

Rc 45

5 AAC 92.xxx. Nonresident Permit for Falconry

- (a) A Non-resident permit issued by the department and a valid, current non resident Alaska hunting license is required for the taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry purposes. The permit will be issued under the standards, procedures, and conditions of the *Alaska Falconry Manual No. 9* dated July 1, 2012. The *manual* is hereby adopted as reference. Only a bird defined in 5AAC 92.037(f) may be taken, held, transported, and exported from the state under a valid export permit issued by the department.
- (b) Up to five (5) nonresident permits may be issued each calendar year for the take of raptors in Alaska.
- (c) Applicants for a nonresident raptor capture permit must apply to the department prior to December 31 of the previous year. Suggested date, date is at Department's discretion). The list of successful applicants will be published by the last day of the following February (suggested date, date is at department's discretion). Each capture permit will be valid for the take of one raptor from the approved list of raptors from *Alaska Falconry Manual No. 9*. A valid Alaska nonresident hunting license must be purchased prior to applying for a capture permit (this is the current requirement for all drawing permits).
- (d) The permit-tee must hold the appropriate class falconry license issued from a state with an approved falconry program to possess the species of raptor he or she plans to take.
- (e) Capture dates for nonresident take of raptors in Alaska are September 1 through December 31.
- (f) Each permit-tee must check-in in person with the department's regional falconry representative or his/her designee prior to entering the field to take a bird. The permit-tee must provide information to the department about the species of bird to be taken, location of take, time frame trapping efforts will be undertaken and any additional information required by the department. Permit-tees who successfully take a raptor must check-in in person with the department's regional falconry representative or his/her

Submitted By
ALASKA Falconers Association

designee and produce the raptor for inspection within 7 days of the take (time frame is at Department's discretion).

- (g) Written land owner permission must be in the permit-tee's possession when taking a raptor on private or public lands where required.
- (h) Raptors must be banded at the time of take using the appropriate black marker if appropriate for the species taken.
- (i) A permit winner may not apply for another non-resident capture permit for a period of five years.
- (j) A person may not receive financial or material remuneration for accompanying a non-resident permit holder in the field in the attempt to locate and take a raptor for the permit holder.
- (k) This regulation will sunset on June 30 of 2016.

LKAC COMMENTS ON STATEWIDE BGC PROPOSALS cont'd

#127: Oppose. Proponents are asserting their ^{personal, abstract} & philosophical preference to statewide status, that is detrimental to management of populations to provide for 1 on the table for large groups of Alaskans. Bear populations are not threatened by this ^{activity} allowance in ^{specific} ~~certain~~ areas.

#131 - Support - Concur w/ need to increase / ~~bring back~~ 19A moose populations

Differed proposals from AYK meeting.

#14: ^{4/19} Oppose. ^{Unnecessary!} If there was/is a perceived problem with non-resident harvest competition preventing adequate subsistence harvest, the people affected ^{should} generate proposals to address it.

#18: Support - LKAC proposal - Agree w/ Dept's proposed amendment, but would like to keep ^{specific} regulatory reference that trapper may reset again in the same place or area ^{492,085} during subsequent trapping seasons.

Though this may seem redundant it evidently bears repeated clarification as the enforcement officer who issued a citation in a subsequent year stated as reason that the trapper "should have known better than to set ^{around} there again" when incidental take occurred in same area. The case was eventually dismissed by Courts, but only at trappers hardship & personal expense to contest the citation.

#P.S. P.D. Note of Expedited Implementation for proposal #8
^{Nov 11-14, 2011}
 passed at Barrow BGC meeting just signed on Thursday, Jan 12, 2012.

PROPOSAL 51A

RC

47

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. The department may apply any or all of the following additional conditions to a permit hunt, when necessary for management of the species hunted:

...

(XX) a permittee shall be required to submit the degrees and minutes of latitude and longitude of the kill location on the permit hunt report;

...

Proposal 51A – Statewide

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

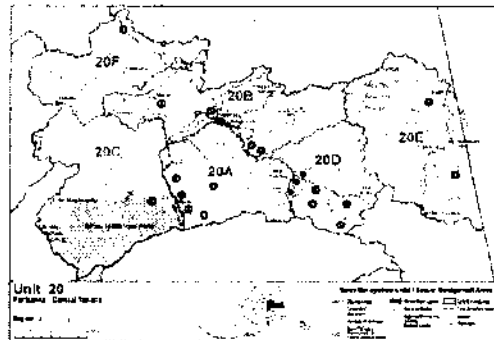
(14) a permittee shall be required to submit the degrees and minutes of latitude and longitude of the kill location on the permit hunt report;

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

Proposal 51A – Statewide

RATIONALE:

- There is considerable resistance to antlerless moose hunts in Units 20A and 20B.
- Much of that resistance can be attributed to localized overharvest (real and perceived).
- Department needs a way to track (spatially) cow harvest in order to guard against and respond to public concerns regarding localized overharvest.



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Proposal 51A – Statewide

RATIONALE:

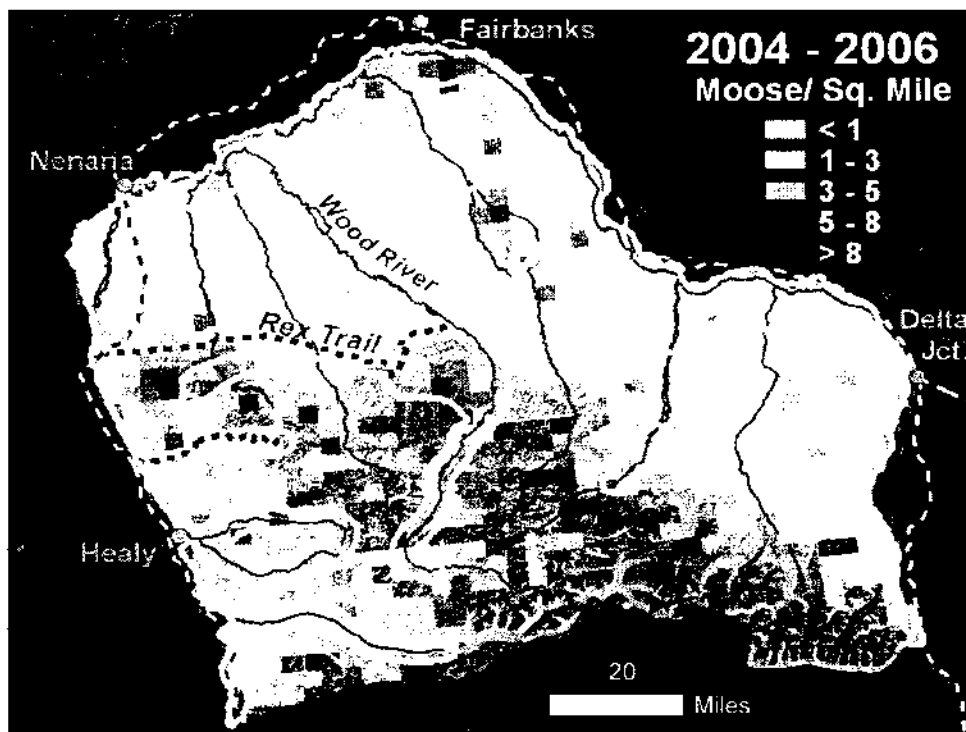
- More precise harvest distribution information (i.e., kill locations) is needed to more effectively manage harvest in relation to moose density, distribution, and access corridors (e.g., roads, trails, river corridors, private property, etc.).
- This information would be used to better distribute hunters/harvest across the landscape and improve the quality of the permit hunts.

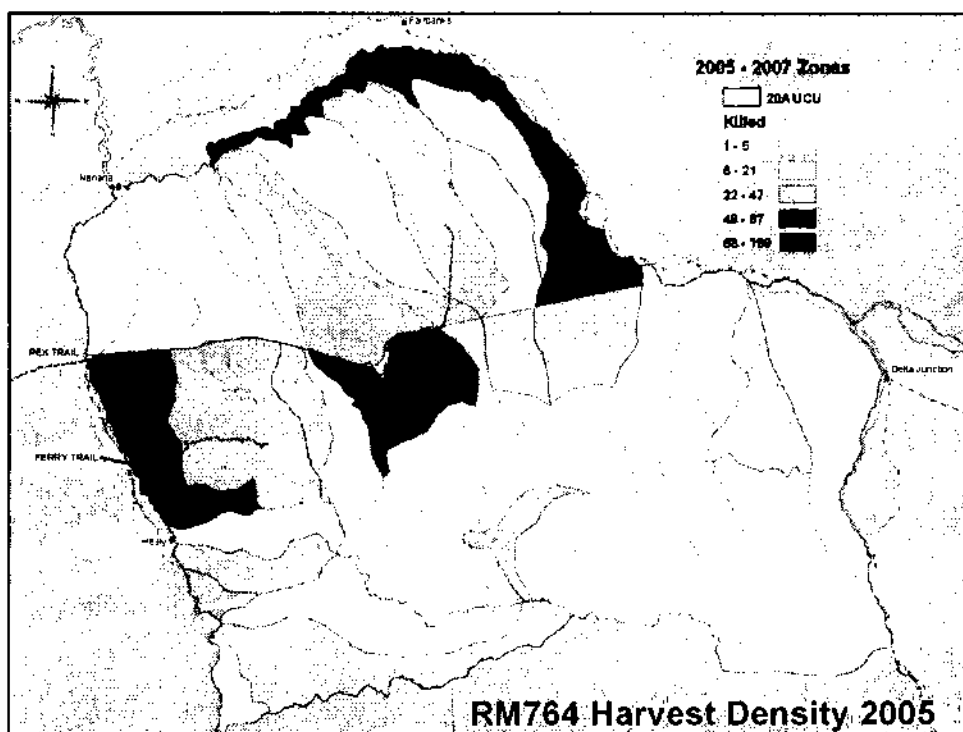
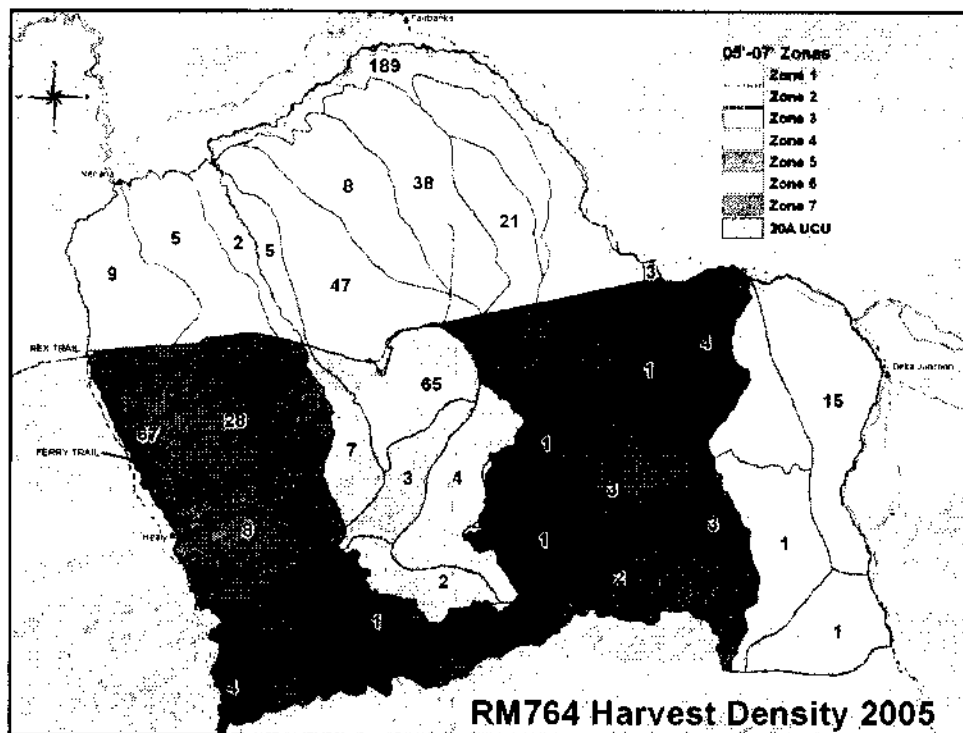
Proposal 51A – Statewide

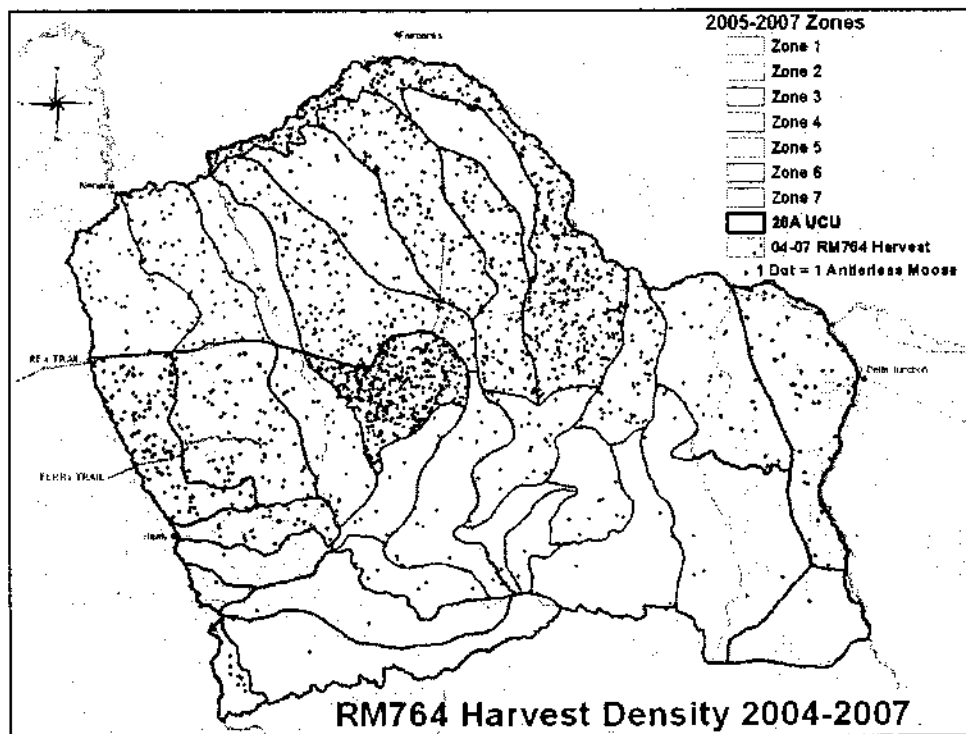
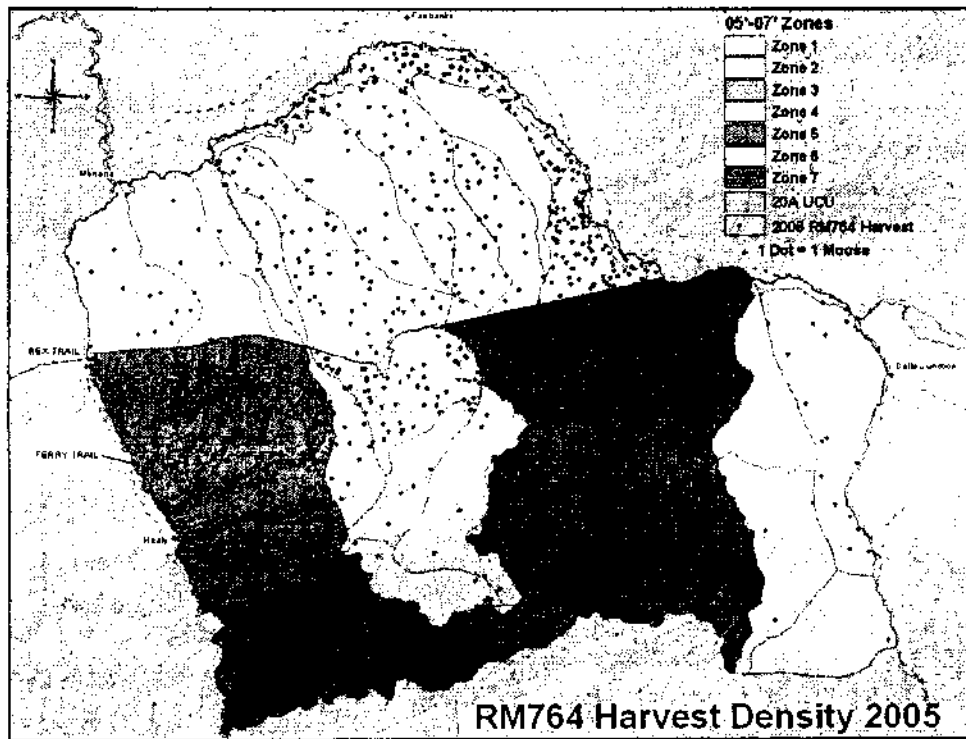
- Without better information, the Department will have continued difficulty addressing human conflicts and localized overharvest (real and perceived) in these intensively managed hunts.
- The Department has asked hunters to voluntarily provide latitude and longitude of kill locations on their harvest reports, but participation has been low.
- This regulatory change would not require a GPS.
- Hunters could obtain latitude/longitude from USGS map, Google Earth or GPS, whichever is most convenient.

Proposal 51A – Statewide

- Fairbanks AC opposed this proposal arguing that the Department has the authority to require latitude and longitude of the kill location under 5 AAC 92.052 (14) a permittee shall submit, on a form supplied by the Department, information requested by the Department about the hunt...
- Department mandated to manage moose populations intensively (i.e., IM)– asking Board to provide appropriate tools to complement these management programs.







Proposal 51A – Statewide

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

(14) a permittee shall be required to submit the degrees and minutes of latitude and longitude of the kill location on the permit hunt report;

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

PROPOSAL 52A

RC

49

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. The department may apply any or all of the following additional conditions to a permit hunt, when necessary for management of the species hunted:

...

(XX) a permittee shall attach a locking tag to an antler at the kill site;

(XX) a permittee shall be required to keep antlers visible during transport from the field;

...

Proposal 52A – Statewide

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL:

•5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

(25) a permittee shall attach a locking tag to an antler at the kill site;

(26) a permittee shall be required to keep antlers visible during transport from the field;

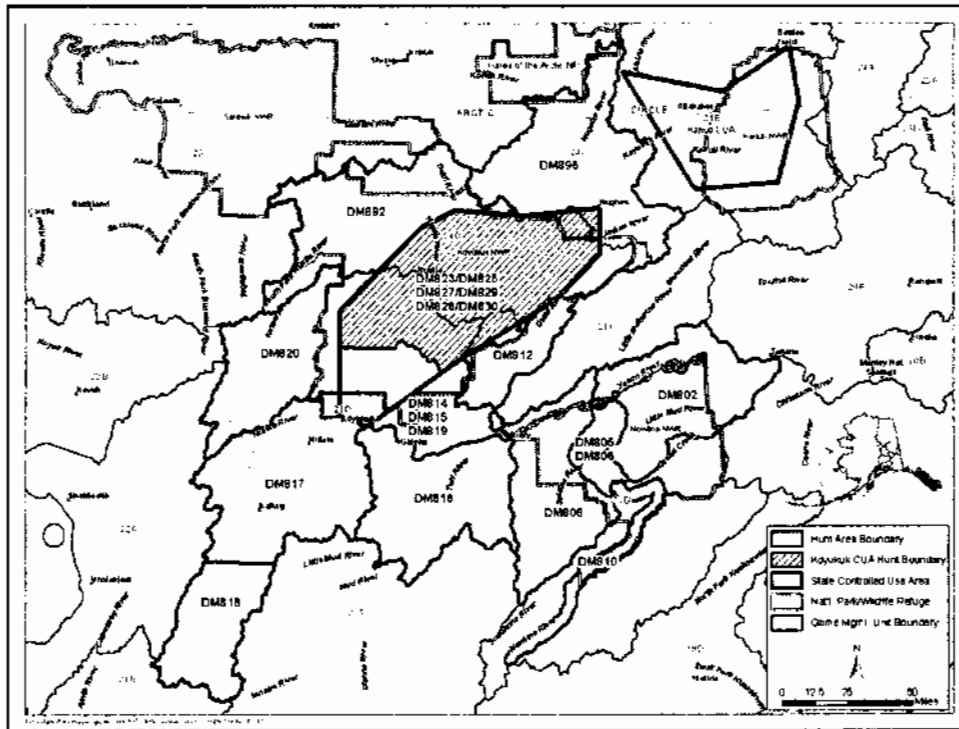
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Amend and Adopt

Proposal 52A – Statewide

RATIONALE:

- Middle Yukon AC recommendation - Adopt
- Ruby AC recommendation - Adopt
- Identical proposal submitted by the Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee (Proposal 209, March 2012 Region III BOG).

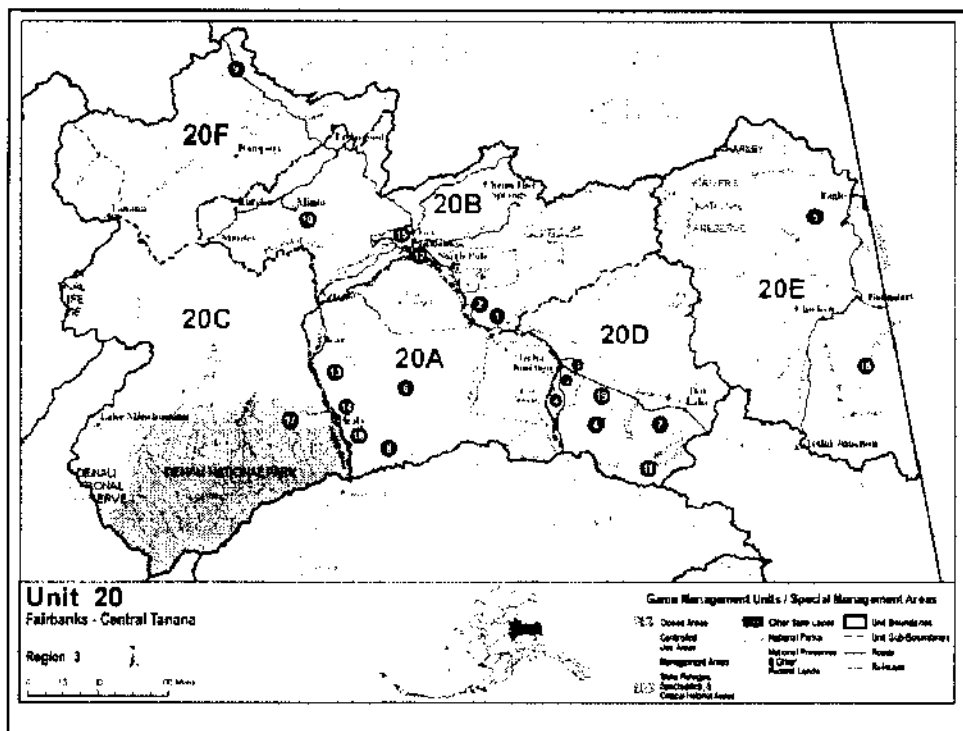
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Proposal 52A – Statewide

RATIONALE:

- Antler tags initially implemented under authority of biological specimen hunt condition.
- This proposal aimed at clarifying the regulatory authority for this hunt condition.
- This regulation - one component of a larger program - has proven to be an effective tool in Galena Mgmt. Area (i.e., helped improve distribution of hunters and harvest resulting in improved bull:cow ratios).
- In addition, we ask the board to consider discretionary authority to require that tagged antlers must remain visible during transport from the field (i.e., Unit 20A).



Proposal 52A – Statewide

RATIONALE:

- In Unit 20A, general season (SF/50-inch regulation) and drawing permit hunts (“any bull”) run concurrently, thus making it difficult for the hunting public when seeing successful hunters transporting bull moose from the field to determine whether that animal was taken legally under the “any bull” drawing permit regulation or illegally under the general SF/50-inch regulation.

Proposal 52A – Statewide

RATIONALE:

- Requiring hunters to attach a locking tag at the kill site and keep the antlers visible during transport from the field will allow the hunting public to become more involved in recognizing and reporting said violations.
- In addition, this regulation may reduce the take of “sublegal” bulls during the general season antler restricted hunt because hunters will know they are being more closely scrutinized by fellow hunters.

Proposal 52A – Statewide

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: Amend and Adopt

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

(25) a permittee shall attach a locking tag to an antler at the kill site;

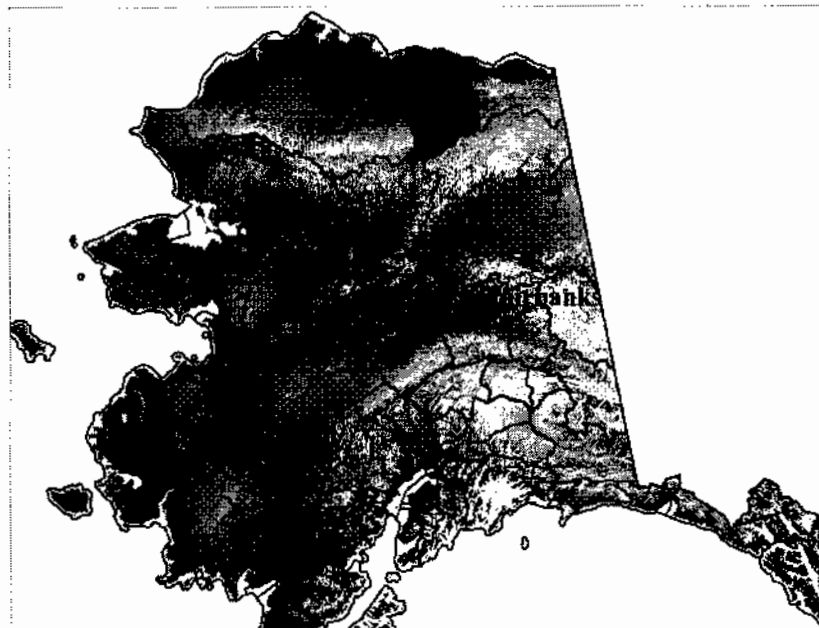
(26) a permittee shall be required to keep antlers visible during transport from the field;

RC 51

Proposal 130

**5 AAC 92.125. Intensive Management Plans.
Authorizes a predator control program in Unit 26B.**

- To allow for lethal removal of brown bears by Department personnel--to reduce predation on muskoxen
- Department proposal

**Unit 26B**

Program Objective:

To reduce brown bear predation on muskoxen in Unit 26B to:

- **increase the muskox population from 190 to at least 300 muskoxen \geq 1 year old**
 - ✓ **take at least 7 years if the strategy we propose is successful**
- **reinstate a hunting season for muskox in Unit 26B after population reaches 300 \geq 1 year old**
 - ✓ **Tier II hunt; 3–9 permits initially**

HOW to implement:

Selectively remove bears of any sex and age class that are killing or threatening muskox

- **Department personnel would lethally remove bears by**
 - ✓ **shooting from a helicopter**
 - ✓ **land and shoot from a fixed winged aircraft**
- **Probably remove < 10 bears annually, mostly males**
 - ✓ **based on hypothesis that relatively few, mostly males are killing muskoxen**
 - ✓ **bear caused mortality is additional to other mortality**

How cont'd

- The 3-year mean of human caused mortality on bears shall not exceed the estimated harvestable surplus of 21 bears of which 8 can be females.
 - ✓ hunting seasons may need to be adjusted during control program
 - ✓ do not intend to reduce Unit 26B bear population
 - ✓ may reduce bear numbers in a localized area
 - could affect bear hunting & viewing opportunities
- Experimental approach

CONSIDERATIONS:

Involves a tradeoff between harvest & viewing opportunities for bears and viewing and potential harvest opportunities for muskoxen.

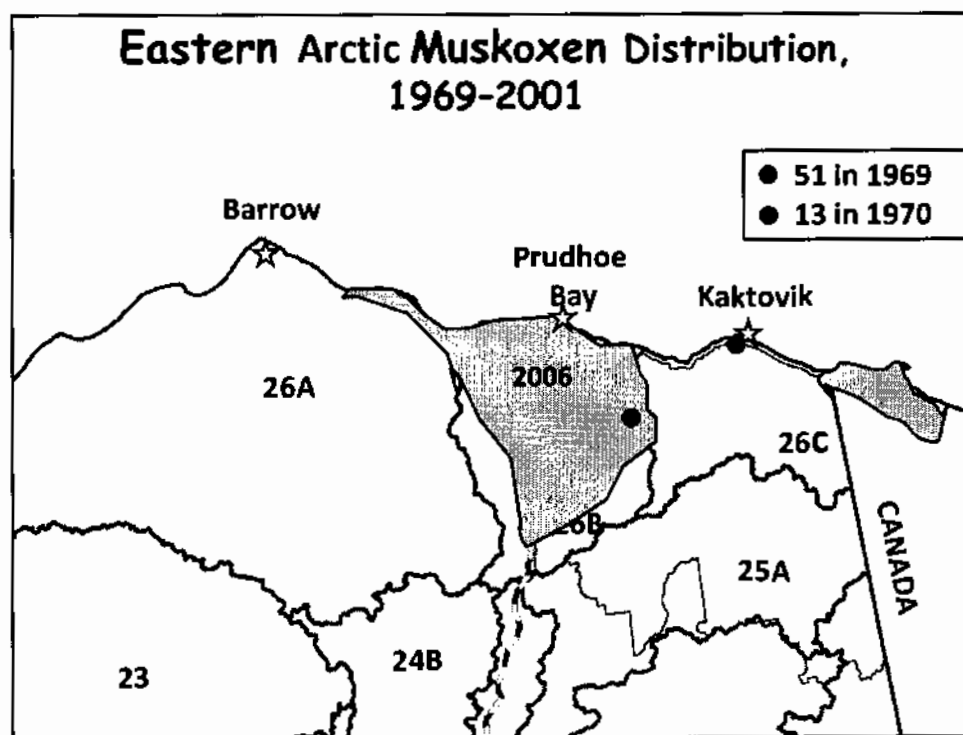
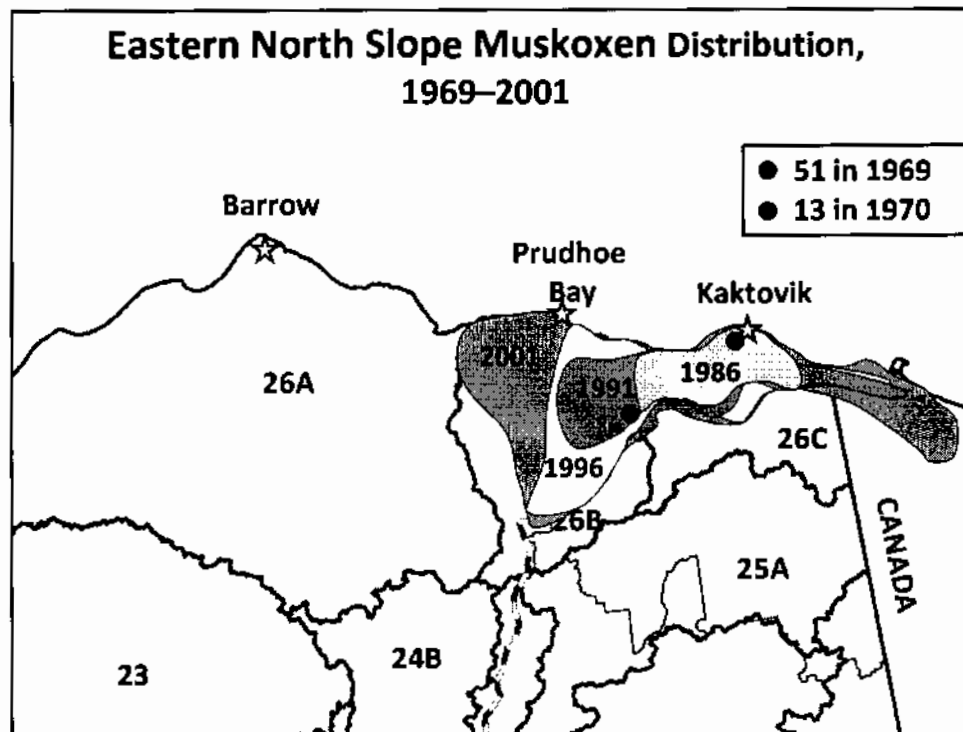


Outline

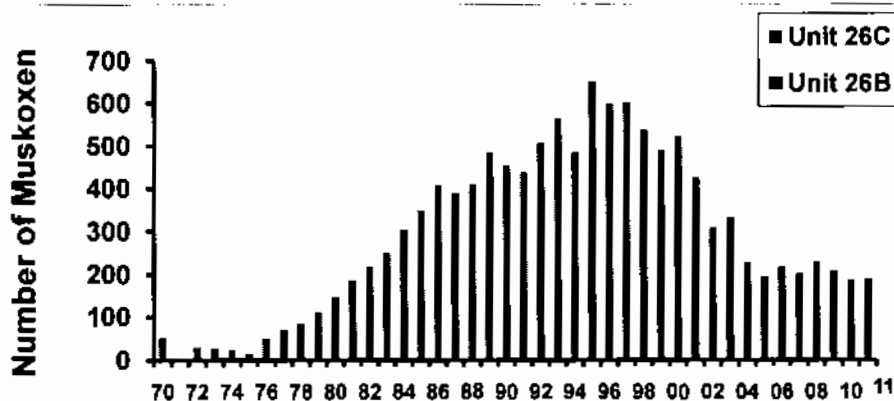
- 1. Muskox -- distribution, population, hunting**
- 2. Brown Bear – population, hunting**
- 3. Results of Muskox Research Project**
- 4. Unit 26B Muskoxen Recovery Plan, 92.125**

Muskoxen on the Eastern North Slope, Alaska





Unit 26B & 26C Muskoxen Population Size, 1970-2011

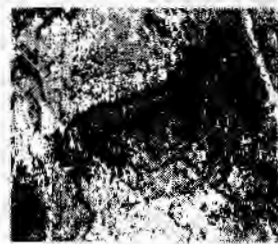


Unit 26B & 26C Muskoxen Hunting & Harvest History



Unit 26C Number of Permits & Hunt Type

- 1982 through 1984 – 5 Draw permits
- 1985 through 1989 – 5 to 10 Registration
- 1990 – 9 Tier II/& Federal
- 1992 through 2001 – 10 to 15 Federal
- 2002 – 2 Federal
- 2003 through 2007 – NO permits
- 2008 – 1 Federal
- 2009 – No permits



Unit 26B Number of Permits & Hunt Type

- 1990 through 1994 – 2 Tier II
- | | <u>26B West</u> | <u>26B East</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| ➤ 1995 through 1997 | 3 Tier II | 2 Tier II |
| ➤ 1998 through 2004
(ANS in 1998) | 9 Tier II | (4) Tier I
& 3 draw for bull |

ANS for Unit 26B muskoxen established in 1998

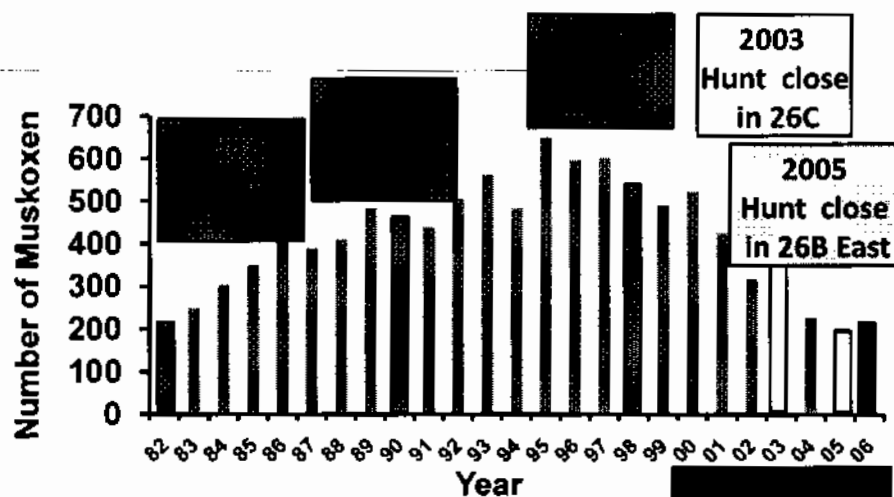
- 20 muskoxen west of the Dalton Hwy
- 4 muskoxen east of the Dalton Hwy

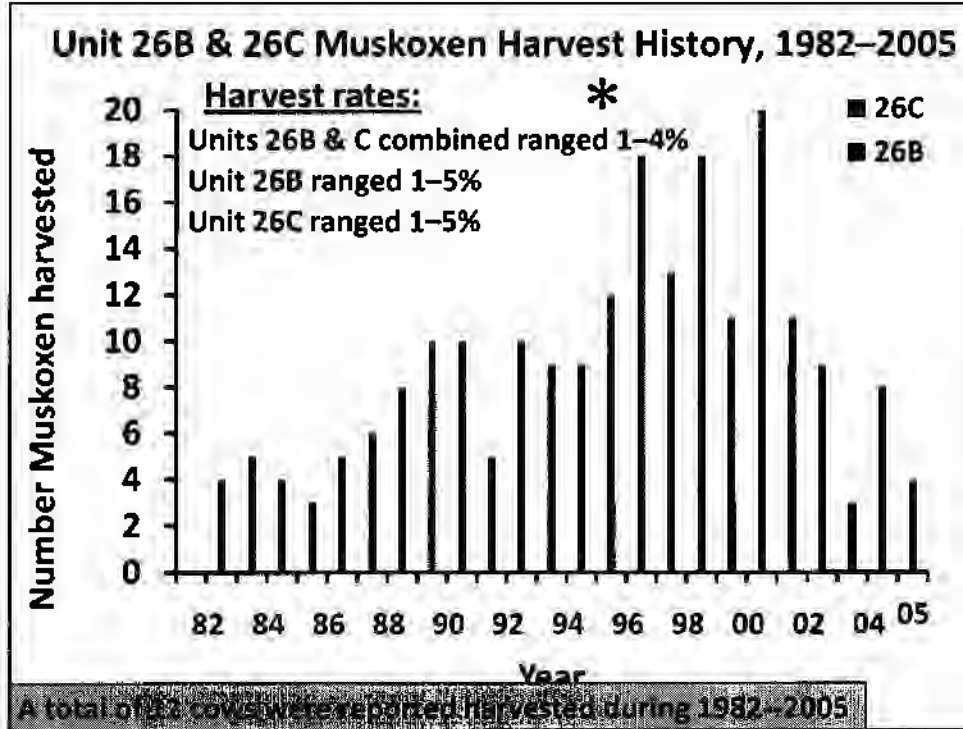
Unit 26B Number of Permits & Hunt Type

➤ 1990 through 1994 – 2 Tier II

	<u>26B West</u>	<u>26B East</u>
➤ 1995 through 1997	3 Tier II	2 Tier II
➤ 1998 through 2004 (ANS in 1998)	9 Tier II	(4) Tier I & 3 draw for bull
➤ 2005	9 Tier II	NO permits
➤ 2006	NO permits	NO permits

Unit 26B & 26C Muskoxen Hunting History

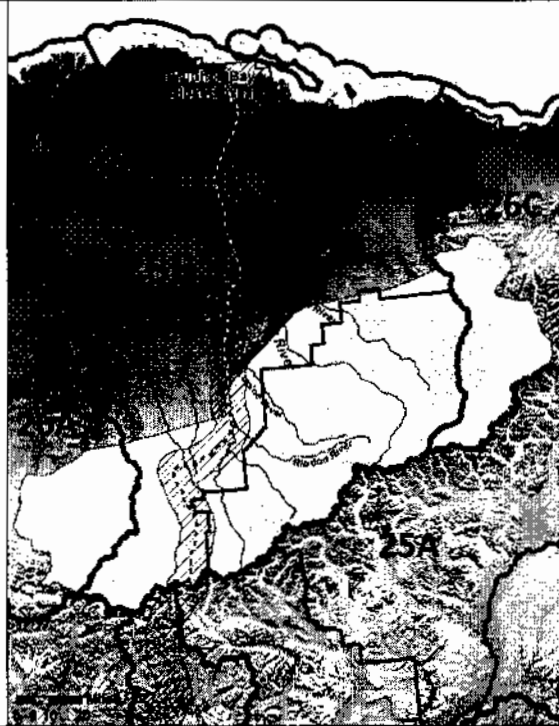




Brown Bears in Unit 26B



**1999–2003
Brown bear
estimate study
area in Unit 26B**



1999–2003 Brown Bear Estimate Results

- Study area was mostly in foothills and mountains
- Extrapolated to coastal plain & > 4000 feet
 - 125 – 250 bears in foothills and mountains ($187 \pm 34\%$)
 - 12 bears in areas > 4000 feet
 - 66 bears on coastal plain

Estimated population size in Unit 26B

- ✓ 200 – 320 (midpoint = 265 bears)
- ✓ Approx. same estimate as in late 1980s based on extrapolation from studies from other areas

Unit 26B Brown bear harvestable surplus objectives

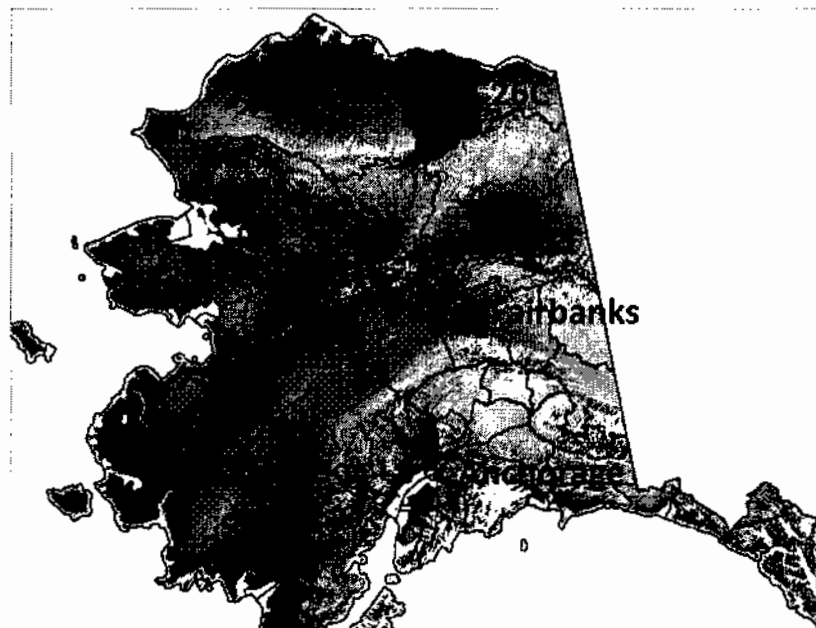
1990—2010

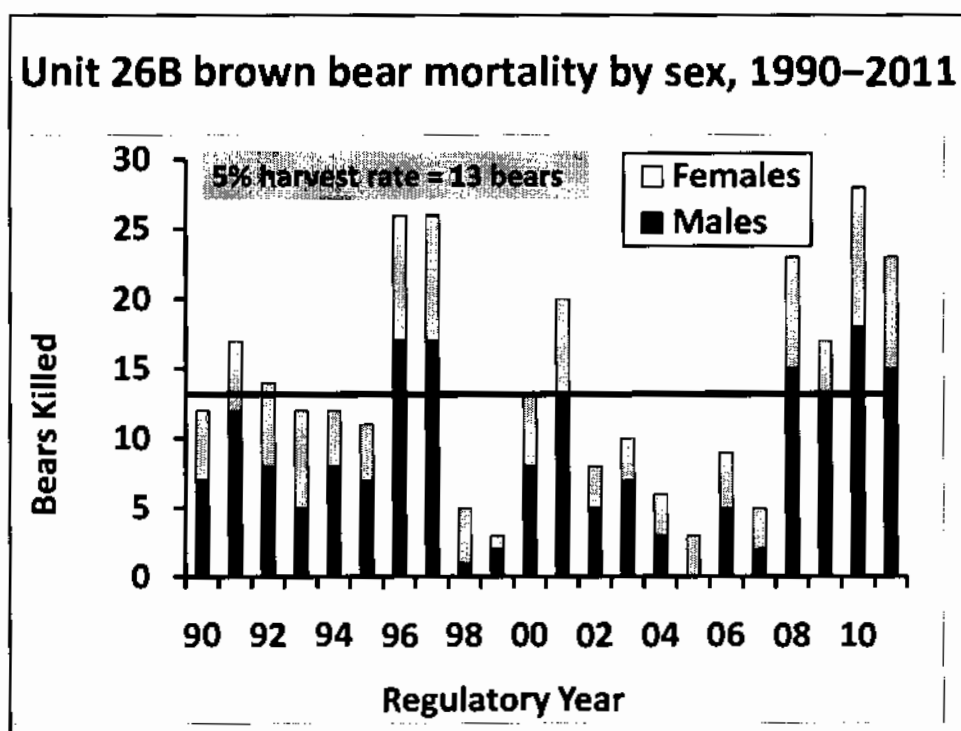
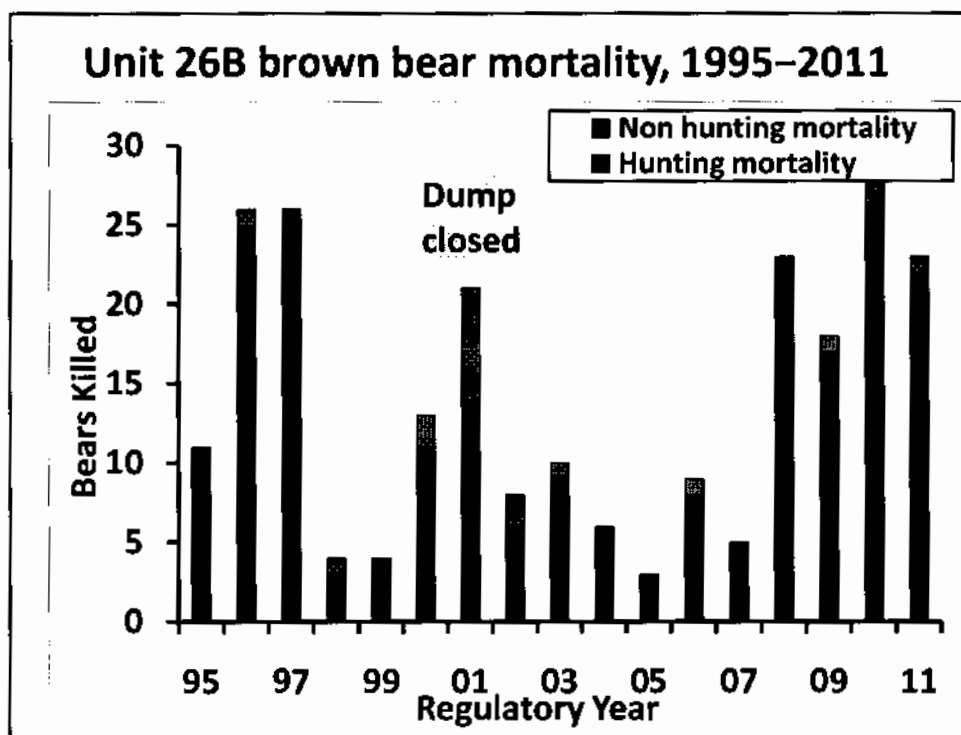
- 3 year mean of human caused mortality of $\leq 5\%$ of population, no more than 40% females
- 13 bears (5 females)

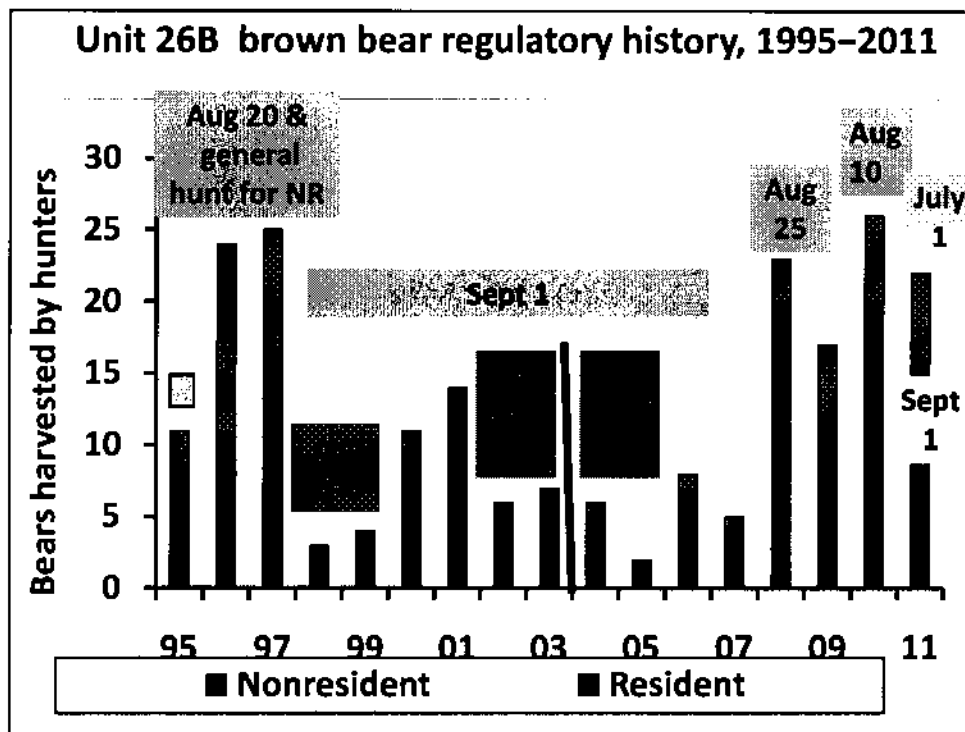
2011

- 3 year mean of human caused mortality of $\leq 8\%$ of population, no more than 40% females
- 21 bears (8 females)

Unit 26B brown bear refugia







Unit 26B brown bear hunt regulations 2010 and 2011

August 2010

Emergency BOG meeting

- liberalize brown bear regulations for fall 2010 season
- to provide some relief for muskoxen
- give the department time to develop a plan

1. Open brown bear season Aug. 10 vs Aug. 25
2. Eliminate draw permit for residents in DHCMA
3. Issue remaining draw permits for nonresidents

Unit 26B brown bear hunt regulations 2010 & 2011 cont'd

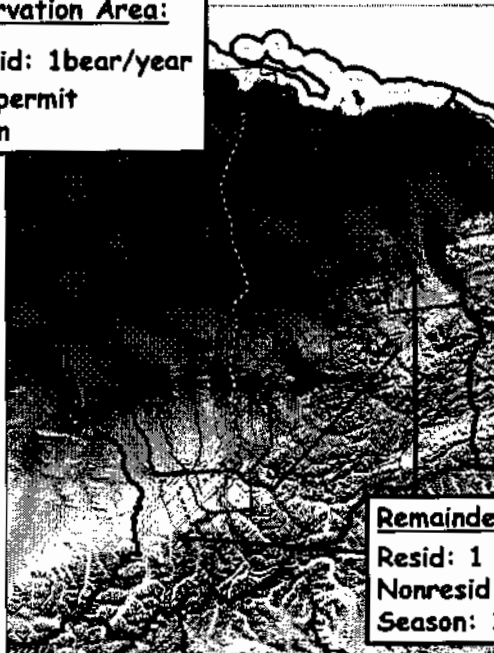
October 2010

BOG meeting

- Dept presented a registration hunt with a muskox conservation area
- Regulation effective March 2011

Muskox Conservation Area:

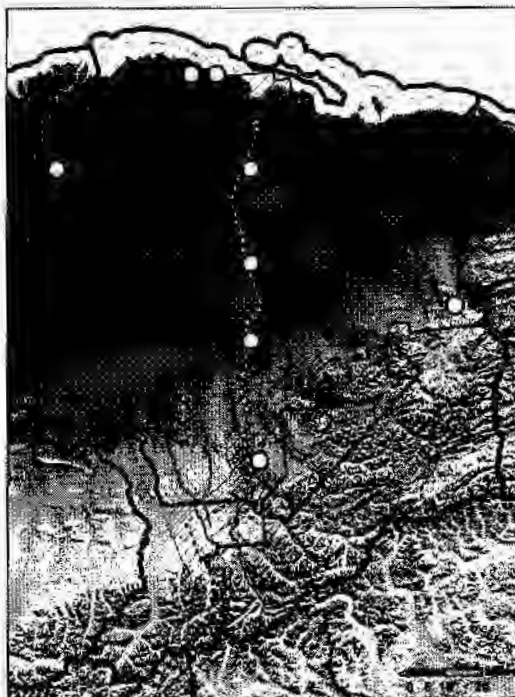
Resid. & Nonresid: 1 bear/year
By registration permit
No closed season



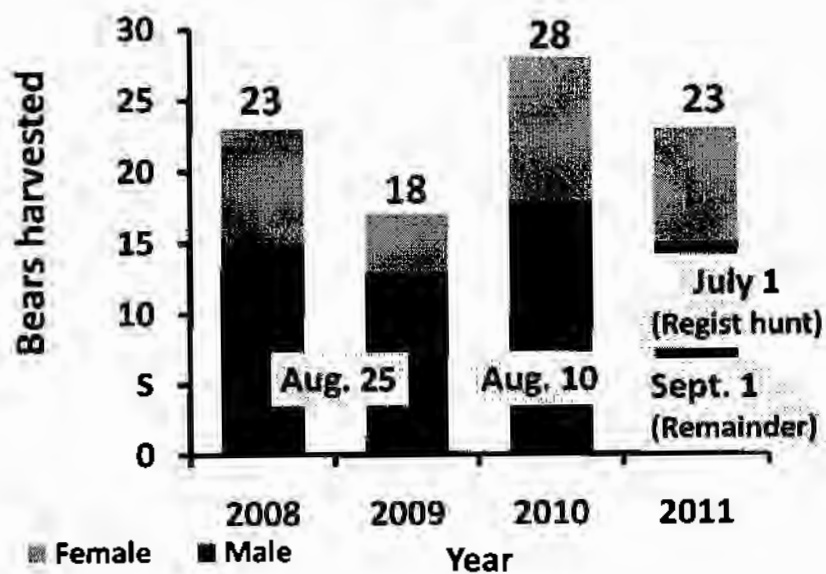
Remainder 26B

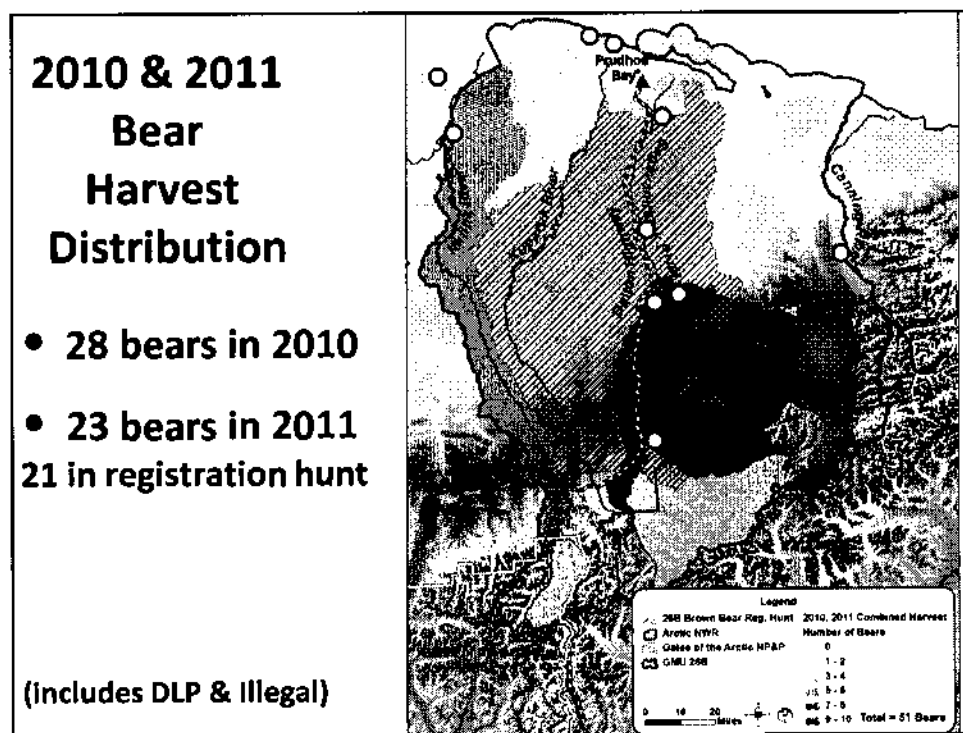
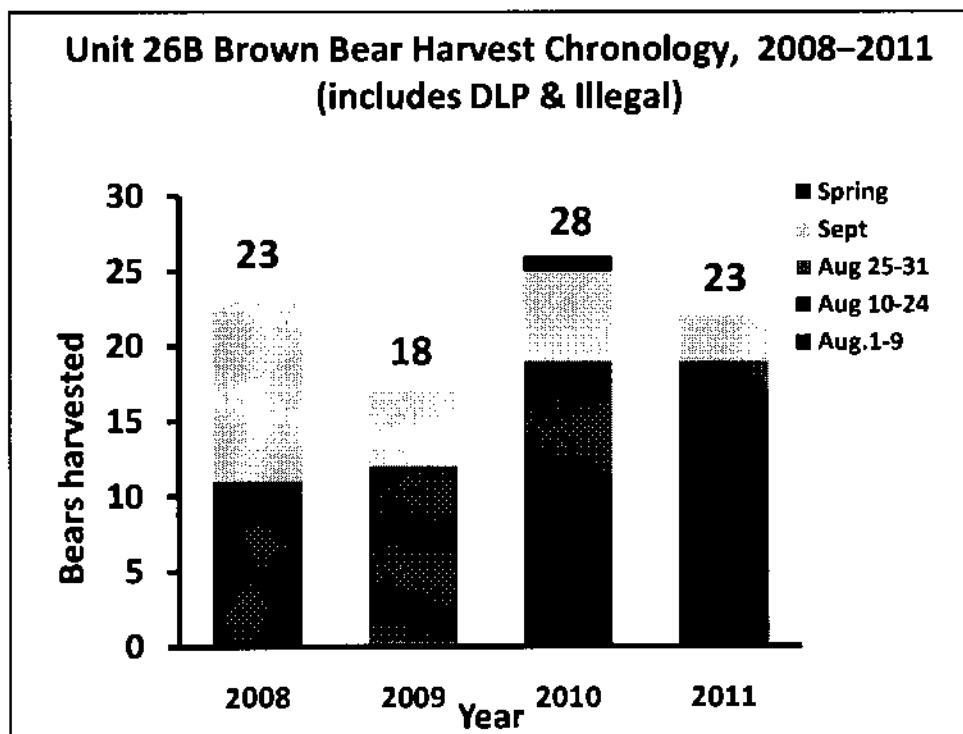
Resid: 1 bear/year
Nonresid: Draw, up to 20
Season: 1 Sept–31 May

**Locations of groups
of muskoxen in
Unit 26B
&
Registration hunt
boundary**



Unit 26B Brown Bear Mortality by Sex, 2008–2011
(includes DLP & Illegal)

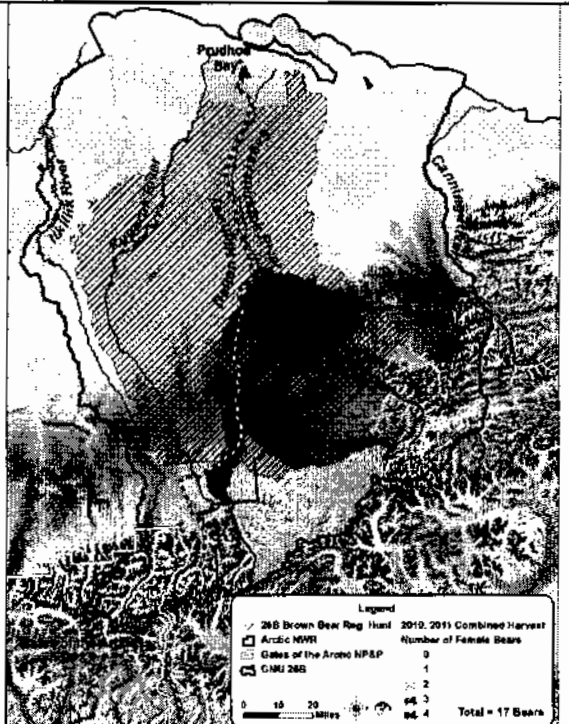




2010 & 2011 Female Bear Harvest Distribution

- 10 females in 2010
- 8 females in 2011

(includes DLP & Illegal)



More Results from Registration Hunt

- 21 of 23 bears killed were from registration hunt
- 442 permits were issued
- 176 reported hunting
- Mostly opportunistic hunting

**Strong indication that hunters
are interested in this resource**

Results of liberalized hunts on muskoxen

In 2010 and 2011—41 bears total killed

- **predation was still occurring after 2010 season**
- **2 bears were harvested after mid May 2011 and they were known to have killed muskoxen**

**Effect of seasons on reducing
predation is unknown**

ADF&G Muskox Research Project initiated 2007

1. population size

2. annual birth rates

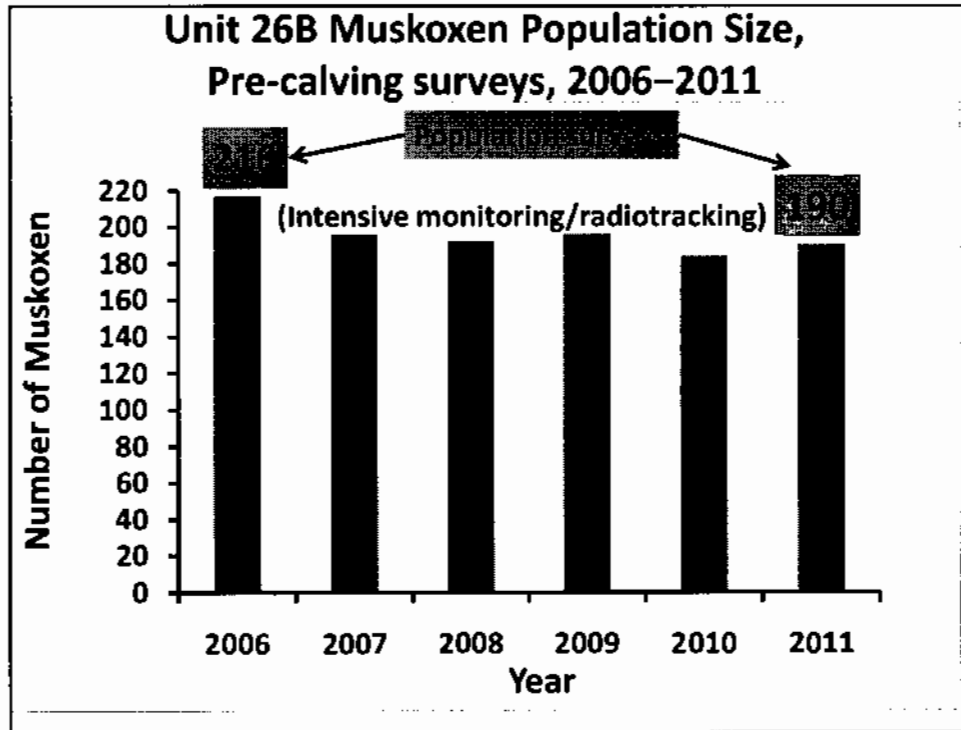
3. calf /yearling recruitment

4. trace mineral concentrations

5. occurrence of diseases and parasites

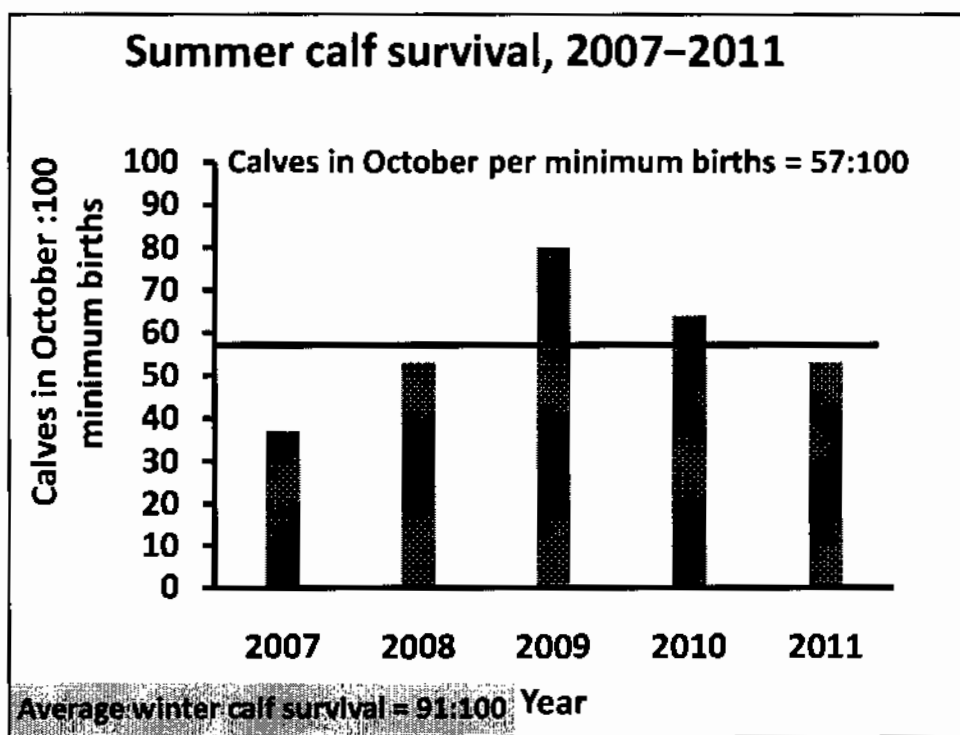
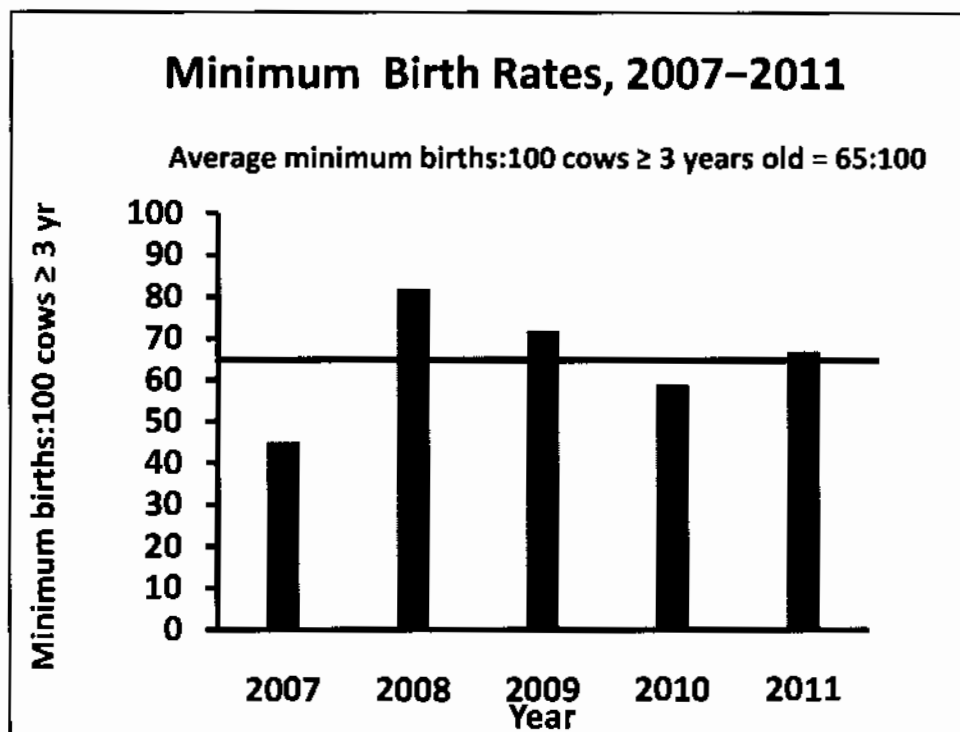
6. causes of mortality

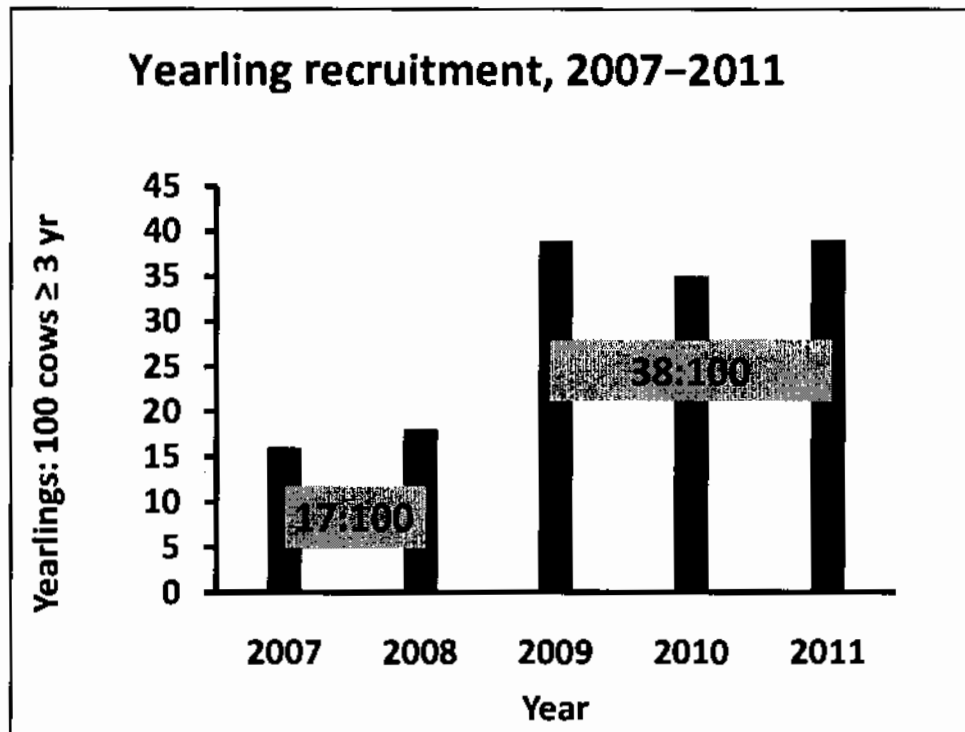
**Nutrition
&
Habitat**



**Minimum number of births,
calf survival, & yearling recruitment**







Nutrition and Habitat Considerations

- Calves are born and at least half are surviving
 - poor nutrition not primary limiting factor
- Captured female muskoxen in good condition

Habitat appears capable of supporting a larger muskox population



Trace Minerals and Disease

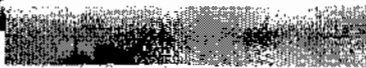
- **Imbalances of trace minerals are apparent**
 - could become important by affecting immune system
- **Some diseases & parasites occur**
 - direct cause of deaths was small
 - could be important in small population

Weather:

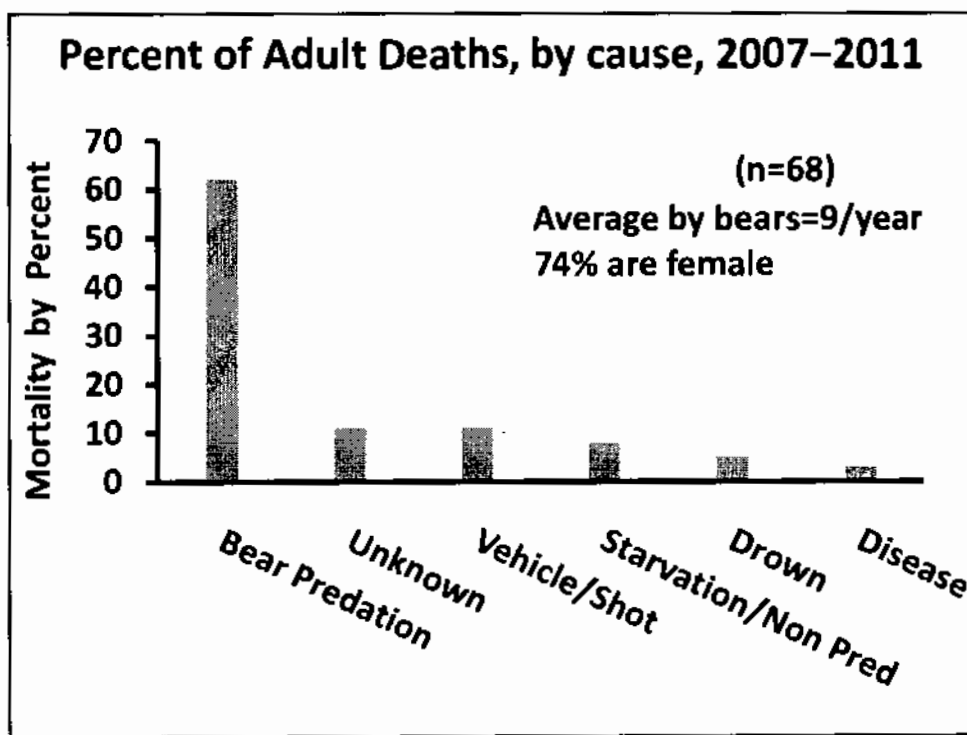
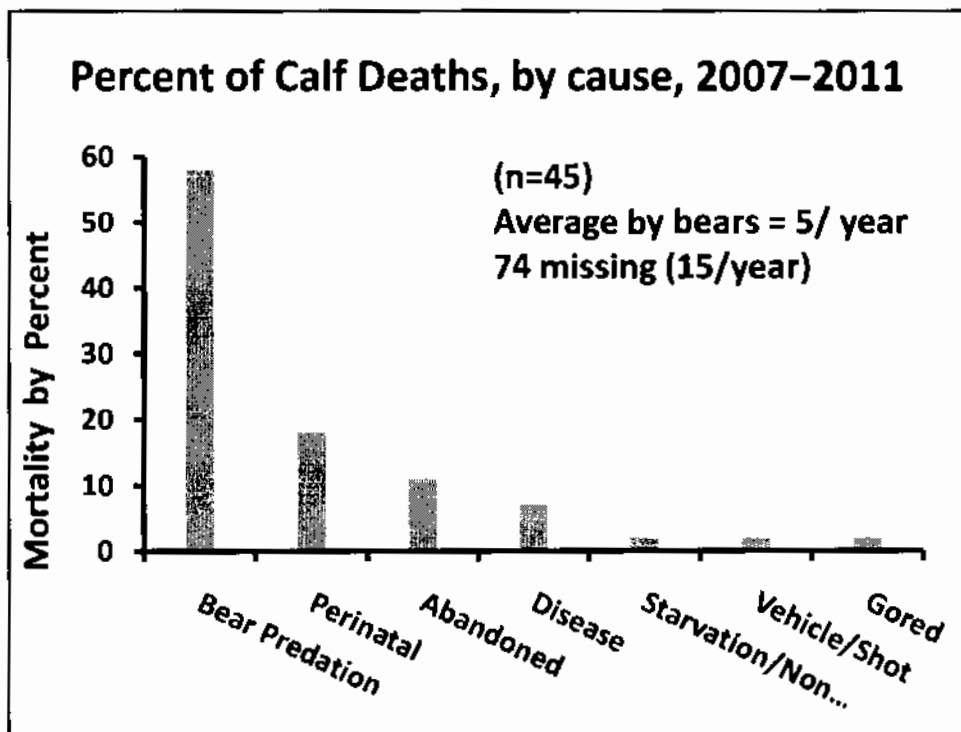
- **Icing events & late winter storms can be important**
 - because population is small

**Possible that habitat limitations are obscured
due to high mortality caused by bears**

Mortality Causes



Photos by Patricia Del Vecchio

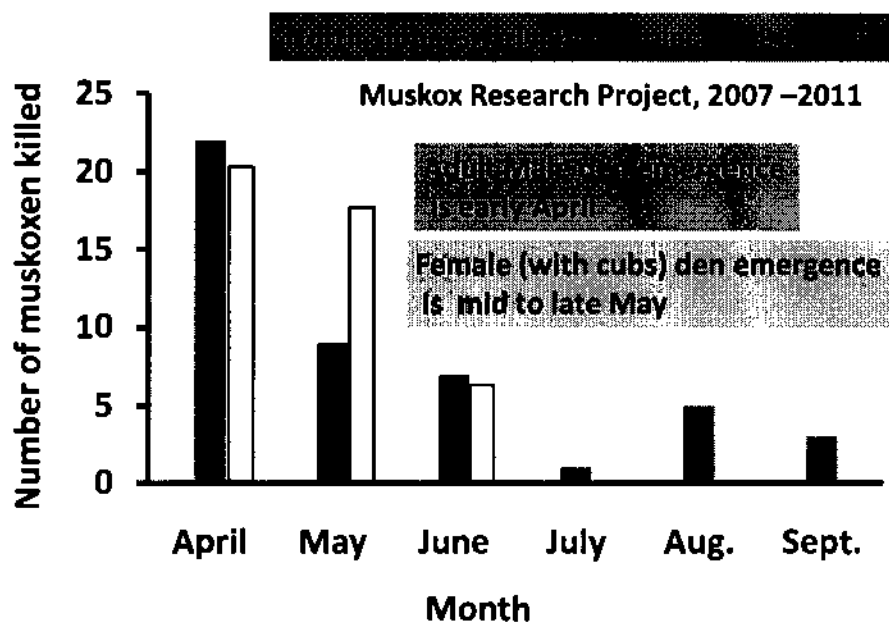


More info on Bear Predation

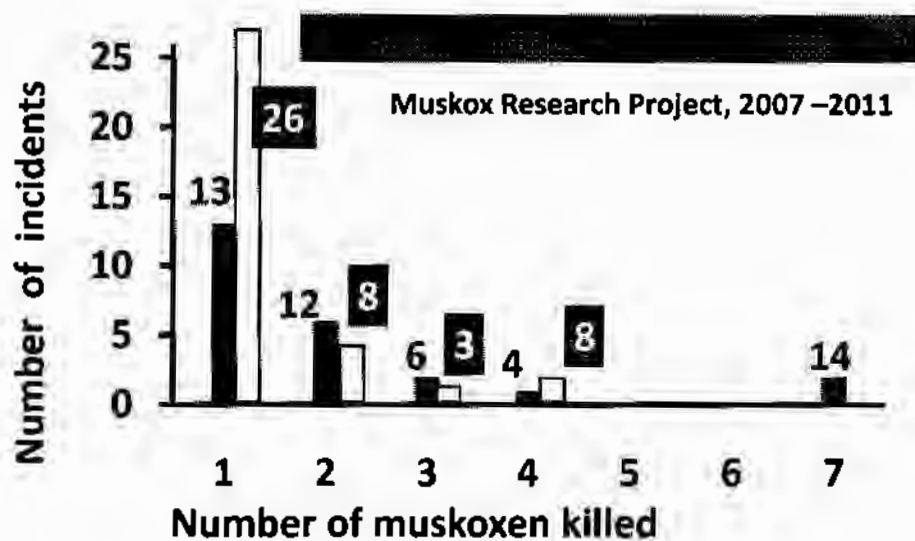
- Most of the predation occurs in April and May
- Hypothesize that mostly adult male bears kill muskoxen:
 - based on den emergence by adult males in early April and females with cubs in mid to late May
- Some bears kill multiple muskoxen



Muskoxen killed by bears, by month, 1996–2006



Single & Multiple Muskox Kills by Bears



More info on Bear Predation



Relatively few muskoxen are killed by bears for muskoxen
 Bear-caused mortality is mostly additive

Unit 26B Muskox Recovery Plan

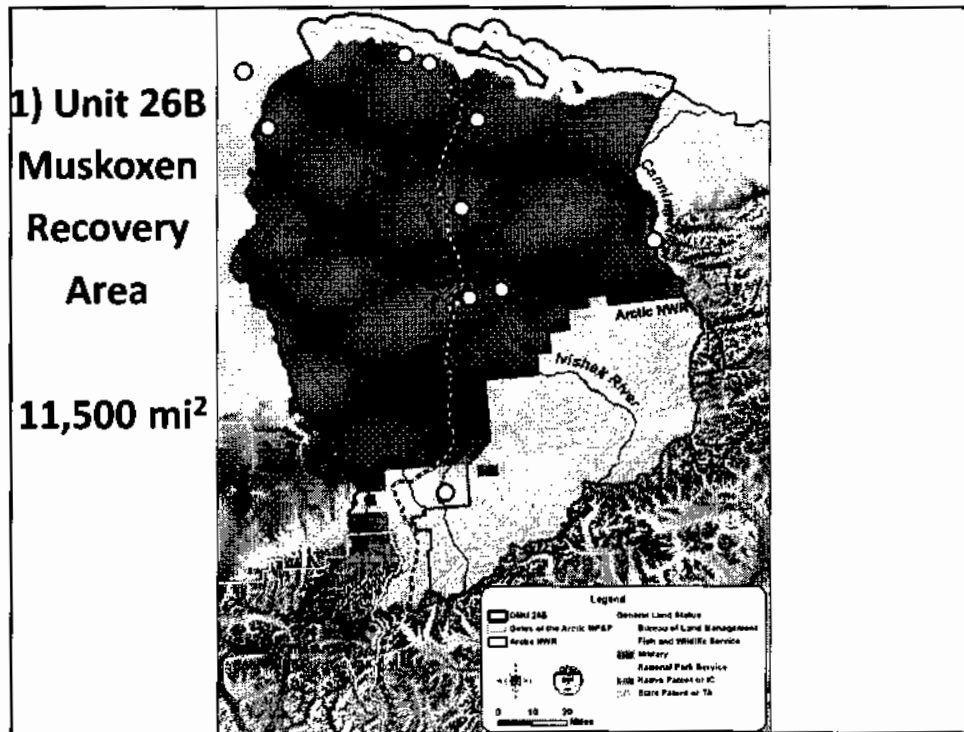
5 AAC 92.125



Alaska Dept. Fish and Game

Unit 26B Muskox Recovery Area

Based on the following information contained in this section, the commissioner or commissioner's designee may conduct selective, lethal, brown bear removal to allow recovery of the muskoxen population in Unit 26B.



2. Muskox and brown bear objectives

Muskox Population Objective:

- increase muskox population from 190 to at least 300 \geq 1 year old (in April surveys)
 - ✓ take at least 7 years if the strategy we propose is successful

2. Muskox and brown bear objectives

Muskox Harvest Objective:

- **reinstate a hunting season for muskox in Unit 26B after population reaches a minimum of 300 muskoxen \geq 1 year old (in April surveys)**
- ✓ **Tier II hunt; 3–9 permits initially**
- ✓ **ANS = 20, west of Dalton Hwy 4, east of Dalton Hwy**

2. Muskoxen and brown bear objectives cont'd

Brown Bear Population Objective:

- **Maintain current estimated population of 200–320 bears (midpoint = 265)**
- **Selectively & lethally remove up to 20 bears of any sex and age class killing or threatening muskox**

HOW Department will implement removal:

- Department personnel would lethally remove bears by:
 - ✓ shooting from a helicopter
 - ✓ land and shoot from a fixed winged aircraft
 - efficient method to reduce brown bear predation
 - humane method to remove bears
- Probably remove < 10 bears annually, mostly males:
 - ✓ based on hypothesis that relatively few, mostly males, are commonly killing muskoxen
 - ✓ bear caused mortality is additional to other mortality

HOW Department will implement removal cont'd:

- The 3-year mean of human caused mortality on bears shall not exceed the estimated harvestable surplus of 21 bears of which 8 can be females.
- ✓ hunting seasons may need to be adjusted during control program
- ✓ do not intend to reduce Unit 26B bear population
- ✓ may reduce bear numbers in a localized area
 - could affect bear hunting & viewing opportunities

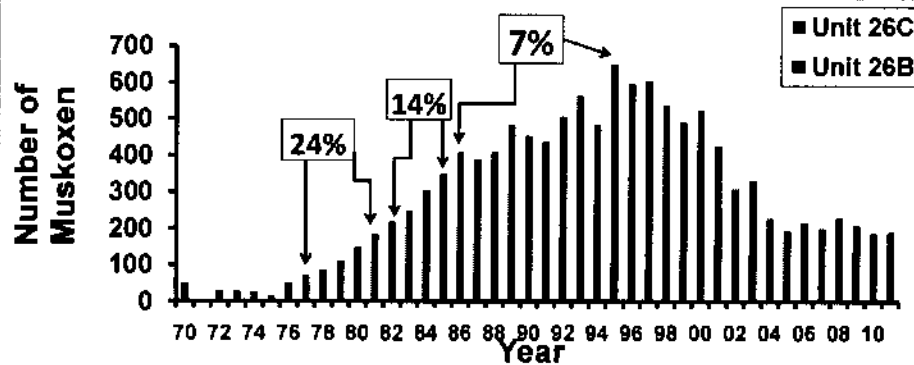
HOW Department will implement removal cont'd:

-
- **Experimental approach**
 - **Involves tradeoff between harvest & viewing for bears and viewing and potential harvest opportunities for muskoxen**

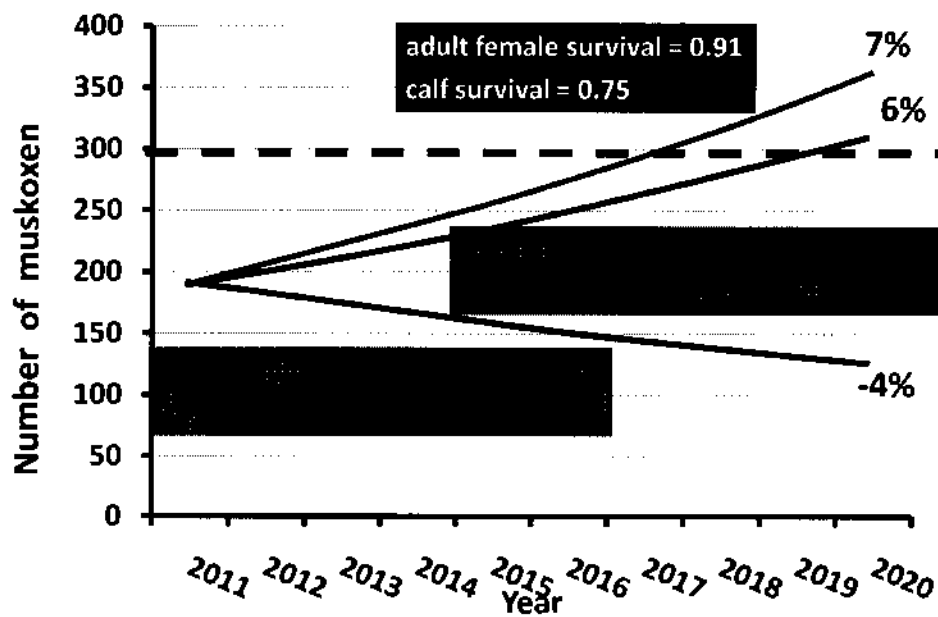
3. findings of the Board of Game concerning populations and human use are as follows

-
- **All the graphs & data the board has just seen supports the following findings:**
 - A. the Unit 26(B) muskox population and harvest objectives have not been achieved**
 - B. predation by brown bears was identified as a primary source of mortality on muskoxen**
 - C. reducing predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achieving the objectives**

C. reducing predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achieving the objectives cont'd



Modeled Growth Rates with data from research project



3. findings of the Board of Game concerning populations and human use are as follows cont'd

D. reducing predation is likely to be effective and feasible utilizing recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information

- to selectively remove bears identified killing or threatening muskoxen is an experimental approach
- based on hypothesis that relatively few bears, mostly males, are killing muskoxen

3. findings of the Board of Game concerning populations and human use are as follows cont'd

E. reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns

- most lands are available for predator control
- most muskox groups occur on state lands

F. reducing predation is in the best interests of subsistence users

- muskox hunting seasons are currently closed

4. Permissible methods and means:

A. Hunting of brown bears by the public may occur during program

- maintain current population of bears estimated at 200–320 bears (midpoint 265)
- harvest $\leq 8\%$ of population; $\leq 40\%$ females (average over 3 years)
- bears taken in control program count towards harvestable surplus

4. Permissible methods and means cont'd:

B. Commissioner may allow agents of the state to conduct aerial, land and shoot, or ground based lethal removal of brown

➤ Criteria to remove bears:

Bears of any sex and age class identified killing or threatening muskoxen will be removed

(5) time frame is as follows:

-
- **March 15, 2012 –June 30, 2018**
 - **Provide annual updates to BOG**

(6) the program will be reviewed and modified or suspended

if there is no evidence of:



