

Game Management Unit 8

Kodiak Archipelago

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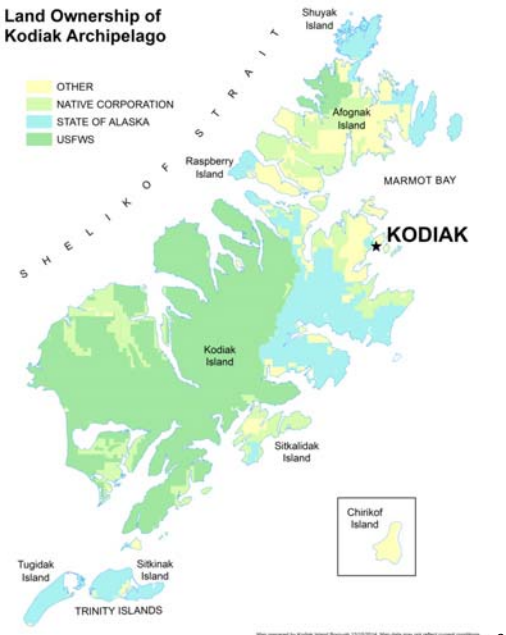



GMU 8 – Kodiak Archipelago

- 5,000 miles²
- Afognak, Raspberry, Kodiak, Sitkalidak, Trinity, Chirikof et al.
- 13,000 residents
- 6 villages on island
- Mountainous, high-alpine terrain (north and center)
- Tundra (southern portions)



GMU 8 – Kodiak Archipelago




- 19% State of Alaska
- 16% Native Corporation
- 52% KNWR
- 13% Other

Credit: Nate Svoboda

Map prepared by Kodiak Island Borough 12/16/2014. Map data may not reflect current conditions.

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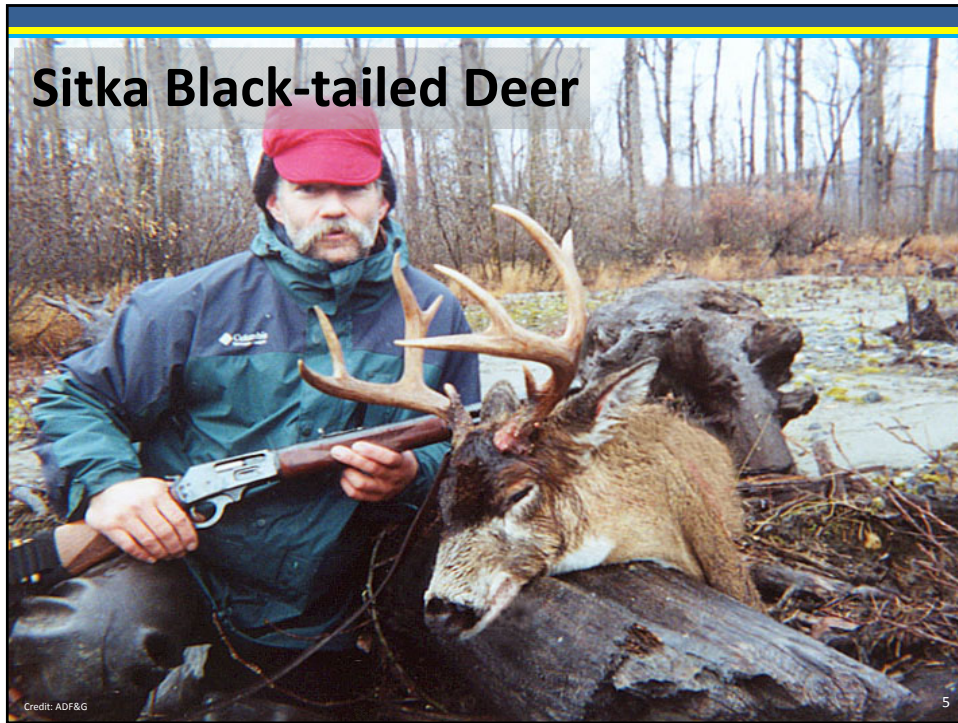
Kodiak Archipelago



- Sitka black-tailed deer
(?????????????)
- Roosevelt elk
(1,000 – 1,200)
- Mountain goats
(3,500)
- Brown bear
(3,000 – 3,500)
- Caribou
(250 – 350)

Credit: Nate Svoboda

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Sitka Black-tailed Deer

HISTORICAL:

- 1925–1934; 3 transplants, 25 deer (Sitka, POW, Petersburg)
- Evidence of deer prior to 1925 (pre-Katmai eruption)
- Important subsistence species; primary mammalian protein for local residents
- Winter severity primary factor impacting mortality
- (+) Positive C&T finding; ANS determined at 3,600–4,100

CURRENT STATUS:

- Estimate ~30–40% decline following 2016–17 winter
- Recover relatively quickly; currently increasing
- Population fluctuates with weather; no reliable estimate
- Occupy all major islands of archipelago

SEASON:

- Aug. 1–Dec. 31; bag limit 1 buck to 3 deer
- Federal season Aug. 1–Jan. 31

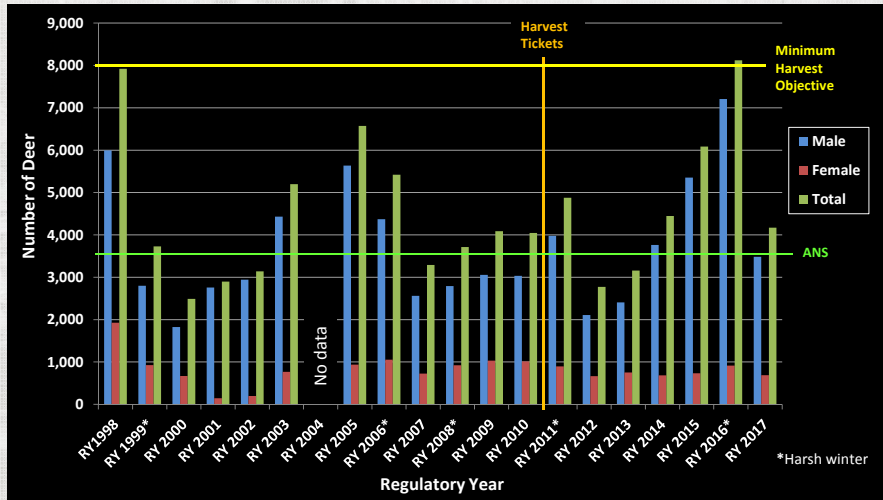
ISSUES:

- Difficulty obtaining robust population estimate and reliable indices
- 1 deer proposal; Proposal 93

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Sitka Black-tailed Deer – Harvest

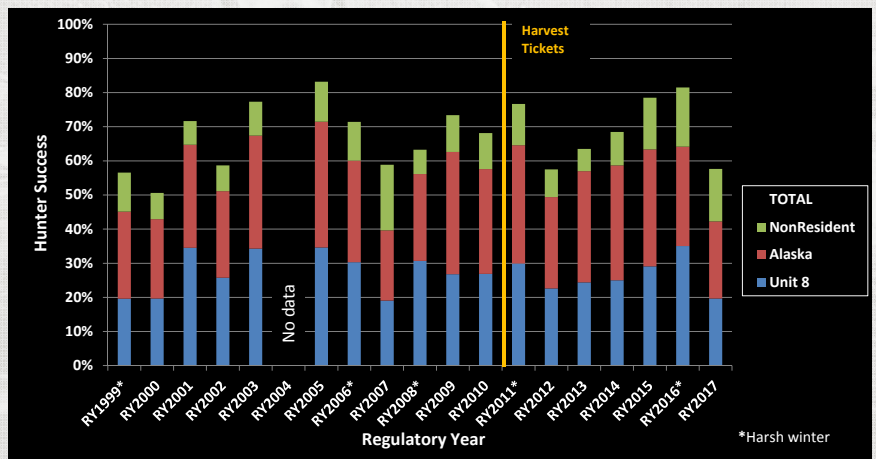
HARVEST: (10-yr avg.) 4,548 deer/year; 80% male harvest; harsh winters



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Sitka Black-tailed Deer – Hunter Effort

HUNTER EFFORT: (10-yr avg.) 3,414 hunters/yr, 69% overall success, Transport: 43% boat, 24% plane, 15% highway vehicle



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Roosevelt elk



Roosevelt elk

HISTORICAL:

- 1928; 8 calves (3 M, 5 F) from Hoh Valley, WA.
- First to Kodiak, grazing concerns, moved to Afognak following spring
- Expanded rapidly: 1933 = 30+; 1948 = 200+; 1961 = 1100
- 1951 observed on Raspberry Island
- (-) Negative C&T finding

CURRENT STATUS:

- Stable to increasing at ~1,000 elk in 8 herds; occupy Afognak and Raspberry
- Northernmost elk population in N. America; only Roosevelt elk in AK

SEASON:

- Sep. 25–Nov. 30; bag limit 1
- 9 drawing hunts (369 permits issued); 1 registration hunt (228 permits issued)
- Federal season Sep. 15–Nov. 30

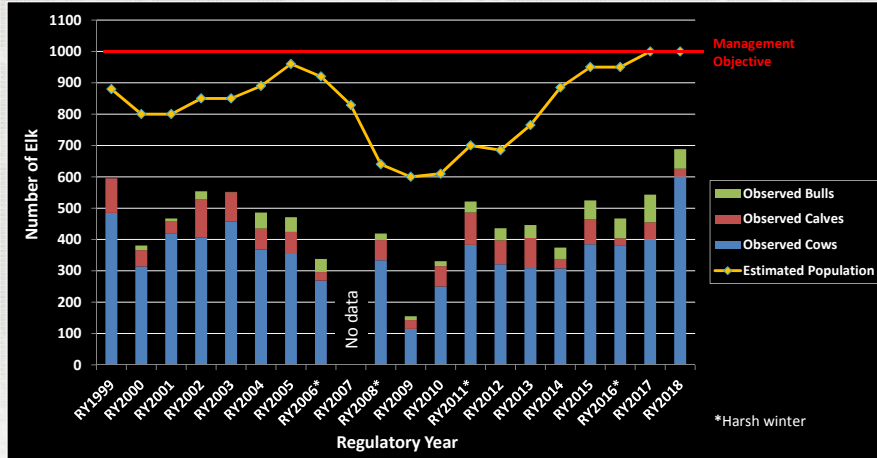
ISSUES:

- Greater potential for population growth
- Impact of logging on habitat and resource use
- No elk proposals

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Roosevelt elk – Population

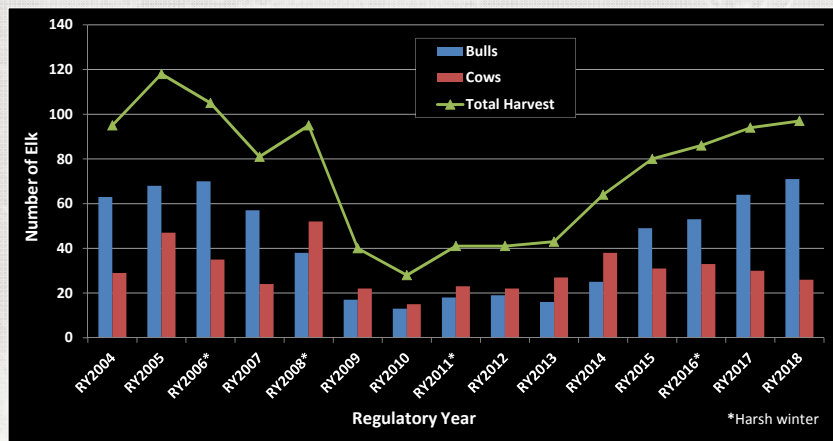
ESTIMATED POPULATION: Slowly increasing population, 2018 minimum count = 688; management objective = 1,000



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Roosevelt elk – Harvest

HARVEST: (10-yr avg.) 61 elk/year; 52% bull harvest; ~220 hunter/year with 26% success; Transport: boat 39%, plane 32%, highway vehicle 27%



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Roosevelt elk – Research

Afognak Island:

- Extensive commercial logging since 1970's
- Concern regarding impact on habitat/resources/population
- Partners: Afognak, Ouzinkie, Koniag, and Kodiak Native Corporations, RMEF, Kodiak Brown Bear Trust, MSU, SUNY

Goal:

Investigate seasonal movements and resource use relative to different forest age stands

Summary:

- Captured and GPS radio-collared 68 elk (36 F, 32 M) since 2016
- Obtaining location every 60 minutes
- Collected >570,000 locations
- Collected 161 fecal samples to estimate seasonal diet

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Mountain goat



Credit: ADF&G

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Mountain goat

HISTORICAL:

- 1952–1953: 11 female, 8 male from Kenai Peninsula
- Expanded rapidly: 4 goats observed in 1957 to 3,254 goats in 2017
- 2013: increased bag limit in RG480 to 2 goats
- (-) Negative C&T finding

CURRENT STATUS:

- Stable in most areas, slightly increasing in others; Estimate = 3,000–3,500
- Occur in nearly all suitable habitats throughout the island

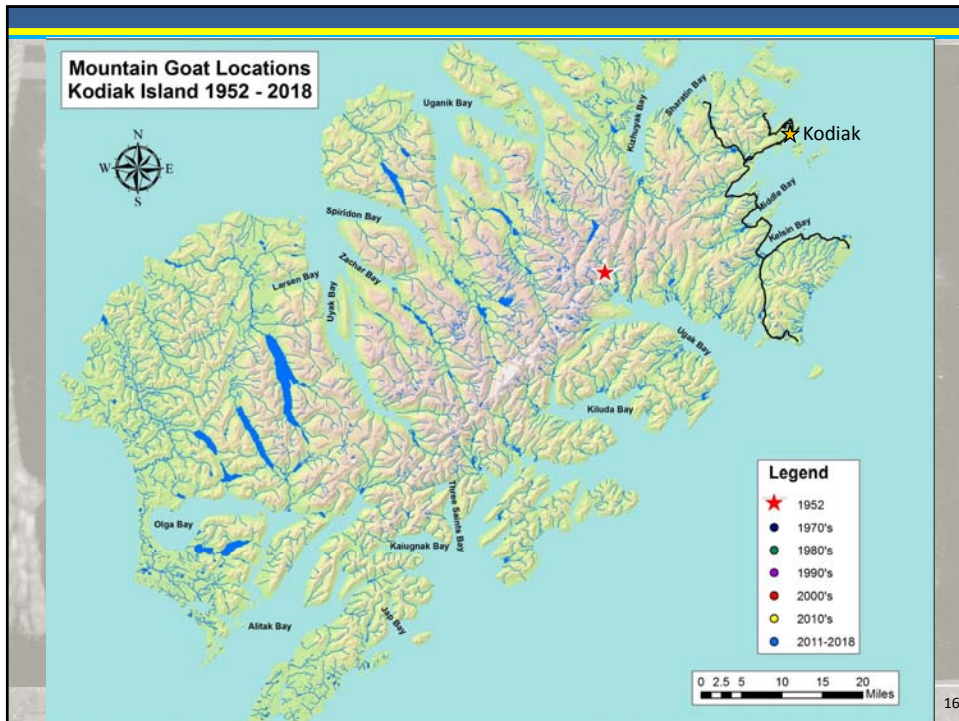
SEASON:

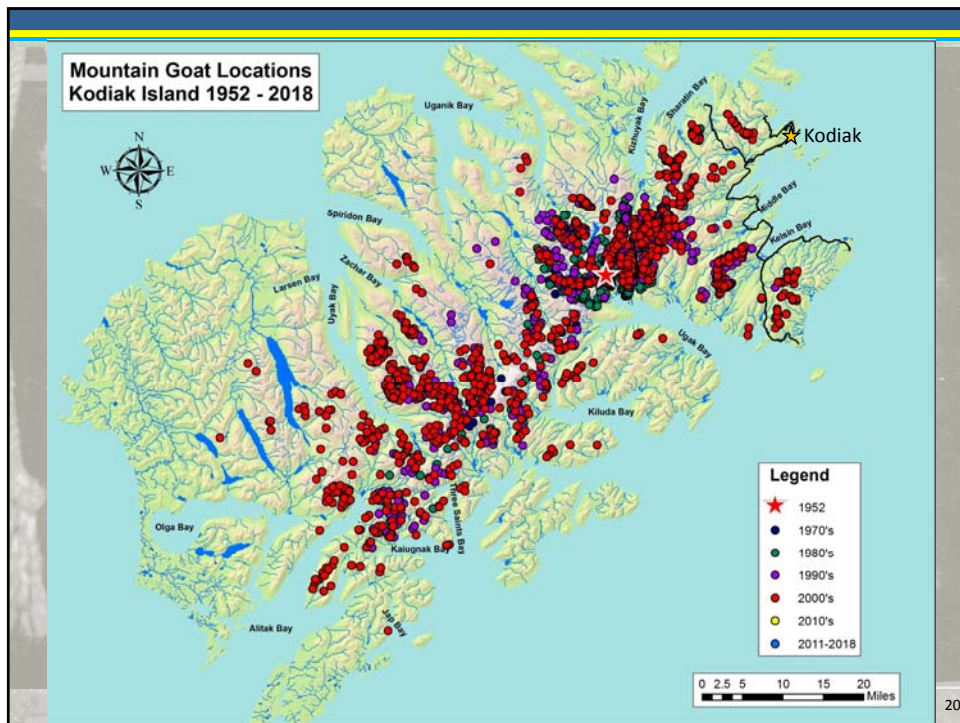
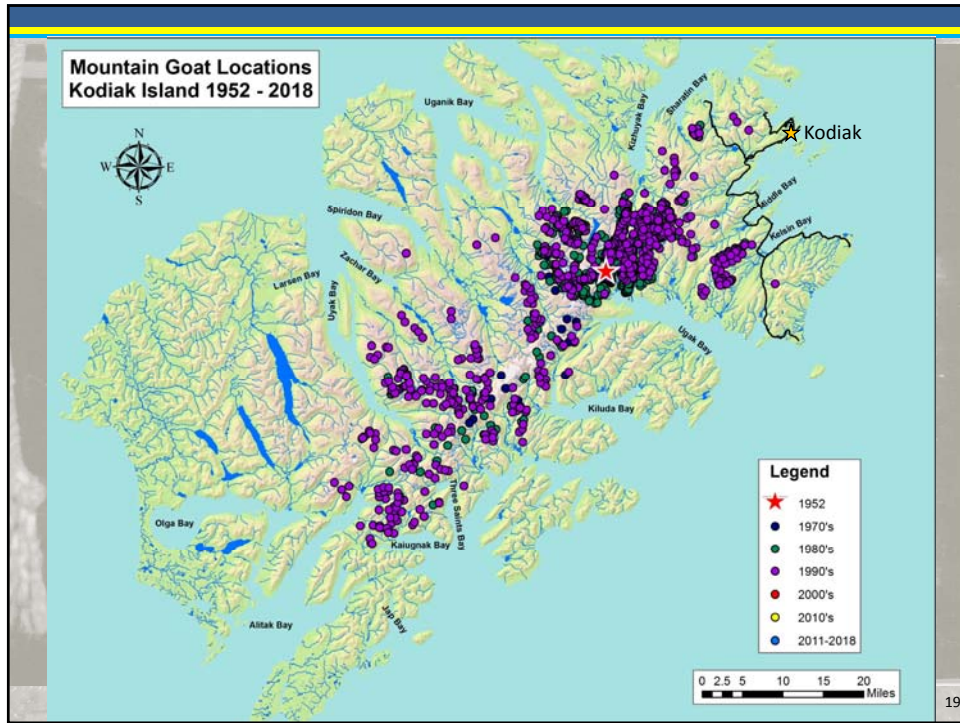
- Drawing: Aug. 20–Oct. 25 (249 permits)
- Registration: Aug. 20–Mar. 20 (RG480; ~1,500 permits)
- Registration: Nov. 1–Dec. 15 (other areas)
- 8 hunt areas

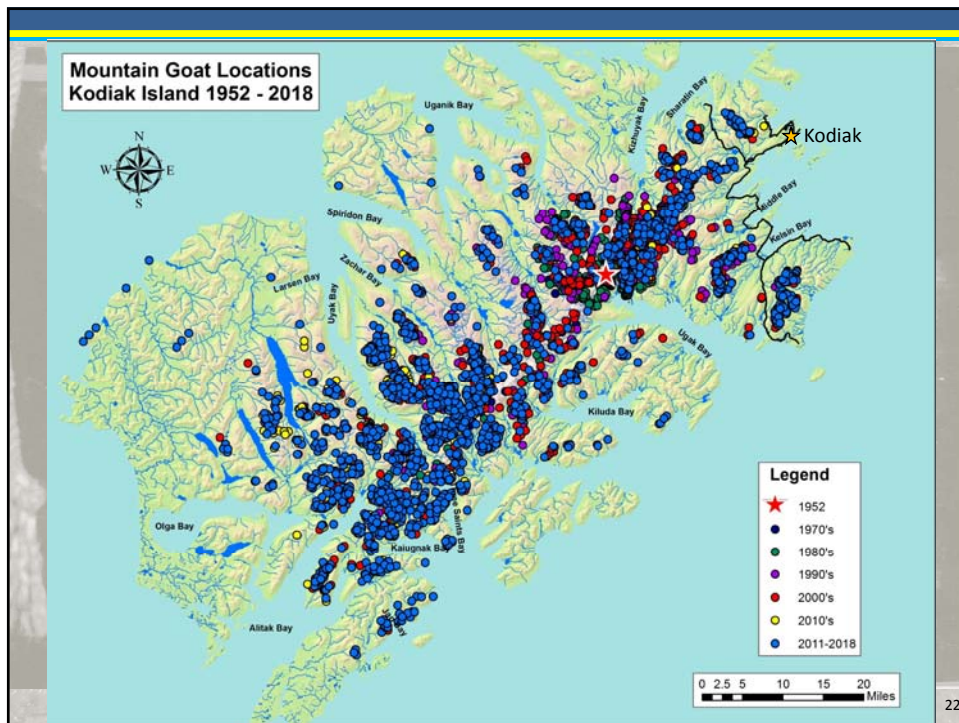
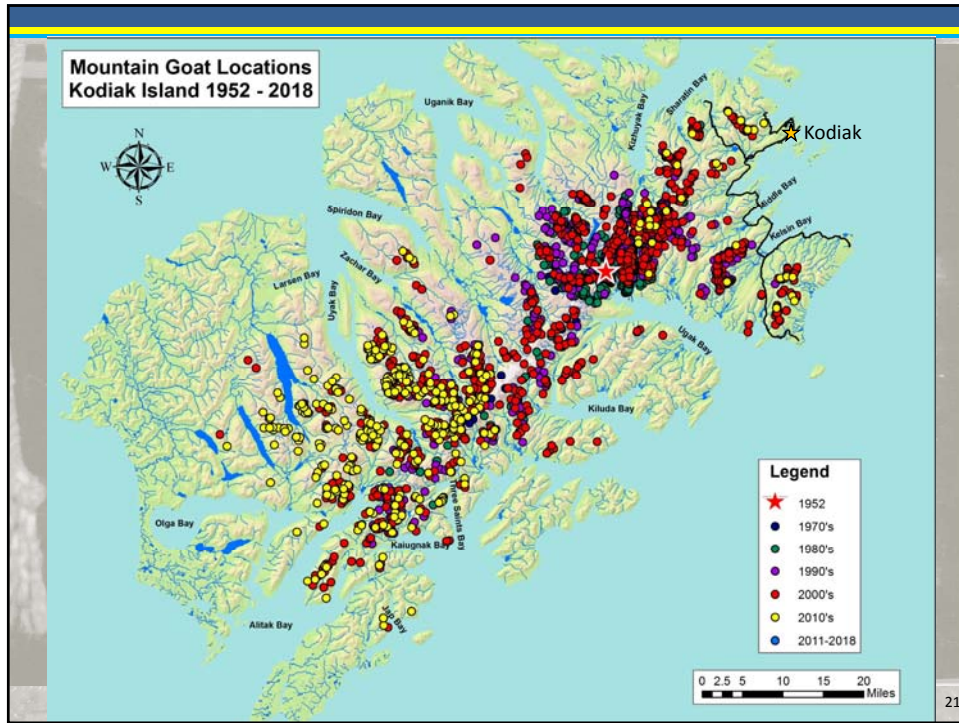
ISSUES:

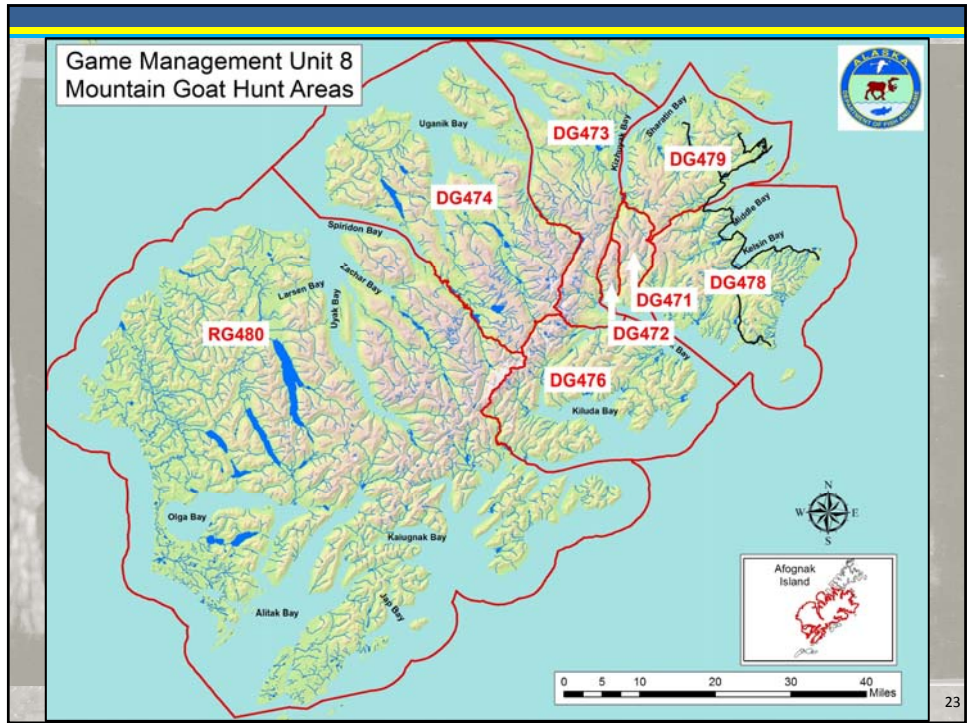
- Increasing and expanding population in RG480
- Concern regarding potential impact on vegetation
- 4 goat proposals; Proposals 94–97

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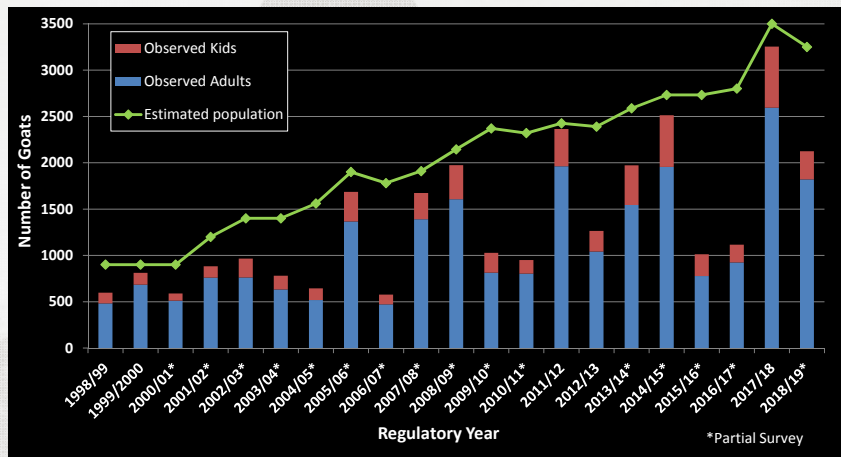




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Mountain goat – Population

Population Estimate: Stable in most areas to slightly increasing in some areas (RG480); 2017 minimum count = 3,254; Average=24 kids:100 adults

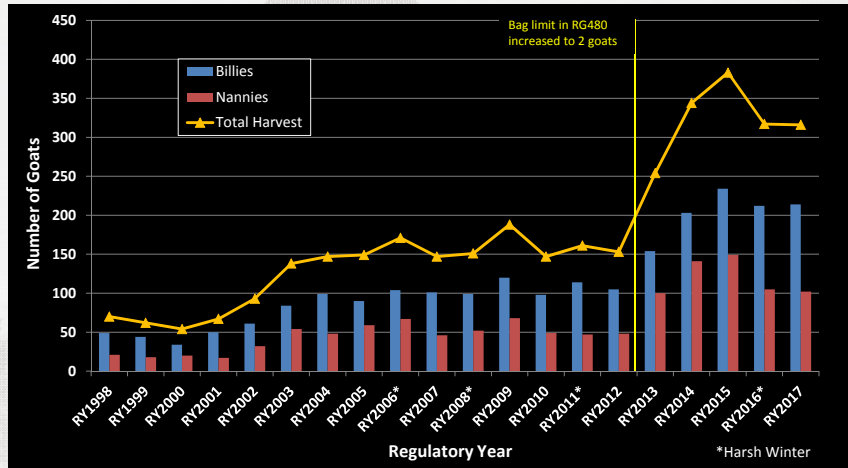


*Partial Survey

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Mountain goat – Harvest

HARVEST: (10-yr avg.) 241 goats/year; 65% billy harvest. Harvest and hunters increased following bag limit change; ~42% hunter success



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Brown bear



Credit: Ed Ward

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Brown bear

HISTORICAL:

- Kodiak bears isolated from other bears for 12,000+ years
- Largest brown bears in the world; attracts thousands of visitors worldwide
- (-) Negative C&T finding

CURRENT STATUS:

- Stable to increasing at ~3,500 bears
- Occur on all major islands of the Archipelago
- Highly valued trophy hunt

SEASON:

- Spring: Apr. 1 – May 15 (~85 registration permits; 320 drawing permits)
- Fall: Oct. 25 – Nov. 30 (~166 registration permits; 180 drawing permits)
- 31 drawing hunt areas, 1 registration hunt area
- Federal Season: Apr. 1 – May 15; Dec. 1 – Dec. 15 (up to 10 permits)

ISSUES:

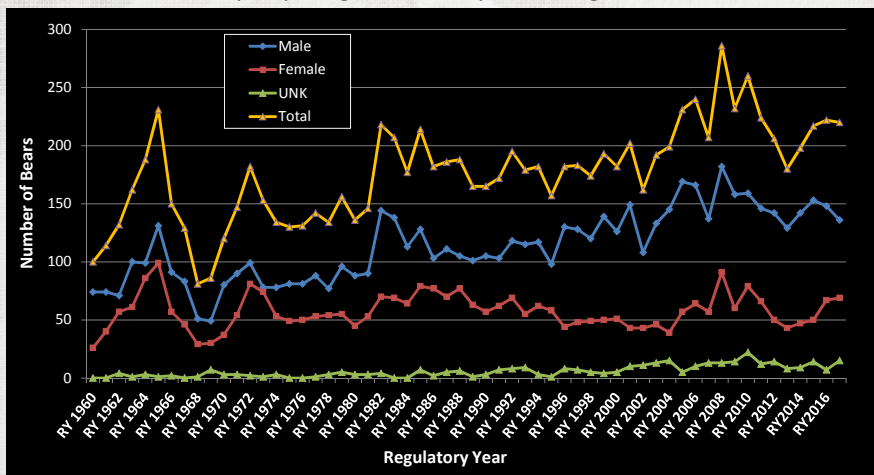
- Urban/village bears, proper waste management
- Berry phenology and distribution
- Robust population estimate
- 9 bear proposals; Proposals 98–106

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Brown bear – Harvest

HARVEST: (10-yr avg.) 198 bear/year; Range = 164–250; 73% males

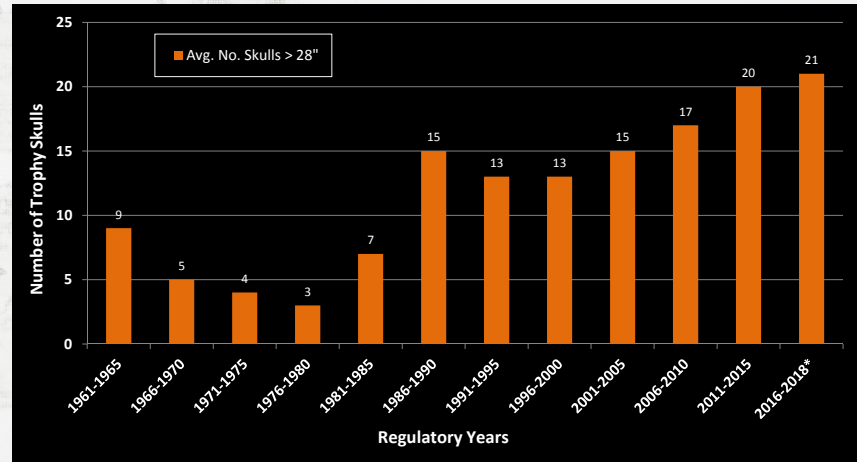
NON-HUNTING: (10-yr avg.) 27 bear/year; Range = 14–38



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Brown bear – Trophy Bears

Harvested Trophy Bears: 5-year averages of skulls > 28"; Number of harvested trophy bears with skulls > 28" has been increasing.



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Brown bear – Research

Sitkalidak Island:

- Examine seasonal resource use and movement patterns
- Estimate annual litter production and cub survival
- Investigate reproductive interval of adult females

Afognak Island:

- Evaluate habitat use patterns relative to timber harvest and forest successional stage
- Determine survival rates and productivity
- Investigate seasonal resource use and movement patterns

Kodiak Archipelago – berry production:

- Develop method to monitor annual berry abundance and phenology

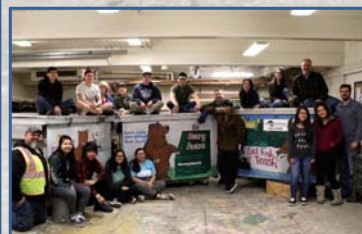
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Brown bear – Public Outreach

Credit: ADF&G



- Local schools (Old Harbor – place-based learning, Kodiak H.S. – necropsy, dumpster)
- Bear Safety Group (AK Waste, USCG, AWT, KPD, State Parks)
- Bear Aware presentations; many groups
- Public Service Announcements; roll carts
- Kodiak Unified Bear Subcommittee (KUBS)



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Furbearers



Credit: ADF&G

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Furbearers

HISTORICAL:

- 1888: Arctic fox to Chirikof (Semidi propagating company)
- 1929: 24 beaver to Kodiak; 21 to Raspberry
- 1952: 20 marten (8 M, 12 F) released on Afognak Island
- 1952: 47 red squirrel introduced to Kodiak

CURRENT STATUS:

- Beaver, river otter, red fox, and marten populations are stable

SEASON:

- Beaver: (+) C&T; Nov. 10 – Apr. 30; no limit
- Red fox: (+) C&T; Nov. 10 – Mar. 31; no limit
- River otter: (+) C&T; Nov. 10 – Jan. 31; no limit
- Marten: (+) C&T; Nov. 10 – Jan. 31; no limit



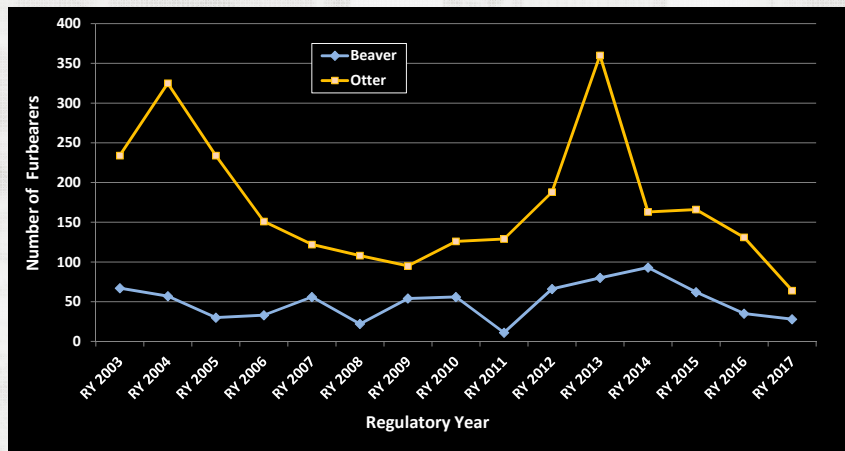
ISSUES:

- Localized high harvest of red fox along road system
- Mink increasing on road system and Long Island
- 1 trapping proposal; Proposal 109

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Furbearers – Harvest

HARVEST: 10-yr avg. = 51 beaver/year (Range = 11–93); 153 otter/year (Range = 64–360); harvest fluctuates with fur prices



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Caribou

HISTORICAL:

- 1924, 32 brought to Alitak
- Reclassified from feral reindeer to caribou in 2011
- (-) Negative C&T finding

CURRENT STATUS:


- Stable at 250–350 individuals
- Occupy southwest Kodiak Island (Ayakulik and Sturgeon River drainages)

SEASON:

- Aug. 1–Jan. 31; bag limit 1
- Harvest tag required
- Must salvage all meat

ISSUES:

- Recent increase in interest and harvest; advertised for “combo” hunts
- Concern regarding overharvest
- No caribou proposals

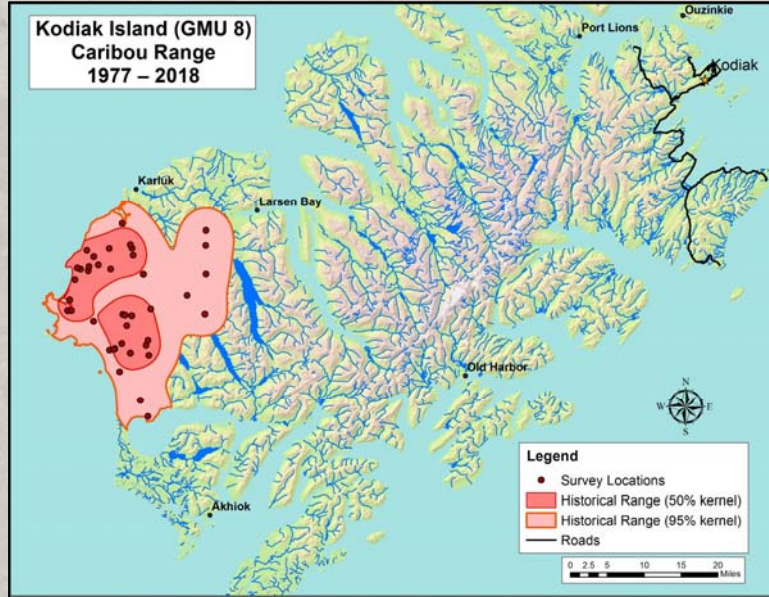


Credit: Robbie Barefield

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A photograph of a caribou with large, velvet-covered antlers standing in a grassy field. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape. The word "Caribou" is written in a large, bold, black font at the top. Below the text are four sections: "HISTORICAL:", "CURRENT STATUS:", "SEASON:", and "ISSUES:", each followed by a bulleted list of information. In the middle right section, there is a small photograph of a caribou with large antlers. Below the photograph is a small credit line "Credit: Robbie Barefield". In the bottom right corner, there is a small number "37".

Caribou – Historical Range



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Caribou – Harvest

HARVEST: (10-yr avg.) 26 caribou/year; 73% bull harvest; ↑ harvest



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Questions?

