

# Proposal 1

**Modify the bag limit for Sitka black-tailed deer on the Juneau mainland to allow the harvest of four deer of either sex**

## Public Proposal

**Department Recommendation:**

**Doe Season: Do Not Adopt**

**Increase Buck Bag Limit: No Recommendation**

# Juneau Road System

Glacier Hwy.

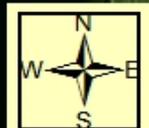
Lemon Cr.

Salmon Cr.

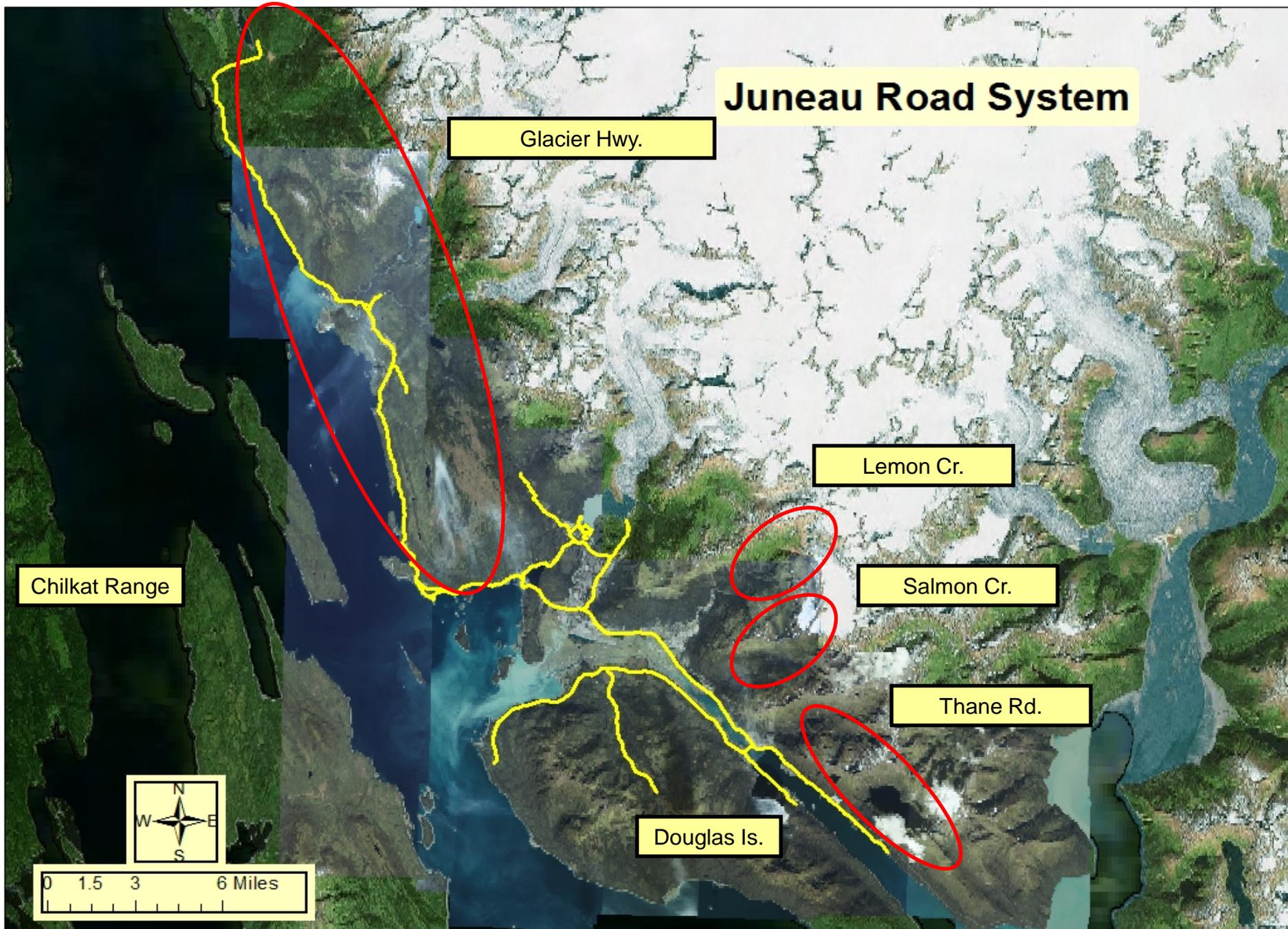
Thane Rd.

Douglas Is.

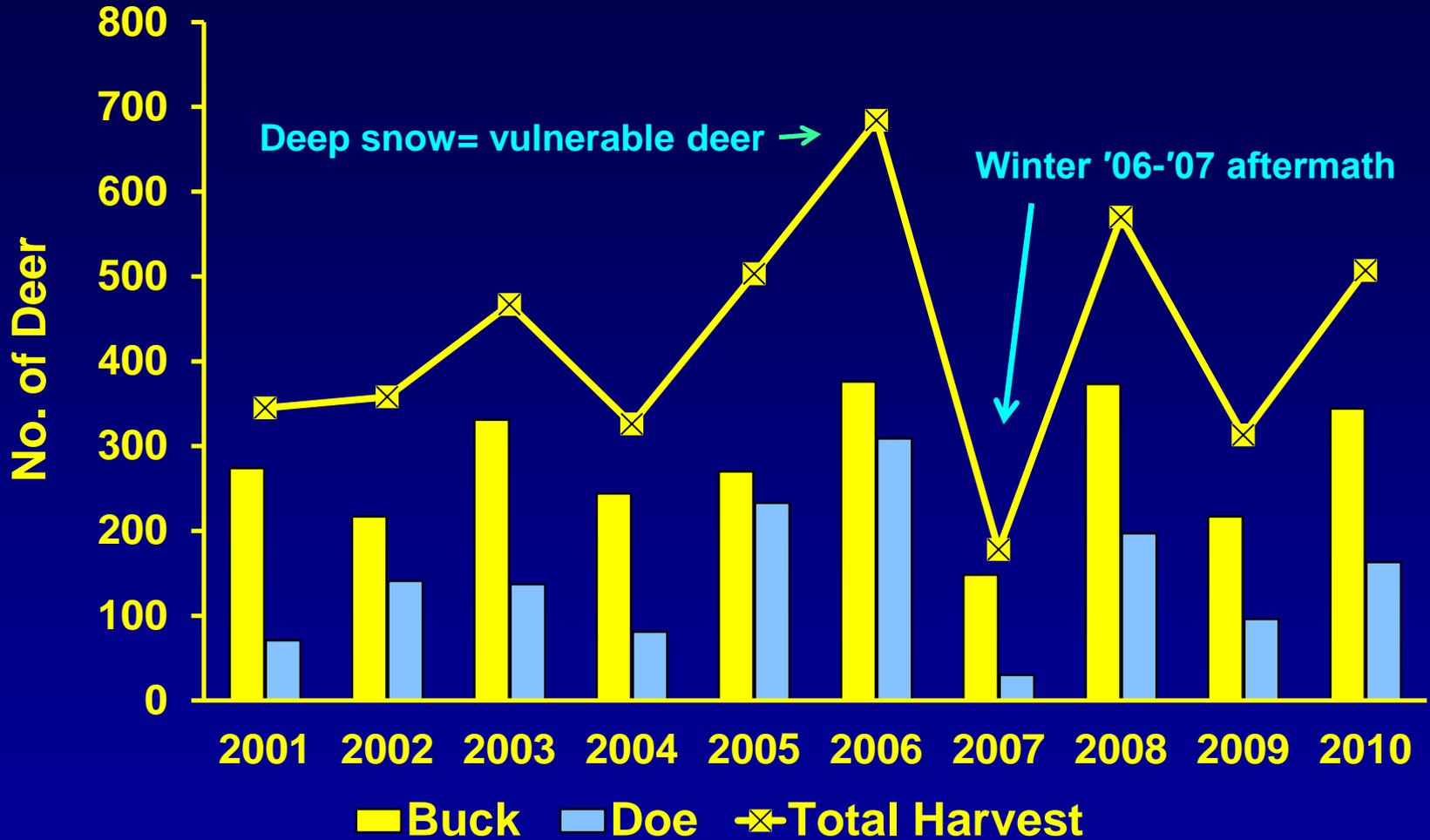
Chilkat Range



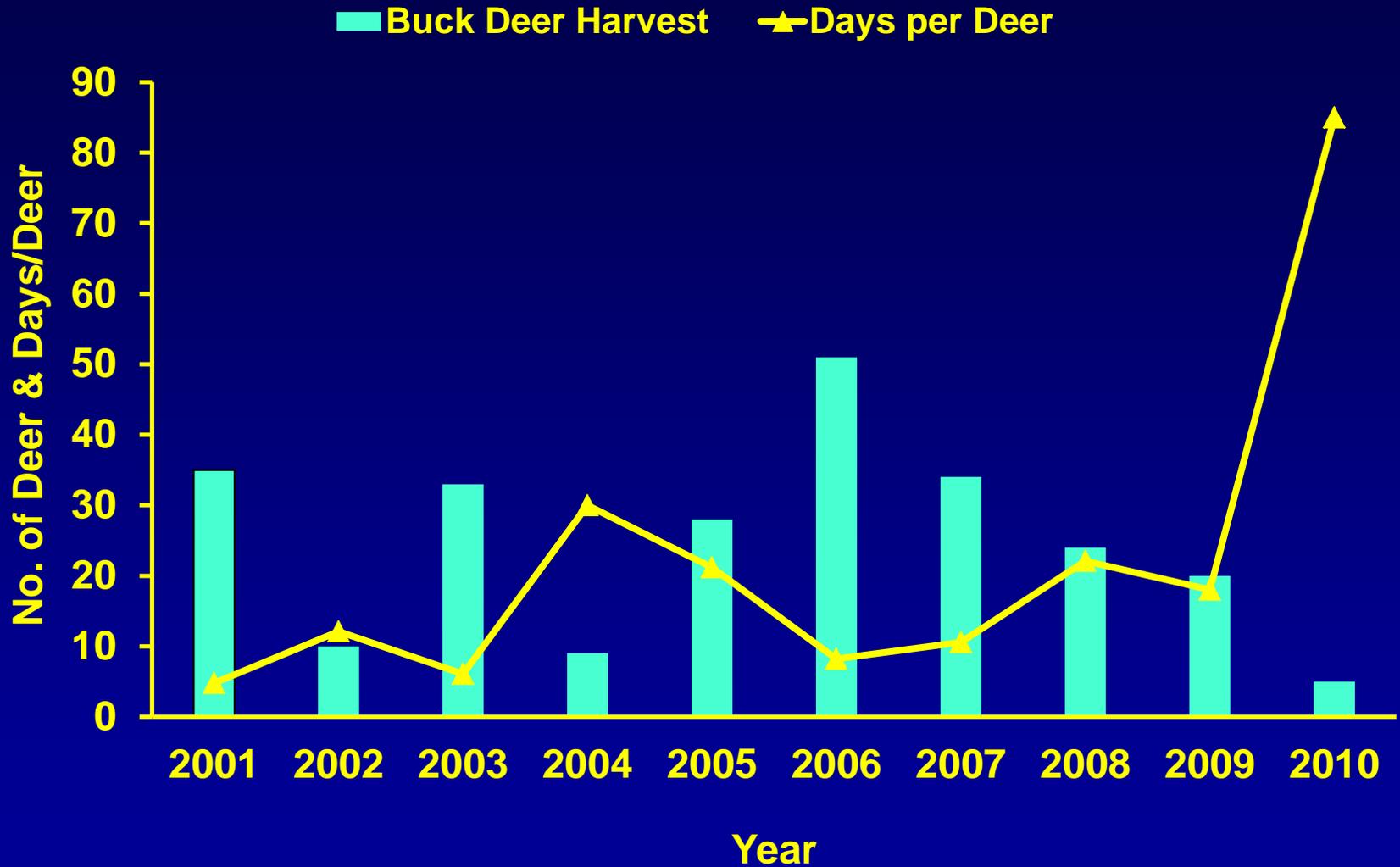
0 1.5 3 6 Miles



# Unit 1C Deer Harvest 2001-2010



# Juneau Area Mainland Deer Harvest 2001-2010



# ***Discussion***

## **Current Mainland Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits**

**2 Bucks: August 1-December 31**

**Adopted in 1991 by Board of Game**

- **Relatively little effort & success**
- **Quality hunt in 1950's & 1960's**
- **Limited hunting area on mainland**
- **Habitat limitations**
- **Previous season and bag limits inconsistent with other mainland units**

# ***Discussion***

## **Unit 1C Mainland Deer Hunting Information**

- **Few deer are taken: 26 deer/year**
  - **Douglas ~304 deer/year**
- **More effort required than on islands: 15% success & 22 days/deer**
  - **Douglas: 31% success & 9 days/deer**
- **Hunter effort and success suggests lower density deer population**
  - **Mainland harvest sample sizes are small**
- **Unit 1C mainland deer population composition data not available**
- **Predation and weather effects may be more pronounced on mainland**

# ***Conclusion***

**If the Board adopts this proposal the department recommends the following:**

- **Retain current prohibition on the harvest of doe deer on mainland portion of Unit 1C**
  - **Allowing a doe harvest may negatively impact mainland deer population**
  
- **Increase buck deer bag limit & retain current season dates**
  - **Limit buck bag limit to 4 or less**
  - **Consideration must be given to localized reduction in buck to doe ratios & increased predation on does if buck numbers are reduced**

# ***Conclusion***

**Juneau-Douglas AC recommendation:**

**Do Not Adopt**

**Upper Lynn Canal AC recommendation:**

**Do Not Adopt**

**Department Recommendation:**

**Doe Season: Do Not Adopt**

**Increased Buck Bag Limit: No Recommendation**

# Proposal 2

Open a youth only deer hunt 2 weeks prior to the current season date in Unit 5A

**Yakutat Advisory Committee Proposal**

**Department Recommendation:**

**No Recommendation**

# Game Management Unit 5

06A

05B

Yakutat Bay

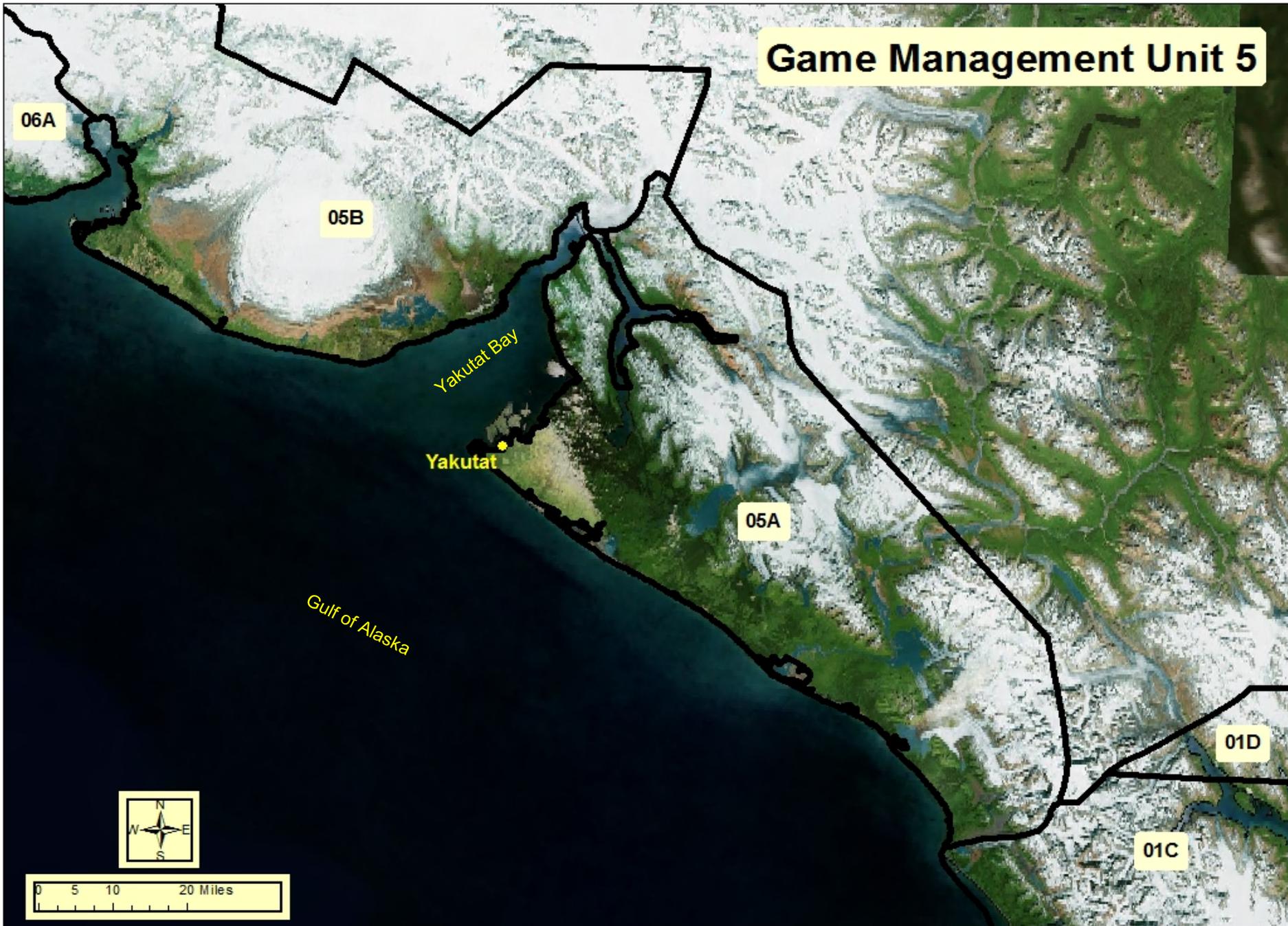
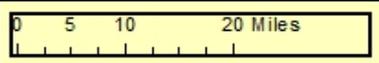
Yakutat

05A

Gulf of Alaska

01D

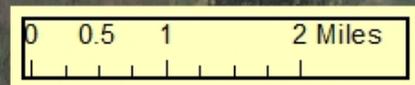
01C



**Yakutat Islands & Phipps Peninsula**



**Yakutat**



# ***Discussion***

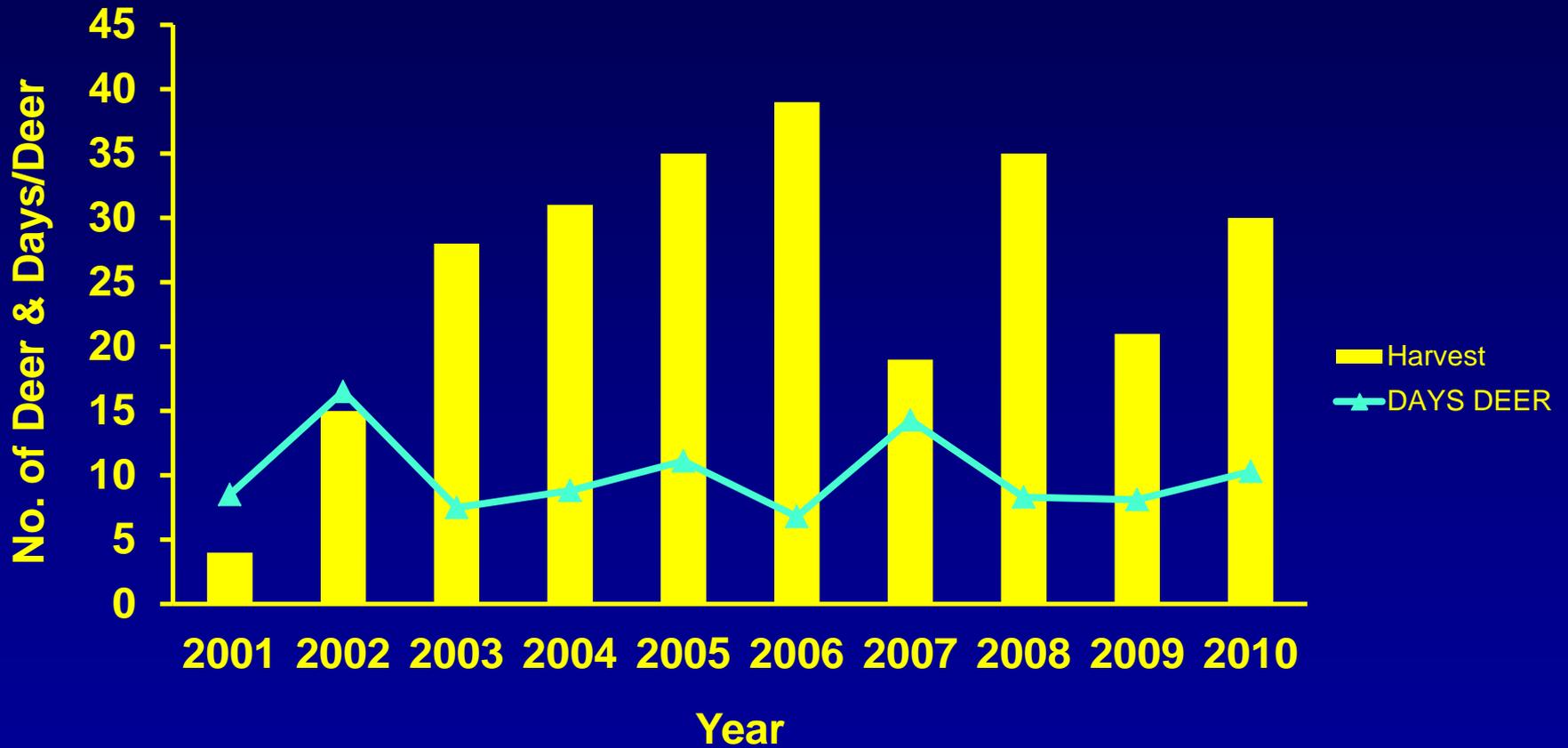
## **Current Unit 5A Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits**

**1 Buck: November 1-November 30**

## **History of the Yakutat deer population**

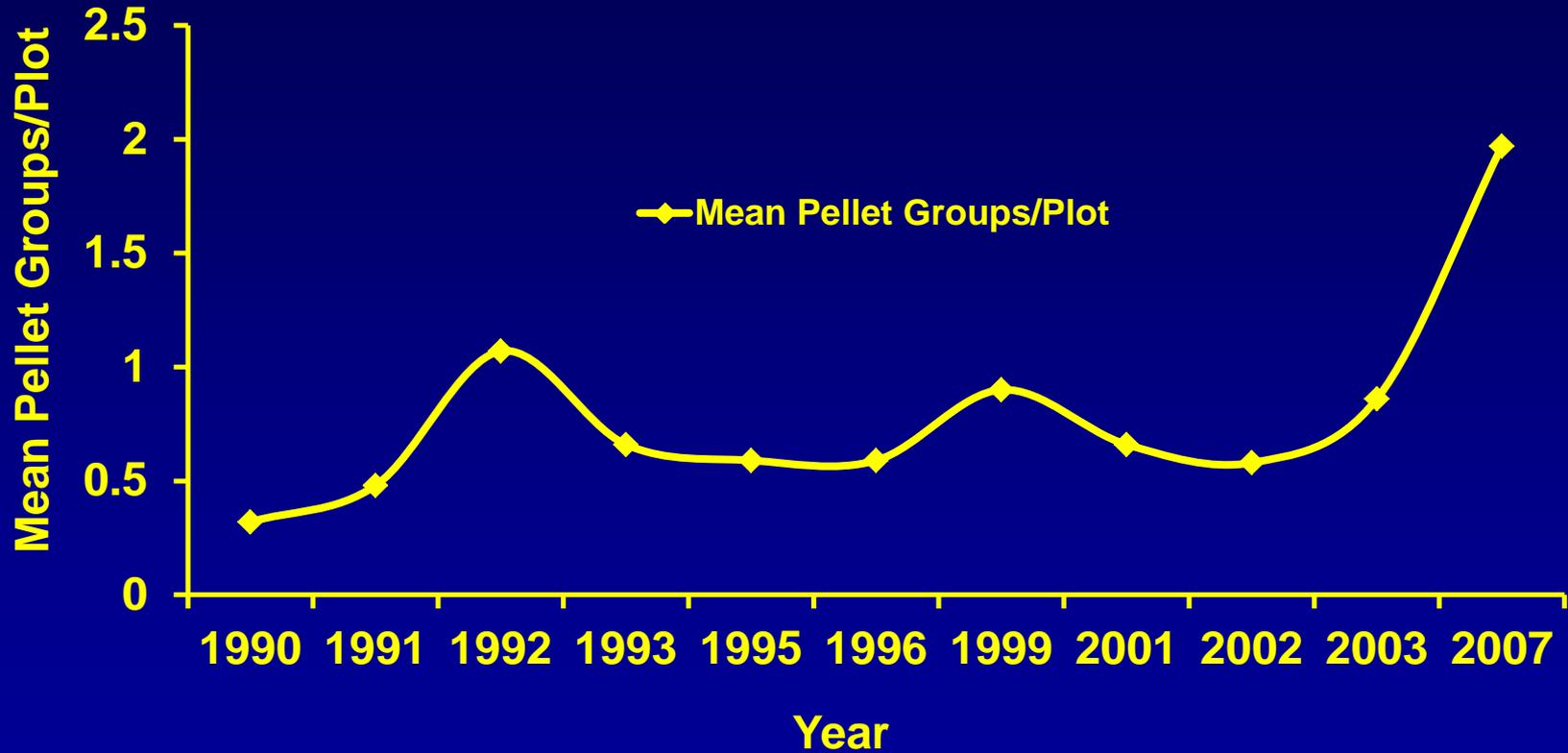
- **Introduced to islands in 1934**
- **Most harvest was incidental**
- **Hunting season closed in 1980s after severe winters**
- **Season opened in 1991 with current dates and bag limit**

## Unit 5A Deer Harvest & Hunter Effort 2001-2010



Proposal 2

## Yakutat Islands Mean Pellet Groups/Plot



Proposal 2

# *Discussion*

- **Few deer are taken ~26 deer/year**
- **Limited by available habitat, weather and predation**
  - **331 inches of snowfall in RY 2011**
- **Proposal would shift hunters rather than significantly impacting harvest**
  - **Hunters are limited to 1 buck deer**
- **Federal deer season**
  - **Designated hunters**

# Conclusion

If adopted the department recommends the following:

- Create a Yakutat Youth Deer Hunt Special Management Area
  - Season dates: Oct. 15-Oct. 31
  - Open to hunters 10-17
  - General season, harvest ticket
  - Include all of Unit 5A
  - Require hunter education
  - No proxy hunting

Yakutat AC recommendation: Adopt

Juneau-Douglas AC recommendation: Adopt

Department Recommendation:  
No Recommendation

Proposal 2

# Proposal 3

Extend the spring brown bear hunting season and increase the bag limit for the Berners Bay portion of Unit 1C as follows:

- **Season: March 15-June 20**
- **Bag Limit: 1 bear every regulatory year**

**Public Proposal**

**Department Recommendation:**

**Amend and Adopt**

**Recommended Amendment:**

**Season: March 15-May 31**

**Bag Limit: 1 bear every year**

**Proposal 3**

# Game Management Unit 1C

Berners Bay



01C

Yakutat

Haines

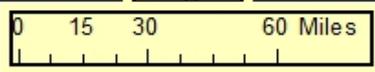
Juneau

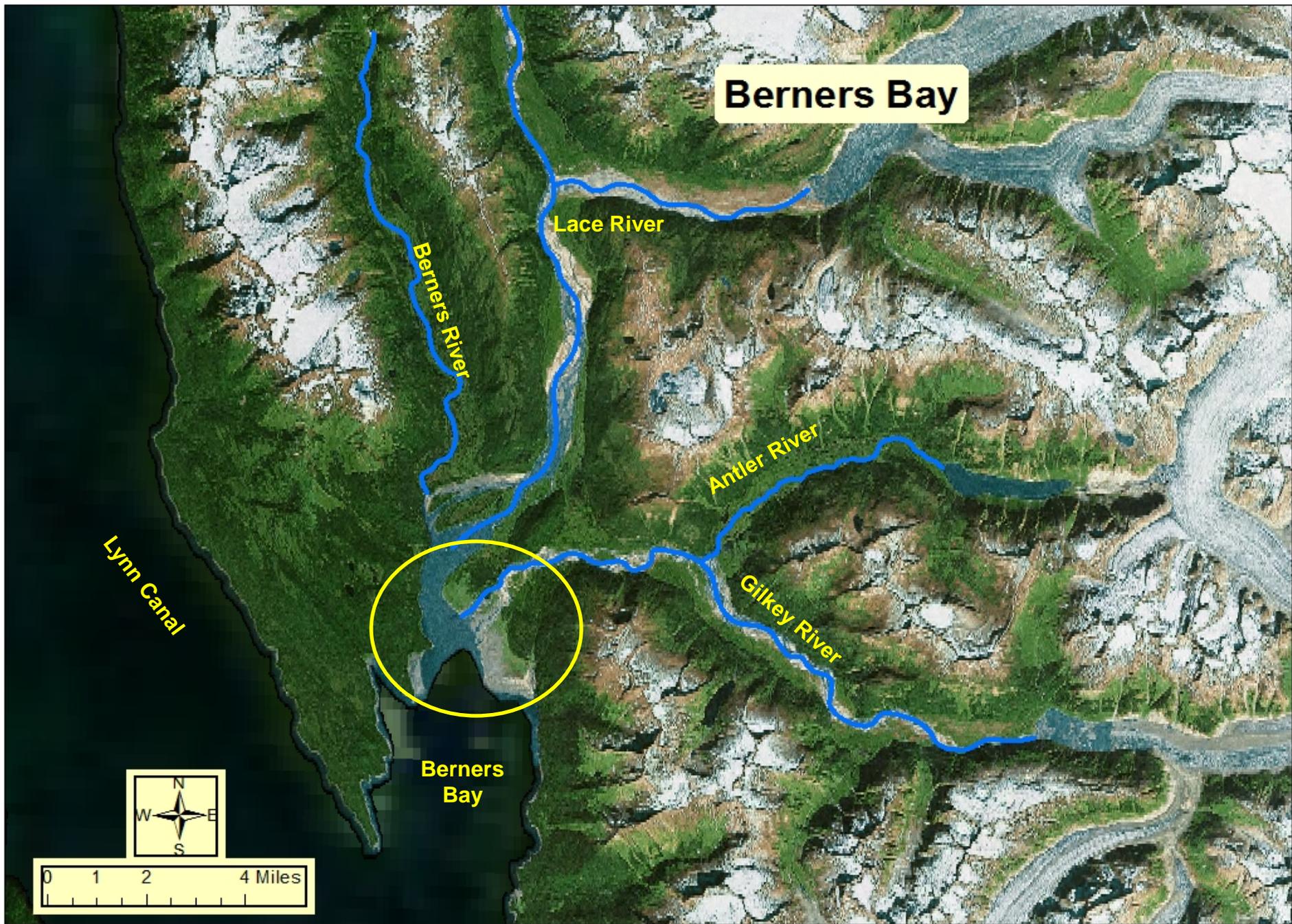
Sitka

Petersburg

Craig

Ketchikan





**Berners Bay**

Lace River

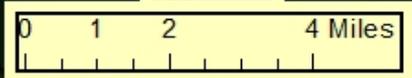
Berners River

Antler River

Gilkey River

Lynn Canal

Berners Bay





# ***Discussion***

## **Unit 1C Brown Bear Hunting**

- **Resident and nonresident bag limit: 1 bear every four regulatory years**
- **Registration permit RB062 (Sept. 15-Dec. 31) & RB072 (March 15-May 31)**
- **10 day reporting requirement**
- **30 day sealing requirement**
- **All hunters required by regulation to return permit hunt report**

# ***Discussion***

## **Unit 1C Brown Bear Management Objectives**

- **Maintain a male to female harvest ratio of at least 3:2**
- **Maintain an average age of harvested males of no less than 6.5 years**
- **Maintain a spring harvest of at least 60% males**
- **Reduce the number of bears killed because of garbage and human food conditioning**

# *Discussion*

## **Berners Bay Brown Bear Harvest & Hunter effort**

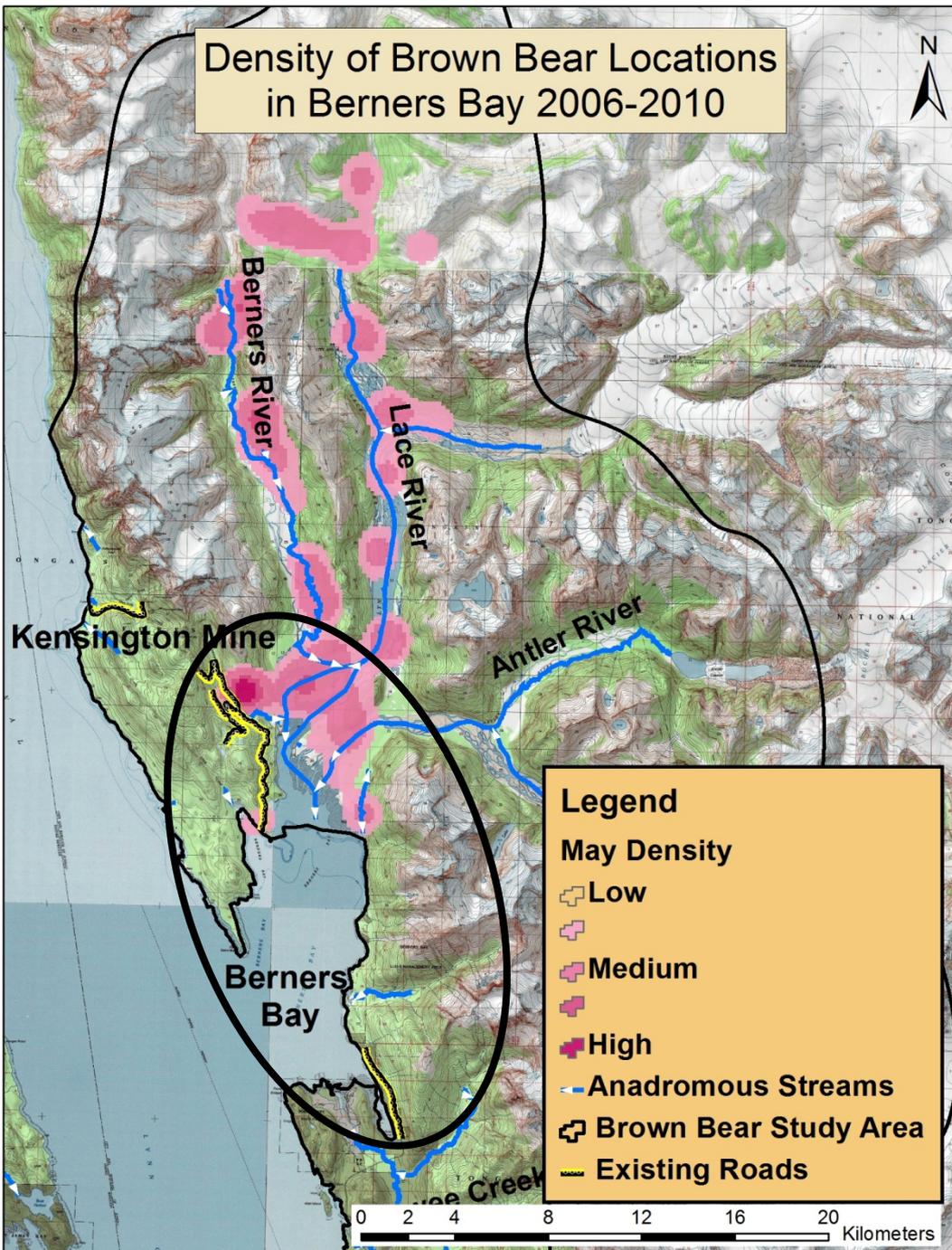
- **An estimated 37% (214 of 574) of Unit 1C brown bear hunters hunted in Berners Bay (2002-2011)**
- **Berners Bay accounts for ~32% of Unit 1C harvest**
  - **1.7 bears/year**
  - **8% success rate**
  - **Overall mortality (harvest, DLP, Natural) 2.4 bears/year**

# ***Discussion***

## **Berners Bay Brown Bears**

- **Due to research efforts associated with the Juneau Access Project, Berners Bay is one of the few areas in Southeast Alaska with good population estimates**
  - **2007: 66.7 (95% CI 60.6-73.4)**
  - **2008: 60.4 (95% CI 54.7-66.6)**
- **48 brown bears marked with GPS equipped radio collars**
  - **GPS collar locations indicate bears are available at low elevation beginning in early May**
- **Berners Bay brown bears are geographically isolated**

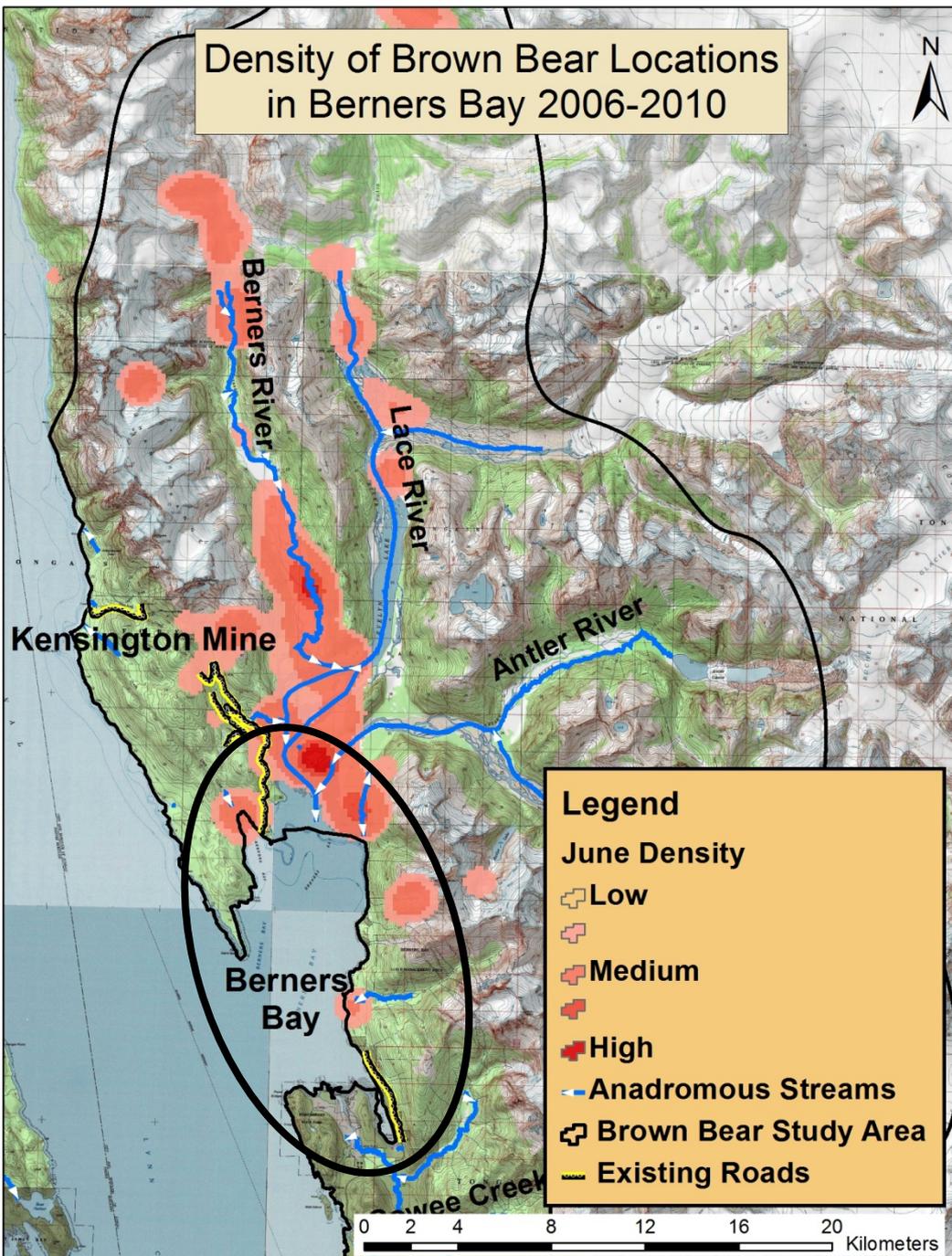
## Density of Brown Bear Locations in Berners Bay 2006-2010



## Berners Bay Brown Bears

- By late May and into June bears utilizing grass flats at head of bay and are vulnerable to hunting
- 59% of Berners Bay harvest during spring
- The bay is near Juneau and portions are easily accessible by boat and airplane
- Juneau access road will provide additional access

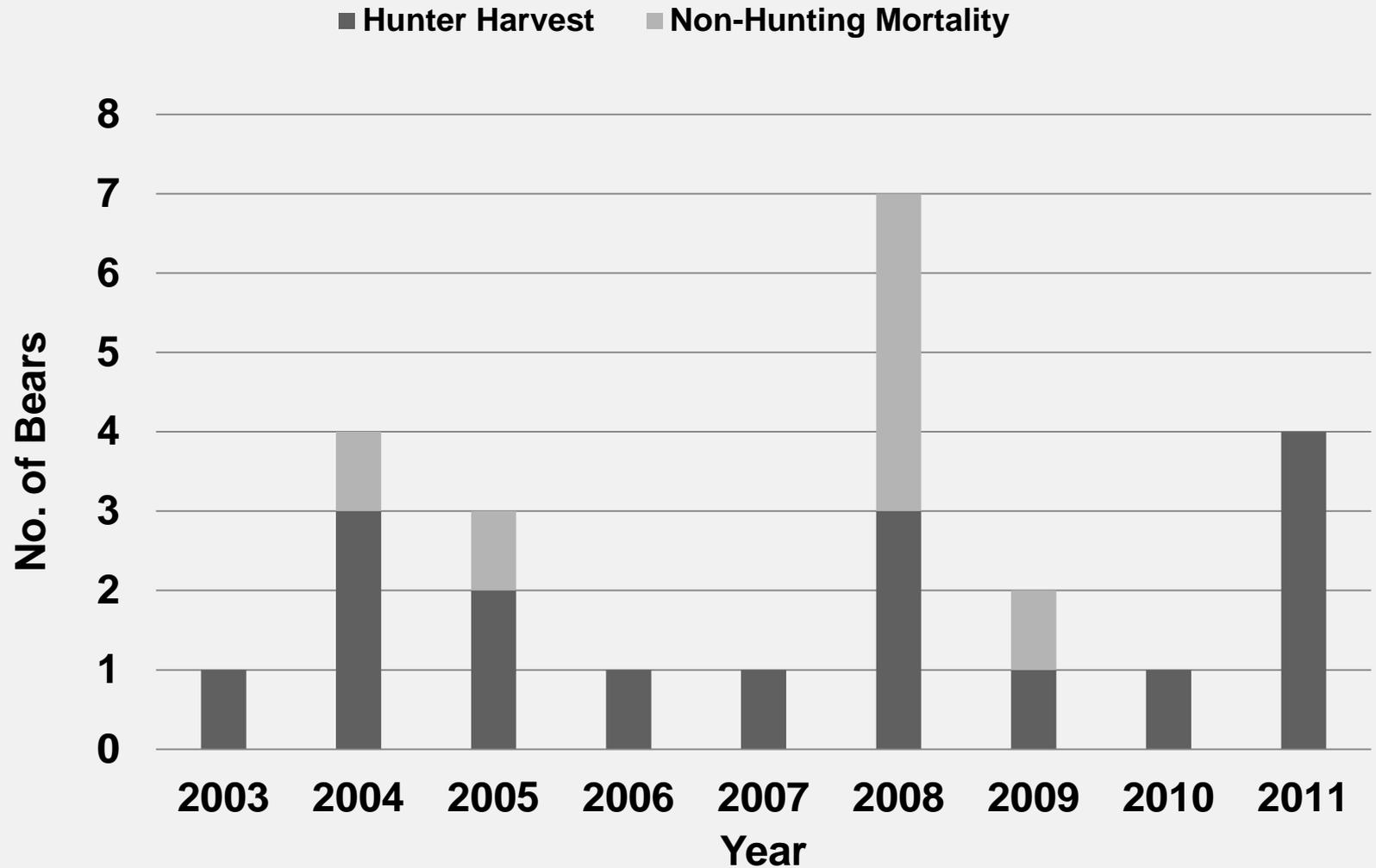
## Density of Brown Bear Locations in Berners Bay 2006-2010



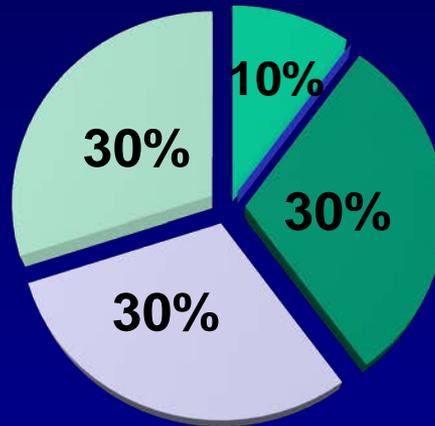
## Berners Bay Brown Bears

- Use of estuary increases into June
- Increased vulnerability for all bears, especially females

# Berners Bay Brown Bear Mortality 2003-2011



**Berners Bay Brown Bear Harvest Chronology  
(%) by Month & Week  
2002-2011  
n=10**



■ April ■ May 1-7 ■ May 8-15 ■ May 16-23 ■ May 24-31

# *Discussion*

## **Future brown bear management**

- **Berners Bay brown bear population estimate is available**
- **Proposed changes are unique in Southeast, Alaska**
  - **All other brown bear hunts in the region are 1 bear every 4 years**
  - **Hunter dispersal concerns**
- **Minor increase in bear mortality may significantly impact this population**
  - **Greater reporting precision required**
- **There are three large predator species (brown bear, black bear, wolves) found in Berners Bay**

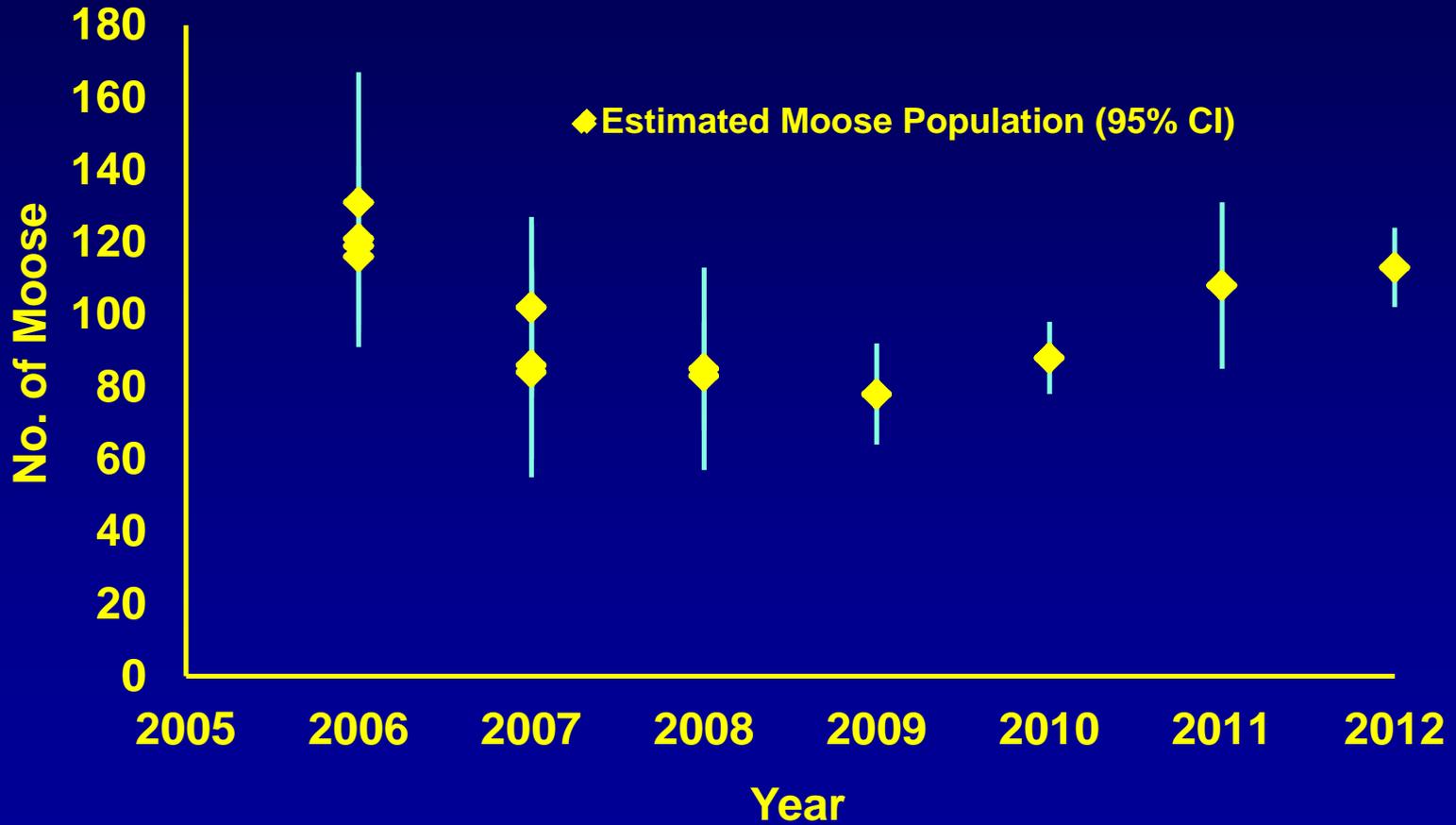
# Discussion

## Berners Bay Moose

- Population experienced ~30% decline after winter 2006/2007
- Population is slowly rebounding as it has after previous severe winters

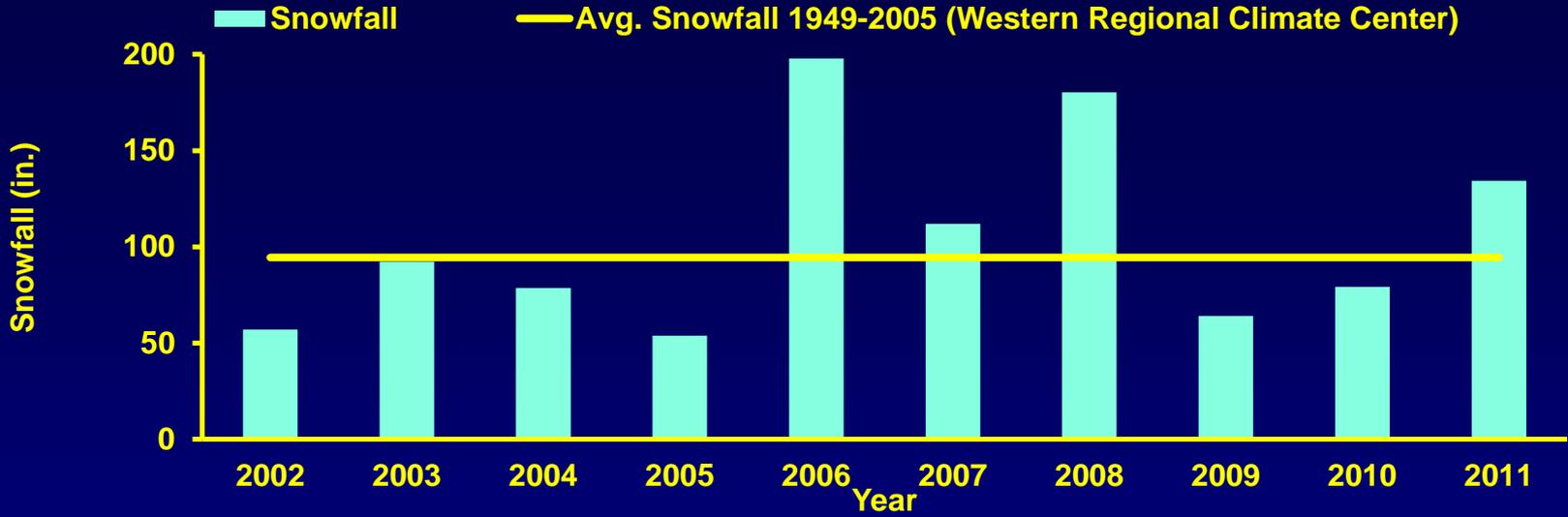
| Year | Total Moose Observed | Bull:100 Cow | Calf:100 Cow | Population Estimate |
|------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 2005 | 100                  | 21           | 18           | Unknown             |
| 2006 | 85                   | 18           | 16           | 119±22              |
| 2007 | 59                   | 23           | 11           | 102±27              |
| 2008 | 33                   | NA           | NA           | 85±28               |
| 2009 | 51                   | NA           | NA           | 78±14               |
| 2010 | 73                   | 40           | 22           | 88±10               |
| 2011 | 73                   | 54           | 24           | 108±23              |
| 2012 | 85                   | 43           | 17           | NA                  |
| 2012 | 102                  | 31           | 21           | 113±11              |

## Berners Bay Moose Population 2006-2012

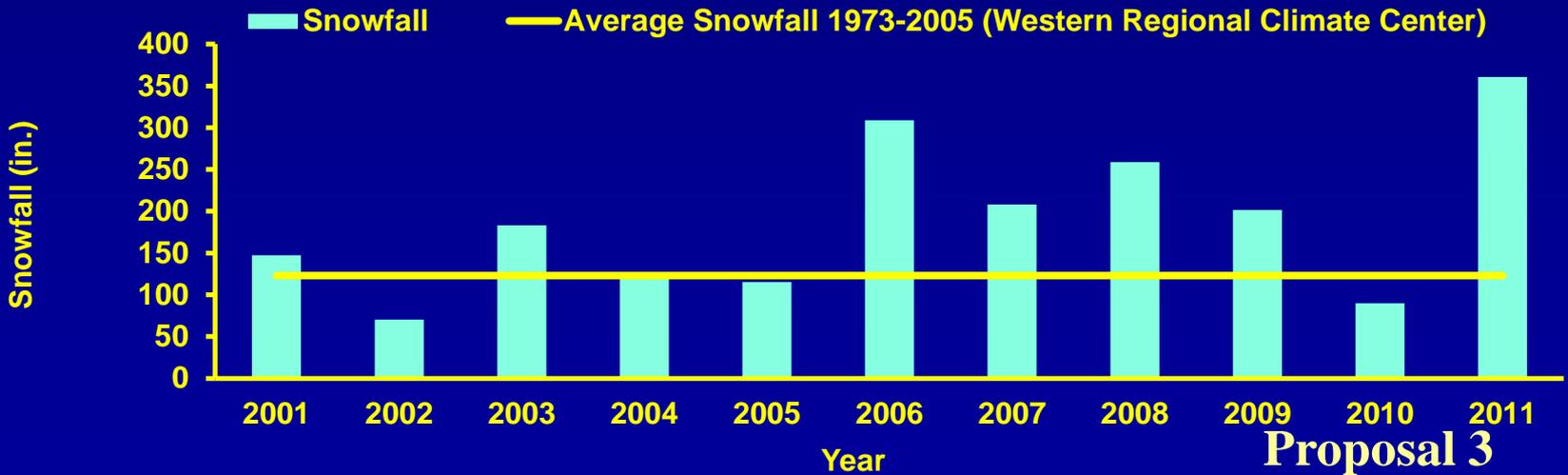


Proposal 3

### Snowfall Juneau Airport 2002-2011



### Snowfall Haines COOP 2001-2011



**Proposal 3**

# ***Conclusion***

- **Current season dates provide opportunity**
- **If increased bag limit is adopted the department will assess mortality (harvest, DLP, natural/unknown death) on a 3-year cycle unless an emergency order is warranted for in-season management**

**Juneau-Douglas AC Recommendation:**

**Do Not Adopt**

**Department Recommendation:**

**Amend and Adopt**

**Proposal 3**

# Proposal 5

**Allow Alaska residents to harvest a brown bear every two years in Unit 5**

**Yakutat Advisory Committee Proposal**

**Department Recommendation:**

**No Recommendation**

# Game Management Unit 5



06A

05B

Yakutat Bay

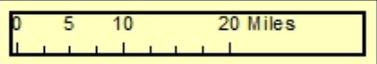
Yakutat

05A

Gulf of Alaska

01D

01C



# ***Discussion***

## **Unit 5 Brown Bears**

- **No precise bear population estimate is available**
  - **1993 Unit 5A estimate: 522**
  - **1993 Unit 5B estimate: 108**
  - \* **Based on habitat capability and bear density estimates**
- **Brown bears are common**
- **Human caused bear attractants**
  - **Landfill**
  - **Lodges and cabins**

# Locations of Brown Bears Captured at the Yakutat Landfill Study Area

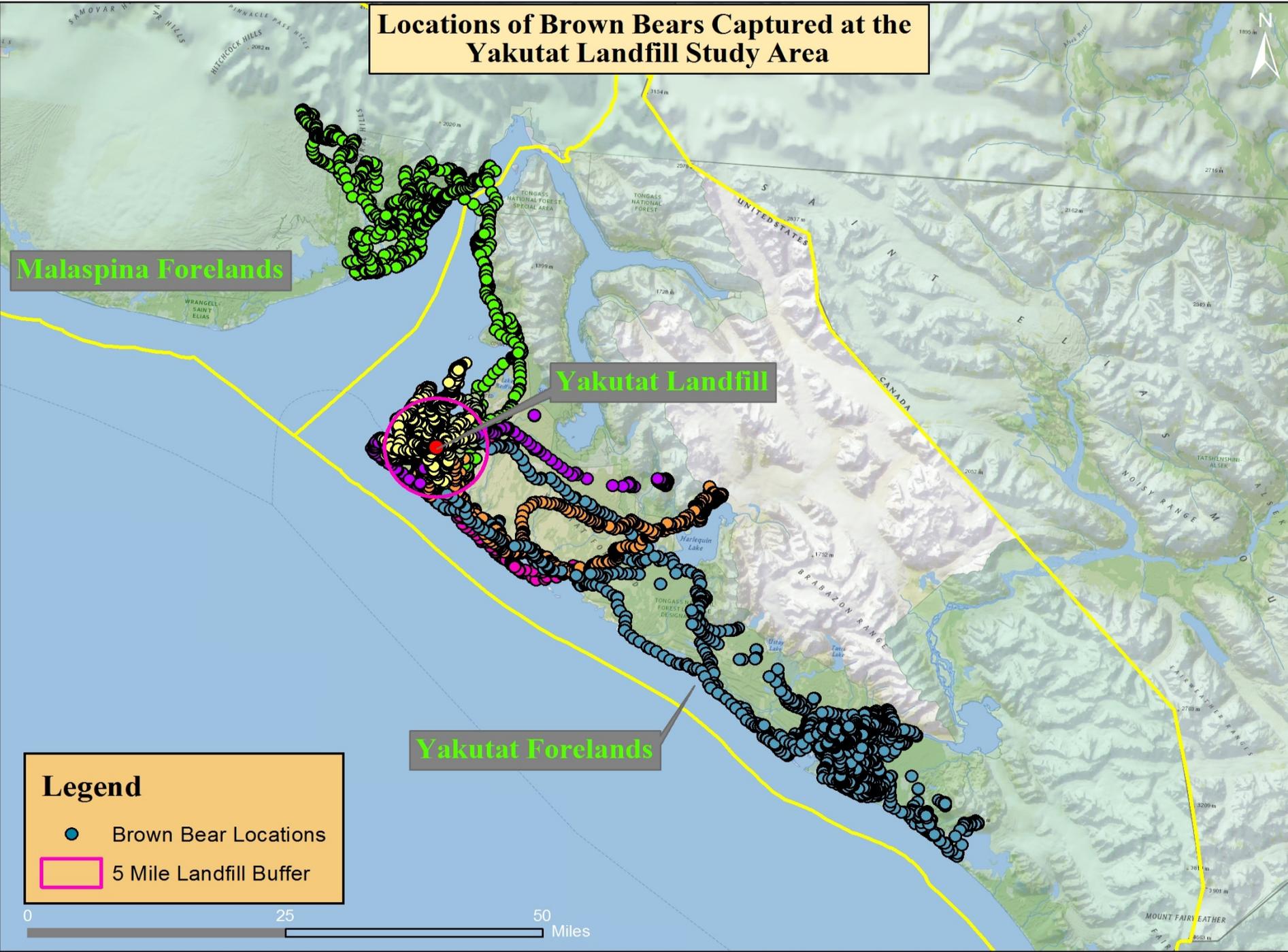
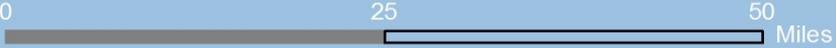
Malaspina Forelands

Yakutat Landfill

Yakutat Forelands

**Legend**

- Brown Bear Locations
- 5 Mile Landfill Buffer



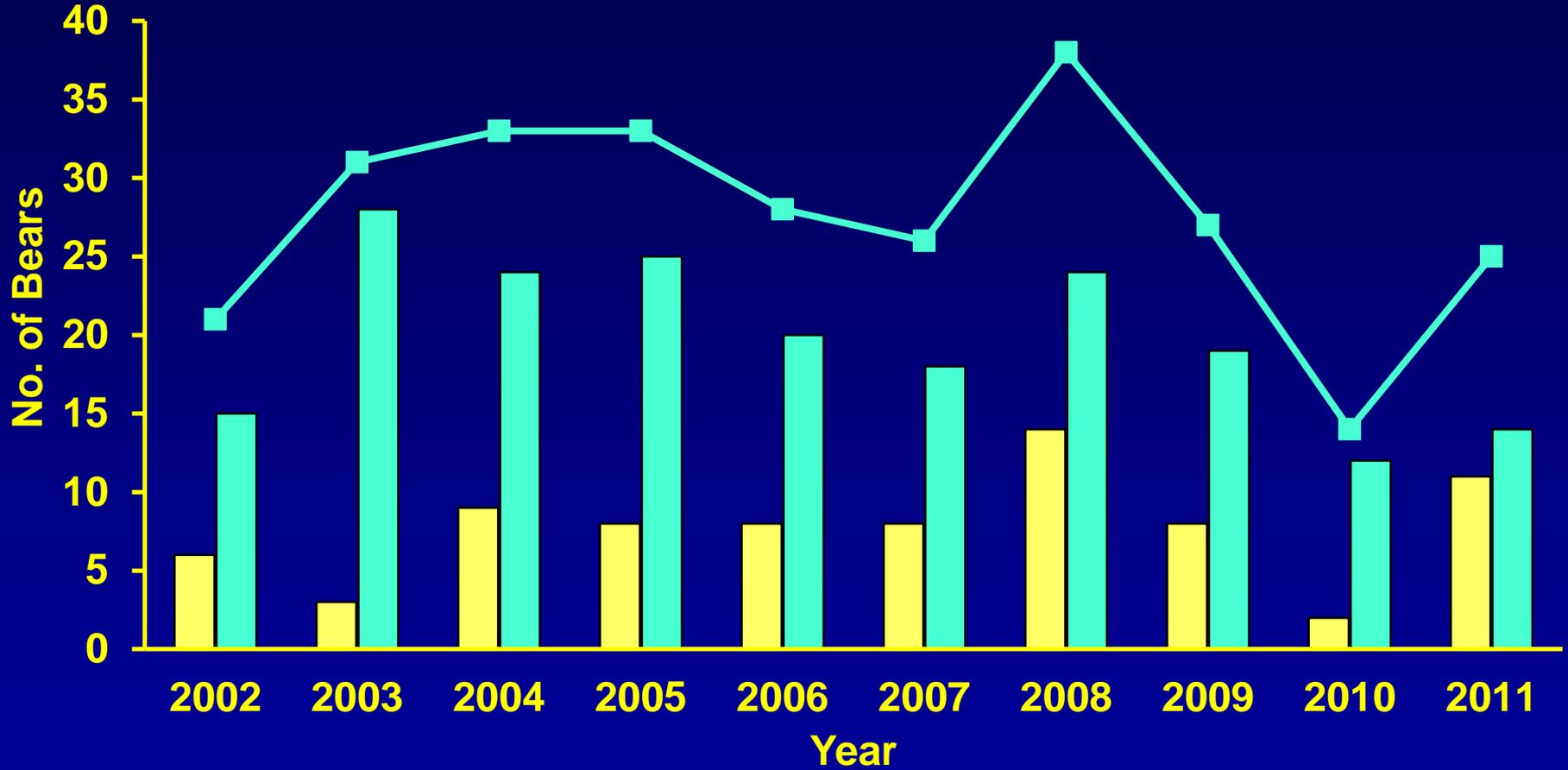
# ***Discussion***

## **Unit 5 Brown Bear Hunting & Mortality 2002-2011**

- **Season: September 1-May 31**
  - **Registration permit hunt (RB090/RB091)**
- **Good success (42% for all hunters)**
- **Avg. harvest: 28 bears/year**
- **Avg. total mortality (harvest, DLP, illegal, natural): 33 bears/year**

# Unit 5 Brown Bear Harvest 2002-2011

Female Male total Harvest



Proposal 5

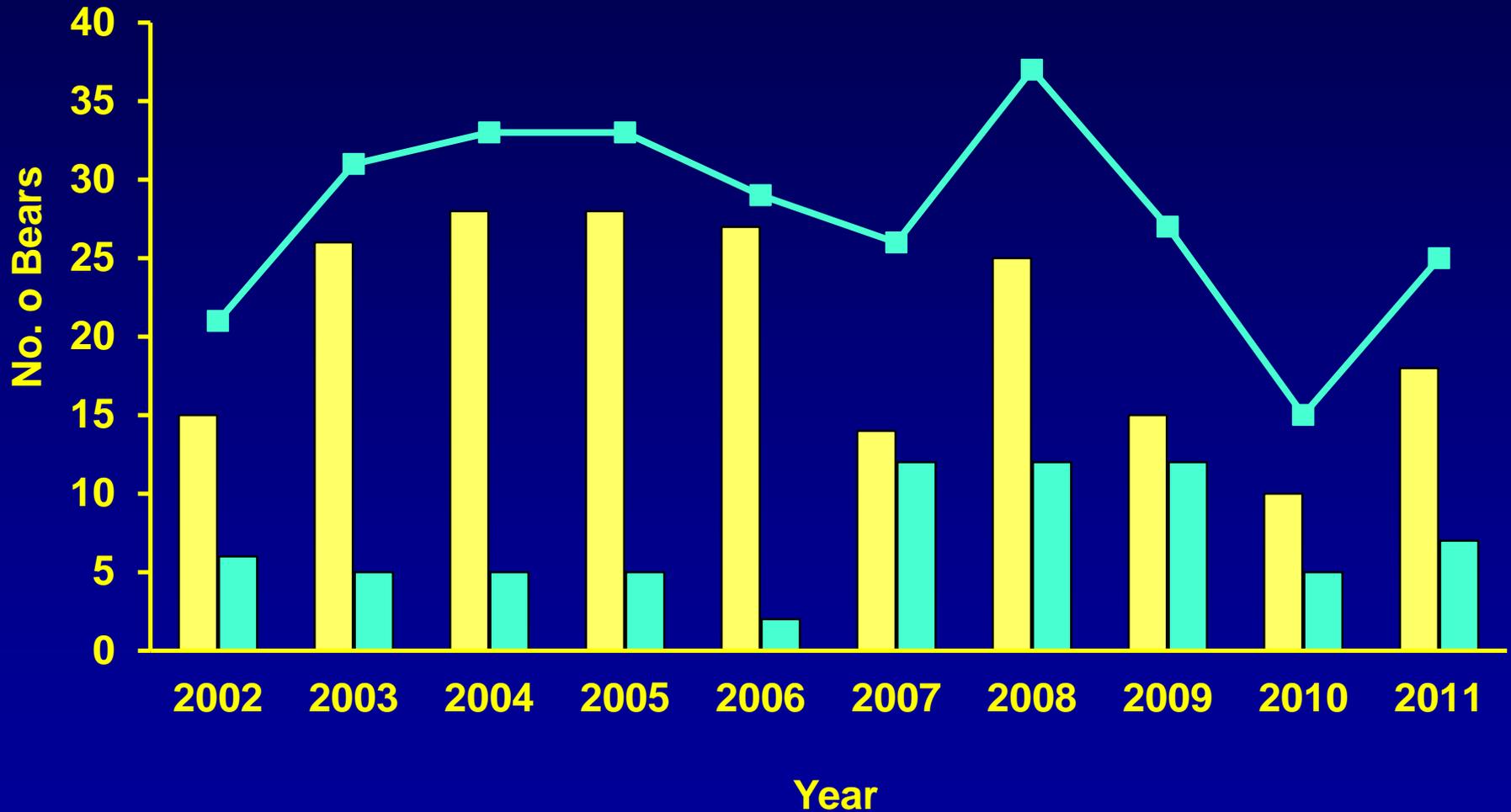
# ***Discussion***

## **Successful Hunter Demographics**

- **Nonresident hunters: 74%**
- **Resident hunters: 26%**
  - **Local resident hunters: 7%**
  - **Unit 5 residents may take 1 bear/year under federal regulations**

# Unit 5 Brown Bear Harvest by Residency 2002-2011

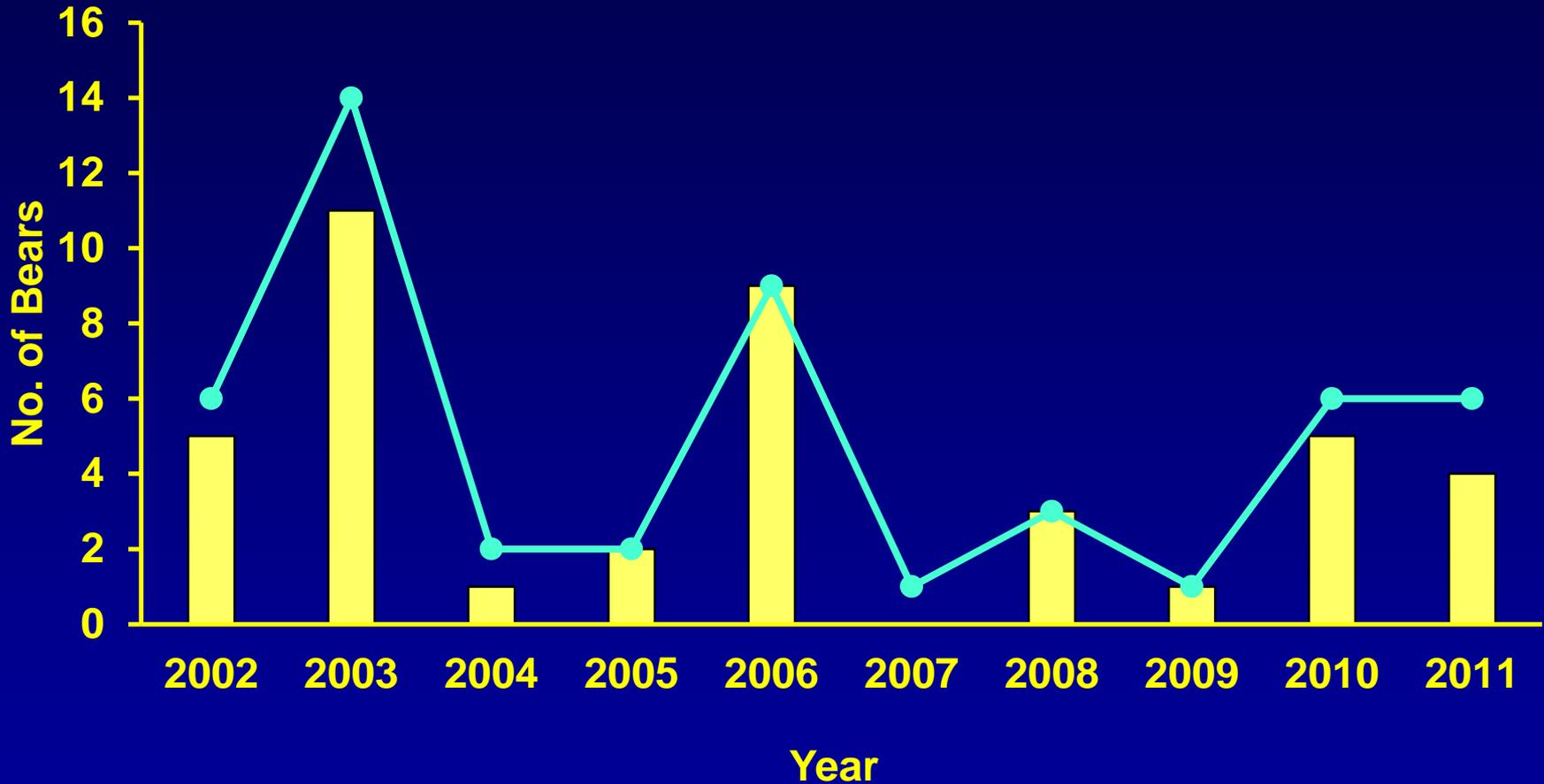
■ Nonres ■ Res ■ Total Harvest



Proposal 5

# Unit 5 Non-hunting Brown Bear Mortality 2002-2011

DLP Total Nonhunting Mortality



Proposal 5

# ***Discussion***

- **Majority of bears are taken by nonresident hunters and a significant increase in harvest is not anticipated**
- **Much of the unit is remote and difficult to access**
- **If adopted, Unit 5 will be the only area in Alaska with a 1 bear every two years bag limit**
- **Current research efforts may provide better population estimate to assess harvest and mortality rates**

# Conclusion

- This is an allocation issue
- If increased bag limit is adopted the department will assess mortality (harvest, DLP, natural/unknown death) on a 3-year cycle unless an emergency order is warranted for in-season management

**Yakutat AC Recommendation: Adopt**

**Department Recommendation:  
No Recommendation**

# PROPOSAL 6

This proposal would decrease the black bear baiting season from 12 weeks to 4 weeks (June 1–30) in Unit 1D.

Public Proposal

**Department  
Recommendation:  
No Recommendation**

\* This is an allocation issue

# PROPOSAL 6

- ▣ The proponent of this proposal is concerned about the overlap in brown bear hunting and black bear baiting season.
  - Public complaints

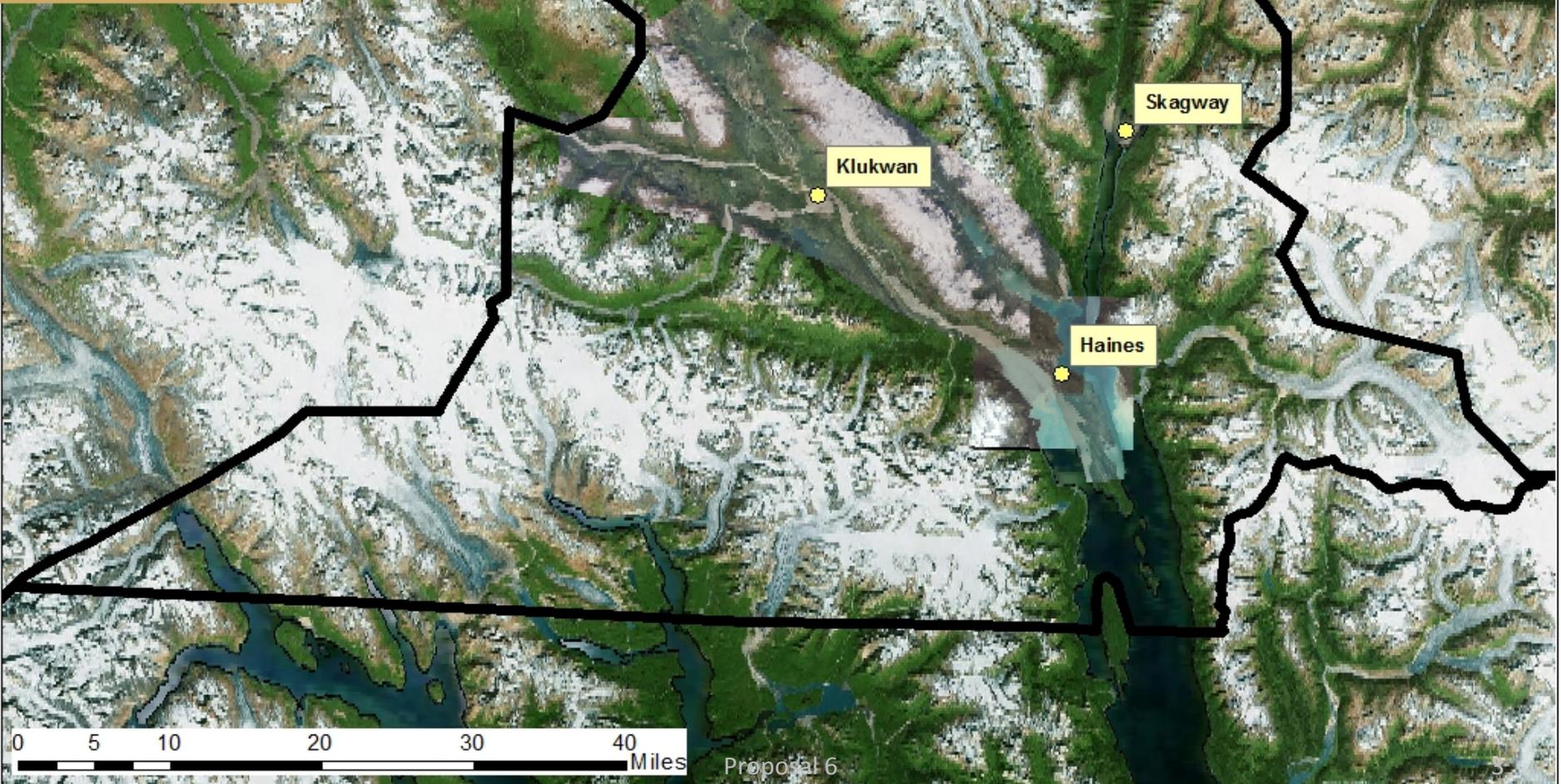


**Unit 1D  
Upper Lynn Canal**



**Legend**

 Game Management Unit 1D



Proposal 6

# Discussion

## Unit 1D Black Bear Hunting

- ▣ Bag limits:
  - Residents allowed 2 bears/yr (only 1 may be a glacier bear)
    - ▣ Harvest Ticket
  - Non-residents allowed 1 bear/yr
    - ▣ Registered guide/ HT
    - ▣ Draw permit
- ▣ 30 day sealing requirement
- ▣ Hunt report



# Discussion

## Unit 1D Black Bear Baiting

- ▣ Current baiting season: April 15- June 15
- ▣ Successfully complete a ADFG approved bear baiting clinic
  - Available online
- ▣ Register bait stations with ADFG
  - Physical description
  - GPS location
  - Clearly mark with signs

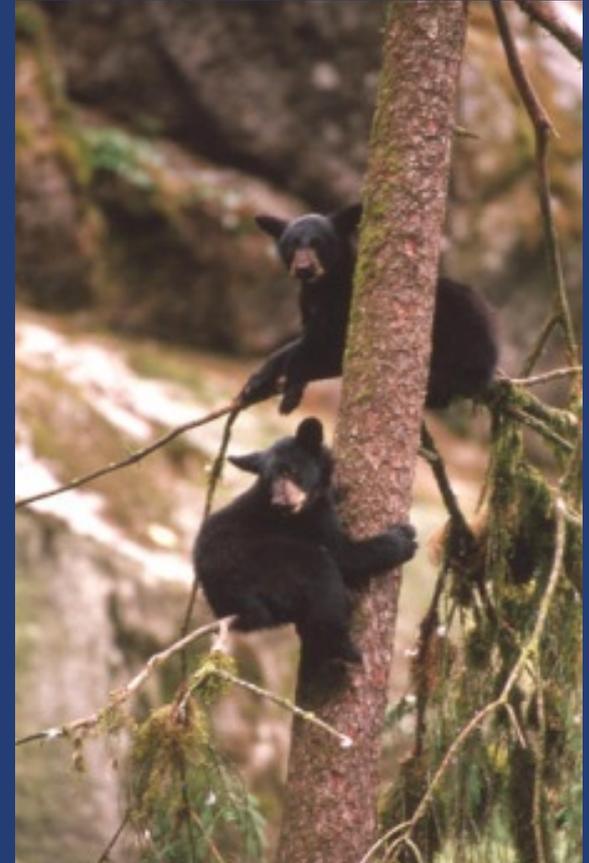


Steve Bethune

# Discussion

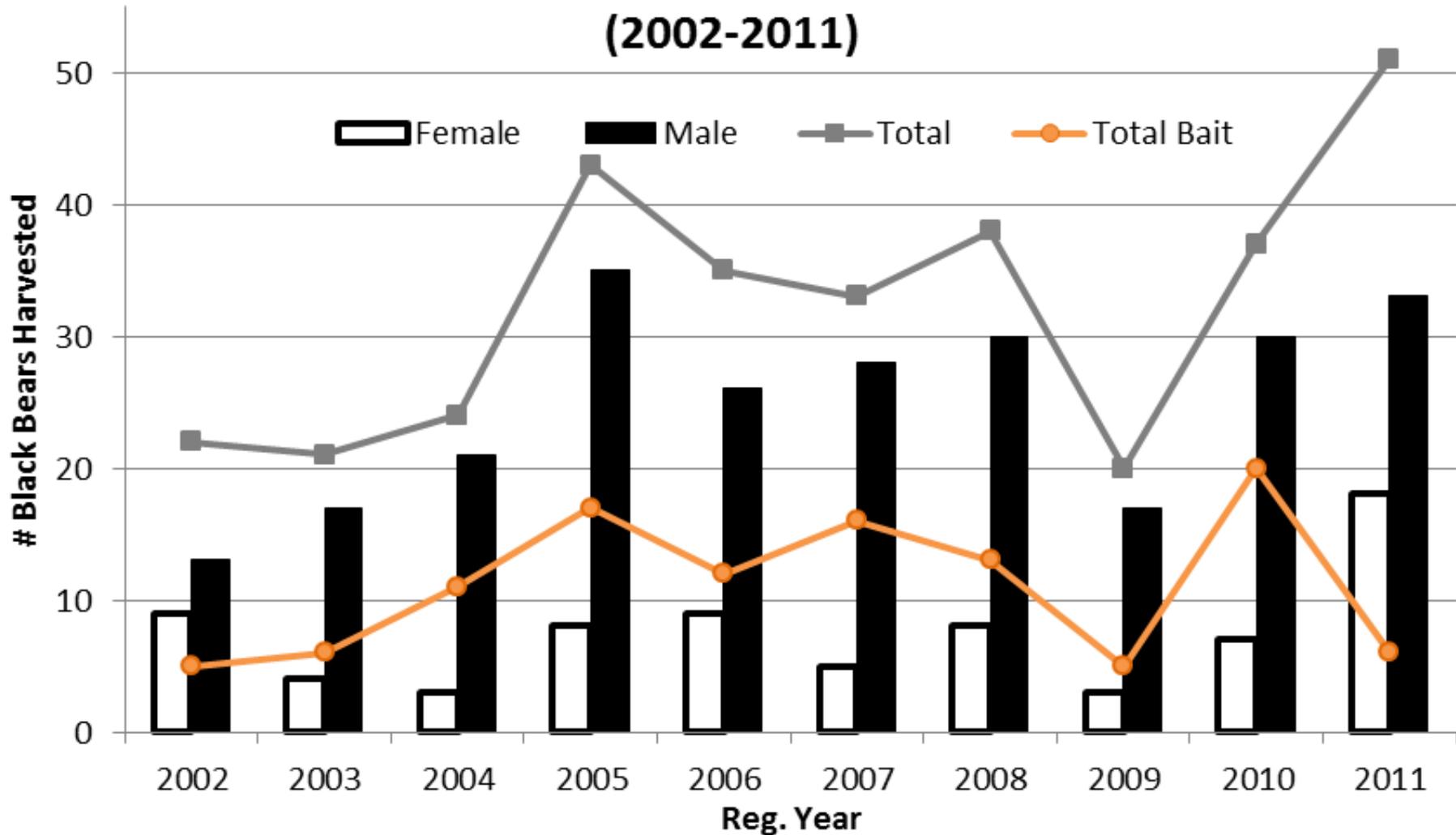
## Unit 1D Black Bear Harvest

- ▣ 32 bears/yr (2002-2011)
  - 11 bears/yr taken over bait
    - ▣ 34% of total harvest
  
- ▣ 324 hunter-killed bears (2002-2011)
  - ▣ (250M: 74F)
  - 108 taken over bait (95M: 13F)
  - 83% harvest occurs in spring
    - ▣ Sealing records-majority of baiting harvest occurs the last week of May



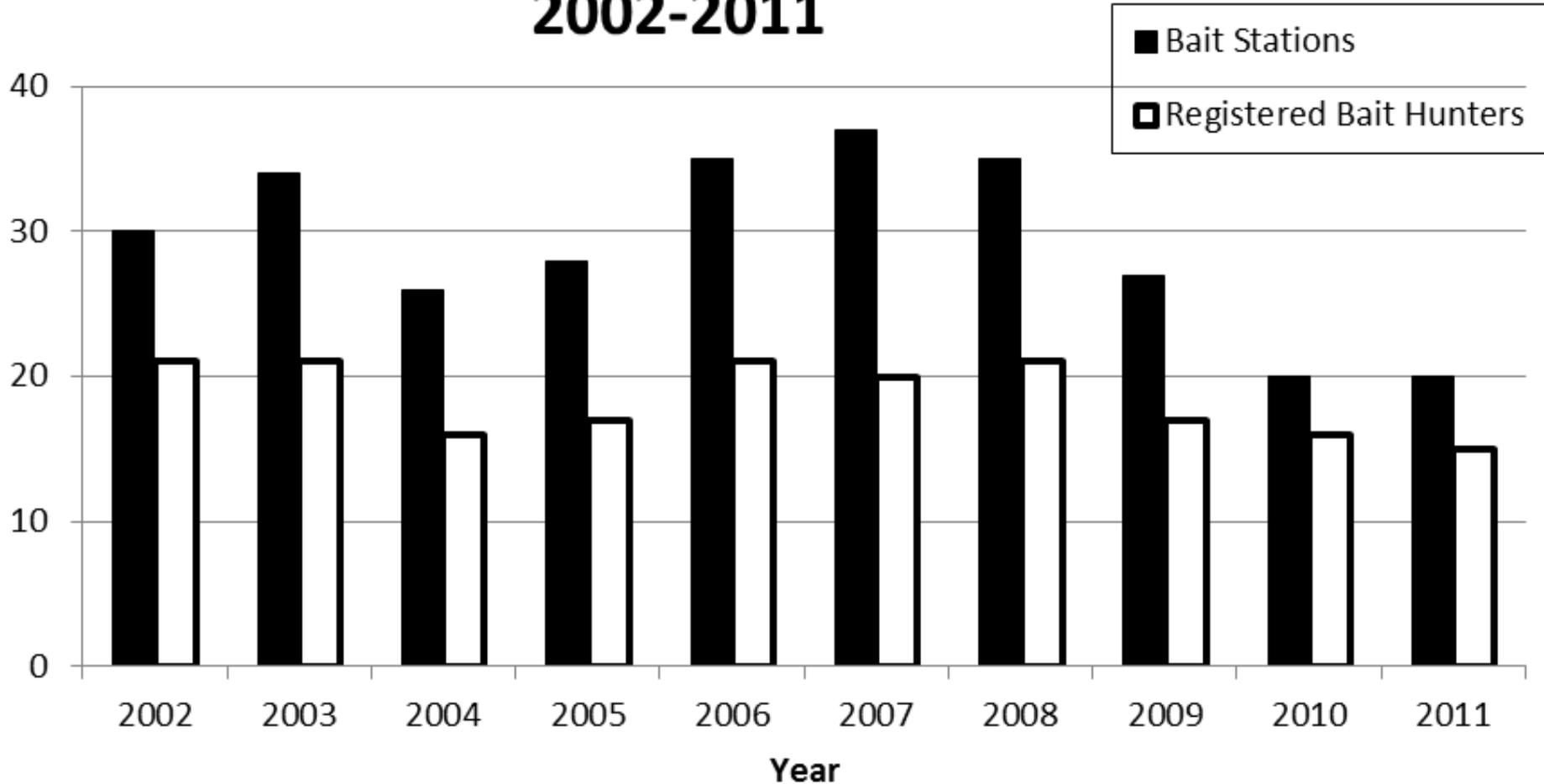
# Unit 1D Black Bear Harvest

## Total Blk Bears Harvested in Unit 1D (2002-2011)

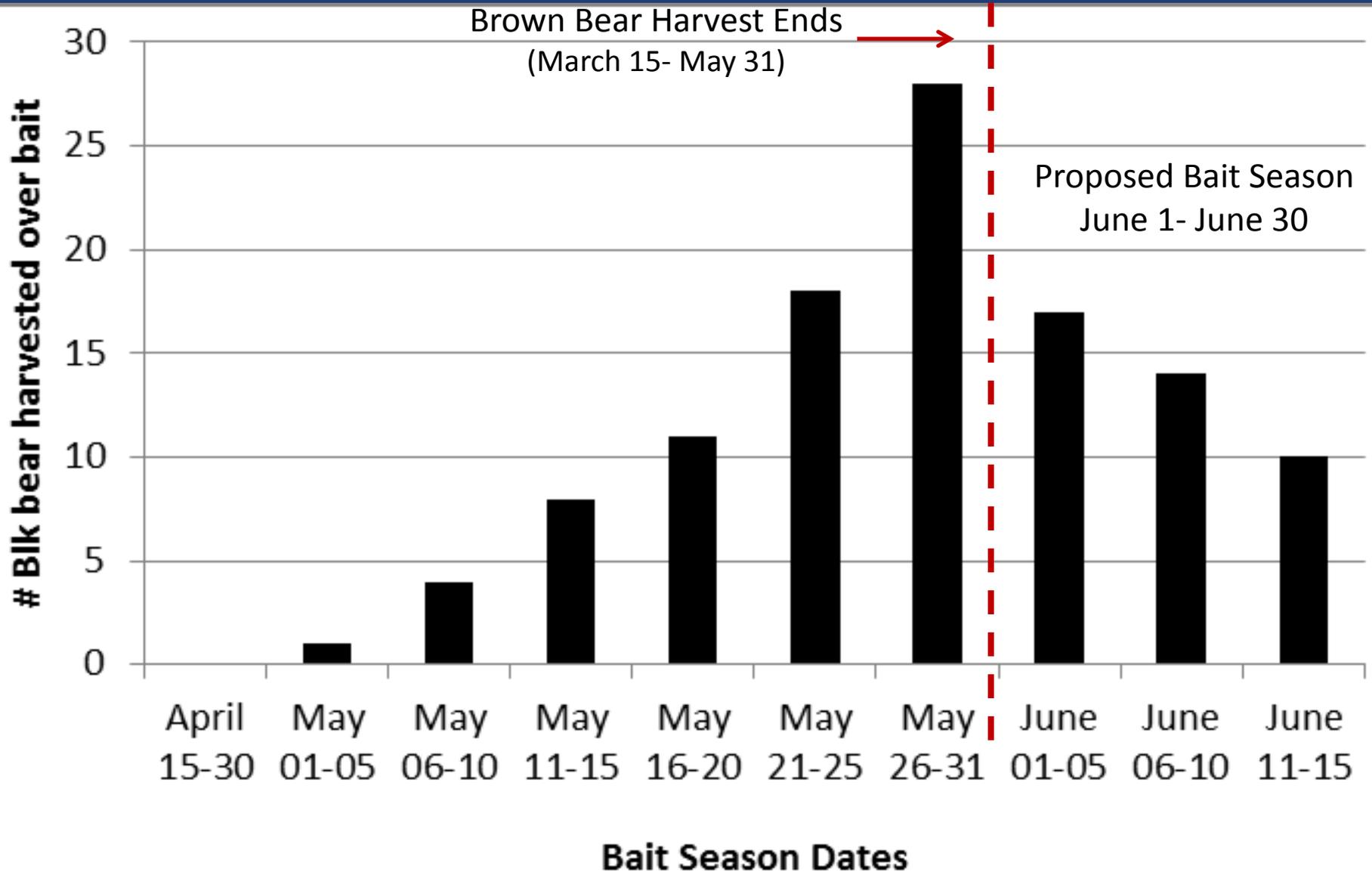


# Unit 1D Bait Stations and Registered Hunters

## Black Bear Bait Harvest in Unit 1D 2002-2011



# Unit 1D Bait Harvest Date (2002-2011)



# Upper Lynn Canal AC Recommendation

## ▣ Amend and Adopt

- AC supports the idea
  - Ability to experiment w timeframes during the season
  - Area closures for bait stations

## ▣ Pros:

- Fewer brown bears hanging around bait sites
- Black bear hunting season does not change
- AK Wildlife Troopers would benefit, this is an enforcement issue

## ▣ Cons:

- Skagway AC: not an issue in SGY and want to be separate
- Reduced visibility
  - More brush cover June 1-30th

# Department Rationale

- ▣ Alleviate controversy between black bear baiters and brown bear hunters in the same area.
  - Public complaints
  
- ▣ Majority of black bears harvested by bait are currently taken around the timeframe proposed.
  - Proposed change would reduce pre-baiting time
    - Not changing hunting season
  
- ▣ Input from AC: interested with experimentation.
  - ADFG supports AC decision/requests
  
- ▣ ADFG has discretionary authority to change season dates under 5AAC 92.044.
  - Would like Boards input before making a decision

# Conclusions

- ▣ This proposal would decrease the black bear baiting season from 12 weeks to 4 weeks (June 1–30) in Unit 1D.

## Department Recommendation: No Recommendation



# Conclusions

The board has determined that the black bear population in units 1A (outside the Ketchikan nonsubsistence area), 1B, 1C (outside the Juneau nonsubsistence area), and 1D all support customary and traditional subsistence uses.

Prior to adopting any changes to regulations in Unit 1, the board should determine if the changes continue to provide reasonable opportunities for subsistence hunting.

# Proposal 7

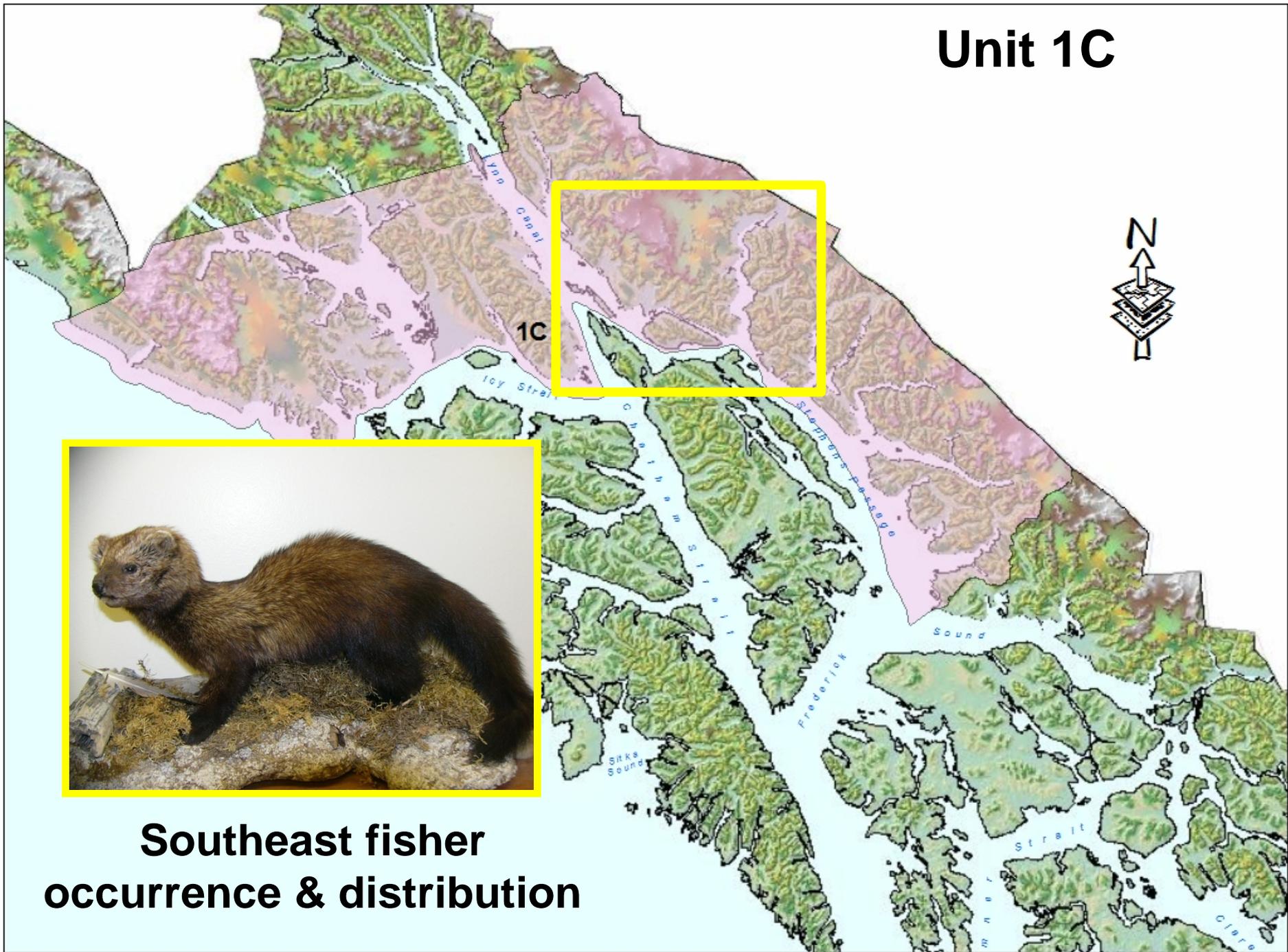
This proposal would allow incidental take of fisher in Unit 1C

Public Proposal

**Department Recommendation:**

**Amend and Adopt**

# Unit 1C



**Southeast fisher  
occurrence & distribution**

# ***Discussion***

- **Currently no fisher seasons in Alaska**
- **Fishers are known to occur only in the Juneau area**
- **Source population likely from British Columbia via the Taku River**
  - **Conservation concerns in Canada & Lower 48**
- **Incidental catch requires surrender to state**

# *Discussion*

- **First fisher caught in 1996**
- **Between 1996-2009**
  - **6 fishers taken (3 female, 1 male, 2 unknown sex)**
  - **Taku River & Juneau road system**
- **Remote camera traps 2008-2011 failed to capture fisher image**
- **Continued rumors of harvested fishers**

# Fisher Harvest and Camera Traps



# ***Discussion***

**ADF&G has opposed proposal in the past; why change now?**

- Trappers are catching fishers, current strategy is not protecting fishers**
- Unable to collect information via camera traps**
- An open season with sealing requirements will provide data for management**
  - ❖ Distribution**
  - ❖ Sex & Age**
  - ❖ DNA samples**
- The intent is not to focus trapping effort**
  - ❖ Bag limit**

**Proposal 7**

# ***Conclusion***

The department recommends amending the existing proposal as follows:

- Define fishers as furbearers in Alaska
- Allow the sale of fisher hides
- Establish a fisher trapping season in Units 1-5 with season dates of December 1-February 15.
- Establish an annual bag limit of 1 fisher per trapper
- Require sealing of fisher pelts within 30 days of the close of the season

**Juneau-Douglas AC recommendation:**

**Adopt as Amended**

**Department Recommendation:**

**Amend and Adopt**

**Proposal 7**

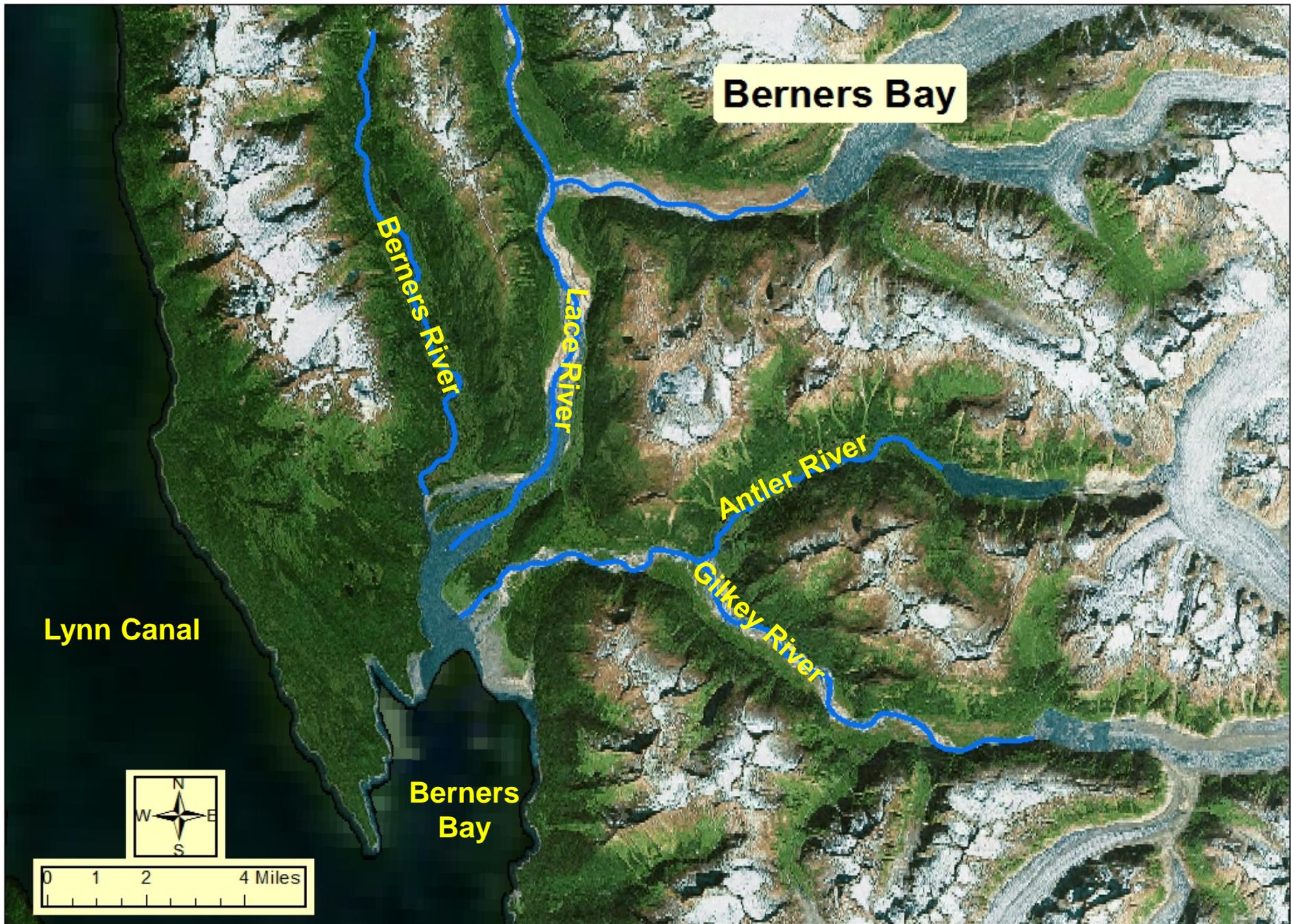
# Proposal 8

Reauthorize the Berners Bay antlerless moose season in  
Unit 1C

Department Proposal

**Department Recommendation:**

**Adopt**

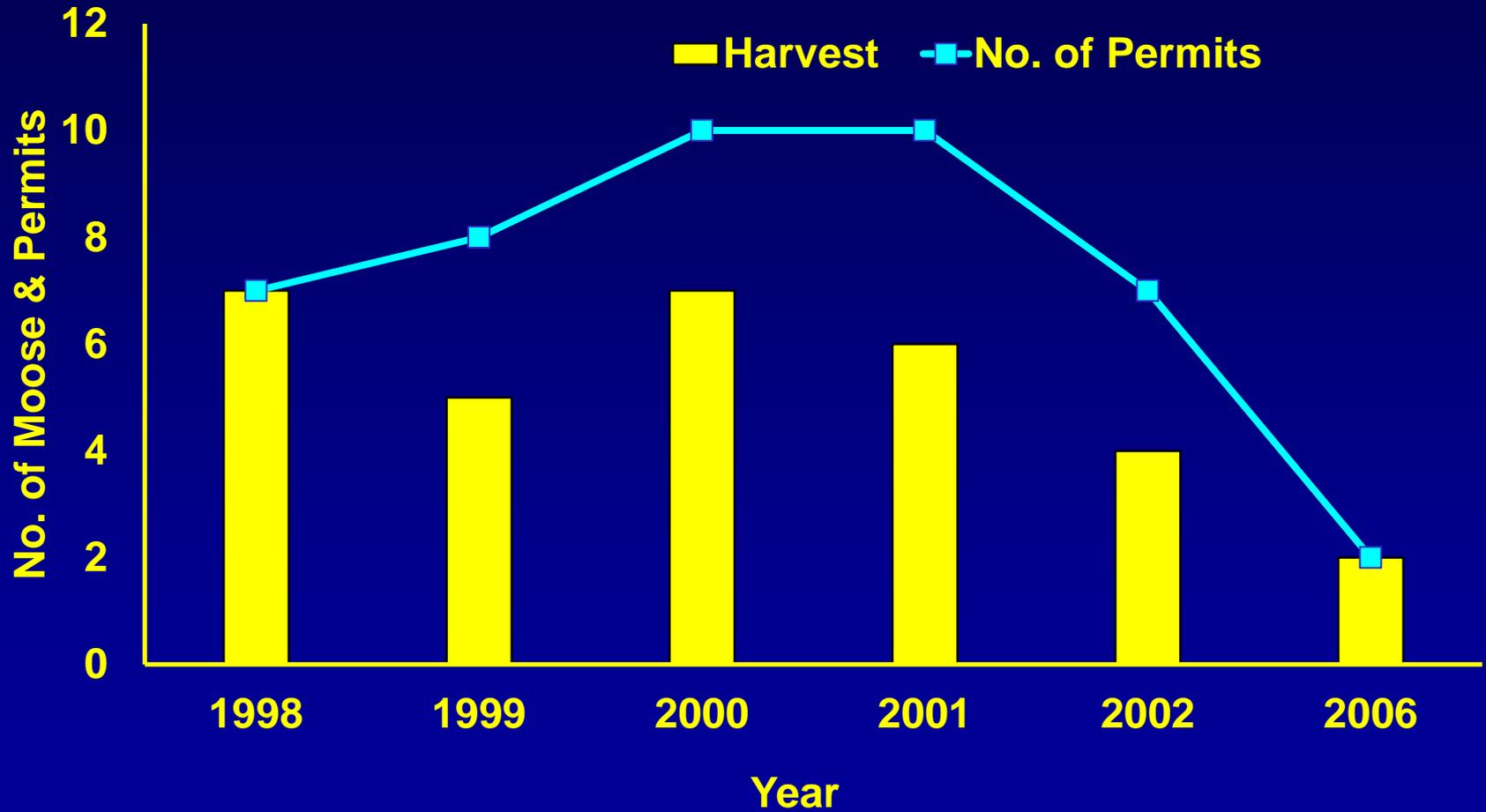


# *Discussion*

## **Berners Bay Antlerless Moose Hunting**

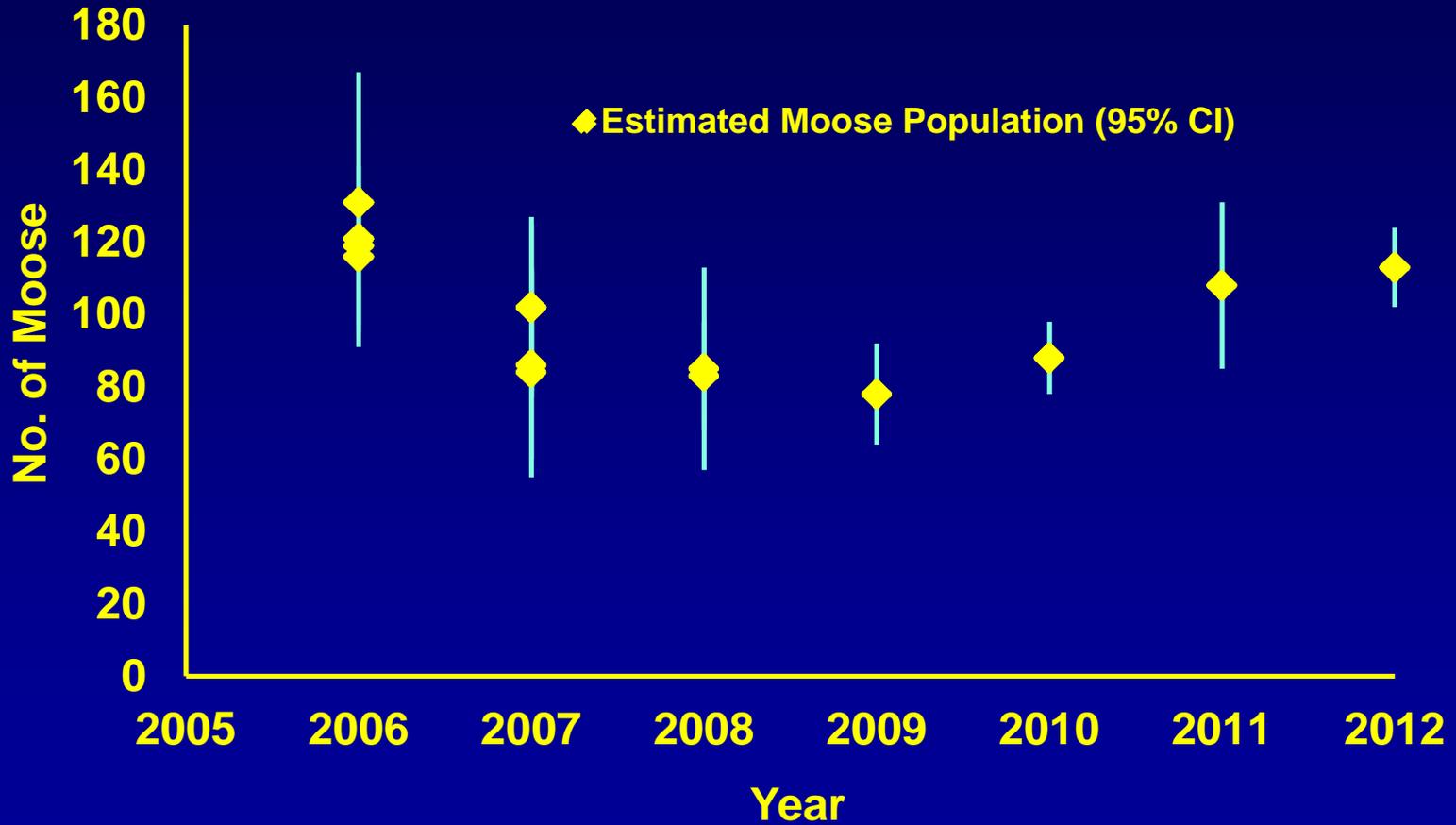
- **Season: drawing permit, September 15-October 15**
- **Antlerless permits issued: 0-10 (1998-2006, when issued)**
- **Avg. harvest : 5 antlerless moose/year (1998-2006, when issued)**
- **Used to reduce the overall herd to a size consistent with habitat availability**
- **Berners Bay moose hunts are very popular**

# DM042 Permits & Harvest 1998-2006



Proposal 8

## Berners Bay Moose Population 2006-2012



Proposal 8

# ***Conclusion***

- **Season closed since 2006; no plans to implement hunt**
- **Department intends to continue this hunt when moose numbers warrant**
- **Potential for limited bull moose drawing hunt in near future**

**Juneau-Douglas AC Recommendation:**

**Adopt**

**Department Recommendation:**

**Adopt**

**Proposal 8**

# Proposal 9

**Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the  
Gustavus area of Unit 1C**

**Department Proposal**

**Department Recommendation:**

**Adopt**

# Gustavus Antlerless Moose Hunts

Glacier Bay NP

DM044

DM043

Gustavus

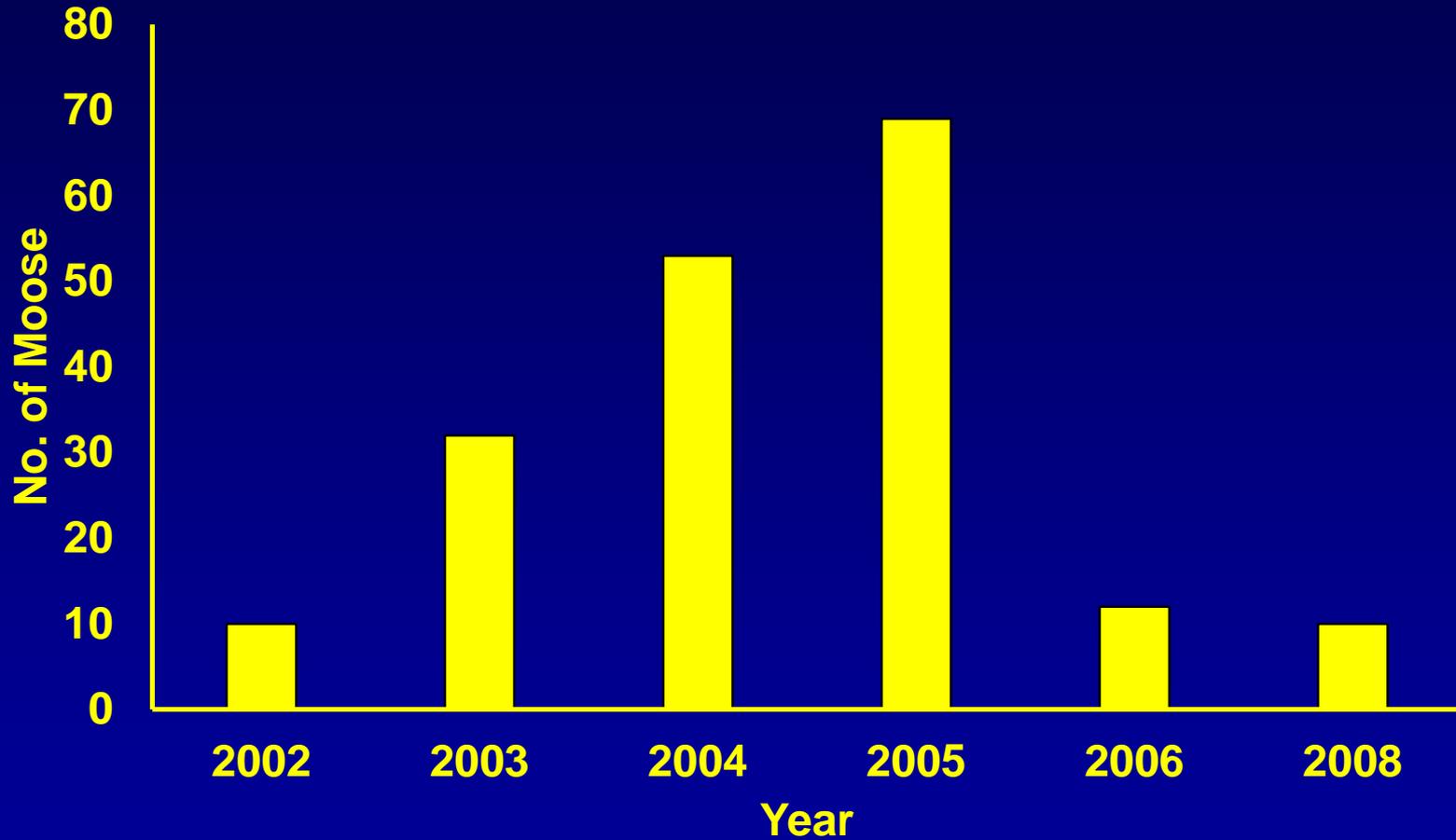
DM045

Glacier Bay NP

Pleasant Island

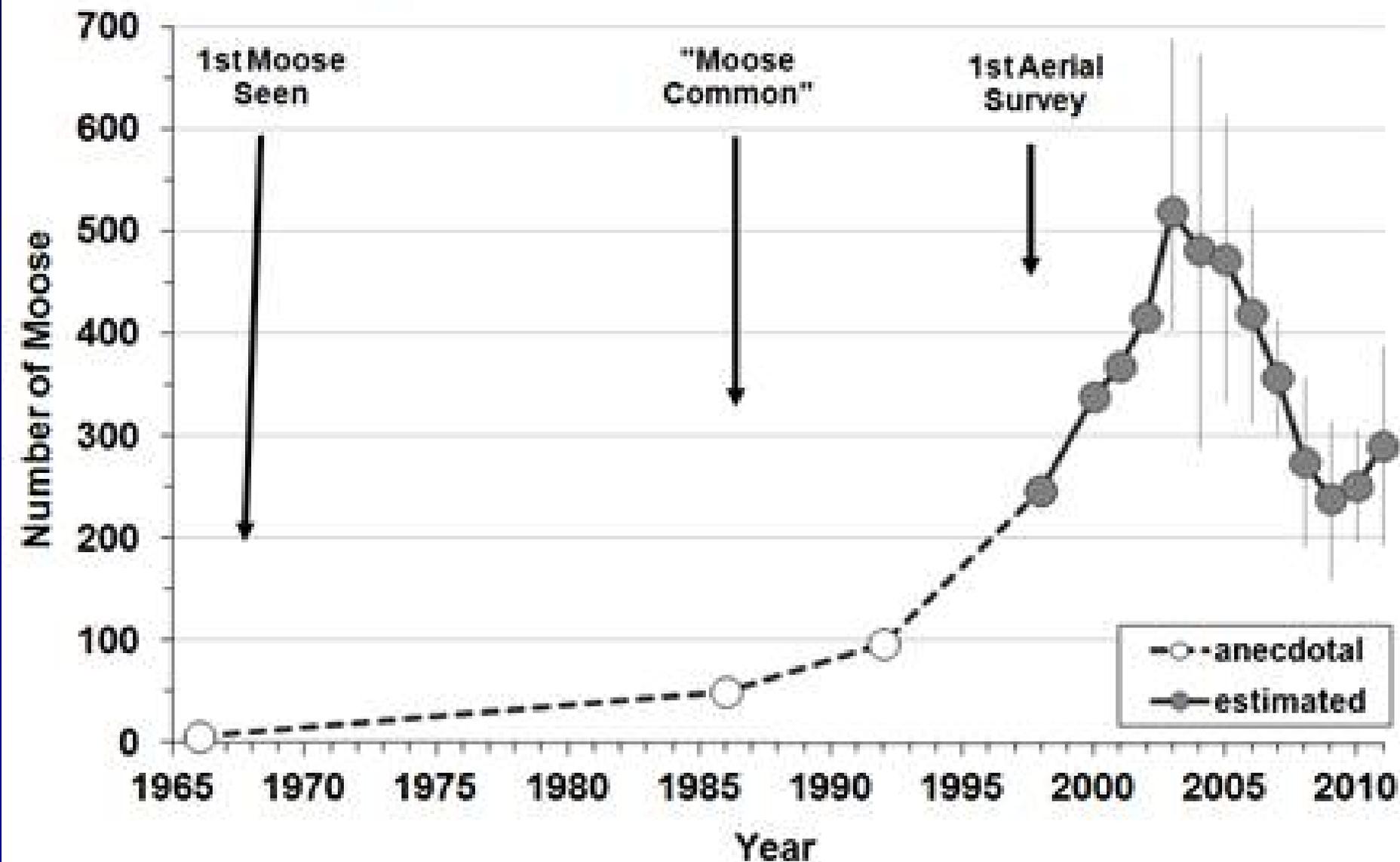


## Gustavus Antlerless Moose Harvest 2002-2008



Proposal 9

## Moose, Gustavus Forelands, 1966-2011



# *Discussion*

## **Gustavus Antlerless Moose Hunting**

- **Drawing Permit: DM043, 044, 045**
- **Season: Variable between November 10-December 10**
- **Antlerless permits issued: 0-90 (2002-2008, when issued)**
- **Used to reduce the overall herd to a size consistent with habitat availability**

# ***Conclusion***

- **Antlerless hunt has not been held since 2006; no plans to implement hunt**
- **Department intends to continue this hunt if moose numbers and habitat concerns warrant implementation**

**Juneau-Douglas AC Recommendation: Adopt**

**Sitka AC Recommendation: Adopt**

**Icy Strait AC Recommendation:  
Did not vote on this proposal**

**Department Recommendation:  
Adopt**

**Proposal 9**

# Proposal 10

**Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Nunatak Bench in Unit 5A**

**Department Proposal**

**Department Recommendation:**

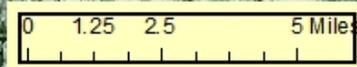
**Adopt**

**Nunatak Bench Unit 5A**

**Nunatak Bench**

**Russel Fiord**

**Yakutat**





**Nunatak Bench**

**Seal Cove**

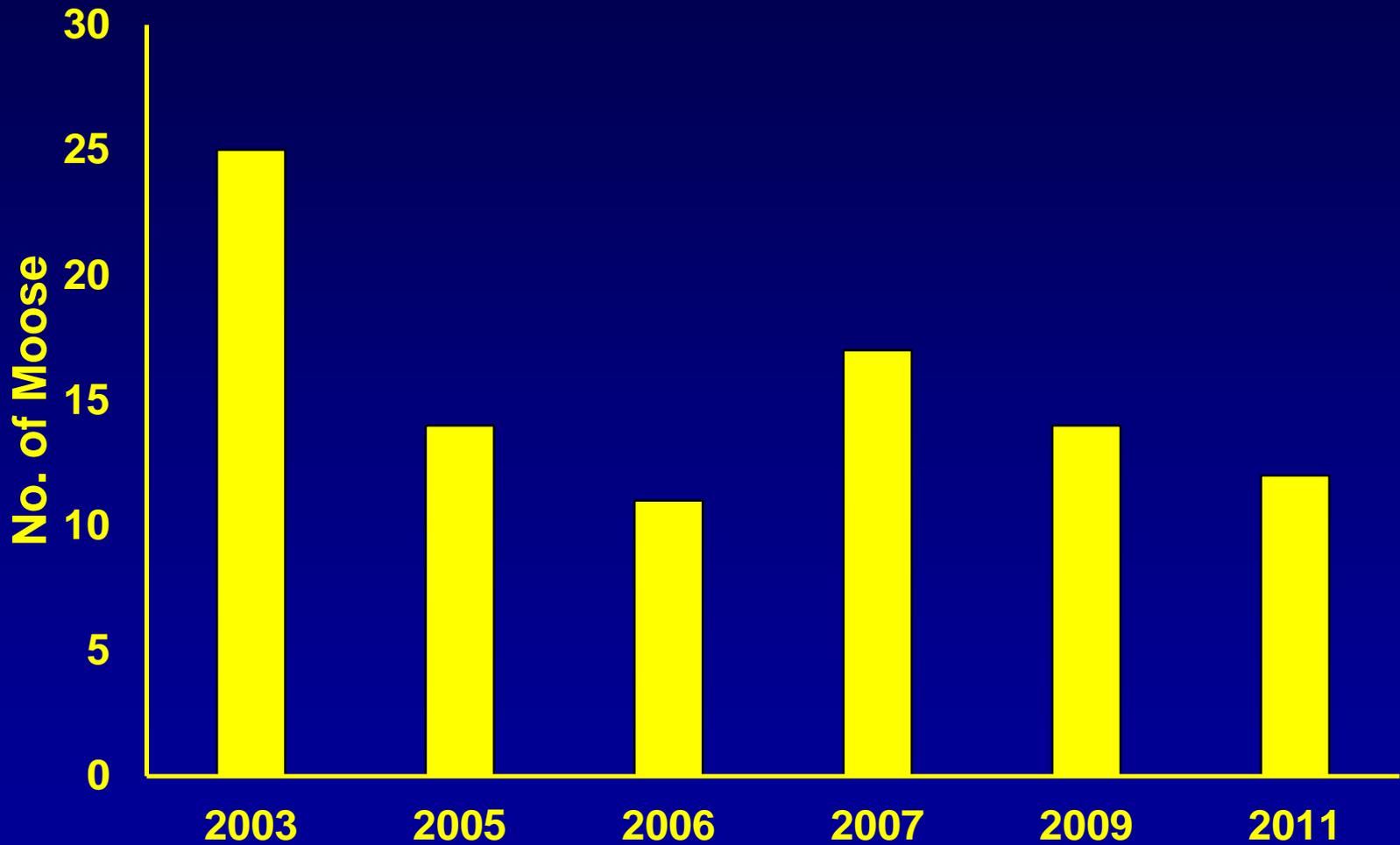


# ***Discussion***

## **Nunatak Bench Moose Hunting**

- **Season: November 1-February 15**
- **Good success (33%-100%)**
- **Avg. Harvest : 2 moose/year (1999-2005)**
- **Provides additional moose hunting opportunity in Unit 5**

## Nunatak Bench Moose Surveys 2003-2011



Proposal 10

# ***Conclusion***

- **Season closed since 2005 and will not open until ~25 moose are observed during aerial surveys**
- **Department intends to continue this hunt when moose numbers warrant**
- **Hunt occurs in winter so antlerless reauthorization required**

**Yakutat AC Recommendation: Adopt**

**Juneau-Douglas AC Recommendation: Adopt**

**Department Recommendation:  
Adopt**

**Proposal 10**