

UNIT 3 – Moose

PROPOSAL 12

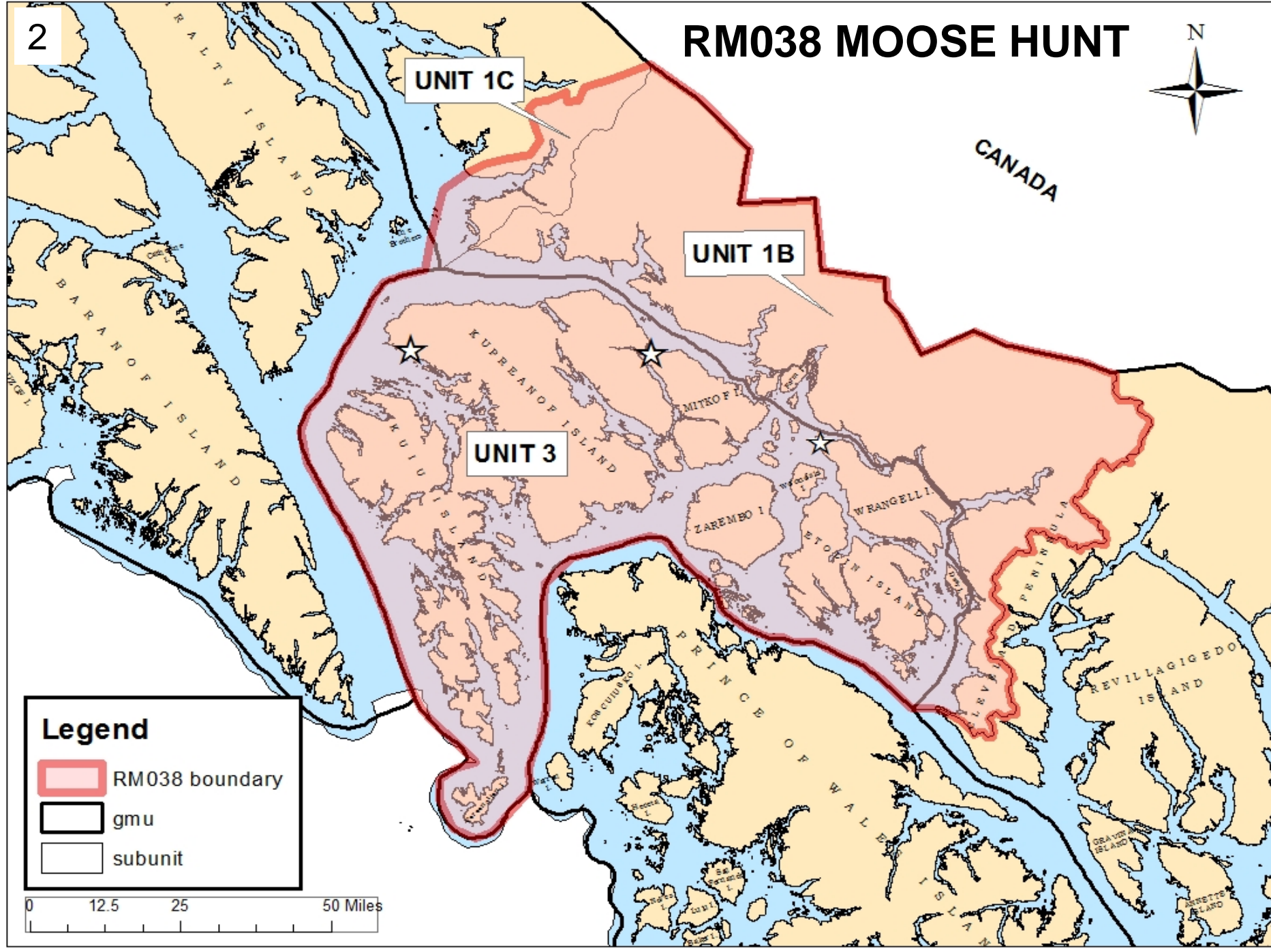
- Would disregard (not count) moose antler points that emerge from base of the antler (antler burr) when evaluating compliance with the RM038 moose antler restrictions

- **Public Proposal**

Department Recommendation:

No Recommendation

RM038 MOOSE HUNT



UNIT 1C

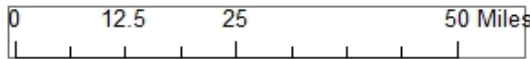
UNIT 1B

UNIT 3

CANADA

Legend

-  RM038 boundary
-  gm u
-  subunit



Existing RM038 Antler Regulations

- **Spike – Fork**
- **50” Spread**
- **3 or more brow tines on one side**
- **2 brow tines on both sides**

A damaged, broken or altered antler is not considered a spike or fork

Issue Statement

- **Points emerging from moose antler burrs (at base of antler) often meet the legal definition of a point or tine (*1" long and longer than wide*)**
- **These projections are often little more than an inch long, and can be nearly impossible to detect until an animal has been killed and approached**
- **As a result ... an antler that appears to be a legal fork can be deemed illegal due to a small obscured point originating at the antler burr.**

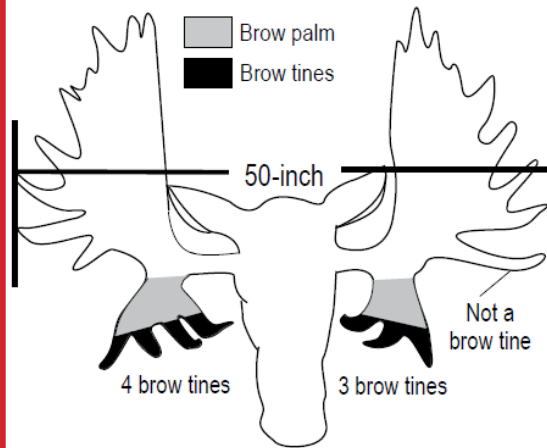
Issue Statement

- **However ... burr points can also be large conspicuous points measuring 10 or more inches in length that can also influence antler legality**
- **Burr points are currently regarded as brow tines and evaluated in conjunction with points emerging directly from the brow palm**

Legal bull moose in areas with a 50-inch antler OR number of brow tines restriction:

Antler restrictions are defined by both an antler spread and a brow tine restriction. The brow tine portion of the 50-inch antler restriction is intended to help verify a legal moose if the hunter is uncertain about antler spread. If uncertain about the antler spread, count brow tines. If uncertain about the number of brow tines, don't shoot!

50-inch antlers means the antlers of a bull moose with a spread of 50 inches or more measured in a straight line perpendicular to the center line of the skull. (See figure below.)



In some areas of the state, bulls with antlers less than 50 inches wide are legal if they have at least 3 brow tines on EITHER side. In other areas, bulls with antlers less than 50 inches wide must have at least 4 brow tines on EITHER side to be legal. Be sure to check the regulations for the brow tine minimum requirement in the area you are hunting.

However, if the antlers are 50 or more inches wide, it doesn't matter how many brow tines are present, the moose is legal. Likewise, if the moose has the required number of brow tines, it is legal regardless of the antler spread.

To accurately identify and count brow tines, bulls must be viewed from the front; viewing from the side runs a risk of counting main palm points as brow tines. On bulls with substantially less than 50-inch antler spreads, distinguishing legal brow tines can be difficult. Brow tines emerge from the brow palm or from near the base of the antler and typically project forward.

Pg. 33

“Brow tines emerge from the brow palm or near the base of the antler and typically project forward”

Examples of when hunters do not want burr points to count !

Can we reasonably expect hunters to see these smaller burr points in the field?



8

Proposal 12





**Examples of when hunters
want burr points
to count !**



12

Proposal 12





14

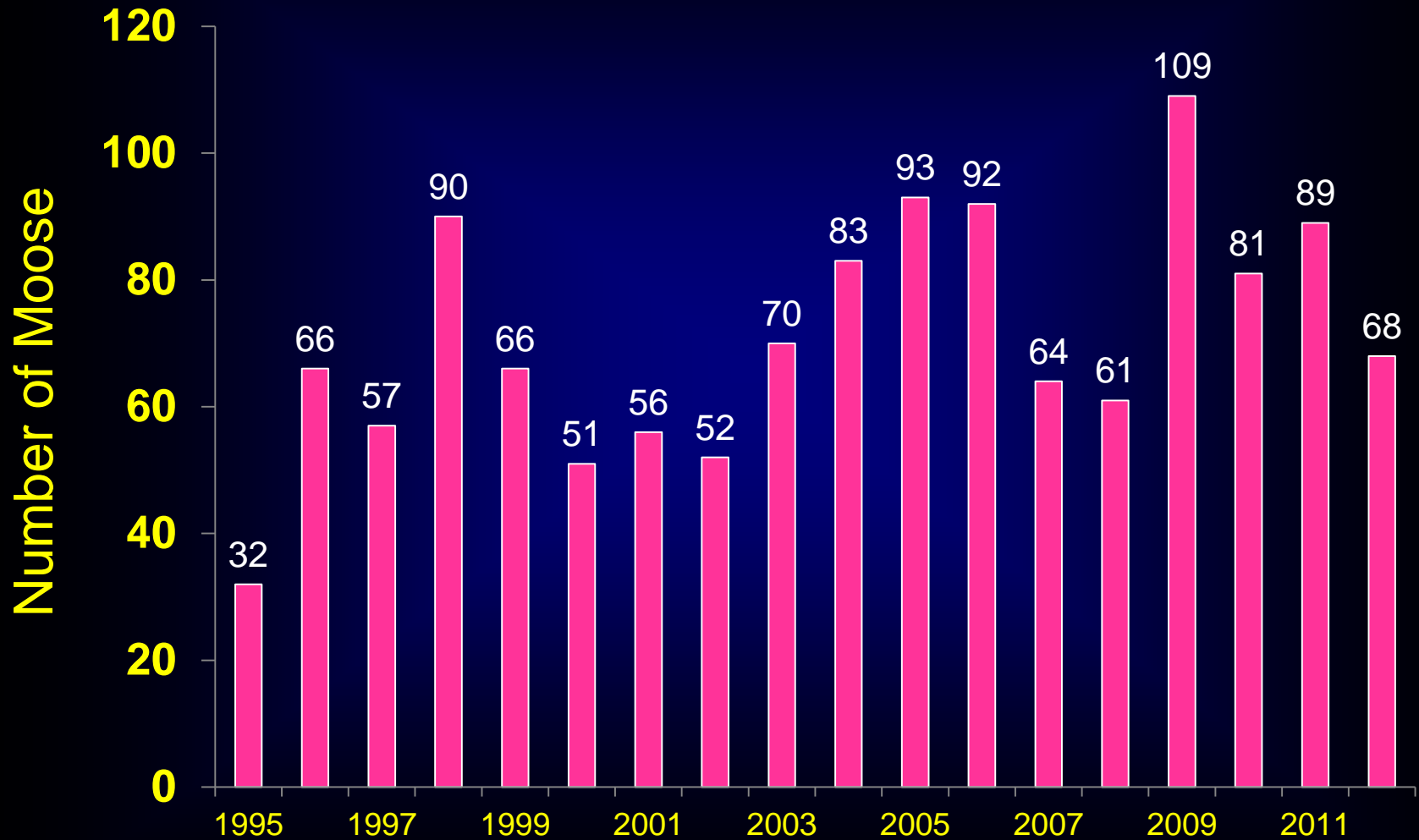
Proposal 12



15

Proposal 12

RM038 Moose Harvest



Summary

- **Burr points not a conservation concern in RM038**
- **Relatively rare occurrence**
 - “during the last 9 seasons, just 4 of 742 sets of moose antlers had burr points that resulted in an illegal harvest”
- **Disregarding all burr points (small or large) would simply shift the problem to another subset of antler configurations ... some hunters will benefit while others will be hurt**
- **Issue of burr points is not limited to the RM038 moose hunt ... has regional implications**

AC Recommendations

- *Petersburg AC* *Do Not Adopt* *(0 – 9)*
- *Upper Lynn Canal* *Take No Action* *(6 – 0)*
 - *“Proposal would not affect their area”*

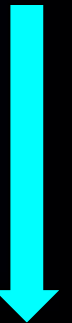
RECOMMENDATION

Proposal 12

**Disregard moose antler burr points
when evaluating compliance with
RM038 antler regulations**

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation



Subsistence

The board has determined that the moose populations in Units 1B and 3 support customary and traditional subsistence uses. The moose population in southern Unit 1C, however, does not. The board has set the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) at 40 moose for Units 1B and 3 (5 AAC 99.025 (a) (8)).

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

UNIT 3 – Elk

PROPOSAL 13

1. Close the elk drawing and registration permit hunting seasons on Zarembo until the population increases
2. Exclude Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and the Kashevarof islands from the general season elk hunt (no open season) to prevent “bootlegging.”

- Department Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Adopt



UNIT 1B

UNIT 4




UNIT 3

ZAREMBO I

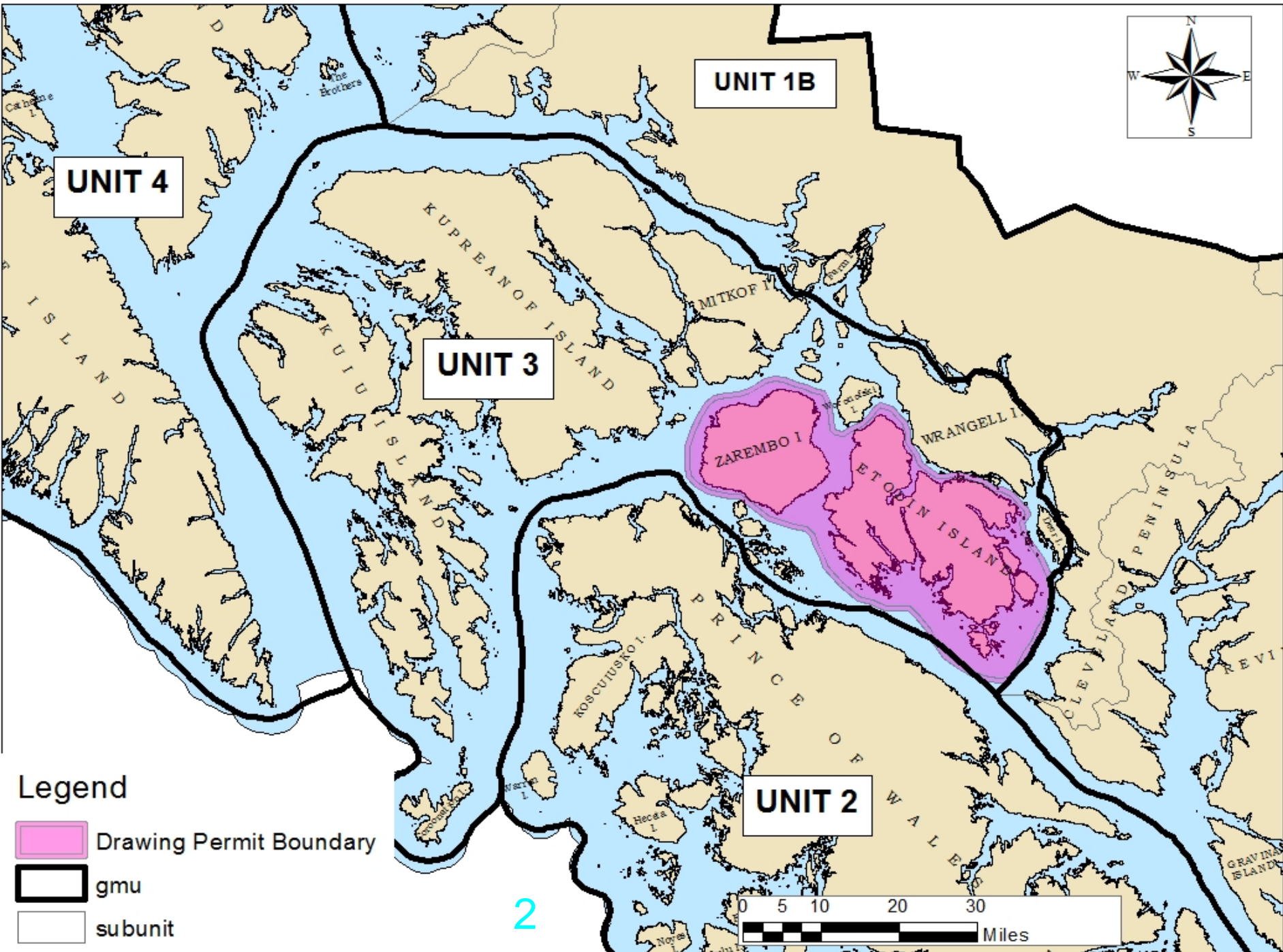
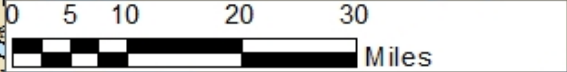
ETOPIN ISLAND

UNIT 2

Legend

-  Drawing Permit Boundary
-  gmu
-  subunit

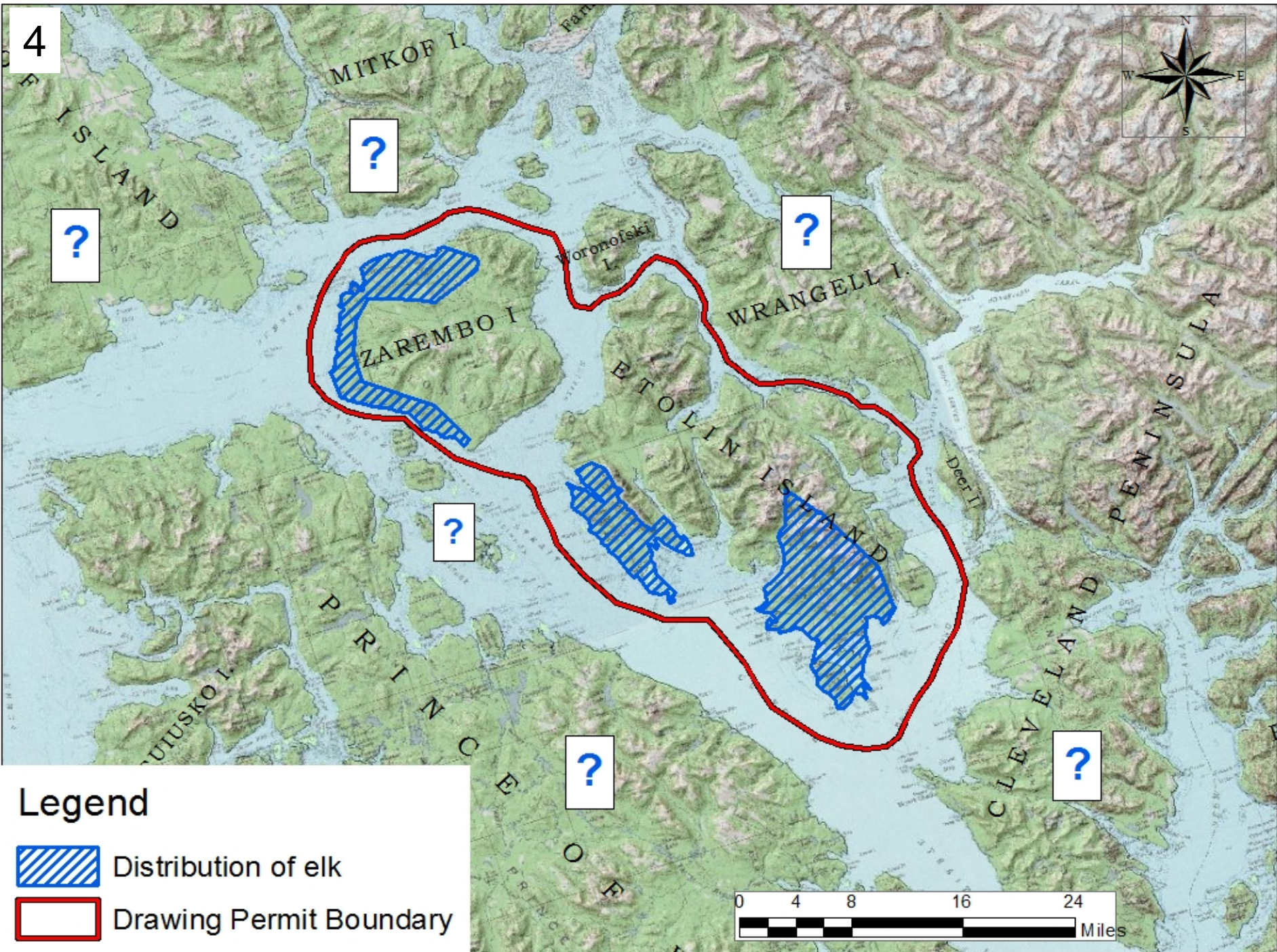
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History of Unit 3 Elk

- 50 elk introduced to Etolin Is. in 1987
- Spread to Zarembo Island
- First elk drawing hunt authorized in 1997
- Numerous modifications to hunt structure since
- Zarembo elk season closed by EO in 2005 due to high harvest
- Elk research initiated in 2008 (ongoing)
- Research indicates low elk population on Zarembo, therefore no Zarembo elk permits issued since 2008 ... unlikely to reopen for years
- “Bootlegging” of Zarembo elk suspected

4



Legend

-  Distribution of elk
-  Drawing Permit Boundary

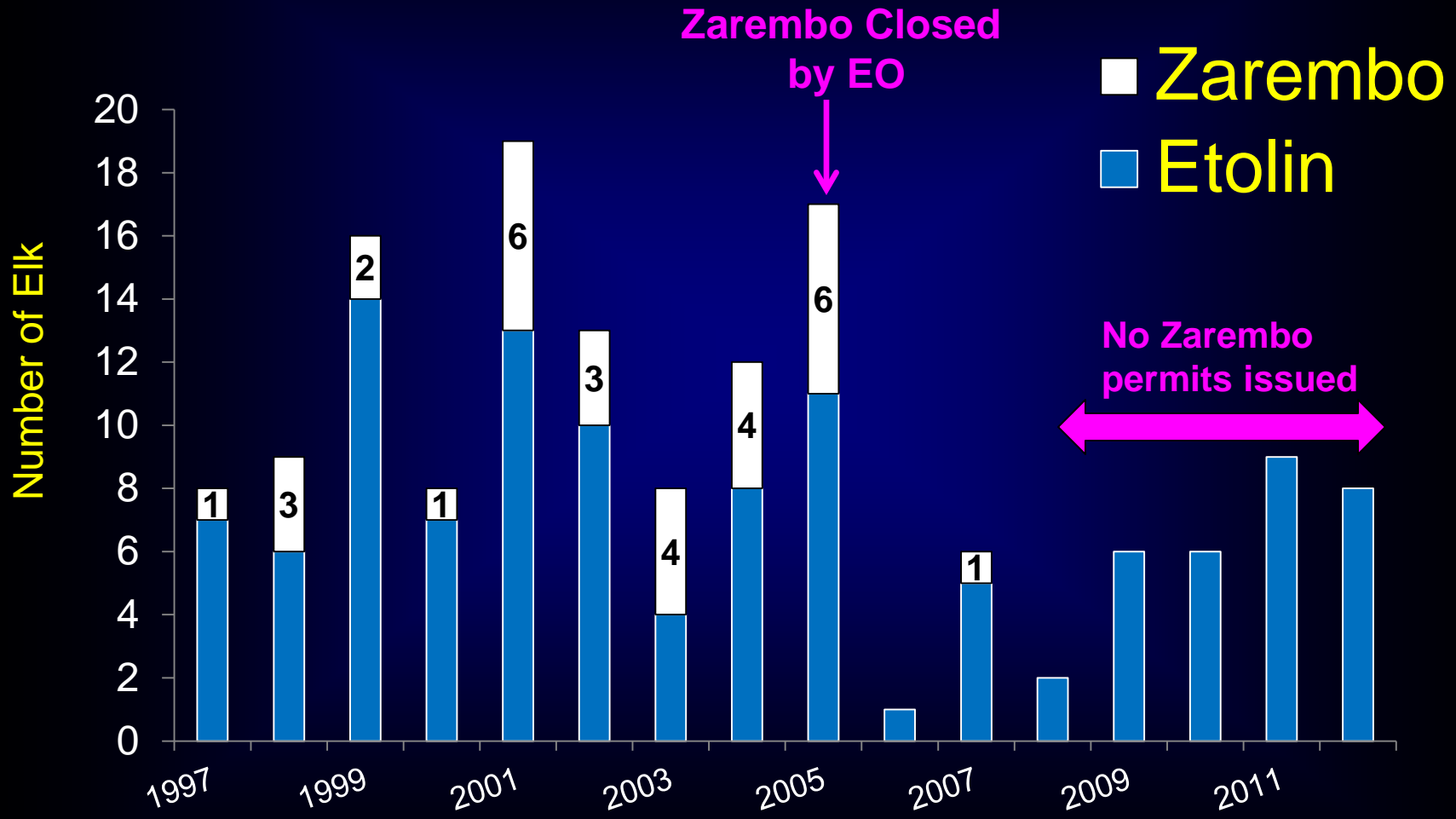


Part One

Close the elk drawing and registration permit hunts on Zarembo Island until the population increases

- Zarembo late-hunt (RE325) closed by EO in 2005 due to high harvest during drawing permit hunts
- No Zarembo elk permits issued since 2008 due to low population (approx. 35 animals)
- Unlikely to issue any Zarembo elk permits in near future (highest recent count: 19 elk in Dec. 2012)




Elk Harvest by Island 1997 - 2012

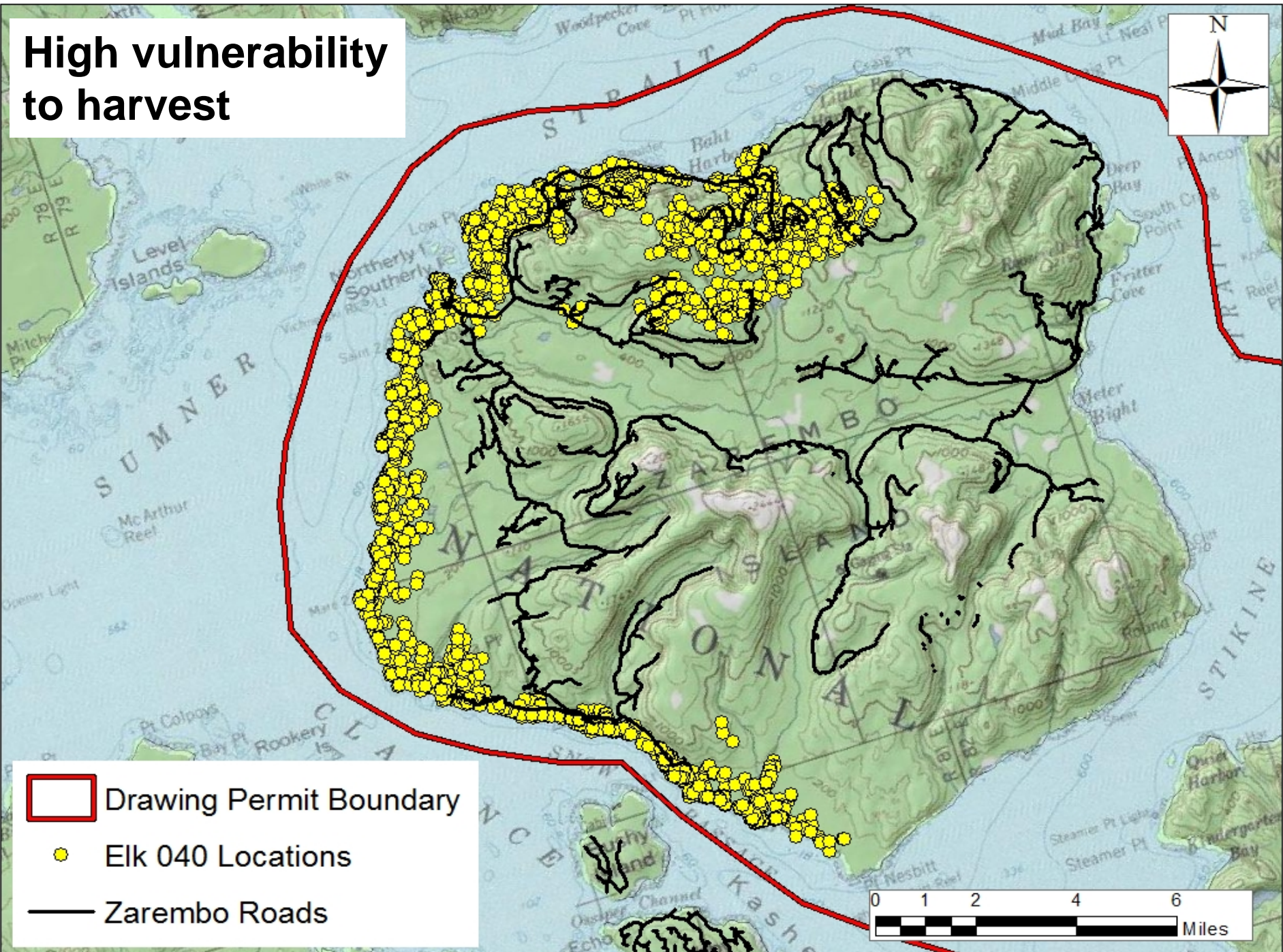
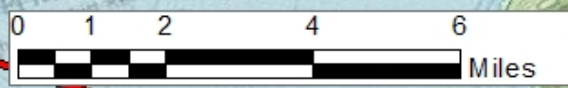


Proposal 13

High vulnerability to harvest



-  Drawing Permit Boundary
-  Elk 040 Locations
-  Zarembo Roads



Part Two

Exclude Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and the Kashevarof islands from the general season elk hunt (no open season) to prevent “bootlegging” of elk from Zarembo

General Season Elk Hunt

- **General Season elk hunt implemented in 2001**
Units 1, 2 and 3-remainder (outside draw hunt area)
one elk Aug 1 – Dec 31
- **Intended to prevent the spread of elk from Etolin and Zarembo islands to other areas**
- **While it remains our intent to limit elk distribution to Etolin and Zarembo islands, the general season “loophole” on Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof islands jeopardizes the sustainability of the Zarembo Is. elk herd**



ZAREMBO I



Woronofski I.

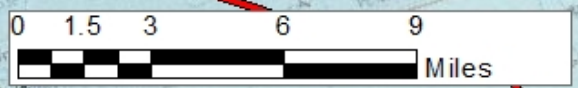
ETOLIN

Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof islands



Legend

-  Kashevarof Islands
-  Drawing Permit Boundary



General Season Harvest

The only “reported” harvest during the Region I General Season elk hunt has been from Bushy and Shrubby islands.

2004 – 1 cow reported from Bushy Is.

2005 – 4 cows reported from Shrubby Is.

2011 – 1 cow reported from Bushy Is.

- AWT interrupted a suspected elk poaching attempt on Zarembo Island

Revised Elk Hunt Boundaries

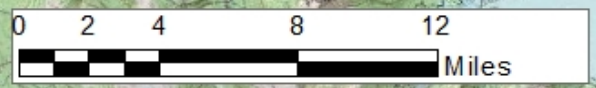
**Closed to Elk Hunting
"No Open Season"**

Etolin Island

**Drawing or Registration
permit required**

Legend

-  Closed Area Boundary
-  Revised elk boundary



AC Recommendations

Petersburg AC:

Do Not Adopt (3 – 6)

- Sensitive to low Zarembo elk population and issue of poaching
- Recognized need to close Zarembo season, but disagreed on how to implement closure (regulation change or EO)
- Concerned that once closed, Zarembo season would not reopen
- Preferred keeping Zarembo hunts on books, and continuing to close season via EOs
- Favored part of proposal to close the general season elk hunt on Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof islands to protect the Zarembo elk population

Craig AC:

Adopt

(7 – 0)

Proposal 13

Possible Alternative Approach

- Retain Zarembo drawing and registration hunts on the books
- Do not issue elk permits for Zarembo Is. elk until population recovers (*several years?*)
- Close Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof islands to elk hunting (no open season)

RECOMMENDATION

Proposal 13

1. Close the elk drawing and registration permit hunting seasons on Zarembo
2. Exclude Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and the Kashevarof islands from the general season elk hunt (no open season)

Adopt

UNIT 3 – Deer

PROPOSAL 14

1. This proposal would reduce the resident deer season length by 10-weeks on the Lindenberg Peninsula (Kupreanof Island)
2. Reduce the bag limit from 2 to 1 buck
3. Close the nonresident deer hunting season

• Department Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Adopt

Issue Statement

- *Deer densities are at low levels on Lindenberg Peninsula*
- *Reduction in season length and bag limit are necessary*
 - *Return Lindenberg to pre-2003 season and bag limit*
 - *Would mirror current season and bag limit on adjacent Mitkof , Woewodski and Butterworth islands*
- *Close nonresident deer season in this area*
- *Any new state regulation will have little impact unless the FSB follows suit.*

Deer Hunting Regulations

- **Unit 3 currently has among the most restrictive deer seasons and bag limits in the Region**
- **Season length: 2 weeks to 4-months**
- **Bag Limit: 1 to 2 bucks**



Village of Kake

Petersburg

KUPREANOF ISLAND

LINDENBERG PENINSULA

MITKOF I.

KUIUISLAND

ZAREMBO I.

Worofski I.

WRANGELL I.

ETOFIN ISLAND

KOSCIUSKO I.


PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

Warren I.

Heeta I.

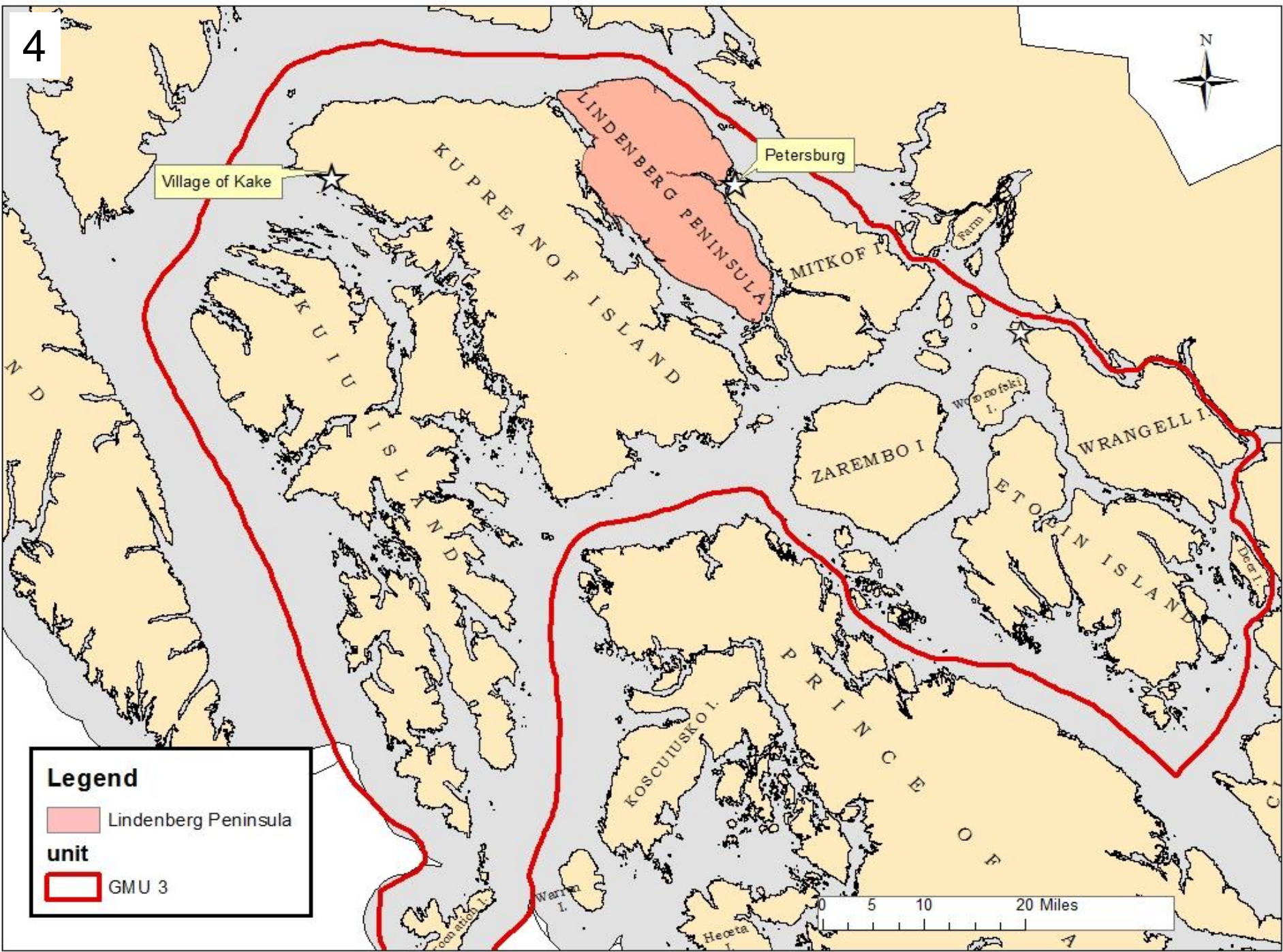
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Legend

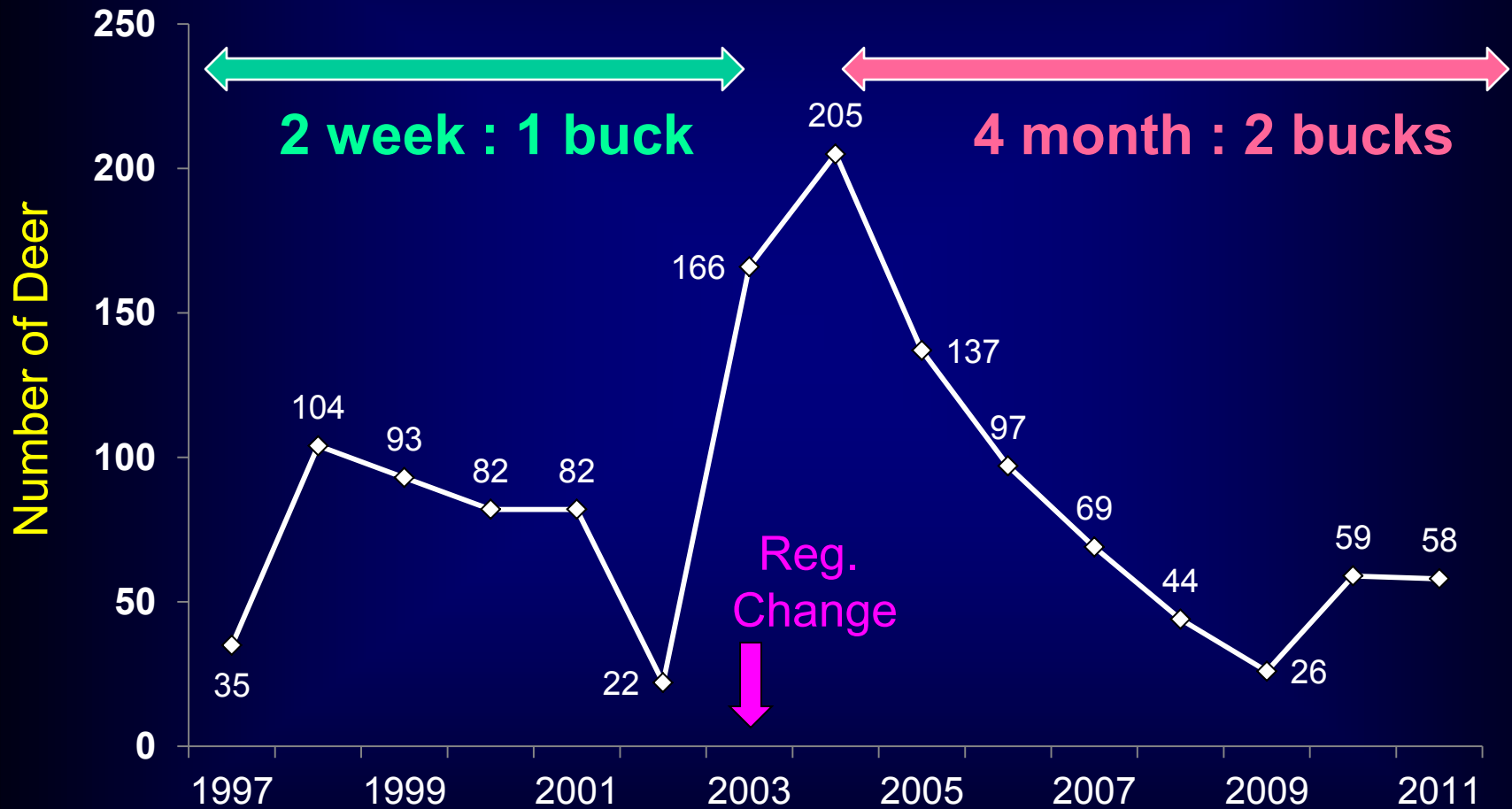
 Lindenberg Peninsula

unit

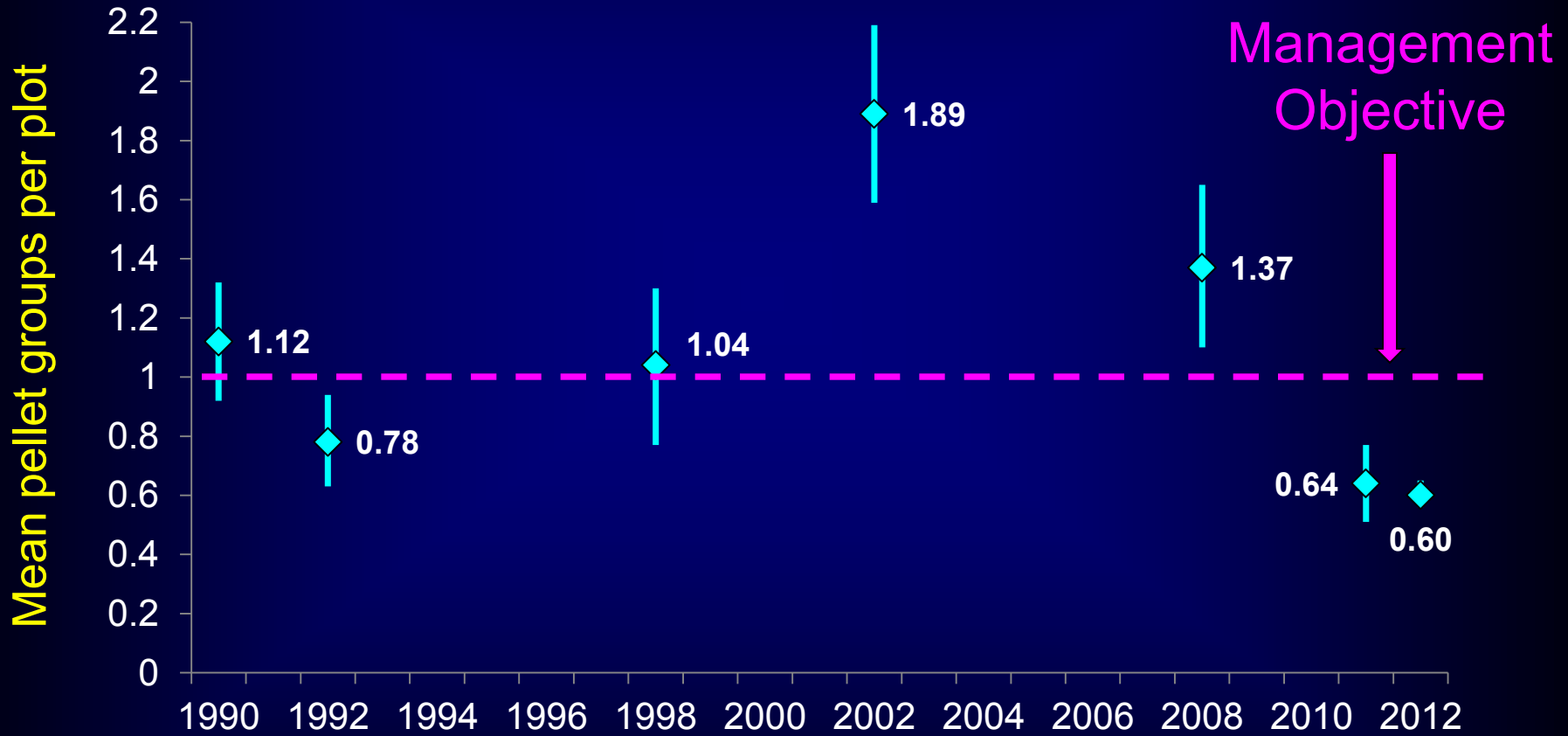
 GMU 3



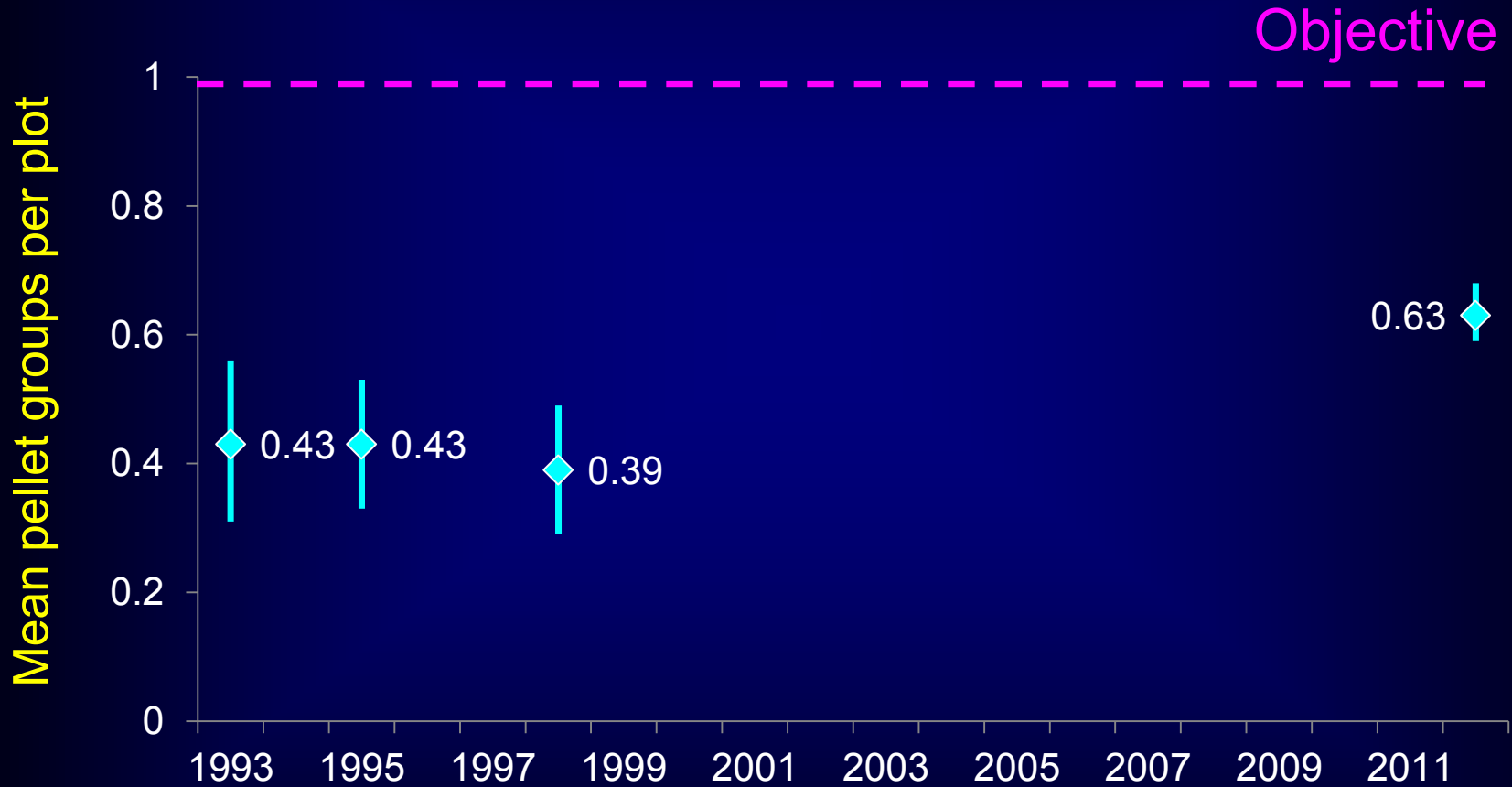
Lindenberg Peninsula “Estimated” Deer Harvest



South Lindenberg Pellet Group Density (East Duncan VCU 437)



North Lindenberg Pellet Group Density (Portage Bay VCU 442)



Factors Contributing to Deer Decline

- *Deep snow winters*
- *Predation by wolves and bears*
- *Reductions in deer carrying capacity and important winter habitat*
- *Increased moose distribution & abundance*
- *Federal Designated Hunter provision*




**LINDENBERG
PENINSULA
1954
ORIGINAL CONDITION**

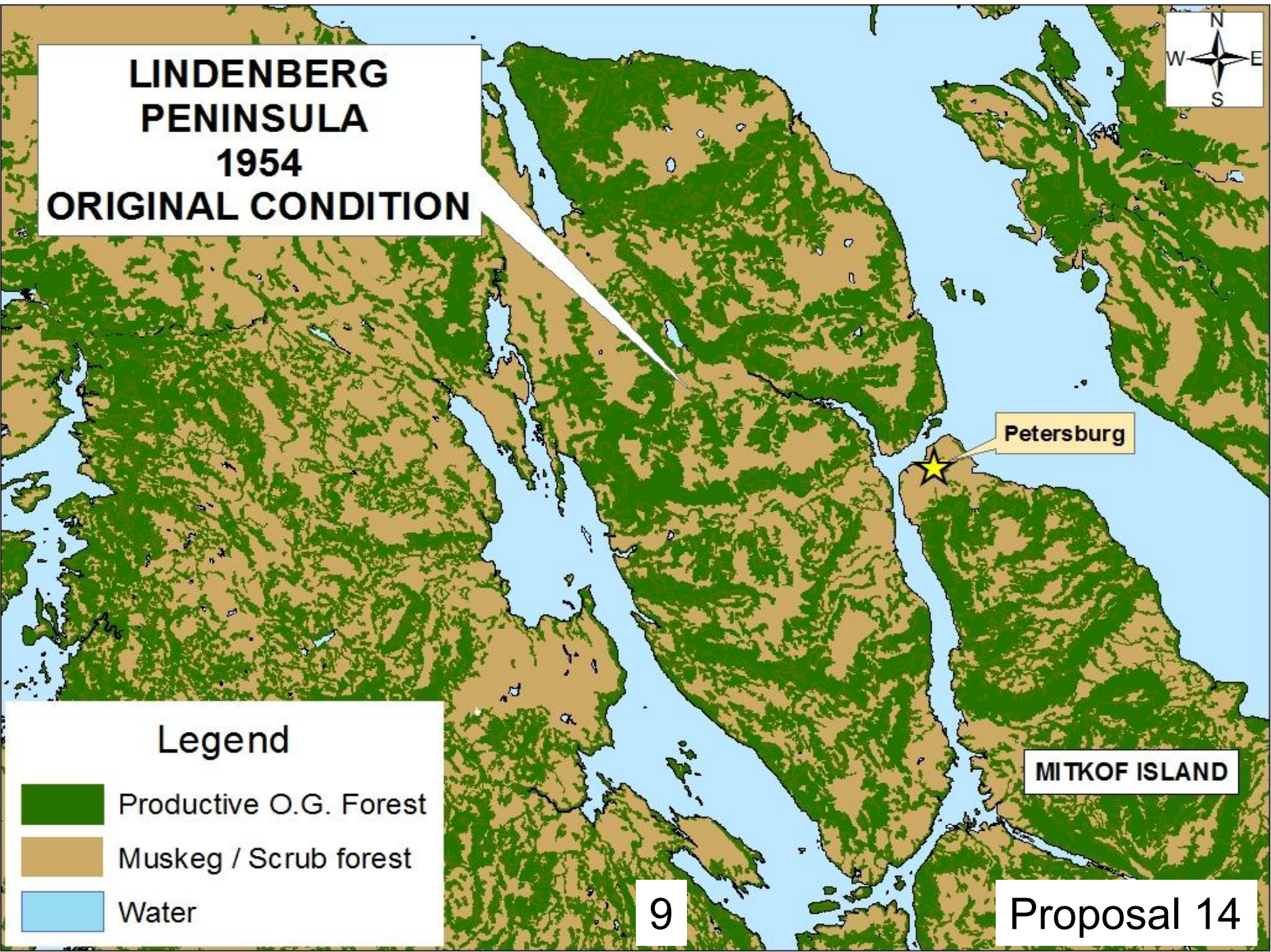


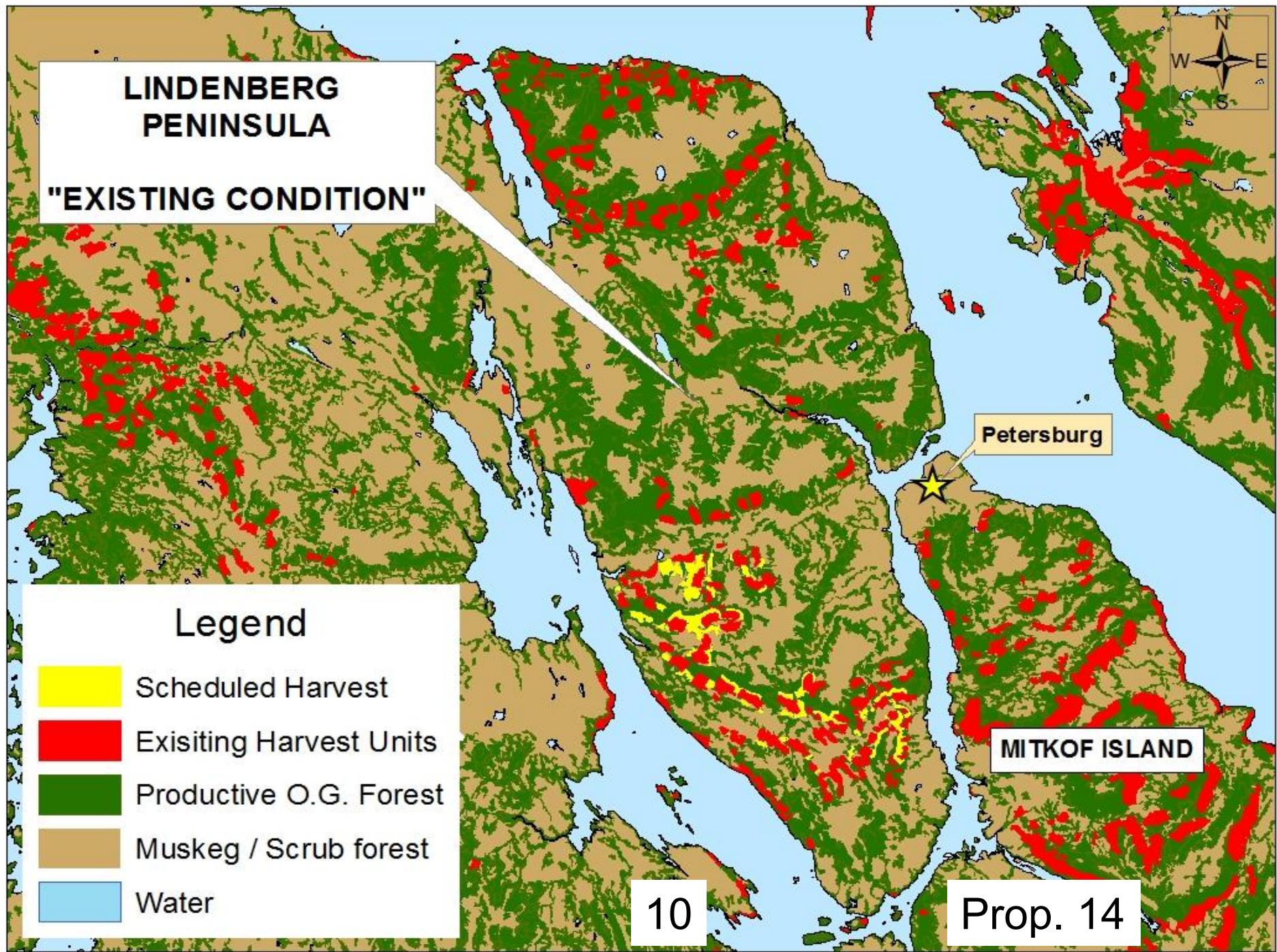
Petersburg

MITKOF ISLAND

Legend

-  Productive O.G. Forest
-  Muskeg / Scrub forest
-  Water





**LINDENBERG
PENINSULA**
"EXISTING CONDITION"

Petersburg

MITKOF ISLAND

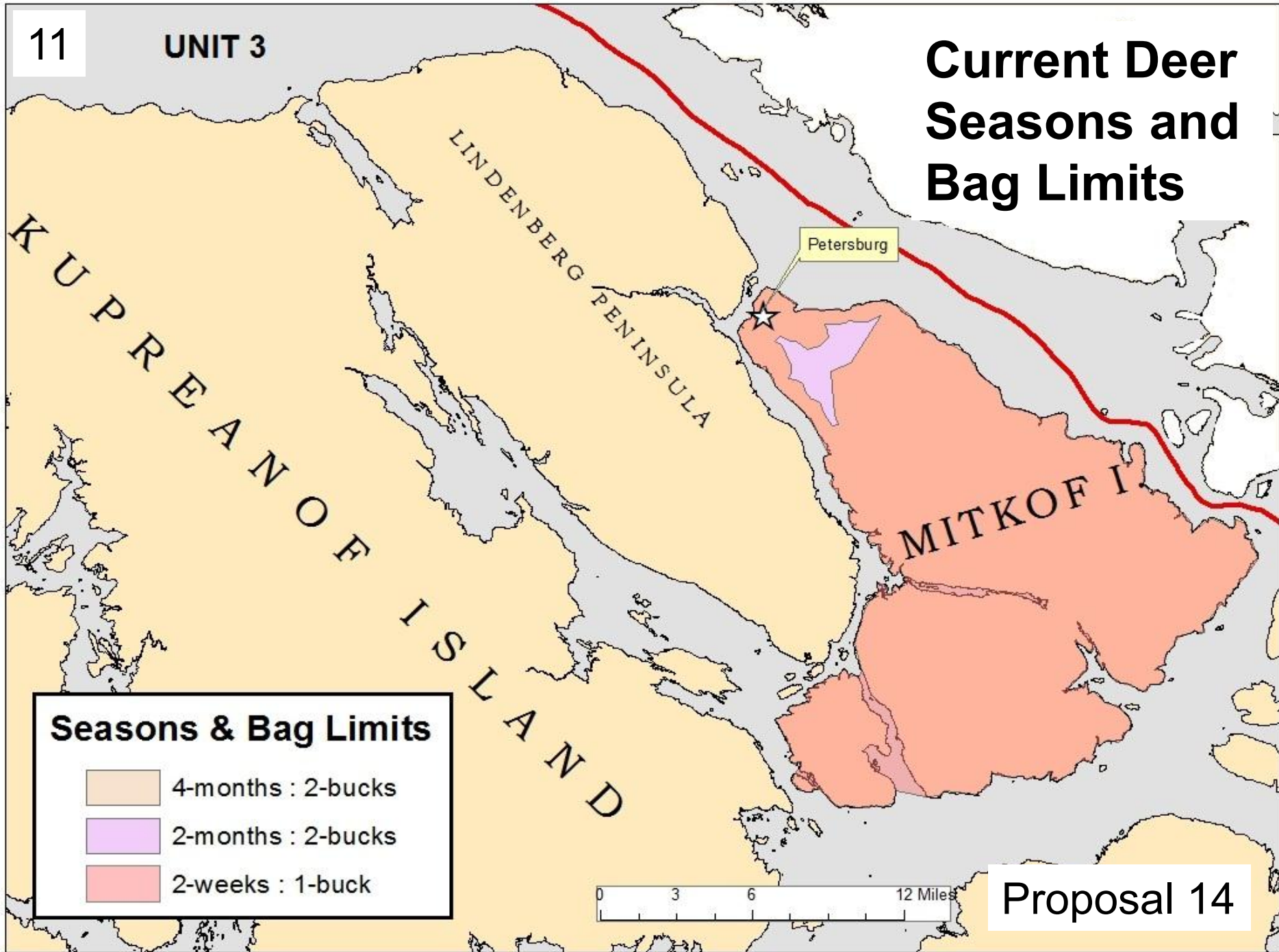
Legend

- Scheduled Harvest
- Existing Harvest Units
- Productive O.G. Forest
- Muskeg / Scrub forest
- Water

10

Prop. 14

Current Deer Seasons and Bag Limits



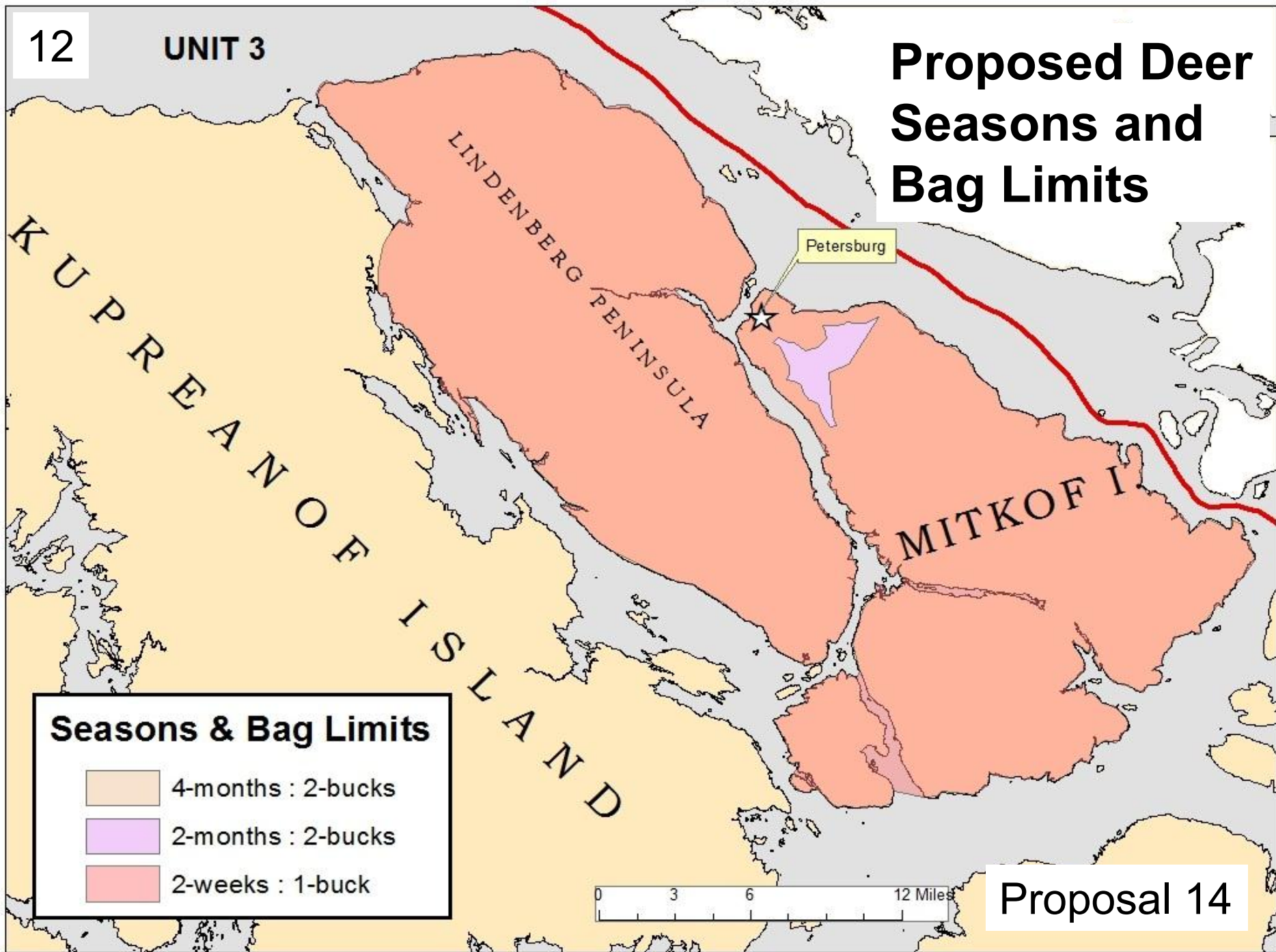
Seasons & Bag Limits

- 4-months : 2-bucks
- 2-months : 2-bucks
- 2-weeks : 1-buck

0 3 6 12 Miles

Proposal 14

Proposed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits



Proposal 14

IM Feasibility Assessment





Proposed wolf reduction area
1,680 km² (648 mi²)

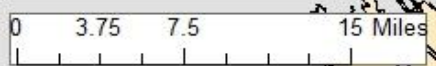
Village of Kake

Petersburg

Comparison Area
1200 km² (475 mi²)

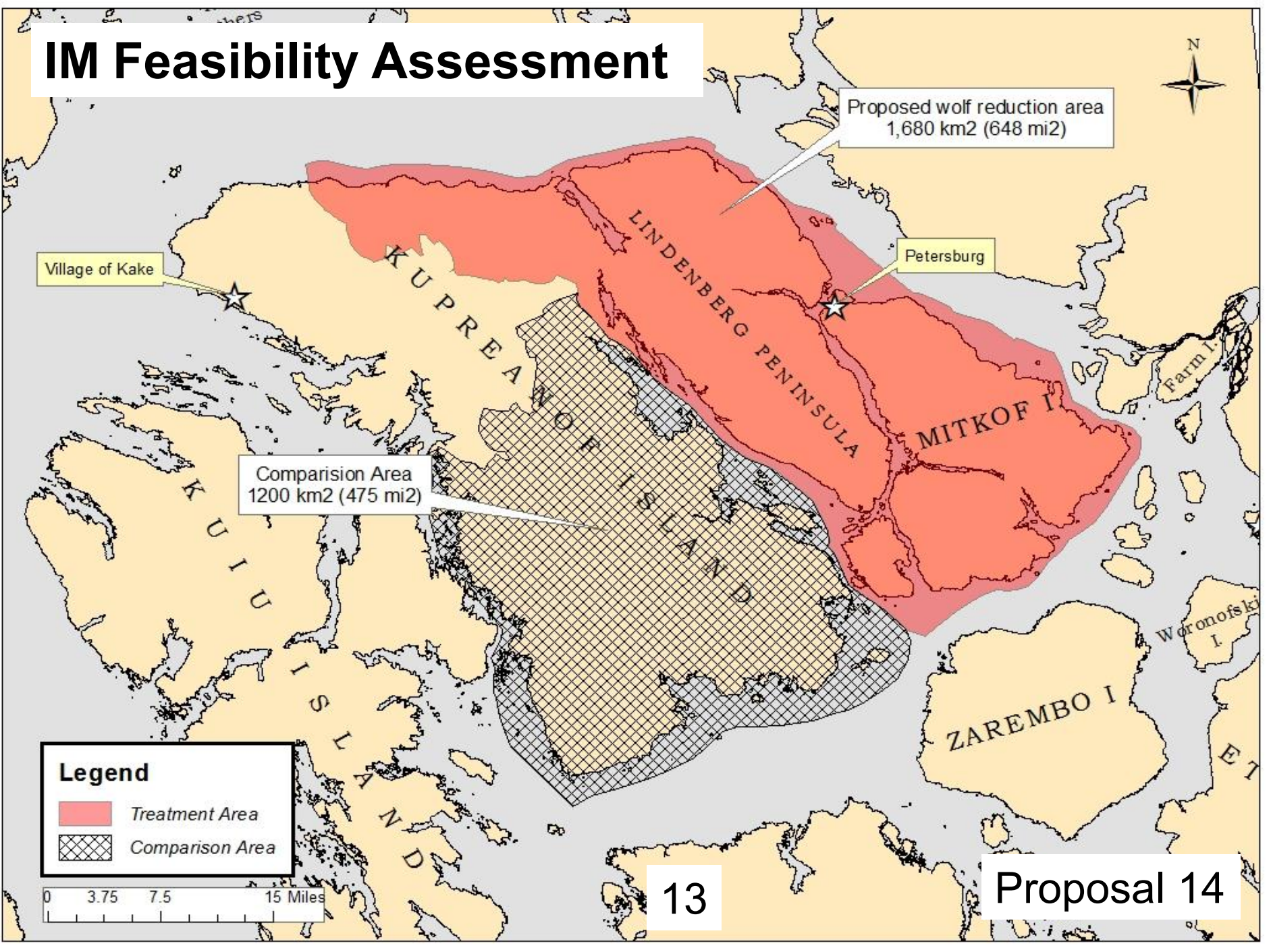
Legend

-  Treatment Area
-  Comparison Area

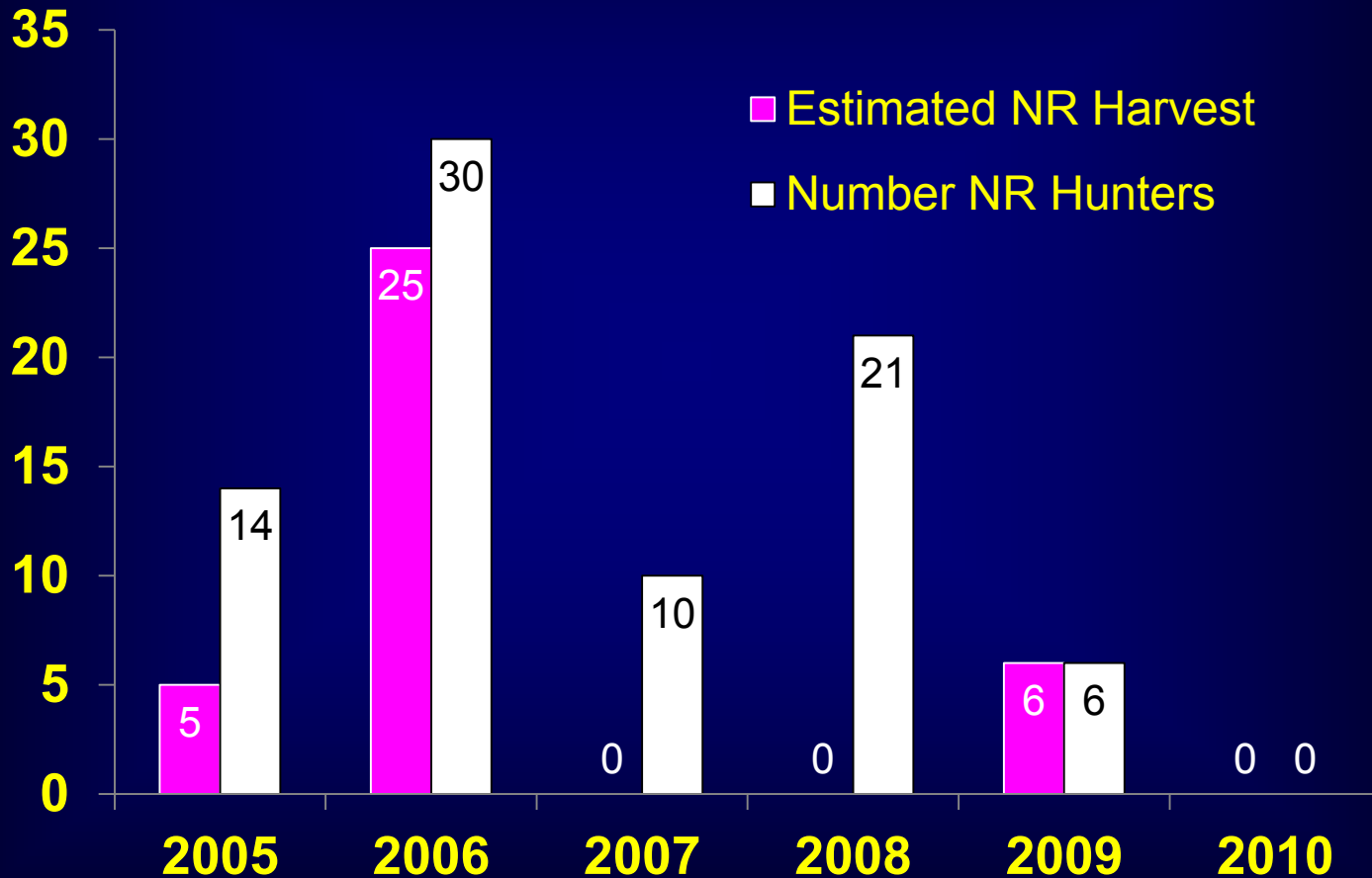


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Proposal 14



Nonresident Deer harvest



AC Recommendations

Petersburg AC

Adopt (6 – 3)

- *Some AC members had experienced the previous 17-year closure of the deer season in this area*
- *Favored season & bag limit reductions now rather than risk another complete closure in the future.*
- *Others ... felt removing deer hunters from the field would reduce pressure on wolves*
- *Concern that once season & bag limit was reduced, it would be hard to get the season liberalized again*

RECOMMENDATION

Proposal 14

1. Reduce the resident deer hunting season by 10-weeks on Lindenberg Peninsula (Kupreanof Is.)
2. Reduce the bag limit from 2 to 1 buck
3. Eliminate the nonresident deer hunting season

Department Recommendation

Adopt



Subsistence

The Board has determined that the deer population in Unit 3 supports customary and traditional subsistence uses.

Prior to adopting any changes to the hunting regulations for deer in Unit 3, the Board should determine if the changes continue to provide reasonable opportunities for subsistence hunting.

Amount Necessary for Subsistence

<u>ANS</u>	<u>Finding</u>	<u>Objective</u>
Unit 3	Positive	150 - 175

ANS has been consistently achieved

UNIT 3 – Marten

PROPOSAL 15

Establish a Controlled Use Area prohibiting the use of motorized land vehicles for marten trapping on the Tonka road system (southern Lindenberg Peninsula, Kupreanof Island)

Department Proposal

Recommendation:

Amend and Adopt

Proposed Amendment

Establish a methods and means restriction [CUA] prohibiting the use of motorized land vehicles for marten trapping on the Tonka road system (southern Lindenberg Peninsula, Kupreanof Island)

Reason for change ...

- Currently no CUAs for trapping*
- Changed to M&M exemption for regulatory expedience*

Issue Statements

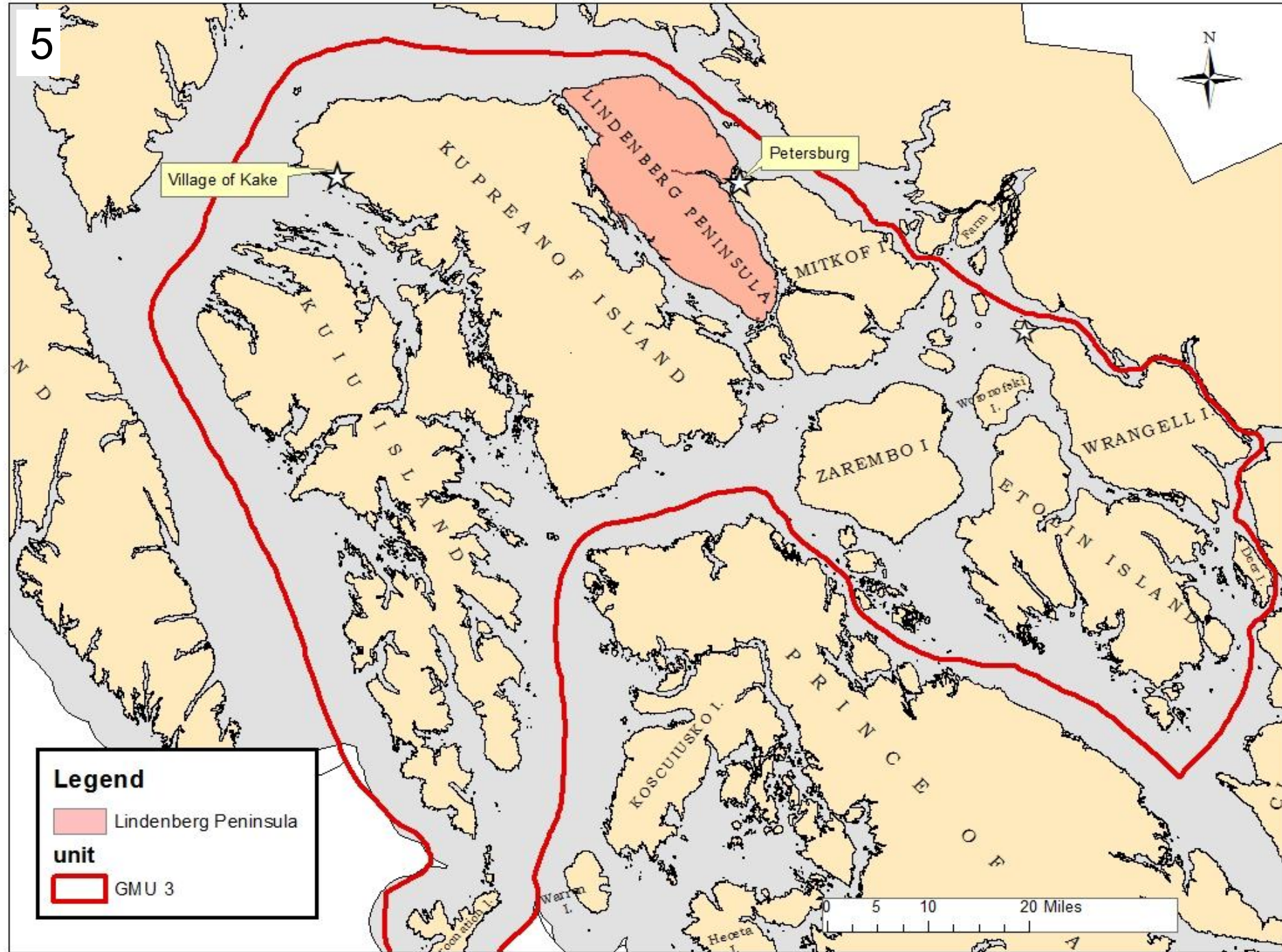
- Continued reductions in marten habitat (old growth forest) on southern Lindenberg Peninsula
- Increasing road density
- Increasing trapper access
- Little refugia for marten
- Potential for overharvest of marten

Current Trapping Regulation

Marten Trapping

Unit 3 Dec. 1 – Feb. 15 (No Limit)
(except Kuiu Island) No open season

5



6



LINDENBERG PENINSULA

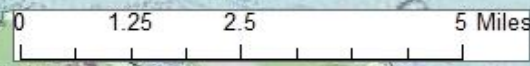
Petersburg

Dock and road access point

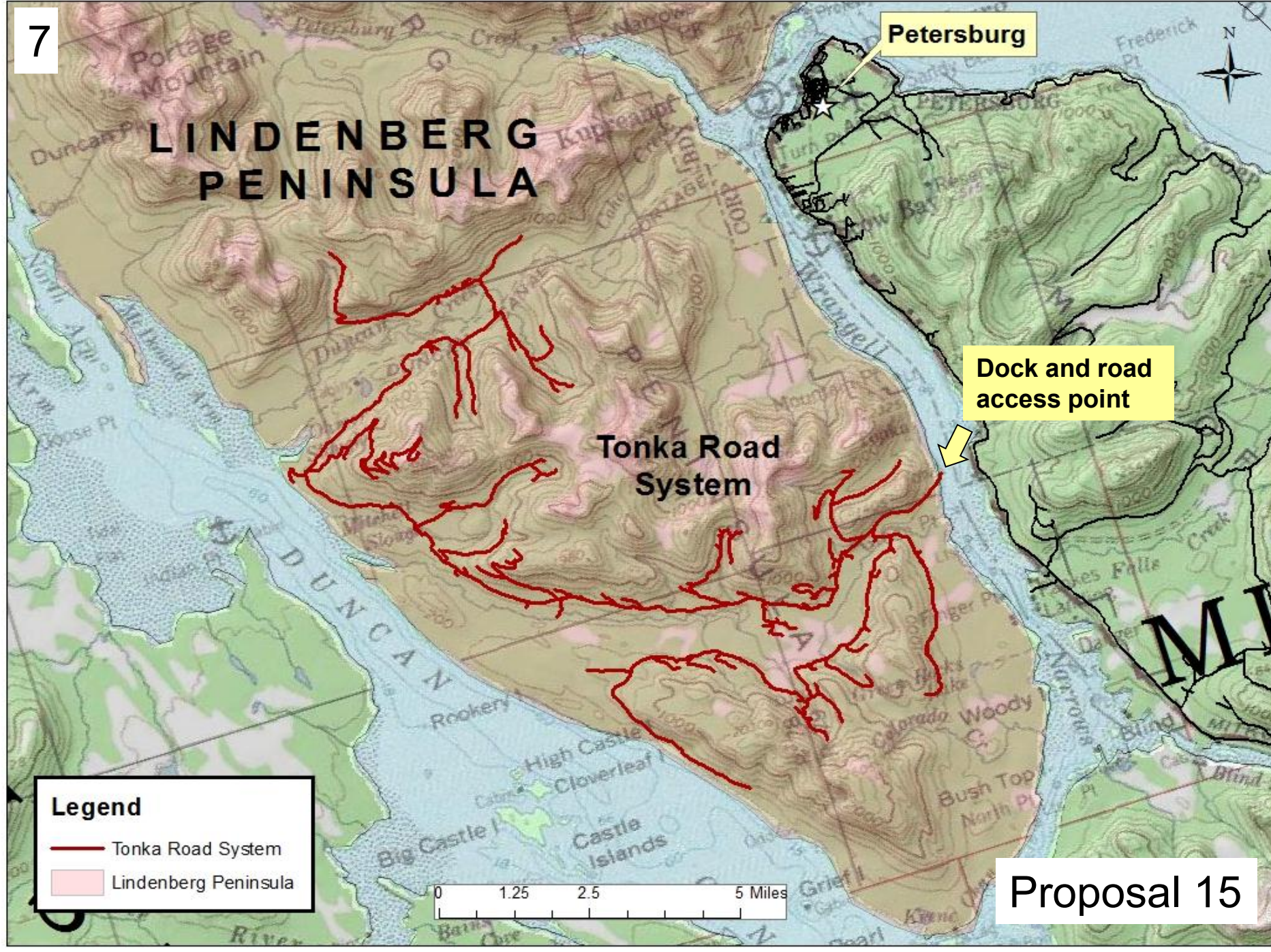
Tonka Road System

Legend

- Tonka Road System
- Lindenberg Peninsula



Proposal 15



Habitat Issue

- **In SE AK marten are an old growth forest associated species**
- **Continued reductions in marten habitat and carrying capacity on S. Lindenberg**
 - 4,800+ acres harvested to date
 - 2,000+ additional acres scheduled for harvest (currently underway)




**LINDENBERG
"ORIGINAL CONDITION"**

Petersburg



MITKOF ISLAND

Legend

-  Productive O.G. Forest
-  Muskeg / Scrub forest
-  Water

Proposal 15



10

**LINDENBERG
"EXISTING CONDITION"**

Petersburg

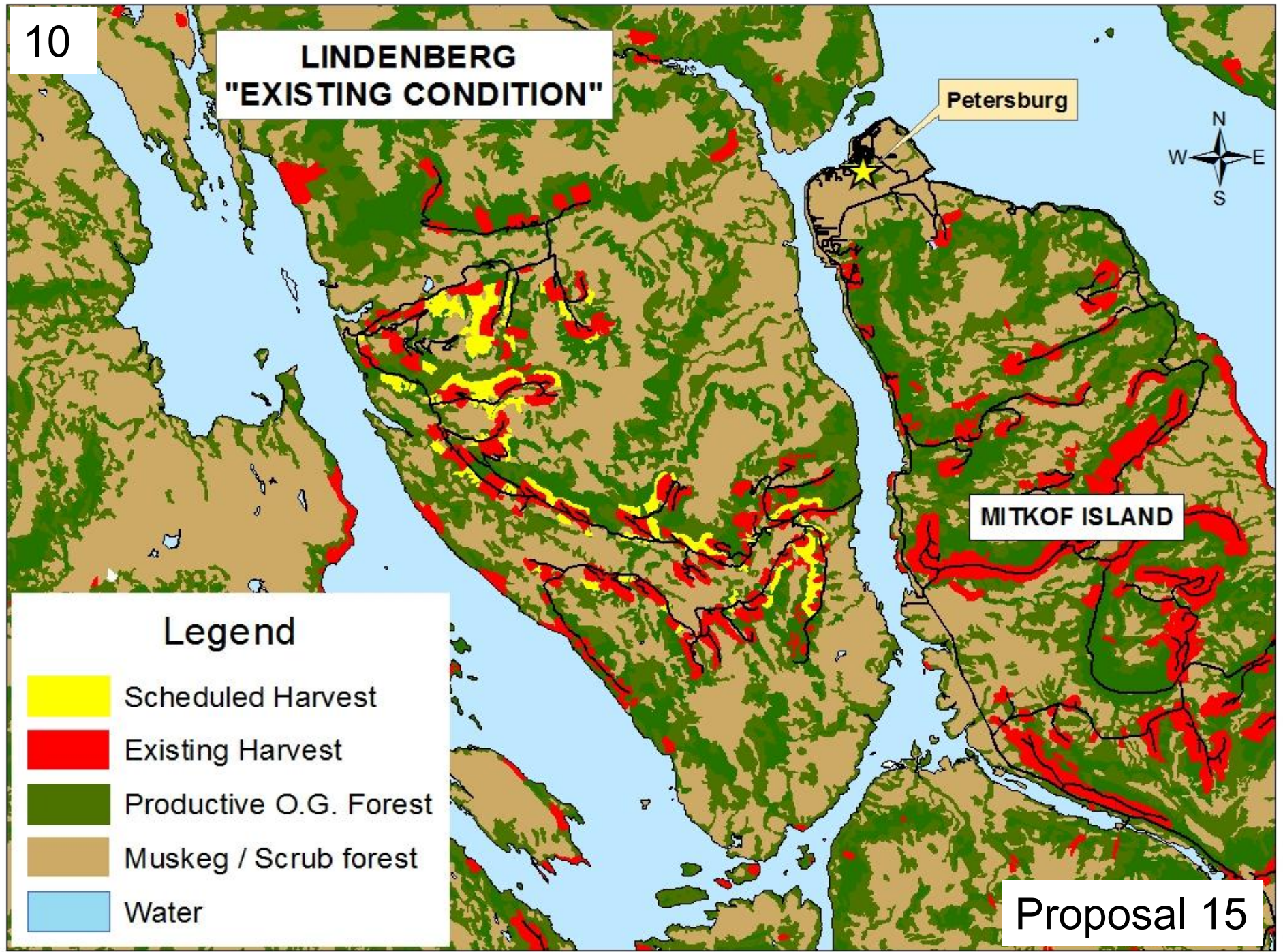


MITKOF ISLAND

Legend

-  Scheduled Harvest
-  Existing Harvest
-  Productive O.G. Forest
-  Muskeg / Scrub forest
-  Water

Proposal 15



Vulnerability to Trapping

- **Increasing road densities lead to increased trapper access**
 - 73 miles of existing road + 9 miles new road planned
 - will increase road density to 1.0 mile of road per mi²
- **Marten are highly vulnerable to trapping within 0.93 mi. of an access point**
- **0.93 mi. is mean radius of a male marten home range on Chichagof Is. in Unit 4 (Flynn, ADF&G)**

LINDENBERG PENINSULA

Petersburg

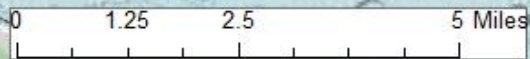
Dock and road access point

Tonka Road System

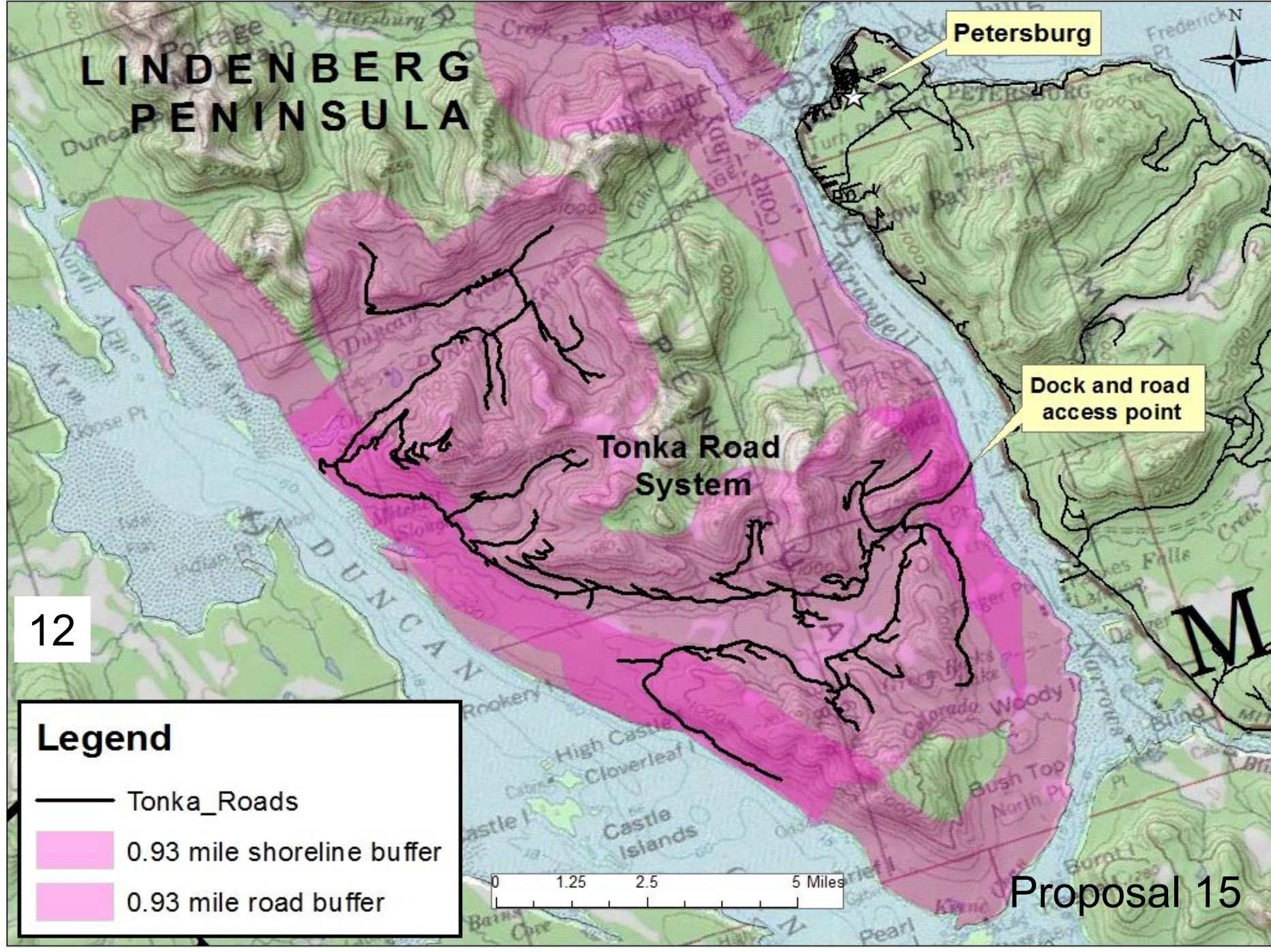
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Legend

- Tonka_Roads
- 0.93 mile shoreline buffer
- 0.93 mile road buffer



Proposal 15



LINDENBERG PENINSULA

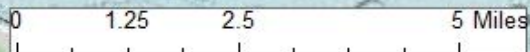
Petersburg

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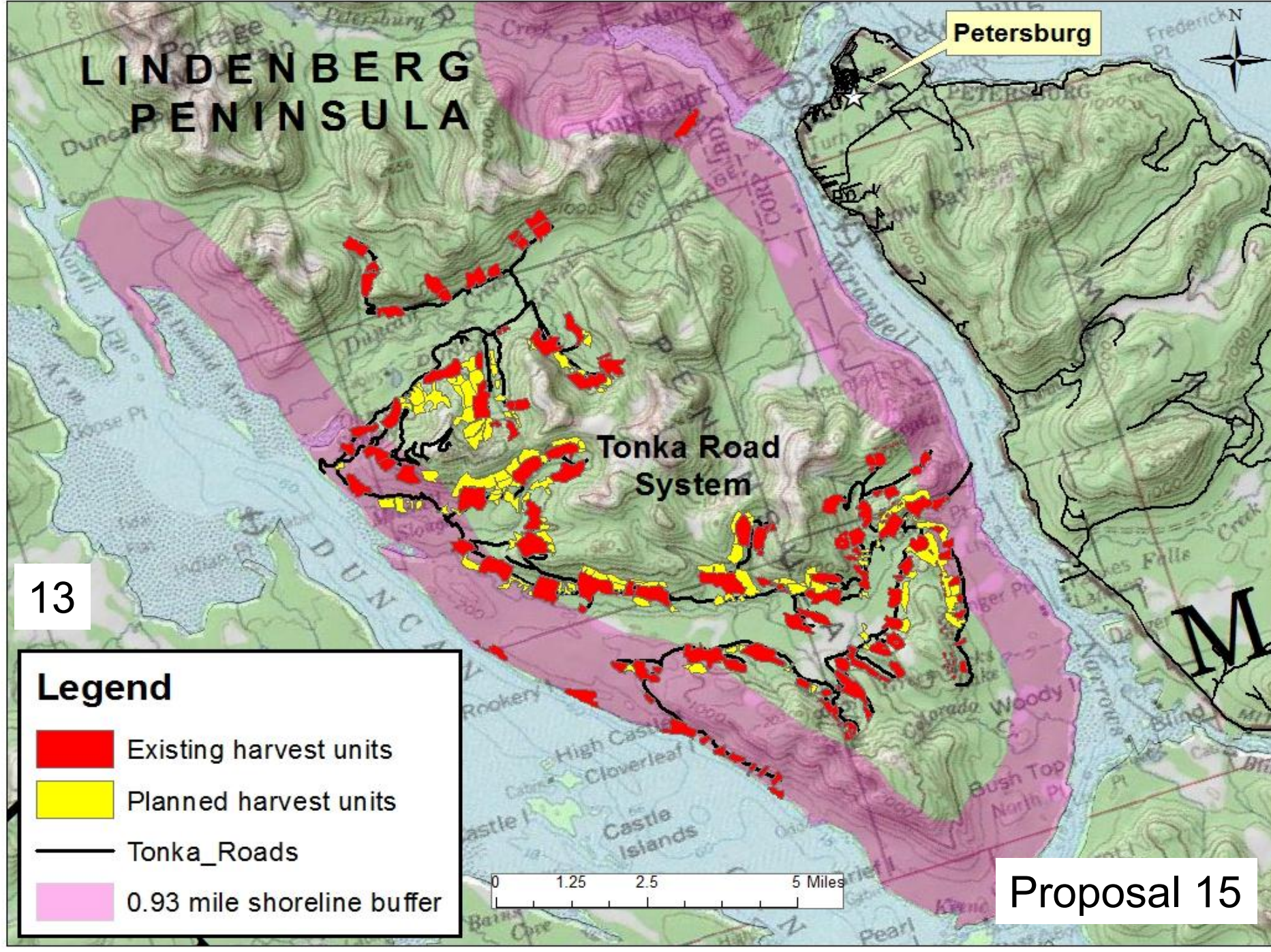
Tonka Road System

Legend

- Existing harvest units
- Planned harvest units
- Tonka_Roads
- 0.93 mile shoreline buffer

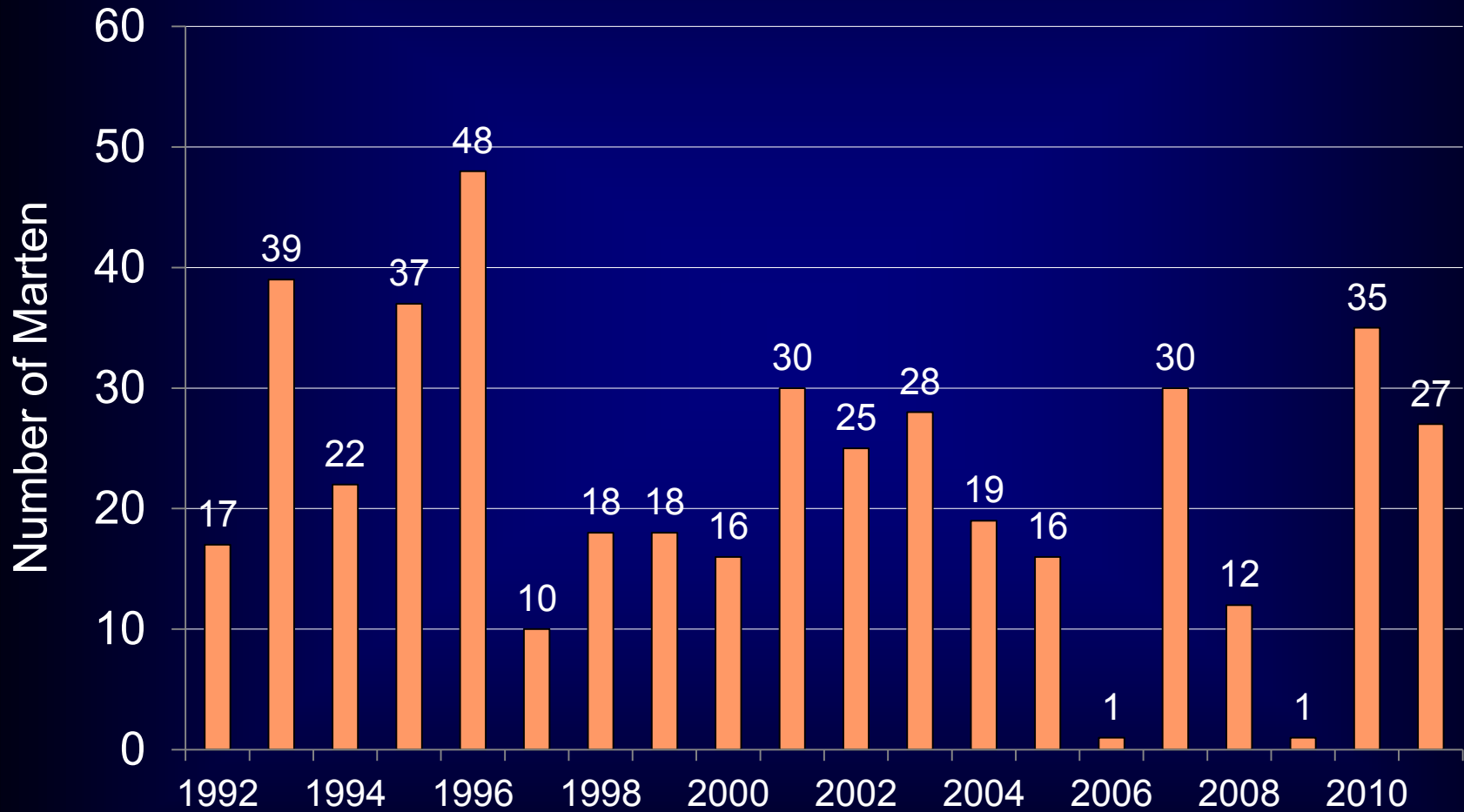


Proposal 15



Marten Harvest

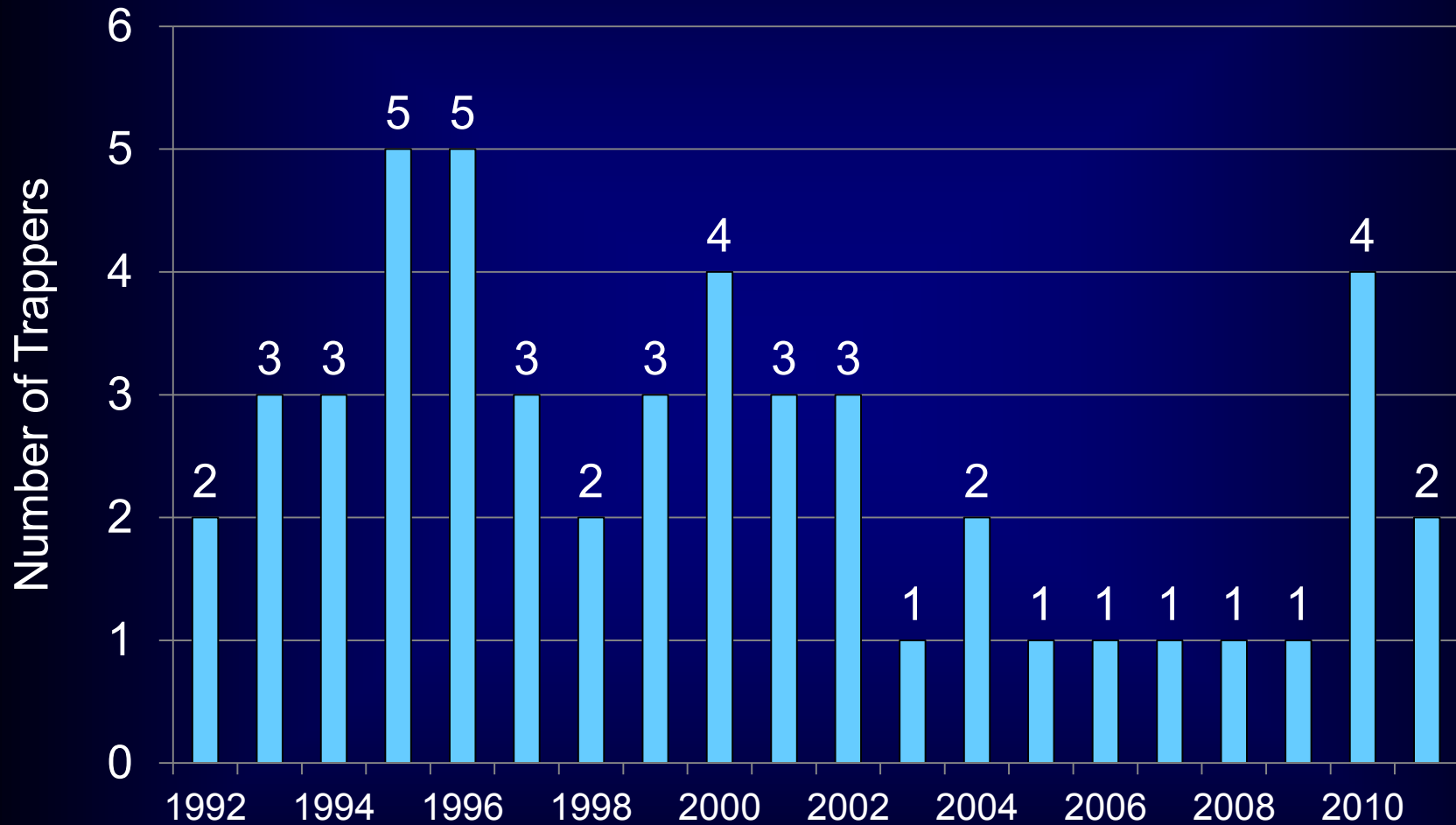
S. Lindenberg WAA 5138



Proposal 15

Number of Marten Trappers

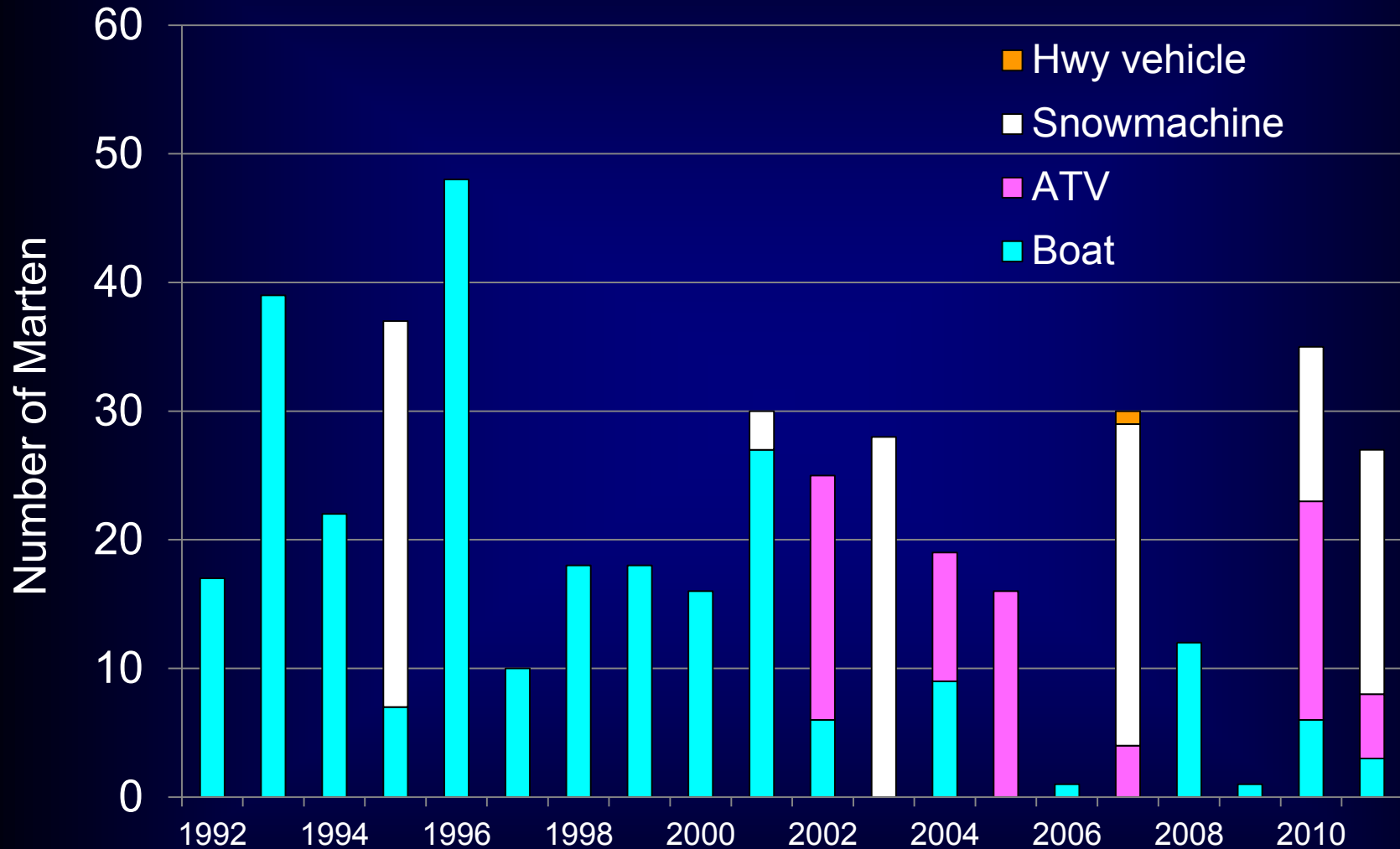
S. Lindenberg WAA 5138



Proposal 15

Method of Transportation

Tonka Area (WAA 5138)



Proposal 15

Summary

- **Continued reductions in marten habitat**
- **Increased road density and trapper access**
- **Increased use of motorized land vehicles**
- **Little remaining refugia for marten**
- **High potential for unsustainable harvest**

Summary

- Timber harvest has begun and will be ongoing for a few years
- Intent of proposal is to be “proactive” ...
“Sacrifice some opportunity now to preserve opportunity over long-term”
- As seen on Kuiu Island ... recovery of marten populations can be slow
- Marten trapping along the shoreline (~ 30 miles) would be unaffected by this proposal

AC Recommendations

- **Petersburg AC** **Do Not Adopt** **(0 – 9)**
 - *Because logging would be ongoing for a few years, AC felt trappers should continue to harvest marten until there was an “immediate” conservation issue*
 - *“Might as well catch them while we’ve still got them!”*

RECOMMENDATION

Proposal 15

Establish a methods and means restriction prohibiting the use of motorized land vehicles by marten trappers on the Tonka road system (southern Lindenberg Peninsula, Kupreanof Island)

Department recommendation

Amend & Adopt