



Alaska Hare Research and Status Update

Region IV – Board of Game
Wasilla, Alaska
10-17 January 2025



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RC: 4, Tab: 1.3

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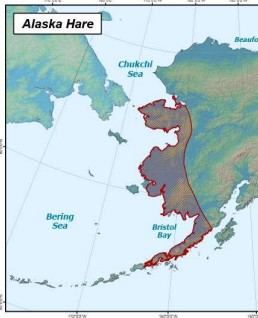
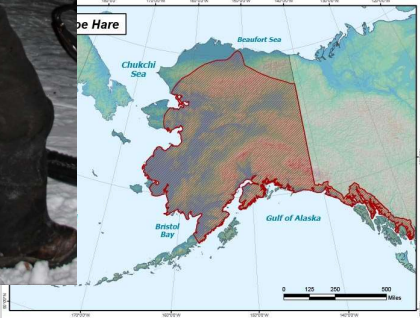
Alaska Hare Proposals

Alaska Hare:
Prop 24 – No open season for Alaska hares in Units 9 and 17



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<p><u>Alaska Hare</u></p>		<p><u>Snowshoe Hare</u></p>
<p>Weight 7-15lbs One litter per year Limited distribution</p>		<p>Weight 3-4lbs Multiple litters per year Widespread and common</p>
		

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Historical Accounts

- Current population is substantially lower
 - ADF&G Game Bird Reports
 - 1970s-80s relatively high abundance with large groups
 - Unit 23 Goodhope River
 - ~600-800 individuals/group
 - Unit 22 Kuzitrin/Serpentine/Nuluk drainages
 - ~300-500 individuals/group
- Only 2 research projects
 - 1974 and 2016



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Alaska Hare Project Background

2017 – 2022

- 7 locations
- 16 surveys
- 1.3 years in the field
- ~20,000 snowmachine miles
- 10 staff members
- 4 volunteers/contractors



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Project Objectives:

1. Evaluate techniques for long-term population monitoring
2. Movement Ecology



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1) Monitoring Techniques

Goals:

- Evaluate long-term monitoring approaches
- Estimate abundance
- Density
- Buck:Doe ratios
- Variability in study areas and years

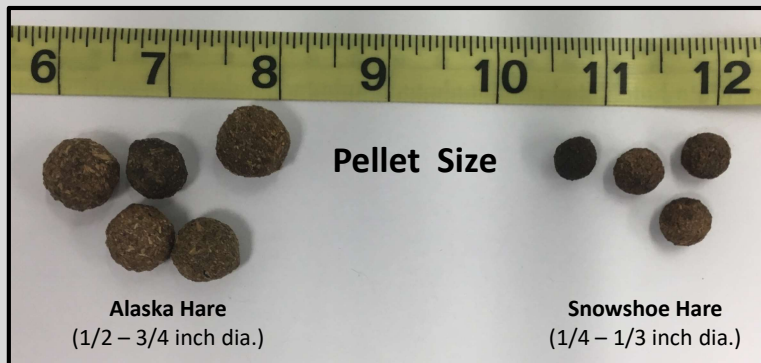


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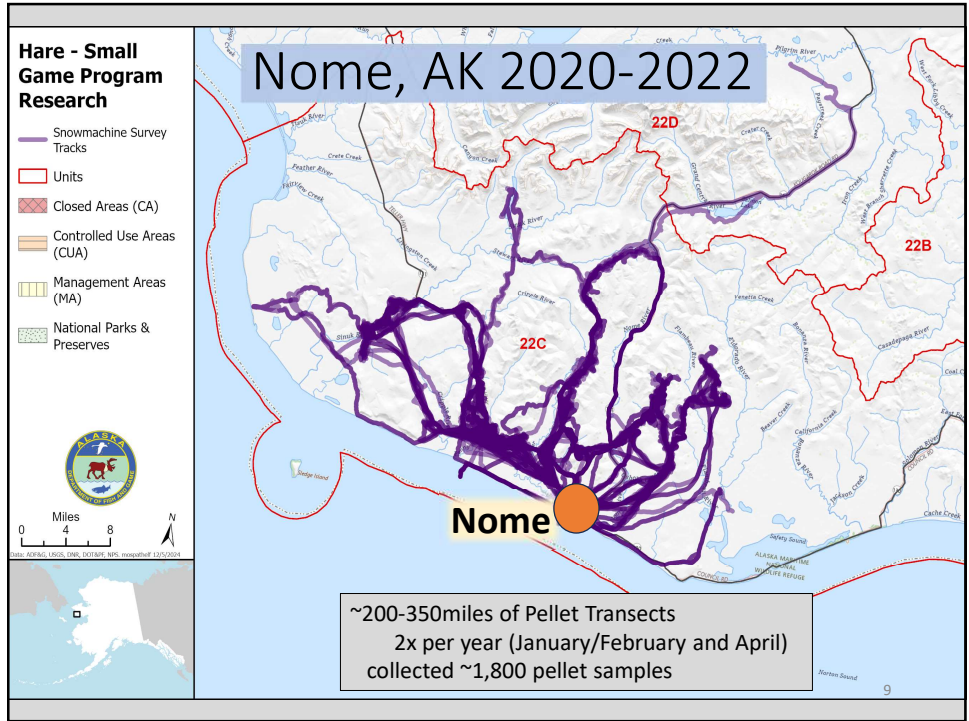
Population Monitoring Techniques

Pellet Transects with DNA analysis

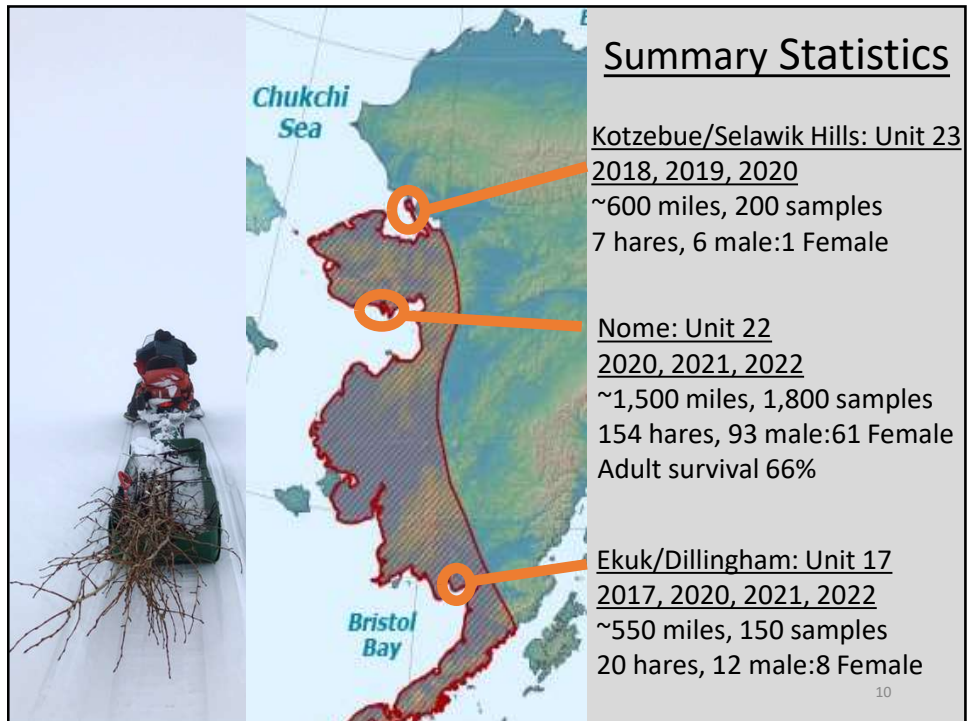
- Transect completed via snowmachine
- DNA collected from winter fecal pellets
- Individual and sex



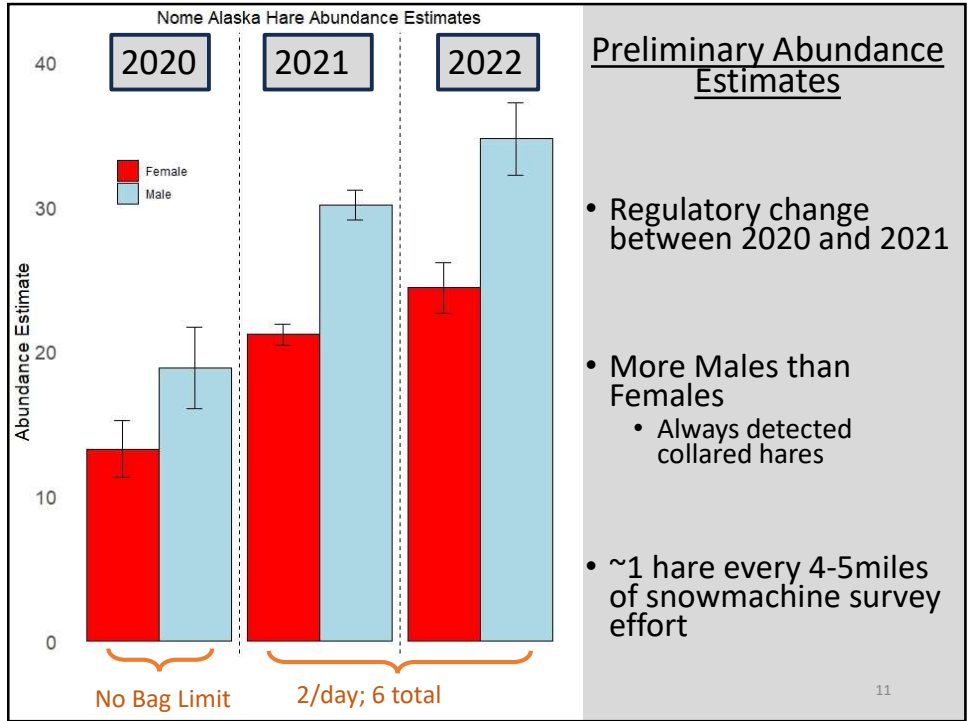
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2) Movement Ecology

Need: Basic Movements

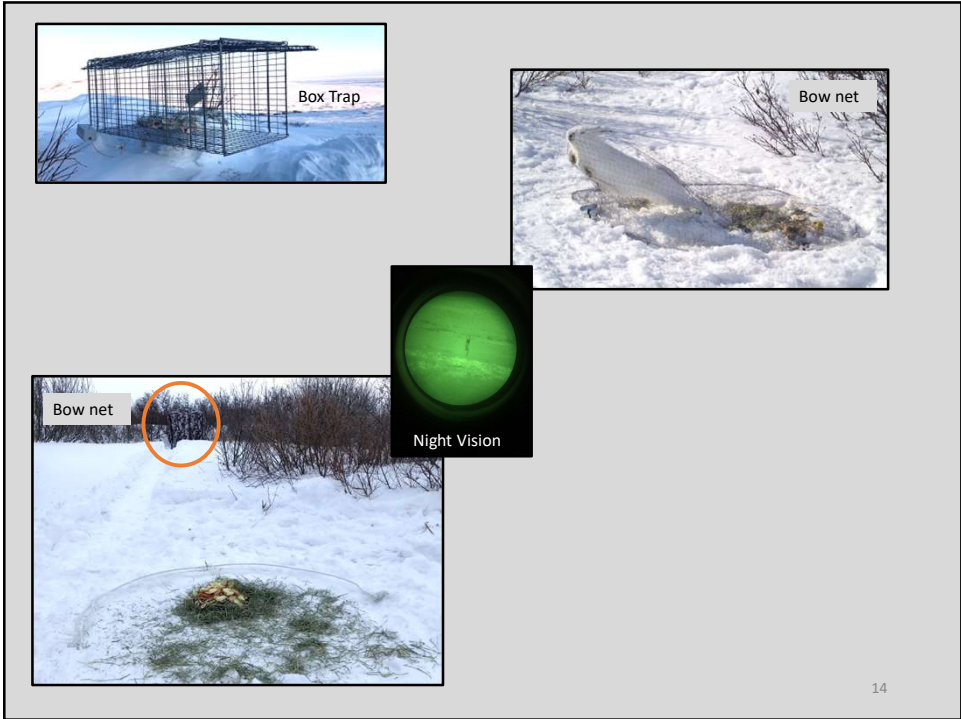
- 1) Determine seasonal and annual movements
- 2) Home range sizes (M:F variability)
- 3) Comparison of movements in different areas

Satellite collars collect ~2-3 points/day

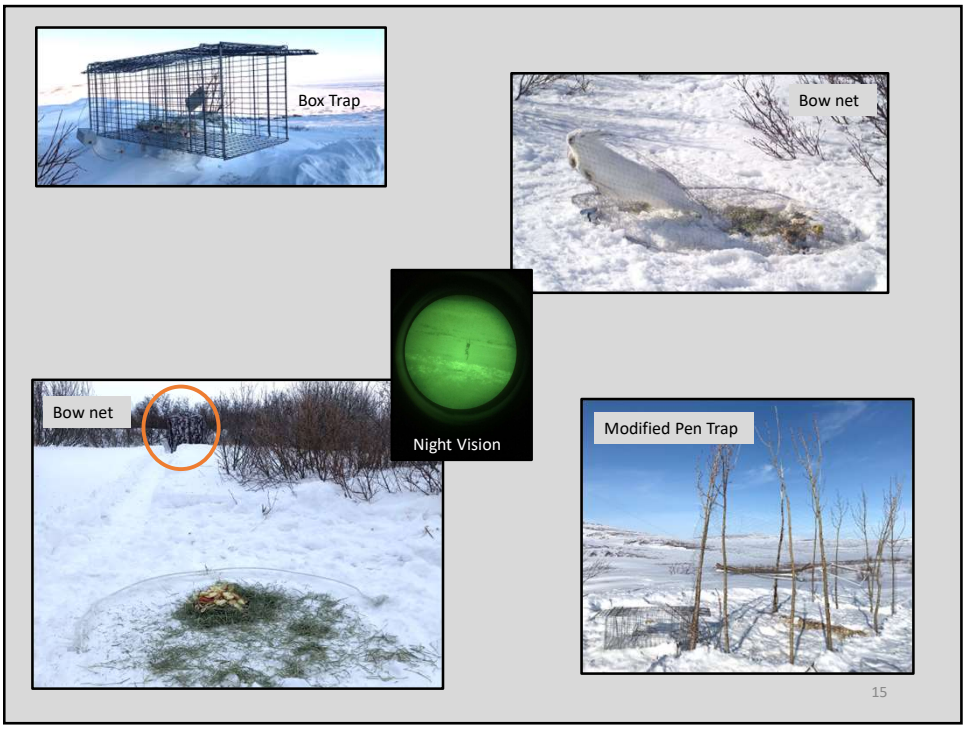
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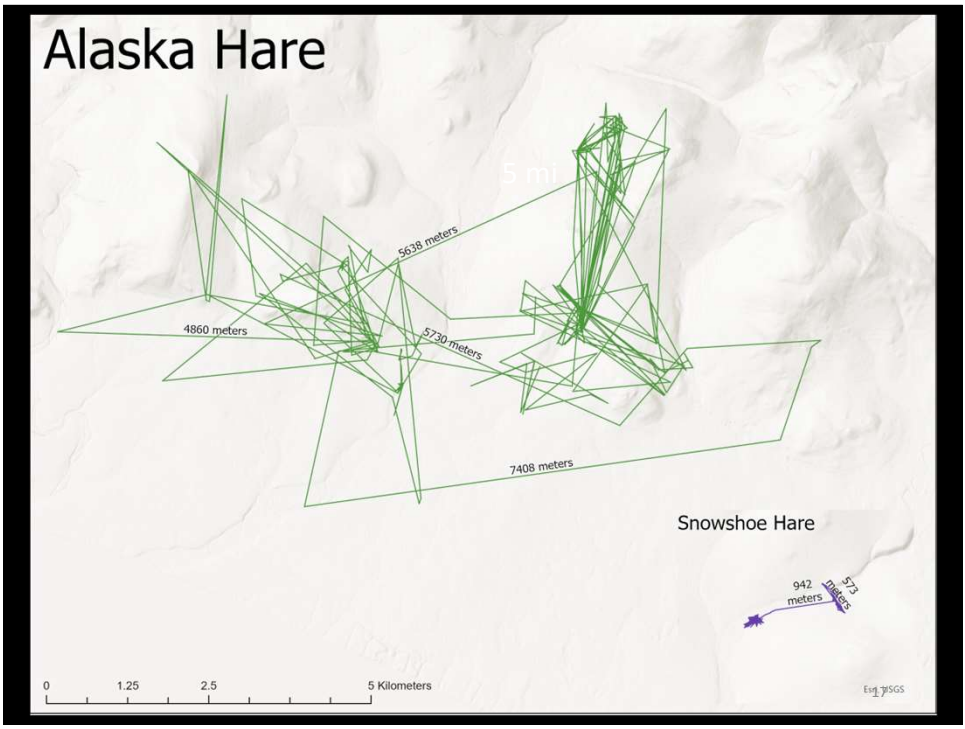
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Alaska Hares: 12 total

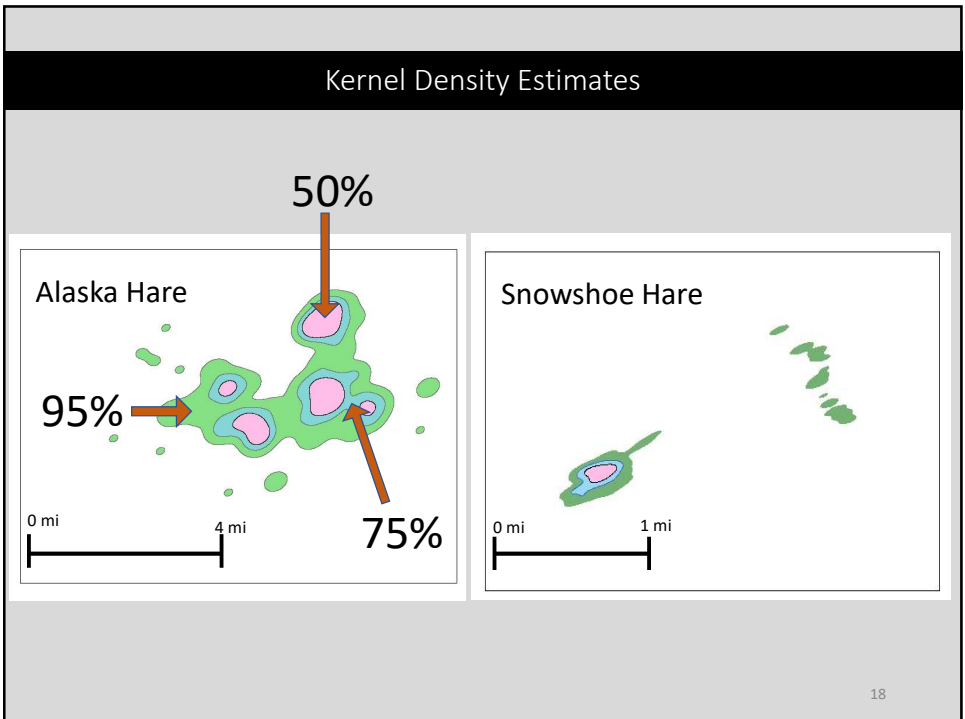
- Selawik = 2 males
- Nome = 4 males : 3 females
- Ekuk = 2 males : 1 female

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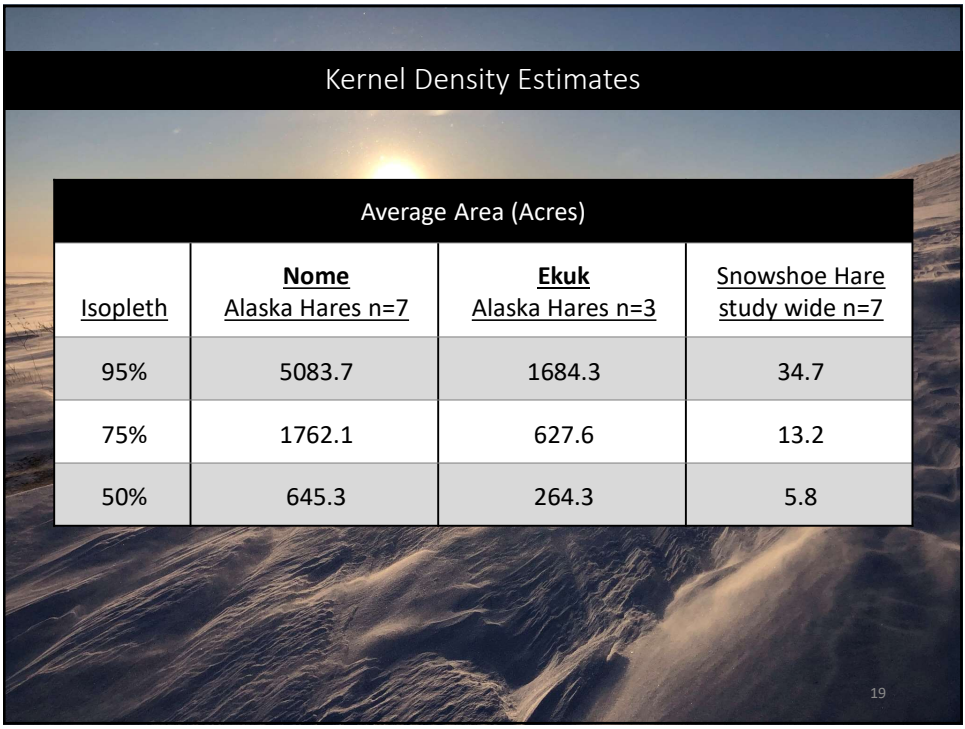
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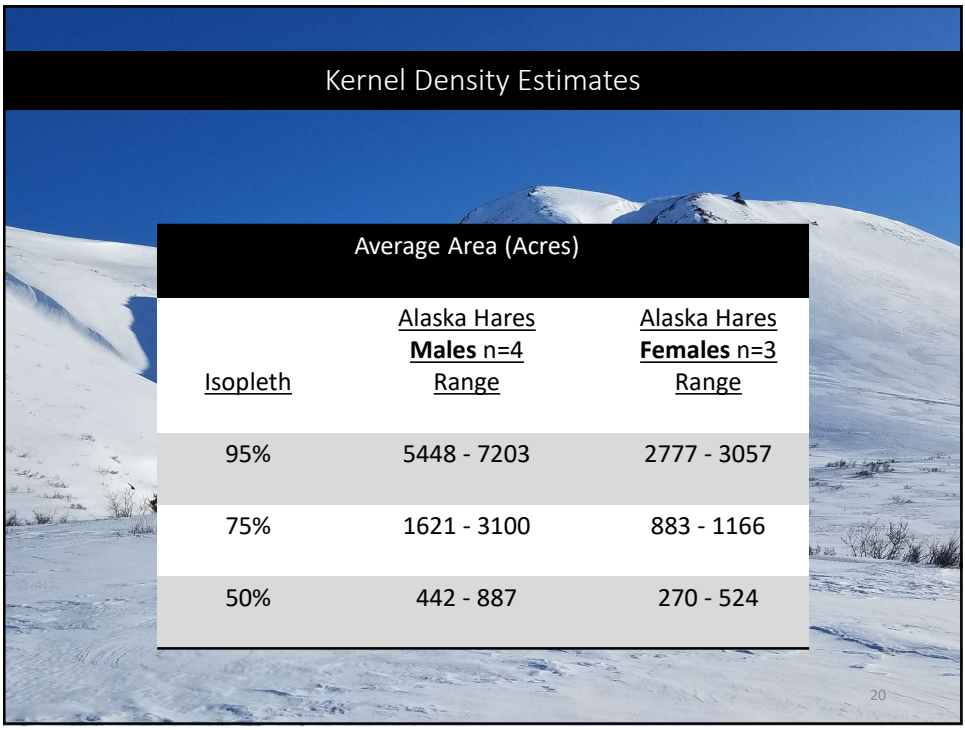
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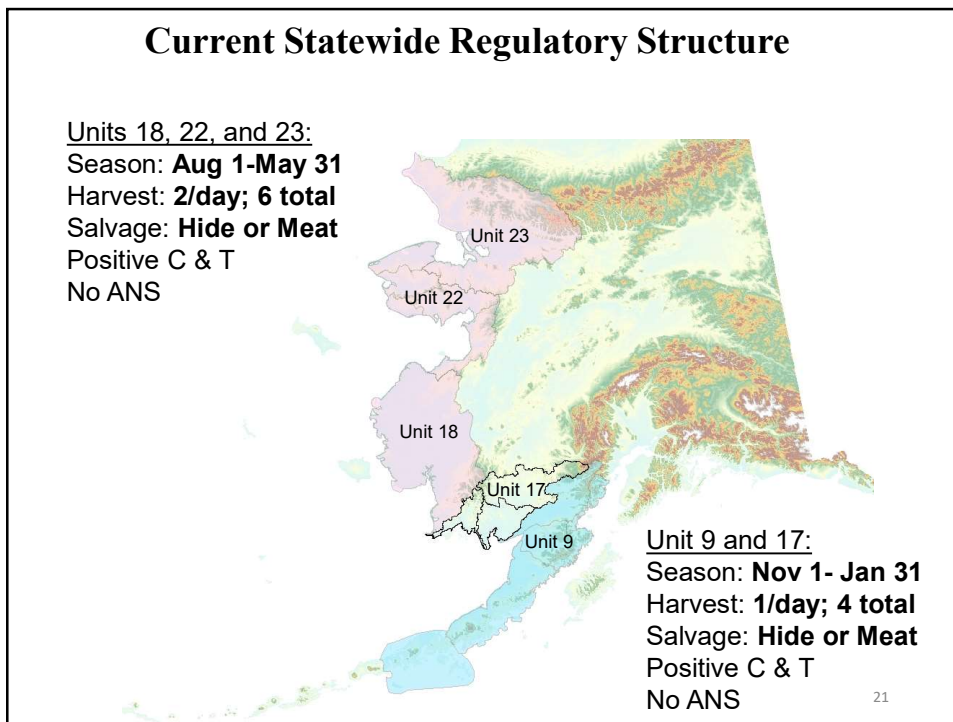
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Questions?



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