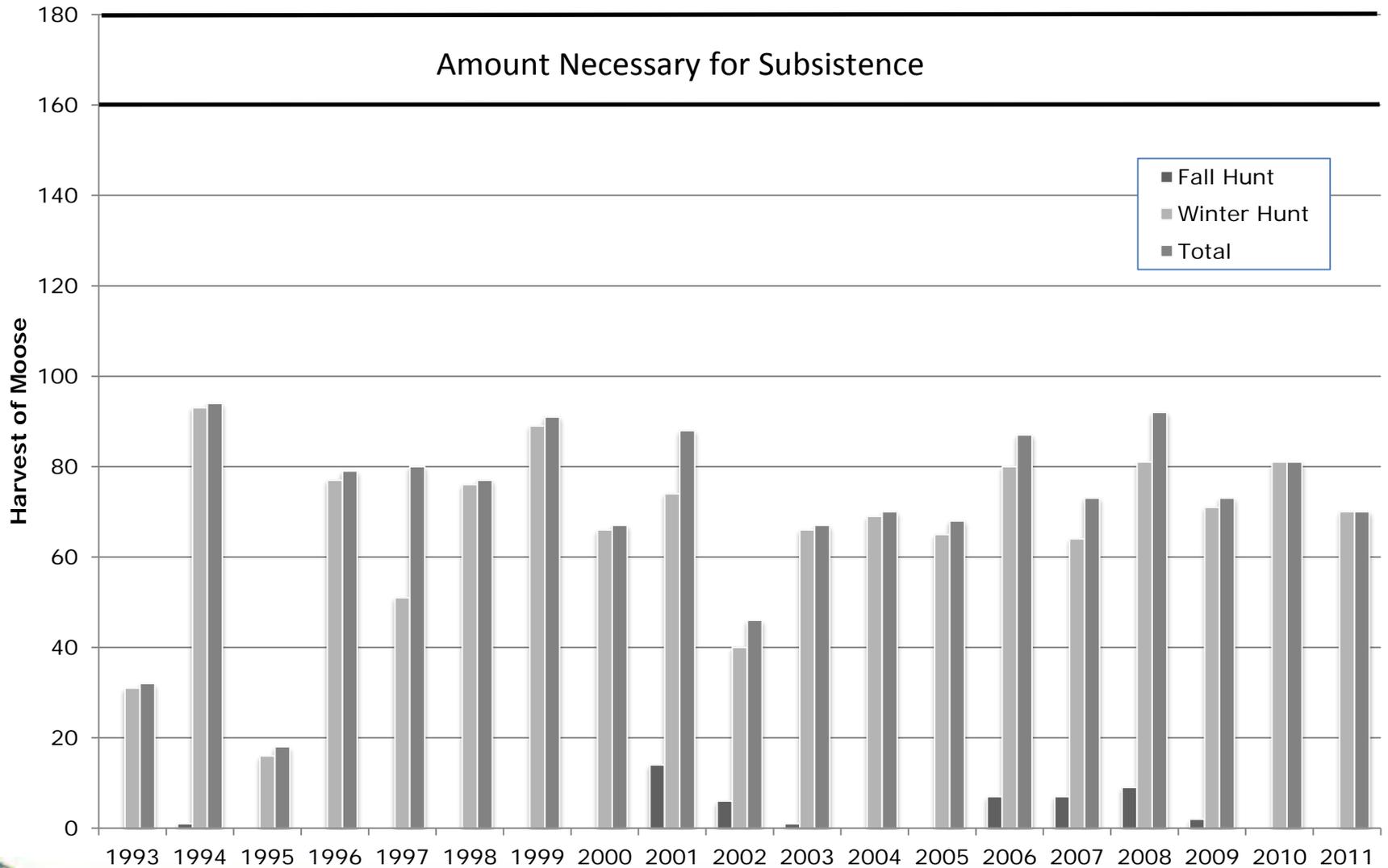
Harvest of moose in TM569, Unit 16B south of the Beluga River



TM565 & TM567,
Unit 16B north
of the Beluga River



Harvest of moose in TM565 and TM567, Unit 16B North of the Beluga River



Considerations:

- Customary and traditional use patterns persist in Tyonek. No new study in Skwentna since 1983.
 - Study in progress in Swentna and Alexander Creek/Susitna for study year 2012.
- Over 50% of Tyonek and Beluga residents report fairly steady harvest since 2006.
- In 2010 and 2011 all reported harvests are from the winter hunt.
- Tyonek residents continue to focus hunting effort on the McArthur River area in the fall.
- Road system hunting near Tyonek is also important in the fall.
- However, there is greater success in the winter hunt.
- Fall hunts also include a moose hunting culture camp in Tyonek.



Tyonek Moose Hunting Culture Camp



Fall culture camp, 2012



Proposal 100

Effect of Proposal: Close the predator control portion of units 16A and 16B to non-resident moose hunting.

Department Recommendation: Take No Action

Rationale: Take no action based on actions taken on Proposal 99.

Proposal 101

Effect of Proposal: Prohibit hunting with off road vehicles in unit 16B until 3:00 am following the day riding.

Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

Allocates opportunity based on transportation method.

Proposal 101

- Few moose (2%) are harvested by ORV users in 16B.
- Currently no biological concerns for game species have been identified in association with ORV use for the purpose of hunting in this area.

Proposal 101

Effect of Proposal: Prohibit hunting with off road vehicles in unit 16B until 3:00 am following the day riding.

Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

Allocates opportunity based on transportation method.

Proposal 104

Effect of Proposal: Prohibit the snaring of bears in Central/Southwest Region.

Department Recommendation: Take No Action

Rationale: For unit 16 - based on the action taken on proposal 103; for the other units mentioned, snaring is currently not allowed.

Proposal 105

Effect of Proposal: Prohibit the snaring of bears in Central/Southwest Region.

Department Recommendation: Take No Action

Rationale: Based on board action on proposal 104.

Proposal 106

Effect of Proposal: Open unit 16 to brown bear baiting for residents and non-residents.

Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

Proposal 106

- Currently authorized in the Brown Bear Predator Control area.
- Proposal would allow brown bear baiting in all of Unit 16.
 - Opens brown bear baiting for both resident and nonresidents.
 - Allows up to 3 bait stations per resident hunter.
 - Nonresidents still require a guide.
 - Guides can register up to 10 bait stations per guide use area.

Proposal 106

- Proposal could increase the annual harvest of brown bears in Unit 16, particularly by guided nonresidents.
- Department believes that the Brown bear population can be managed on a sustained yield basis at higher harvest levels (no immediate biological concerns).
- Brown bear baiting is not expected to reduce bear predation on moose calves in Unit 16.

Proposal 106

Effect of Proposal: Open unit 16 to brown bear baiting for residents and non-residents.

Department Recommendation: No Recommendation

Proposal 107

Effect of Proposal : Retains the current no closed season for brown bears in the remainder of unit 16B.

Issue: Current regulation will sunset unless further action is taken by the Board

Department Recommendation:

No Recommendation

Proposal 107

- The “No closed season” regulation will expire and revert to the former dates of “August 10th – May 31st” if the Board does not reauthorize the season.
- With the exception of “within one mile of the mouth of Wolverine Creek”, the current season for the remainder of 16B is “No closed season”.
- In Sub-unit 16A, the “No closed season”. will also revert to the “August 10th – May 31st” season dates if not reauthorized.

Proposal 107

- The department believes that the Brown bear population can be managed on a sustained yield basis at higher harvest levels (no immediate biological concerns) if the year-round season is retained.

Unit 16 - Brown bears harvested between June 1st - Aug 9th

| Reg. Year | General Season | Control | Total | % of Annual Harvest |
|-----------|----------------|---------|-------|---------------------|
| 2010 | 24 | 2 | 26 | 16% |
| 2011 | 21 | 7 | 28 | 22% |
| 2012* | 11 | 0 | 11 | 26% |

* Harvest to date.

Proposal 107

Effect of Proposal: Retains the current no closed season for brown bears in the remainder of unit 16B.

Issue: Current regulation will sunset unless further action is taken by the Board

Department Recommendation:

No Recommendation

Proposal 102

Effect of Proposal: Liberalizes hunting opportunity in the Western Talkeetna Mountains.

- Expands the draw hunt DC590 for caribou in the Western Talkeetna Mountains into sub-unit 14A.
- Adds a winter season that can be offered when harvest opportunity exists.
- Increases the limit of available permits.

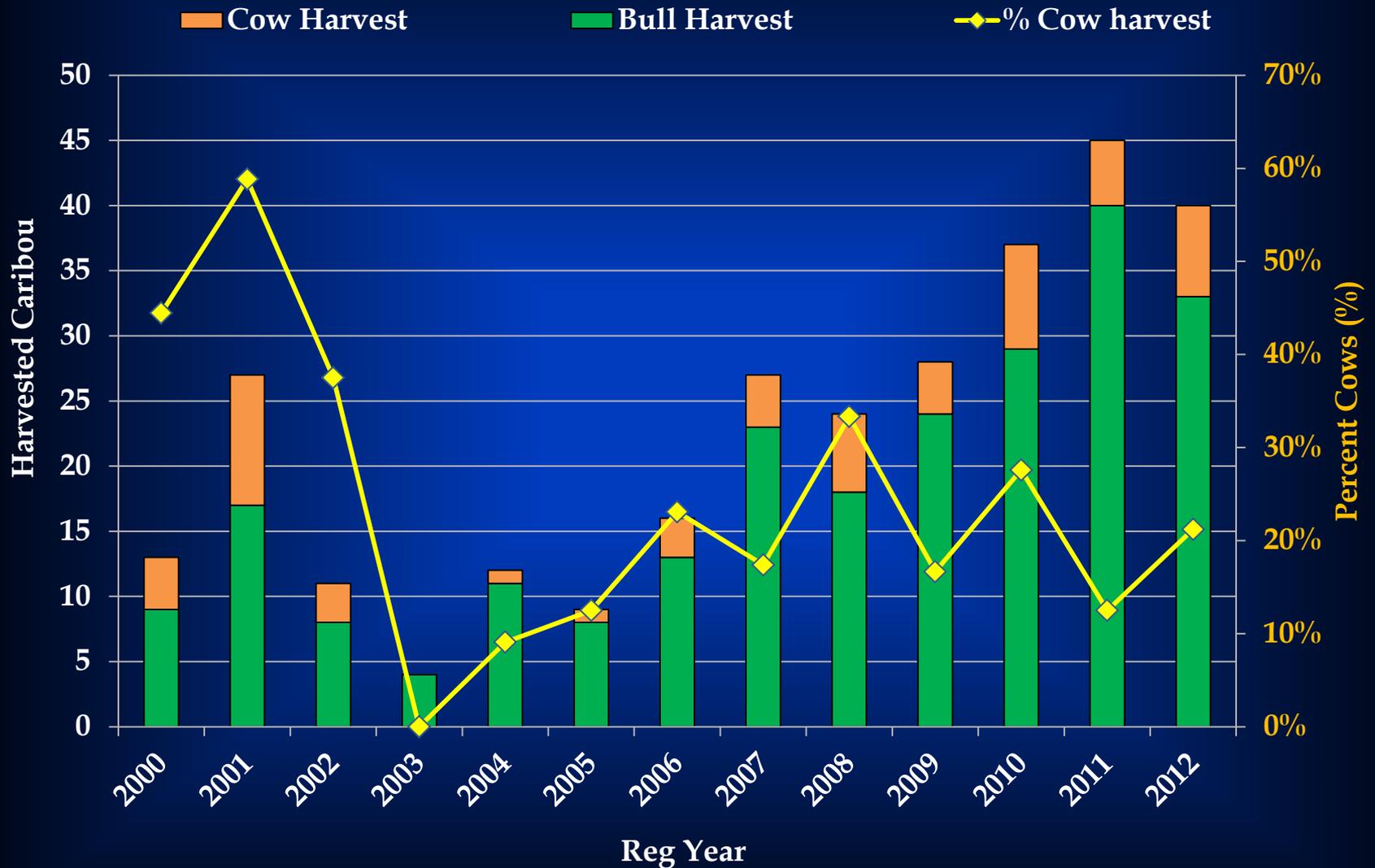
Department Recommendation: Amend & Adopt

- Amend the bag limit from 1 bull caribou back to 1 caribou.

14B Western Talkeetna Hunt Participation (2000-2012)



14B Western Talkeetna Caribou Harvest (2000-2012)



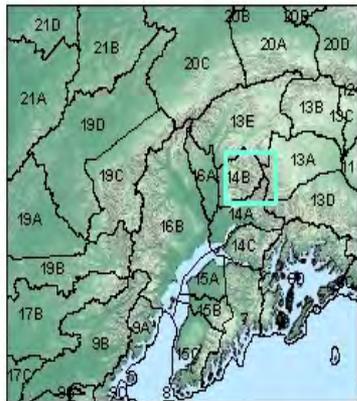


Legend

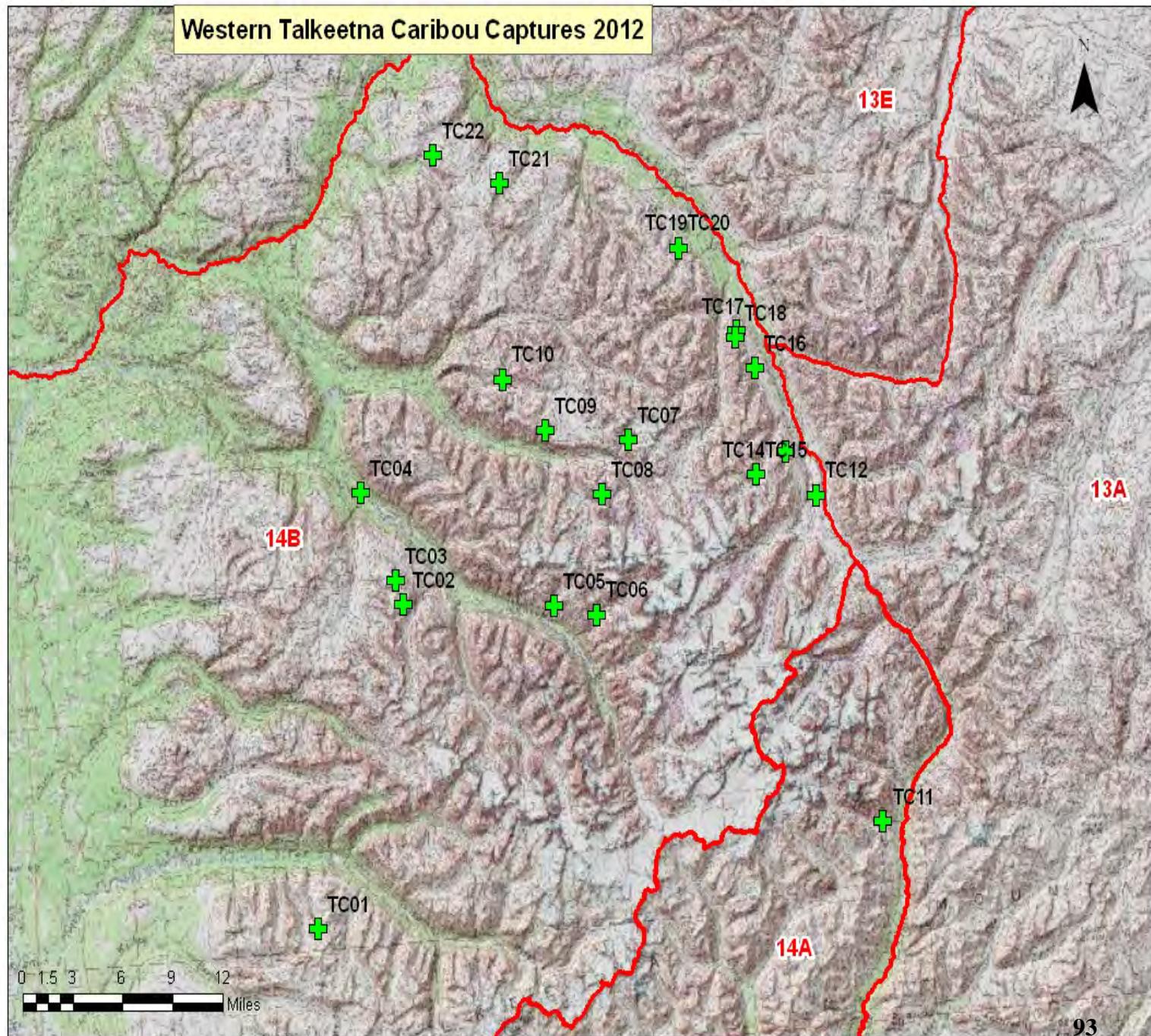
 Capture Locations

 Game Management Unit

This map shows the locations of caribou captured on 16 and 17 April 2012 for the study of population dynamics of caribou inhabiting the western Talkeetna Mountains in Game Management Unit 14B.



Created 1/10/13 by Tim Peltier, ADF&G
from ADF&G sources.
Projection 1983 Alaska Albers



Proposal 102

Effect of Proposal: Liberalizes hunting opportunity in the Western Talkeetna Mountains.

- Expands the draw hunt DC590 for caribou in the Western Talkeetna Mountains into sub-unit 14A.
- Adds a winter season that can be offered when harvest opportunity exists.
- Increases the limit of available permits.

Department Recommendation: Amend & Adopt

- Amend the bag limit from 1 bull caribou back to 1 caribou.

Thank You