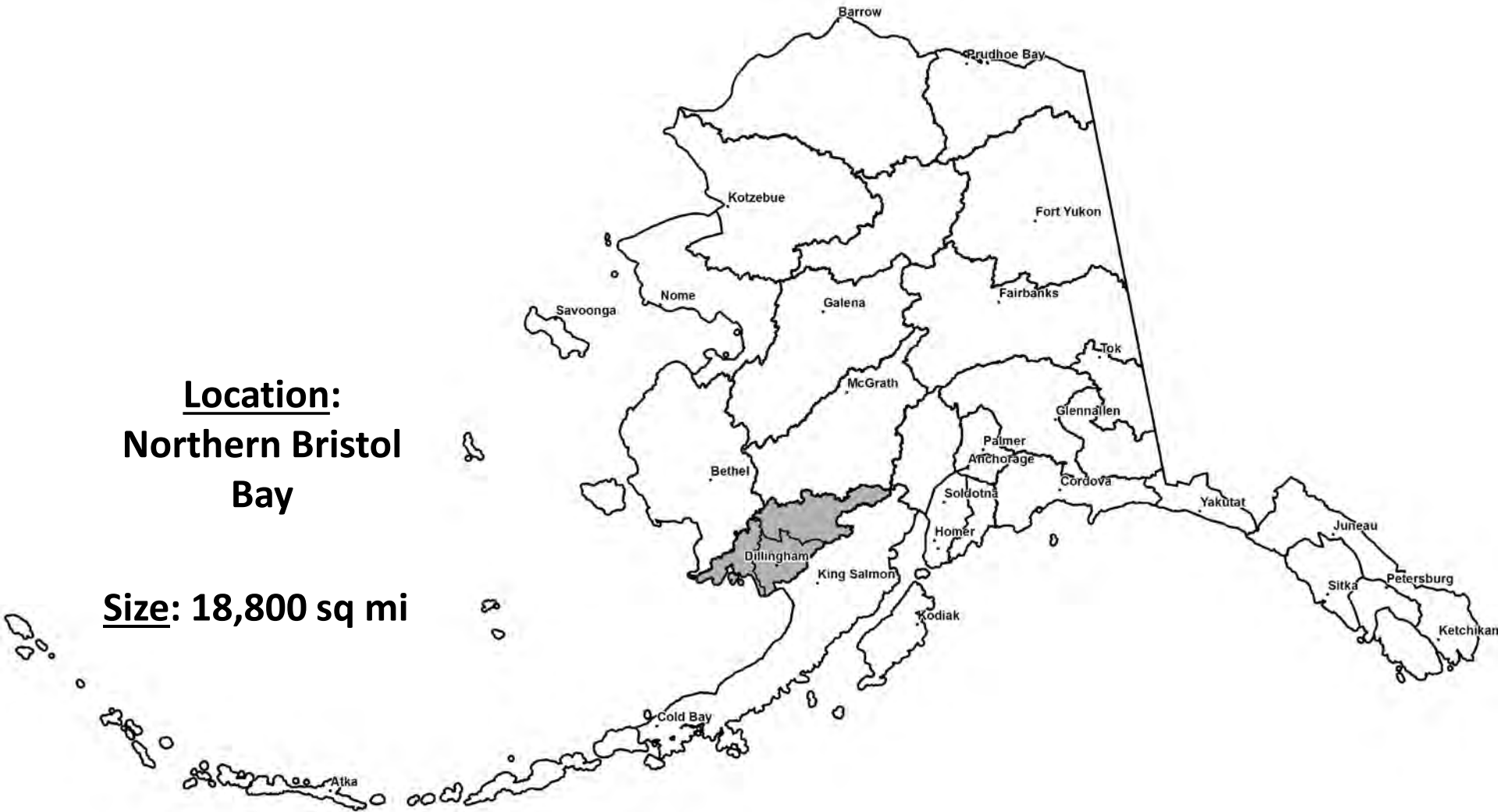


# Unit 17-Area Overview

**Location:**  
**Northern Bristol  
Bay**

**Size: 18,800 sq mi**



# Communities in Unit 17





# Unit 17-Area Overview



## Wildlife Staff:

Neil Barten-Area Biologist  
Eunice Dyasuk-Program Technician  
Lauri Jemison-Marine Mammals Program  
(*Sea lion research*)



# Big Game Species

**Moose**



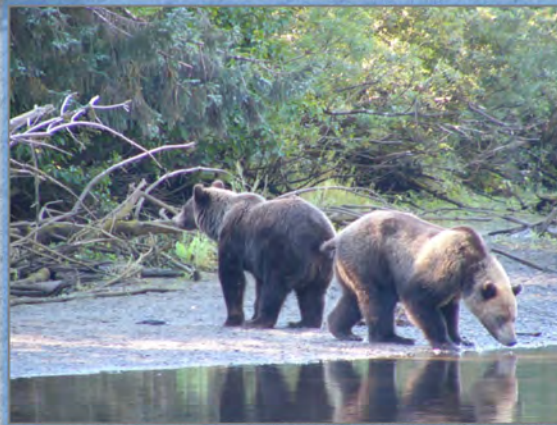
**Caribou**

**Brown Bear**

**Black Bear**

**Wolf**

**Wolverine**

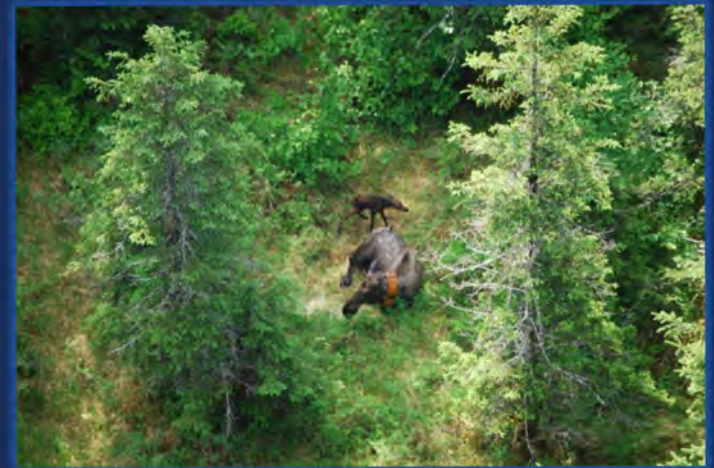




# Unit 17-Area Overview

## Moose

- Fall and winter hunting seasons
- Avg. annual effort/harvest past 5 years: 1,227 hunters~300 moose
- Unit 17A: increasing trend
- Units 17B&C: stable, decreasing?
- Abundance estimates ~ 3–5 year cycle (17B&C), more often in Unit 17A



Proposals: 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143 & 144

# Unit 17-Area Overview

## Caribou

### Two Herds:

#### **Mulchatna** (Approx. 27,000 animals)

- Range across 4 units and 8 subunits
- Reported harvest past 5 years-250/year
- Active IM program to increase calf survival
- Abundance, harvest, composition are below IM objectives



#### **Nushagak Peninsula** (Approx. 1,000 animals)

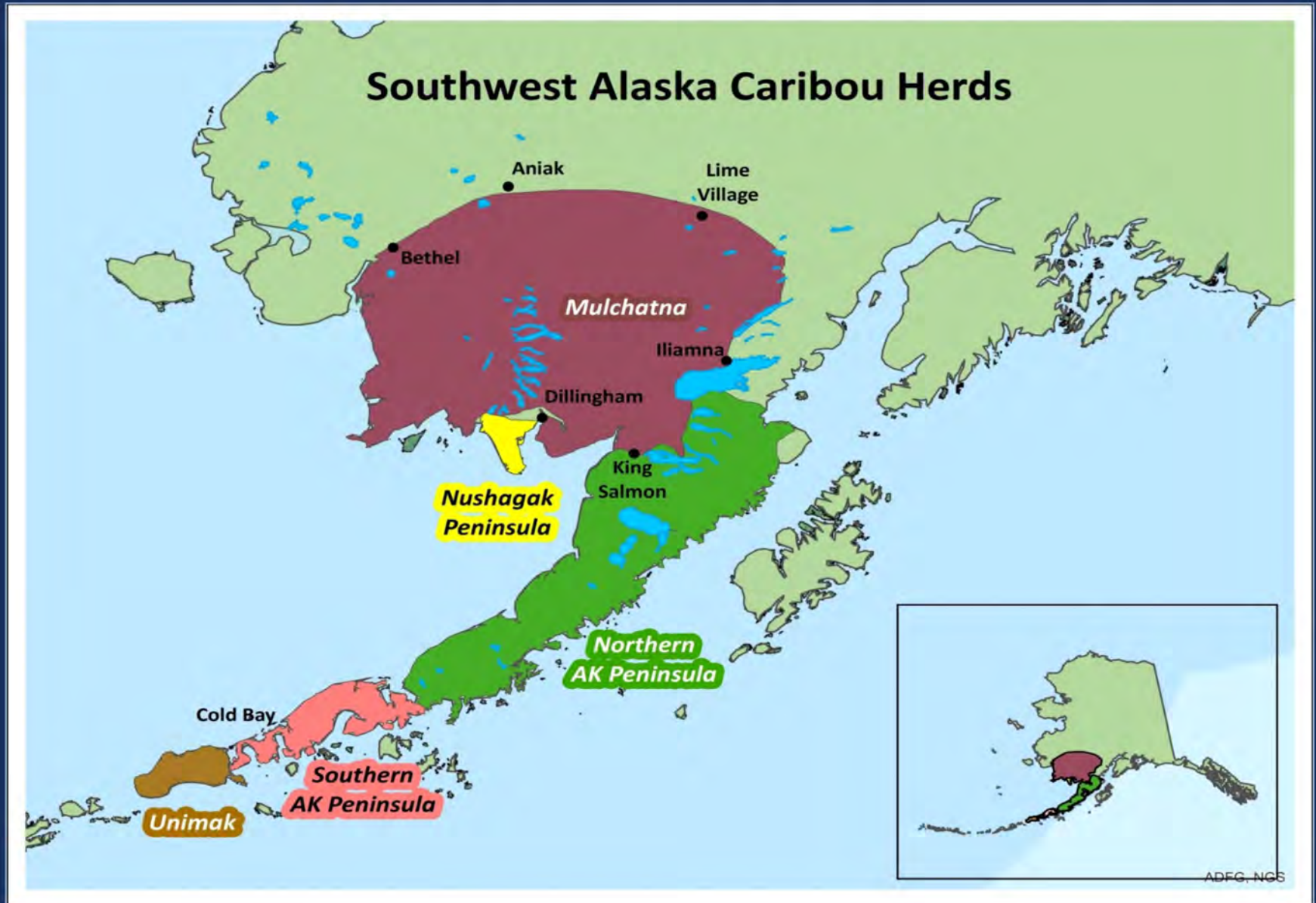
- Small portion of 17C & 17A
- Largely Federal management
  - State hunt if abundance is high
- Avg. harvest past 5 years~132/year
  - RY16, reported harvest of 373



Proposals: 145, 146, 147 & 148



# Nushagak Peninsula Caribou



# Nushagak Peninsula Caribou

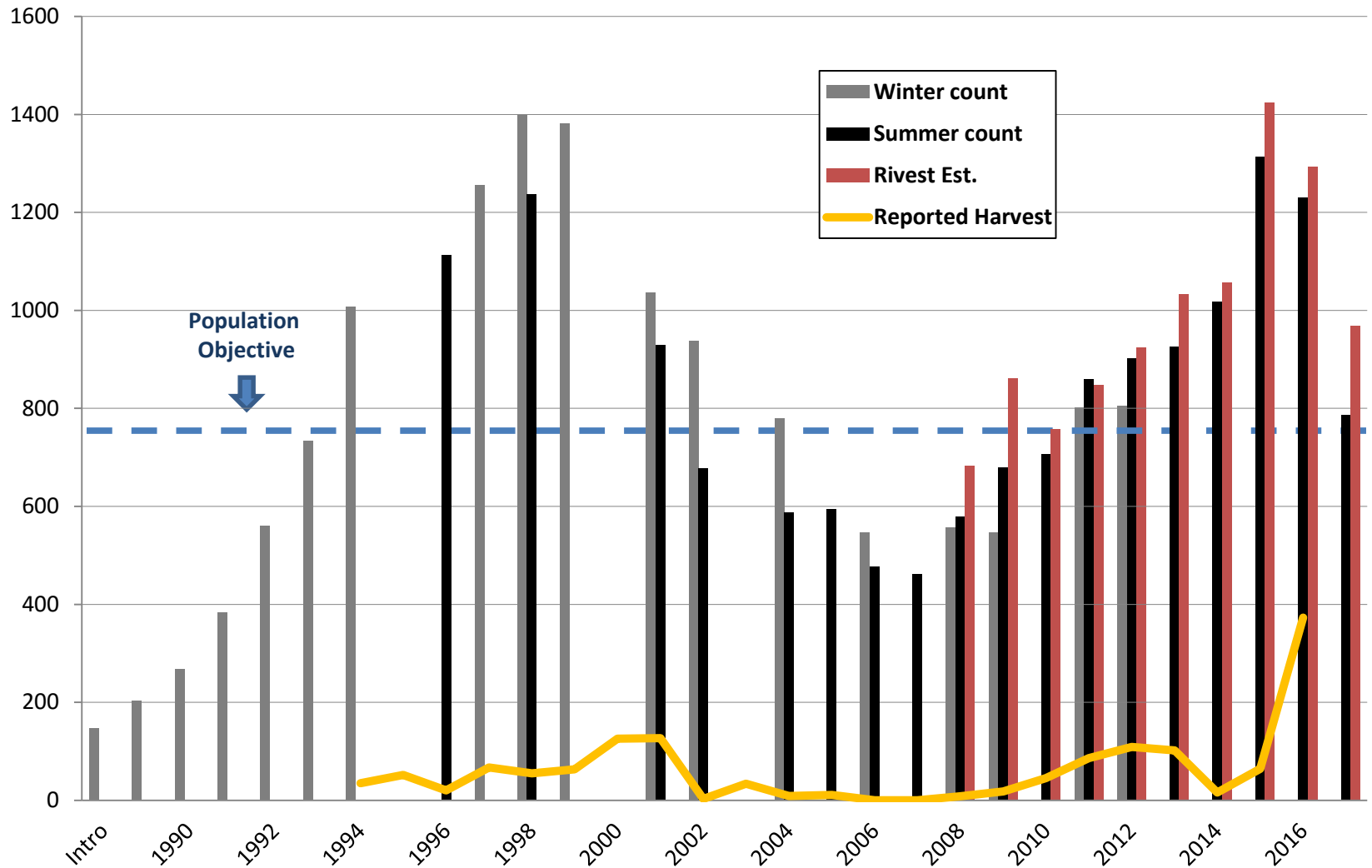
- Caribou had been absent for > 100 years
- Re-introduction: Spring 1988
- Purpose: to provide a local food source
- USFWS, ADF&G, Chogguing limited, Manokotak, Togiak, Twin Hills villages
- 146 caribou from Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd
- Herd grew to >1,000 by 1994
- Harvest allowed beginning in 1995
- Important food source for local communities
- Snowmachine access is important for harvest





# Nushagak Peninsula Caribou

NPCH Abundance & Harvest RY88-RY17



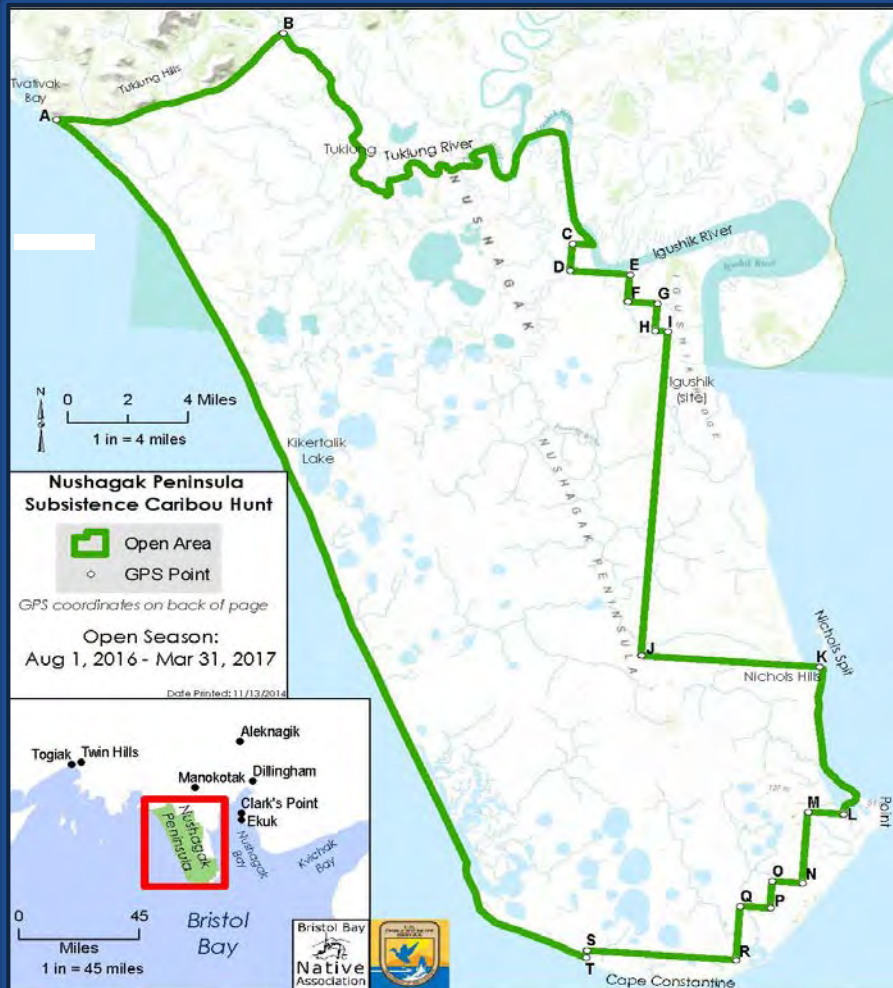
# Nushagak Peninsula Caribou

- **Hunt management is guided by the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Management Plan and Planning Committee**
  - Consists of USFWS, ADF&G, BBNA, BBRAC, & NAC
- **Traditionally a federal hunt only**
  - Federal public lands on the Peninsula have been closed to the harvest of caribou except by the residents of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point, & Ekuik
- **In Spring and Fall of 2016, state hunt opened on Nushagak Peninsula**
  - Special action requests submitted to FSB to lift restriction on NP federal lands
- **Proposal to the Federal Board to lift restriction permanently, with the stipulation that ADF&G would only offer state permits if population exceeds 900 animals**

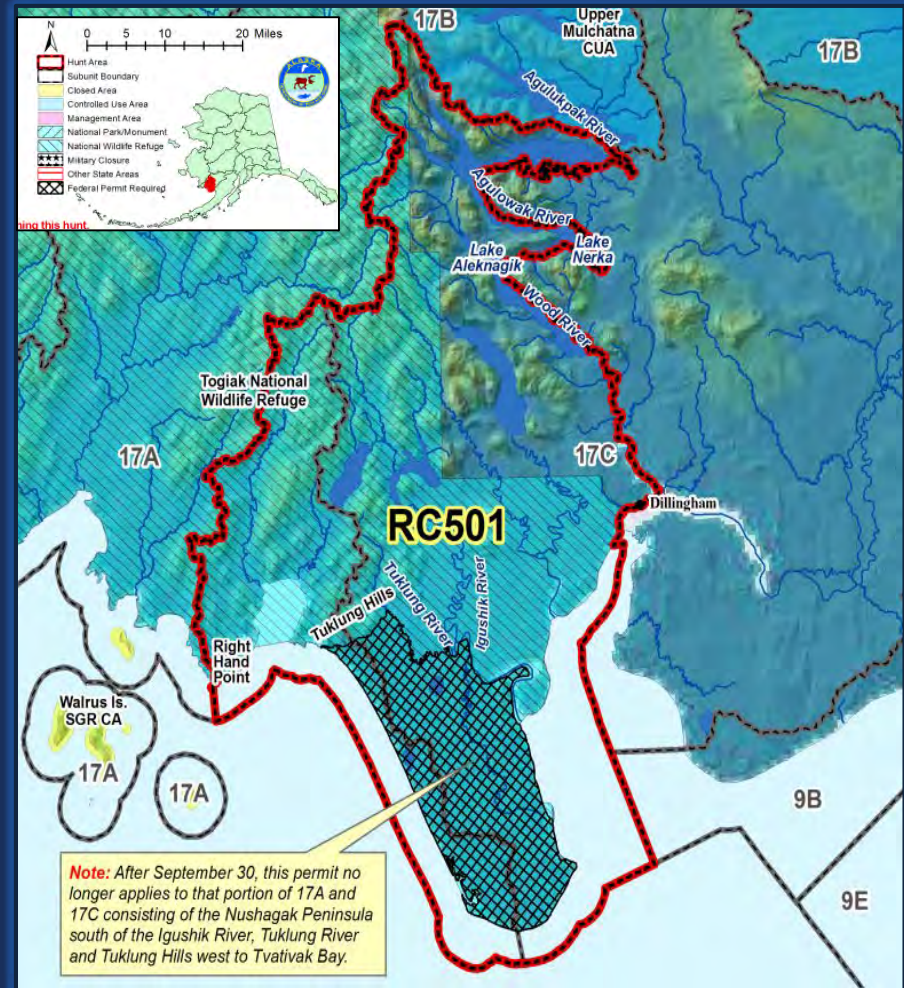


# Nushagak Peninsula Caribou

## Federal Hunt



## State Hunt





# Unit 17 Overview

## Bears

**Brown Bears:** Widely distributed and abundant

- Harvest: avg. 111/year since RY00
- 51 harvested in RY16-lowest since RY96
- Commercial guiding (70-80% of harvest)
- 2 bears/year bag limit since RY11
- Sale of bear hides and skulls after sealing
- Bear/human conflicts



**Black Bears:** Largely in mountainous terrain

- Harvest: avg. 8/year since 2000
- Mostly taken in unit 17B



**Proposals: None**



# Unit 17 Overview

## Wolves

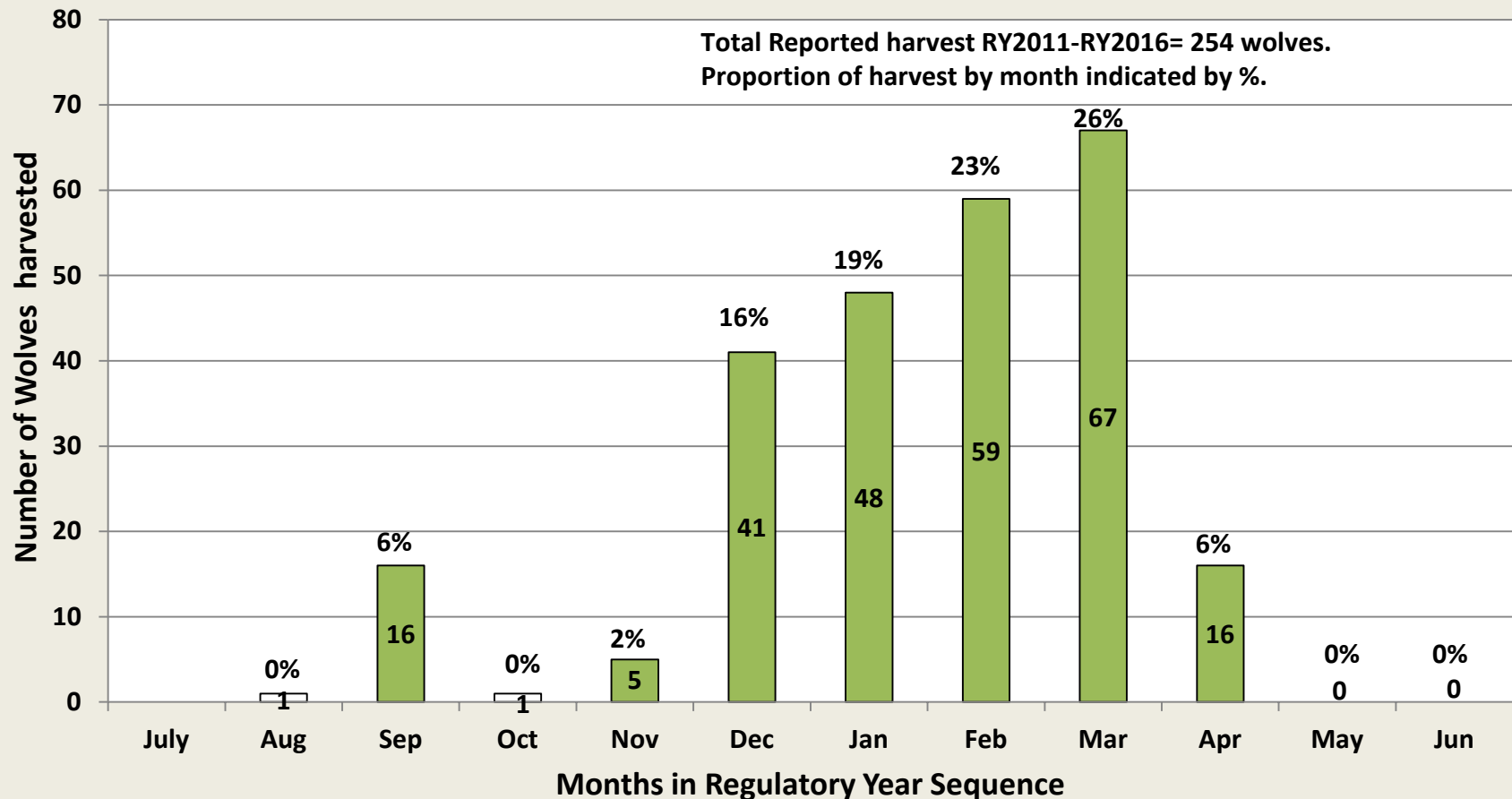
- Widely distributed and common throughout Unit
- Harvest variable, 15–141/year since RY00
- 67% of the harvest during past 5 years was by firearm
- Wolf control area as part of IM in Unit 17B&C
- Current studies employing radio collars across unit to assess abundance and better understand wolf population dynamics



**Proposals: 148**

# Unit 17 Overview

**Unit 17 Cumulative Reported Wolf Harvest Distribution by Month,  
Regulatory Years 2011-2016**



Hunting: August 10-April 30

Trapping: November 10-April 30



# Unit 17 Overview

## Other Furbearers

- **Beaver: widely distributed and common: 131/year (RY12-16)**
- **Lynx: low density overall, but found in pockets: 22/year**
- **River otter: widely distributed and common: 50/year**
- **Wolverine: common esp. in mountainous areas: 26/year**
- **Marten, mink and fox common within their habitats**
- **Coyote: increasing but still at low densities**
- **Muskrat, present in very low densities**

# Unit 17-Area Overview

## Small Game

- Spruce Grouse
- Ptarmigan
- Snowshoe hares
- Alaska hares
- Waterfowl





A close-up, slightly high-angle shot of a sandy surface. Several dark, distinct footprints are visible, scattered across the frame. The footprints vary in size and orientation, suggesting a path or a group of people. The sand is a light, textured grey. The word "Questions?" is superimposed in the center of the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Questions?**

# Predator Control Report

## **Predation Management Area Mulchatna Caribou Herd 5 AAC 92.111 (c)**




- **Area: GMUs 9B, 17B&C, 19A&B**
- **Purpose: To increase the Mulchatna Caribou Herd to aid in achieving intensive management objectives**

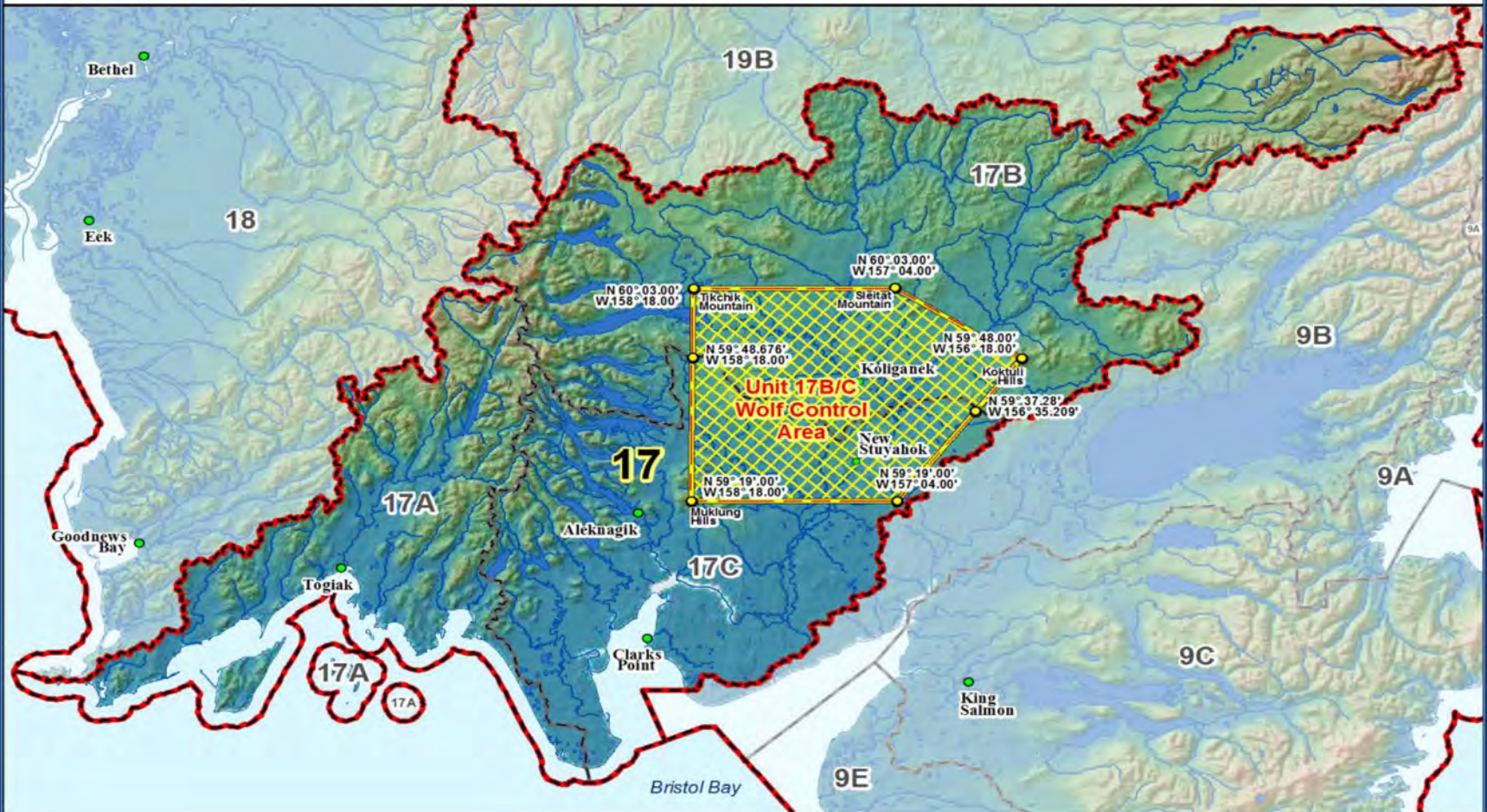


# Predator Control Report

## Unit 17B/C Wolf Control Area

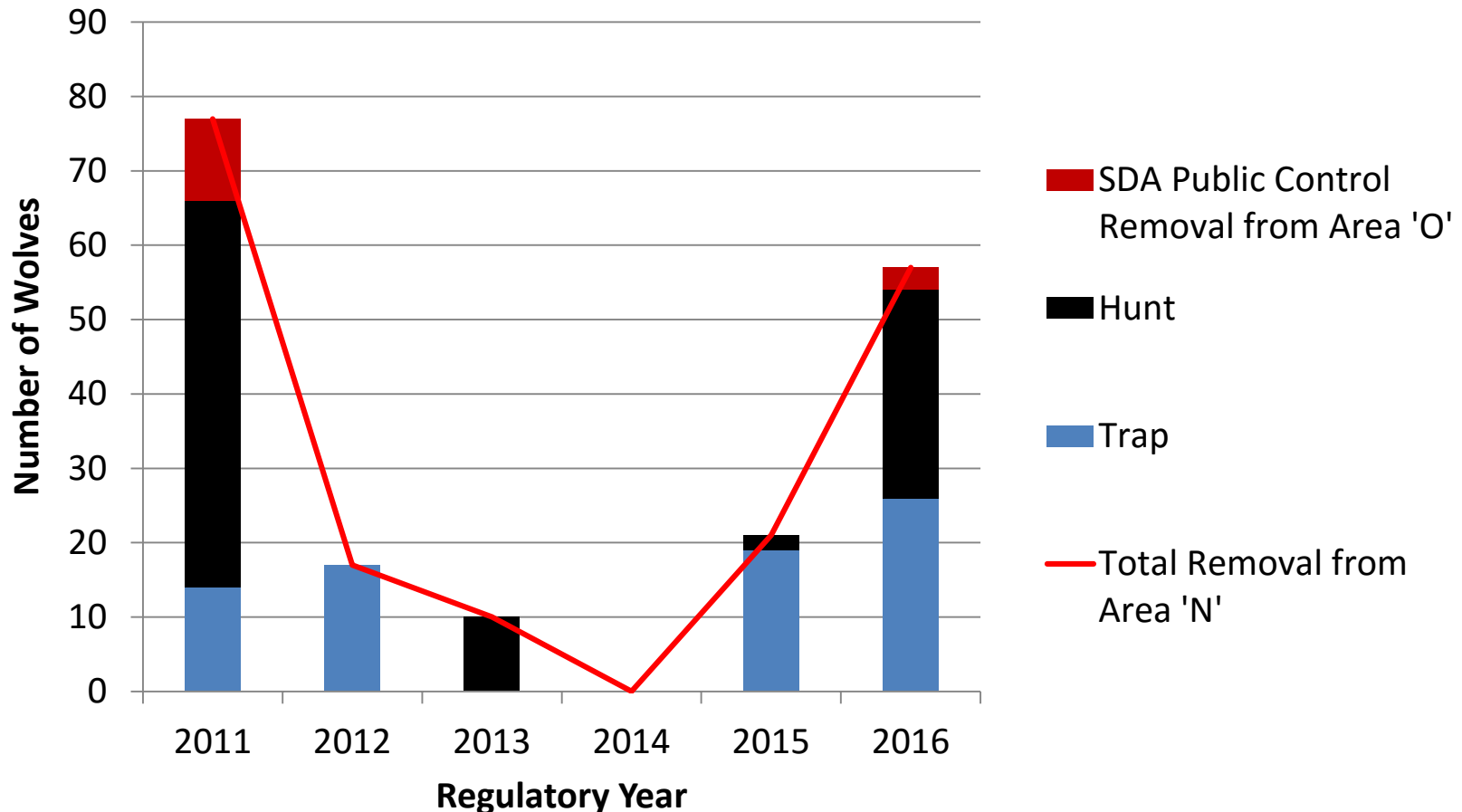
That portion of Unit 17B south of a line between Tikchik Mountain (N 60° 03.00', W 158° 18.00') and Sleitat Mountain (N 60° 03.00', W 157° 04.00'), then southeast to the Koktuli Hills (N 59° 48.00', W 156° 18.00') then southwest to a point at N 59° 37.28', W 156° 35.209' on the 17B/17C subunit boundary, then west along the subunit boundary to a point at N 59° 48.676', W 158° 18.00', then straight north to the beginning point; and that portion of 17C south of a point at N 59° 48.676', W 158° 18.00', then east along the subunit boundary to a point at N 59° 37.28', W 156° 35.209', then southwest to Lower Klutuk Creek (N 59° 19.00', W 157° 04.00'), then west to the Muklung Hills (N 59° 19.00', W 158° 18.00'), then north to the beginning point.

-  Wolf Control Area
-  Game Management Unit
-  Subunit



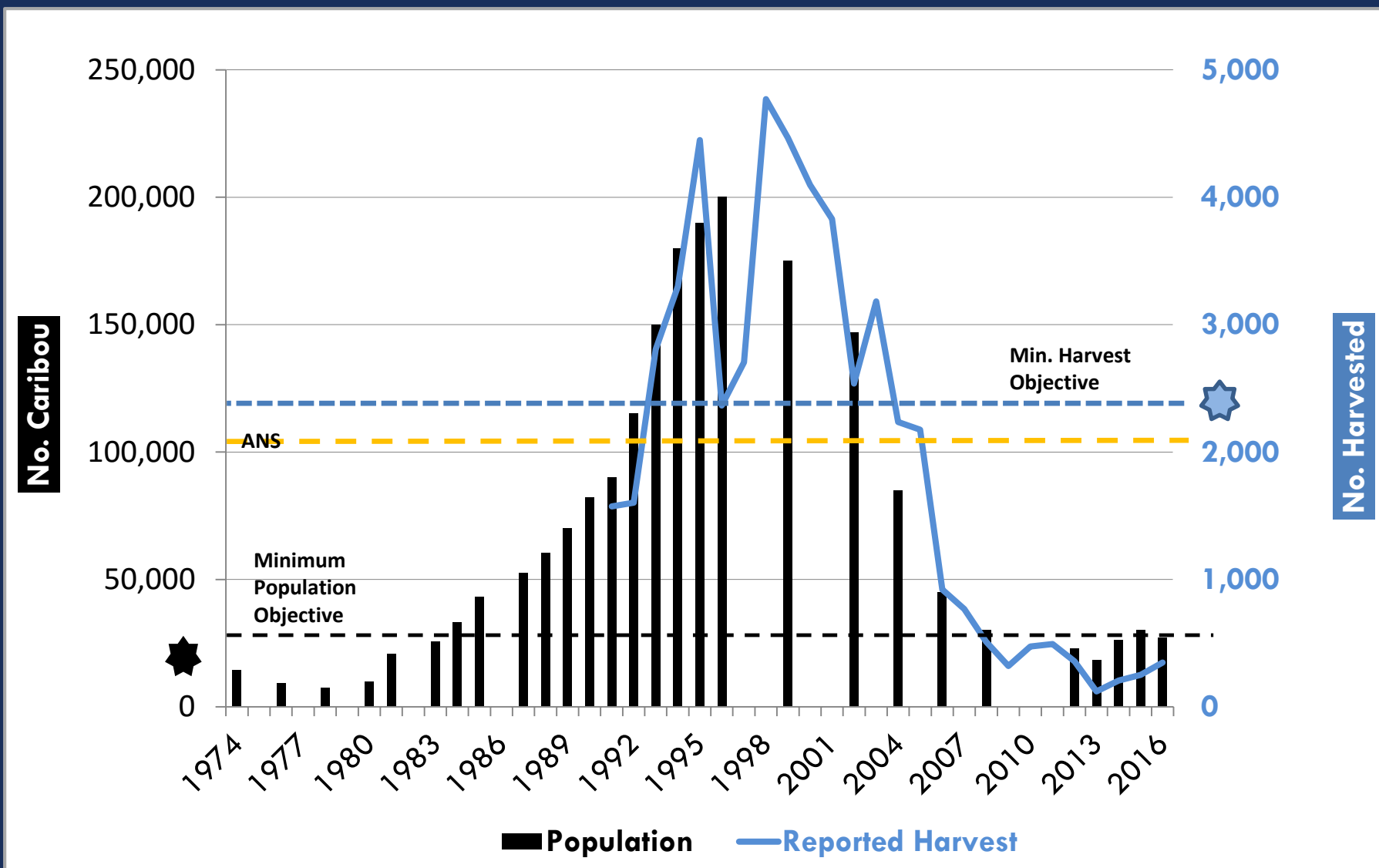
# Predator Control Report

## Wolf Removal from 17B&C IM Area RY11–RY16





# Predator Control Report



# Predator Control Report

## Fall Composition Counts

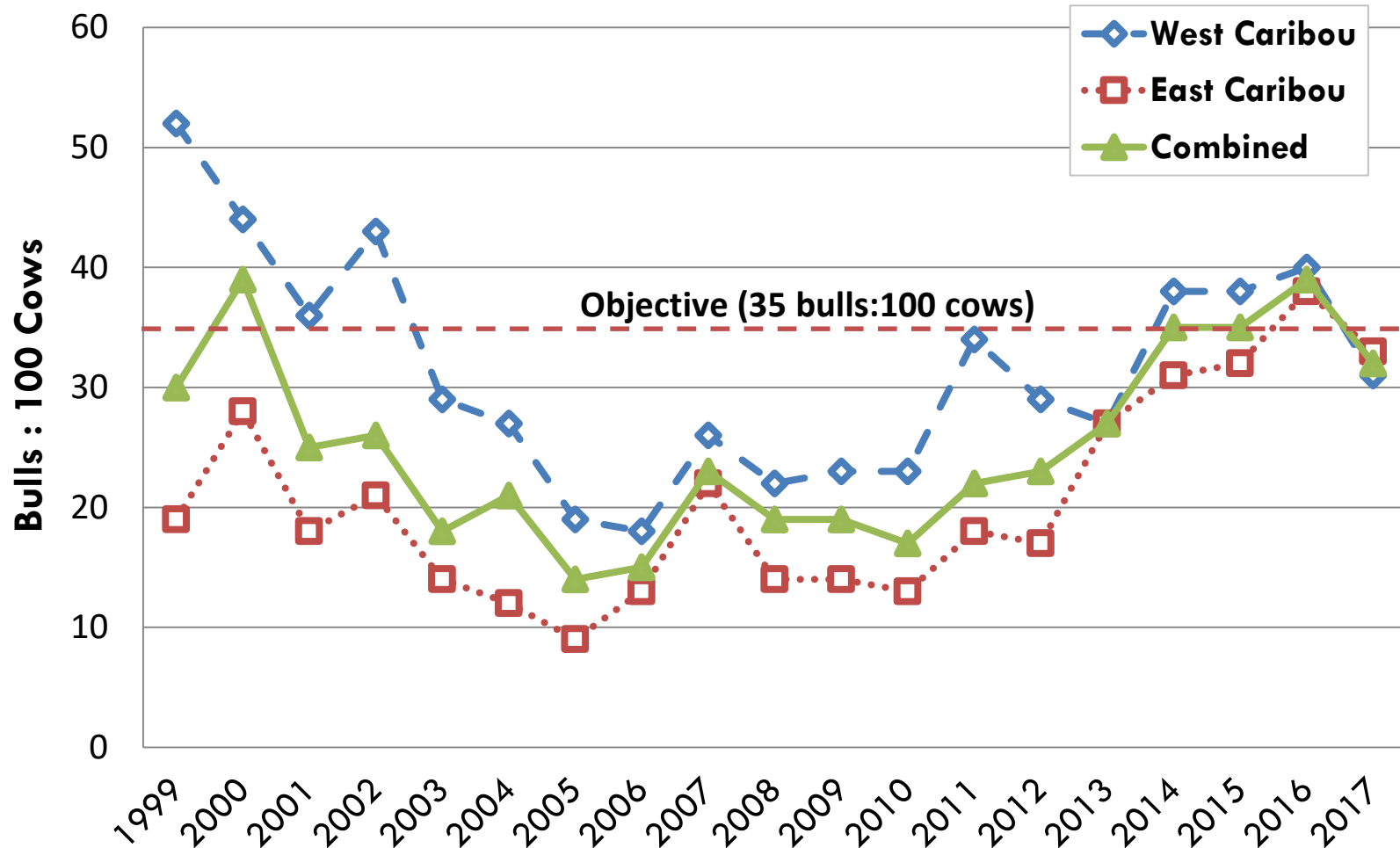
- Bulls: 32:100 in fall 2017 (Objective = 35:100)
- Calves: 23:100 in fall 2017 (Objective = 30:100)





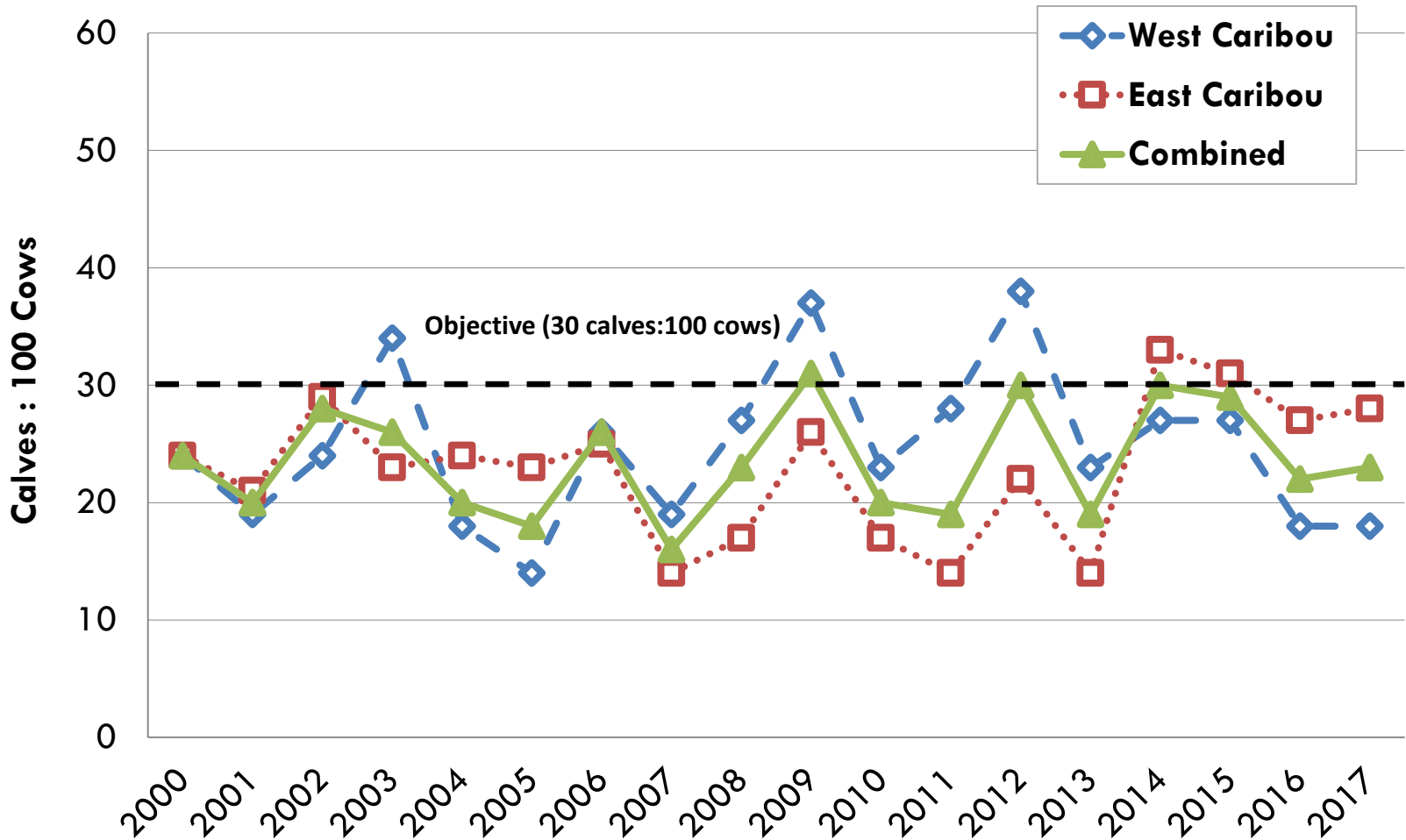
# Predator Control Report

## MCH Composition: Bull:100 Cow Ratios



# Predator Control Report

## MCH Composition: Calf-to-Cow Ratios



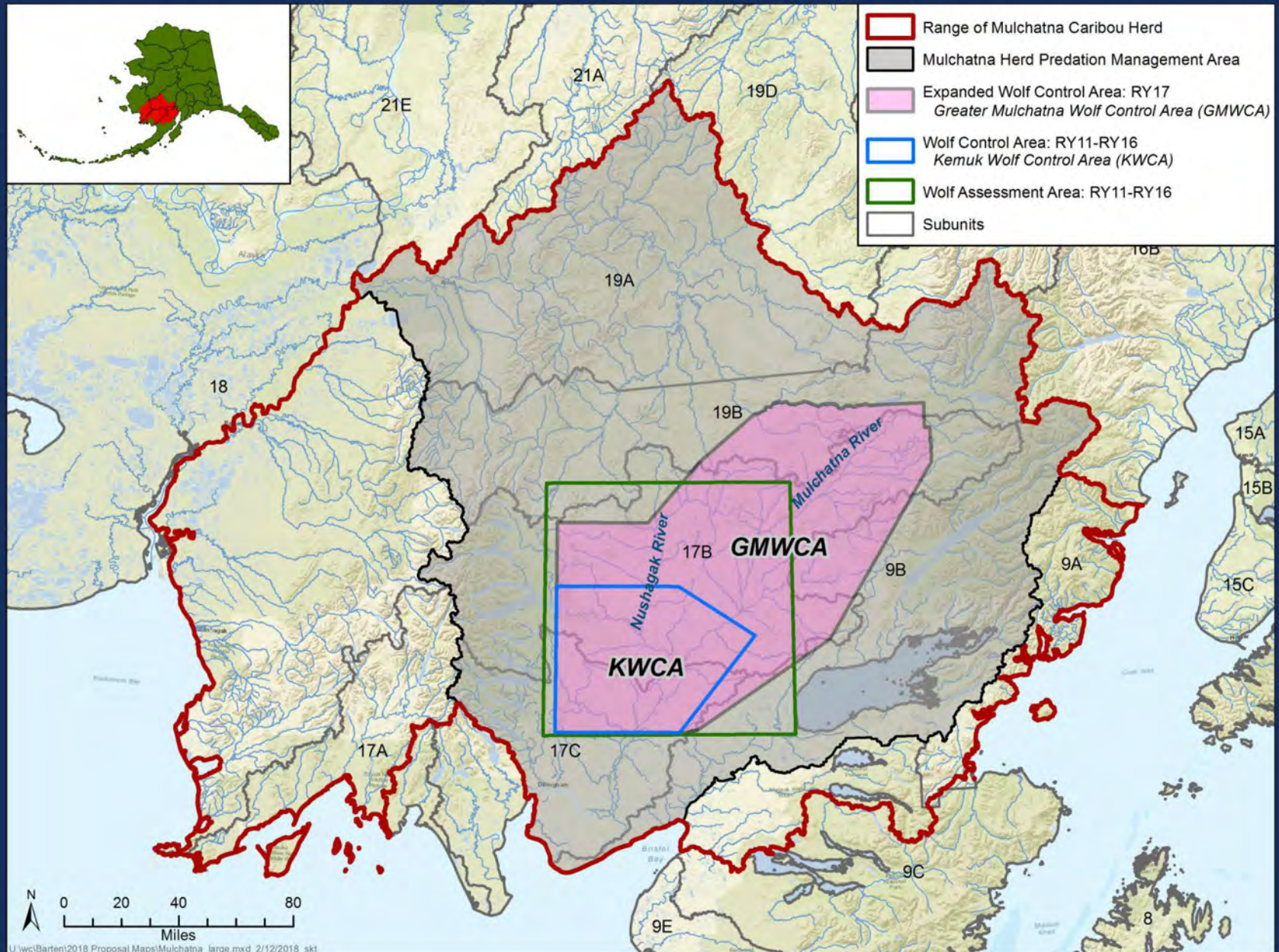


# Predator Control Report

## Management Considerations

- **Mulchatna herd is still below IM population objective.**
  - 27,242 vs objective of 30,000–80,000
- **Mulchatna herd is still below IM harvest objective.**
  - 256 avg. harvest during RY12–RY16 vs objective of 2,400–8,000
- **Harvestable surplus ~1,200 is below amount necessary for subsistence: 2,100–2,400.**
- **Composition data are still below objectives.**

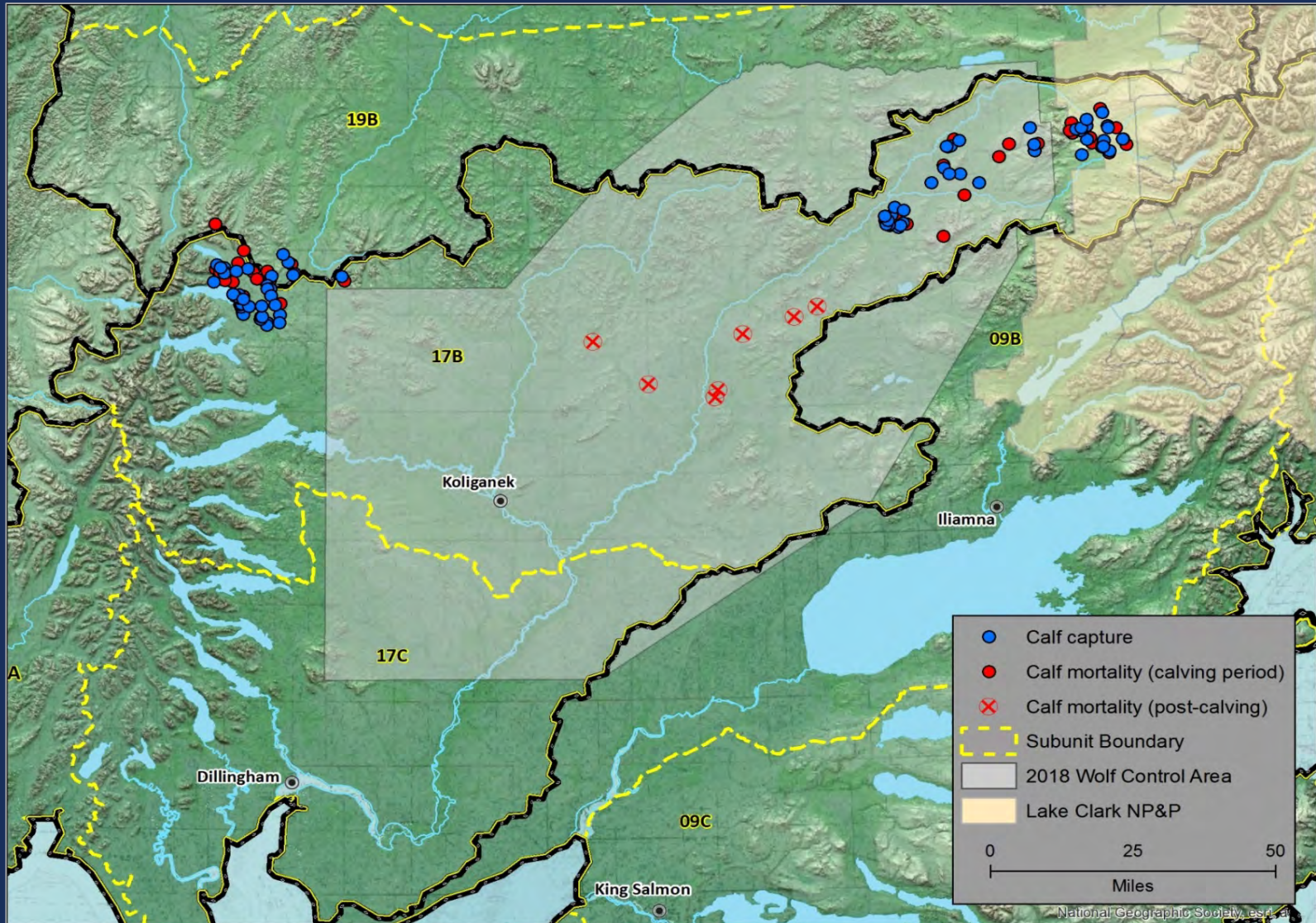
# Expanded Wolf Control Area





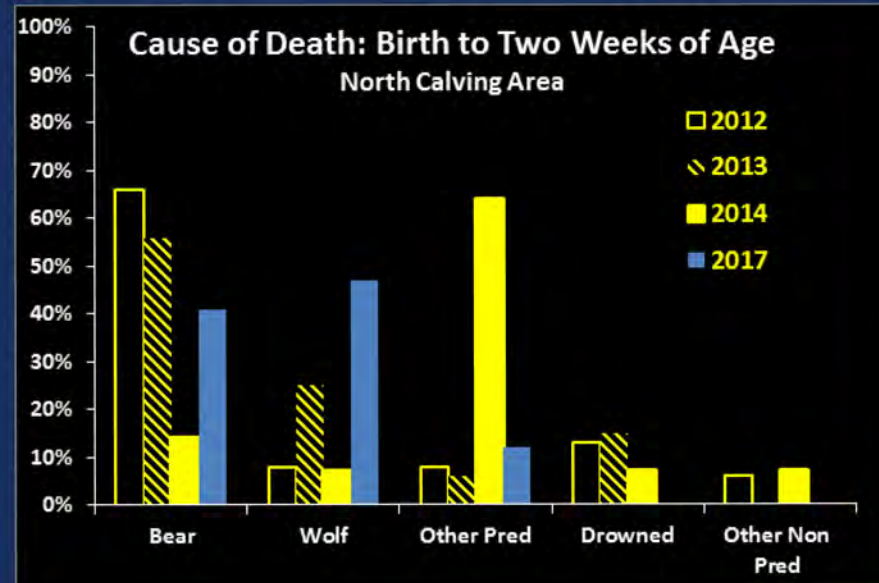
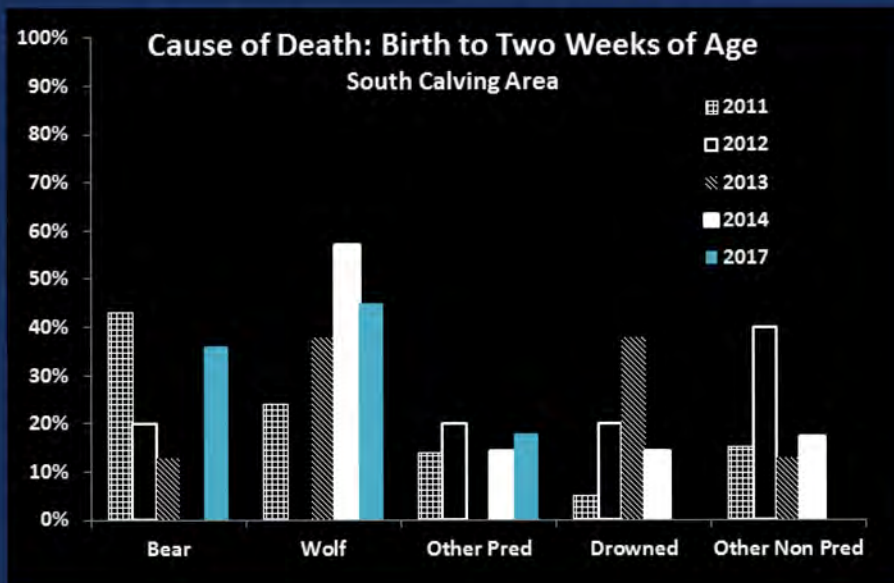
# Predator Control Report

## Caribou Calf Capture & Mortality Sites - 2017



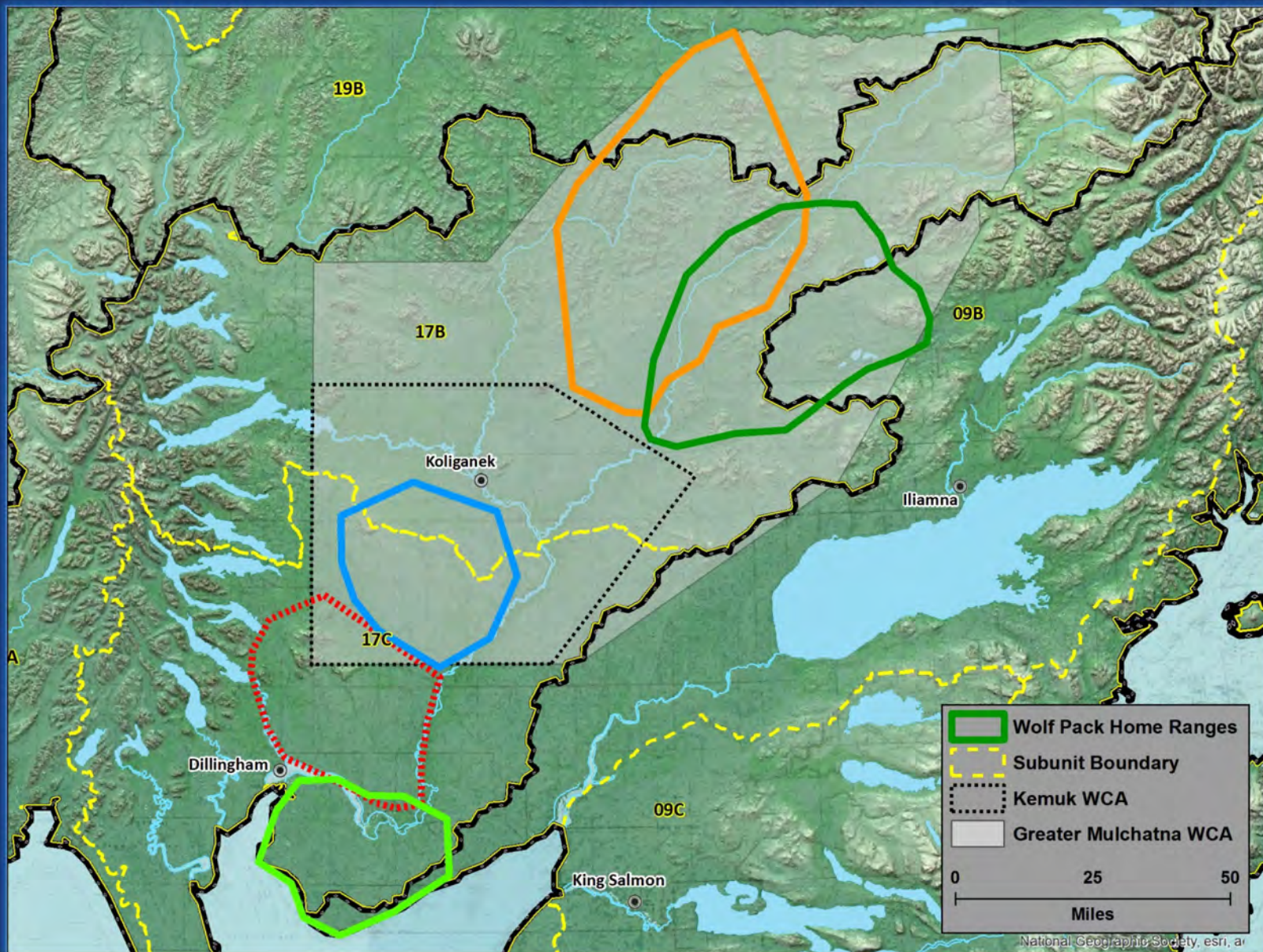


# Predator Control Report





# Predator Control Report





# Predator Control Report

## **Predation Management Area Mulchatna Caribou Herd 5 AAC 92.111 (c)**

- **Wolf control is active in 17B&C**
- **Caribou calf mortality studies will continue as part of IM program**
- **S&I will assess IM thresholds for abundance, harvest, and composition**