


Game Management Unit 8


Kodiak Archipelago

Nathan Svoboda
Area Wildlife Biologist

Bill Dunker
Wildlife Biologist

Katrina Wandersee
Program Technician



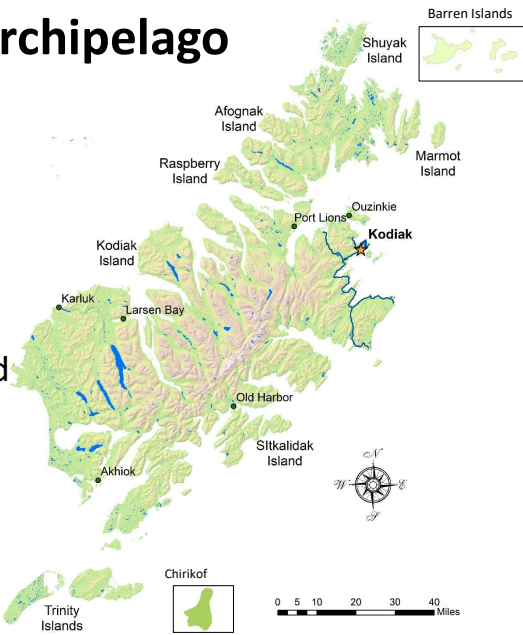


Credit: Nate Svoboda

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GMU 8 – Kodiak Archipelago

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



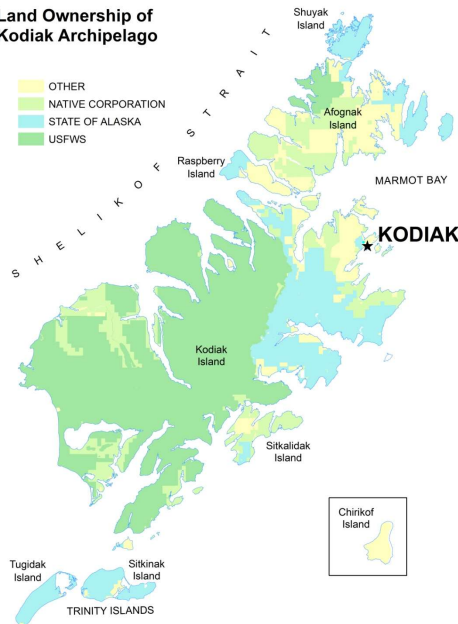
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GMU 8 – Kodiak Archipelago



Land Ownership of Kodiak Archipelago

- OTHER
- NATIVE CORPORATION
- STATE OF ALASKA
- USFWS



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

Credit: Nate Svoboda


Map prepared by Kodiak Island Borough 12/15/2014. Map data may not reflect current conditions.

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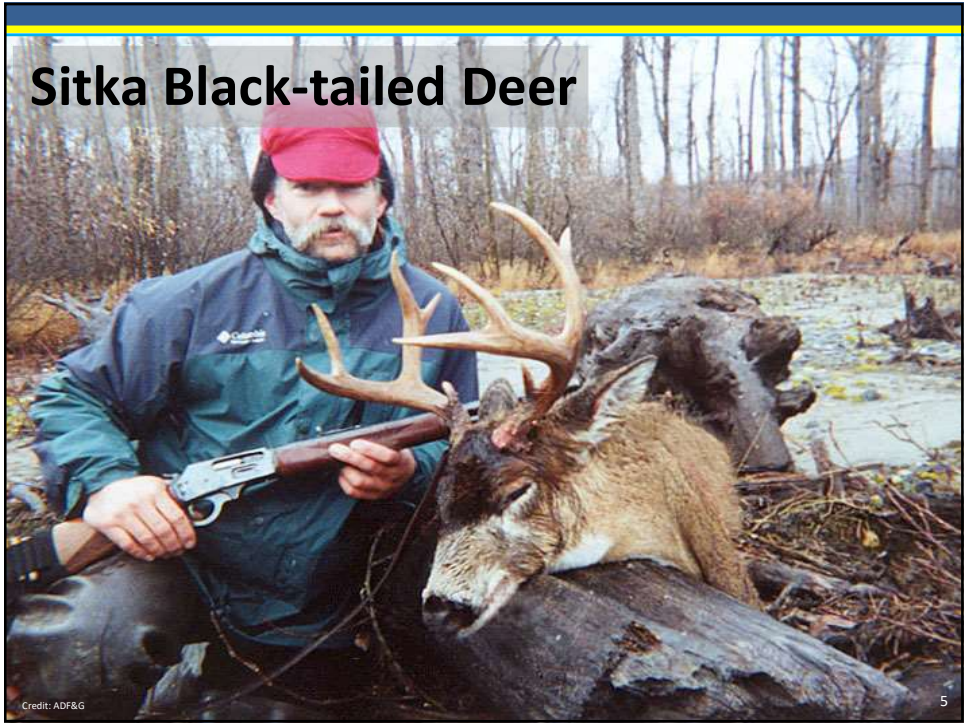
Kodiak Archipelago

Credit: Nate Svoboda

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



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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 believed to be primary factor impacting mortality
- (+) Positive C&T finding; ANS determined at 3,600–4,100

CURRENT STATUS:

- Significant decline following 2019 winter
- Recover relatively quickly; currently increasing
- Population fluctuates with weather; no reliable estimate

SEASON:

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

ISSUES:

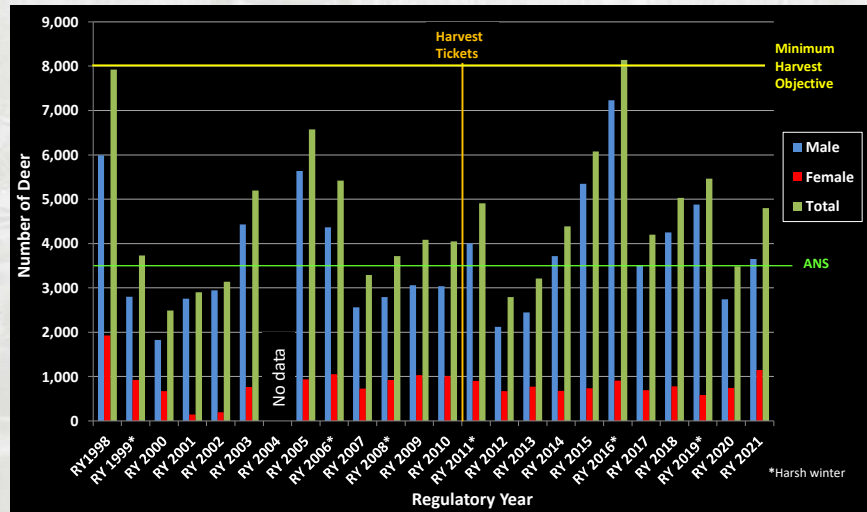
- Difficulty obtaining robust population estimate and reliable indices
- Public concerns regarding increase in transporters and off-island hunters
- 2 deer proposals; Proposals 73 & 74

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Sitka Black-tailed Deer – Harvest

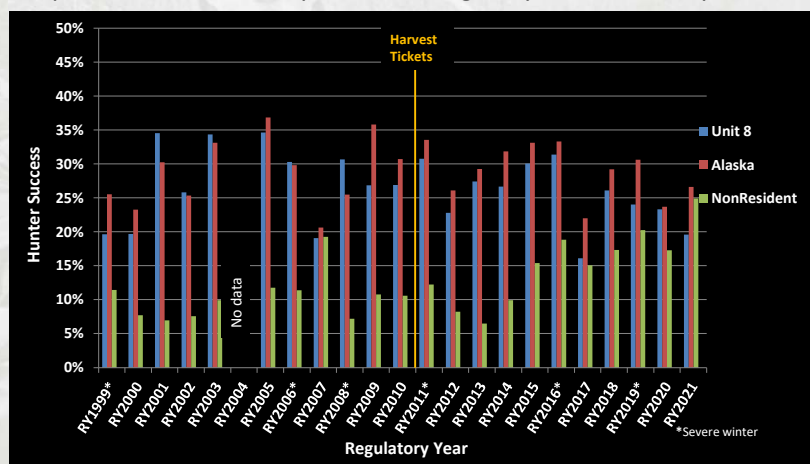
HARVEST: (10-yr avg.) 4,759 deer/year; 83% male harvest; winter wx



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Sitka Black-tailed Deer – Hunter Effort

HUNTER EFFORT: (10-yr avg.) 3,864 hunters/yr, 69% overall success, Transport: 43% boat, 27% plane, 15% highway vehicle; transporters



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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 ~1,200 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 (367 permits issued); 1 registration hunt (206 permits issued)
- Federal season Sep. 15–Nov. 30

ISSUES:

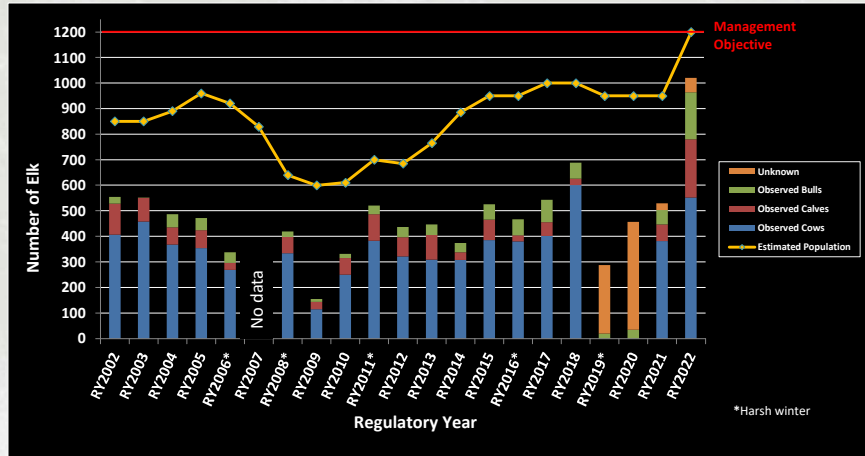
- Feral Rocky Mountain elk impact on genetic integrity of Roosevelt elk
- Impact of logging on habitat and resource use
- 4 elk proposals, proposals 69–72

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Roosevelt elk – Population

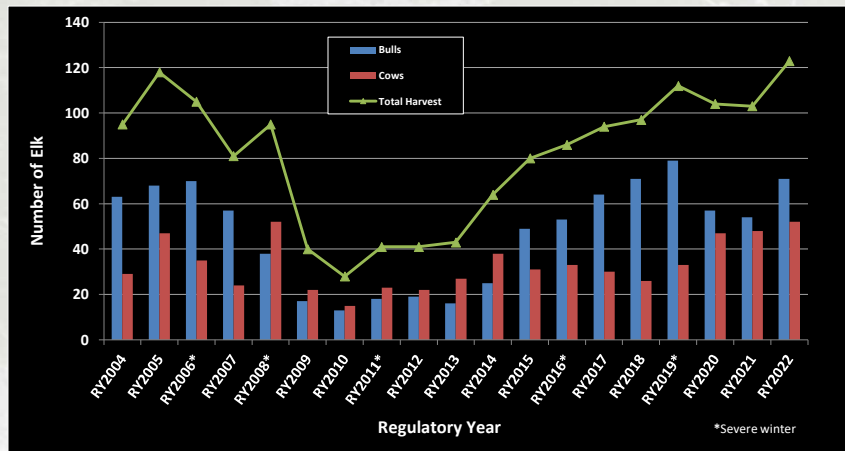
ESTIMATED POPULATION: Slowly increasing population, 2022 minimum count = 1,020; Management objective = 1,200 (reached); Photo surveys



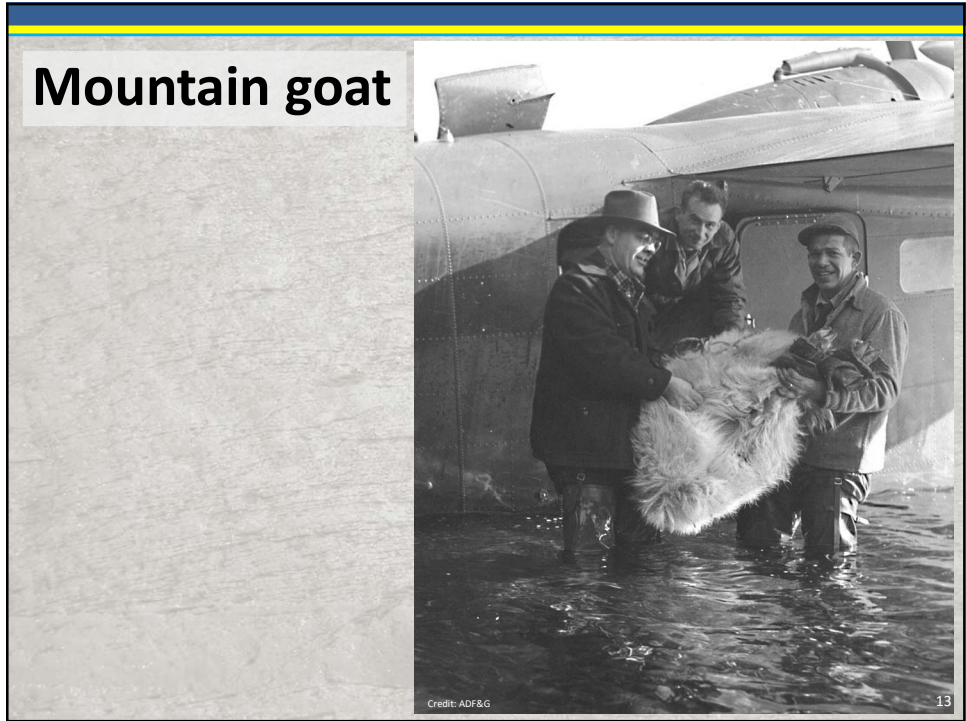
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Roosevelt elk – Harvest

HARVEST: (10-yr avg.) 82 elk/year; 57% bull harvest; ~264 hunters/year with 30% success; Transport: boat 47%, plane 38%, highway vehicle 12%



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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:

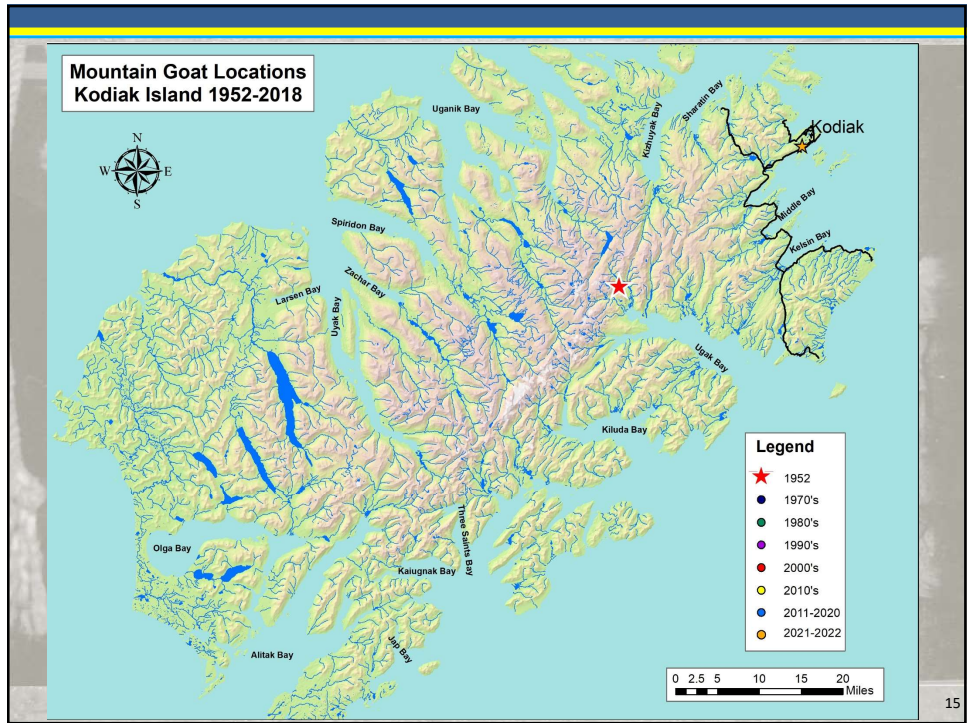
- Drawing: Aug 20 – Oct 25 (308 permits)
- Registration: Aug 20 – Mar 31 (RG480; ~1,250 permits)
- Registration: Nov 1 – Jan 31 (other areas)
- 8 hunt areas

ISSUES:

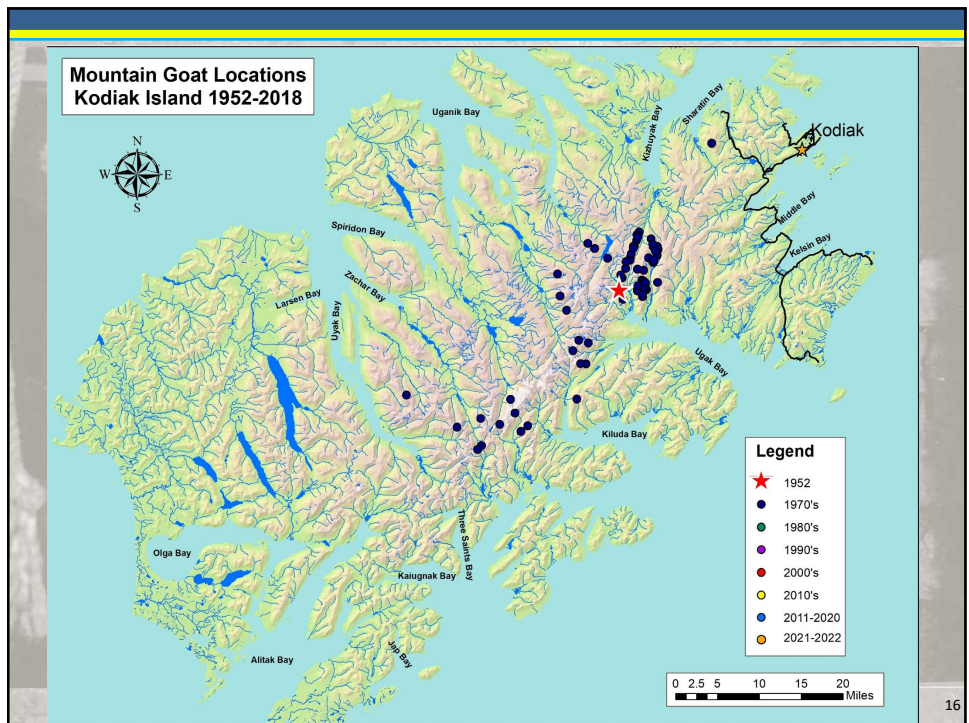
- Concern regarding potential impact on vegetation in high density areas
- 3 goat proposals; Proposals 65–67

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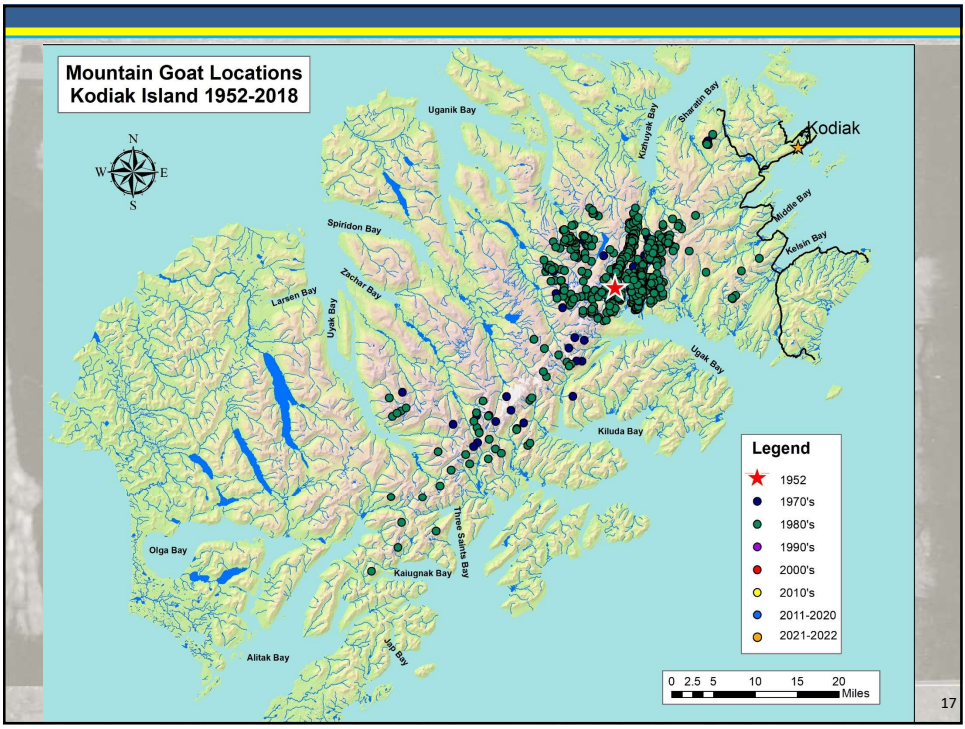
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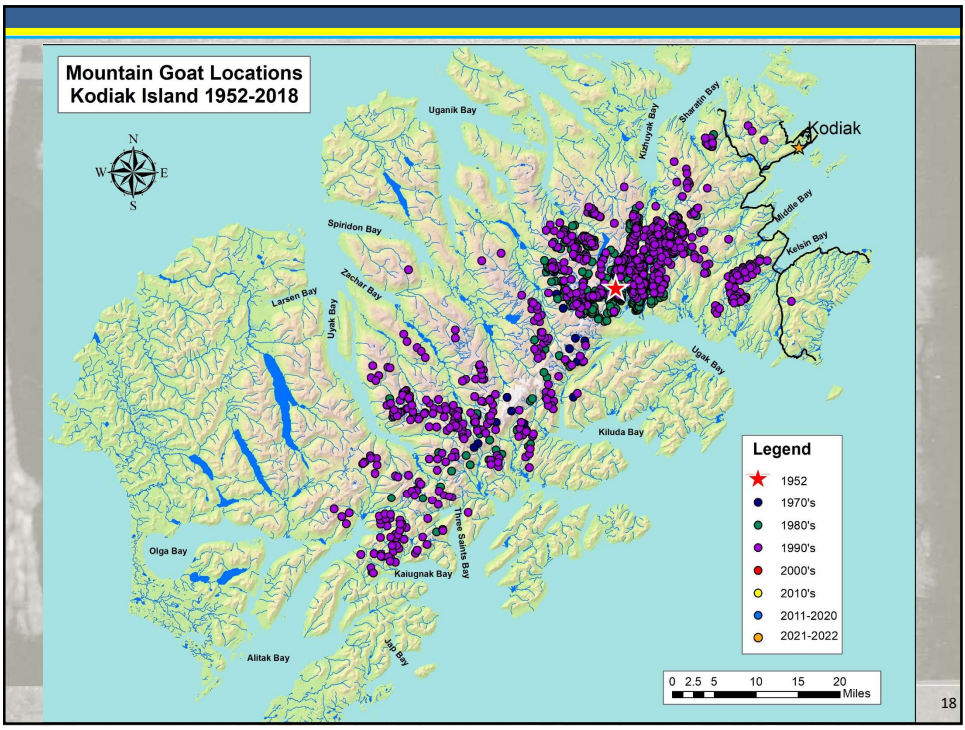
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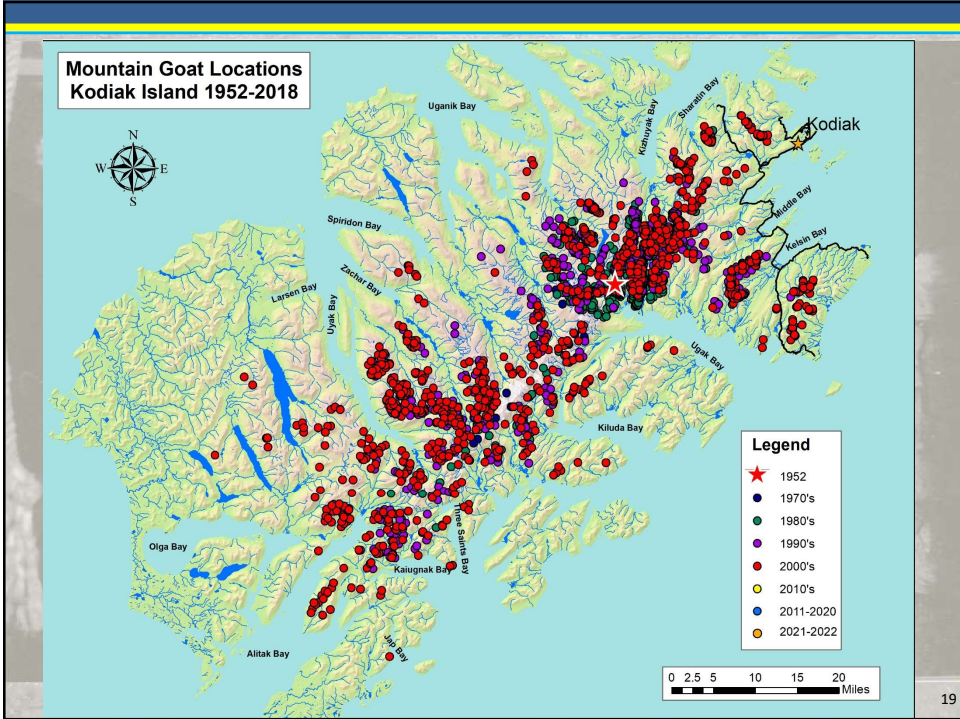
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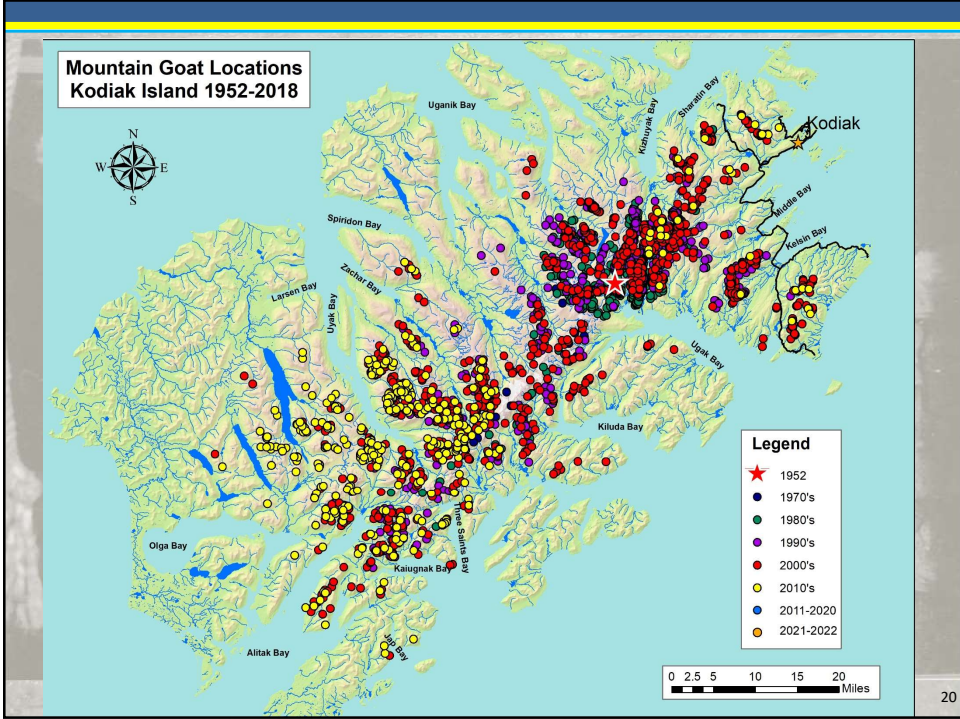
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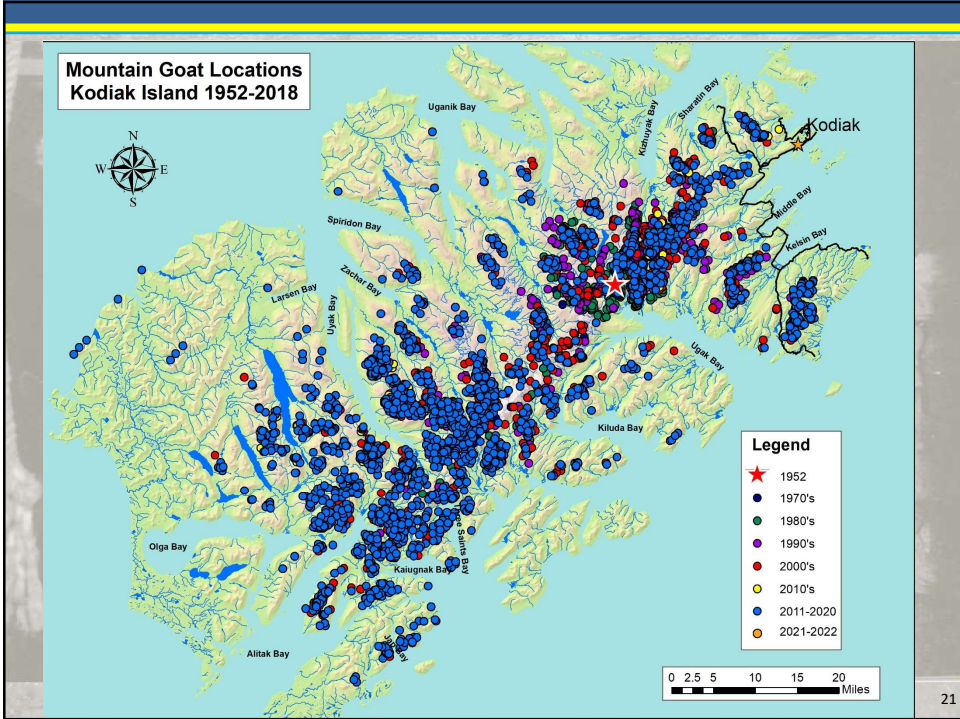
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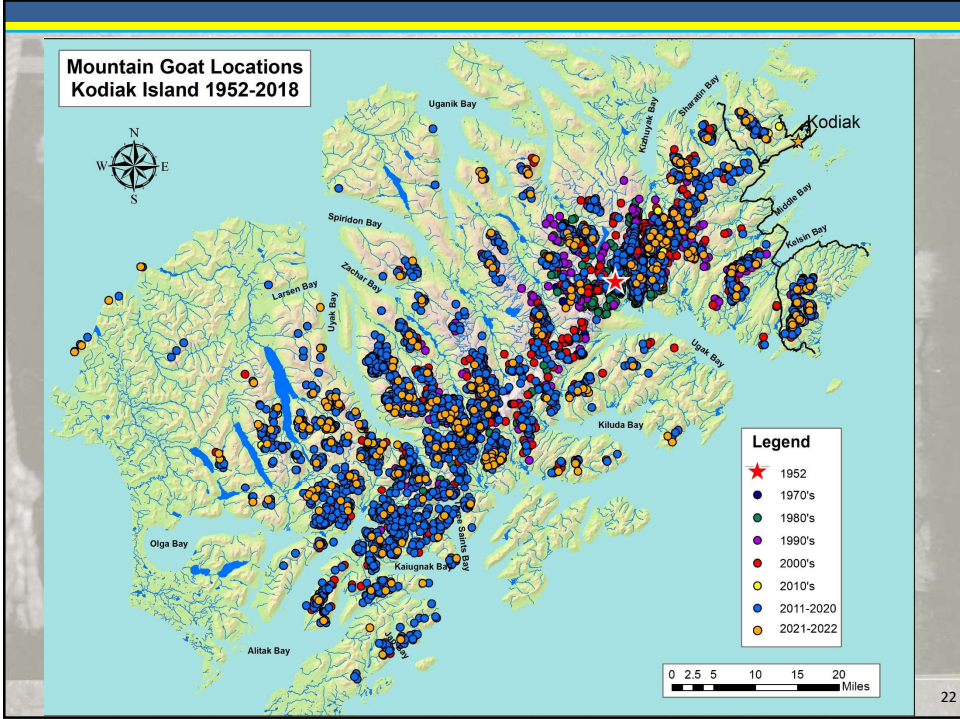
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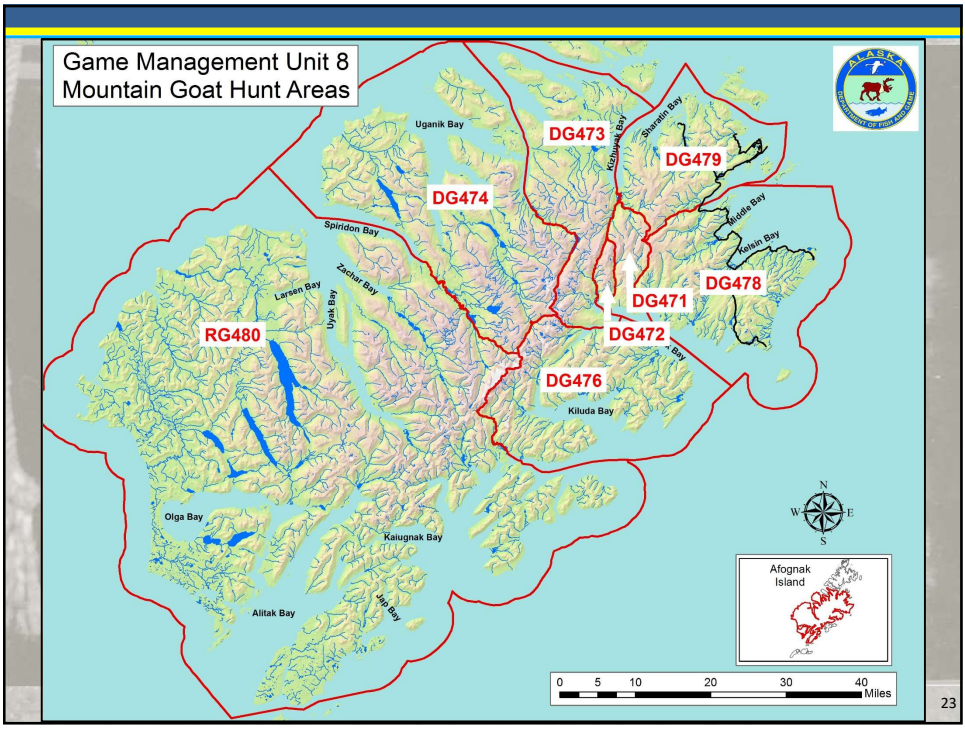
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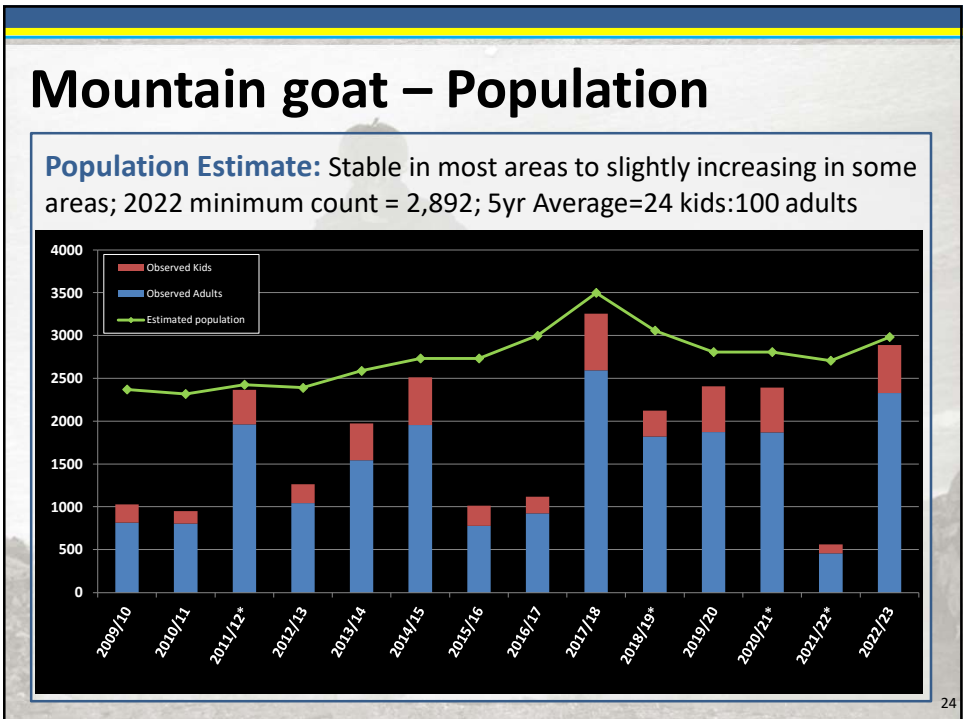
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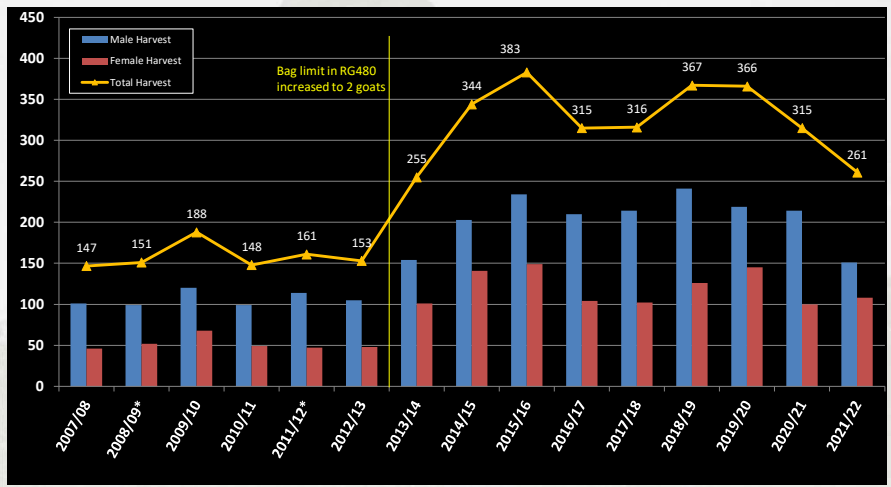
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Mountain goat – Harvest

HARVEST: (10-yr avg.) 308 goats/year; 64% billy harvest; ~44% hunter success; Road system increasingly popular hunt



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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 at ~3,500 bears
- Occur on all major islands of the Archipelago
- Recent detection of HPAI (first known brown bear infection in world)

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
- Robust and current population estimate and monitoring index needed
- 6 bear proposals; Proposals 75–80

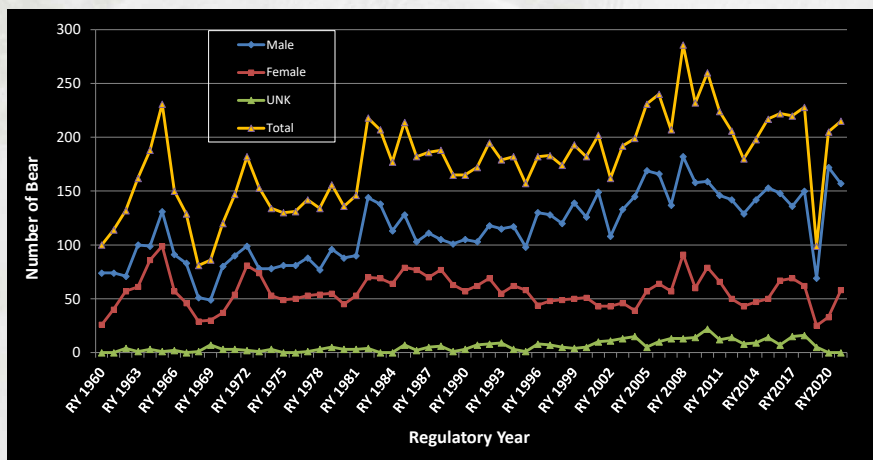
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Brown bear – Harvest

HARVEST: (10-yr avg.) 181 bear/year; Range = 88–215; 75% males

NON-HUNTING: (10-yr avg.) 25 bear/year; Range = 11–38

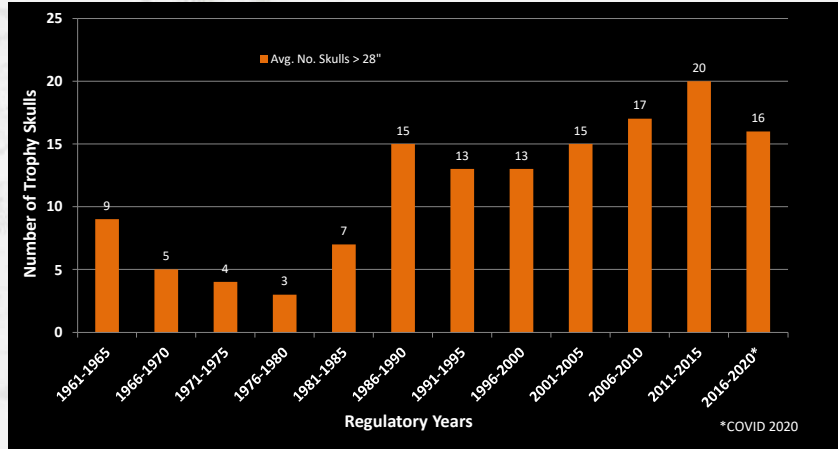


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Brown bear – Trophy Bears

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

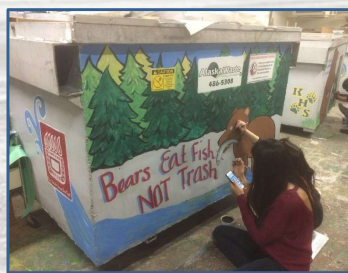


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Brown bear – Public Outreach

Credit: ADF&G



- Local schools (Bear re-articulation, Kodiak H.S. –dumpster project; education program)
- 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



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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 81

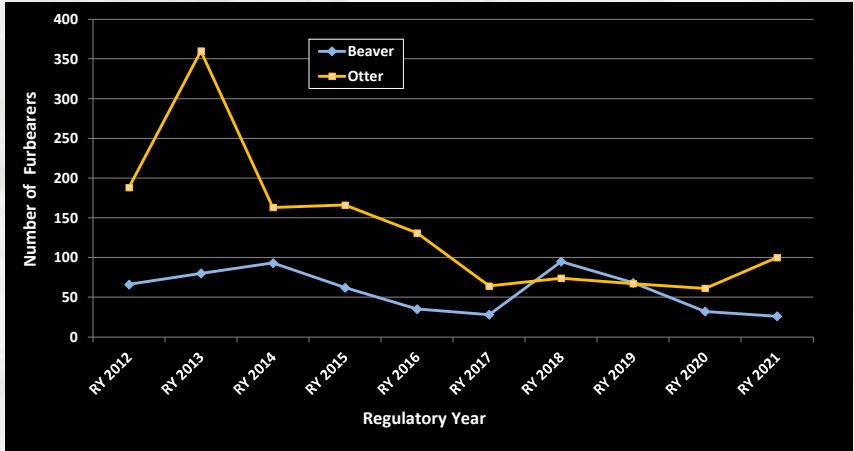


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Furbearers – Harvest

HARVEST: 10-yr avg. = 59 beaver/year (Range = 26–95); 138 otter/year (Range = 61–360); harvest fluctuates with fur prices



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Caribou



Credit: ADF&G

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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:

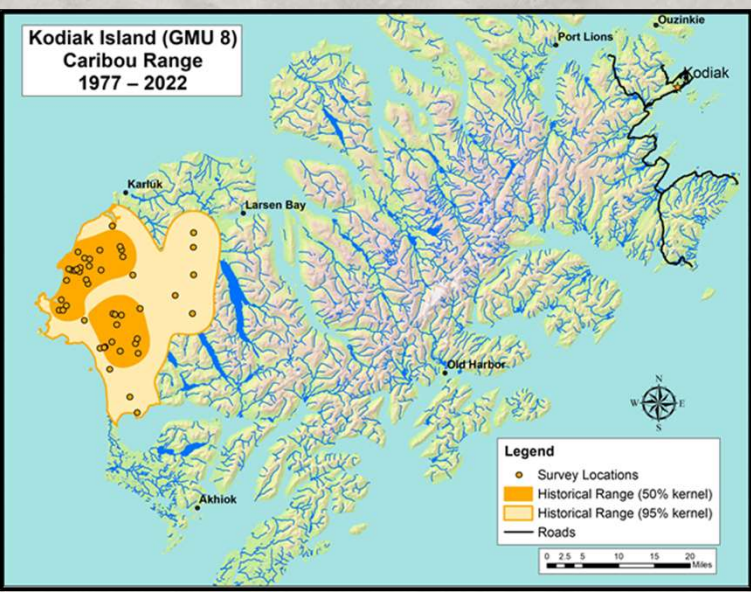
- Aug. 1–Jan. 31; bag limit 1
- Harvest tag required
- Must salvage all meat

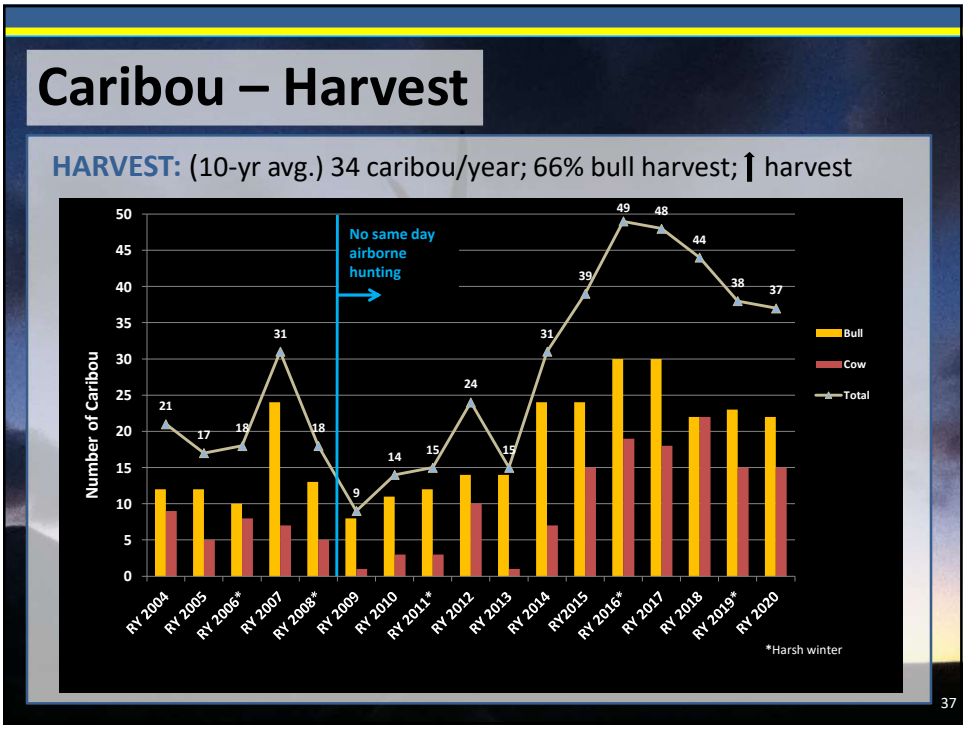


ISSUES:

- Recent increase in interest and harvest; advertised for “combo” hunts
- Concern regarding overharvest
- 1 caribou proposal; Proposal 68

Caribou – Historical Range





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