

PROPOSAL 16

This proposal would modify the bag limit for goats in GMUs 1 and 4 by prohibiting a hunter who kills a female goat from hunting goats in these GMU's for the next 5 years

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation

DISCUSSION

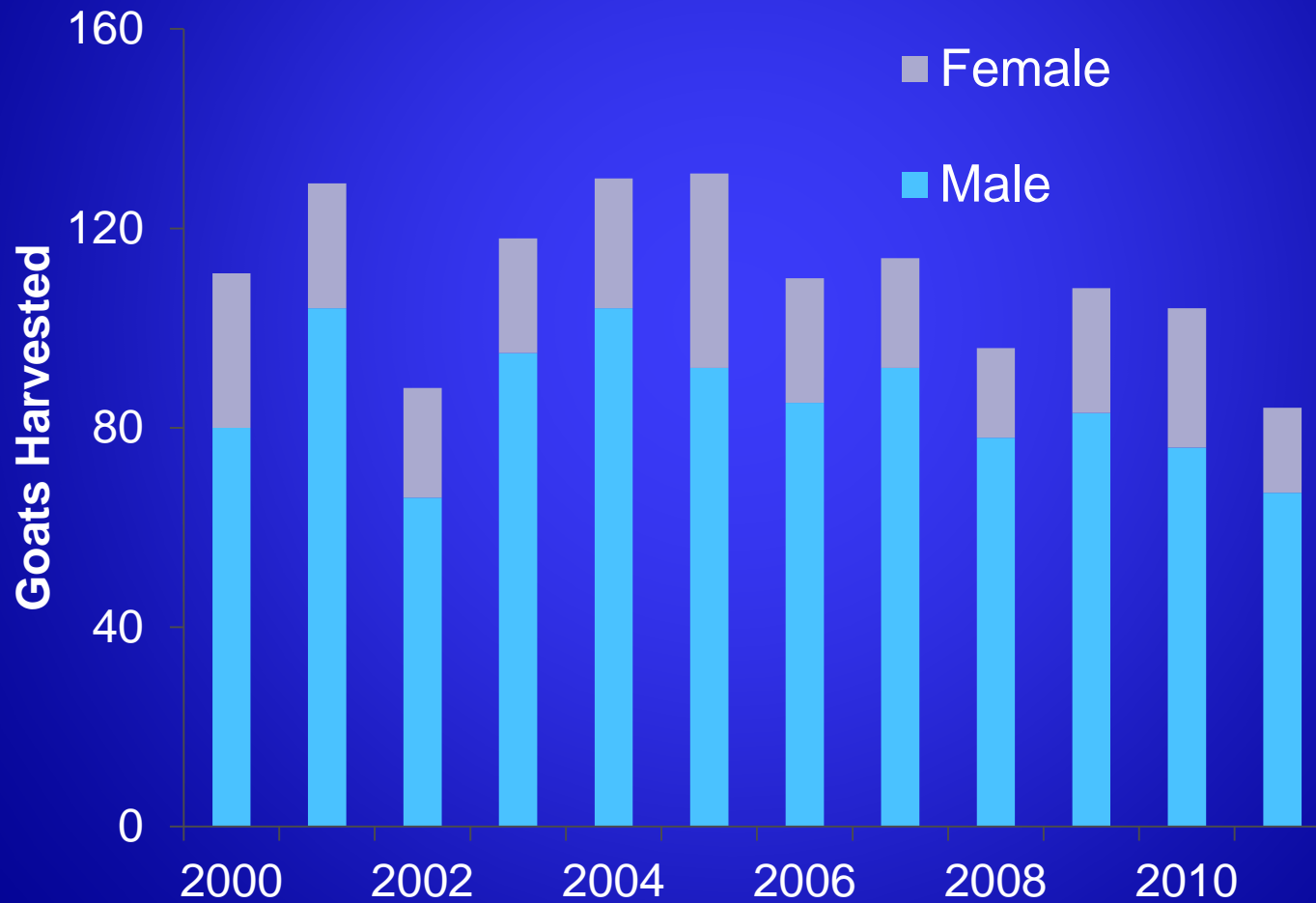
- Proponent views the taking of female goats to be detrimental to goat populations, which negatively impacts hunters and other users of this resource

DISCUSSION

- Throughout Alaska the department allows the harvest of male and female goats
- The harvest of female goats needs to be minimized to sustain populations
- In Southeast Alaska, managers have adopted a management strategy to minimize female harvest
 - This strategy has proven successful in portions of the region where goat populations are healthy

DISCUSSION

(Unit 1 goat harvest)



DISCUSSION

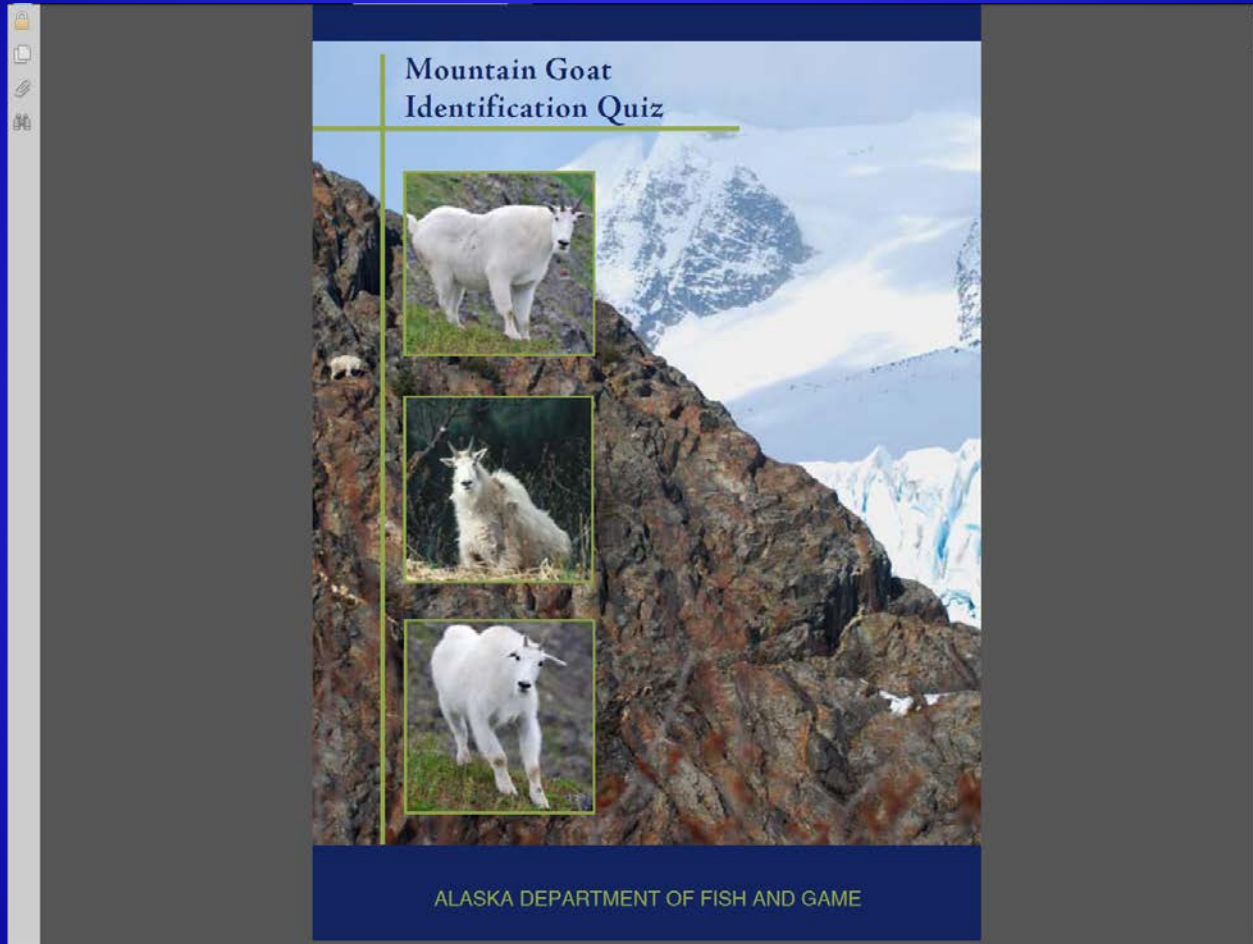
- This strategy is comprised of two main components:
 - 1) Educational outreach (to help identify and select male goats), this includes an online quiz and informational hand outs and booklets;
 - 2) The use of discrete hunt areas with harvest quotas to minimize the number of females that can be taken in any given hunt area

DISCUSSION

(Educational outreach)

- Department staff created an on-line mountain goat sex identification quiz for hunters
- This voluntary online quiz contains photos of goats and hunters are asked to identify the sex of each animal
- Staff conducted phone interviews of successful goat hunters to determine if educational efforts were effective

On-line Mountain Goat ID Quiz



Available as pocket sized booklet for hunters to take afield

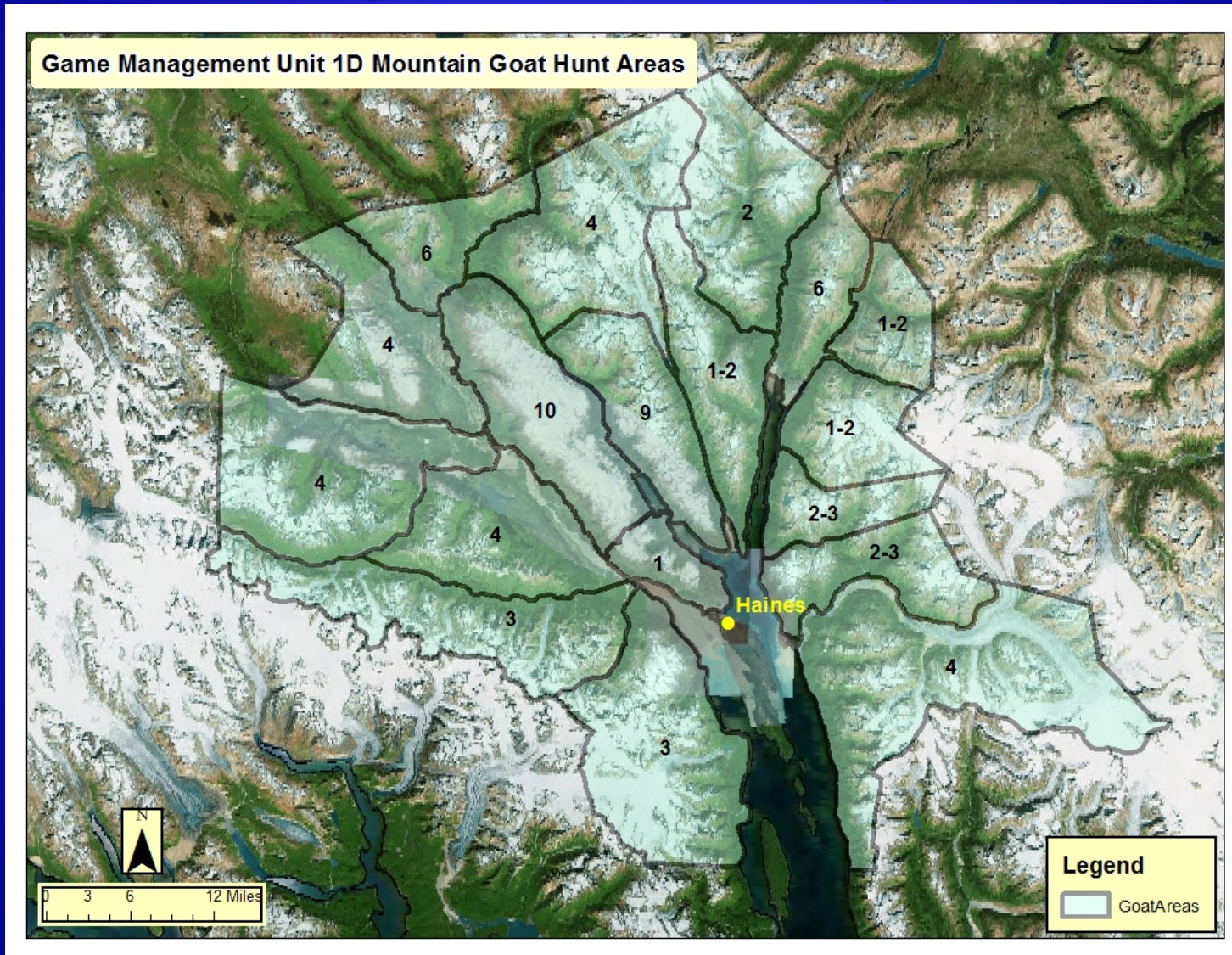
DISCUSSION

(Discrete hunt areas)

- GMUs are divided into discrete hunt areas, with harvest guidelines for each
- Six (6) goat points are allowed to be harvested in each area/100 goats observed during aerial surveys
- Weighted point system:
 - Male goats = 1 point
 - Female goats = 2 points

DISCUSSION

(Discrete hunt areas)



DISCUSSION

- When a guideline harvest level of 6 goat points/100 goats is reached, the area is closed by Emergency Order
- Female harvest results in fewer available goats for hunters/hunt area via shorter seasons, which protects against a high female harvest
- This strategy allows adjacent areas to remain open, while protecting females in closed area
- An important component of this strategy is having healthy goat populations that can withstand a low level of female harvest

SUMMARY

The department believes the present management strategy allows for low levels of female harvest while providing for sustainable goat populations in much of the region

SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Recommendations

Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose
Petersburg	Oppose
Craig	Oppose

CONCLUSION

Department
recommendation

No Recommendation

CONCLUSION

The board has determined that the goat populations 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 would continue to provide reasonable opportunities for subsistence hunting.

PROPOSAL 17

This proposal would prohibit the taking of female grouse in Southeast Alaska during the period of March 2-May 15

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation

DISCUSSION

- Although the proponent referred to female grouse in this proposal, his intention was to refer to female sooty grouse specifically
 - Season dates: August 1-May 15
 - Bag limit: 5 birds/day

DISCUSSION

- The proponent of this proposal would like to see female grouse protected during spring, which he believes will lead to an increase in the grouse population and more opportunity for hunters

DISCUSSION

- Why proponent singled out the spring season...
 - Most southeast grouse hunting effort takes place in the spring when male grouse are fairly easy to locate due to their “hooting” calls while trying to attract female grouse
 - Hunters approach the calls to locate male birds, but occasionally flush female birds near the males and choose to harvest them

Sooty Grouse Hooting



hooter_windwsMedia_louder40db.wmv

Male



Female



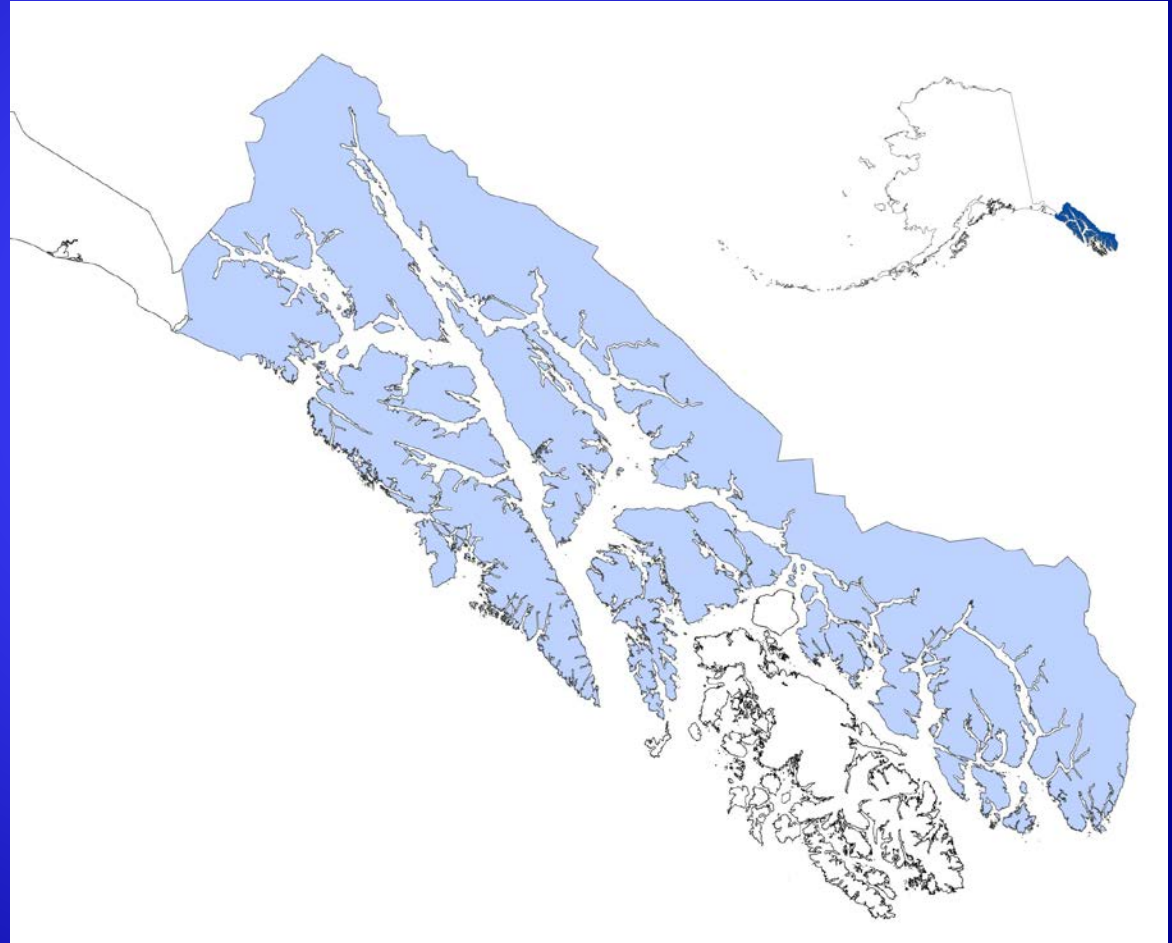
DISCUSSION

- Hunting pressure is considered to be light across the range of sooty grouse as a whole, but there can be more intense pressure near communities
- This is especially true along the road systems, or areas near communities that are easily accessed by boat

DISCUSSION

(Sooty Grouse Range in Alaska)

- Widely distributed in Southeast Alaska
- Absent on Prince of Wales and a few small adjacent islands as well as Zarembo Island

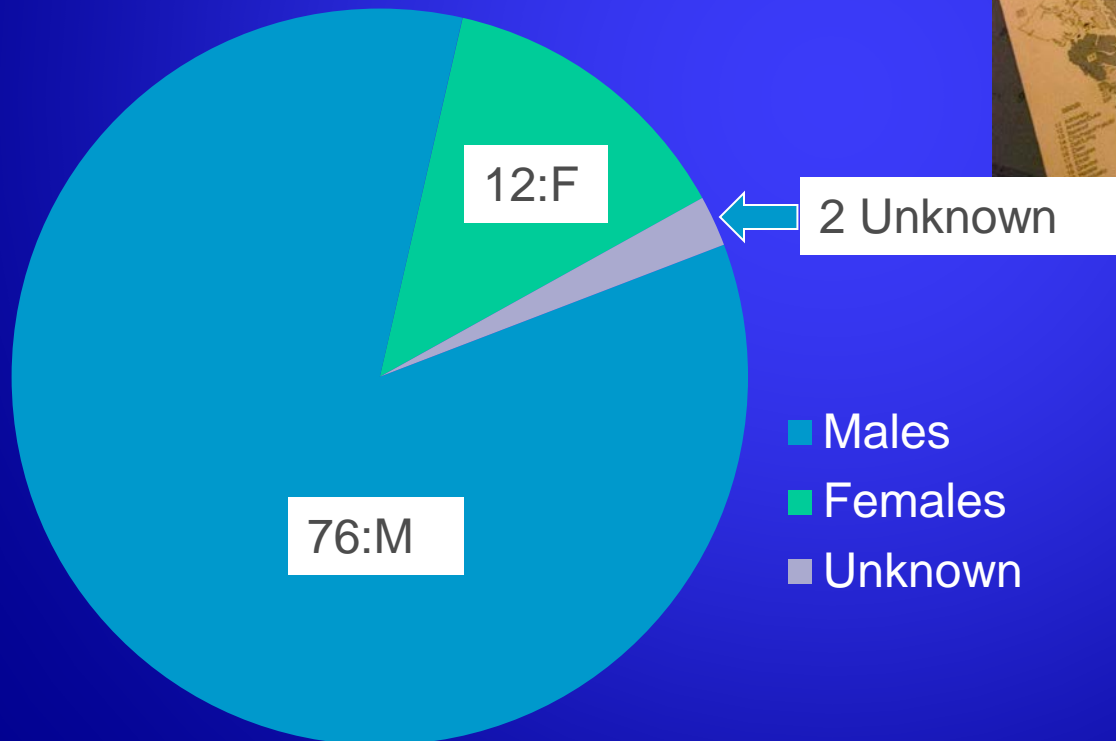


DISCUSSION

- Although the department has never conducted field research on sooty grouse in Southeast Alaska, we have used other methods to understand grouse hunting effort and harvest
 - Wing and tail collection during 2005 and 2006, to assess sex, age, and location of harvested birds
 - Hunters submitted 90 samples from sooty grouse harvested during the spring seasons

Wing Collection Program in Southeast Alaska 2005 & 2006

Sex of 90 harvested sooty grouse



SUMMARY

- Sooty grouse harvest data collected over 2 seasons indicates a mostly male harvest
- There is relatively light hunting pressure across most of range of the sooty grouse
- Sooty grouse are widely distributed throughout southeast Alaska, and persist even in those areas with intense hunting pressure

SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Recommendations

Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose
Sitka	Oppose
Petersburg	Oppose
Craig	Oppose

CONCLUSION

The present bag limit that allows for female grouse harvest during the spring season does not appear to adversely affect the sooty grouse population

Department Recommendation:

No Recommendation

PROPOSAL 18

This proposal would prohibit the snaring of bears in Region I

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

Take No Action

DISCUSSION

- Trapping and snaring of black or brown bears is currently prohibited on a statewide basis, except in a few predator control areas
- The Board classified black bears as furbearers, but has not established general trapping seasons, so currently there is no trapping or snaring of black bears under trapping seasons

CONCLUSION

This proposal would prohibit an activity that already is prohibited under general trapping seasons

Department Recommendation

Take No Action

PROPOSAL 19

This proposal would prohibit the snaring of bears in Region I

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

Take No Action

CONCLUSION

This proposal would prohibit an activity that already is prohibited under general trapping seasons

Department Recommendation

Take No Action

PROPOSAL 20

This proposal would prohibit the taking of wolves prior to November 1 and after March 1 in Southeast Alaska

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

Do Not Adopt

DISCUSSION

- Proponent considers present seasons excessive
- The proposal refers to the “taking” of wolves which would include hunting and trapping seasons

DISCUSSION

- Regional wolf hunting seasons (starting dates)
 - Units 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 3, 4, 5
 - All begin on August 1
 - Unit 2
 - Begins on December 1

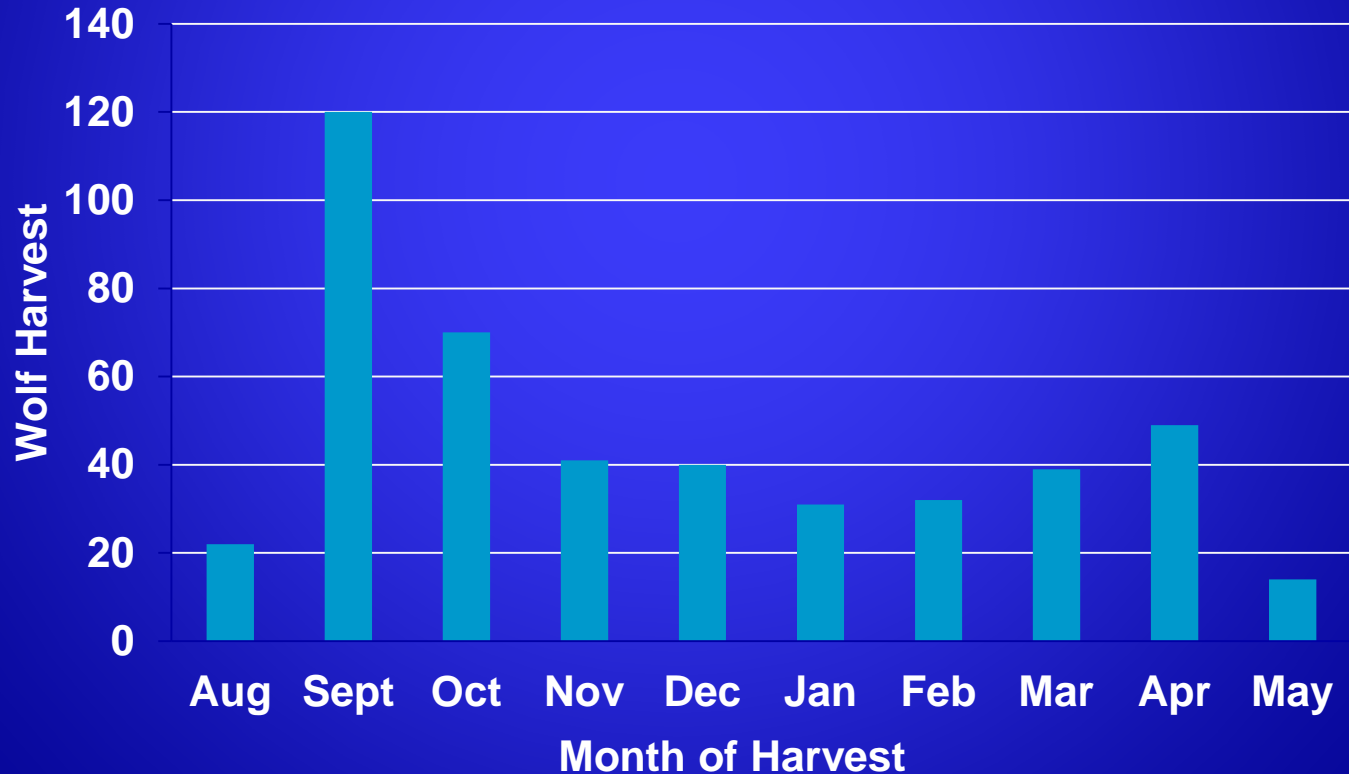
DISCUSSION

- Regional wolf hunting seasons (ending dates)
 - Units 1A , 3 and portion of 1B
 - End on May 31 (extended at 2010 BOG)
 - Units 1C, 1D, portion of 1B, 4, 5
 - End on April 30
 - Unit 2 (harvest cap in place)
 - End on March 31

DISCUSSION

(Harvest Chronology)

Region 1 Wolf Harvest-Ground Shooting
(2003-2011)



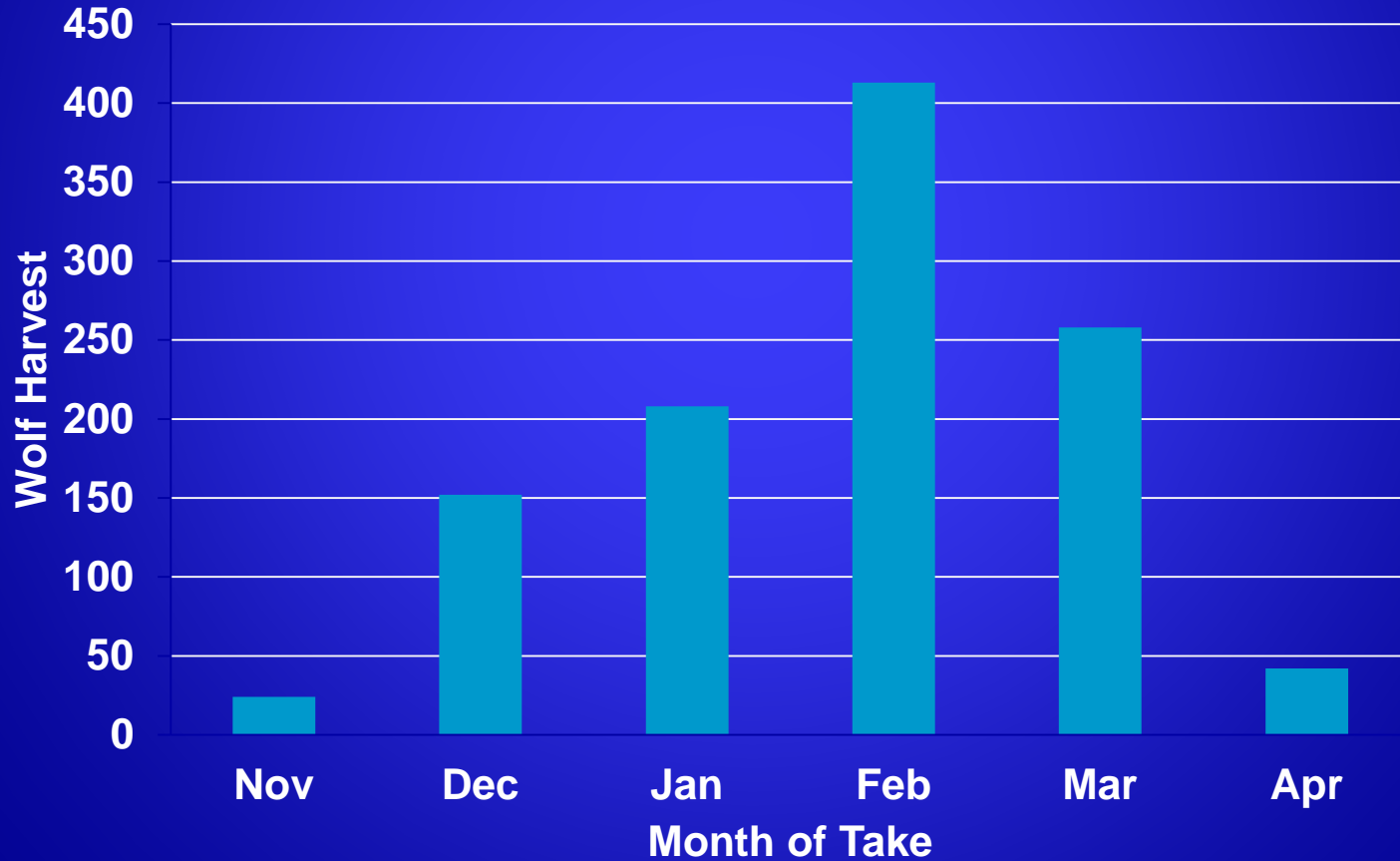
DISCUSSION

- Regional wolf trapping seasons
 - Units 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 3, 4, 5
 - November 1-April 30
 - Unit 2 (harvest cap in place)
 - December 1-March 31

DISCUSSION

(Harvest Chronology)

Region 1 Wolf Harvest-Trapping
(2003-2011)



DISCUSSION

- Nearly all Southeast wolf hunting seasons begin before the proposed November 1 starting date, while trapping seasons generally start on November 1
- All of our wolf hunting and trapping seasons extend beyond the proposed March 1 ending date

SUMMARY

- Early season (August): allows deer or goat hunters the opportunity to harvest a wolf
- The April and May wolf seasons allows bear hunters the opportunity to harvest a wolf
- Wolf populations in Southeast Alaska are generally widely distributed with no conservation concerns

SUMMARY

- During 2010 board of game meeting, the wolf hunting season in units 1A, 3, and a portion of 1B was extended from April 30 to May 31
- This extension was to increase the wolf harvest in areas with low deer populations
- Intensive management is being considered in units 1A and 3, to reduce wolf numbers to allow deer populations to recover

SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Recommendations

Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose
Petersburg	Oppose
Craig	Oppose
Yakutat	Oppose

CONCLUSION

The present seasons provide for hunter and trapper opportunity and sustainable wolf populations

Department Recommendation

Do Not Adopt

CONCLUSION

The board has determined that the wolf populations 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 would continue to provide reasonable opportunities for subsistence hunting.

PROPOSAL 21

This proposal would align the opening dates of trapping seasons for all furbearers in the southeast region by having them all open on November 10

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation

DISCUSSION

- The proponent cites enforcement dilemmas and forfeit of animals taken incidentally out of season as his main reasons for these proposed season changes

DISCUSSION

- At present, the only furbearer seasons in units 1-4 that open on November 10 are beaver and wolverine
- Fox, lynx, coyote, marten, mink, weasel, muskrat and river otter all open on December 1
- Department has submitted proposal 22, to start coyote trapping in region 1 on November 1 to be synchronous with the wolf season

DISCUSSION

- Both Oregon and Washington have marten seasons that open on November 1, with most other seasons opening in early to mid November
- British Columbia has most of their furbearer seasons opening on Nov. 1-Nov. 15
- In Alaska, Kodiak which has a climate similar to Southeast Alaska has most furbearer seasons opening on November 10

DISCUSSION

- A factor for establishing later season opening dates in Southeast Alaska was fur primeness
- In discussions with trappers, we hear arguments for and against an earlier season based on this issue
- During past 5 board cycles we have had 18 proposals to change trapping season dates
- To better inform our decision making process, we conducted a survey by mail of trappers in December 2012

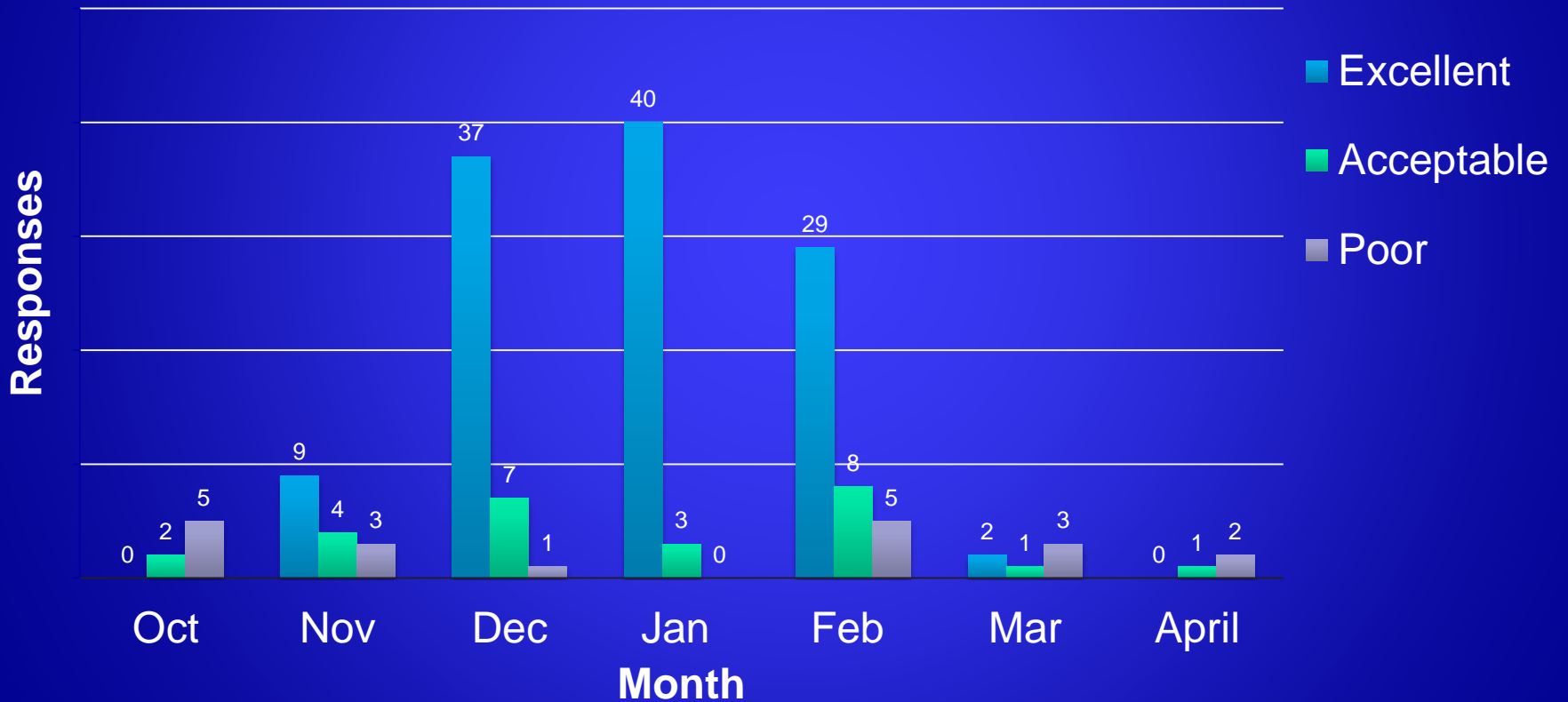
DISCUSSION

(Trapper survey)

- Purpose of survey was to gain insight from trappers on fur primeness, satisfaction with season dates, and trapping access
- Surveys were sent to 231 trappers: 60 responded
 - Majority of respondents thought pelts were most prime for all species during December – February
 - Majority of respondents (75%) preferred existing trapping season dates rather than shifting them earlier or later
 - Sixty eight percent of respondents use remote unimproved roads to access marten

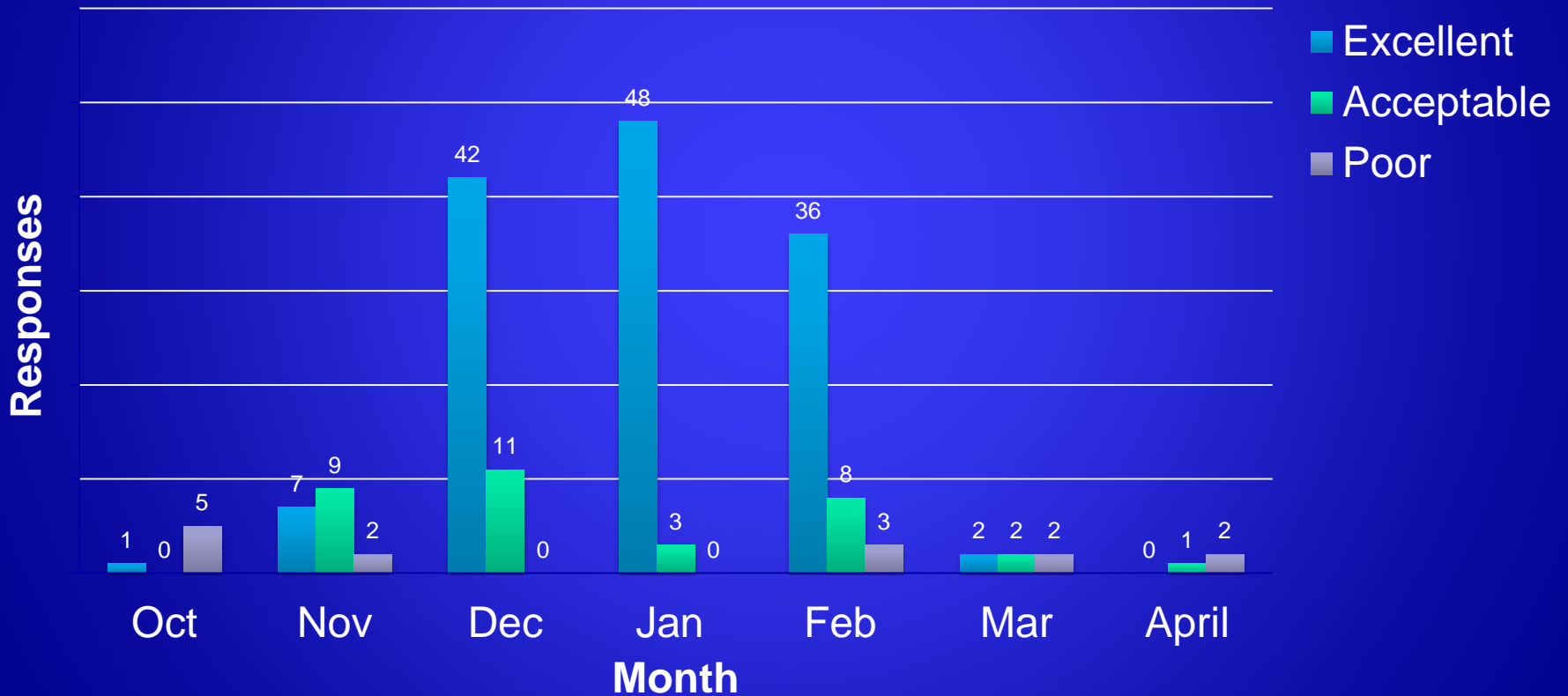
DISCUSSION

Survey Responses on Otter Pelt Primeness



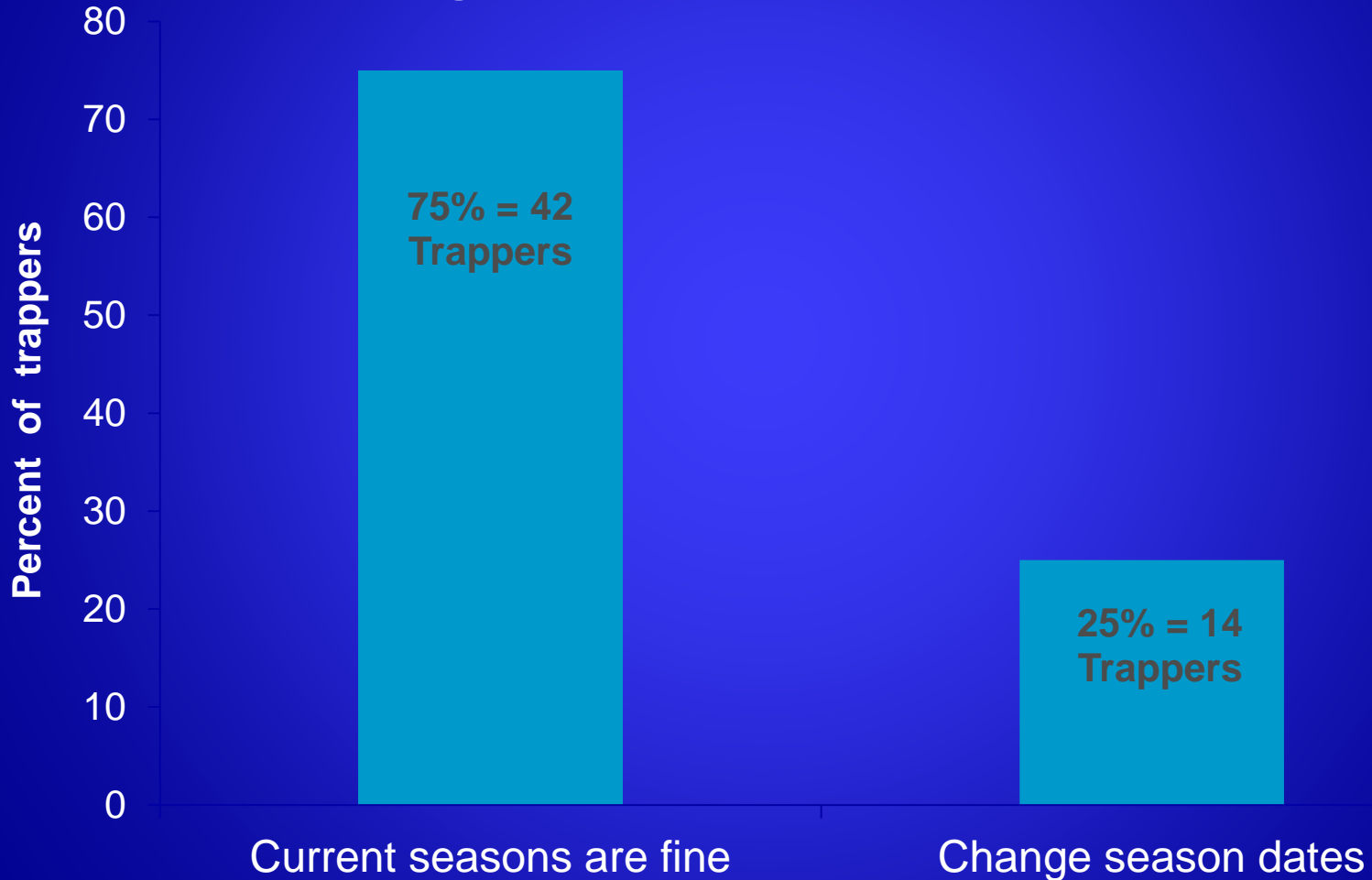
DISCUSSION

Survey Responses on Marten Pelt Primeness



DISCUSSION

Region I trappers' season preference



DISCUSSION

- If this proposal were to pass, the department would prefer to keep the wolf season as is, with a November 1 opening
- The department would also like to remove coyotes from this proposal and address the coyote season separately in proposal 22

SUMMARY

- The department does have some concerns about an earlier season for highly sought after species such as marten
- Better travelling conditions on logging roads in particular could result in a higher harvest and less refugia for marten
 - Sixty eight percent of trappers surveyed used unimproved roads for access
 - Northeast Chichagof Island already has a shortened season because of these concerns

SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Recommendations

Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose
Sitka	Oppose
Juneau/Douglas	<u>Support</u>
Petersburg	<u>Support</u>
Craig	Oppose

CONCLUSION

Based on our survey, most trappers are content to leave seasons as they are, and most believe the present seasons coincide with peak fur primeness

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation

Proposal 22

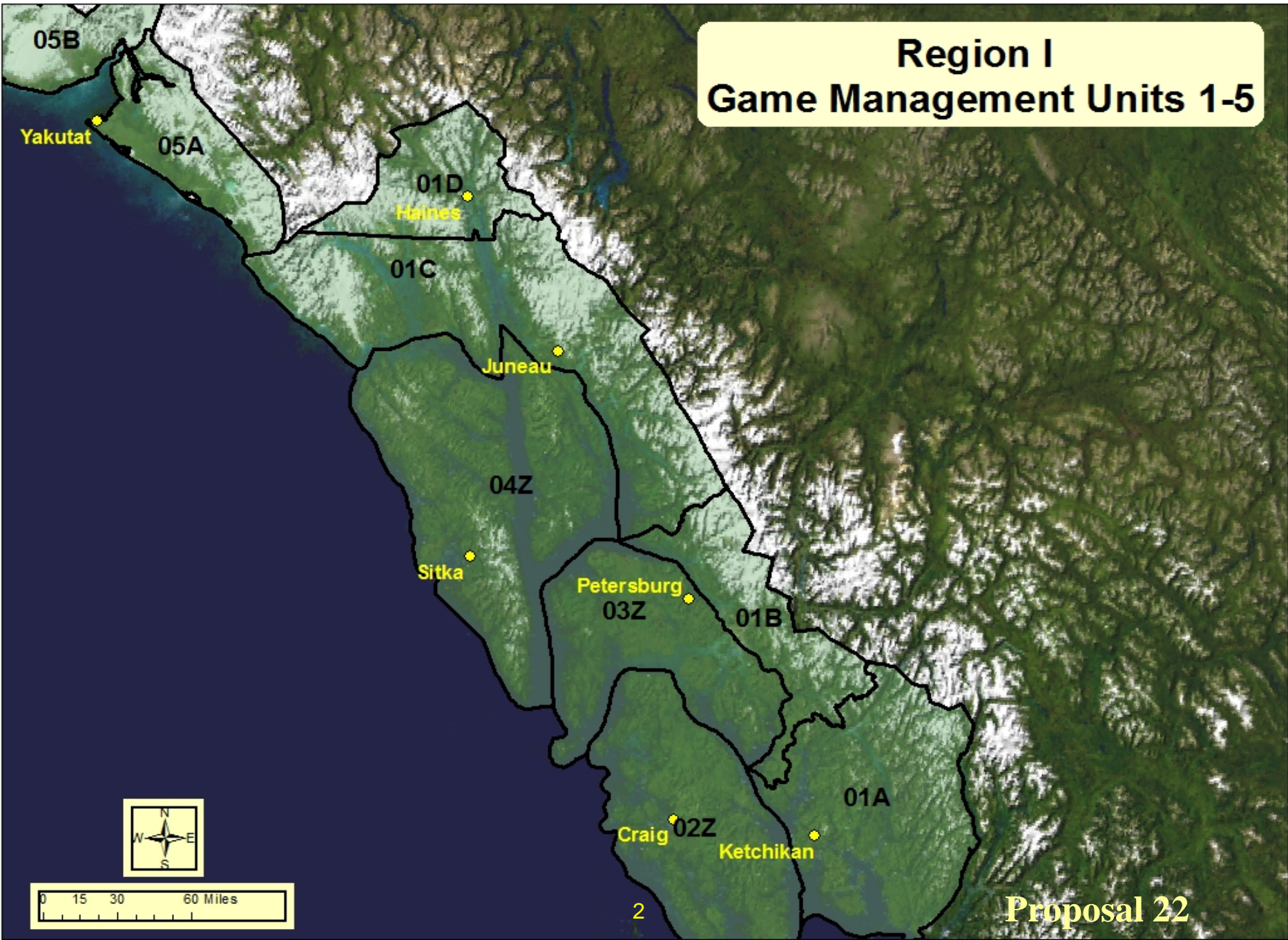
This proposal would lengthen the coyote trapping season in Units 1-5

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Amend and Adopt

Region I Game Management Units 1-5



Discussion

Current coyote trapping season & bag limit

- **December 1-February 15**
- **No limit**
- **Current population status and distribution unknown**
- **Listed as scarce in ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire**
- **Occurs primarily in northern Southeast, Alaska**
- **Anecdotal information and field observations suggest increasing numbers in Juneau area**
 - **Local trapper harvest**
 - **ADFG incidental catch**
 - **Vehicle collisions**

Discussion

- **Wolf trapping season begins sooner and ends later than coyote**
 - **November 1-April 30**
- **Incidentally caught coyotes outside of season must be surrendered to ADF&G**
- **Federal regulations allow for the retention of incidentally taken coyotes on federal land by federally qualified trappers**

Discussion

- **Coyotes are very adaptable; found in urban, rural and remote locations**
- **Coyotes utilize a variety of prey (small mammals to big game and birds)**
- **Canids rapidly reproduce enabling them to respond to harvest**
- **Sealing coyote pelts would provide information on abundance and distribution**

Conclusion

The department recommends amending this proposal to require sealing of coyotes in Units 1-5

Juneau-Douglas AC Recommendation: Adopt

Upper Lynn Canal AC Recommendation: Adopt

Icy Strait AC Recommendation: Adopt

Yakutat AC Recommendation: Adopt

Department Recommendation:

Amend and Adopt

PROPOSAL 23

This proposal would open resident hunting seasons 7-10 days before nonresident seasons in Southeast Alaska

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation

DISCUSSION

- This is an allocation issue between residents and nonresidents
- AS16.05.255 (d) states that “regulations adopted....must provide that, consistent with the provisions of AS 16.05.258, the taking of moose, deer, elk, and caribou by residents for personal or family consumption has preference over taking by nonresidents”

DISCUSSION

- This proposal does not identify any particular populations or species, but rather addresses “all hunting seasons”
- The broad scope of this proposal would include not only moose, deer, and elk as listed in AS 16.05.255 (d), but also all other species of big game found in Southeast Alaska, as well as small game, fur animals, unclassified game and deleterious exotic wildlife

CONCLUSION

This is strictly an allocation issue between residents and nonresidents

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation

PROPOSAL 24

This proposal would open resident hunting seasons 7 days before nonresident seasons in Southeast Alaska

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

Take No Action

PROPOSAL 25

This proposal would open the resident hunting seasons 10 days before nonresident seasons, and;

- Allocate 90% of the harvest to residents;
- Remove guide requirements;
- Increase fees in Southeast Alaska units

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation

DISCUSSION

- This is an allocation issue between residents and nonresidents
- However, the department does manage non resident black bear hunting in Units 1-3 through draw permits which are only required for nonresidents
- The black bear drawing hunts along with many other hunts in Southeast Alaska would have to change dramatically were this proposal adopted

DISCUSSION

- There are two other recommendations of this proposal:
 - Remove guide requirements for nonresidents for sheep, goats, and brown bears;
 - Increase tag fees for nonresident hunters
 - The board of game does not have authority to act on either of these two recommendations

CONCLUSION

This is strictly an allocation issue between residents and nonresidents

Department Recommendation

No Recommendation

PROPOSAL 26

This proposal would allocate 90% of the drawing permits to residents and eliminate nonresident participation in hunts with ten or less permits for Southeast Alaska units

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

Take No Action

PROPOSAL 27

This proposal would limit drawing permits to 10% for nonresidents in Southeast Alaska

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

Take No Action

Discussion

This is an allocation issue between residents and nonresidents.

- However, a drawing permit is required for unguided nonresident black bear hunters in Units 1-3.
- In this case, 100% of the permits are going to nonresident hunters.

PROPOSAL 28

This proposal would allocate a certain percentage of permits to nonresident hunters and eliminate nonresident participation in those hunts with small numbers of permits

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

Take No Action