Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation

Statewide Annual Report
1 July 2005 – 30 June 2006

TRAPPER QUESTIONNAIRE

Photo by Frank Zmuda, ADF&G

November 2007

State of Alaska

Sarah Palin, Governor

Department of Fish and Game

Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner

Division of Wildlife Conservation

Doug Larsen, Director

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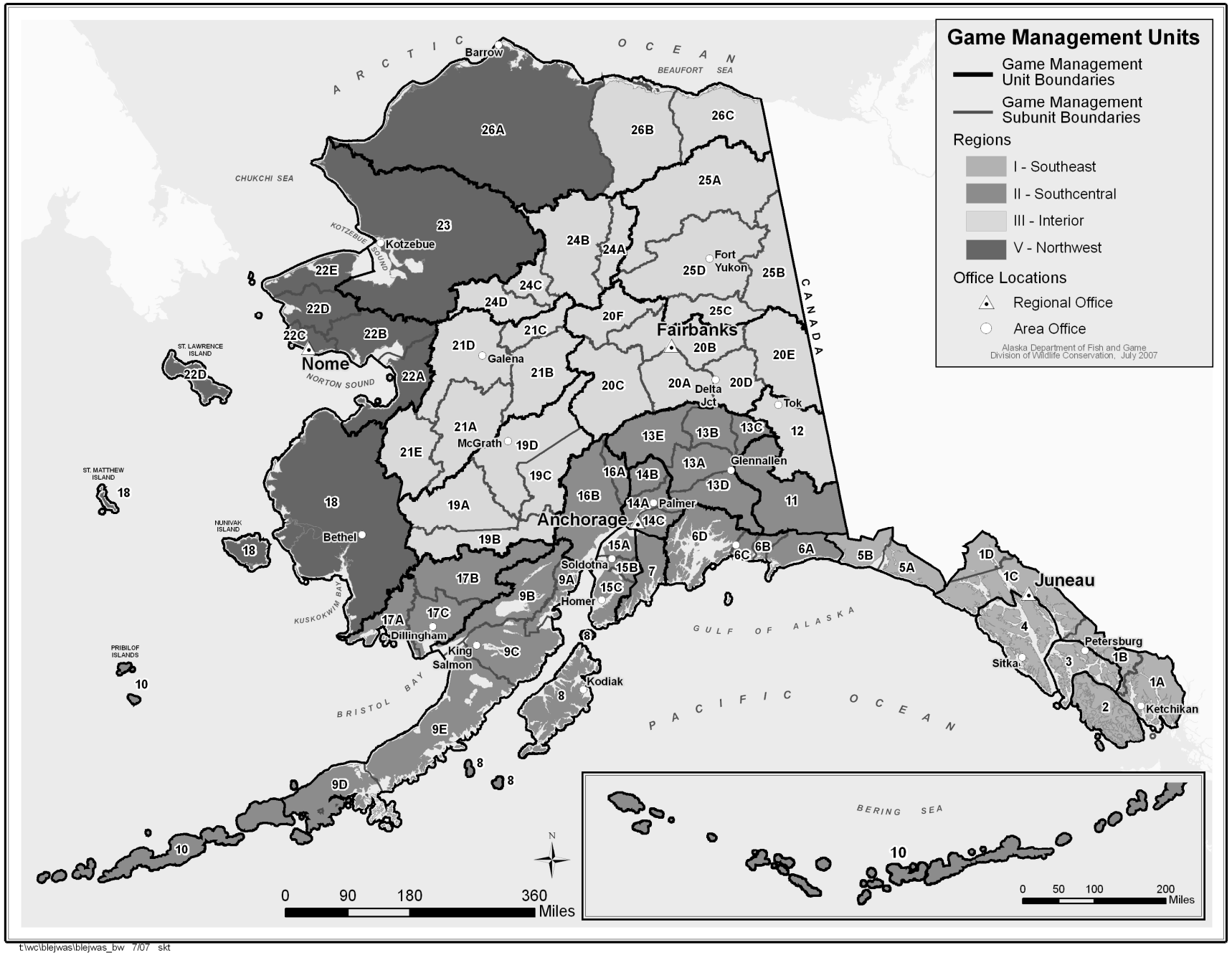
Code of Ethics

A Trapper's Responsibility

1. Respect other trapper's "grounds" — particularly brushed, maintained traplines with a history of use.
2. Check traps regularly.
3. Promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching nontarget animals.
4. Obtain landowner's permission before trapping on private property.
5. Know and use proper releasing and killing methods.
6. Develop set location methods to prevent losses.
7. Trap in the most humane way possible.
8. Properly dispose of animal carcasses.
9. Concentrate trapping in areas where animals are overabundant for the supporting habitat.
10. Promptly report the presence of diseased animals to wildlife authorities.
11. Assist landowners who are having problems with predators and other furbearers that have become a nuisance.
12. Support and help train new trappers in trapping ethics, methods and means, conservation, fur handling and marketing.
13. Obey all trapping regulations, and support strict enforcement by reporting violations.
14. Support and promote sound furbearer management.

This code of ethics is reprinted from the Alaska Trappers Manual. The manual was created through a joint effort between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Trappers Association. The manual is available in Alaska book stores and from the Alaska Trappers Association for approximately $20.00.

Alaska's Regions and Game Management Units



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ALASKA TRAPPER REPORT

2005–2006

INTRODUCTION

The 2005–06 Trapper Report contains information provided by Alaska trappers through the annual Trapper Questionnaire. On the following pages you'll find out how other Alaskans ran their traplines, what their primary target species were, how much effort they put into catching fur, how abundant furbearer and prey species were on their traplines, and how many furbearers were trapped in the state. You'll also find summaries of Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) fur sealing, acquisition, and raw fur export records, reports from ADF&G furbearer biologists, and comments from trappers.

One of the biggest challenges in conducting this survey is maintaining an accurate and updated mailing list for the questionnaire. We rely on a combination of sealing records, information from the license database, and referrals by area biologists, ADF&G staff, and other trappers to reach as many active trappers as possible. You can assist in this effort by sending me your new address when you move and letting me know about other trappers in your area who would like to receive a survey. Be sure to tell me which Game Management Unit or region you plan to trap in so I can send you the appropriate questionnaire. If you no longer trap, but would like to continue receiving copies of the Alaska Trapper Report, let me know that too. You can update your information at any time by sending an email to me at karen.blejwas@alaska.gov.

As always, we strive to maintain strict confidentiality and names of individuals and references to specific traplines are not included. We hope you find this report informative and welcome your suggestions for improvement.

Karen Blejwas
Trapper Questionnaire Coordinator

A PROFILE OF TRAPPING IN ALASKA

Trapper Information

Did you trap in 2005–06?

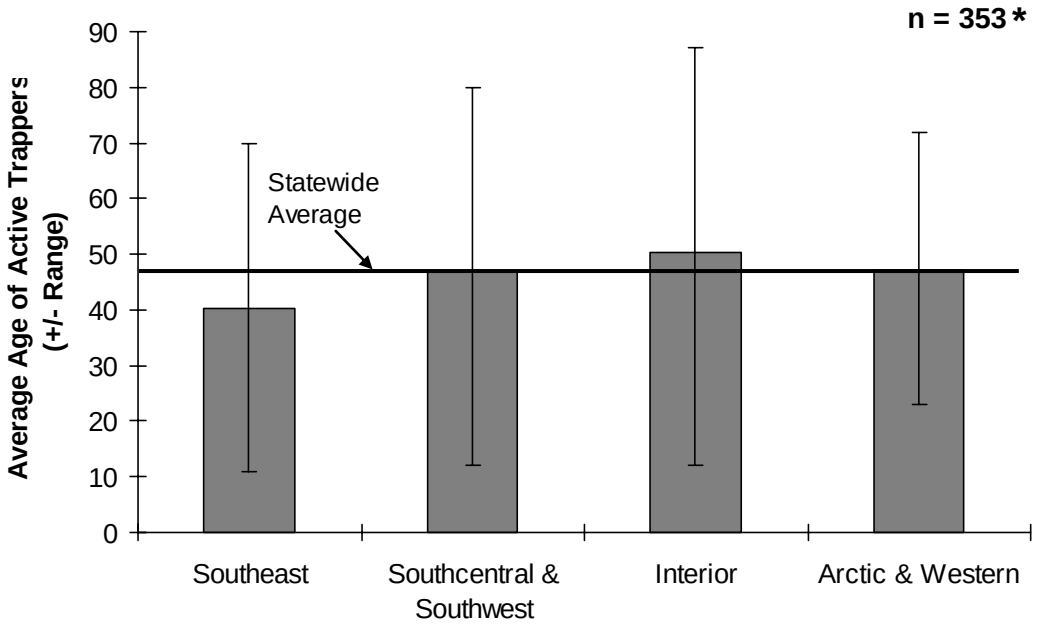
This year 1818 questionnaires were mailed throughout the state and 509 were returned for an overall response rate of 28%. Response rates were highest for Southcentral & Southwest trappers and lowest for Arctic & Western trappers. Statewide, approximately 73% of respondents trapped during the 2005–06 season. Approximately 90% of those who trapped during 2005–06 also trapped the previous year. By contrast, only 52% of trappers who did not trap in 2005–06 last trapped during 2004–05 and 8% have not trapped since the 1990s or earlier.

Response to 2005–06 Trapper Questionnaire

Region	Trapped	Did Not Trap	No Response	Total
Southeast	65	24	236	325
Southcentral & Southwest	146	50	408	604
Interior	124	38	453	615
Arctic & Western	38	24	212	274
Statewide	373	136	1309	1818

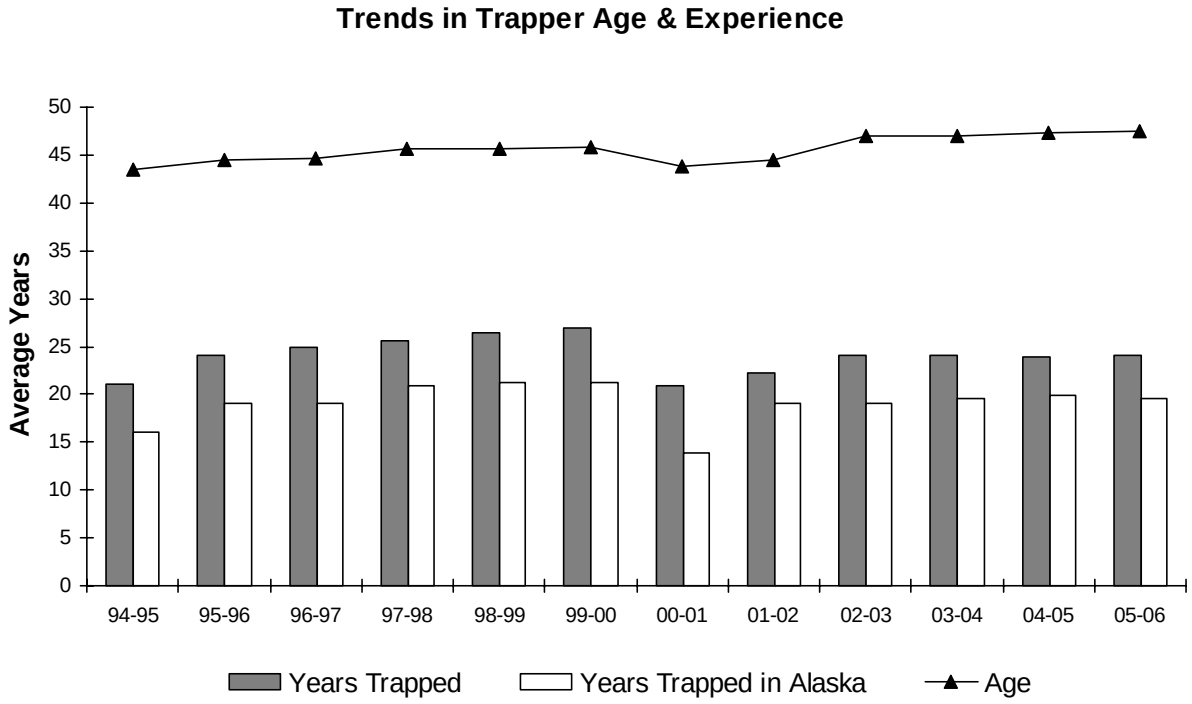
What is your age?

The average age of the 471 trappers who answered this question remained unchanged from previous years at 47 years old. Respondents who did not trap during 2005–06 were slightly older on average (49 years) than active trappers (47 years). The youngest active trapper was 11 and the oldest was 87 years old. Average age of active trappers was similar for all regions, with trappers in Southeast being slightly younger on average and Interior trappers slightly older. Most active trappers (71%) were between 31 and 60 years old. (*For this and all subsequent graphs, n is the number of active trappers who responded to the question.)



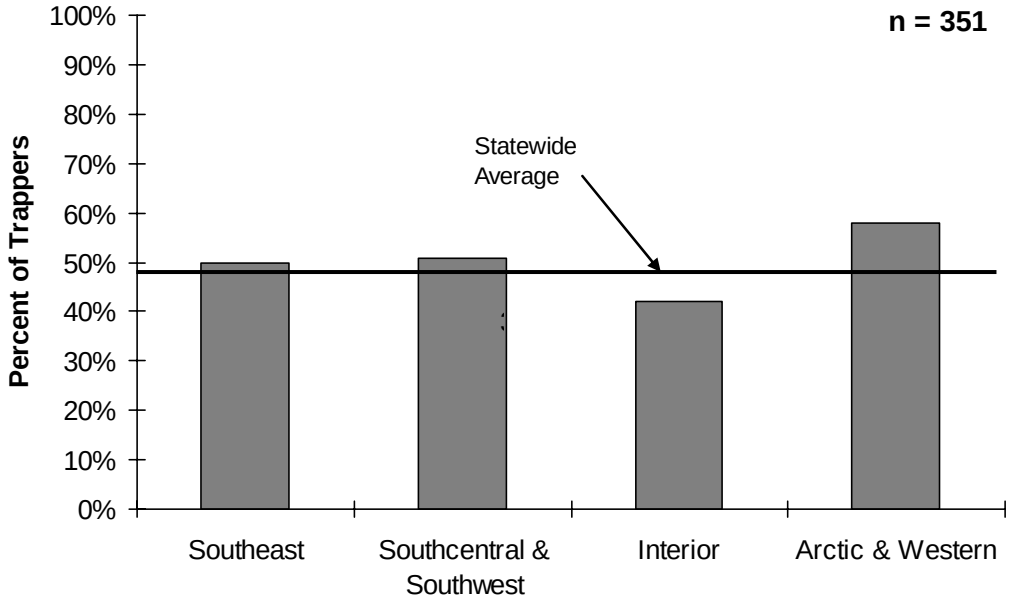
How much trapping experience do you have and how many years have you trapped in Alaska?

Trapper experience has changed very little over the past few years. On average, trappers have trapped for 24 years total and have spent 20 years trapping in Alaska.



Did you have a youngster (under 16) with you on your trapline this year?

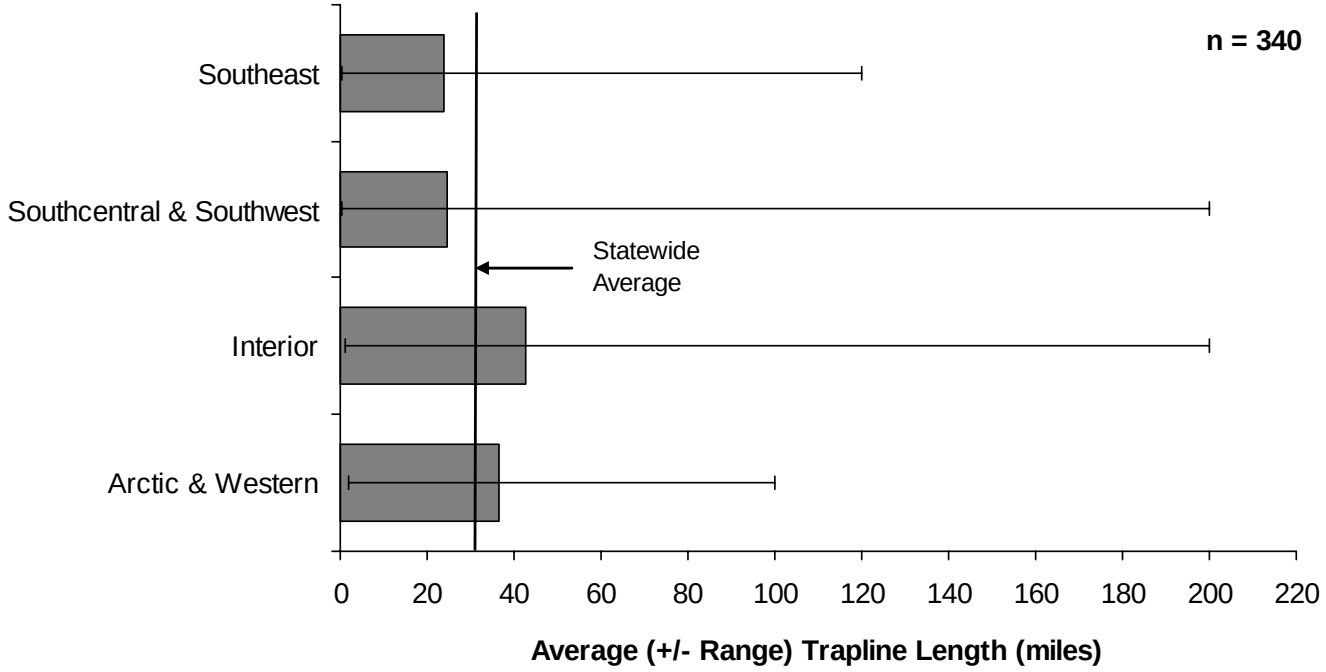
Trappers continue to pass their knowledge down to the next generation by taking young people out with them on their trapline. During the 2005-06 trapping season, 48% of trappers statewide were accompanied by a young person, up slightly from 44% last year. As shown by the graph below, 58% of Arctic & Western trappers took a young person along on their trapline vs. only 42% of Interior trappers.



Trapline Information

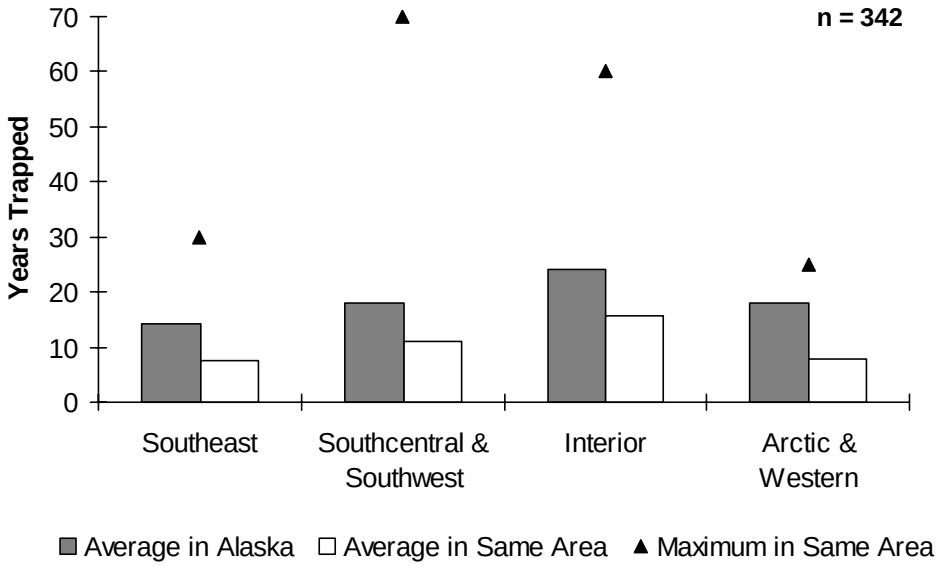
How long was your main trapline?

Trapline lengths were highly variable both within and among regions, with a statewide average of 31.5 miles. Traplines were longest in the Interior and shortest in Southeast and Southcentral & Southwest. Arctic & Western traplines were almost as long on average as those in the Interior, although the longest Arctic & Western trapline (100 miles) was only half as long as the longest Interior trapline (200 miles).



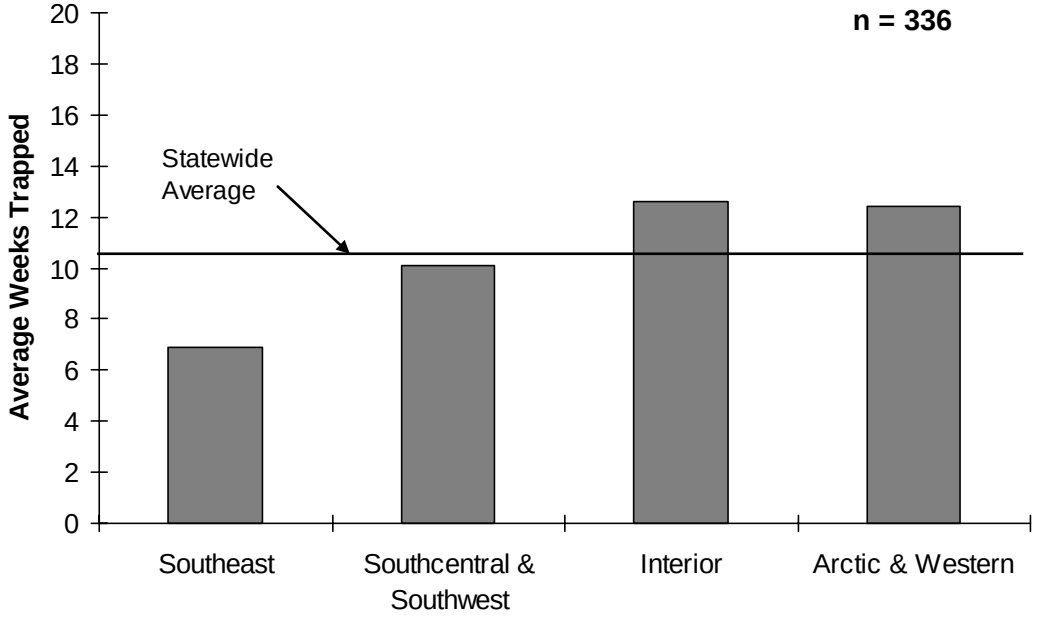
How many years have you been trapping in the same area?

On average, Interior trappers have spent the longest time trapping in Alaska (24 years) and the longest time trapping in the same area (16 years). Southeast and Arctic & Western trappers have been trapping in the same area for only half as long (8 years). A Southcentral & Southwestern trapper holds the record for trapping the longest in the same area, 70 years.

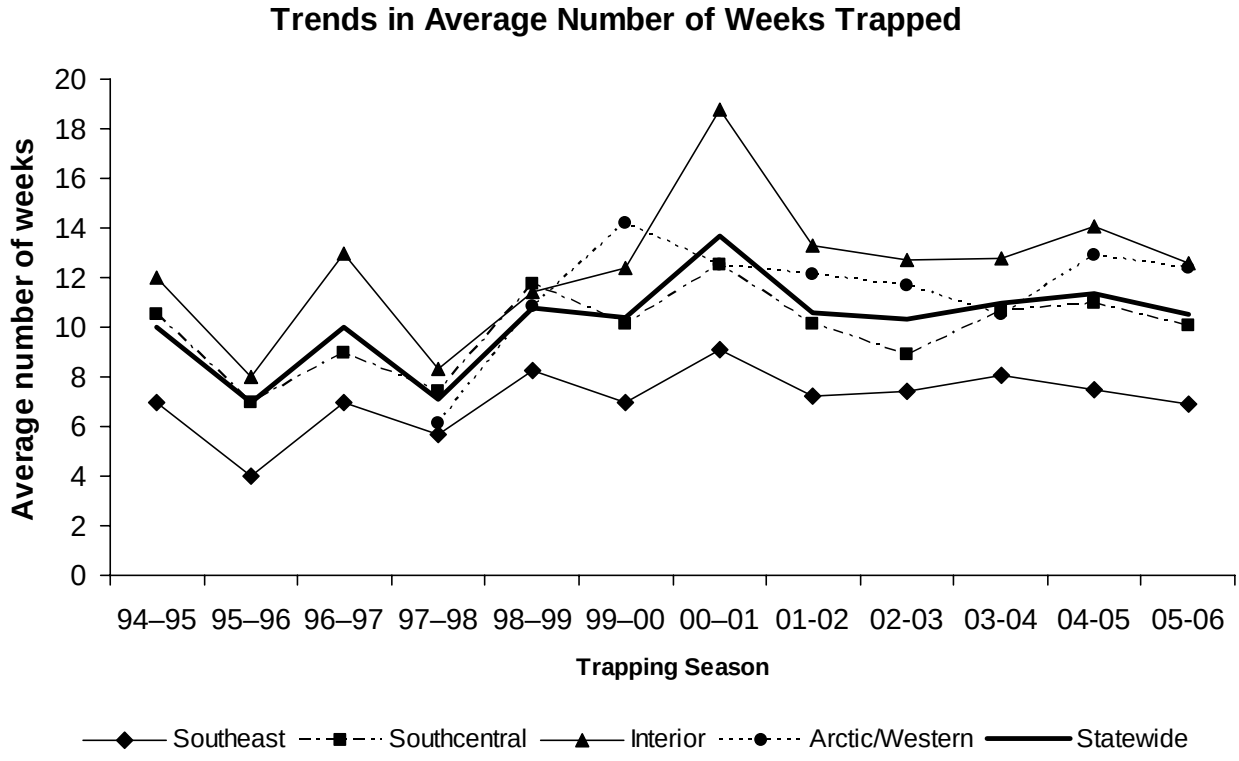


How many weeks did you trap?

Trappers during the 2005–06 season trapped for an average of 10.5 weeks, down slightly from last year's average of 11 weeks. Trappers in the Interior and Arctic & Western regions trapped almost twice as long as trappers in Southeast (12.6 vs. 6.9 weeks).

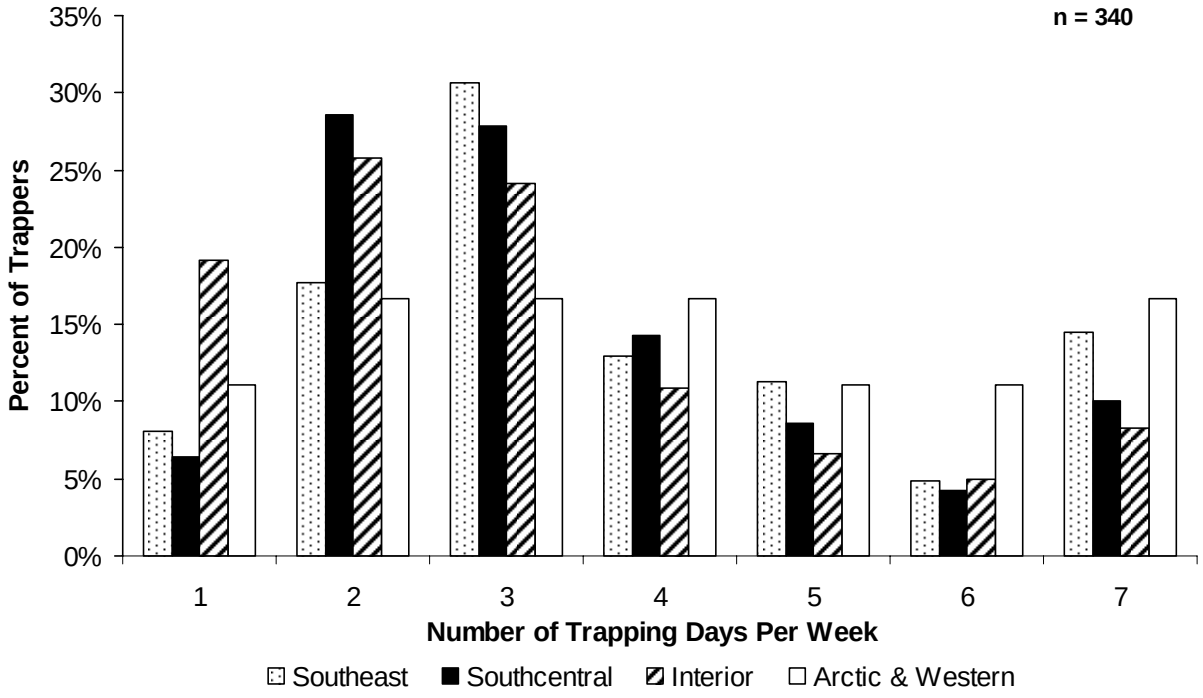


After increasing in each of the regions between 2001–02 and 2004–05, the average number of weeks trapped dropped in 2005–06. The steepest decline was in the Interior, where the average dropped from 14.0 weeks in 2004–05 to 12.6 weeks this year.



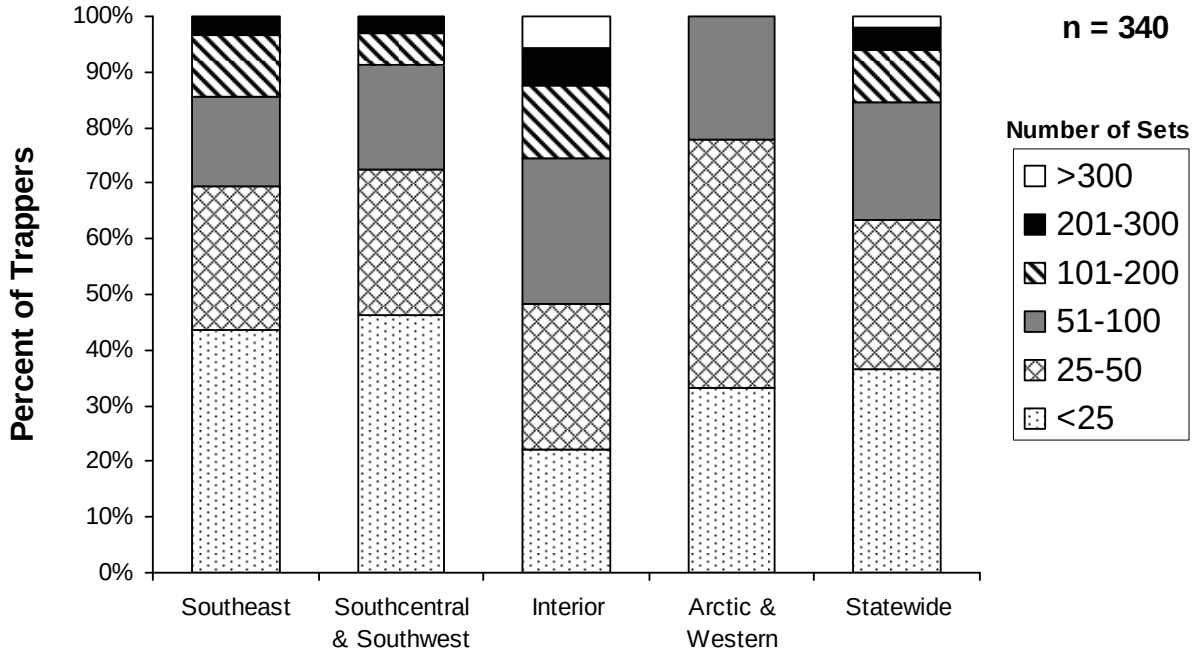
How many days per week did you trap?

Approximately half of all trappers conducted their trapping activities 2 or 3 days per week in every region except for Arctic & Western, where 56% of trappers trapped 4 or more days per week. Arctic & Western trappers were most likely and Interior trappers least likely to trap every day.



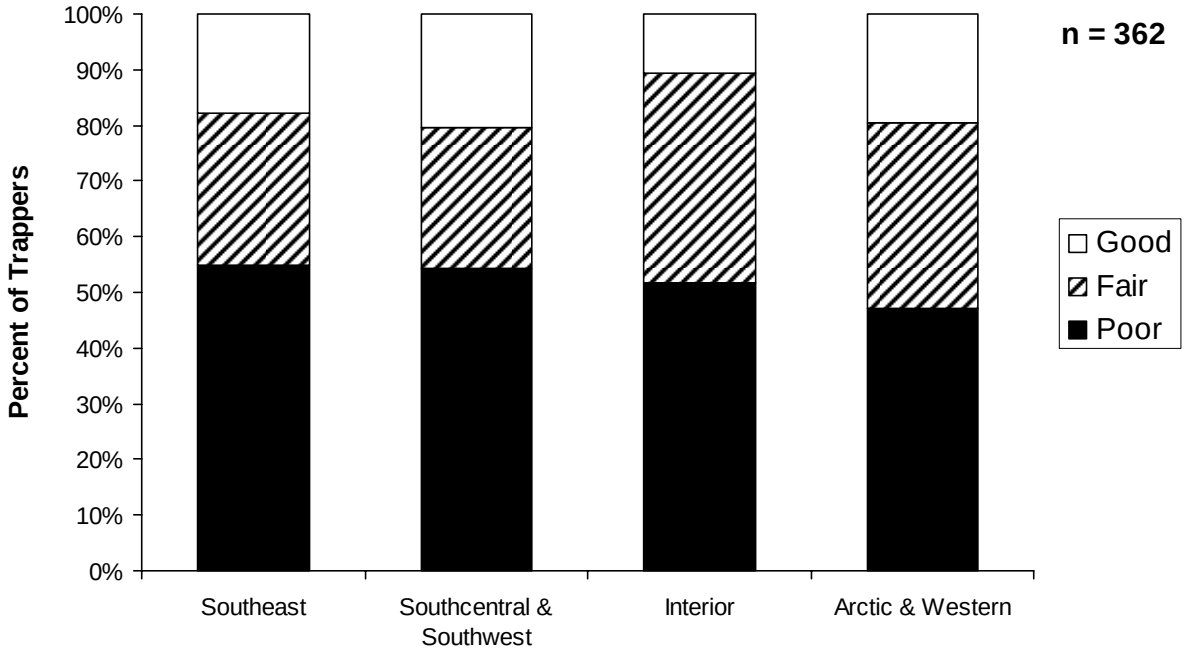
How many sets did you make on your trapline?

More than 2/3 of trappers in every region except the Interior made ≤50 sets on their traplines. Trappers in the Interior made the most sets, with 26% of trappers making >100 sets and 6% making >300 sets. Overall, Arctic & Western trappers made the fewest sets, with 100% of trappers making ≤100 sets on their trapline.

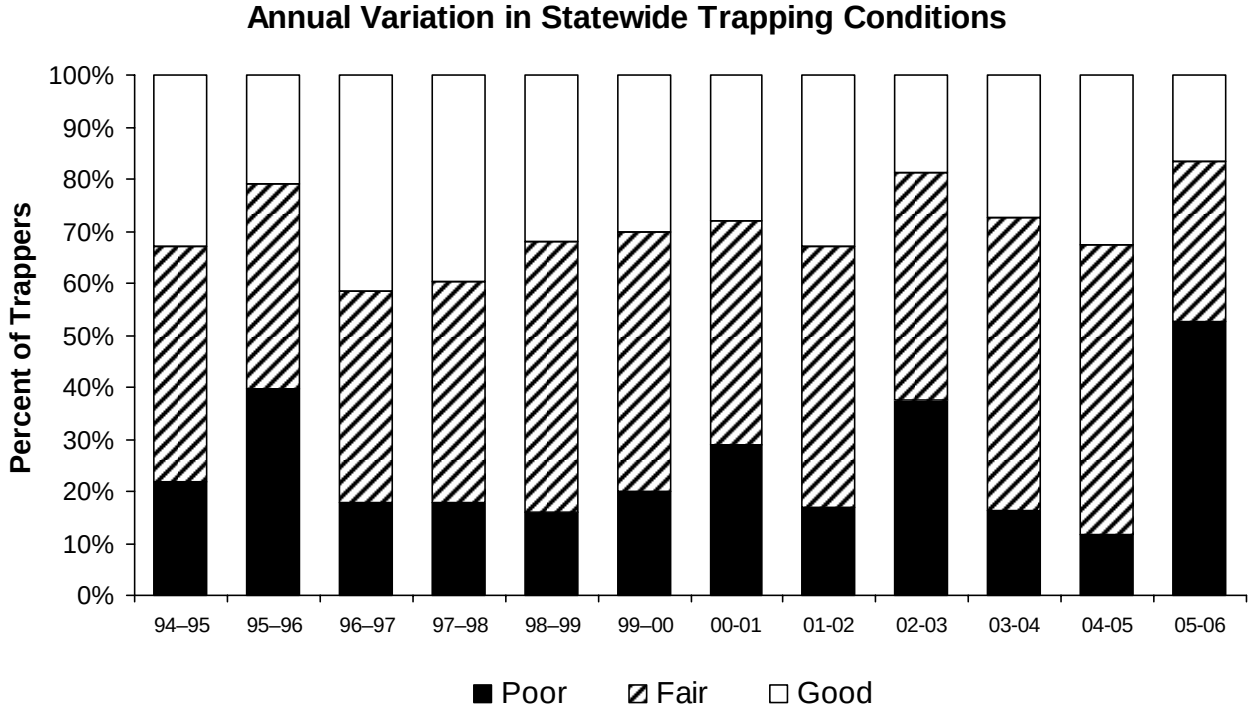


What were trapping conditions like on your trapline?

Approximately half of trappers in every region reported poor conditions this year, a dramatic increase from last year for all regions. The Southcentral & Southwest region had the highest number of trappers reporting good conditions this year (20%) and the Interior had the lowest (11%).

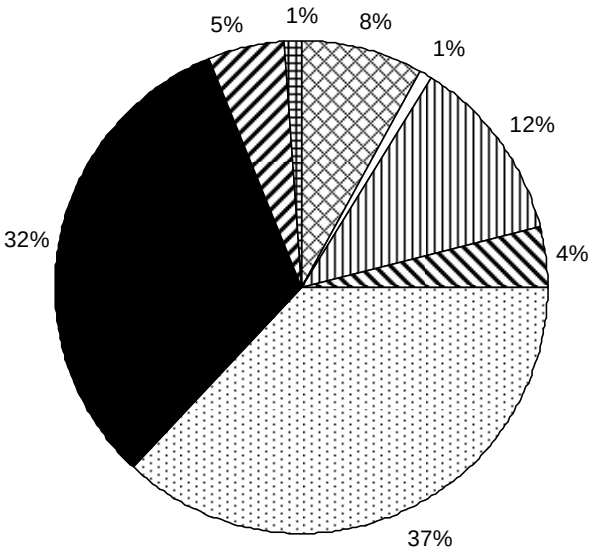


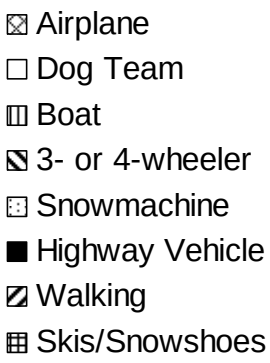
Statewide, trappers reported poorer conditions this year than last year, with 53% reporting poor conditions and 17% reporting good conditions this year vs. 12% poor and 33% good last year. This year the percent of trappers reporting good conditions was the lowest and the percent reporting poor conditions the highest since this information was first tabulated in 1994–95.



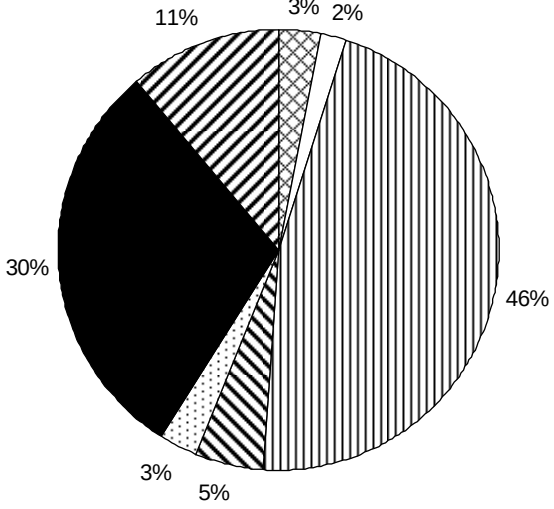
What mode of transportation did you use to get to your main trapping area?

Statewide
n = 342

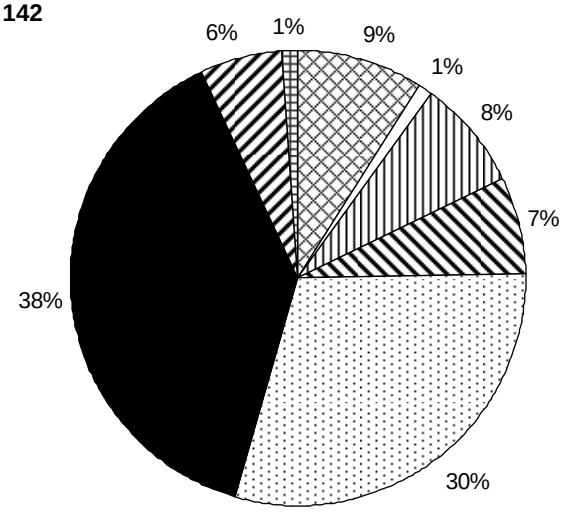




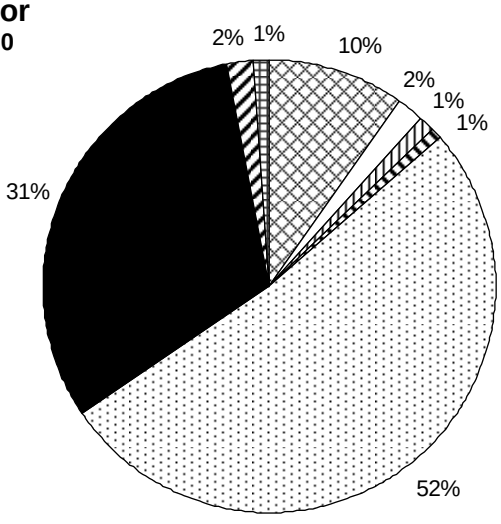
Southeast
n = 61



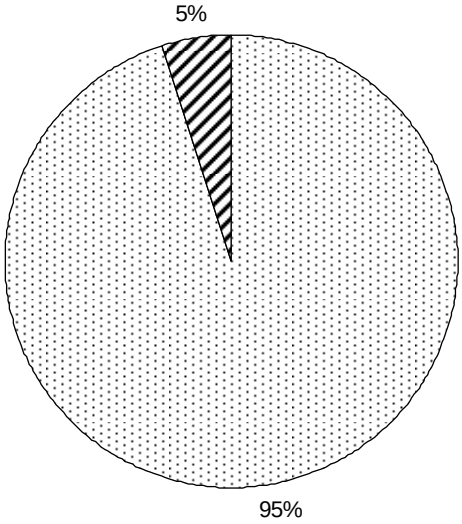
Southcentral & Southwest
n = 142



Interior
n = 120

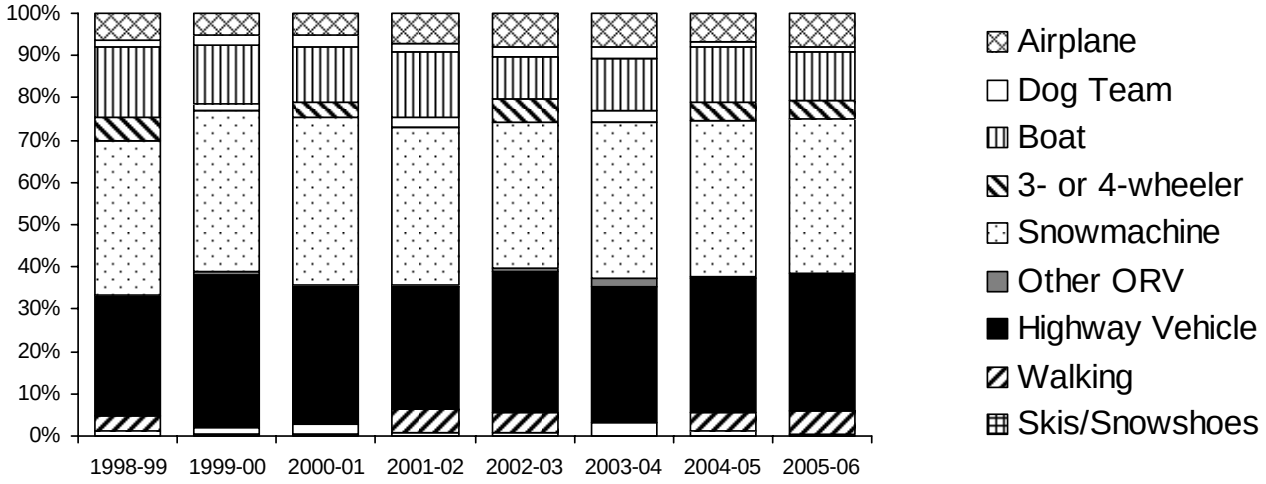


Arctic & Western
n = 19

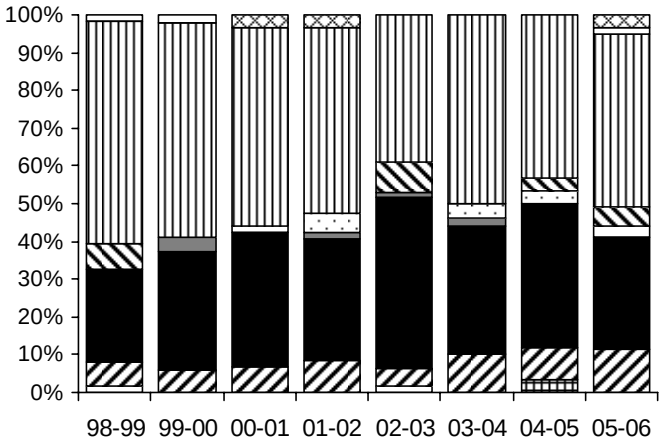


Trends in mode of transportation used to get to traplines

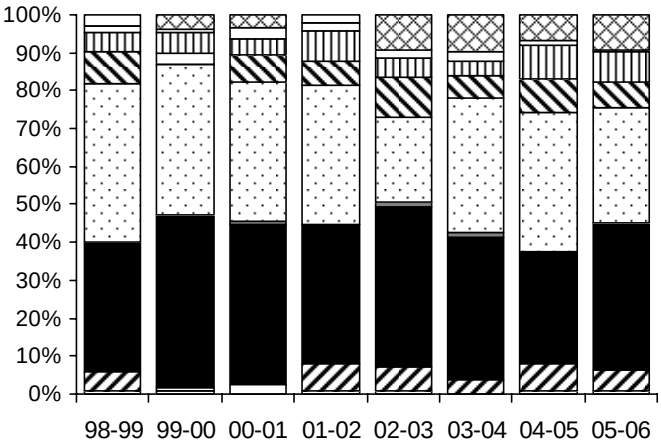
Statewide



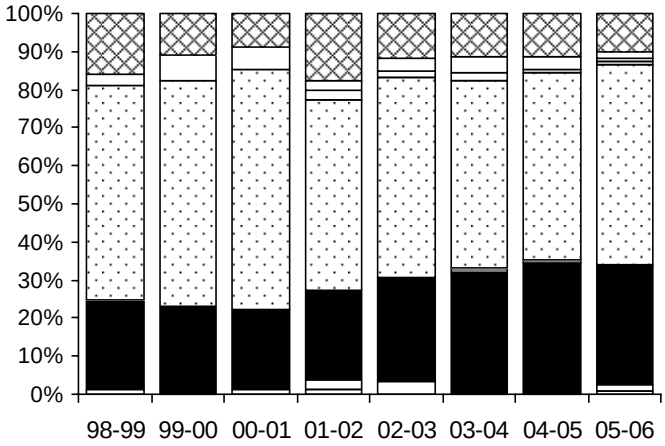
Southeast



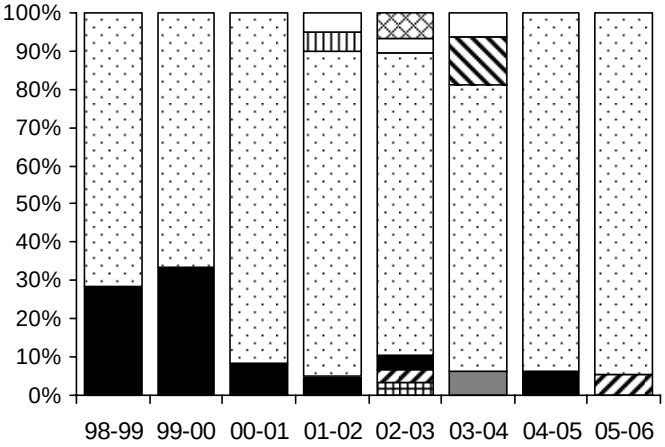
Southcentral & Southwest



Interior

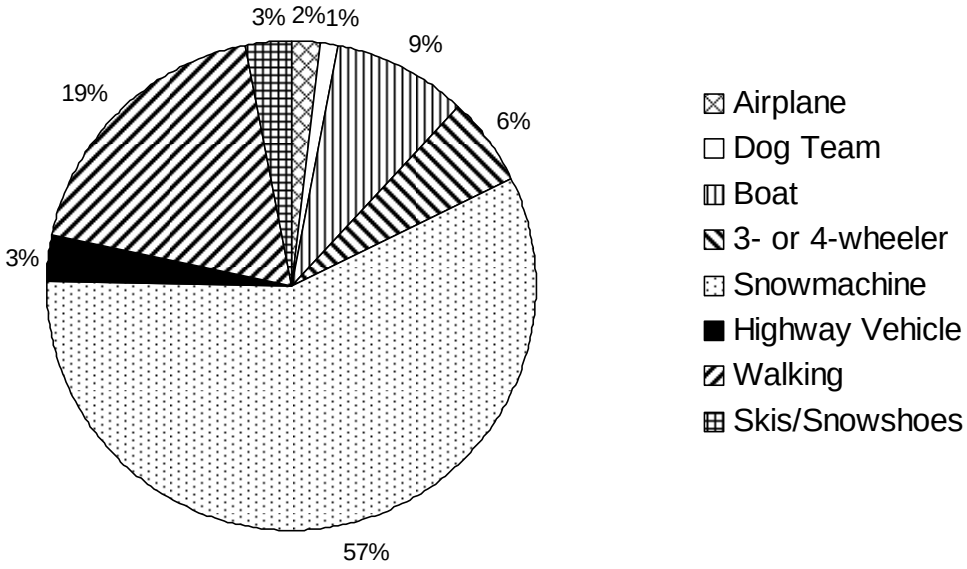


Arctic & Western

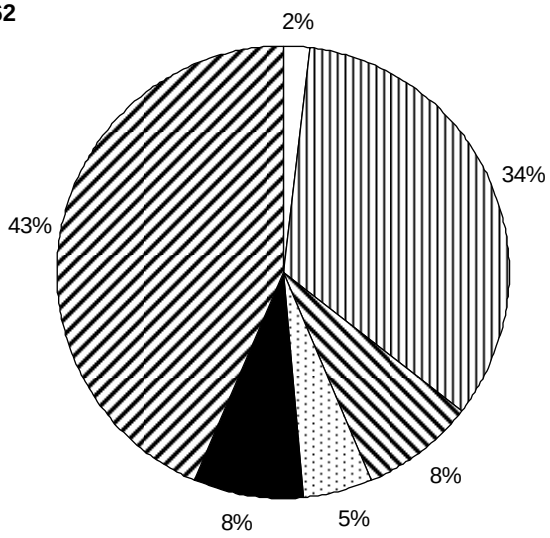


What mode of transportation did you use to run your main trapline?

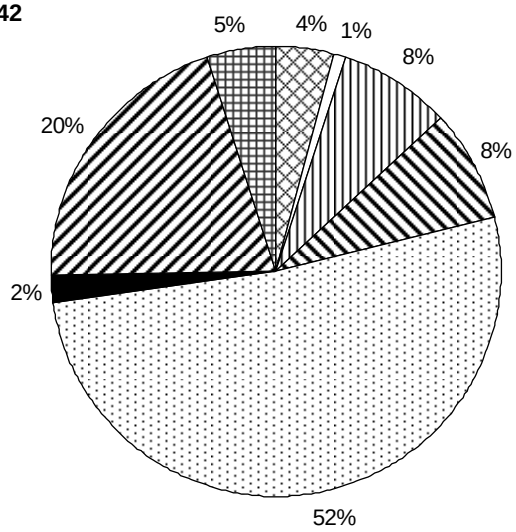
Statewide
n = 345



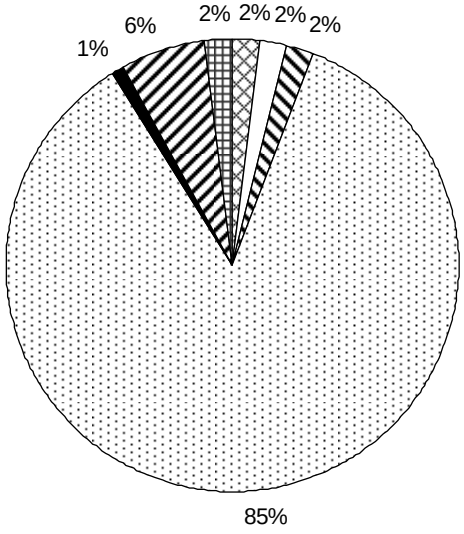
Southeast
n = 62



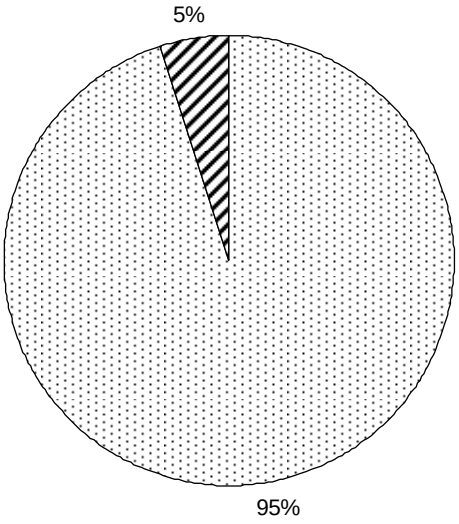
Southcentral & Southwest
n = 142



Interior
n = 122

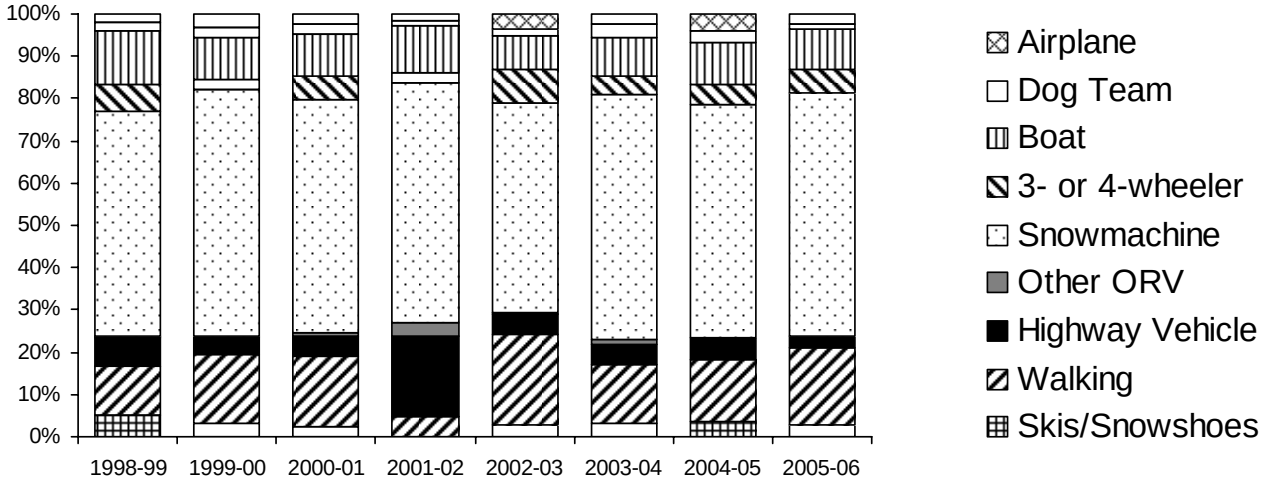


Arctic & Western
n = 19

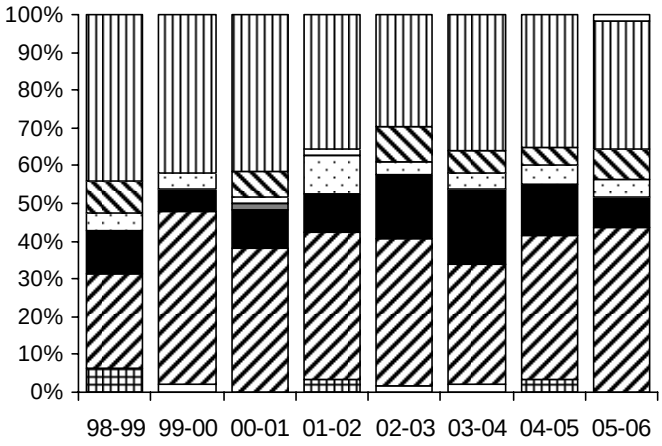


Trends in mode of transportation used to run traplines

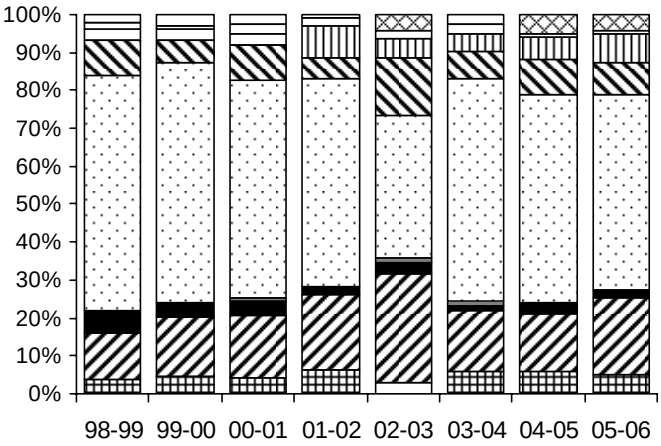
Statewide



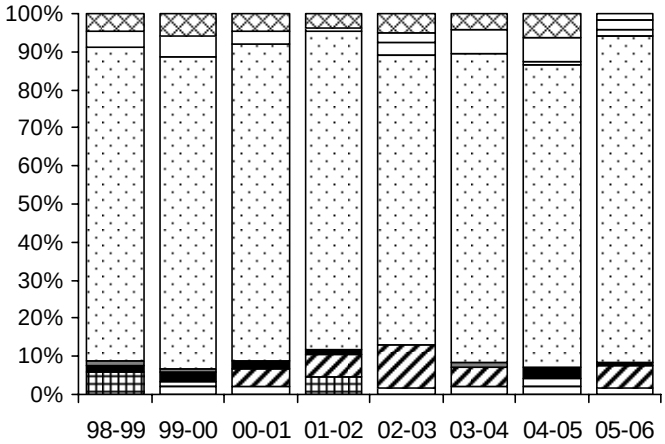
Southeast



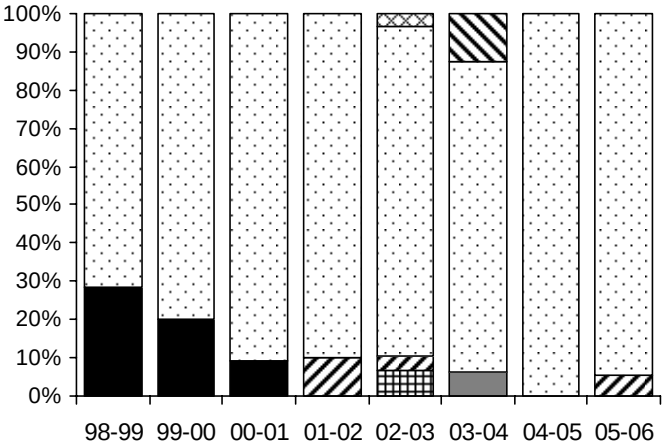
Southcentral & Southwest



Interior



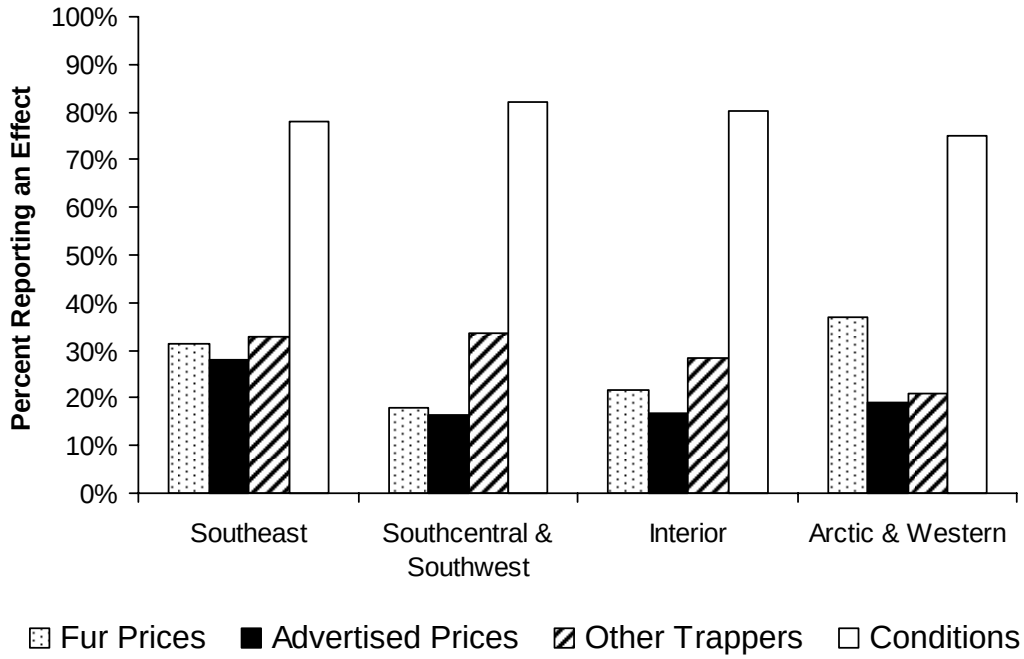
Arctic & Western



Trapping Effort

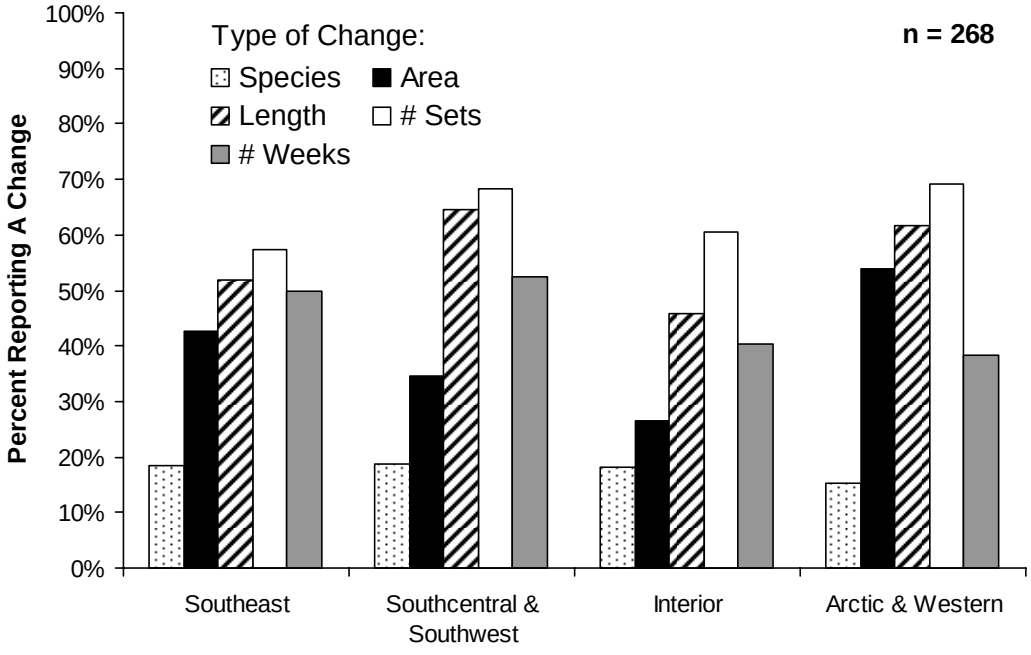
What factors affected your trapping effort this season?

Trapping conditions were the most important factor affecting trapping effort during the 2005–06 season (effects of trapping conditions on effort was inferred from the trapper comments). Other trappers was the second most important factor, affecting approximately 1/3 of trappers in all regions except for Arctic & Western, where fur prices ranked second, affecting effort for 37% of trappers.



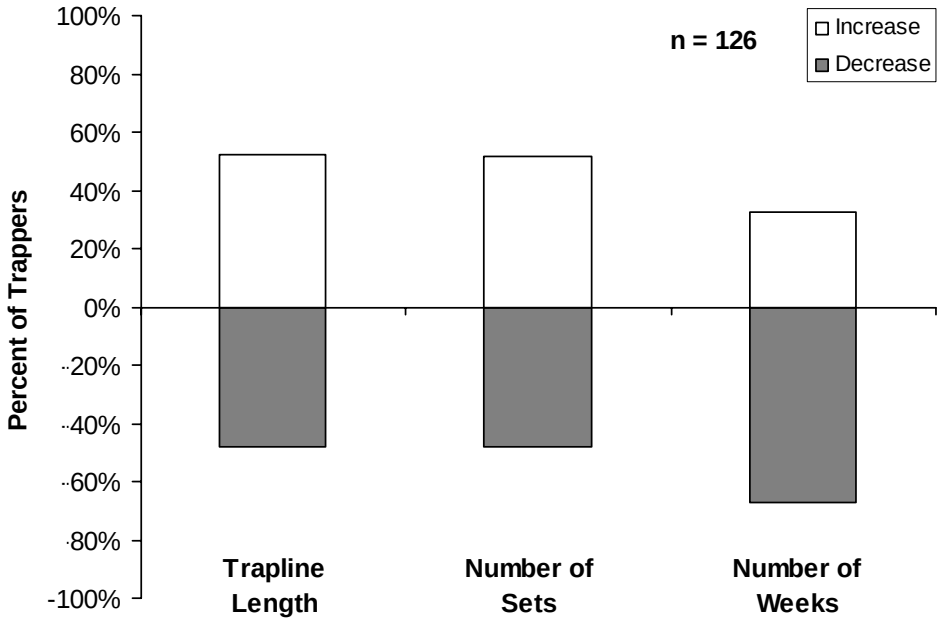
How did you change your trapping effort this season?

Statewide, 72% of trappers reported changing their trapping effort this season. Number of sets and trapline length were the most common changes, followed by number of weeks and changing areas. Fewer than 20% of trappers chose to target a different species.



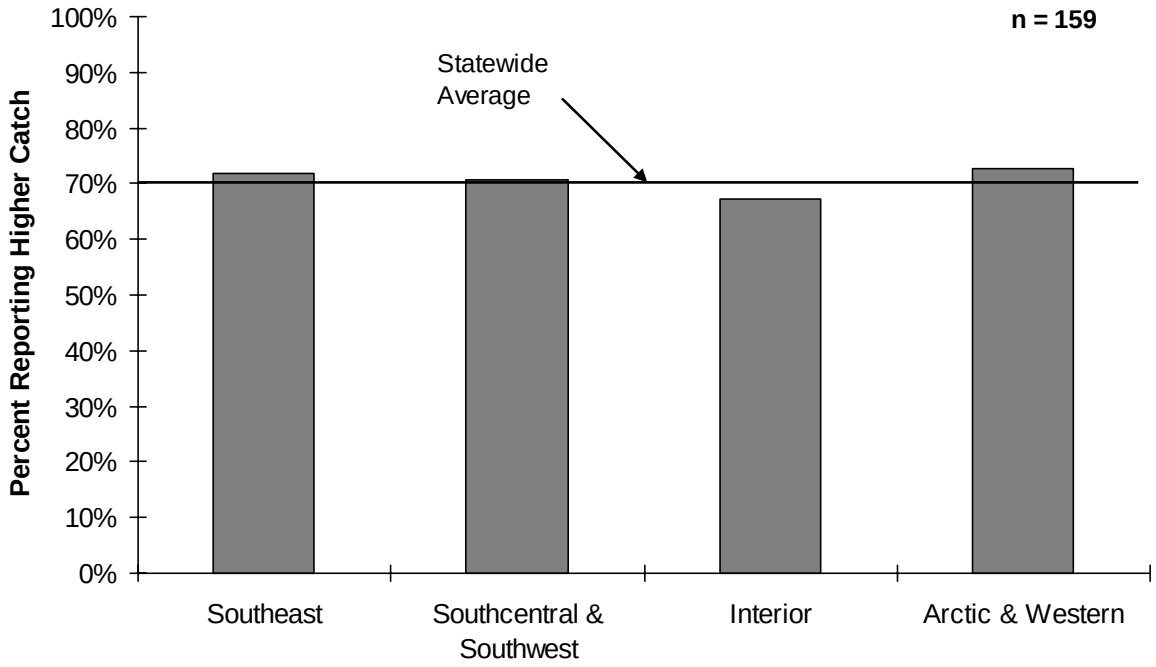
Did you increase or decrease your trapping effort?

Slightly more trappers increased than decreased trapline length and the number of sets. By contrast, 2/3 of trappers decreased the number of weeks they trapped.



Did increasing your trapping effort result in a higher catch?

Statewide, 70% of trappers reported that increasing their effort resulting in a higher catch. Trappers in all regions enjoyed similar success in increasing their catch.



Target Species and Disposition of Furs

What was the most important species you were trying to catch?

This first table shows how each species ranked in order of importance by region, with 1 being most important and 13 being least important. The number of trappers who responded is given in parentheses. Repeats of a rank indicate that one or more species tied for that rank.

Marten was once again the most important species statewide. Marten was the most important species for every region except the Arctic & Western, where wolverine ranked highest. Although only Interior trappers ranked wolves as one of the top three species, wolves ranked second in importance statewide.

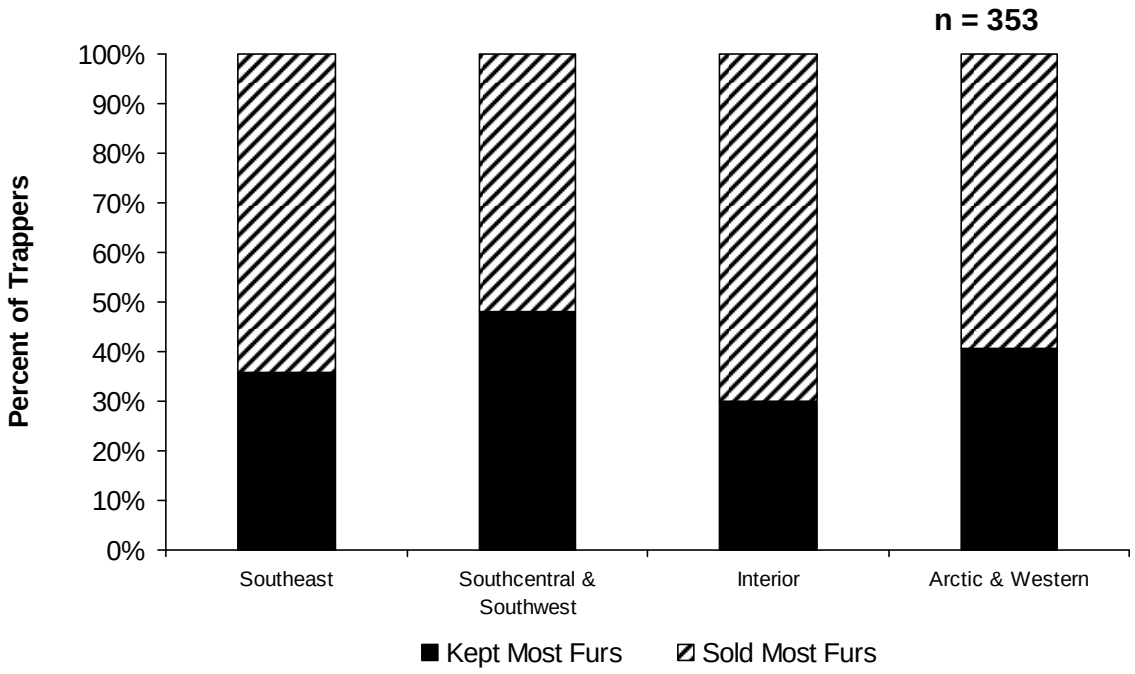
Species	Statewide (361)	Southeast (62)	Southcentral & Southwest (142)	Interior (122)	Arctic & Western (35)
Marten	1	1	1	1	4
Wolf	2	4	4	3	5
Wolverine	3	5	3	4	1
Otter	4	2	2	8	4
Lynx	4	7	6	2	2
Beaver	5	6	2	5	3
Fox	6	—	5	6	6
Mink	7	3	7	7	7
Coyote	8	8	8	7	—
Ermine (Weasel)	9	7	9	9	—
Muskrat	10	—	10	9	—
Squirrel	—	—	—	—	—

This table gives the percentage of trappers in each region who listed that particular species as one of the three most important species they were trying to target.

Species	Statewide	Southeast	Southcentral & Southwest	Interior	Arctic & Western
Marten	66%	98%	52%	75%	34%
Wolf	35%	21%	30%	50%	31%
Wolverine	30%	13%	33%	32%	46%
Otter	30%	55%	39%	5%	34%
Lynx	30%	5%	15%	55%	43%
Beaver	29%	10%	39%	25%	40%
Fox	20%	0%	23%	24%	29%
Mink	17%	50%	13%	8%	11%
Coyote	7%	2%	9%	8%	0%
Ermine (Weasel)	3%	5%	6%	1%	0%
Muskrat	2%	0%	4%	1%	0%
Squirrel	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

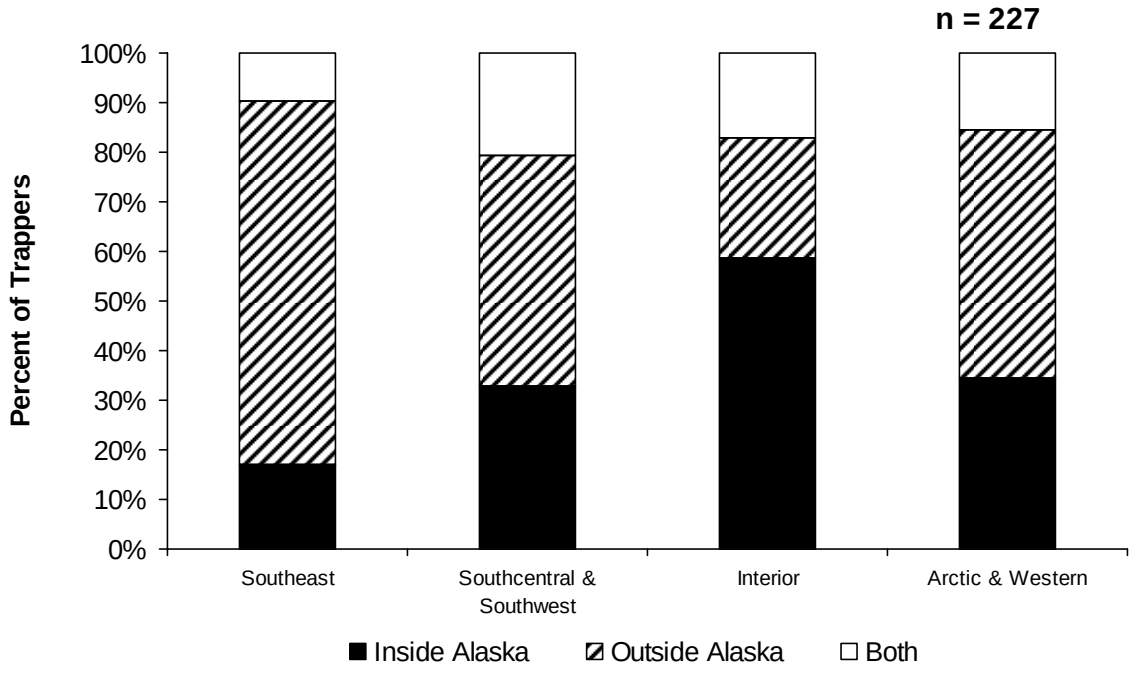
Did you keep or sell most of your furs?

More than half of trappers in all regions chose to sell most of their furs. Interior trappers were most likely and Southcentral & Southwestern trappers least likely to sell most of their furs.



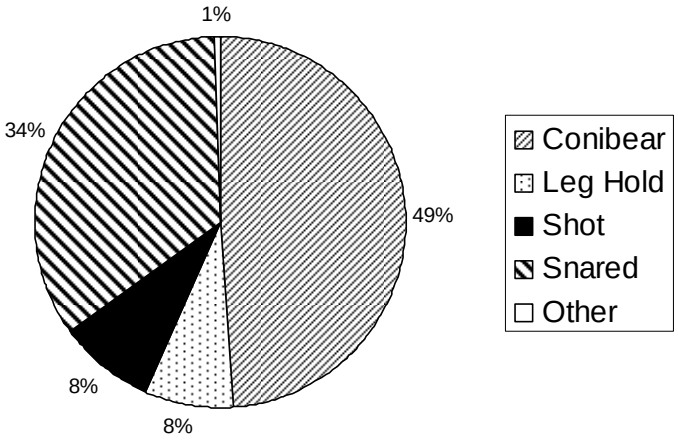
Did you sell to a fur buyer inside or outside of Alaska?

Most Interior trappers (59%) sold to fur buyers inside Alaska, whereas most Southeast (73%) and half of Arctic & Western trappers sold to fur buyers outside the state. Trappers in Southcentral & Southwest sold more furs to out of state buyers than inside Alaska and were more likely than trappers in other regions to sell to both.

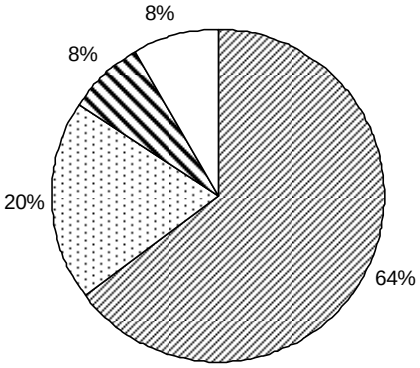


Beaver Harvest Methods

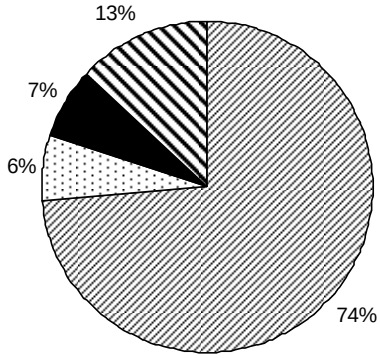
Statewide



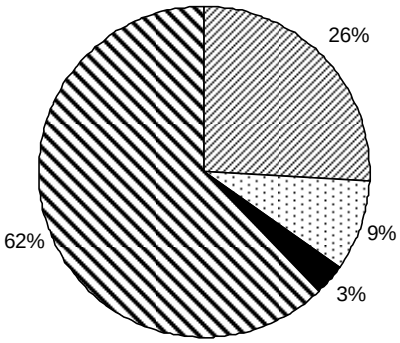
Southeast



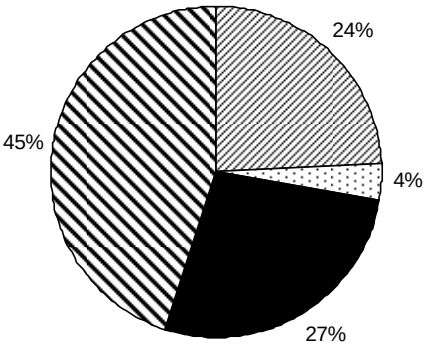
Southcentral & Southwest



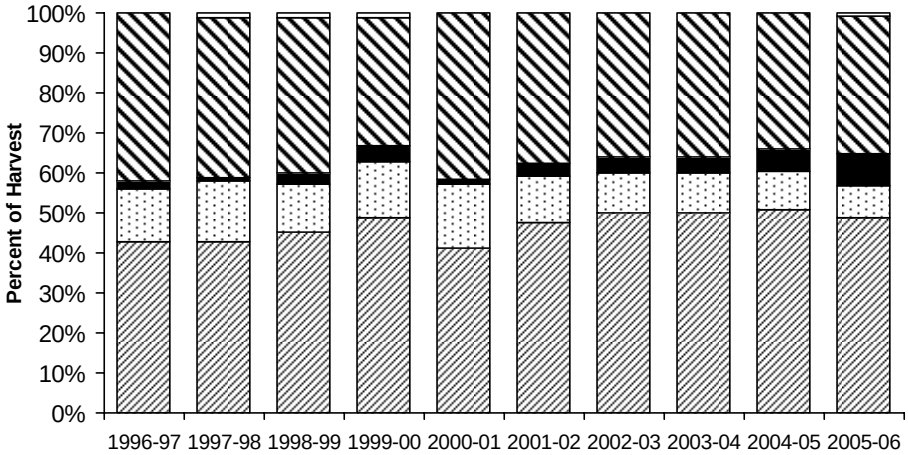
Interior



Arctic & Western

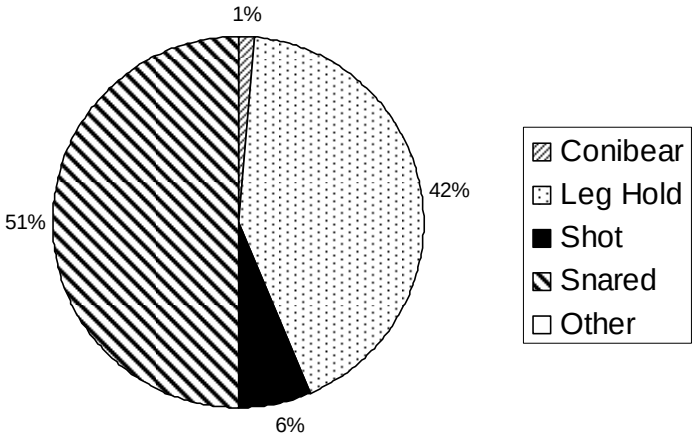


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

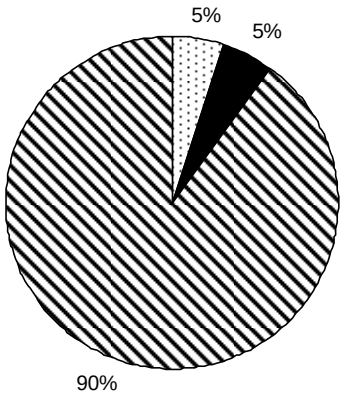


Coyote Harvest Methods

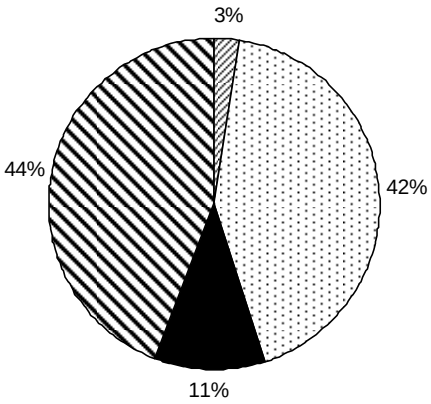
Statewide



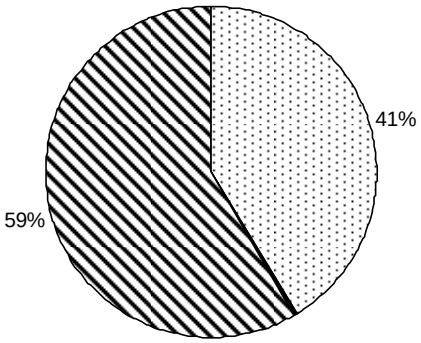
Southeast



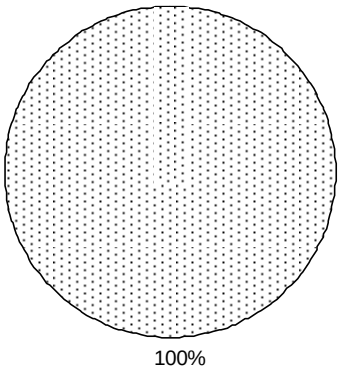
Southcentral & Southwest



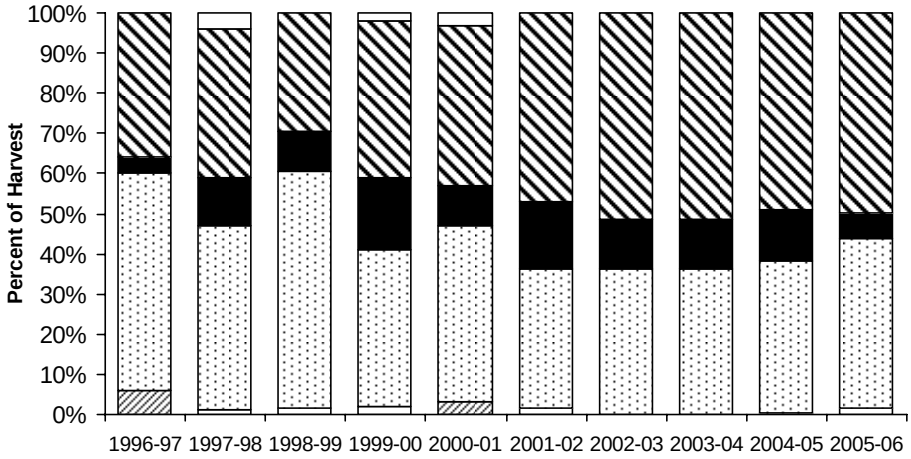
Interior



Arctic & Western

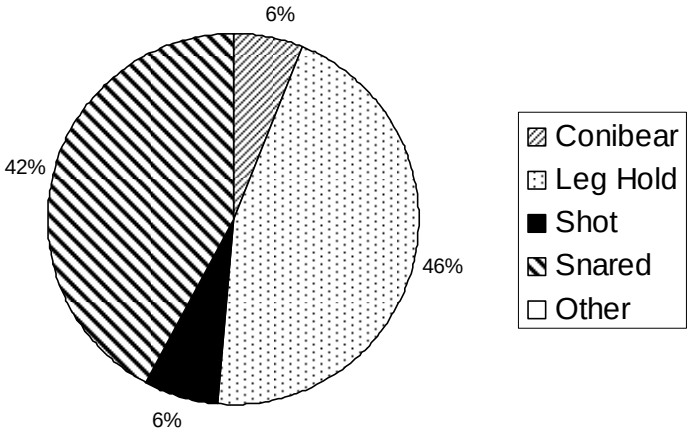


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Fox Harvest Methods

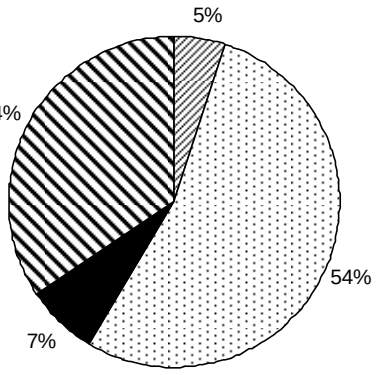
Statewide



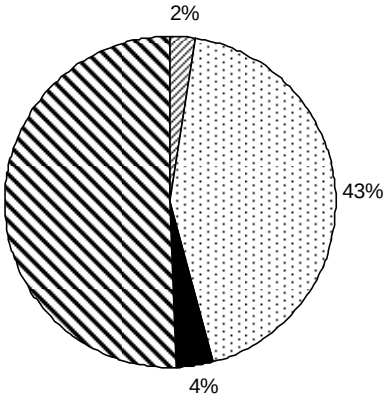
Southeast

No Data Available

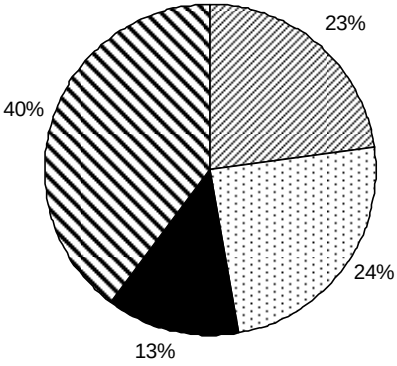
Southcentral & Southwest



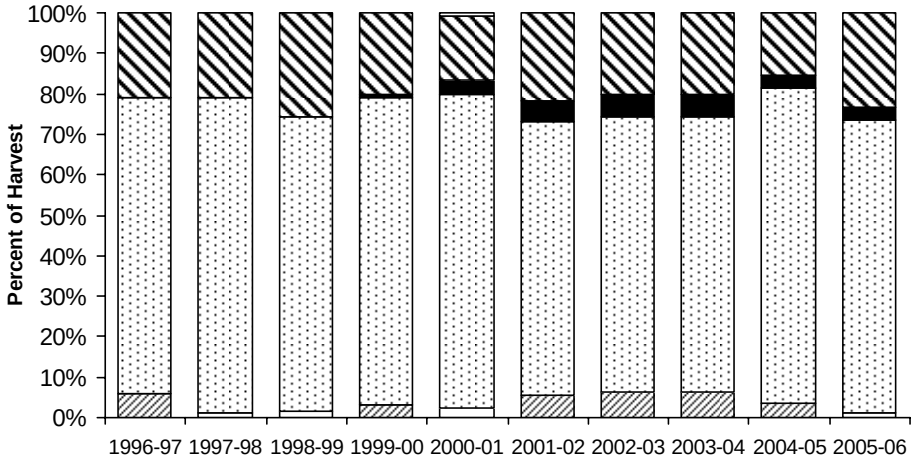
Interior



Arctic & Western

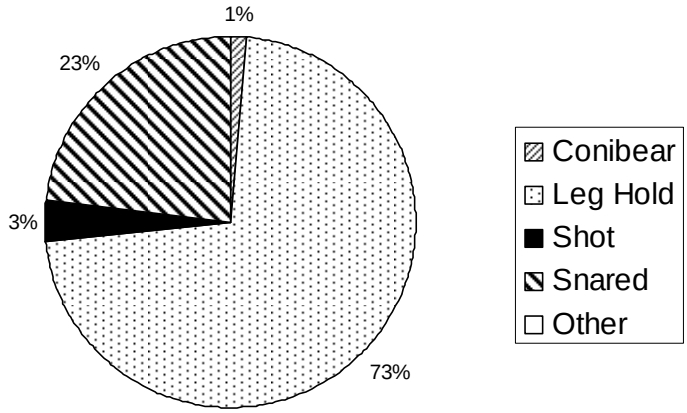


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

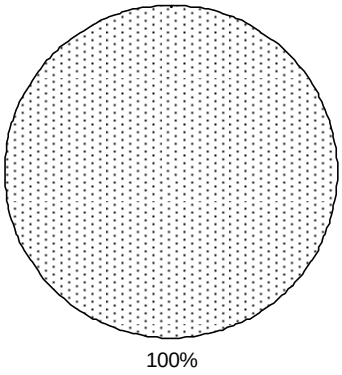


Lynx Harvest Methods

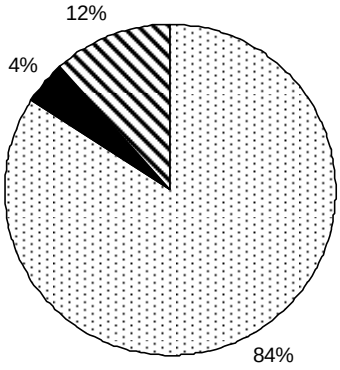
Statewide



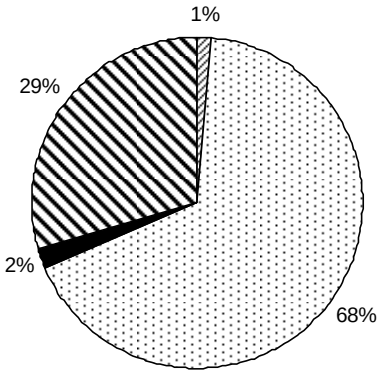
Southeast



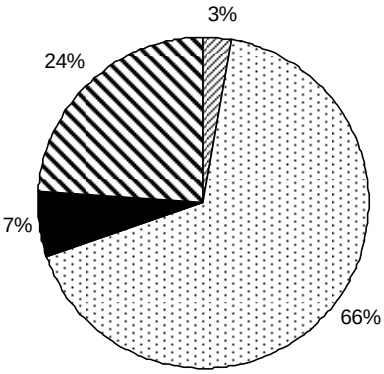
Southcentral & Southwest



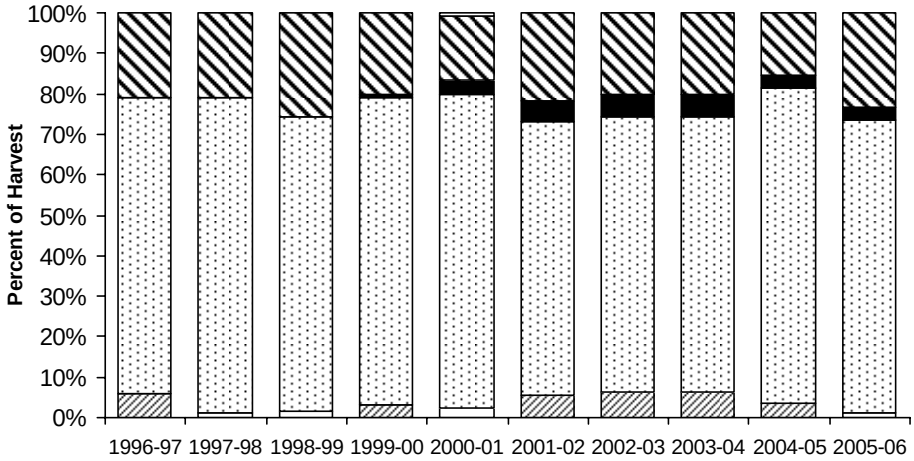
Interior



Arctic & Western

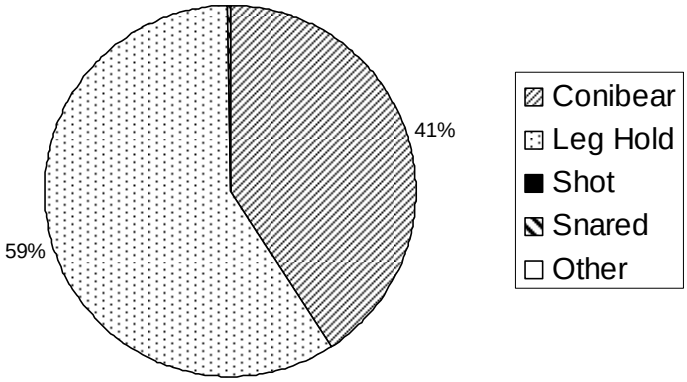


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

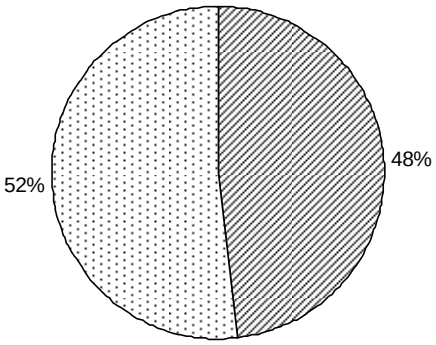


Marten Harvest Methods

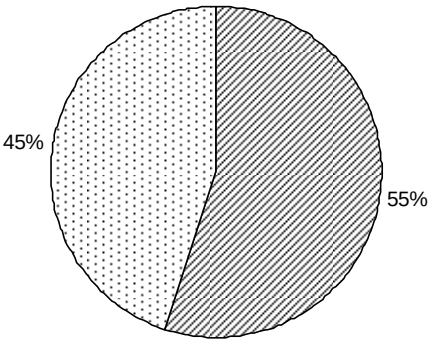
Statewide



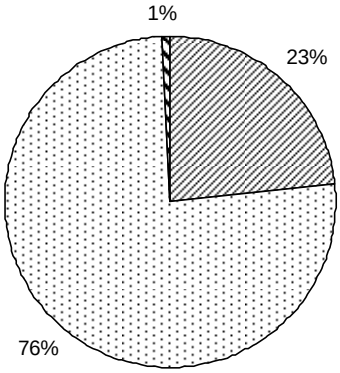
Southeast



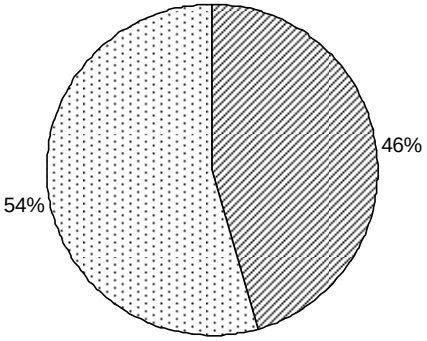
Southcentral & Southwest



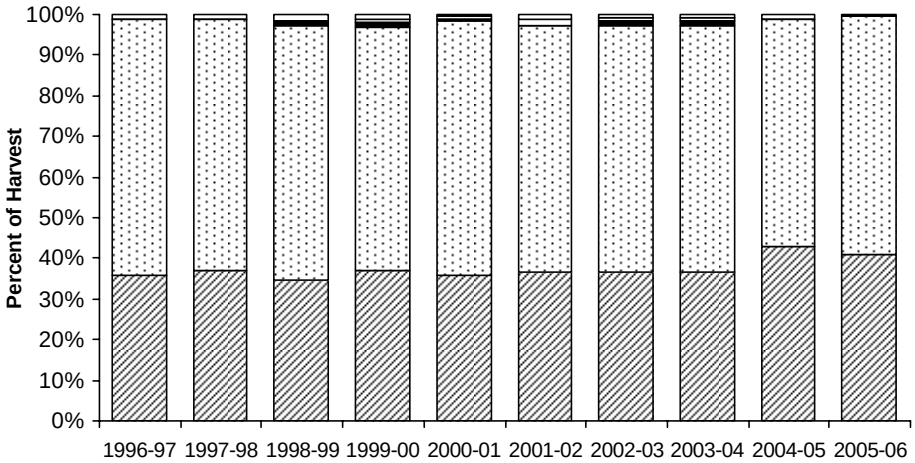
Interior



Arctic & Western

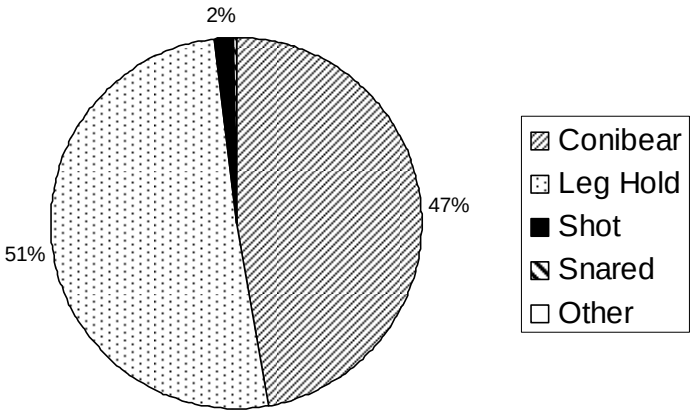


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

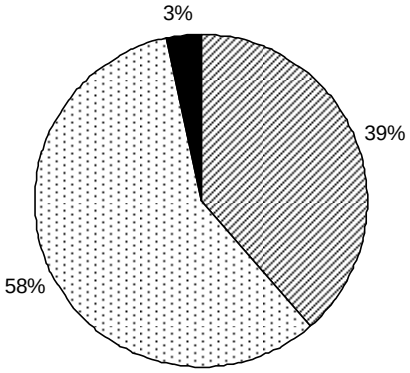


Mink Harvest Methods

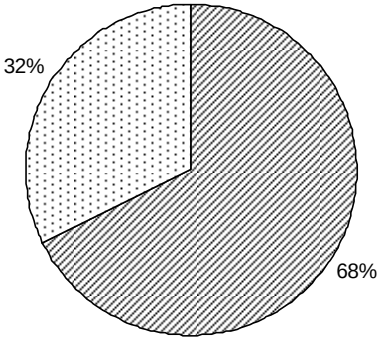
Statewide



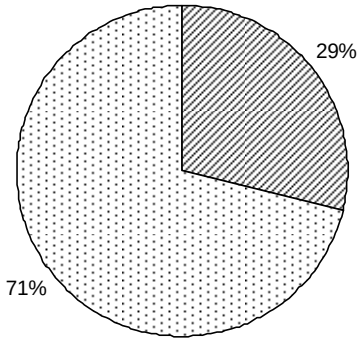
Southeast



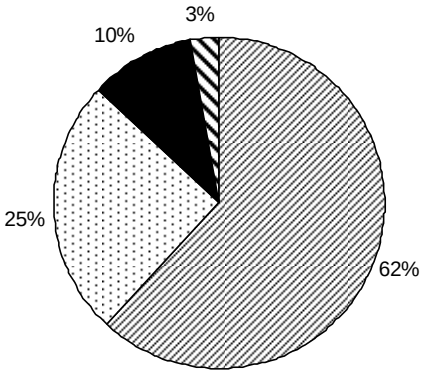
Southcentral & Southwest



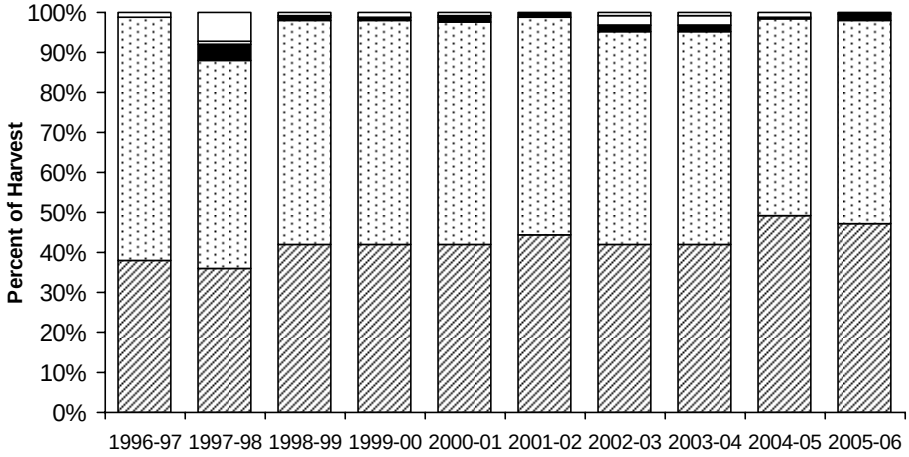
Interior



Arctic & Western

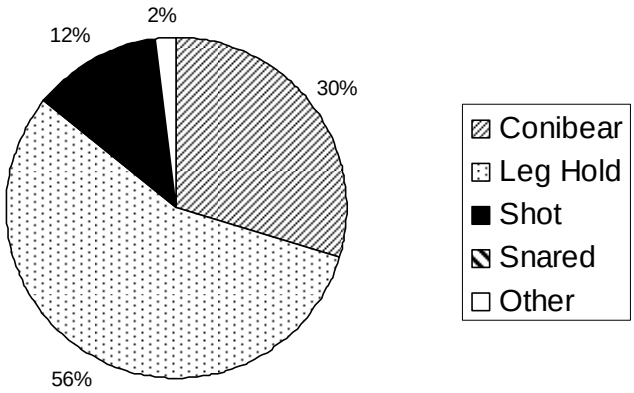


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Muskrat Harvest Methods

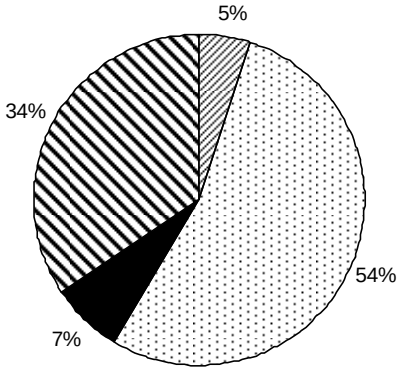
Statewide



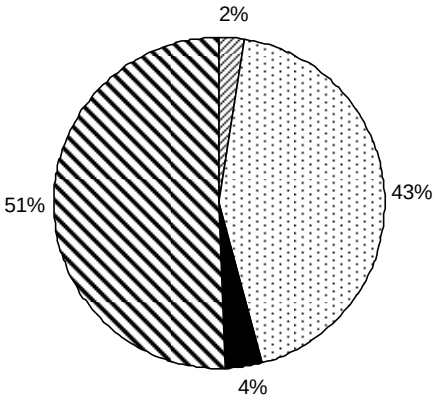
Southeast

No Data Available

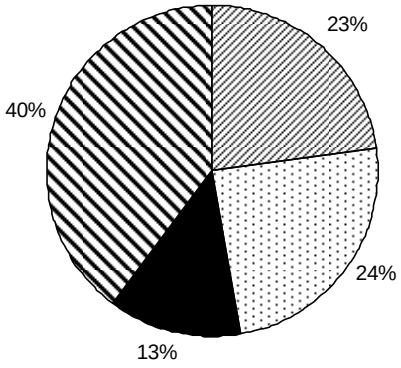
Southcentral & Southwest



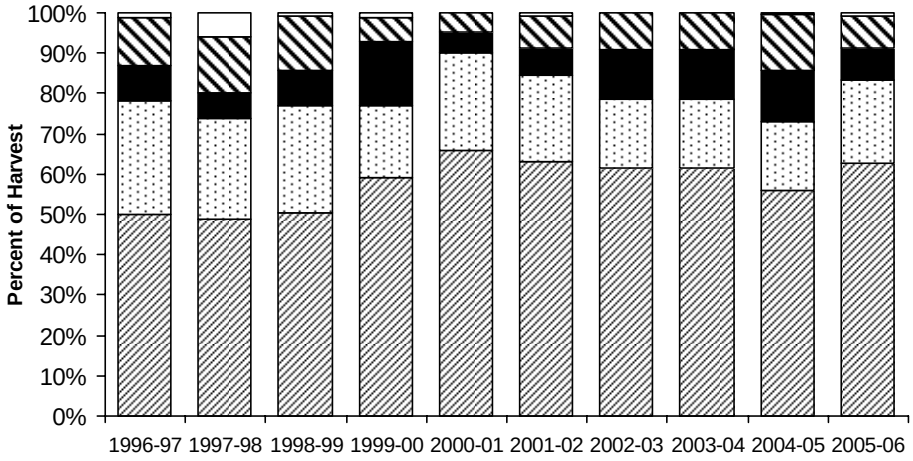
Interior



Arctic & Western

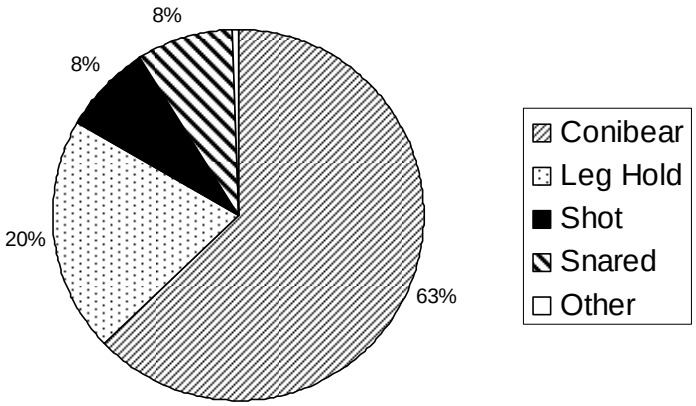


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

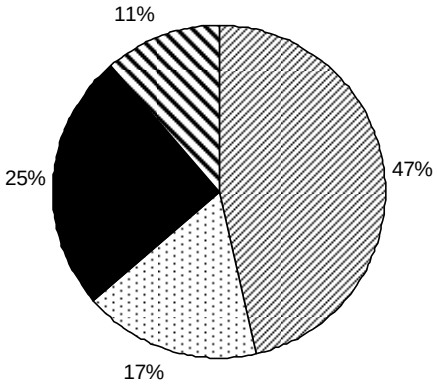


River Otter Harvest Methods

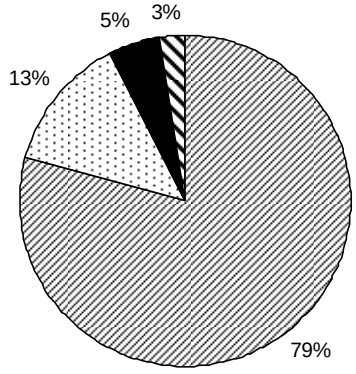
Statewide



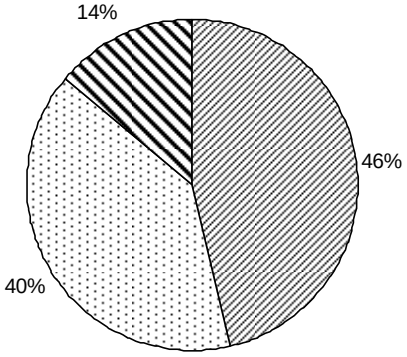
Southeast



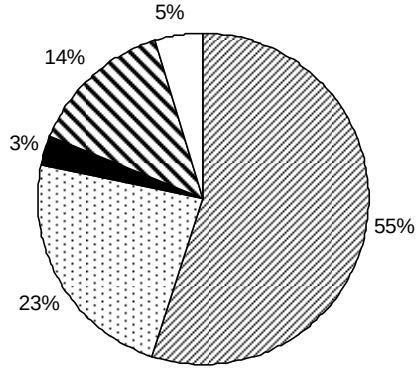
Southcentral & Southwest



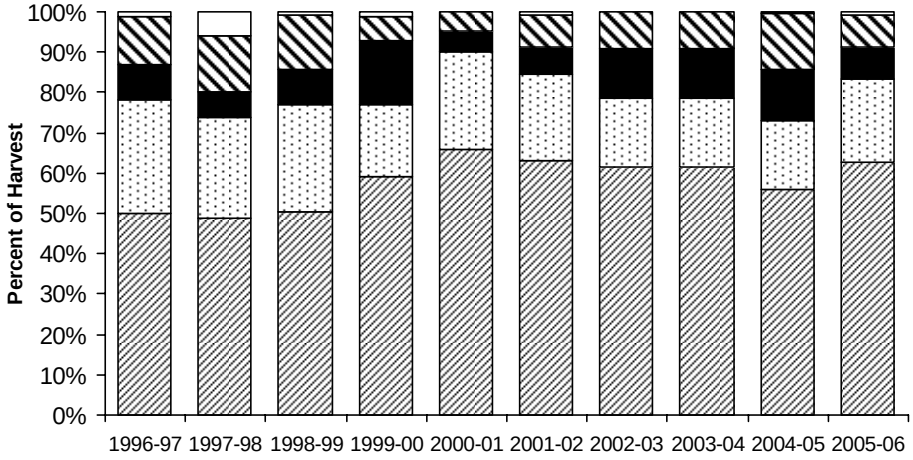
Interior



Arctic & Western

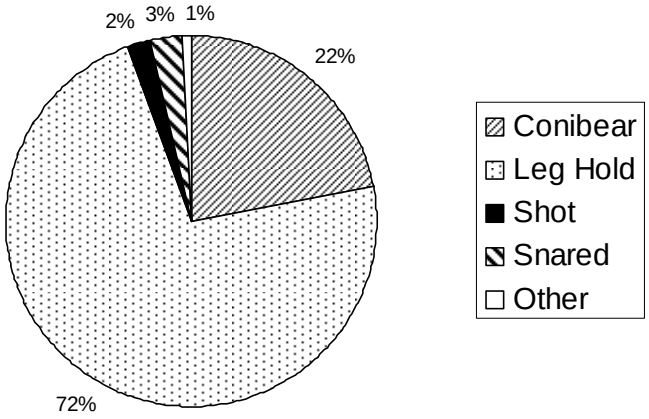


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

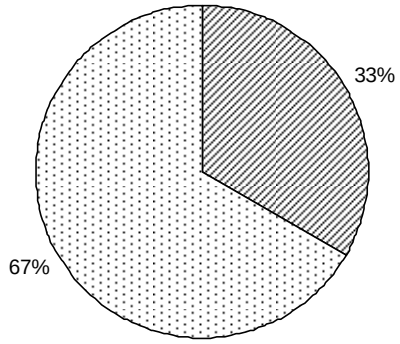


Squirrel Harvest Methods

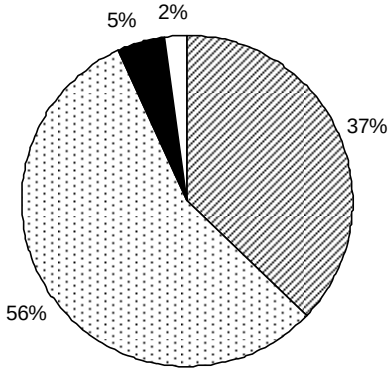
Statewide



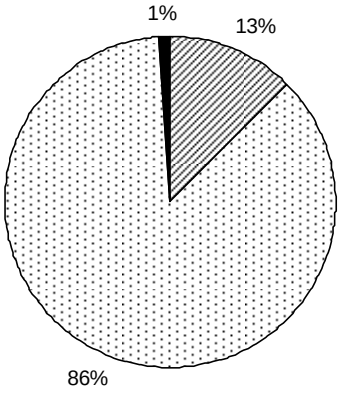
Southeast



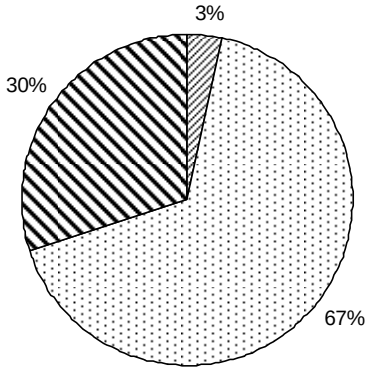
Southcentral & Southwest



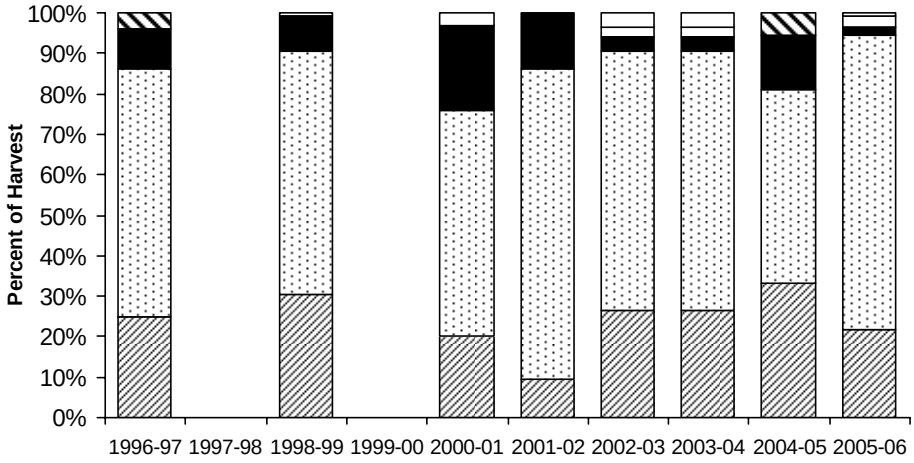
Interior



Arctic & Western

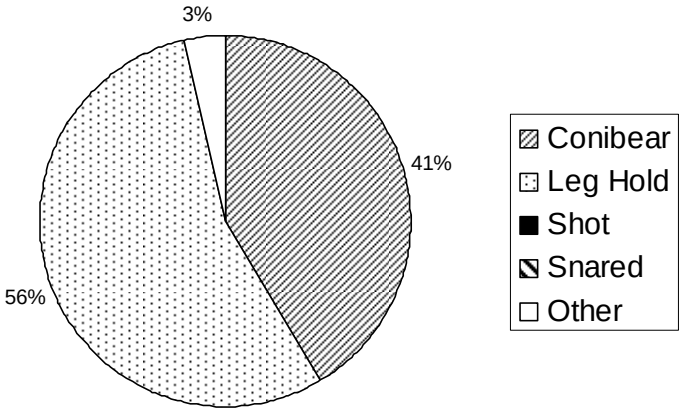


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

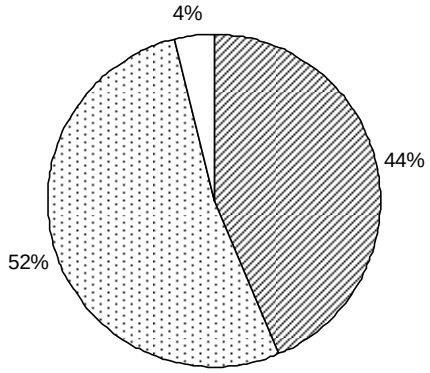


Weasel (Ermine) Harvest Methods

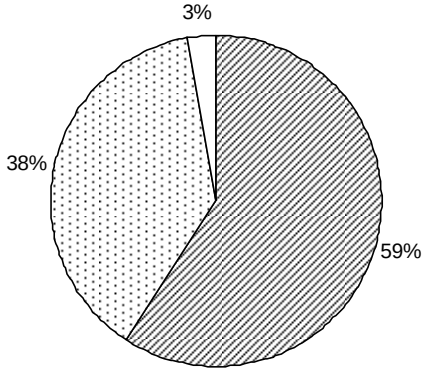
Statewide



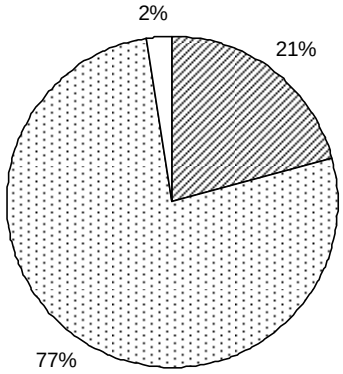
Southeast



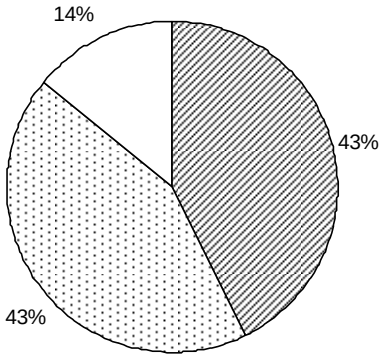
Southcentral & Southwest



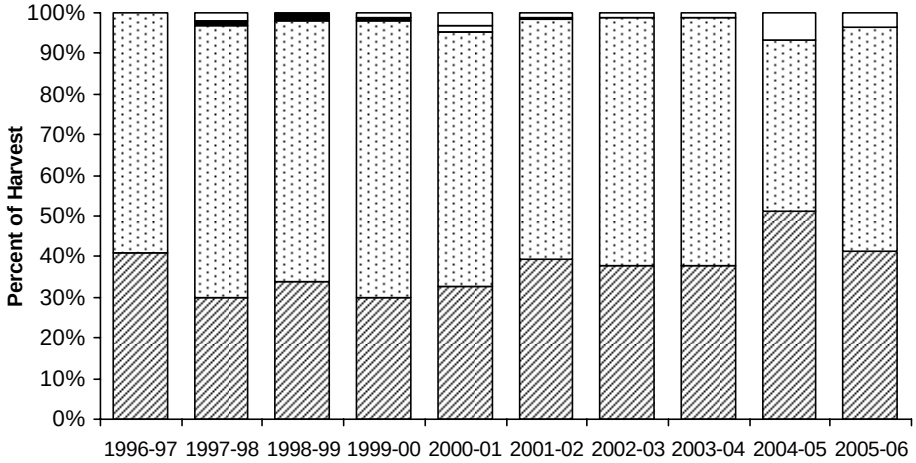
Interior



Arctic & Western

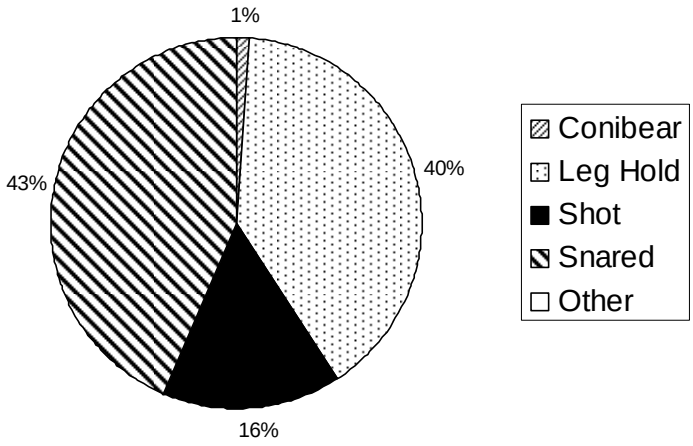


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

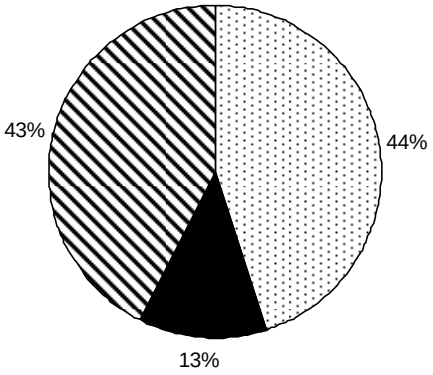


Wolf Harvest Methods

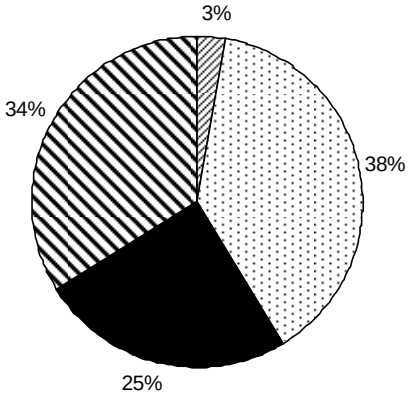
Statewide



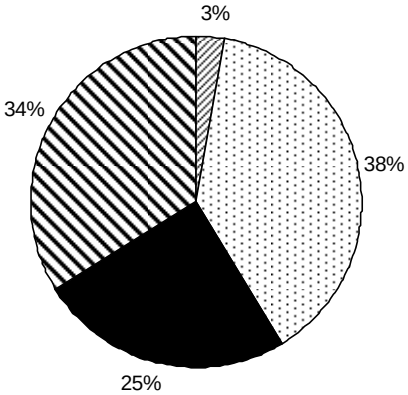
Southeast



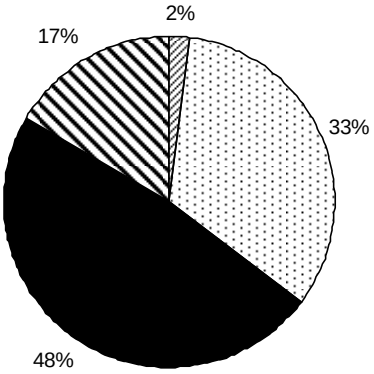
Southcentral & Southwest



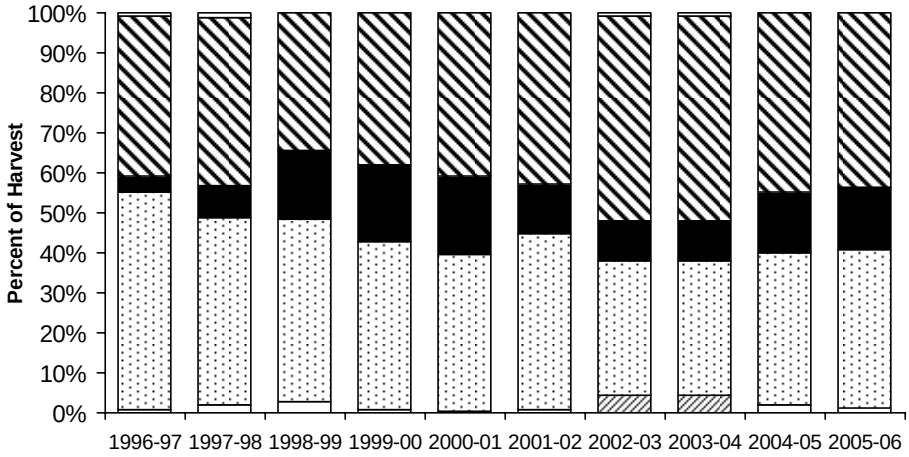
Interior



Arctic & Western

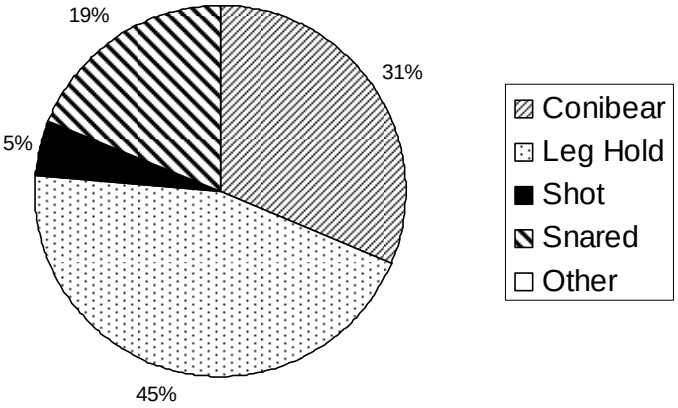


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

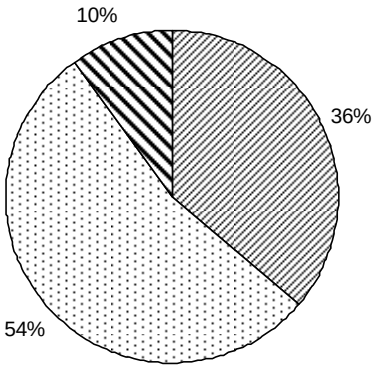


Wolverine Harvest Methods

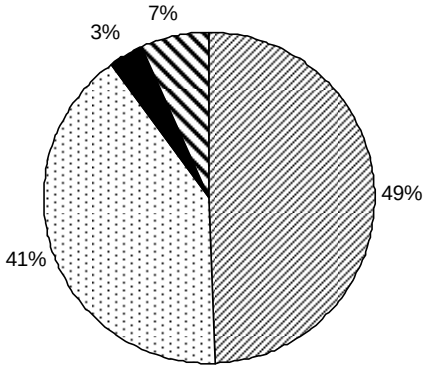
Statewide



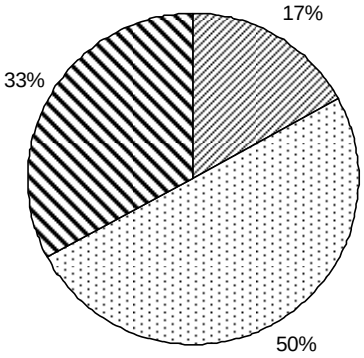
Southeast



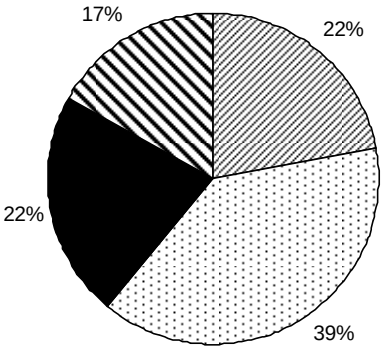
Southcentral & Southwest



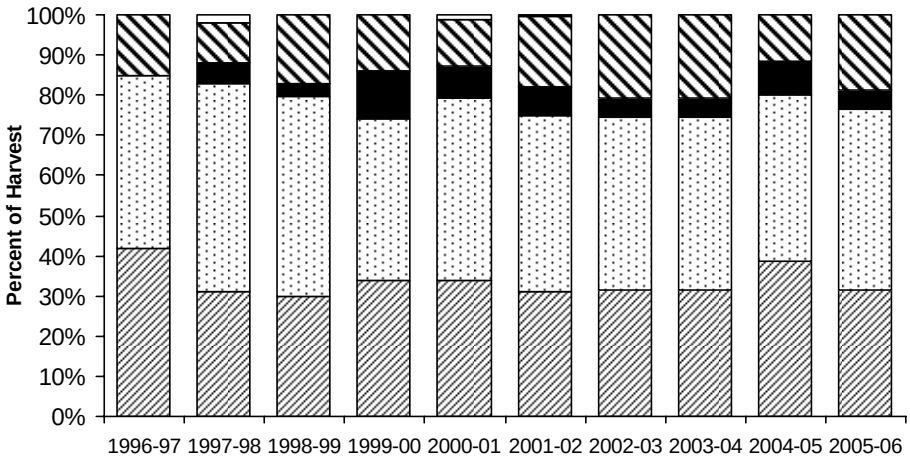
Interior



Arctic & Western



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



SPECIES RELATIVE ABUNDANCE AND POPULATION TRENDS

The species relative abundance index is based on work done with snowshoe hares in Alberta, Canada by Lloyd Keith and Christopher Brand. They compared the responses to a trapper questionnaire with their estimates of hare densities based on their own fieldwork and found there was a good relationship between these two measures. They developed an index for the responses received from trappers on the questionnaire. A numerical value was assigned to each of three responses: 1 = scarce, 2 = common, and 3 = abundant. The value of the abundance index was derived from a mathematical equation that expresses the cumulative response value of trappers in a given region as a percentage of the range of possible values:

$$\mathbf{I} = \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{R}_i - n \right) / \mathbf{2}n \right] \times \mathbf{100}$$

Where I = abundance index

R = numerical value (1 = scarce, 2 = common, 3 = abundant)

n = number of trappers reporting

The abundance index (I) ranges from 0% to 100%. Index values of 0–19% indicated animals were scarce, 20–50% indicated animals were common, and values greater than 50% indicated animals were abundant. In the following tables, we converted the index values to the appropriate category: scarce, common, or abundant.

We do not know if the same ranges of percentages are appropriate for animals in Alaska, because they were established for snowshoe hares in Alberta. However, this index does provide a way to generally compare trappers' interpretations of species abundance in a given area over time and can be very helpful when used in conjunction with other abundance indicators and sources of information.

The numerical trend index indicates if trappers felt animals were fewer, the same, or more numerous than they were the previous year. This index is slightly different than the relative abundance index. The trend index was calculated by assigning a 1 if the box for fewer was checked, 2 for same, and 3 for more animals. The average was then calculated for all trappers in an area. Since we don't have an independent measure of trend to compare the index values to as we did for relative abundance, it is necessary to select arbitrary ranges of values to classify the average opinion of trappers in an area. For purposes of this report, an average trend value of <1.67 represents fewer (-), a value >2.33 represents more (+), and intermediate values represent no change (n/c).

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southeast Alaska, 2005–06, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

Southeast Alaska								
	Ketchikan, Prince of Wales & Vicinity GMUs 1A, 2		Petersburg, Wrangell, Kupreanof & Vicinity GMUs 1B, 3		Juneau, Douglas, Haines, Yakutat GMUs 1CD, 5		Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagof Islands GMU 4	
Furbearers:	**Relative Abundance n = 7**	**Trend n = 6**	**Relative Abundance n = 11**	**Trend n = 7**	**Relative Abundance n = 20**	**Trend n = 11**	**Relative Abundance n = 21**	**Trend n = 10**
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c
Beaver	abundant	+	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	+	not present	n/c
Ermine	common	-	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c
Lynx	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Marten	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Mink	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Muskrat	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Red Fox	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Red Squirrel	common	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Wolf	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	not present	n/c
Wolverine	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Prey:								
Hare	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	common	+	not present	n/c
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Mice/Rodents	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c

Relative Abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southcentral Alaska, 2005-06, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

Southcentral Alaska								
	Copper River & Upper Susitna Basins GMUs 11, 13		Lower Susitna Basin GMUs 14, 16		Prince William Sound & North Gulf Coast GMU 6		Kenai Peninsula GMUs 7, 15	
Furbearers:	**Relative Abundance n = 39**	**Trend n = 30**	**Relative Abundance n = 27**	**Trend n = 22**	**Relative Abundance n = 16**	**Trend n = 9**	**Relative Abundance n = 22**	**Trend n = 17**
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Ermine	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Lynx	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Marten	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Mink	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	-	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Prey:								
Hare	common	+	common	n/c	common	+	common	+
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Interior Alaska, 2005–06, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

Interior Alaska										
	Lower Tanana Basin GMUs 20ABCDF, 25C		Upper Tanana Basin GMUs 12, 20E		Upper Kuskokwim, Innoko & Nowitna GMUs 19, 21A		Middle Yukon & Koyukuk GMUs 21BCDE, 24		Upper Yukon Basin GMUs 25ABD	
Furbearers:	**Relative Abundance n = 56**	**Trend n = 40**	**Relative Abundance n = 2**	**Trend n = 1**	**Relative Abundance n = 18**	**Trend n = 12**	**Relative Abundance n = 17**	**Trend n = 14**	**Relative Abundance n = 7**	**Trend n = 5**
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c	not present		not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	-
Beaver	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Coyote	common	n/c	scarce		scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	scarce	-	abundant	+	common	+	common	-
Lynx	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+
Marten	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c
Mink	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	+
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c
River Otter	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolf	common	-	common	n/c	common	-	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Prey:										
Hare	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	+	common	n/c	common	+	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southwest and Arctic & Western Alaska, 2005–06, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

	Southwest Alaska						Arctic & Western Alaska					
	Kodiak Archipelago GMU 8		Alaska Peninsula GMU 9		Bristol Bay Area GMU 17		Arctic GMUs 23, 26		Seward Peninsula GMU 22		Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta GMU 18	
Furbearers:	**Relative Abundance n = 14**	**Trend n = 13**	**Relative Abundance n = 9**	**Trend n = 9**	**Relative Abundance n = 14**	**Trend n = 12**	**Relative Abundance n = 9**	**Trend n = 8**	**Relative Abundance n = 10**	**Trend n = 8**	**Relative Abundance n = 16**	**Trend n = 13**
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	-	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Coyote	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present		scarce	-	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	common	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+
Marten	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	common	+
Mink	not present	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	+	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	-	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	+	abundant	+	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	+
Red Squirrel	common	+	common	n/c	abundant	+	not present		common	n/c	scarce	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+
Wolf	not present	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	+
Wolverine	not present	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Prey:												
Hare	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	common	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	+
Grouse	not present	n/c	common	-	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	common	-	abundant	n/c	common	-	common	-	abundant	n/c
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	-	abundant	n/c	abundant	-

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations by region and statewide for 2005–06, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

	Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 5		Statewide	
Furbearers:	**Relative Abundance n = 59**	**Trend n = 34**	**Relative Abundance n = 125**	**Trend n = 80**	**Relative Abundance n = 118**	**Trend n = 71**	**Relative Abundance n = 34**	**Trend n = 18**	**Relative Abundance n = 320**	**Trend n = 186**
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Marten	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Mink	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Fox	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Prey:										
Hare	scarce	n/c	common	+	common	+	abundant	+	common	+
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c

FURBEARER HARVEST REPORT

Only 4 of the 14 species defined as furbearers are required to be sealed throughout Alaska; lynx, otter, wolf, and wolverine. Marten and beaver are required to be sealed in some units but not statewide. Consequently, information on the numbers, distribution, and harvest of many furbearers is limited. The following tables give the numbers of each species harvested in each GMU subunit (Z follows GMU when no subunit was specified) as reported on the 2005–06 Trapper Questionnaire Harvest Report.

Region	Subunit	Arctic Fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine (Weasel)	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red Fox	Red Squirrel	River Otter	Wolf	Wolverine
Southeast	01A	0	1	0	6	0	17	14	0	0	6	5	4	0
	01B	0	0	0	1	0	90	21	0	0	0	1	12	4
	01C	0	6	0	44	0	74	80	0	0	500	27	1	0
	01D	0	5	10	7	0	28	2	0	0	4	0	0	0
	02Z	0	38	0	2	0	127	172	0	0	0	37	10	0
	03Z	0	14	0	24	0	42	12	0	0	0	104	17	1
	04Z	0	1	0	1	0	936	156	0	0	0	167	0	0
	05A	0	7	1	15	1	42	3	0	0	9	7	1	1
Region 1 Totals		**0**	**72**	**11**	**100**	**1**	**1,356**	**460**	**0**	**0**	**519**	**348**	**45**	**6**
Southcentral & Southwest	06C	0	0	2	2	0	11	19	3	0	0	30	0	0
	06D	0	0	0	17	0	90	82	0	0	0	89	0	12
	06Z	0	66	1	13	0	50	64	4	0	0	19	0	1
	07Z	0	35	2	41	0	66	10	7	0	7	7	3	2
	08Z	0	20	0	8	0	1	0	16	129	0	207	0	0
	09B	0	9	9	0	1	19	23	0	54	0	6	10	5
	09C	0	32	6	0	2	0	32	4	52	0	17	19	2
	09D	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0
	09E	0	12	0	0	1	0	15	0	4	0	0	0	1
	09Z	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
	11Z	0	3	0	3	11	37	3	2	6	10	2	7	7
	13A	0	8	6	3	8	78	1	4	38	7	3	5	5
	13B	0	36	14	22	20	92	27	18	41	0	6	14	8
	13C	0	36	4	33	28	111	23	8	11	0	5	13	6
	13D	0	7	20	31	17	81	20	19	23	33	0	2	8
	13E	0	12	6	12	0	82	3	3	50	0	4	6	6
	13Z	0	37	2	19	10	108	17	16	18	15	2	0	2
	14A	0	12	14	5	0	18	12	49	17	10	3	0	0
	14B	0	79	21	1	0	36	0	0	9	10	3	4	0
	14C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	14Z	0	17	6	7	0	8	0	4	8	0	1	0	0
	15A	0	20	3	7	0	0	0	43	0	0	6	4	0
	15B	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15C	0	0	12	18	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	5	2
	16A	0	7	7	9	3	102	0	0	4	0	3	0	2
	16B	0	24	11	33	0	388	19	7	8	15	13	10	2
	16Z	0	3	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	17B	0	3	0	0	1	45	0	0	6	2	0	0	1
	17C	0	130	1	10	1	100	14	2	76	9	66	15	11
	17Z	0	17	1	20	0	104	51	0	50	0	17	1	4
Region 2 Totals		**0**	**625**	**150**	**314**	**103**	**1,633**	**448**	**212**	**607**	**118**	**511**	**118**	**87**

Region	Subunit	Arctic Fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine (Weasel)	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red Fox	Red Squirrel	River Otter	Wolf	Wolverine
Interior	12Z	0	4	1	0	0	35	1	0	0	0	1	7	4
	19A	0	12	0	0	0	274	2	0	17	1	2	14	11
	19B	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	5	0	0	3	2
	19C	0	1	0	1	22	53	0	0	9	0	0	4	5
	19D	0	11	0	76	11	628	31	6	16	0	10	3	5
	19Z	0	10	0	0	0	6	0	0	5	0	0	14	5
	20A	0	22	21	25	63	202	52	2	35	5	4	23	3
	20B	0	231	30	57	35	530	99	13	88	83	25	22	2
	20C	0	26	1	20	17	202	13	0	15	3	0	7	0
	20D	0	8	46	12	18	57	2	3	68	81	0	19	5
	20E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
	20F	0	20	1	21	21	197	21	0	1	0	2	3	0
	21A	0	37	0	9	8	426	8	1	2	0	1	6	10
	21B	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	21D	0	78	0	9	4	653	3	4	10	14	7	9	13
	21E	0	55	0	2	8	197	12	0	14	0	17	12	8
	24Z	0	9	0	19	2	143	4	11	11	25	2	3	1
	25B	0	1	0	2	34	335	4	0	2	100	0	0	0
	25C	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	3	0	0	2	0
	25D	0	11	0	6	93	199	36	200	9	20	0	9	1
	25Z	0	0	0	0	10	60	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
	26B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	1
Region 3 Totals		**0**	**536**	**100**	**259**	**346**	**4,284**	**288**	**240**	**314**	**332**	**71**	**171**	**82**
Arctic & Western	18Z	1	177	0	2	36	88	41	56	333	3	109	33	14
	22A	1	5	0	9	62	13	0	38	68	7	1	8	7
	22B	0	14	0	2	26	21	0	0	32	1	3	4	13
	22C	0	62	0	0	11	23	4	0	71	0	5	1	3
	23Z	0	20	0	5	25	57	1	0	96	0	1	3	3
	26A	15	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	12
Region 5 Totals		**17**	**278**	**0**	**18**	**161**	**202**	**46**	**94**	**606**	**11**	**119**	**49**	**52**
Statewide Total		**17**	**1,511**	**261**	**691**	**611**	**7,475**	**1,242**	**546**	**1,527**	**980**	**1,049**	**383**	**227**

It would be helpful to know what proportion of the total harvest the questionnaire numbers represent. For species that require sealing, the number sealed represents our best information about the statewide harvest. The table below gives the harvest totals reported on the questionnaire as a percentage of the total number sealed. Assuming the proportions for species that are not required to be sealed also fall within the ranges observed below, the totals reported above represent roughly 1/4 to 2/5 of the statewide harvest.

Questionnaire Totals as Percent of Number Sealed

Region	Beaver	Lynx	Marten	Otter	Wolf	Wolverine	Average
1	25%	100%	34%	36%	28%	43%	45%
2		43%		57%	25%	40%	42%
3		20%		46%	31%	30%	32%
5		61%		31%	30%	43%	41%
Statewide		27%		44%	29%	37%	34%

FURBEARER SEALING RECORDS SUMMARY

Lynx, river otter, wolf and wolverine are required to be sealed statewide. Marten are required to be sealed in Game Management Units 1–7 and 14–16 and beaver are required to be sealed in Units 1–11 and 13–17. The harvest totals reported below are based on fur sealing records. Numbers reported here may differ from those reported in previous years because additional sealing forms have been turned in.

		Reported Harvest from Sealing Records					
Species	**Region**	**2000–01**	**2001–02**	**2002–03**	**2003–04**	**2004–05**	**2005–06**
Beaver*	Southeast	514	310	293	264	339	289
	Southcentral & Southwest	1,601	1,037	1,797	1,085	1,124	1,370
	Interior	1,348	1,335	97	46	14	91
	Arctic & Western	151	23	127	136	85	76
	Total Beaver	**3,614**	**2,705**	**2,314**	**1,531**	**1,562**	**1,826**
Lynx	Southeast	13	0	5	0	3	1
	Southcentral & Southwest	876	425	137	150	150	240
	Interior	2,934	1,742	752	723	1,125	1,767
	Arctic & Western	159	182	157	172	228	265
	Total Lynx	**3,993**	**2,349**	**1,051**	**1,045**	**1,506**	**2,273**
Marten**	Southeast	3,025	1,758	2,570	2,438	3,697	3,933
	Southcentral & Southwest	1,395	1,367	761	1,263	1,180	1,970
	Interior	0	13	0	1	0	0
	Arctic & Western	0	1	0	0	1	0
	Total Marten	**4,420**	**3,139**	**3,331**	**3,702**	**4,878**	**5,903**
Otter	Southeast	428	495	923	594	1,041	958
	Southcentral & Southwest	470	511	653	723	983	890
	Interior	113	111	123	104	157	153
	Arctic & Western	165	99	376	345	435	383
	Total Otter	**1,176**	**1,216**	**2,075**	**1,766**	**2,616**	**2,384**
Wolf	Southeast	215	132	200	119	160	158
	Southcentral & Southwest	582	590	363	663	507	463
	Interior	825	765	662	508	637	549
	Arctic & Western	182	181	128	159	215	163
	Total Wolf	**1,804**	**1,668**	**1,353**	**1,449**	**1,519**	**1,333**
Wolverine	Southeast	13	4	27	21	18	14
	Southcentral & Southwest	168	204	99	269	232	216
	Interior	310	237	240	185	266	269
	Arctic & Western	133	99	87	152	97	120
	Total Wolverine	**625**	**544**	**453**	**627**	**613**	**619**

* Beaver are required to be sealed in Game Management Units 1–11 and 13–17.
** Marten are required to be sealed in Game Management Units 1–7 and 14–16.

WOLF HARVEST METHODS

The following table is compiled from mandatory wolf-sealing certificates from 1999 through 2005.

Season	Region	Shot	Trapped	Snared	Unknown	Total Wolves Sealed
1999-00	Southeast	59	107	55	3	224
	Southcentral	324	143	100	12	579
	Interior	193	225	241	17	676
	Arctic	146	37	24	29	236
	Total	**722**	**512**	**420**	**61**	**1,715**
2000-01	Southeast	93	69	51	2	215
	Southcentral	203	112	246	21	582
	Interior	333	232	228	32	825
	Arctic	65	32	79	6	182
	Total	**694**	**445**	**604**	**61**	**1,804**
2001-02	Southeast	42	72	17	3	134
	Southcentral	256	156	174	4	590
	Interior	166	245	328	28	767
	Arctic	109	15	43	14	181
	Total	**573**	**488**	**604**	**49**	**1,672**
2002-03	Southeast	60	110	31	3	204
	Southcentral	172	95	90	2	359
	Interior	166	171	310	15	662
	Arctic	103	18	7	0	128
	Total	**501**	**394**	**438**	**20**	**1,353**
2003-04	Southeast	37	43	36	3	119
	Southcentral	278	134	114	137	663
	Interior	118	124	239	27	508
	Arctic	111	12	32	4	159
	Total	**544**	**313**	**421**	**171**	**1,449**
2004-05	Southeast	32	38	41	1	112
	Southcentral	155	88	91	173	507
	Interior	143	136	232	126	637
	Arctic	122	62	15	16	215
	Total	**452**	**324**	**379**	**316**	**1,471**
2005-06	Southeast	53	57	43	0	153
	Southcentral	193	87	94	88	462
	Interior	121	129	222	79	551
	Arctic	110	15	31	7	163
	Total	**477**	**288**	**390**	**174**	**1,329**

FUR ACQUISITION AND EXPORT

The following table summarizes data from the "Report of Acquisition of Furs and Hides" filled out by Alaska fur buyers (dealers) and the "Raw Fur Skin Export Permit" (the blue card everyone must fill out when sending raw furs out of state.) Only Raw Fur Skin Export Permits that were filled out by individuals (not dealers) were included to avoid the possibility of furs being counted twice. These reports are a general indicator of harvest trends but are not actual records of the number of furbearers harvested in a trapping season. Both reports may include furs harvested in previous years, and many trappers keep their furs for tanning and use at home. In addition, some people may not fill out the required forms. If you want more information about fur harvest trends, contact your regional or statewide furbearer biologist.

2002–2005 Fur Acquisition and Export

	2002–03		**2003–04**		**2004–05**		**2005–06**	
	Exported	Acquired	Exported	Acquired	Exported	Acquired	Exported	Acquired
Beaver	617	607	830	350	891	323	832	411
Coyote	70	68	69	58	47	21	121	78
Fox, Blue	0	0	6	0	2	0	0	0
Fox, White	14	0	16	0	38	1	22	8
Fox, Cross	69	68	114	57	88	42	114	68
Fox, Red	244	399	951	639	1,340	182	603	444
Fox, Silver	20	1	33	5	22	2	52	35
Lynx	240	519	260	473	118	586	214	1,324
Marten	1,789	5,328	5,858	9,824	3,341	4,449	4,655	13,088
Mink	589	602	1,044	677	498	496	927	1,224
Muskrat	992	475	1,074	163	200	283	300	435
Otter, Land	554	916	1,288	822	534	397	656	1,066
Red Squirrel	11	159	157	73	14	51	64	402
Weasel	114	218	184	120	73	448	158	262
Wolf	238	92	195	122	164	66	205	76
Wolverine	60	92	111	120	65	70	96	61
Other	48	0	245	0	82	0	68	11
Grand Total	**5,669**	**9,544**	**12,435**	**13,503**	**7,517**	**7,417**	**9,087**	**18,993**

COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING FURS

Average Prices Paid for Raw Furs by Buyers in Alaska

Several fur dealers were asked for the average and top prices they paid for furs. The values they gave were used to produce this table. Values for mink, muskrat, squirrels, and weasels were from fur auctions.

	Average Price					Top Price
Species	**2001–02**	**2002–03**	**2003–04**	**2004–05**	**2005–06**	**2005–06**
Beaver	$45.00	$28.25	$24.00	$35.00	$27.47	$50.00
Coyote	$23.97	$29.23	$45.00	$32.50	$31.19	$50.00
Fox	$25.75	$30.51	$26.83	$28.75	$30.69	$55.00
Lynx	$91.00	$134.39	$100.67	$210.00	$148.55	$250.00
Marten	$45.50	$39.07	$37.50	$87.33	$81.31	$120.00
Mink (wild)	$15.84	$14.46	$14.33	$14.26	$15.55	$20.00
Muskrat	$1.73	$1.45	$1.62	$2.84	$4.25	$11.50
River Otter	$59.83	$102.29	$99.00	$112.67	$80.48	$100.00
Squirrel	$0.98	$0.93		$0.85	$0.99	$3.10
Weasel	$3.47	$2.07		$3.15	$4.89	$19.20
Wolf	$165.00	$270.63	$214.00	$160.00	$211.75	$500.00
Wolverine	$222.50	$243.54	$233.33	$197.50	$256.72	$400.00

Fur Value

The following table summarizes the total estimated value of furs trapped during the 2005–06 trapping season. This table is intended to provide an estimate of fur values in Alaska and does not represent fur revenue. The estimated average price paid by Alaska fur dealers was used in this calculation when available; fur auction prices were used for muskrat, squirrels and weasels. The number of furs was taken from sealing records for lynx, river otter, wolf, and wolverine. The number of furs for the remaining species was calculated by adding the number of furs acquired by dealers plus the number of furs exported by hunters and trappers. All species of foxes were added together for this table.

2005–06 Fur Value in Alaska

Species	Total Number	Average Price Paid in Alaska	Total Estimated Value
Beaver	1,243	$27.47	$34,145.21
Coyote	199	$31.19	$6,206.81
Fox	1,346	$30.69	$41,307.06
Lynx	2,273	$148.55	$337,648.47
Marten	13,088	$81.31	$1,064,218.00
Mink	1,224	$15.55	$19,036.26
Muskrat	435	$4.25	$1,848.75
River Otter	2,384	$80.48	$191,852.40
Squirrel	402	$0.99	$397.98
Weasel	262	$4.89	$1,279.87
Wolf	1,333	$211.75	$282,262.75
Wolverine	619	$256.72	$158,909.68
Total			**$2,139,113.24**

FUR SEALING REQUIREMENTS

Lynx, river otter, wolf, or wolverine taken anywhere in the state, marten in Game Management Units 1-7 and 14-16, and beaver taken in Units 1-11 and 13-17 must be sealed by an authorized department representative. If you ship furs to a buyer or auction house out of state, they must be sealed before you ship them.

All raw skins of wild furbearers shipped from Alaska must have a Raw Fur Export Permit (blue shipping tag) attached to the shipment. The Fur Export Report (a postage-paid postcard attached to the permit) must also be completed and mailed to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The U.S. Post Office Domestic Mail Manual Regulation 124.65 also requires compliance with this regulation. This 2-part form is free from any Alaska Department of Fish and Game office or authorized fur sealer.

If there is no authorized fur sealer near you, contact the nearest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A list of area biologists is on the next page. We can help you make arrangements to seal your furs. If you or someone you know wants to become a fur sealer, contact one of the following Regional Fur Sealing Officers.

Interior Region	Jackie Kephart Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1300 College Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-1599 (907) 459-7205
Southcentral/Southwestern Region	Michael Harrington Alaska Department of Fish and Game 333 Raspberry Rd. Anchorage, Alaska 99518-1599 (907) 267-2137
Arctic/Western Region	Peter Bente Alaska Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 1148 Nome, Alaska 99762 (907) 443-2271
Southeast Region	Chris Frary Alaska Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 240020 Douglas, Alaska 99824-0020 (907) 465-4265

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GMU 18 ***Region 5***
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Wildlife Management Coordinators
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REGIONAL BIOLOGIST REPORTS

Southeast Region

Phil Mooney, Sitka Area Management Biologist

Furbearer harvests in Region I (Game Management Units 1-5) declined slightly from last year for all species except marten. Beaver harvest declined the most, down 15% from last year and 35% from two years ago, whereas the marten harvest increased by 6% to 3933 animals.

Marten was again the most heavily harvested furbearer in the region during the 2005–06 season. The regionwide harvest has increased steadily over the past five years, from 2349 in 2001–02 to a record high of 3933 in 2005–06. Although the regional harvest increased from last year, harvest levels actually declined throughout much of the region except for Units 1A, 4, and 5A. As in previous years, the highest harvests occurred in Units 4 and 2, with 57% and 21% of the region's harvest, respectively. Marten populations fluctuate in response to food availability, especially availability of voles. A survey of martens and small mammals during 2002 and 2003 found that marten numbers were correlated with numbers of long-tailed voles. That survey also found that population numbers and distributions of small mammals varied greatly across the region.

River otter harvests during the 2005–06 season declined by 8% from 2004–05 levels. The Alexander Archipelago accounted for 87% of the regional harvest and the southern mainland (Units 1A and 1B) accounted for another 8%.

The regionwide beaver harvest (289) was the lowest harvest since 1998–99 and well below the 10-year average of 377. Catches declined on the Alexander Archipelago (Units 2, 3, and 4) and central mainland (Unit 1B), where the majority of beaver are harvested, but increased or remained stable elsewhere on the mainland. As in previous years, most of the beaver harvest (63%) occurred in Unit 2.

This year's wolf harvest (158) was very similar to last year's harvest of 160 wolves, but remained below the ten-year average harvest of 190 and the 2002–03 harvest of 208. Units 2 and 3 (59 and 60 wolves respectively) together accounted for 75% of the regional take. The mainland (Units 1 and 5) accounted for the remaining 25% of the harvest. While wolves have not been known to exist in Unit 4, possibly excluded by the high numbers of brown bears on these islands, two large feral canids, believed to be dogs, have been observed and photographed on Admiralty Island during the past couple of years.

The wolverine harvest declined 22% from 2004–05, with a total of 14 wolverines taken in the region during 2005–06. Little is known about the status of wolverine populations in Southeast Alaska, although current research efforts initiated in units 1B and 1C should increase our understanding. Increased road construction in remote parts of the region, along with the human access the roads provide, could impact some populations.

Only 1 lynx was taken in Region 1 (Unit 5A) during 2005–06. Lynx are only occasionally taken in Southeast Alaska because they do not generally inhabit the region. Lynx are taken almost exclusively in the northern mainland areas of the region, Units 1D and 5A. The occurrence of lynx in the harvest is usually related to a decline in snowshoe hare populations in adjacent interior Alaska and Canada. At such times lynx travel widely in search of food.

Numbers of furbearers sealed in southeastern Alaska, 2005–2006.

GMU	Beaver	Lynx	Marten	River Otter	Wolf	Wolverine
01A	16	0	130	64	10	1
01B	1	0	200	14	16	8
01C	30	0	162	31	4	0
01D	7	0	73	5	2	2
02Z	182	0	844	341	59	1
03Z	43	0	120	140	60	1
04Z	2	0	2231	354	0	0
05A	8	1	173	9	6	1
05B	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	**289**	**1**	**3933**	**958**	**158**	**14**
2004-05	339	3	3697	1041	160	18

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Southcentral & Southwest Region

Howard Golden, Southcentral Furbearer Biologist

Of the furbearer species that must be sealed, beaver, marten, and lynx harvests were higher overall during the 2005–06 season than during 2004–05 in southcentral Alaska. Beaver harvest was slightly above the 5-year regional average with the highest takes in the Mat-Su Valley/Upper Cook Inlet and Dillingham/Nushagak Basin. Marten harvest rose by 67% across the region but increased most sharply on the Kenai Peninsula, climbing 90%, from 69 to 131. However, Mat-Su Valley/Upper Cook Inlet had by far the highest take of marten again at 1581, which was substantially higher than the 2004–05 take of 937 and above the regional 5-year average of 1380.

Lynx harvest across southcentral Alaska increased by 60% in 2005–06 with a take of 240. This was just above the 5-year average of 220 and was the third year of increase following the regional low of 137 taken in 2002–03. Lynx populations cycle every 8–12 years across the region and last peaked 5 years ago in 2000–01 when the harvest was 876 lynx. Snowshoe hares, the major prey of lynx, last peaked in 1999–00. Populations of both hares and lynx are increasing in many areas of the region. Lynx harvest in the Nelchina/Copper River Basin increased by 73% from 110 to 190. Although harvests in other areas remained relatively low and steady (partly due to season closures), observations indicated hare and lynx populations also are increasing quickly in Mat-Su Valley/Upper Cook Inlet. This area was reopened for 1 month for the 2005–06 season, which resulted in a take of 12 lynx. Lynx trapping seasons in Nelchina/Copper River Basin increased to 6 weeks for 2005–06 and will be increased to 10 weeks for 2006–07. During 2005–06, Prince William Sound was closed to lynx hunting and trapping, but the Kenai Peninsula was closed just to trapping. Both areas will remain closed for trapping during the 2006–07 season but will be open to hunting, which sets a bag limit of 2 lynx. We expect to see snowshoe hare and lynx numbers continue to increase during the next few years. This will allow longer lynx seasons as populations are able to support greater harvest. For an explanation how our lynx-tracking harvest strategy works, please visit our web site at: http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/hunt_trap/trapping/lynx-ths.cfm.

River otter harvest declined about 10% from 2004–05 but was still higher than average. The Alaska Peninsula/Kodiak/Aleutians again had the highest river otter harvest, although it decreased 32%, from

485 to 330. The area with the next highest take of river otters was Prince William Sound, which also had a slight drop from 196 to 188. The area with the greatest gain since the 2004–05 season was the Mat-Su Valley/Upper Cook Inlet, where river otter take jumped 69%, from 81 to 137. Regional wolf harvest dropped again in 2005–06 by 9%, from 507 to 462. The greatest wolf harvest was in the Nelchina/Copper River Basin at 171 but the area with the greatest gain in wolf harvest was the Alaska Peninsula/Kodiak/Aleutians, which saw an 88% increase from the 2004–05 take of 64 wolves. Wolverine harvest dropped by 7% from 232 to 216 in the region, with the greatest take again in the Nelchina/Copper River Basin.

Harvest of furbearers sealed in southcentral & southwestern Alaska, 2005–2006.

Location (GMU)	Beaver	Lynx	River Otter	Wolf	Wolverine	Marten
Prince William Sound (6)	98	0	188	7	19	256
Kenai Peninsula (7, 15)	165	12	57	28	21	131
Alaska Peninsula/Kodiak/Aleutians (8, 9, 10)	100	22	330	120	31	0
Nelchina/Copper River Basin (11, 13)	232	190	51	171	55	2
Mat-Su Valley/Upper Cook Inlet (14, 16)	472	12	137	74	45	1581
Dillingham/Nushagak Basin (17)	301	4	124	62	45	0
Regional total for 2005-2006	**1368**	**240**	**887**	**462**	**216**	**1970**
Regional total for 2004-2005	1124	150	983	507	232	1180
Regional 5-year average	1282	220	751	517	204	1380

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Interior Region

Craig Gardner, Interior Furbearer Biologist

Most of our furbearer management and research efforts this year went toward testing methods to manage louse infestation on wolves in Unit 20A, completing our research on developing a more efficient breakaway wolf snare, and monitoring lynx population trends. Like every year, the efforts and contributions by trappers through observations, harvest reports, and sample collection were essential to our furbearer research and management efforts. This report gives only a quick summary of these projects. Please contact me if you want additional information.

Lice and Wolves: The dog louse was first identified in wolves on the Kenai Peninsula in 1981. The occurrence of lice was confined to the Kenai until 1998, when wolves in the Palmer area were found to harbor lice. Lice have been confirmed in coyotes near Palmer as well. Lice were also confirmed in wolves in Unit 13 in 2004 and April 2005. Sporadic reports of wolves with poor hair quality have been received for several years in GMU 20A, but presence of lice in GMU 20A wolves was not confirmed until March 2004. A second wolf in a separate pack was confirmed with lice in December 2004. The first diagnosis came from a pack on the Tanana Flats and the second from a pack in the Alaska Range foothills.

Infestation by this parasite often results in loss of hair, but the severity of hair loss appears to be variable among individuals and may be a function of age, local environmental conditions, or immunity of the individual host. Efforts to eradicate lice in wolves on the Kenai have been largely unsuccessful

and most packs there are now infected with the parasite. In 1998, ADF&G tried to eliminate lice from the infected packs near Palmer using different methods but those efforts also failed. It is likely that lice will continue to spread into different areas of the state because the parasite does not kill its host, louse transmission is through contact, and wolves disperse long distances.

We initiated a study in 2005 with the following 4 objectives: 1) determine extent of louse infestation in wolf packs in Unit 20A, 2) determine if den/rendezvous site treatments with ivermectin-injected baits would at least temporarily eliminate lice infection in that pack, 3) establish rate of transmission between packs, and 4) determine if lice-infected packs have lower productivity and survival rates compared to uninfected packs.

During winter 2005–06, we captured and radiocollared 1 or 2 individual wolves in 10 packs. We also visually inspected all hides brought in by trappers for lice and purchased any hides that looked suspect. In Unit 20A, 7 out of 12 packs (5 packs were radiocollared) were infected in 2006 and 3 or 4 packs out of 12 (3 packs were radiocollared) were infected in 2007. During the summers of 2006 and 2007, we treated 5 and 4 packs respectively by dropping ivermectin-injected baits (fist-size chunks of moose meat) at their dens and rendezvous sites every 10–14 days from an airplane. To evaluate treatment effects, we caught 1 pup (6–10 months old) from 4 of the 5 treated packs and 2 of the 5 untreated packs during 2006 and closely inspected their fur for presence of lice. None of the treated packs had lice the following winter after being treated during the summer of 2006. We did find lice on 3 packs that were not treated. We will evaluate the results of treating dens during summer 2007 by catching wolves from both treated and untreated packs during November and December 2007 and examining for lice.

We documented transmission of lice from pack to pack during the winter of 2006–07. We verified that a clean pack became lousy after having contact and accepting at least 3 wolves from an infected pack, illustrating the ease of transmission and the difficulty in managing infestation. However, at least so far, we have shown that louse infestation can be minimized by treating infected packs at their dens and rendezvous sites.

Breakaway Snares: With the help of trappers we completed our study developing and evaluating wolf snare designs that would reduce moose capture. We found that wolf snares can be modified, regardless of cable diameter and lock type, to both effectively eliminate the chance of accidentally catching a moose by the nose and significantly reduce (but not eliminate) leg catches. This design incorporates two modifications. The first is a wire we added to the snare that allows the snare to be pushed away by a moose before its leg or nose encounters the snare loop, but does not reduce the snare's availability to wolves. The second modification is a noose stop/breakaway system that allows most leg-caught moose to break free with little chance of injury, while remaining effective in holding and killing wolves. Both modifications were tested by several private trappers in Unit 20A with good results. The wire mechanism designed to reduce accidental moose capture was tested during 1 trapping season; 9 moose and 9 wolves encountered this snare type and 0 moose and 9 wolves were caught. The noose stop/ breakaway mechanism was tested during 2 trapping seasons and 38 wolves and 9 moose were caught and 1 wolf and 8 moose escaped. The one moose that did not escape was caught by the neck and could not activate the breakaway mechanism. The wolf that escaped was caught by the leg and the noose stop prevented the lock from cinching down, allowing the wolf to pull free.

In cooperation with the Alaska Trapping Association we are producing a brochure that will explain our research and how to construct these snares. The brochure will be available during November 2007. The Alaska Trapper Wolf Trapping Manual also illustrates the design and construction steps. The modifications are easy to make and, as mentioned, will fit 3/32–1/8" snare cables and work with any lock. I recommend all wolf trappers seriously consider incorporating both modifications onto their wolf

snares. I am not going to claim the modifications are perfect because they are not. Adding the wire that reduces accidental moose capture does make the snare more cumbersome to set and also makes the it more prone to drop due to wind, but compare those difficulties to dealing with a moose caught in the snare. Also consider the chances of accidentally catching a moose. We found that if a moose encounters a wolf snare it has a 14% chance of being caught at the time of encounter. If the snare is knocked down, it often forms a 6-15" loop that lies along the surface of the snow. The capture rate for moose (all leg catches) that encounter a knocked-down snare increases to about 30%. The chance of accidentally catching a moose using the modified snare drops to < 7% and the holding rate is near 0%. Especially for wolf trappers who trap in high density moose areas, these modifications will make wolf trapping more efficient. For trappers that mainly trap in caribou or deer country I believe this snare will be effective in limiting accidental capture of those species as well.

Lynx: Each year we examine lynx carcasses provided by trappers. The information we collect from these specimens helps us set annual trapping seasons. The number of carcasses we examine each year roughly corresponds to the lynx population cycle. During the population highs we will collect up to 600 lynx carcasses per year. During the declining phase and at the population lows we collect between 35 and 90 carcasses. During 2006–07 we purchased 78 carcasses indicating lynx numbers are still low, especially in Unit 20B. The good news is that productivity, which was low during 2002–03 and 2003–04, has steadily increased. We are expecting productivity to continue to increase, resulting in increasing numbers of lynx over the next 2–4 years.

Reproductive performance is one of the most important pieces of information guiding the decision-making process in setting season length. During the increasing phase, up to 32% of the lynx harvested in the Tanana Valley are less than 1 year of age. We estimated interior lynx produced an average of 1.7 kittens per adult female during the 1994 to 2000 period, when the population was increasing or at the peak, and only 0.78 kittens per female during 2001 and 2002, when the population was declining. We found no kittens in the samples collected in 2002–03 and 2003–04, indicating poor survival of kittens born during the population low.

During 2004–05, pregnancy rates remained low to moderate, with 42% of the adult females being pregnant. However, kit survival improved and 31% of our sampled harvest was kittens. During 2005–06, the pregnancy rate increased to 76%, mean litter size was 3.8 kittens and kittens comprised 33% of the sampled harvest. This past year, percent kittens in the harvest decreased to 19% and the estimated pregnancy rate for adult lynx (≥ 1-year-old) declined to 52%. These declines were expected due to the high proportion of yearlings in the population. However, the average litter size for adult females remained greater than 3 kittens.

Research has found that when reproductive success is low, intensive trapping could reduce lynx numbers to abnormally low levels, which could retard population recovery and result in lower peaks at the cyclic high. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game reduces lynx seasons in roadside units during the cycle low through the first few years of population recovery to minimize effects of intensive trapping. It is important to maintain low lynx harvests during the first few years of population recovery because even though reproductive success is high, the population is low, and there are relatively few adult females producing kittens. By allowing high survival of kittens during the initial years of population recovery, the recovery builds momentum quickly. Within 2 years, females born as kittens at the cycle low will be producing kittens themselves.

The population low occurred in the Tanana valley during 2004 and the season was reduced to 31 days (December 1-31). During 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, the season was lengthened to 48 days but started later (December 15) to increase the probability that kits would survive on their own if the female were

trapped. This coming year the trapping season will lengthen by 15 days (1 December-15 February). Although the actual season dates are dependent upon the data we collect from trappers each year, trappers can expect additional opportunity during the next few years through the peak of the cycle, with the longest seasons and highest harvests probably occurring between 2009 and 2011.

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Arctic & Western Region—Seward Peninsula (Unit 22)

Tony Gorn, Nome Area Wildlife Biologist

Most furbearer harvest in Unit 22 is by subsistence or recreational hunters and is done opportunistically by local residents while they are engaged in other activities. The reported harvest of furbearers in Unit 22 during the 2005–06 trapping season was 113 lynx, 29 river otter, 43 wolverine, and 29 wolves. These are minimum harvest estimates; many of the furs taken are used locally and not presented for sealing, so harvest data are incomplete.

Lynx are increasing in Unit 22B along with hares, their primary food source. Lynx are most common in Unit 22A and Unit 22B, where hunters and trappers reported harvests of 75 and 36 lynx respectively. There were also 2 lynx reported from Unit 22C during the 2005–06 trapping season.

The increase in wolf numbers on the Seward Peninsula is probably related to Western Arctic herd caribou that have wintered here since 1996. Wolves are most common in Units 22A and eastern Unit 22B, but harvest data and observations by staff, hunters, and trappers indicate wolves are becoming more numerous in all parts of the unit. The highest number of wolves ever reported from Unit 22 was 61 wolves in 1999-2000.

Beavers are abundant in most areas of Unit 22, excluding Unit 22E. Complaints about beaver continue throughout Unit 22 and include the blockage of waterways and concern that beaver dams are preventing salmon from returning to their spawning grounds. In October 1999 the Board of Game eliminated the sealing requirement for beaver in Unit 22 and identified beaver as a fur animal so beaver can be taken with a hunting license. The hunting season for beaver in Unit 22 is open year-round and the bag limit is unlimited.

Our staff is grateful to the trappers who take the time to fill out the annual trapper questionnaire. The information you provide gives us a much better and timelier picture of changes in furbearer abundance in different parts of the unit than we can obtain on our own. The surveys also help document the importance of furbearer harvest to the subsistence way of life in Unit 22.

Numbers of furbearers sealed in Game Management Unit 22, 2005-2006.

GMU	beaver	lynx	marten	otter	wolf	wolverine
22A	1	75	0	2	11	14
22B	0	36	0	1	10	11
22C	0	2	0	1	1	9
22D	0	0	0	0	7	3
22E	0	0	0	0	0	6
Totals	1	113	0	4	29	43

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AREA MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST QUESTIONS

The Trapper Questionnaire provides area management biologists with an opportunity to ask questions that are specific to furbearers in their area. These questions and the trapper responses are summarized below.

Southeast Region

Did you target wolverines in 2005–06? If so, during which months? What method did you use to "successfully" harvest wolverine (snare, leghold, connibear, firearm)?

Eight out of the 39 trappers who responded to these questions targeted wolverines; all 8 were from the Douglas or Petersburg areas. Five trappers were active in December, six in January, four in February, and only one trapper targeted wolverine in March. Only two trappers were successful, both from the Petersburg area; one used connibear traps and the other trapper used both legholds and connibears to successfully harvest wolverine. In addition, one Sitka trapper incidentally harvested a wolverine in a leghold trap.

Glenallen

Did you trap any coyotes or wolves exhibiting signs of louse infestation (rubbed or matted fur, hair loss in groin area or between shoulder blades, or the smell of rotting flesh mixed with earwax)? If yes, please explain where and when they were trapped.

Only one of the 33 trappers who responded to this question reported signs of louse infestation, in a coyote from Unit 13. One trapper reported catching a red fox with Sampson's disease.

Note from the Assistant Area Management Biologist: There have been several reported cases of lice in wolves in Unit 13 over the last 5 years, including 2 that were confirmed (one in 2004-05 in 13B, one in 2006-07 in 13A). Lice have not had a large-scale impact on wolves in these units, although should it become common, the long-term value of the resource would be in jeopardy. There have been some fox and coyotes reported as having lice from both Units 11 and 13, although none have been confirmed. Often these animals have broken guard hairs along the back or tail, or skin infections that are not lice related, such as Sampson's disease. In recent years, some wolves have been confirmed to have lice by a process of full-hide digestion in the lab, although no lice were visually observed during the physical inspection. A study by the ADF&G veterinarian in Fairbanks is addressing this issue statewide and we hope to know more about the impact of lice soon.

Fairbanks

Do you use breakaway snares to help release nontarget catches? If so, what breakaway system do you use and how well does it work for you?

Twenty out of the 52 trappers (38%) who answered this question reported using breakaway snares. Half of those use some version of a cut lock and all reported good success with that system when moose were caught by the foot or leg. Four used experimental snares designed by Craig Gardner and all four reported good success; one of the trappers noted that this design held one wolf and released one moose. The general consensus was that most breakaway systems work well releasing moose caught by the leg or foot, but poorly if the moose is caught by the nose.

In 2004, a louse infestation was confirmed on wolves in Interior Alaska. Have you caught wolves with significant pelt damage and if so, what type of damage, what proportion of wolves exhibited it, and where and when did you trap these wolves?

Seven out of 34 trappers who answered this question have caught at least one wolf with pelt damage. The types of damage included thin fur, absence of guard hairs, hair missing from the tail,

back, and/or sides and areas of inflamed, hairless skin. Most trappers reported only 1 wolf with pelt damage, but 1 trapper reported 95% of wolves taken in 2005 had damage, and another reported that 100% of wolves taken during 2004-2006 had damage. Most trappers (5/7) reported seeing the damage within the last couple of years, 1 trapper saw damage about 5 years ago, and the last trapper caught one wolf in the late 1990s with areas of inflamed, hairless skin that biologists diagnosed as "trauma." One trapper also reported seeing hair loss in coyotes.

Fort Yukon

Do you think moose numbers have increased, decreased, or stayed the same over the last 5 years? How do moose numbers in your trapping area compare with 10 years ago? What about 20 years ago?

All four trappers who answered this question reported that moose numbers had decreased over the last 5 years and are also lower now than they were 10 and 20 years ago.

McGrath

What was your marten harvest this year, and how did it compare to an average year? Estimate the percent females in your marten harvest. If your marten harvest changed over time, do you have any ideas on why that change may have occurred?

Four out of 5 respondents who trapped high numbers of marten (>80) did better than average this year; the fifth trapper had an average year. The five respondents who trapped ≤ 30 marten had an average or below average harvest this year. Estimates of the percent females in the harvest ranged from 25%–50% and averaged 38%. Most trappers attributed changes in the marten harvest to changes in prey populations, particularly voles. Snow conditions were mentioned by 3 trappers, with deep snow favoring higher harvests. Two trappers mentioned forest fires as negatively affecting harvest levels until the burn areas became productive again. Finally, 3 trappers mentioned competition (or the lack thereof) as a factor influencing harvest and 2 trappers attributed changes in harvest partially to variation in their trapping effort.

Have you observed any change in the lynx population in your area?

Three out of 11 trappers reported no change and 2 trappers reported that lynx are very rare where they trap. Out of the remaining 6 trappers, 4 reported an increase in sign and 2 reported a decrease, but all noted that lynx are still scarce.

If you trapped in the 19A or in 19D-east wolf control areas, did these efforts affect your trapping and if so, how?

None of the 8 trappers that answered this question reported an effect. One trapper noted that he had greatly reduced the wolf population in his area a few years ago and 3 other trappers reported seeing very little wolf sign in their areas.

Bethel

How many wolves would you estimate were taken by the entire village you live in? What do you think is the most common method used to take wolves in your area?

Seven trappers responded to this question; 5 trappers reported that 5 or fewer wolves were taken, 1 trapper reported 20 wolves were taken, and 1 trapper reported 25 were taken. All but one trapper reported that shooting was the most common method used to take wolves. The exception was the village where 25 wolves were harvested, where trapping was the most common method of take.

TRAPPER COMMENTS

How Did Trapping Conditions Affect Your Trapping Effort?

Southeast

- Conditions are always variable. Deep snow, overflow, temps, etc. You can not cover as much territory in bad conditions and it takes you longer. Dogs can only work so hard, me too!
- Caught more animals in new area.
- Trapping conditions were great. Appeared to be more wind than normal making rough water for boat access to check sets. Animals moved more with warmer temperatures.
- Warm winter with deep but rotten snow limited length and ability to check traps. Also kept marten higher and off of beach.
- Low snow/ice year made it easier earlier
- Slow - too wet.
- December came with no snow or snow cover. Switched to beaver and prospected new areas for marten. No success for marten without snow.
- Warm weather hindered wolf snaring efforts.
- None, love to be in the woods.
- Snow took me out.
- Wet weather and lack of snow hindered otter trapping in a new area.
- Lack of snow early, too much snow all at once.
- Lack of snow helped.
- Bad weather keeps you off the water.
- Same S.E. conditions rain-n-freeze then rain some more.
- Very few marten so I only trapped enough to determin that there was no surplus to trap.
- Conditions were good.
- Warm conditions during most of the season caused me to have to check sets more often to reduce fur loss or damage due to spoilage.
- Warm weather.
- Typical year.
- As # of marten caught declined and # females increased we stopped trapping.
- Weather was good, able to check line every other day, verses last year when was raining and had to check every day.
- It was warm and rained quite a bit so the marten weren't moving much and it wasn't much fun.
- Very warm - poor weather.
- Marten #s were down. Ermin where up as incedental catches. Cold weather froze wolf sets.
- Weather limits us to about 4 days a week on the water.
- Road system was open all season due to lack of snow.
- Deep snow. Hard to get around.
- Made it some what harder.
- It was just the normal stuff.
- Used a canoe in places as the river wouldn't freeze up long. Mostly to cross river.
- The snow made it hard to get places, the freezing temperatures made it so I wouldn't spend much time trapping.
- Rain washed out some of the bait's scent, ravens sometimes messed with the bait.
- Snow knocking down snares.
- Early ice made it impossible to make or check some sets, then no snow till season was about over.
- Wet, rainy conditions, constantly fluctuating water levels, lots of brown bear activity, bear taking fur from sets.
- Warm & wet weather - had to check traps frequently.
- Not enough snow meant couldn't see tracks.
- There was little effect because I checked most of my sets on foot near my home.
- Lack of snow in some area's made it tough to get around.
- Conditions did not effect my effort I was trapping for sport.
- Slowed them down.

- The snow was very deep sometimes so I didn't check the traps that day.

Southcentral & Southwest

- Lots of overflow on rivers hampered crossing them. Colder than 30 below I stay home - stayed home 7 times. Warm weather make snow too soft - stayed home 5 times.
- Lots of rain during early part of season. Snow conditions improve mid-way thru season, for marten trapping. Was still able to do beaver trapping in Nov.
- Little snow- moose stayed high and so did the wolves.
- Rain for three weeks in December made for tough conditions and January was 30 below to 48 below zero for the whole. November was a good month weather wise but not much snow.
- Brutal cold, no caribou.
- Conditions good - No effect.
- Overall a good year. Good snow, good fur, good weather.
- We got three feet of snow at Thanksgiving. Then some rain that put a crust on the snow. Then we didn't get any snow the rest of the year. So we were able to make our line a lot easier.
- Froze in sets. Lots of snow + wind.
- Much snow pull gear.
- I worked a lot on cutting a new trail to connect two trails/lines.
- Not enough snow to cover brush in some areas. Could not access some areas. Big thaw in December caused on and off access to sets and resulted in snowmachine submarine problem.
- Put in less effort.
- Lots of deep snow slowed progress breaking trail.
- No snow early to push the animals out of the high country.
- To many warm spells and wind. Hard to keep things working.
- Snow was good and trapping was great.
- Snow conditions were poor in early season.
- Had a good year weather wise.
- Less ice made beaver trapping a bit more of a hastle.
- High water and rain made it hard to keep sets operable.
- I didn't get the airplane stuck much at all this year. Was able to trap more and unbury the plane less. Not too bad of overflow.
- Warmer months created more overflow.
- Weather conditions made it tough to get to sets.
- Stable weather made for longer trap/snare working time. This made for a higher catch per trap ratio. It also allows for more traps to be set in new areas.
- Lack of snow made it difficult to locate sign in new areas.
- Conditions were conducive to getting out and walking the line. I collected all of the traps before conditions deteriorated.
- Later season wind blown, hard pack posed some difficulty. The biggest problem (again) was recreational snowmachiners frequenting my trapping area and riding on my marked trails. Meaningful regulatory changes for rec sno-go users are needed. Please help if possible!
- The conditions did not impact my trapping effort; my line and sets were limited because my time was limited. I did not trap the entire season like past years.
- This year we had fewer snow dumps that required a complete remake of the lines.
- Little snow couldn't use snow mobile.
- Deep snow and creek need a lot of bridges didn't freeze like most years.
- Poor snow conditions - ice.
- Too warm. Not enough ice on ponds.
- Ice and snow came late.
- I trap in a high-recreational snow machine use area, it is difficult to keep trap from being tampered with.
- How often I had to check and/or reset.
- Little snow most of season - didn't allow for good snowmachine access so I didn't trap after October beaver season.
- Lack of snow made otter trapping easier.
- Not much snow.
- Snow conditions.

- Beaver house's had quite a bit of snow on some. Some foot hold traps for fox, lynx, & wolverine had to fix from deep snow.
- Lack of snow wasn't to bad - cold weather was a bit touchy - tried a new marten set?? Marten didn't care for it - had to replace all said sets.
- It was too cold for marten's to move during the time spent on my marten line. My effort was not rewarded like it would have been had it warmed up before the close of the season.
- Did not affect trapping effort.
- Mediocre snow conditions limited access to some of our routine trapping areas.
- Trapping conditions were good, not much overflow and good snow conditions and temperatures.
- Low snow conditions discouraged other trappers early in the season, allowing me to trap areas without much competition.
- No snow in Nov.
- No snow early.
- Trail conditions.
- Ice.
- Stayed out of the woods during high winds.
- Wet snow made it hard to get around.
- No snow or ice made it hard to get around.
- Snow kept me out of a few areas.
- No negative effect.
- Warm temps & rain hampered lynx trapping in Nov and Dec. But lack of snow was helpful for keeping other sets active.
- Late ice, little snow made hard to get out early, lots of ice latter in season made frozen sets.
- Warm weather made it difficult till sometime in December.
- Too much snow late in season.
- Did well-considering not a lot of area covered.
- Some - fewer animals.
- The lack of snow made ice to deep. Made it harder to trap beaver.
- Almost no snow till end of Feb.
- Low snow fall made for poor trail conditions + gave animals the ability to trail anywhere.
- Rain and warm weather after a cold snap caused traps to ice up. Klutina had lots of snow to deal with.
- Heavy snow towards the end of the season made walking the line difficult. Periodic rain also put my traps out of commission from time to time.
- Fewer catches due to frozen traps that didn't fire.
- Made it possible to open new area, but it also delayed my start.
- Was locked out of bay by ice at times.
- Made us work harder.
- Conditions were good, trapping was good.
- Lots of snow at beginning of otter season.
- No snow made for fewer animals at lower (more accessible) elevations.
- Access was limited due to lack of snow. Hiked in on new areas.
- Had (2) traps stolen and last 2 yrs had (7) total traps stolen.
- Good traveling ability.
- The conditions don't matter to me.
- Trapping conditions were fine. My health kept me from being more active last year.
- Chinook early loss of snow.
- Snow cover made checking trapline more difficult.
- Unsafe ice/overflow restricted travel.
- Couldn't get out to the end of the line due to warm weather.
- Very little!
- Real cold in February.
- Wet weather flood creeks.
- There was great winter kill a few years ago on moose, caribou + sheep - so wolverine + wolf did not show up - there is a lot of marten but season to short - river travel is not good till marten season is closed.
- Very wet conditions limited my time.
- Not enough snow accumulation to allow Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to open area to snowmachining early enough for good trapping.

- I had to bicycle my trapline several times due to hard icy snow; it was actually very fun and didn't affect me all that much.
- Our weather changes dailey. Each set has to be changed dailey also. Our weather is brutal.
- Cannot fly - cannot use the snow machine if no snow. To many warm spells are no good.
- Snow then rain or warm weather - then freeze.
- Normal weather- inability to fly.
- Bad weather during the few days I had off from work where I could operate a trapline.
- Varied weather conditions: ranged from rain, flood water to snow & sub zero conditions.
- Dangerous conditions.
- Lack of snow made snaring coyotes a little difficult. They had good walking conditions & didn't use the same trail much.
- Late snow, when it did snow it wasn't really good.
- Heavy snow (Early) Nov. during week of camp (every day). Animals weren't moving.... Last week of January had traps & gear ready but volcano blowing ash & high wind made access to trapping grounds impossible for final week.
- Poor ice conditions - high water.
- Warmer weather caused me to pull traps for beaver due to water on the ice or thin ice.
- Wet, rainy weather caused overflow and ice on sets.
- I was cold to start so we passed over one area: to cold for the tent.
- Bad bad conditions from freeze and thaw conditions.
- High winds could not use boat.

Interior

- Less trapping one line, because of burn last summer at mile 51 Elliot, 2/3 of that line burnt, lot of down tree cutting.
- There was good snow not to much but enough to cover brush. The temps were mild and animals moved well.
- Low snowfall limited wolf sets, cold snaps (Jan) reduced effort.
- A lot more martin signs, so we looked/trapped for more martin.
- Good conditions = better catch.
- Deep snow slowed. Warm weather - couldn't travel river.
- Deep and drifting snow greatly hampered travel in Feb. A day cold spell in Jan. made animals less mobile for a while. Prey species (Microtines, hares and grouse) high, lots of marten. Lynx increased and kit sign was good. However, they are less likely to go into cubbies when prey is abundant. Snaring was most productive.
- Late freeze-up slowed things down but all in all things were better. Vole population recovered from fall '03.
- Low snow 1st four weeks, trail riders.
- Trapping conditions were great.
- Cold (-20 F) made it rougher to check.
- We got hit with 3 feet powder snow, right at freeze up. Made for tough traveling.
- Global warming, less snow, milder climates affects unprimed fur or quality of the fur.
- Rain-wet snow- traps freeze up.
- Heavy granular snow right from the start. Had to snowshoe every foot out ahead of sno-go.
- Fires burned half of lines and cabins so had to work hard at recutting trails.
- Western Alaska received a very strong freeze for most of the winter. Along with a good snow pack. Making for great traveling and trapping.
- Early little snow, snow came all at once with lots of wind causing heavy drifting.
- Thin ice delayed river travel.
- Had enough snow early and colder.
- Good enough snow for decient trails.
- Reasonable snow early. Cold snap (-50) for 2 weeks in Jan. hurt lynx trap checks; resulted in 2 cases of cannibalism.
- Would have put in more effort if there had been sign of lynx or otter.
- More snow would have helped.
- Warm weather made travel difficult.
- My marten line burned several years ago and moving did not improve catch - the area that burned was void of any tracks.
- Lots of snow - had to break trail almost every time I checked traps - slowed me down a little.

- Very cold for 2 of the weekends I trapped.
- Not so much, large dumps of snow made overflow bad a few times.
- Low snow - I could not access part of the line until it was too late.
- Conditions didn't affect my effort as much as number or lack of critter numbers did. I try & alternate yrs. of concentrated trapping, next yr. will be much better as far as furbearer numbers.
- Not especially.
- A chinook in December ended the snow for the season so I hafed it but it was OK.
- A lot - snow conditions were BAD.
- Not much snow to keep animals on packed trails. Low hare #s.
- Lack of snow prevented using total line.
- No effect, I'm not even a "fair" trapper!
- No effect. Well - 3 years ago a forest fire wiped out my main line - 200 miles and 10 line cabins. Pretty much took the wind out of my sails.
- Lack of shelf ice on the Tanana River on the stretch I trap prevented my typical Nov trapping. Poor ice in Sam Charlie Slough after Christmas prevented trapping there during Jan --> end of season.
- Snowfall was moderate access was good last few years have not had enough snow by Nov. 1st to get out. I have had to wait a couple of weeks two different seasons.
- Lack of game animals.
- Low snow - early season - hard to get around and make some sets.
- Low snow early hampered access.
- Overflow was better this year. 3 weeks of extreme cold hampered season.
- Poor snow conditions prohibited using all of our area. Severe/cold weather caused us to not be able to work our catsets, which decreased our catch (first it rained, then it was long cold snap).
- Lots of marten and plenty of snow.
- Lack of snow.
- More fair than poor - little snow offered tough conditions off the rivers. Ice/overflow was great - still dealing with remnants of the 2001 fire. It affected my effort by sticking to stream travel rather than running the meadows. Also difficulty in covering traps w/such little snow.
- Conditions were normal.
- Conditions were fairly good.
- To many - snow machine traffic.
- From warm to cold, froze the traps.
- Trapping was very good early in the season, but January & Feb were cold and marten activity slowed greatly.
- When conditions were poor so was trapping.
- Hard traveling.
- I did not set many + pulled early.
- Late snow - fall conditions too warm. Later freeze up on the river.
- Not enough snow.
- Wind blown snow covered traps so they would not spring.
- To much ice on the traps. Thin ice and to much overflow.
- Bought a bigger snow machine this year, had no problems.
- Early season - unit 18 - lots of snow.
- Poor ice conditions made it dificult and dangerous moderate amount of snow made it icier to get around.
- Just an average year.
- Effort was the usual amount. Shoulder surgery prevented any beaver harvest.
- I don't understand this question. Conditions always affect effort 100%.
- Weather - sometimes too warm.
- Snow depth - 4' powder - lot of snowshoeing.
- Warm weather, snow.
- 20A - lack of snow for transportation, 13 - too much snow.
- Good ice and good snow cover - trapping was easier but I didn't increase the area I trapped.
- Overflow and poor weather (freezing fog) kept me away from my traps regularly.
- Hard to conclude as this was my first year in this area (I moved from Manley in August 2005).
- Swift River didn't freeze, couldn't use my snowmachine so I gave up just before Christmas. No snow then either.
- Good trail conditions allowed a longer line. No extended periods of severe weather leading to significant delays.

- Good snow to move around on.
- Wet sticky snow made travel hard so did not set as much as I would have liked to.
- No ice early season.
- Good conditions!
- I didn't trap much at all last winter. About a week or 2 when it started mid November, then about 1 week before the close of wolverine the end of Feb.
- Tough running the snowmachines the first 3 weeks of November.
- Your winter moose season ruined my trap area due to heavy snow machine use.
- Low snowfall allowed me to use 4 wheeler almost all winter.
- Freeze-up determines when I can safely cross the Tanana River.
- Made it easier on my back.
- Increase of snow fall 2) to cold - below 3) Increase of mice & rodents/grouse.
- Marten sign was good - made me set more traps.
- Good conditions- normal effort.

Arctic & Western

- Poor snow early winter (lack of).
- Gas too expensive, went shorter distance.
- It was a good winter here on the west coast.
- In western Alaska, conditions during the season are a huge effect on effort. Early season had a lack of snow and we had to hold off trapping one area till more snow arrived.
- Too much snow storms- had to clean traps every other day- days too close together.
- Mild winter, not much snow till February 2006.
- Cold weather.
- Lots of storms put traps out of business for weeks sometimes lose traps.
- Not enough snow had to take traps out early.
- It was good.
- Warmer climate than before- late freeze up.
- Not able to check sometimes.
- Bad weather, game not moving.
- Early in the winter- no snow.
- Good for trapping.
- Heavy snow at times slowed travel.
- Deep snow.
- At first, lack of snow was positive for fox trapping. Following the pulling of land snares, we had several storms back to back which created deep drifts that hindered my under ice activity for beaver.
- Good condition bad luck!!
- Weather was very good. Little snowfall with hard pack conditions made for easy travel. Sets stayed working for the whole 2 weeks of trapping. Plentiful animals also helped make it one of the best seasons for wolverine.
- Good in December, really cold January, stormy in February
- Weather effect on trapping negligible.
- Deep snow and high price of gas limited the length of my trap line.
- Snow and ice effected it some reducing catch.
- The weather got cold too soon that got me set few traps.
- Easy travel.
- High snow conditions= lots of resets = higher catch.
- Steady cold and plentiful snow allowed for getting around the trapline. Constant snow storms negatively affected foothold trap sets.
- Deep snow made me adjust the height of my snares throughout the year.

Did Other Trappers In Your Area Affect Your Trapping Effort?

Southeast

- Little snow meant increased competition on areas near any road. Poor 2005 fishing year also increased competition.
- Couldn't set everywhere I wanted to, because of another trapper.
- 2 wolves were stolen. Heavy competition on road system.
- Didn't trap some areas because they were there.
- I felt cramped, was not able to set all my traps, for lack of area.
- The places where I wanted to trap, was already taken by other trappers.
- Trapping area is limited and more trappers and traps are out with higher prices.
- Two guys already setup 1/2 my traditional trapline in Young's Bay.
- Friends trapped beaches in nearby bays along with otters. Stayed out of their way. Usually ran 150-200 traps instead of 10.
- Area had already been trapped.
- Increased trapping effort due to prices made me decrease # of sets.
- I run into several trappers every year it's a free-for-all situation. There is nowhere on this island you can expect to be alone. I tell them to just do their thing. I'll do mine. I'll not bother there sets, please leave mine alone. I will kill a live animal in someone elses set if I see it, but leave it!
- I had several otter sets robbed of animals.
- At least two new people had sets in my area this year.
- I waited until later in the season to trap one of my lines, but some kid had already trapped it out.
- Another trapper had made sets near my sets, ended up using bigger bait or moving sets over or adding additional sets.
- I had a young guy trapping part of my line because I wasn't. He took about 20 marten that should have been left for breeding stock and some otter.
- A young man in 20's trapped this area heavily for marten. So I backed off and ran a small canine line.
- Lots of competition, in two small of an area, had to get away from beach to find certain species.
- Pressure from others, not enough exsecible trails to trap around town.
- Competition on one small section of line caused me to limit the sets because of management criteria.

Southcentral & Southwest

- I let younger trappers have areas closer to home with easier acess.
- Too many road trappers, no respect for established lines!!
- Broke new line. No other trappers about plus gas is high too.
- I trapped I an area that has a lot of recreational trappers including a friend of mine. This forced me to open a new area to avoid competition.
- Another trapper jumped my established line. Dispute took half season to resolve & the other trapper got 2 or 3 marten I otherwise would have set for. I did not set area he set until he moved off.
- Setting to close and not following the code!
- Trying to establish a trap line without stepping on the trappers toes.
- More local guys out - young + new.
- When people see coyotes crossing the roads in places, they want to try to catch one too.
- A slight increase in trapping effort on Moose River displaced me from some of my historic set locations.
- Some encroachment in my trapping sets.
- Prior to Wood River freezing new trappers in area trap many of my traditional areas resulting in no trapping in Nov.
- People moving in on my line.
- A lot of trappers put out lines after Christmas/during Christmas holiday and were around our area-thus the animals that were around before definitely got caught by someone else around the area that we were trapping. (know by talking to a few other trappers.)
- Some apparently curious types follow my tracks which is bothersome but unavoidable.
- There were other people trapping above and below me on the river.
- Their presence limited the area available for establishing my trapline.

- Traps stolen/someone shit near a series of sets.
- The area I trap is close to the highway so early in the season it sees a lot of pressure (mainly on the beaver). After January though the pressure peters out.
- I'm getting hemmed in by trappers on both sides so I can't expand any more. I have a reasonable area though. Kinda wish I had more but everyone probably does.
- Other trapper started prior to the legal opening of trapping season. Traps were already set and in place on the opening AM at first light.
- Have not seen any other trapping activity where I was trapping.
- Some else trapped along the Anchor River area. I did not "double"-trap.
- One trapper set a marten trap for a starter less than ten feet from one of my sets and over a dozen 110 conibear marten traps were stolen.
- I rarely have any competitors in my area, but this year I came across a few sets in areas that I normally set up - so I avoided conflict and did not set those areas. But, as usual, those sets seemed to be abandoned a few weeks after they had been set. Novices tend to lose interest when they don't make catches right away.
- Sloppy trapping practics, unethical practices.
- Dillinghamers setting on my trapline an took some martine from my traps.
- Only w/SDA wolf hunting. Other participants activities encouraged us to participate less as success rates varied upon competition levels.
- Too many - too close.
- I stopped trapping early as there was nothing to trap.
- Airplane hunters are taking all of the wolves and wolverine.
- Over lapping lines somewhat.
- Someone was trapping the lower Hartman River an area I had traditional trapped.
- Airplane marten trappers everywhere on lakes on my line.
- Gas prices being high made it better. Recreational trappers hunter were at a minimum.
- Stayed away from their lines and sets.
- Not trapper, as much as recreational snow machiners in the spring time. Setting snares off, drive over leghold traps, disturbing bait piles, etc.
- More people coming from out of the area looking for new places to trap. Especially people from the Alaska Trappers Assoc, people that I know are coming out that are supposedly proud members that know I have been trapping here for years and set anyways. Definitely don't follow their own code. When asked if they knew we had sets in the area their reply was, were just trying to have fun. To me trapping out an area due to too much trapping pressure is not fun.
- More people on line in area.
- Another trapper ran marten & otter in my area so I had to back off both species in one area.
- In past years yes knew trappers approaching on same areas.
- Other trappers didn't affect my trapping effort, but whoever stole a conibear w/ an otter in it certainly did! Wish I could have determined who did that. Why do people "look down" on trapping? It's more humane to watch a fish flop in a boat until it suffocates. (Please don't tell the Humane Society!) I don't want to lose my fishing privledges either.
- There is some other pressure in the same areas.
- Other trappers did not affect our efforts but had to run them off our line with the help of F & G. They were making illegal sets.
- We tried to catch our fur and pull out before the competition started.
- 1 or 2 locations I wanted to set up were taken, and I avoided other locations because there were too many people around.
- They came on my trails just riding where we use to be alone.
- Hard to find area no one is trapping.
- There was one trapper who moved in after I was astablished.
- For the first winter in 4, I noticed (one) other, possibly (two) trapper(s) in my area.
- I left more animals than otherwise.

Interior

- No respect from the week end warriors, hope fully gas will be 5 dollars a gallon next year, should keep the Ralph Seekins fans at bay, unless he's supplying gas for those junkers.

- There was lots of lynx sign early I the winter but by the time the season open most sign was gone. I think other trappers were catching lynx early.
- Where I trap has too good of access to the hoards of Fbks. No one encroaching on line, but lines too close together.
- People who trapped years ago believe they can come back and have it backs as if they never left, instead of argue I move.
- Fort Wainwright rules do not require distance between areas.
- Too many new-comers moving into area.
- Tried to keep away from other people.
- Too many.
- Most spots already claimed by people, but they don't trap them... They just don't want you there.
- Moved to new area - made very few sets - did not want to interfere with other trappers.
- Encroachment from pilgrims is all ways a problem any were near a highway. I still strongly recommend "blocks" of areas assigned to individuals - and not the anything goes system of current practice.
- Other trappers are moving into the are I trap (mostly airplane trappers).
- Road trappers drove my trails which had signs on them and trapped lynx & martin in an area I have been using as an alternating every other year operation. They also trapped a landowners dog (on private land). I had a good relationship previous to this experience. They also interfered with other traditional land users of this drainage, which has caused me hardship, relationshipwise.
- They overlap.
- Some one decided they should share my trapline with me.
- Because all seemed to be doing well on Martin and talked of great prices and also you needed to be on your line because other were increasing there lines!
- Had some folks about 4 yrs ago go down our main trail about 4-1/2 miles make a left & decided they could just trap there - no reguard to the many sets they passed. They have since built 3 permanent structures - one about 16x20 with oil heat etc. I am surprise the state has let them build a small city there.
- Had a trapper set up my lynx line before season, because I don't go in there until season starts. So he thought it was abandoned.
- Weekend trappers at the beginning of other lines.
- 2 kids were setting on my line 1/2 hr. ahead of me on opening day. When I caught up they were very apologetic. They were nice kids though so I let them run the short line they had already set up.
- Increasing numbers of "weekenders" coming out of Fairbanks - They have no respect for your trails.
- Airplane landing and setting along my trapline.
- 1 end of my 7 yr. trapline was jumped until -20 F weather (with support of AK troopers).
- No problem with other trappers - but a lot of problems with non trappers messing with sets.
- Lack of consideration of old established traplines, result I could not let any lines build up animals. Usually I leave one or two lines idle for a season or two depending on fur sign.
- Other trappers have moved in in recent years and have effected the wolf trapping since we are all after the same wolves!
- I had 2 different parties trap the same area where I have historically trapped for the last several years. The area is also registered with Ft. Wainwright Natural Resources.
- I stayed away from any sign of human use. This was one snogo track on the east edge of my area.
- I would have trapped a different watershed; I'm hoping I will be able to do that this year.
- Two new trappers cut a line right in the middle of my main line. They were only there for a few weeks.
- No respect shown from local younger wanna-be trapper. After trying to explain trapline boundaries, that have worked very well w/everyone in community & trappers that trap next to me, this person continued to put in sets along 13 miles of my trapline. I informed him to check w/ Dept. of F&G office for sealing records as well as other trappers in the comm. to varify how long I've been in that drainage trapping. I offered too help him get his own line started in an area no one is trapping! I foresee more trouble in the future. Would be nice to have some way or form of dealing w/an idiot such as this, other than pounding the hell out of 'em!
- Another trapper split the line I was going to run all for myself. Another trapper cut off my line at the end as well, he was new to the area.
- Not that I know of this year. Has been problems in the past!
- Harvesting too many cats in 20A.
- Took some wolves & disturbed their pattern.
- More people moving in - no respect for existing traplines.
- Younger trappers running me out of my area. Sold part of my line.

Arctic & Western

- Other trappers came around try to trap my area. With no respect.
- They caught more.
- I regret I was unable to run a trap line this year, there are plenty of beaver in Unit 22C where I am in Nome this year I took 1 day + got what I went for. I fully intend to trap beaver extensively here next fall.
- I had to move my trap line because of other trappers trapping in same area.
- Need to close fox earlier. Their fur is not valuable after 15 Mar.
- Had a copy-cat corking my trapline.

Do You Have Any Comments To ADF&G?

Southeast

- In the area of 13 near trappers creek and along the parks highway many of the beaver dams that I used to trap have been destroyed by blasting and or a backhoe.
- Normally I trap by myself but this last season I had my son along, trapping was his "senior project," for high school.
- I will never miss a trapping season again in my life!
- I am a student in Oregon. As soon as my degree is finished I would love to continue trapping in AK.
- As it goes, living in liberal ass Juneau makes it hard to trap!
- Full time work required me to decrease my trapline and trapping time.
- Marten populations are way down from a high from the 70's through 1998 in the Bradfield Canal area. Does anybody know why? Was it all the logging which has grown back now? The climate has warmed up several degrees. There is less snow and less cold weather than there was.
- My time spent trapping was some of the best time of my life. A good camp a warm fire a good partner, being so free, being aware of thing's around you, the rain, snow, wind, and sometimes even the sun. Life is always better outside. We wonder why fewer youngsters are interested in the outdoor's well! from the time they can set up they are in front of the T.V. and it became the center of their life. Maybe the playpen should be outside. Maybe hand's should be cold from new snow, and their head wet from the rain. Maybe sleep under the stars with a old dog and sit around a fire with Mother and Dad. I will always trap, I may just not set traps. It's the feeling not the fur that trapping is all about. The feeling of being outside and very free. Good luck to all trapper's remember to share your time, I may see down the line. Life is so good. And remember get them outside and they will love you for it. Don't forget the old dog.
- I plan to increase effort on mink, marten and ermine and reduce effort on otter in 2006-07, and put out 1 or 2 sets for wolverine.
- Stop making the questionnaire so damn long.
- I saw many untended traps on the road out to and past the start of my line. I also saw several beaver used as bait that I know were not sealed or the pelt salvaged. The regulation on tagging wolf snares is largely ignored and should be done away with or include all traps/snares (and change federal subsistence trapping regs. to agree with AK regs). I found three wolf snares that were left from winter that caught bears and know of one bear that was darted by ADFG and had a snare removed.
- Too many tree huggers stealing and destroying my traps, not to mension the out of town new guys taking over my sets. Ends up costing me more than I get out of it.
- I did do very well the season before. But because of gas price I didn't have the money last season.
- The only thing I see I don't like on the trapline is some trappers set snares + traps directly in or too close to roads + trails used by dog teams & other recreational traffic. This results in non-target animals being caught which will eventually result in more complaints from non-trappers against trapping in general. Simple rules or restricted traps or snares at least 50 ft. from any trail or road, might eliminate this problem. What people don't see won't hurt them or upset them. Most trappers I see out there already do this. But it only takes one to ruin it for everyone.
- Fisher are becoming more common in southeast.
- Lack of snow during the last few seasons I think have contributed to low catches of marten in GMU 5A as they can readily find food and tend to work sets less. I plan to try a new area this year further from Yakutat to hopefully get away from some of the high local pressure around town.

- I think you should open fisher to trapping as there is a population present in the Taku River area. If I catch one in my marten traps, I am supposed to turn it in to you, where it probably goes to waste. Since it is dead anyways, trappers should be able to sell them with their other furs.
- It seems the sea otter population is Cordova Bay is too great and that there should be a season opened that would allow the resident trappers to take and market sea otter pelts as they are permitted to do with other fur bearing animals. Dall Island has many black bears and wolves and very, very few deer.
- Yes, I think trapper/trapline registration is in order. So guys who have trapped places for 15 years don't get pushed out by Californians.
- Please make more fur handling videos. They help new trappers out. I gave my last copy away.
- One way to increase young kids in trapping is to have school programs like they do for sport fishing, similar to what Jon Lyman has done in the past. Also, you might include more kid photos in your trapping regs like the hunting regs have this year, as well as online at your website. My son and I, along with another father and son have trapped these last 2 years and have enjoyed it so much. Thanks you for all your work w/furbearers and trappers.
- Open beaver on Chichagoff, they are everywhere!
- Extend wolf and bear hunting seasons. Pay bounty on wolfs for predator control.
- I will trap this season.
- Look for a serious trapping effort in 2006-07 because of high prices gotten in 2005-06, especially marten and otter.
- Trapping season should be moved early by 2-4 weeks to get better otter prices and at martin before some bays and inlets freeze up but not safe to travel on.
- How about a beaver season west of Chatham Strait? There seems to be sufficient beaver for a limited season anyway.
- Close to town's seem to be trapped to much for marten but that's to be expected.
- I haven't had much luck at catching martin, it might be the way I trap, but I think there are just too many trappers around Sitka. Way too many!!
- I didn't trap because of high price of gas.
- If you want a better response rate and more accurate data I suggest that you send out this questionaire at the end of trapping season, not in the middle of summer when most of us haven't thought about fur since we cashed over our last fur check.
- Keep up the good work. What are the possibilities of opening beaver season west of Chatham, even if they is a limit of 5 per season.

Southcentral & Southwest

- I trapped 7 days on Kodiak Island around Thanksgiving time. Taking 2 fox and 7 land otters in the Olga Bay area. Trapped 10 days on the south fork of Kuskokwim Hells gate to Port River Lower Hartman and Lower Tatina River, Dalyel River.
- Snowmobilers while running wolves to death do the same to everything else - especially wolverine. October season on beavers produces poor quality furs. Subsistance gun season on beavers much abused.
- ADF&G needs to replace who ever is in charge of managing the Mulchatna Caribou herd. When the population of caribou goes from 200,000 down to 80,000 and they continue to allow same day airborne hunting of pregnant cow caribou, it is time to change managers. I don't mean give him a party and a promotion like you usually do, I mean send them down the road kicking cans. That herd will be gone just like the Northern Penninsula herd while they sit around and make it look right on paper.
- I would like to see the season for wolverine in 13A extended.
- I encourage the young kid to trap fox around village - because there is so many and we are worried about rabies. But the state troopers give the kids shit about trapping close to town - catching someones dog - we have a leash law and the troopers do not enforce it - but stop the kids from trapping. It is not right. Have the troopers shoot the dogs and encourage the young kids to trap.
- It has been my personal observation that the area biologist when presenting the status of small prey (in particular hares) to the board of game the status was presented as unknown. I wonder does anybody read these questionares in the department and question the wisdom of spending public monies in regards to this questionare. If the area biologist do not read these things what is the point?
- Since aerial wolf hunting fewer wolves in area. Larger number of trappers working area which past season they were mainly trapping marten, both side of Little Nelchina River.

- I think south side of Akilak Lake should be open to taking of marten. I think beaver season should be extended in unit 15A by a month to allow open water trapping. I think mink season should be extended by another month. (Also ermine) I would like to see some liberalization of trap-check requirements on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.
- In unit 13C theirs plenty of trappers for wolve control. The land and shoot program hurt the trappers in this area. Had airplanes playing over trapline almost every day. They didn't have respect for other peoples trapline. Seen ski tracks and empty shells on my trapline where they landed. The wolves that were around stayed in the thick brush not wanting to come out in the open. Put a lot of effort in wolve trapping only catching four usually catch 15-20. I think the program good for areas with no trappers but in areas were there's trappers there's no need for the land and shoot program.
- Airplane outlaws!! Wolf are scarce won't run trail. Keep up the good work ADF&G!!!
- The prise of martin could increase the pressure on trappers with established lines. And I feel sorry for them. Hardcore trappers that have been trapping through the lean times diserve more than that. Anyone having a trap on the wall can set it. And piss off a hardcore so be careful.
- Lynx should be open this year in GMU 7. Or at least in the area I trap the rabbit population in my area this winter was very thick and there was lots of cat sign all year. Look forward to it opening up some time in the future.
- With marten prices on the rise, I hope all us trappers will respect each others lines. There is a lot of space out there, so please find your own.
- Please send any information on how I can register my trapline trails to help (hopefully) minimize recreational users encroachment, damage to traps, loss of revenue, etc. I did check at Anchorage office of ADFG and they weren't sure how to do this.
- Unit 16 is accessed almost exclusively by snowmachine in winter - lengthen marten season and lynx to months when unit is snowmachine accesible. Unit 14 lengthen marten season start Dec 1-Feb 28 maybe.
- If you have any records books I would be happy to fill out drainages, male, female, age, size, bait, trap, conditions, etc. etc.
- I really like getting the report on trapping. Trapping is very important to me & my family and can actually pay for itself to do. With hunting & fishing is becoming more of a "rich" dominated sports. The basics of harvesting fur, selling fur, paying bills is the only way can enjoy the outdoors without being a drain on family finances. Thank you.
- Ran short line due to job.
- This last year trapping I was hunting elk with my friend at Onion Bay on Raspberry Island/ Kodiak and his friend from Homer came over to hunt with his 15 year old boy. So when I went to check my 5 conibears I had set he came with me for the week he was there and I showed him how to set and were to set traps for otters, also showed him how to skin them. The kid is now a trapper I'll just bet because he loved it.
- Wolverine were more abundant in 05-06 across 13B, 13A, 13D than any other year in the last 5 years - even after the season was over after we caught several.
- When a beaver tries to dam up your driveway in May you know there is plenty of breeding stock for next year.
- Would like to see seasons all end for wolverine & lynx & fox & marten the end of Feb.
- Thanks for the survey and effort put into this to monitor the future of animals and trapping!
- Quit trapping due to low price of fur. It's now too expensive, we only get ones that we use for subsistence food. Many of the older people no longer trap and our younger people hardly trap nowadays. They hunt mostly in spring, fall season when there's no ice & snow. Another factor is the increase in the operating cost which does not cover expenses. This coming year will be very difficult with our gas at near $5.00 gal and a small box, shopping bag costing us too much. This is not counting other expenses occurred during trapping.
- Thank you. Keep up the good work!
- I appreciate the thankless work you folks do on behalf of the citizens & wildlife of Alaska.
- Thank you for the time + effort put into the questionnaire + report.
- I'd like to see wolverine and lynx extended to March 31st.
- Make trapping limited entry like you have turned the fisheries into. Quota shares for existing trappers. Results: =Fewer trappers, fewer furs, more money for fur. =Shares marketable so a trapper can buy or sell his allotment. =Trappers have a vested interest so better self management. What's the difference between a beaver and a halibut? A fox and a salmon?
- With the abundance of beaver why are we continuing to have to seal beaver pelts? We trap in area with no limits!
- Marten were extremely plentiful but my job kept me from trapping more. Voles were not as plentiful as last year but were still more than enough to support an exceptionally thick marten population.
- Keep up the good work!

- I only have interest in catching wolves. The wolves caught around Anchor Point by myself + others recently are a pitiful sight as you know. It's hard to get excited about trapping/snaring them.
- Please leave the beaver season open east of the west bank of Copper Rive open until May 1. This used to be the rule because of the late spring on the Copper River. Check out the old regs.
- Thank you for all you do.
- I have lived in GMU 15C for the past 50 yrs. I have done at least some trapping for approx. 45 of those yrs. For ten yrs. or so I did it for a living, the rest of the time for the enjoyment. Throughout the years I believe F&G has done an excellent job of managing our furbearers in 15C. One comment I might add. I would like very much for the black bear to be classed as a furbearer to enable us to sell the hides. I have trapped, hunted, and guided for many yrs. here in 15C and at the present time we are literally overran with black bears. We need more lenient regulations on these rascals as they are very devastating to our new born moose calves in June and also to our sheep + goats. Keep up the good work and thanks for the opportunity to comment.
- Comments, let's see. This year I had airplanes all over my wolf and marten lines every time, I was out there would be a plane, somewhere in the area. When I was first setting up my river line in January, I found a dead wolf 50 ft. out on the river ice in a place where you could have landed a plane easily. It in all likelihood was shot and left there intentionally considering that area was closed to hunting wolves from a plane. The only thing that had been eating the carcass was ravens. They had it picked clean from one side; the only thing salvageable was the skull and foot bones. I wondered why a wolf would basically lay down and die in the middle of a frozen river!!!!! One time I had a dead wolf in one of my snares and a plane dragging the treetops over it. They took off when they saw me. I wonder if it would have been there had I not been checking my traps that day. So much for ethical airplane hunters!!!!
- Wolf populations seem to be up in 15A. Hope to trap this year if my health will let me!
- Due to a work related injury and then a busy work schedule I was unable to trap the 2005-2006 season.
- I ran a small trapline for beaver during the 2004-2005 season. Most animals I harvest are taken with a conibear trap or are shot. I also harvest fox by shooting them.
- If I continue to trap/snare, I've got to get smarter!! P.S. 04-05, I snared 2 wolf & 2 coyote in the previously mentioned area & all had lice - hides were no good, but animals appeared healthy. But I think they ate better that year due to deeper snow making it easier to take down moose?!
- Same comments every year but never hear any action. I've been trying to close the season on Sitka black-tail deer on Prince William on Dec. 15th every year. The deer hunters use boats from Whittier and Valdez (sometime as many as 25-30 hunters to a boat.) Christmas vacation time and if it happens to have a heavy snow at that time most of the deer move down to the beaches where they are shot from the boats - most of the hunters never get ashore. The boat crew pick up the deer on the beach then go to the next beach. Hard on the deer as a lot of deer make it to the wood before dying and are never picked up. I trapped Prince William Sound and hunted P.W.S. for over 50 years and know this for a fact. Also I've been living and mining off and on in the Cape Yakataga area and Bear hunting is getting ridiculous. One guide took 20 bear this spring (mostly blacks) by baiting the bears using 50 gallon drums of grease + 50# bags of dog food. Still lots of bears but going fast. Can we stop bear baiting.
- The AK Peninsula area is overrun with preditors. ADFG estimates 1 preditor for every 2 game animals. Too many brown bears & wolves. 85% mortality on moose calves by predation creates a desperate situation.
- We could use a longer season for marten in unit 16A. Marten are abundant and have been so for about 7 years.
- Something needs to be done about the wolfs around Swanson River & Beaver Creek area. They're gobbling up our moose meat!
- I've contacted Fish and Game concerning the timber harvesting in 16B. I believed the activity would effect my marten harvest numbers. I can say at this point 3 years later the harvest did impact the number of marten I harvested. Additionally, at lower elevations where I live, we have seen numerous marten. This I assume as a result of removing the spruce the marten have been to some level displaced. I wish the state would take into consideration before development the impact on the wildlife. I say this especially in light of the propsed coal mining operation in Beluga! Trapping will be an activity of the past.
- Trapped a short time due to shortage of fur animals. Moose + sheep are making a comeback so trapping will be better in time.
- I was expecting a low in the marten pop. this past year because it's been pretty strong. As I started trapping I saw I was wrong. There were a lot of marten. The 06/07 season will probably show a sharp decline. If it does I will go easy on the marten. My ratio of male to female marten was about 3-1. I think only 10 of my 40 were female. Many of the males were very, very good ones. Not sure what it means in the big picture yet. P.S. An all out war needs to be waged on black and brown bears if the moose are ever to come back. Flying over my trapline and the east side of 16B (Which I do a lot) is depressing. If you offered me a $5,000 reward for a moose calf, I couldn't find you one. Stop the tier II hunt there as well.

- Highest number of wolves I have seen to date. Moose seem to be holding steady for now. Lots of coyotes. Rabbits or hares are up slightly. Saw a few more red fox tracks than usual.
- #1 Close beaver season in area 7. #2 Make use of name tags mandatory on all traps. This would identify the trappers that are trapping prior to the start of season.
- Keep up the good work.
- Got very sick. Had to pull line.
- I only had out a few sets for wolfs. Didn't trap on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge due to a few of the agents believe they are above the law. Checking a trappers trapline every 10 days or two weeks. I won't go into detail of some of their doing but by state law destroying a trappers trap line or contaminate a set by checking traps & snares for a trappers mark or just by being there and walking around is illegal but it is being done. Almost as if these agents are trying to get the trappers to move off the refuge.
- I spend a lot less time hunting/trapping since we bought our kids horses about 8 years ago and I just don't have as much time. As they go to college I want to trap more but it is getting harder as the price of gas goes up. I do hope that people continue to trap though.
- I enjoy trapping!
- I would have to think that with the hare population on the rebound that you guys would open up the lynx season on the Kenai Peninsula. If nothing else, limit the number taken to two lynx per season. If you can legally shoot one or two a year I think that trappers should be able to catch one or two a year.
- Continue to make available publication, videos and information on the ADF+G website on pelt handling and trapping methods.
- I fly around a lot in the winter and notice the tracks from different animals and take note of the quantity (pop) of them. I fly mostly 13. Wolves - not many - predator control working. Wolverine - increasing - noticeably more - could support longer season. Lynx - seem to be increasing. Marten - normal - more in some areas than others. Fox - low to normal. Rabbits - patchy -seem to be coming back most areas. Otter - lots of sign. Beaver - lots of houses (live) and dams.
- I now trap for my own needs and satisfaction. I like to get and set a few.
- I focus on wolverine, though abundant in the GMU they seemed to be occupying lower elevations than past year. Also even though no trapping effort for marten has been present in the higher elevations & areas I trapped the abundant population seems to have vanished, almost as if they migrated out or disease. This in spite of abundant vole populations.
- Why the shorter season when rabbits are few and lynx high in numbers (most of the lynx won't live). Snow depth was low and wolves were about quite a bit in early part of season - quite a few moose with yearling calves about.
- Need better enforcement.
- Did not trap last year due to family constraints, but intend on getting out this year.
- I've been too busy w/work + family to trap. Do a lot of hunting + I needed to free up some time, to get other things done. Hope to do a little trapping this winter.

Interior

- The south slope of the Brooks Range is still in rebuild of the hare cycal. I estemate the hare pop. At 10% from the min. Our cycal is typicly 12-18 years peak to peak, unlike southern Alaskas 7-10 year cycal. Wolf numbers were down significantly here. Little snow early and few caribou caused them to disperce? Marten numbers were up due to good numbers of voles I caught several immature female marten. I reduced my effort by 50% due to fuel price and generaly low fur #. Thanks for the survey.
- More money for furbearer research! Give it to Whitman!
- Should allow snaring of bears with foothold snares for the 1st 2 weeks of June in 19D
- I think the animals moved (not very far) to where there was more food. Their was fewer fox, lynx, and marten close by caben. Trapping was interrupted by my wolf hunting. I am a gunner and they flew me out of their to hunt wolves a few times. I had a good season.
- Lots to say - just no point. I spent 40 years talking. I'm done now.
- With fur prices (especially marten) expected to climb, its going to get ugly out there. An increased presence of wardens/troopers could help deter potential trapline disputes.
- Last winter 2005/06 I did not run a full time trapline because I was training a dog team & competing in the Yukon Quest. Usually I run a full time winter trapline with my son as a partner, he is now 15. Income from fur is critical to our subsistence lifestyle. We sell all our marten @ auction and wolf/wolverine and beaver are tanned at home and made into parka ruffs, mittens, hats etc. 30% of our income, sometimes more, comes from the trapline. We expect up to 50% this year because of high fur prices. We also work with the area

biologists with management/population, disease, etc. issues. Jeff Gross does an excellent job. John Burch does too on wolf necropsy reports, but the "system"(!!) is prohibiting him from doing a better job because of the hassles involved, even with something as simple as returning skulls from wolves. I think his work is important but got fed up with dealing with the system. The trappers know more about what is going on locally in their area (pop./disease, etc.) than the biologists do. The system should work more amiably with the trappers.

- Thanks for the mid summer questionnaire to energize us for winter! I have trapped since I was 12 years old when I got the feaver for them mid west coon. I love to hunt and trap and will continue to do so as long as God alows, all so my two boys have become active in the Outdoors and I try to teach them right and be ethic and moral, not because of the law, but because its owed to our planet and natural resources & it sickens me to listen to Ralph Seekins & the anal group of supporters he has found slithering around, it's a bad virus for sports men/women and outdoors persons to get, its terminal to our way of life and our resources. And should be frowned upon by any true outdoors person as a direct atack to our love for the outdoors and its resources. I think he is an instigator and should be disregarded by any true Outdoors person, the Senate Bill 85 he is pushing is an abalmanation to our great state and its presousness. Are we going to allow this?? Thanks again.
- The aerial wolf hunt is making a positive affect on the over abundance of wolf. If it and the pressure on brown + black bear is maintained for several seasons. The moose herd will come back.
- Stress the importance of checking traps very often.
- My entire area burned summer 06. Some habitat along rivers did not burn.
- Please remember that all of 20B does not peak with hares @ the same time. I have turned many lynx loose because of the season. Our hares seem to be up long before other areas of 20B. Would be nice if the state did not let folks build city on a trap line. Lots of party traffic & we have lost traps. I have had many sets run over.
- The fall beaver season is unnecessary.
- We need to educate our young children more about wildlife, with global warming going on this will definitely reduce the wildlife. I have noticed all the lakes are drying up, and was wishing for the rivers to flood so it will put water back into the lakes to benefit our wildlife moose, beaver, otters, birds, fish, and plants. If we can get grants to pump water into the lakes this will create work for younger people and will benefit both or all animals, fish, birds, & humans because we survive off the land & animals.
- It was a good year overall. Low snow fall was hard to deal with. Record ruffed grouse hatch. Cats rebounding. Cats never bottomed out in the typical cycle (unit 20). Fur prices better.
- I believe we will be allowed to some extent to harvest cow moose in unit 20B. If so then there must be to many moose. Why then is the wolf season so dang long. I always thought the deal was to let the wolve packs have a break if moose were overabundant. The wolves have all but disappeared on my So. Fork of Chena River line in the last 2 years the wolve trapping pressure is intence in my area. Theres plenty of moose lets shorten the wolve season and let them take care of the cow moose. Thanks.
- The aerial wolf hunt is making a positive affect on the over abundance of wolf. If it and the pressure on brown + black bear is maintained for several seasons. The moose herd will come back.
- Stress the importance of checking traps very often.
- My entire area burned summer 06. Some habitat along rivers did not burn.
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- Keep up the good work, & keep battling the anti's.
- I am seeing a lot less moose in the area I normally trap in 20A. I believe the cow & calf seasons have had a very negative impact our moose population in 20A because it is the most accessible. I strongly recommend you consider reducing the # of antlerless moose you allow to be taken. Better yet, let's stop this practice before the herd is destroyed beyond repair for the next 10 to 15 years.
- I'm not generally in favor of aerial wolf hunting. The moose population was artificially high the last 10 years. It's more like normal now. The wolves for the past 2 years have been showing signs of adjusting their numbers downward (poor health and coats) to compensate for caribou deficiencies.
- Trapping season end to soon could have been 2 more weeks.
- I did not trap this year because I was too busy working all winter long. This coming winter I have the whole winter off. Will be doing a lot of beaver trapping. Am also going to try some wolf trapping. Will probably set some mink, marten, and lynx sets.
- I never thought I'd be wishing for colder weather in December. Poor ice conditions really hampered my trapping the last 2 years.

- There were more moose calves in Units 16B and 19A. Still very low total numbers.
- Keep up the good work!
- I believe most trappers are concerned about the growing lack of requards by newer trappers for the older established trapline and older trappers. Fish & Game need to educate the general population about even though Alaska is Big the animal populations are sparce per square mile, even more so in certain areas.
- 20 years ago I thought trapping would be banned. But we are still going... Thanks in part to ADFG. Keep up the good work.
- Where are the marten? There used to be a few around in the flats.
- Yes, I would like to know what was up with that wolf I caught in 2004-05. I took the tail to the Fairbanks office to Kimberly? someone I believe. She is the vet or virus - virology? Lady in there. I have taken her other samples other game that they were wanting to study.
- To many trappers claiming lines they do not trap. Need to open trapping areas to all not just the old timers!
- I have been trapping in the Black for about 20 years. Wild life populations have varied a great deal. Some I can understand and some I can't explain or see any connection between prey/habitat, etc.
- The reason for decrease in moose in my area is not wolf's but moose hunters flown in by a renegade pilot out of Circle Hot Springs who doesn't give a damn about the land, animals or people that live on the land. Saturating the country with hunters in Unit 25A.
- It's a hard task, but we need to design a breakaway device for snares that works for our conditions we face. It would greatly promote trapping and make life a lot easier.
- We have some of the highest quality wildlife resources in the world, with lots of opportunity to harvest fur. This is truly amazing given the technology available to man-kind that would allow us to easily overharvest and deplete our resources. We have modern wildlife management to thank for all the abundant critters that are out there, year-after-year. So, thanks.
- No fur buyers come around anymore, so, there's a lost of interest. Lack of moose and caribou so, we have wolves roaming our streets for dogs. Once the wolves come around they can't go back to the wild because, it's hard for them to survive out in the wild. Not enough big game hunters also, to keep other animal populations up. Even the big game (grizzly's) have a hard time surviving, we see them close to our village.
- I don't think that shortening the cat season, makes any difference if they are on a low cycle we don't trap them, when they are up we make more sets. Some trappers are going to kill them no matter if the season is short or long. Just set the season for Dec/Jan and leave it. Thanks for asking!
- Late spring and early fall beaver seasons are bad for "trapper fur management." Trappers "farming" houses are not able to see beaver "takes" in non-winter environments. The hides are useless, and the killing is a waste. Those feeding their dogs with beaver taken in the spring should go to Valdez and take some pinks.
- Lynx season should open for another month.
- Looking forward to trapping next year!
- We had an unusually high bycatch of flying squirrels this past season 40 total in marten sets compared to a usual 2-5.
- No food for small game.
- Trapping workshops in school to encourage youngsters. Also hunting. These two skills give our youth an alternate if everything else fails. Also is an ideal deterrent to drugs + crime.
- Maybe I'll trap this winter if the fur price is right.
- Lots of mice - for several years (voles). Ermine very hi. Marten still low but not as severely depressed as past few years. Wolves seemed spotty this year, & very fat!
- End the "ridiculous" cow killing south of Tanana R. There is lots of moose browse out there!!
- Thanks for the questionnaire, I look forward to reading your findings.
- Thank you for upholding the Alaskan way of life.
- With your poor response to the qestinare do you send these out to people who actualy do trap or to people who think they trap and never really do any trapping other then in dream plans and or talk?
- Sorry this is late. Right now we are experiencing a short term high of prey species, of furbearers also. We know that stability of populations does not occure in nature and that our catches will always continue to fluctuate.
- If the state is willing to spend money to relocate bears with a helicopter, would it be possible to relocate some moose to uits 18 & 19 where the population is low - instead of killing calves where the population is high?
- Rules need to be set on distance requirements of trapping area's and also bear bait stations on and off military land.
- I understand the reasons for the late lynx season but if there are other trappers around that don't wait till it opens if you are honest you lose out. This problem probably doesn't apply to most trap lines that are remote but along the road system it’s a problem.

- I think the marten moved out of my area. Only saw one set of tracks all season. Seems like the mice population is up this year in my area. Only had one shot at the wolves came through right after I put my sets out, they knew something was up. They did not come through again. Wolves usually run Berry Creek 2 to 3 times a season but only ran the Tanana this year where I start my line at. Lynx population is coming up. Did not set any sets for them last year. Pair of foxes working the creek no sets for them either. Put one wolverine cubby in no show. I see wolverine tracks after the season is closed for a week or two after closure. Few beavers here & there population appears steady. Wolf population is very good. I probably didn't help much didn't catch anything. Don't get much cooperation from the old timers. Guess you can call me a conservationist.
- Keep up the good work and preserve for the future.
- I had an aerial wolf permit for units 13, 19A, and 16B I took 2 wolves in unit 16B and 15 in unit 19A. None in 13. This was not trapping so you may not want to include this in your survey. There were more moose calves in units 16B and 19A. Still very low total numbers.
- Keep up the good work, the trapping report is very good. Thanks. Last year I only got to trap for month and half. The Air Force sent me to Balad Iraq for five months Jan-May, which mess up trapping.
- Kudos to Craig Gardner on the wolf snare designs and to Don Young for his keen interest in good management of big game and furbearers.
- I would like to help in any way possible with to conservation of wildlife in this state. I am also in the guiding industry and the future use of our wildlife resources is of great concern to me.
- Registered traplines or fur management areas with a single trapper or his associate is a must and should happen soon. This is due to increased fur prices and "sport trappers" taking an unknown number of furbearers from an area that could hold a sustained yield of fur annually for a responsible knowledgeable trapper. The harvest must be known and the carrying capacaty of the area as well as past cyclic population trends of both prey and preditors to successfully manage an area for maximum yield. Unknown harvest and especially overharvest of most species is the result of the current nonrestricted trapping laws. Possibly individual fur mgt. areas with a 5 to 8 mile zone open along roadways, for the sport trapper. Something must be done or only the most remote trapping areas will have a balanced furbearer population.
- I don't really have too many comments - but thanks for all the good work you guys (& gals) do. I am still having trouble with skier, snowmachines, going out pass my ("traps in trail") signs & mess with my sets. Been workin with the troopers & they have been really helpful. Mice & squirells & way way up - but no birds this year, very few gray jays around, very few magpies & ravens also. Thanks again.
- Marten prospects looked good in March around Manley - saw lots of lake sign when cutting dry wood. Wolves are down as is moose around here.

Arctic & Western

- Spent the season doing a short walking line around Alakanak with my wife and two kids. We had the best season ever for fox (reds). Was hoping for a few arctics, but no success. We did see lynx tracks, and were surpirsed to catch a large female. Feral dogs were very abundant-- after removing 15, the fox catch seemed to jump in those locations. Fox abundance was very high. My neighbor, a rookie trapper, caught 110 from the edge of my line out another 5 miles or so. Under ice beaver activity was severely hampered by several back to back storms and heavy snow drifts. Rabbit concentrations very low, however, rodents (mice/shrews/lemmings) were very high. Beavers heavy, however low numbers of muskrat.
- Nowadays the high cost of living to pay expenses is to have a steady job other than selling furs or for fishing commercially. And for young people to get an education, training going to school is more important than learning to set-out a trapline. But anybody can do that like it's a hobby, by following the regulations for the area they dwell in. I would say we can't compete with a governor!
- Sealing of land otters should be stopped. Because theres more and more otters. I have been trapping land otters, since the price on other furs dropped, and I know there is plenty of land otters. Stop sealing otters.
- I appreciate this forum very much, but at some point it would be nice to have some feedback from ADF&G. Kind of like a "Dr. Phil" of Fish & Game that listens to, considers the merits of, and responds as to the practicality, the unforseen consquences, and merits of our suggestions. That way we know you are actually interested and whether we should go to the next step. My area is like many in Alaska. Very abundant wolf population and a dwindling prey population (caribou). While we are hoping that our moratorium on moose hunting will replace caribou with moose, the wolves have different ideas. They've eaten themselves out of house and home upriver, decimated (or had a large hand in decimating) the moose population upriver, and are now turning to our fledgling population here. North of our village moose tracks and sitings were abundant last November. By April you couldn't cut a track of a moose. Wolf kills were found regularly throughout the winter. I trap wolves hard, but it's time to get gunners in the air. I would also like to compliment your wildlife

biologist in this area [Bethel]. He's courteous, knowledgable, approachable and funny. Thanks again for this forum.

- I don't have any comments to ADF&G! The only comment I have is gas prices is to high at 5.26 per gal. I can't go places like I used to before and the fur price aren't helping any!
- Some trappers need to respect other trappers area. Other trappers going stealing another persons trapped species. Few trappers set traps and never check them.
- Way too much beaver, affecting land and water quality. Wolves hanging around close to Selawik City, maybe because of caribou staying close to Selawik this year. Lean caribou around Selawik this year, hair easy to come off; this year maybe because of mild winter.
- Oil exploration seemed to scare animals into the area I was trapping. Last year exploration overlapped my trap line. Snowshoe hares were very abundant. Their were lots of people traveling through the edges of my trapping area scaring animals into creeks. That made it easier for me to narrow down areas for trapping wolverine. It scared wolf away and made lynx hang out in thick willows.
- Most all furbearers here are doing well, fun trappers and tough. Weather and now high gas prices here in the Vill most critters around here will be fairly safe again this year, of course I won't be laying around the shack with $100 maten and $250 otter out there. Two coyotes were shot around here this year many of the elders here have never seen one in their life. Our moose population is exploding I am surprised our wolf population is now. Two were shot this winter here and we seem to have more ruffed grouse than I have ever seen and also a very high lynx population. We must be close to a high cycle but only in certain areas. Snow shoe hare are doing good but not exploding, artic hare got scarce this winter possibly over hunting is too blame there was plenty the year before. We seem to have more muskrats than ten years ago and a lot of otter they eat the muskrats out of my traps. It is too bad that DF&G gets such low response from trappers, perhaps get this out in the mail at the end of trapping season when trappers are generally doing nothing, right now they are fire fighting, fishing, getting wood, working, putting up fish, berries, and hunting… Oh well I will send mine
- I work at a treatment senter for young boys - I take 12-16 boys each year to run my trapping line with me. The Bethel office has been very helpful and supportive. Thank you! As I stated "shooting w/ snowmachine" is the most method used [to take wolves], but trapping is the most effective. I think that 10% of the trappers/hunters take 90% of the wolves!
- Wolverine in 22C on decline compared to years past. Lynx up due to lots of rabbits. Spring beaver trapping successful. A fall beaver trap opportunity would provide more opportunity (November is late request October).
- Sub-sistence is our only way of life since time began.
- Seems not many folks are trapping these days. Less hunting for furs this winter too. ($8 per gallon for gas in Ambler and upriver villages.) Sport trappers in Kotzebue but they aren't catching a lot.
- Due to a schedule change at work I was unable to trap. I look forward to getting out this year.
- Let's add black bears to the list of furbearers.
- Gas too expensive to trap - lic. fees to expensive - for an oil rich state, we're going backwards! Save money - don't send me any more surveys! Thanks.
- Moved to Nome ~6 years ago. No prior trapping experience. But have helped others with their trapping. Every season I purchase a trapping license. Shot 1 wolverine this past season incidental to a musk ox hunt. I expect to set out my own traps in the future.
- I was able to spend time in the field + observe sign from fox (red + arctic), wolf, and mink. And I was able to observe both arctic + red fox but I chose not to trap this last season because I did not have the time to adequately check the sets + properly take care of the catch.
- Lot of people messing with my trapline. Both taking trapped game and even traps. Also had another trapper setting very close to me, sometimes within 100 yds. Likes to set all the way around my known traps.
- Snow conditions were minimal in the first months of winter (December-February) to get to areas where furbearers were prime in their winter "coats". Did not try to harvest furbearers (March-April) due to the condition of their fur (Pale and not as dense toward longer days).
- Thank you for your concern and dedication. I am getting too old for active participation I do however have a great appreciation for our remarkable outdoor world and the remarkable living creatures that are active in it.
- Unit 23 - too much snow!
- Appreciate the survey keep up the good work!

Photo by Mark Obremski

Photo by Lance Williams

Photo by Ronald Demientieff

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I would like to thank Kendra N. Meder for patiently entering all of the 2005-06 questionnaire data and Patti Harper for her editorial assistance.

I would also like to extend my thanks to all of you who responded to the 2005-06 trapper survey – I hope you enjoy the report. Your responses to this survey are strictly voluntary, but the higher the response rate, the better our understanding of what is happening with trapping and furbearer populations in Alaska and the better we can manage these resources. It also gives you a better understanding of how other trappers fared statewide. Please continue to return your surveys and encourage other trappers you know to participate as well. If you know any trappers who want to receive a questionnaire and report, have them contact me at the phone number or email listed below.

Finally, many thanks to all of you who submitted trapping photos to me. I enjoyed seeing them and look forward to sharing them with others in this and future Trapper Reports.

Good luck in the field this year.

Sincerely,

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Division of Wildlife Conservation

Photo by Clark Whitney

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