

SITKA AREA OVERVIEW

GMU 4

BOARD OF GAME

JANUARY 2013 - SITKA

GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT 4

- 5,800 square miles
- 5,000 miles of coastline
- Population ~11,500.
- 3 major islands; Admiralty, Baranof, and Chichagof Is.
- Healthcare, government, seafood processing, services, education and tourism remain the major forces in the economy.





Sitka 2013

- ~ 8950 residents
- Sheldon Jackson College to Sitka Fine Arts, decline in SEARHC and USFS operations/personnel, 63% decline in cruise ship passengers over the last 4 years, increase in seafood revenue

DWC PERSONNEL

- **Area Biologist**
 - Phil Mooney

- **Program Technician**
 - Holley Dennison



Sitka Area Office

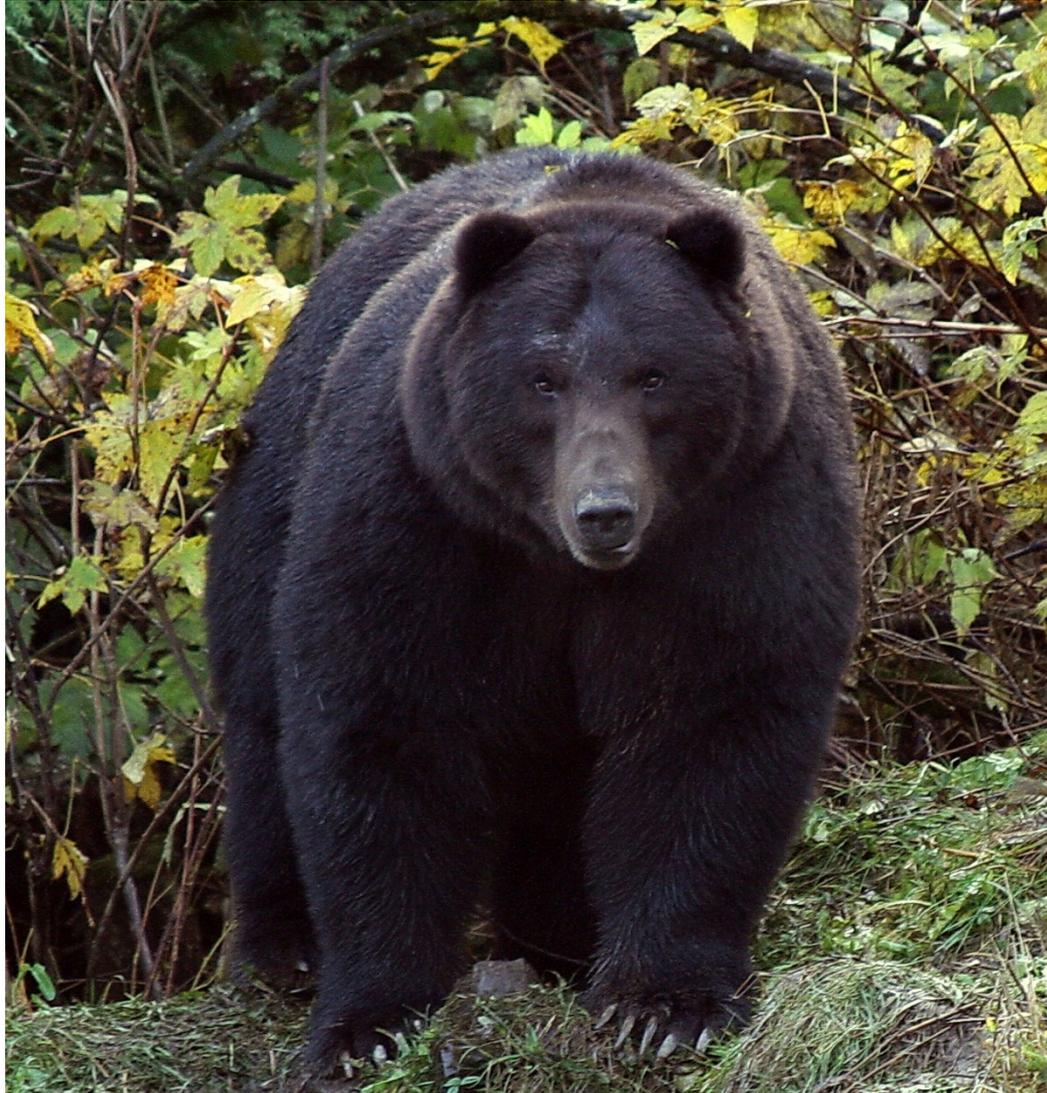


Commercial Fisheries: Kristen Case, Lyndsey Jensen,

Sport Fish: Monica Matz

Wildlife Conservation, Holley Dennison

BROWN BEAR



- High density
- Nonconsumptive uses very important
- BBMS – adopted 2000
- Average >725 permits issued/year
- DLP kills averaged 9 bears/yr

Education

- Bear safety, behavior presentations (~20 /yr)
- Hazing/safety protocols/wounding training with PDs, remote fish weir operations,



Sitka PD officers help with collared sow and 2 cubs in



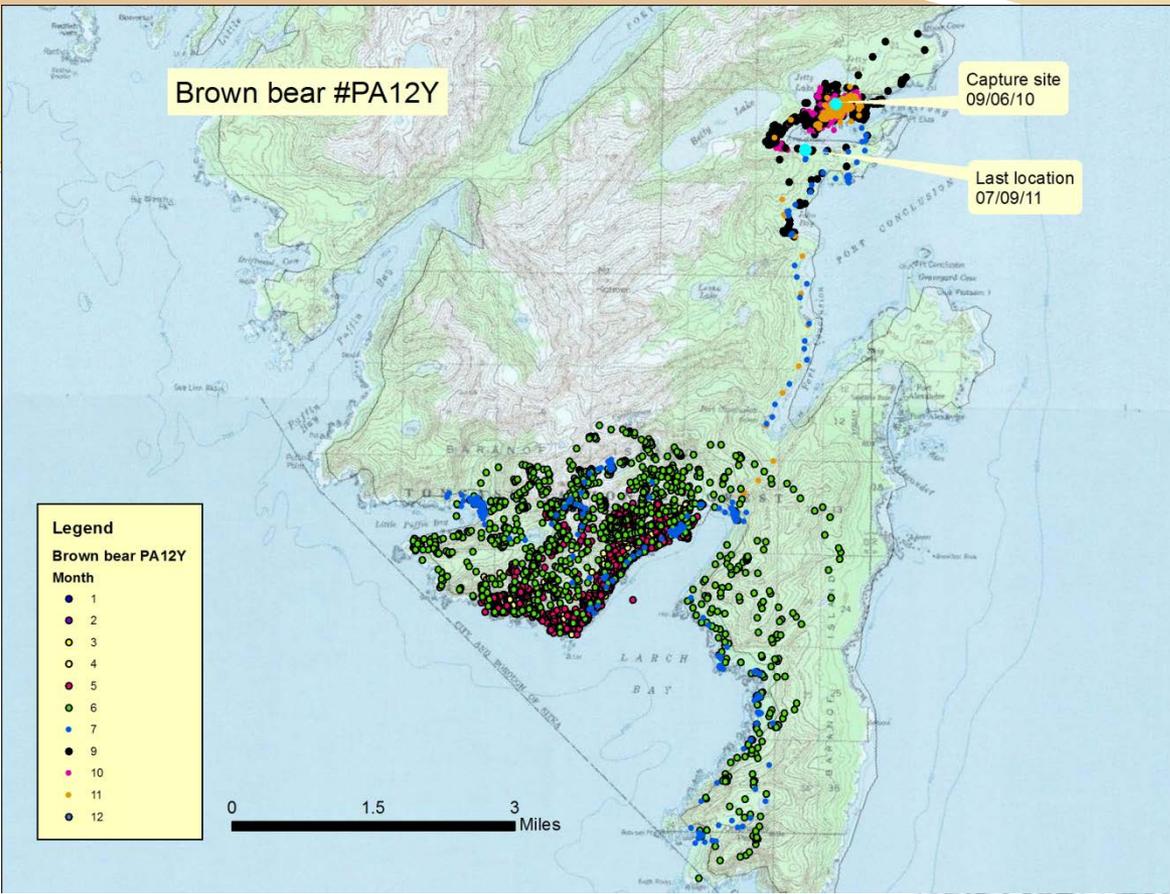
Brown bear #PA12Y

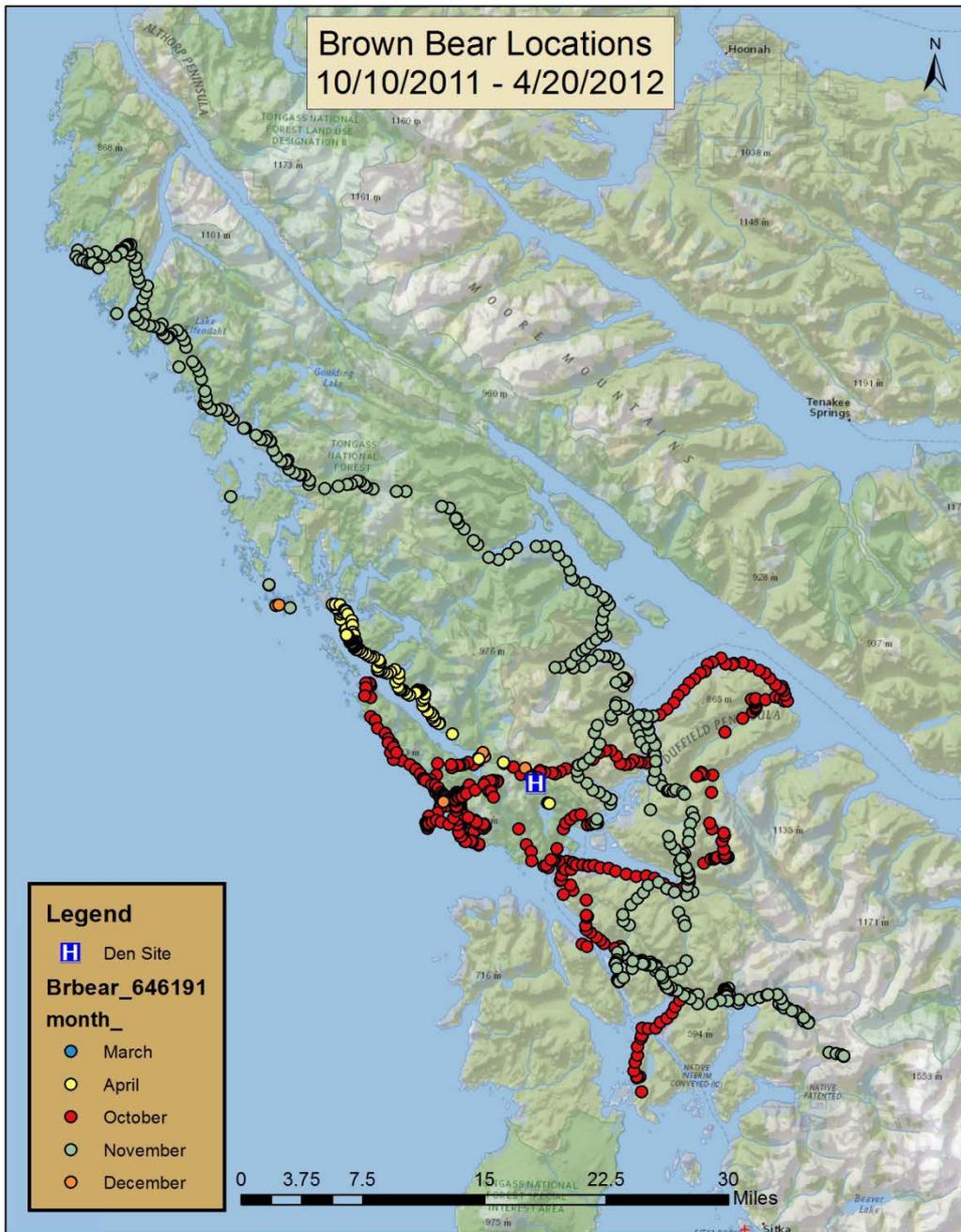
Capture site
09/06/10

Last location
07/09/11

Legend
Brown bear PA12Y
Month

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12





June 13, 2012 – Olga Strait

SITKA BLACK -TAILED DEER

- High subsistence use of meat
- Very important for recreation (~60% of SE harvest that has significantly decreased since 2006-07)
- ~5000 harvested in 2011
- Weather/winter habitat are population's limiting factors





- **Winter of 2006-07 had record for snow depth. March 2007 snowfall cut the population from 45-80%**
- **Doe closure for NE Chichagof area issued 2007 - 2012**

• **NE Chichagof deer collaring project began in fall 2008**

Except for NE Chichagof, and small portions of E Admiralty, W Chichagof, the bulk of Unit appears to have a rebounding population.





Since December of 2006:

- **conducted a yearly average of 700 miles of shoreline deer condition surveys Jan-April**
- **conducted 12-22 beach mortality surveys annually**
- **captured/collared 32 deer in the Freshwater Bay complex - NECH**

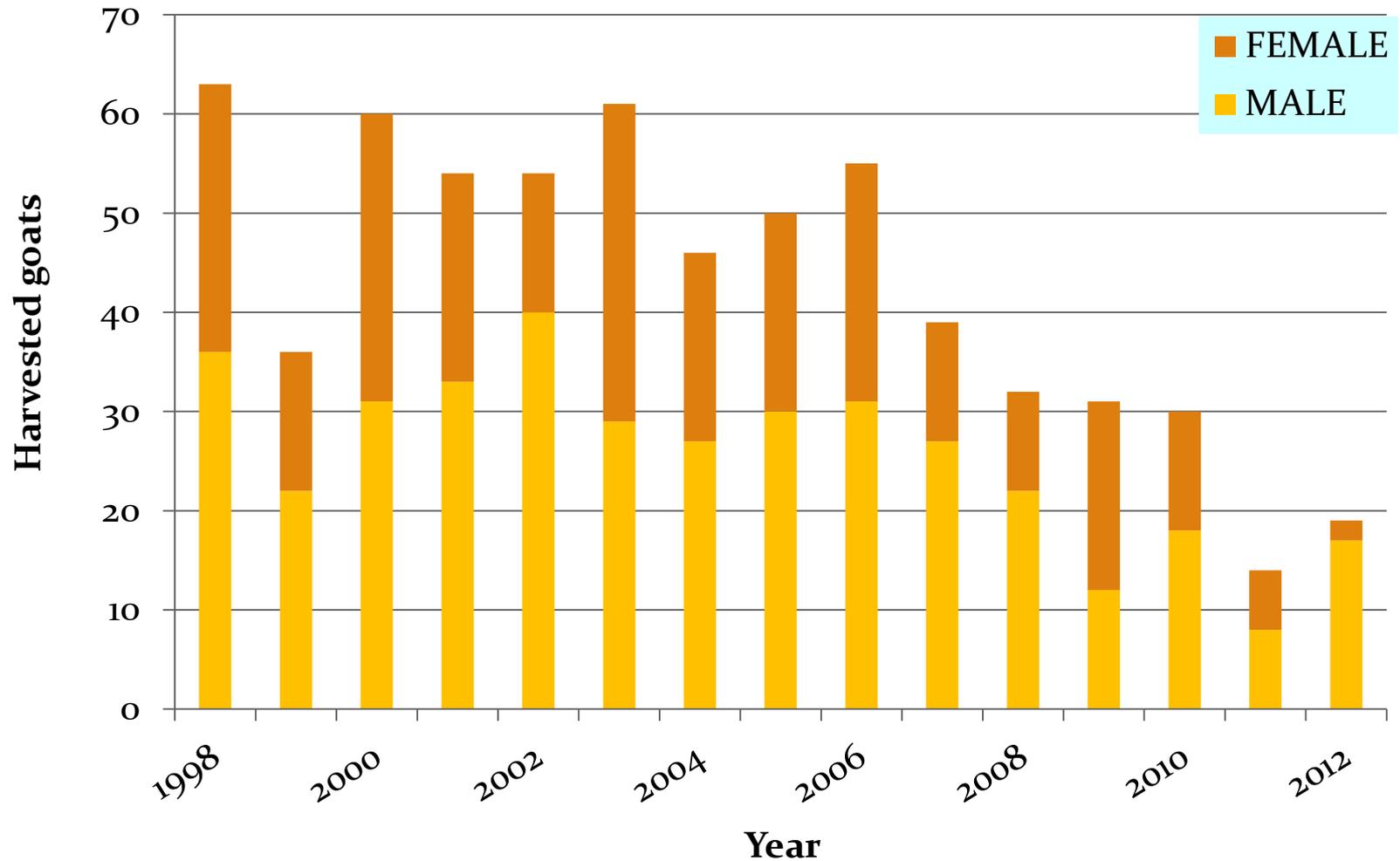


MOUNTAIN GOAT



- Baranof Island - transplanted population (1923 – 18 animals)
- Important local species; estimated population <900
- Harvest 19-78 annually

Mountain Goat Harvest 1998-2012





Partnered with Sitka C&B, USFS to collar 32 goats in 2010-12 as part of the Blue Lake Dam and Takatz Lake hydroelectric project analysis.

Genetic analysis of tissue samples gathered from hunters shows two distinct and separate signatures.

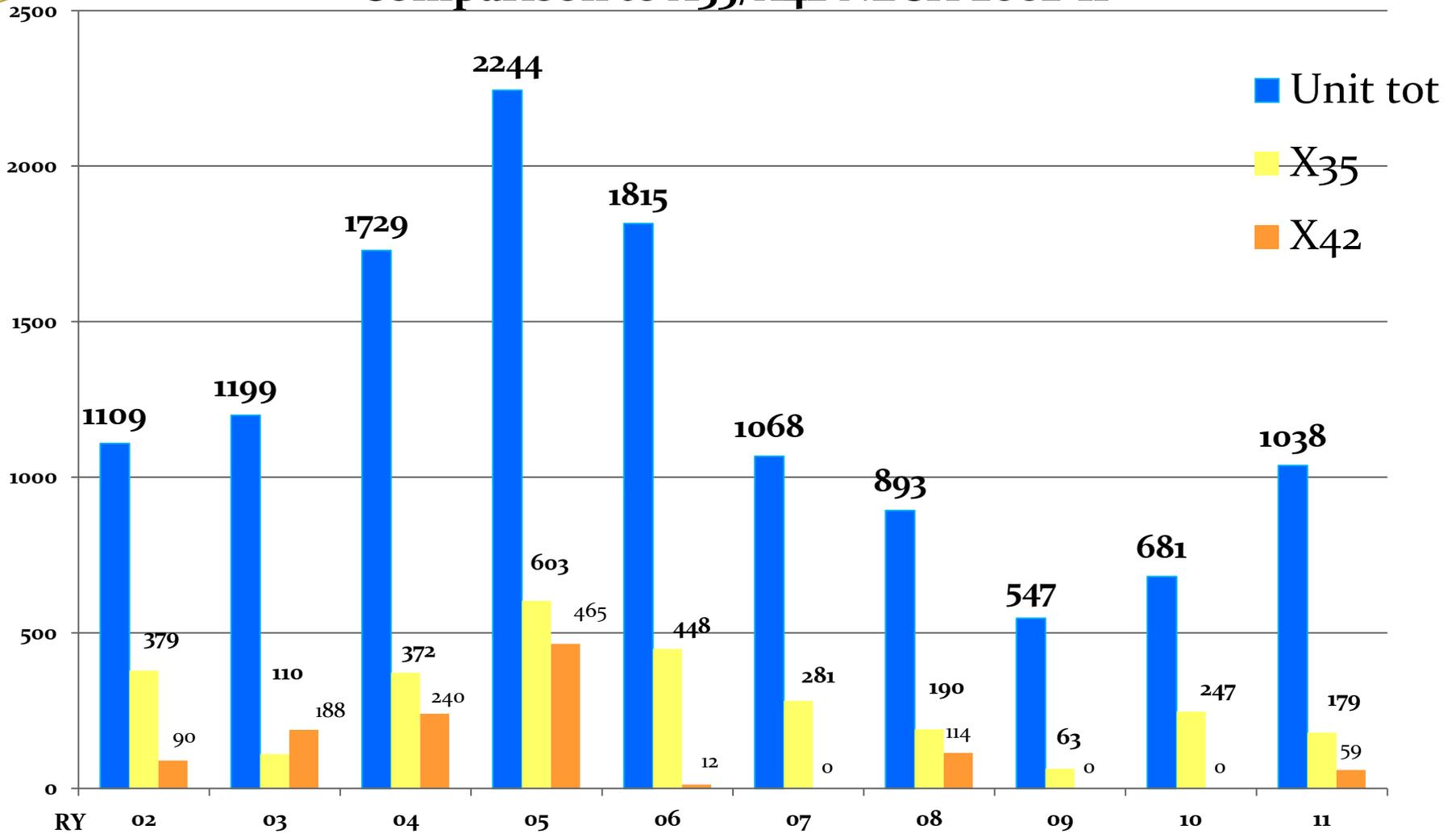


MARTEN

- Annual harvest 250 - 2,225 animals (fur value 05-06 ~ \$258K - up from \$90K two yrs ago). 2007 values \$140/pelt. 2009 ~\$110
- 2012 ~\$110
- Populations were down 2006-11 but came up in 2011. Prices are up 10 \$110 currently
- Habitat changes may reduce populations



Unit 4 Marten Harvest Comparison to X35/X42 NECH 2002-11

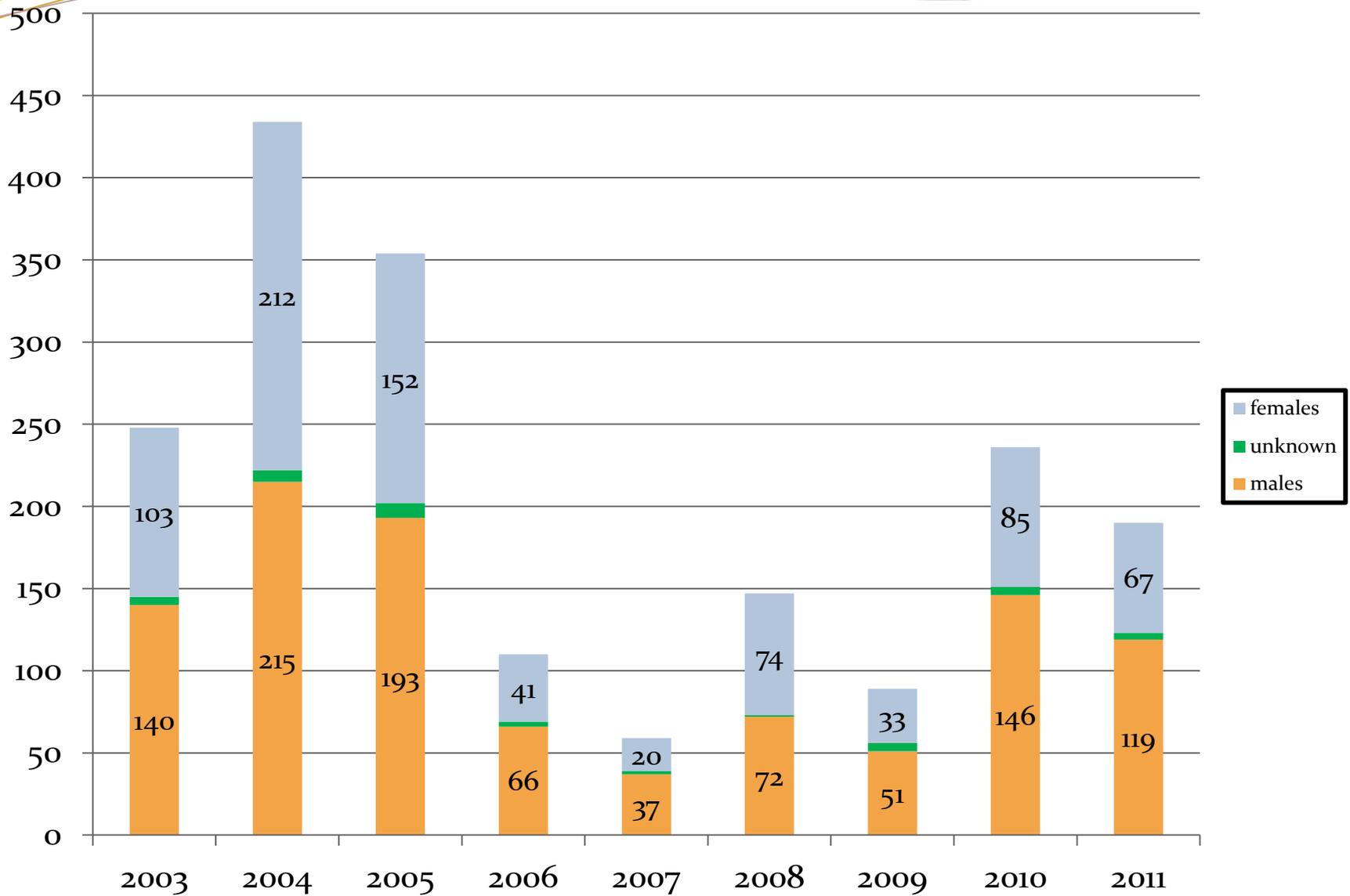


RIVER OTTER



- **Harvest is variable**
- **Fur value has varied from \$80-\$200 in the last decade**

Unit 4 otter harvest 2003-2011

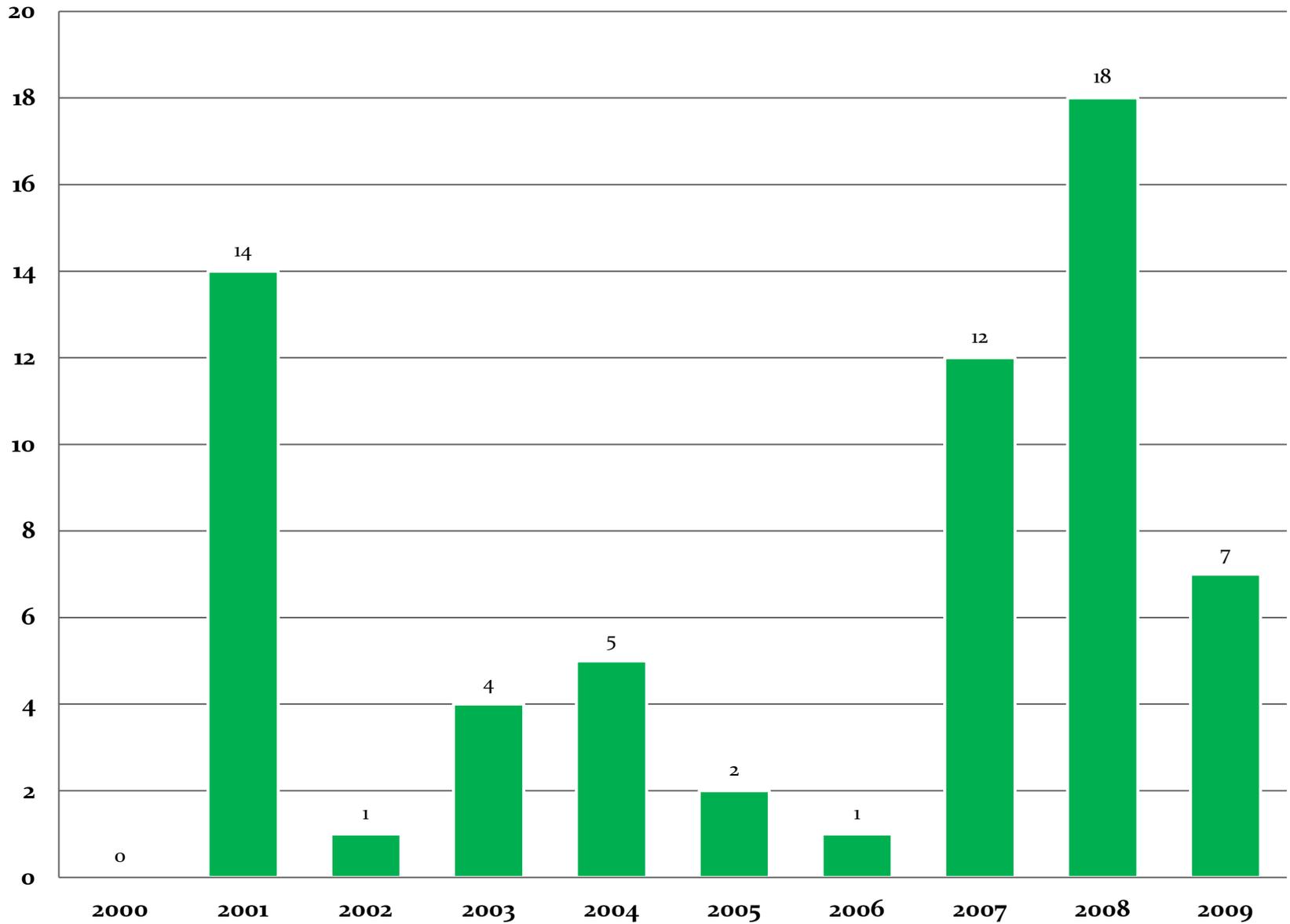


Beaver

- **Season has reduced nuisance permits**
- **Limited fur value and work to process has offset the initial novelty of a new season**



Unit 4 Beaver Harvest 2000-09



MINK



- **Previous low pelt prices have risen to >\$18**
- **No sealing required**

OTHER GAME / FUR SPECIES



Programs



Sirka HE Aug 13, 2005



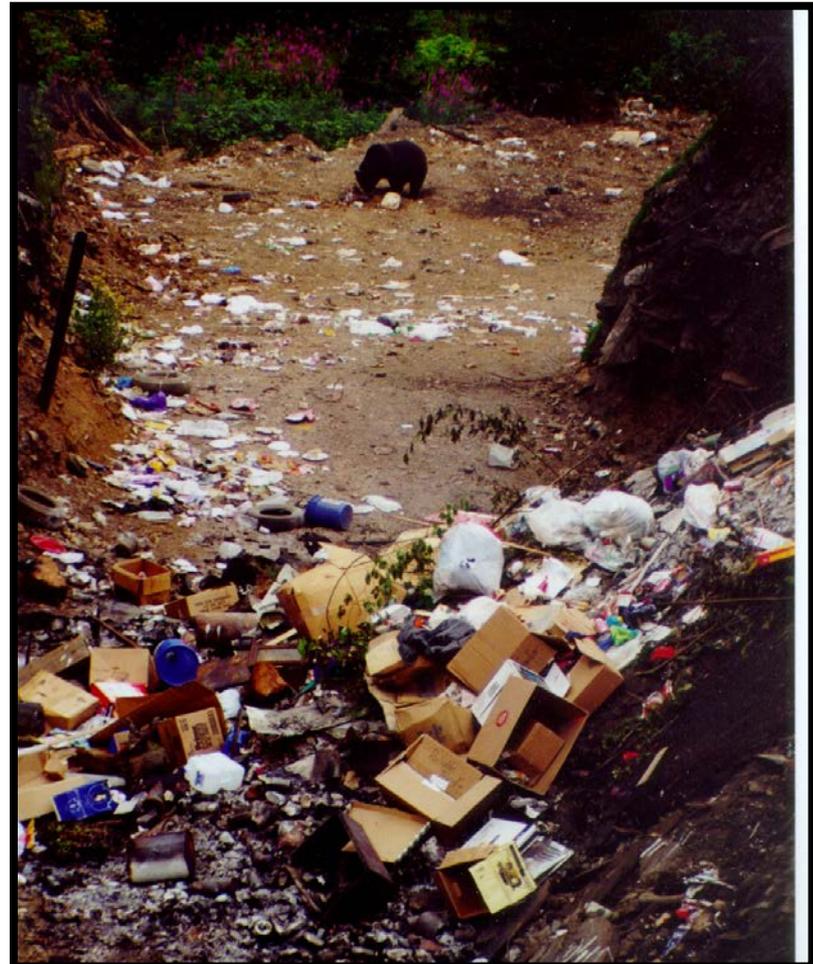
MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

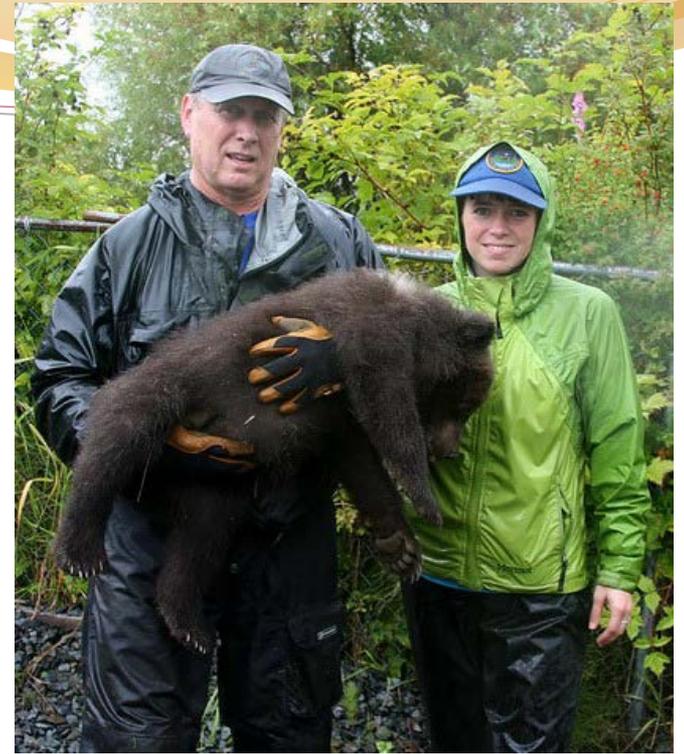


Habitat alteration due to logging – amount and location of 2nd growth stands and their treatment

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Brown bear/human interactions









- Taser- initial effort in Southeast Region was in August 2009 at the Yakutat landfill. Control group were radio-collared bears captured earlier in the year at the site. Work was videotaped and Taser, Inc. staff took back results to R&D to redesign hardware.



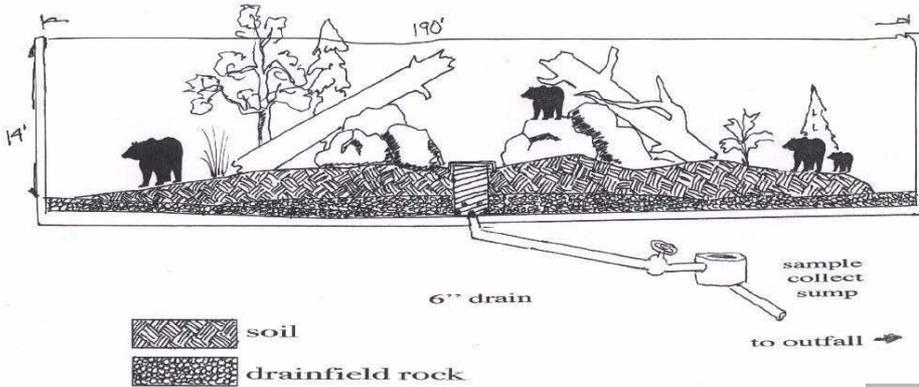
September 4-10, 2010 at the Little Port Walter Fish Research Facility and Port Armstrong Hatchery. Re-designed hardware for the new handheld (X3W) and the 12 ga. shotgun round (XREP). 10 successful deployments. 62 successful ECD deployments this year. Visual and acoustic hazing abilities are being developed.

Management Concerns



Fortress of the Bear

Secondary Clarifier Tank



Kootznahoo
fortress of the bear

- Permitted in July 2007
- 2 COY entered the facility (July 27 and Sept 20, 2007)
- 3 COY entered 2010
- 30,000 visitors in 2012



QUESTIONS?

