

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation**

**Statewide Annual Report  
1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008**

# **TRAPPER QUESTIONNAIRE**



Photo by Blair French

**December 2010**

# 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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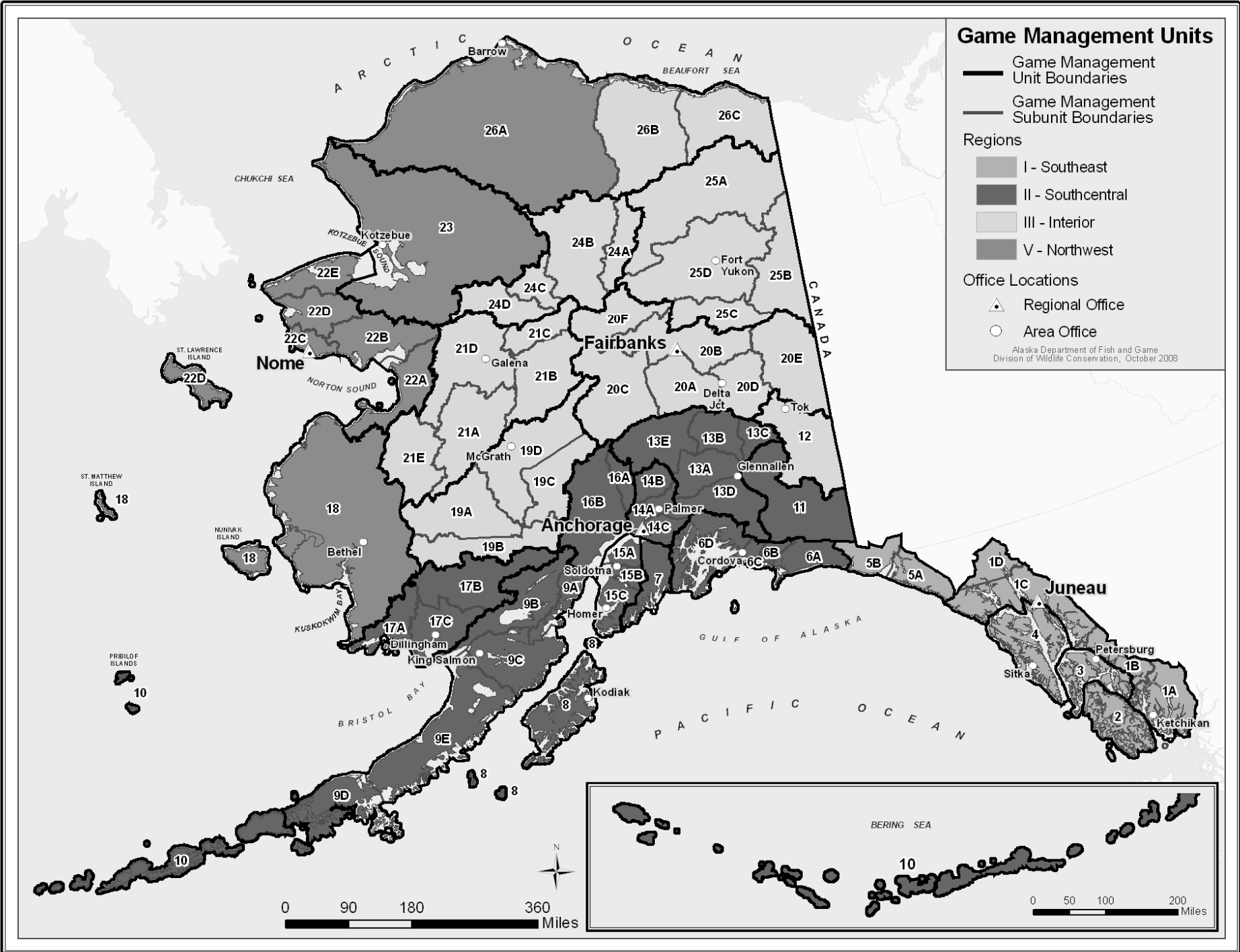
# **Code of Ethics**

## **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 non-target 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**

**2007–08**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 2007–08 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 they trapped. You'll also find summaries of Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) fur sealing, acquisition, and raw fur export records, and comments from trappers.

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.

Tom Schumacher  
Trapper Questionnaire Coordinator

# A PROFILE OF TRAPPING IN ALASKA

## Trapper Information

### Did you trap?

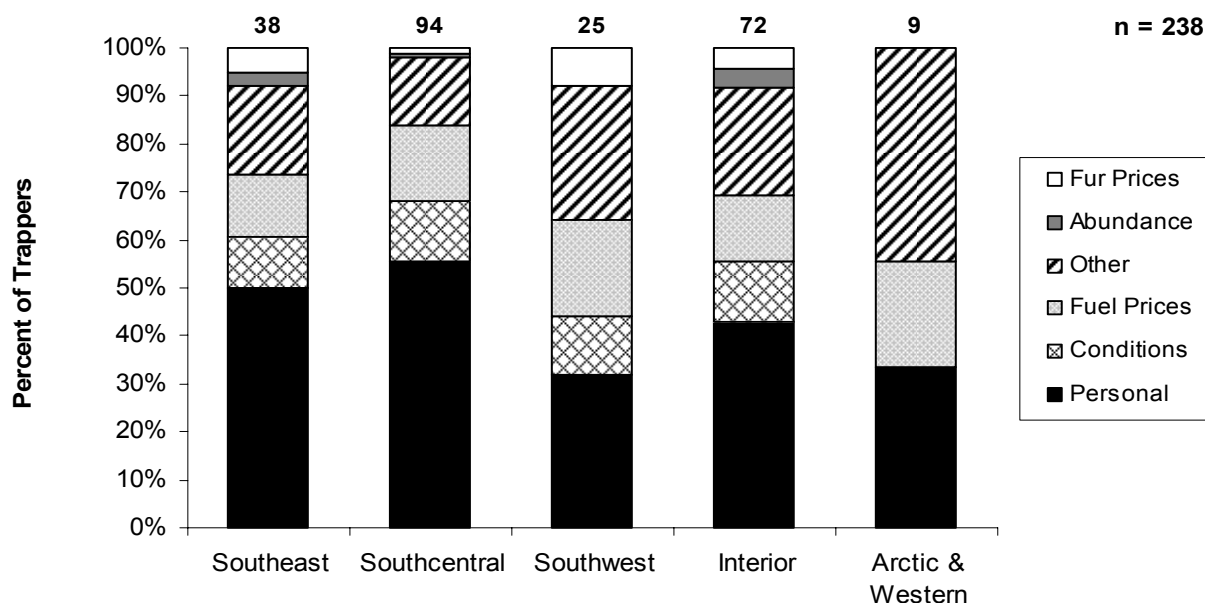
This year 2884 questionnaires were mailed throughout the state and 932 were returned for an overall response rate of 32%. Response rates were highest for Southeast trappers and lowest for Interior trappers. Statewide, 60% of respondents trapped during the 2007–08 season, down from 75% the previous year. Of those that did not trap this year, 44% had last trapped during the previous two years.

**Response to 2007–08 Trapper Questionnaire**

Region	Trapped	Did Not Trap	No Response	Total
Southeast	80	58	213	351
Southcentral	195	127	656	978
Southwest	52	30	157	239
Interior	194	109	730	1033
Arctic & Western	39	48	196	283
<b>Total</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>1952</b>	<b>2884</b>

### If you did not trap during 2007-08, why not?

Statewide, 67% of trappers cited personal or “other” reasons (poor health, no time, conflicts with jobs or school) for not trapping during the 2007-08 season. Fuel prices and snow and weather conditions were a distant second and third, with 16% and 12% of trappers citing those reasons for why they didn’t trap. Responses were similar among regions, with fuel prices playing a slightly larger role for Arctic & Western trappers than in other regions. The number of trappers in each region who responded is given above each bar.





### Did you trap with a partner or family member(s)?

Statewide, 42% of trappers trapped alone, 24% trapped with family members, 18% trapped with a partner, and the remaining 15% occasionally took someone with them. There were pronounced regional differences, with slightly over half of Interior and Arctic & Western trappers reporting they trapped alone compared to approximately one third of trappers in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. Only 13% of trappers in Arctic & Western Alaska trapped with family members versus 20%-30% in other regions. The number of trappers in each region who responded is given above each bar.

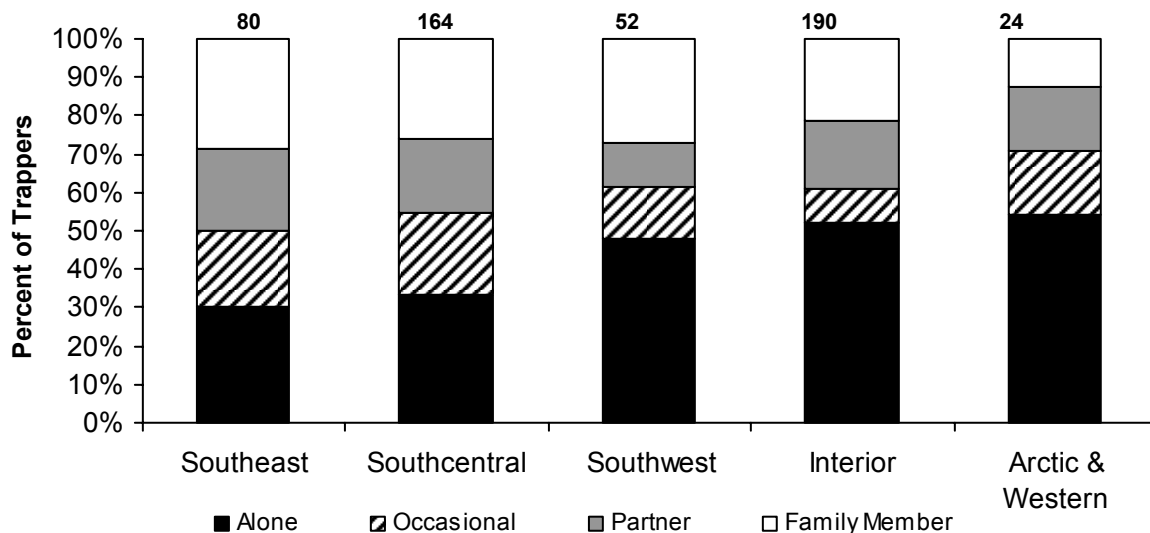
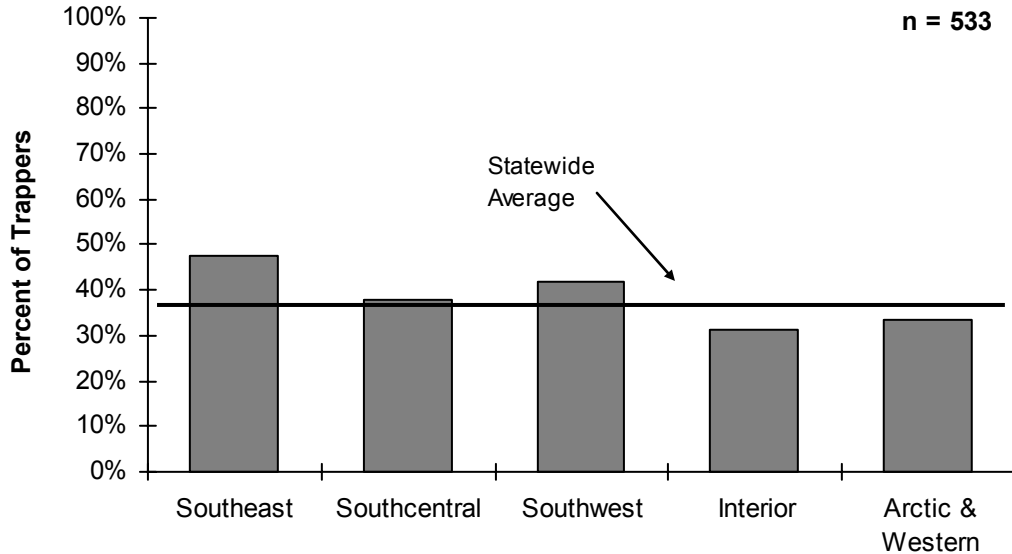


Photo by Judy Fischer

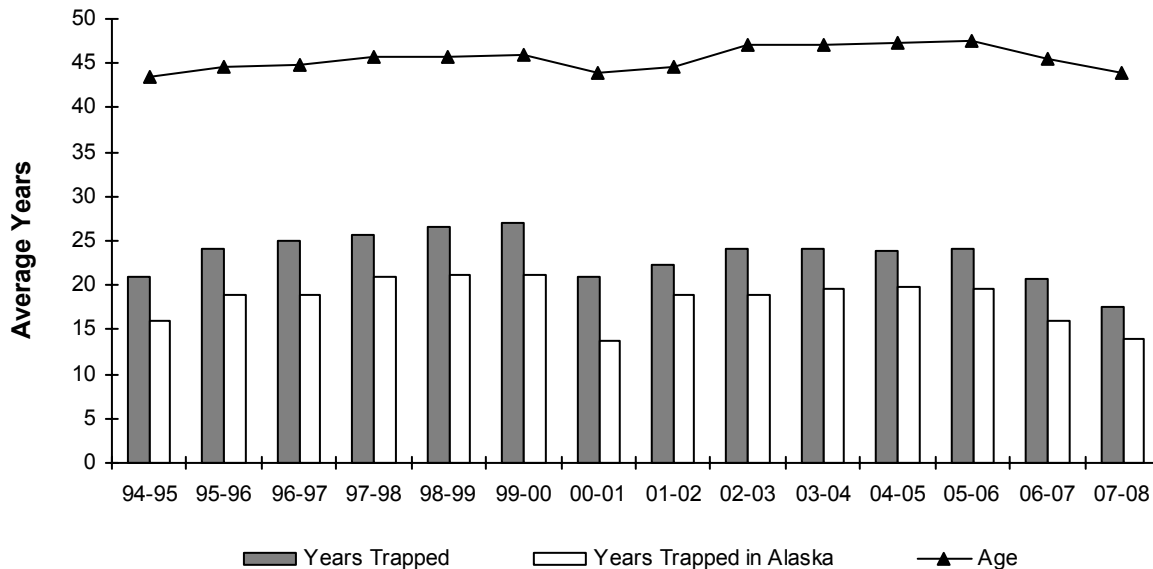
## Did you take a young person (under 16) with you on your trapline this year?

Trappers are less likely than in recent years to pass their knowledge down to the next generation by taking young people out with them on their trapline. During the 2007-08 trapping season, 37% of trappers statewide were accompanied by a young person, down from 41% last year and 48% two years ago. As shown by the graph below, 48% of Southeast trappers and 42% of Southwest trappers took a young person along on their trapline vs. only 31% of Interior trappers.



## How much trapping experience do you have and how long have you trapped in Alaska?

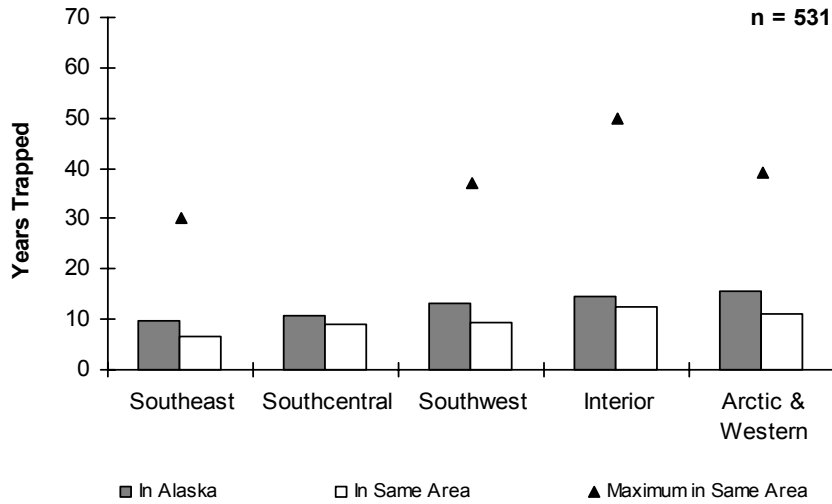
The overall experience of trappers continues to decline somewhat. Statewide trappers averaged just under 14 years experience in Alaska and 17.5 years trapping overall. Trappers in the Arctic & Western and Interior regions had the most experience and those in Southeast had less experience on average than the other regions. Correspondingly, Southeast trappers (39) are on average younger and Interior trappers older (45.8) than the statewide average age of 44.



# Trapline Information

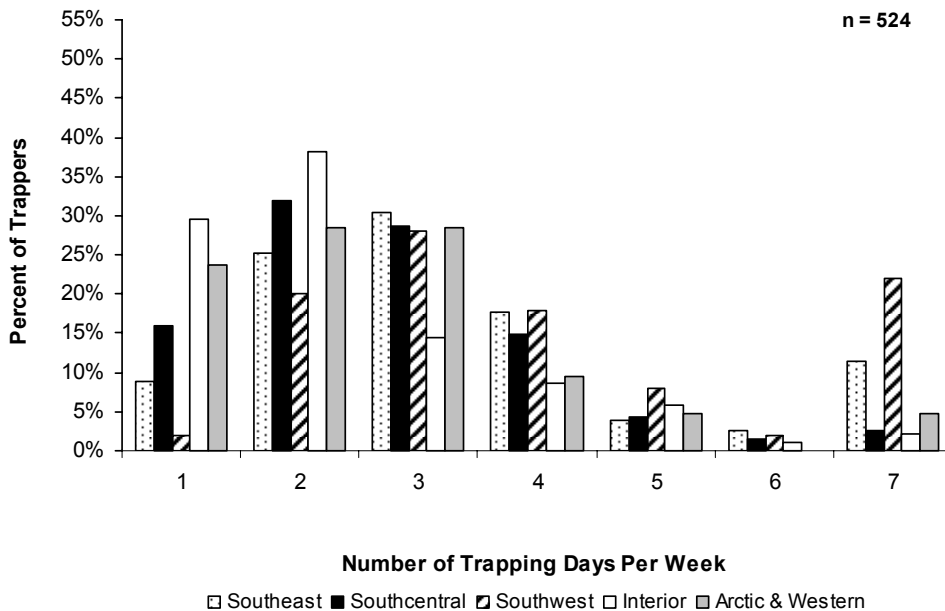
## How many years have you been trapping in the same area?

On average, Interior and Arctic & Western trappers have spent the longest time trapping in Alaska (20 years) and the longest time trapping in the same area (12 and 11 years respectively). Southeast trappers have been trapping in the same area for only half as long (6 years). A Southcentral trapper holds the record for trapping the longest in the same area (72 years).



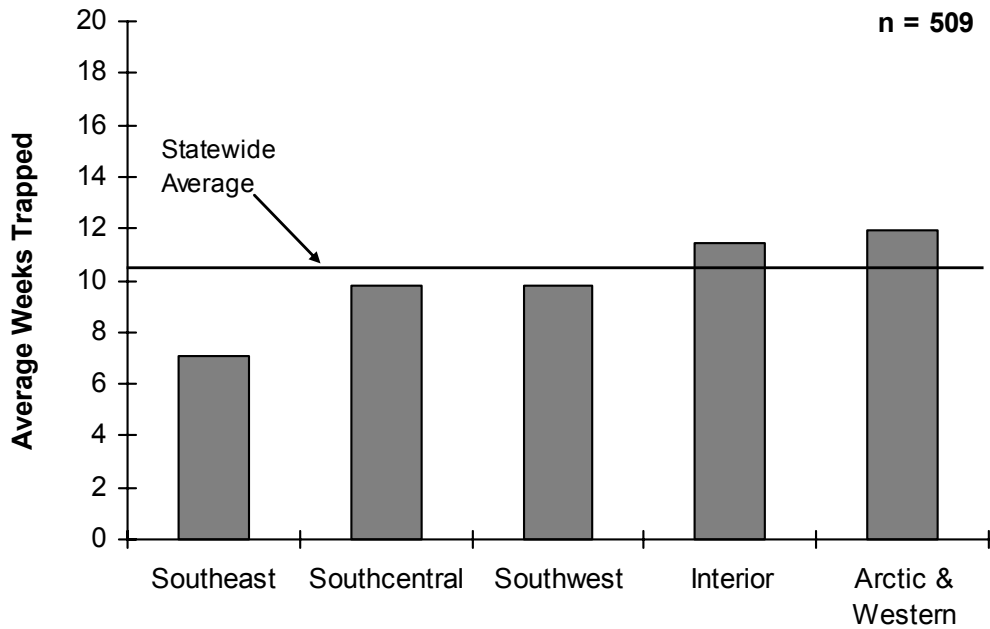
## How many days per week did you trap?

Statewide, more than half (56%) of all trappers conducted their trapping activities 2 or 3 days per week. In Southwest Alaska, 22% of trappers trapped every day, compared to 11% or less of trappers in other regions.



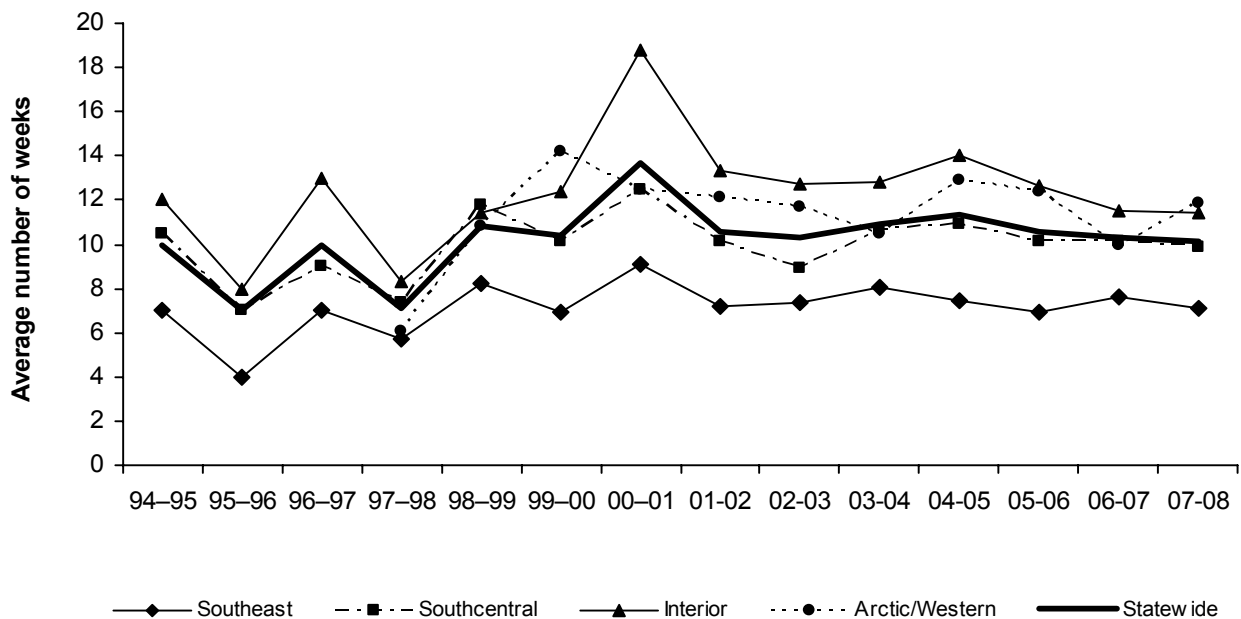
## How many weeks did you trap?

During the 2007-08 season Southeast trappers trapped for an average of 7.1 weeks. Southcentral and Southwest trappers trapped just under 10 weeks on average. Interior trappers were in the field an average of 11.5 weeks, and Arctic & Western trappers trapped nearly 12 weeks on average.



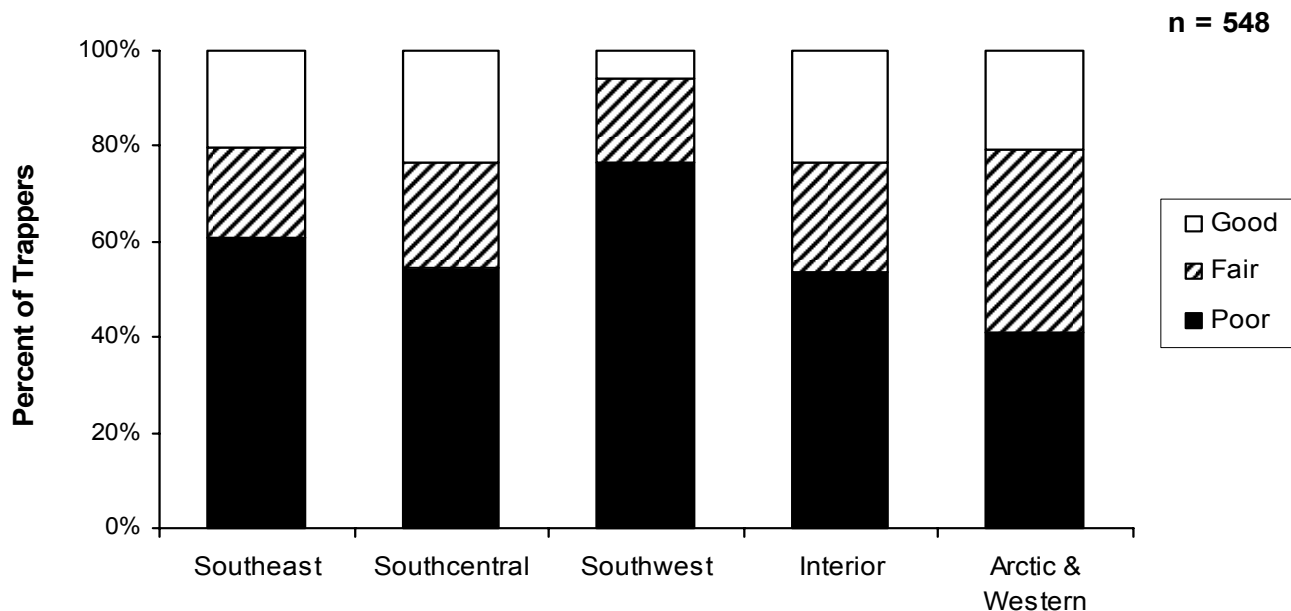
The average number of weeks trapped statewide during the 2007–08 season was 10.1 weeks, down from last year’s average of 10.4 weeks. The average number of weeks trapped was 2 weeks longer in Arctic & Western regions compared to the previous year, dropped slightly in Southcentral and Interior, and dropped by about 4 days in Southeast.

## Trends in Average Number of Weeks Trapped



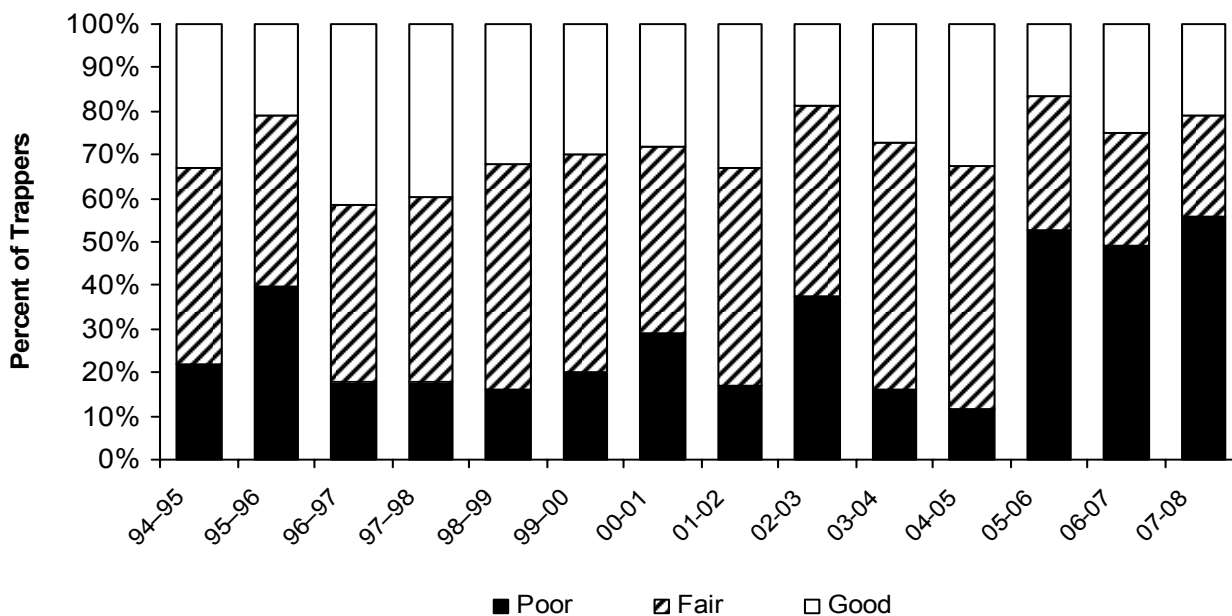
### What were trapping conditions like on your trapline?

Half or more of trappers in every region except Arctic & Western reported poor conditions this year, an increase from last year. Southwest trappers fared the worst with 76% of them reporting poor conditions. Arctic & Western trappers were the only ones reporting improvement in conditions, with 21% of trappers reporting good conditions compared to 16% last year.



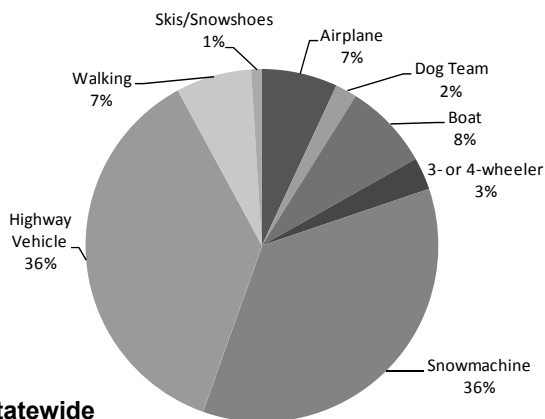
For the third year in a row, half or more of Alaskan trappers reported poor trapping conditions. The percentage of those reporting poor conditions (56%) was the highest in at least the past 14 years.

### Annual Variation in Statewide Trapping Conditions

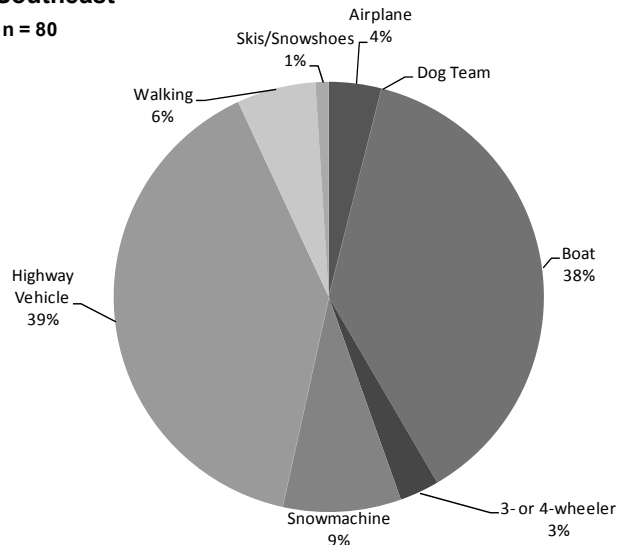


# What mode of transportation did you use to get to your main trapping area?

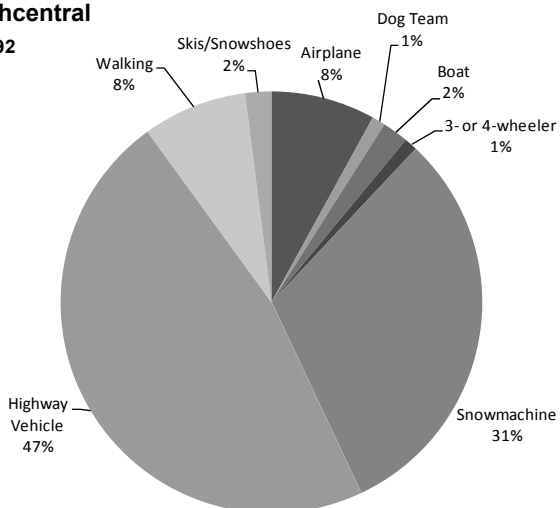
**Statewide**  
n = 533



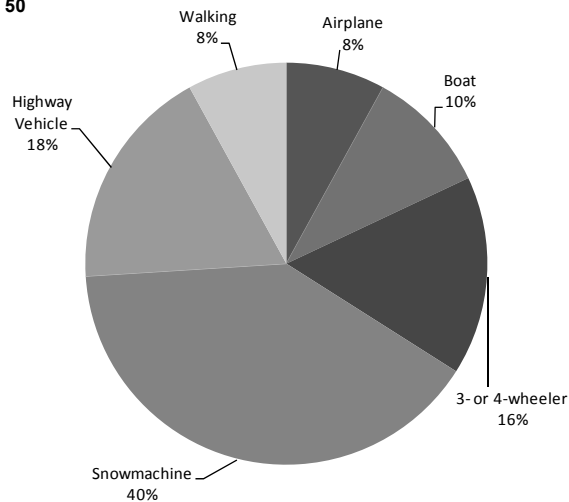
**Southeast**  
n = 80



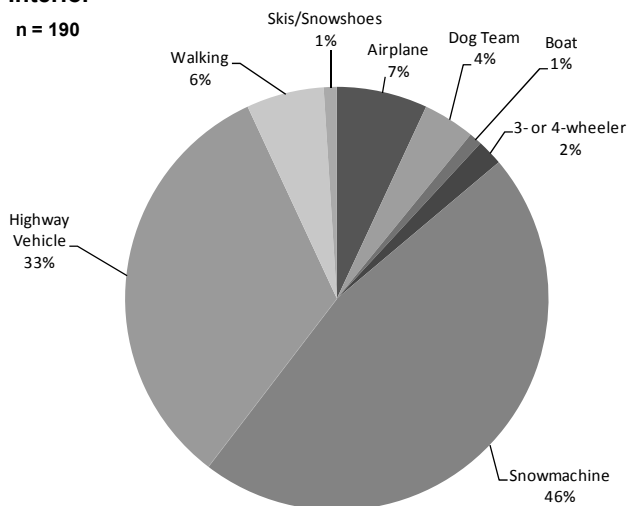
**Southcentral**  
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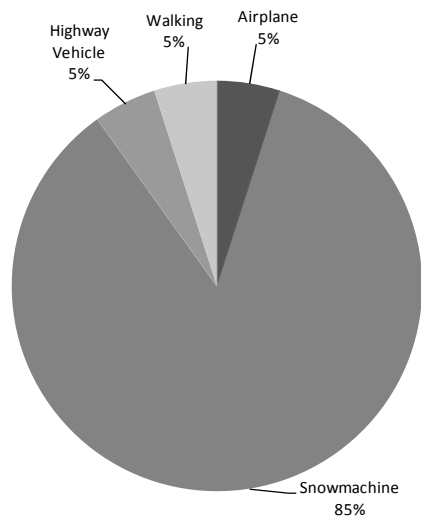
**Southwest**  
n = 50



**Interior**  
n = 190

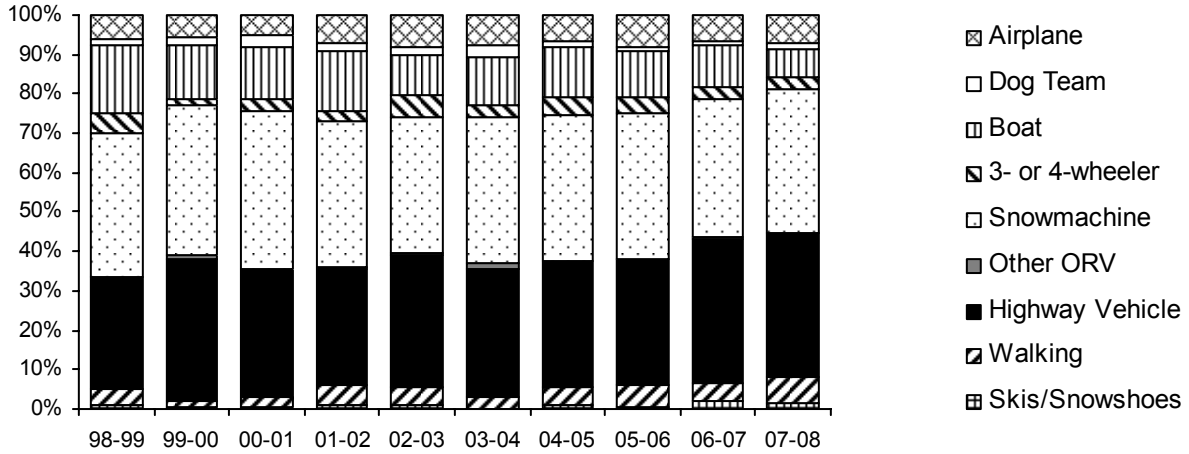


**Arctic & Western**  
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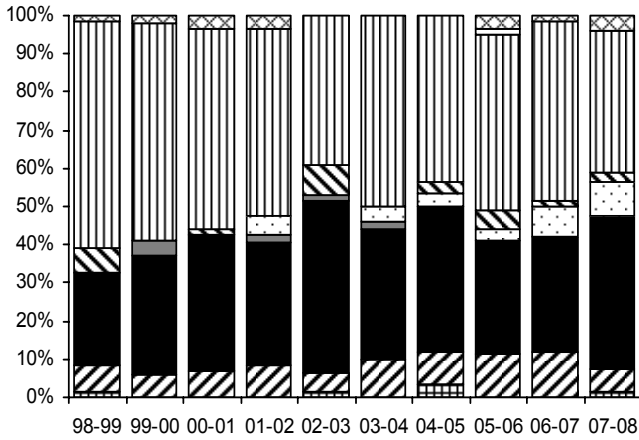


# Trends in mode of transportation used to get to traplines

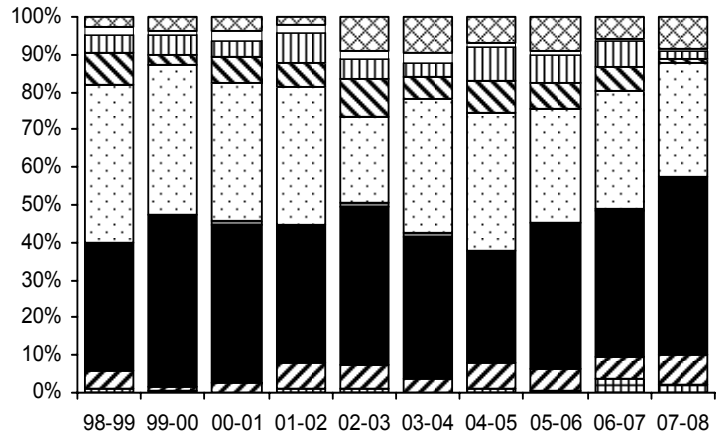
## Statewide



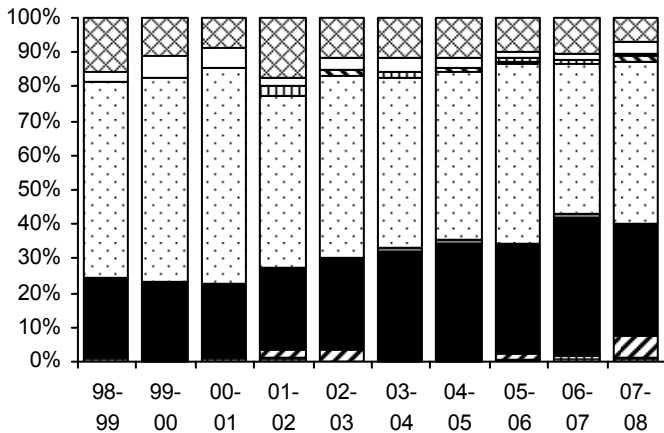
## Southeast



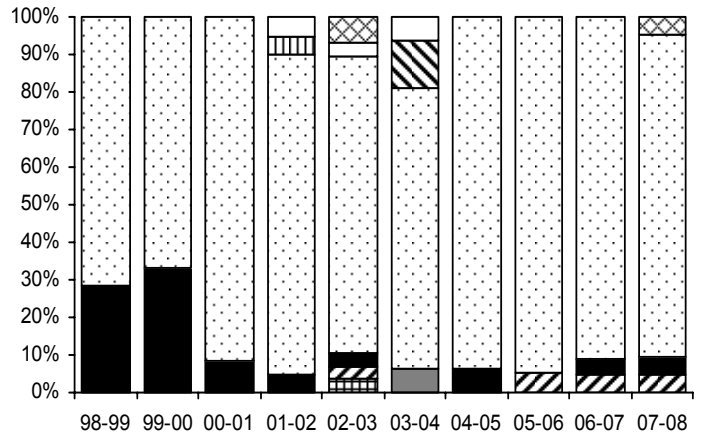
## Southcentral & Southwest



## Interior

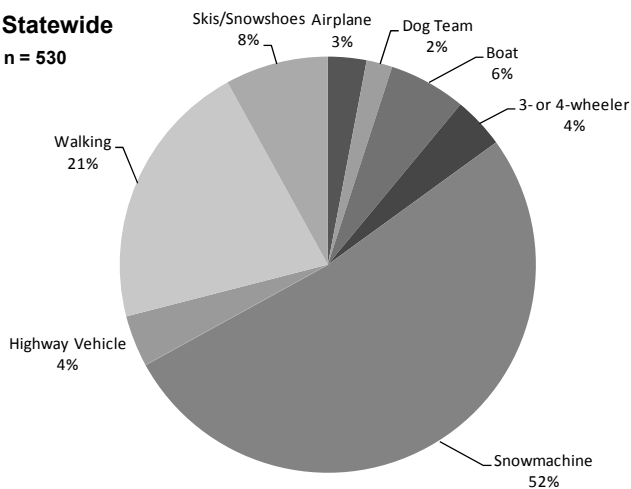


## Arctic & Western

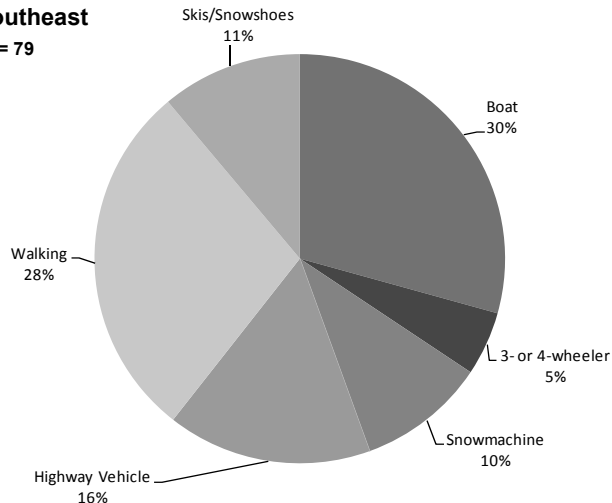


# What mode of transportation did you use to run your main trapline?

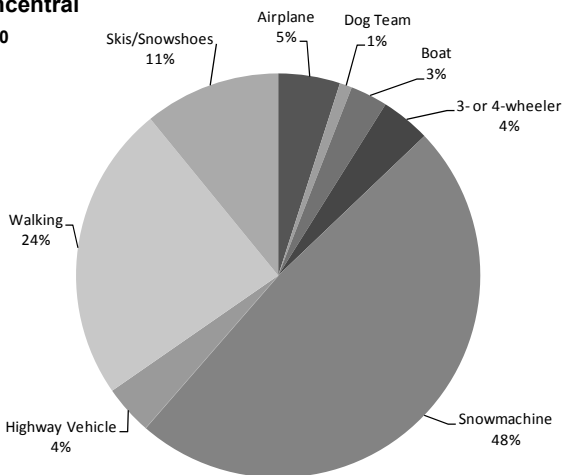
**Statewide**  
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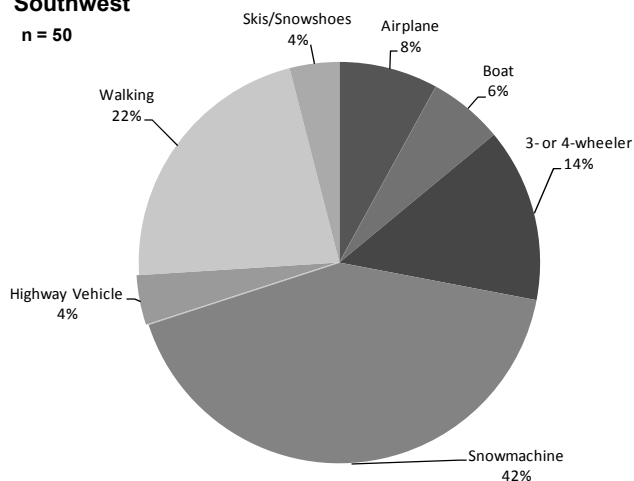
**Southeast**  
n = 79



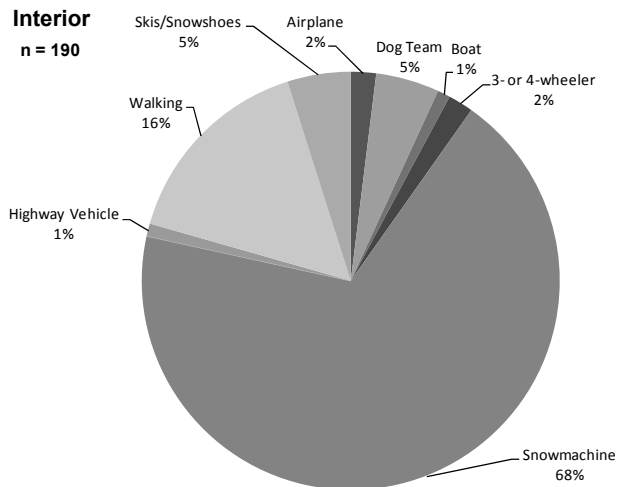
**Southcentral**  
n = 190



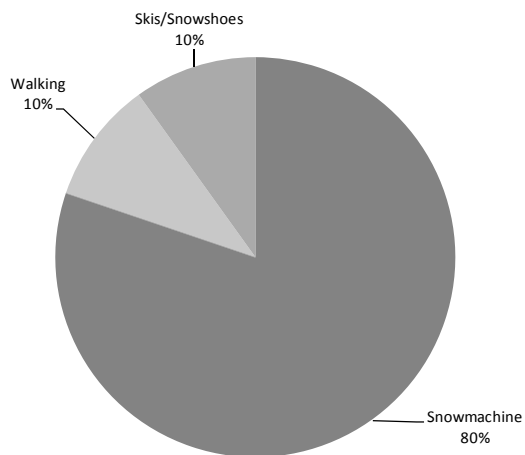
**Southwest**  
n = 50



**Interior**  
n = 190



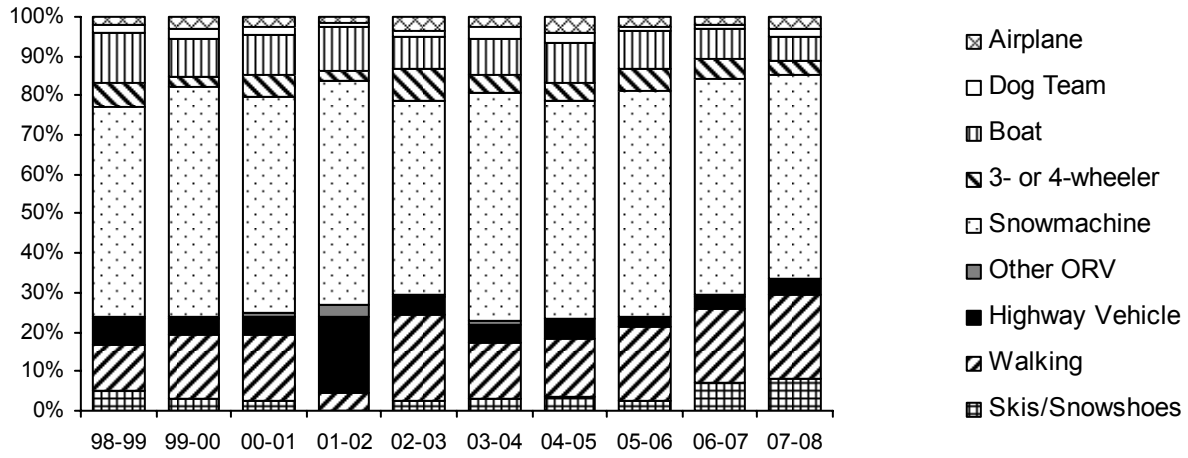
**Arctic & Western**  
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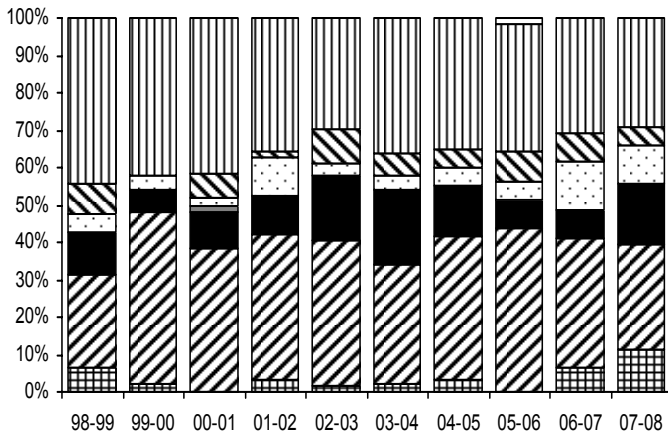


# Trends in mode of transportation used to run traplines

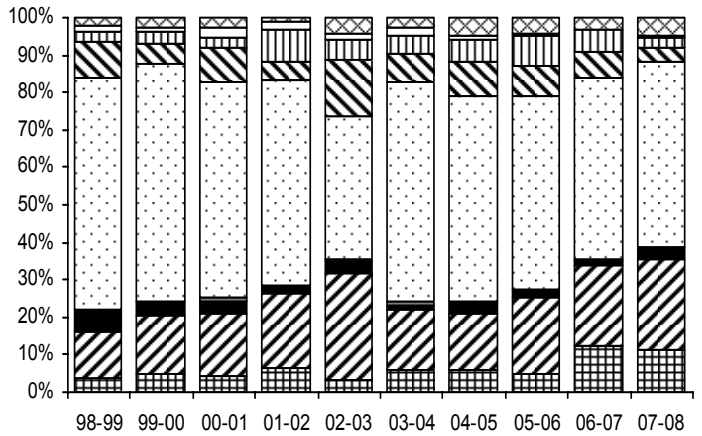
## Statewide



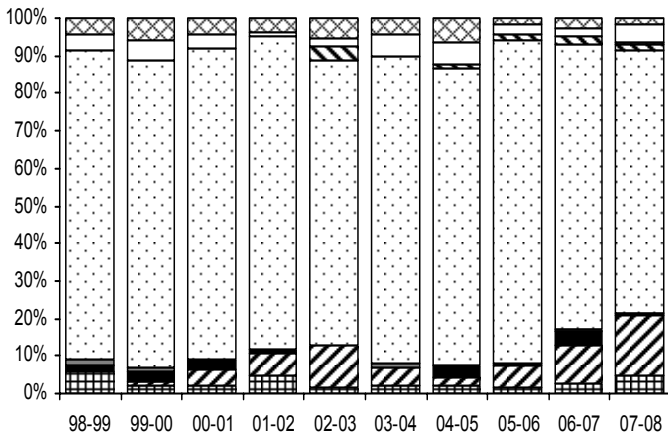
## Southeast



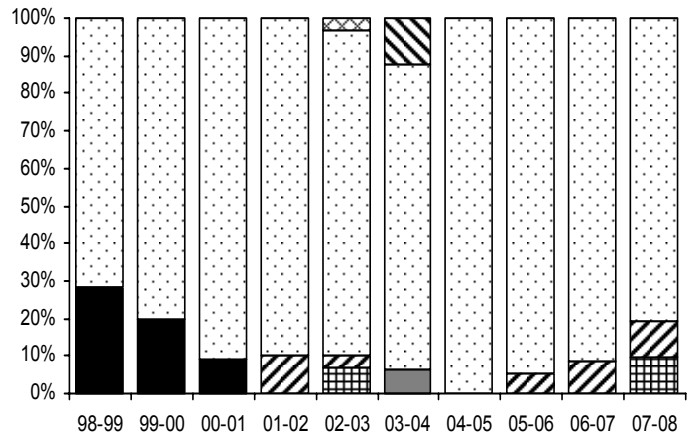
## Southcentral & Southwest



## Interior



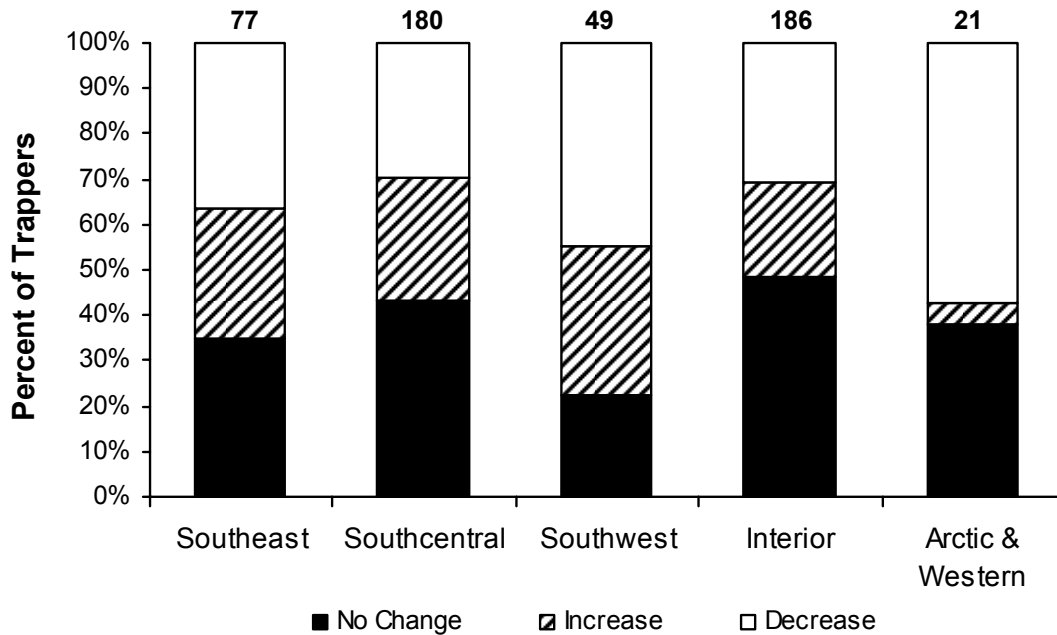
## Arctic & Western



# Trapping Effort

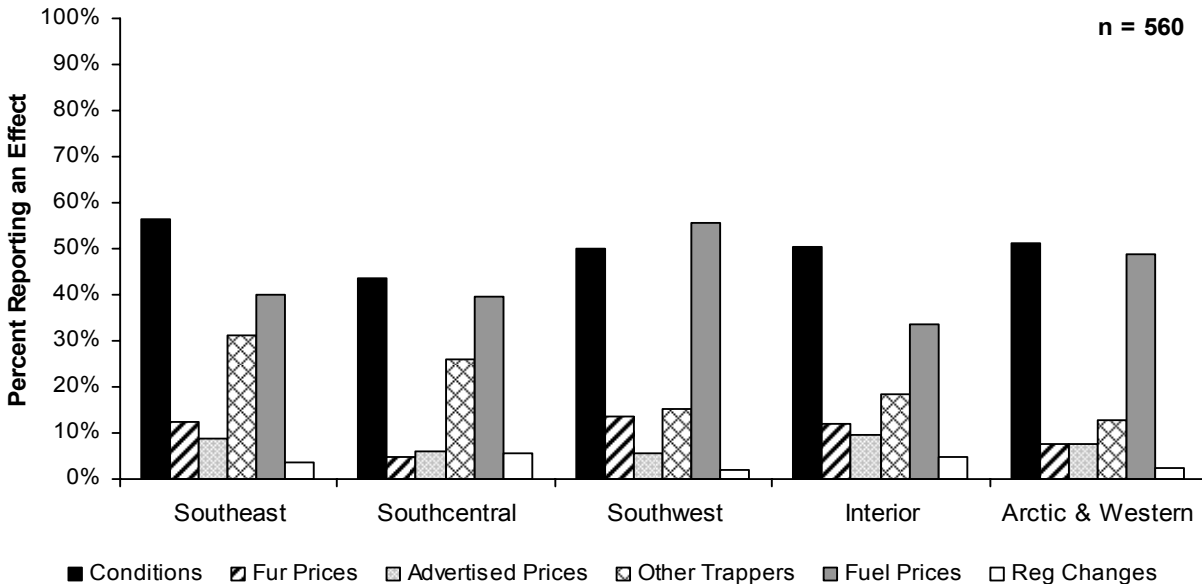
## Did you change your trapping effort this season?

Changes in trapping effort during the 2007-08 season were very specific to regions. Interior and Southcentral trappers were most likely to report no change in effort whereas a significant majority (57%) of Arctic & Western trappers reported a decrease in effort. Fewer trappers reported increased effort than did last year for all regions but Southeast. . The number of trappers in each region who responded is given above each bar.



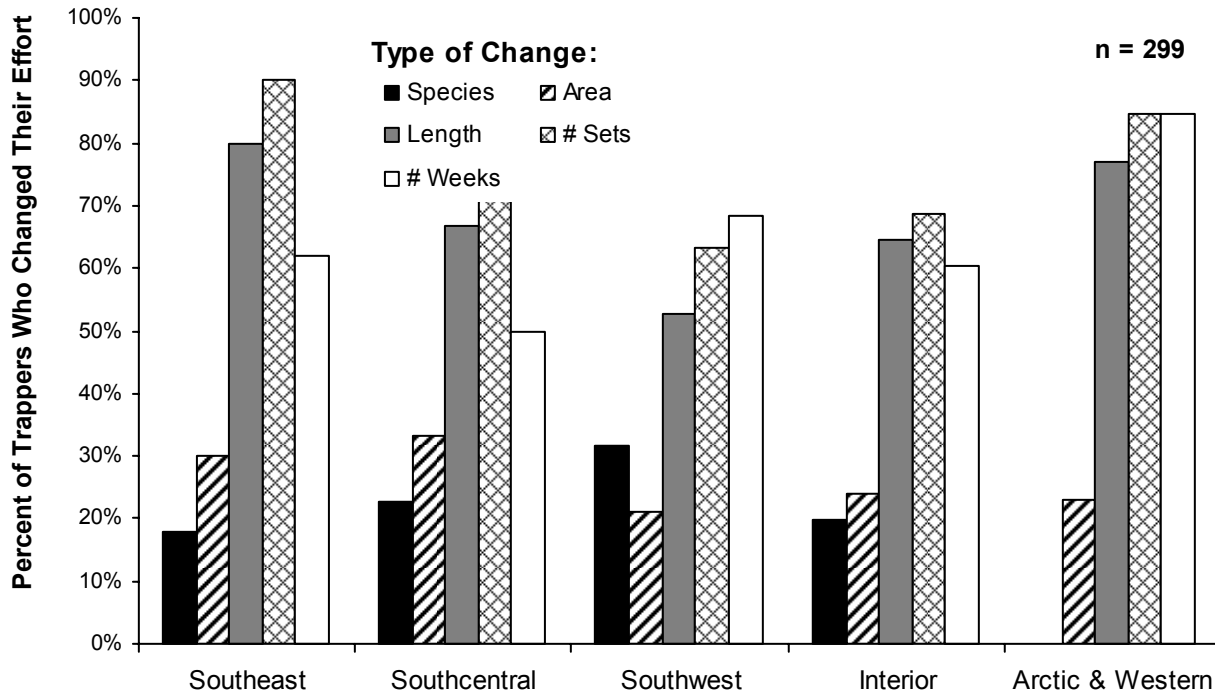
## What factors affected your trapping effort?

Statewide, trapping conditions were the most important factor affecting trapping effort during the 2007–08 season, affecting 49% of trappers. However in the Southwest, high fuel prices (56%) were the dominant factor affecting trapping effort and fuel prices were a close second to conditions as the biggest factor affecting effort in the Arctic & Western region.



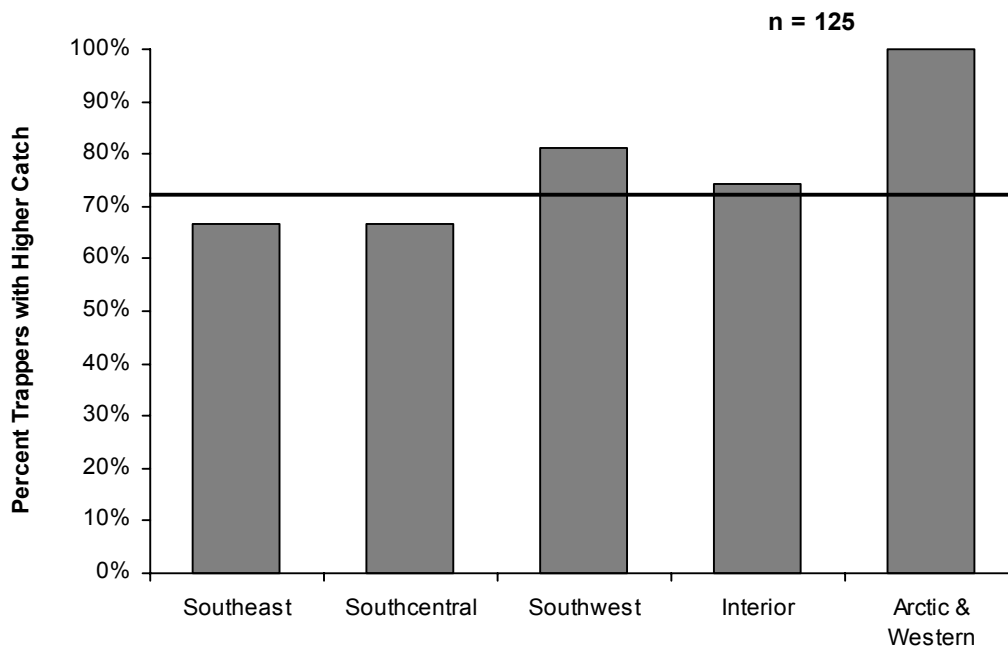
## How did you change your trapping effort?

Number of sets and trapline length were again the most common changes in effort statewide. In the Southwest and Arctic & Western regions fewer weeks trapping was the largest reason for decreased trapping effort



## Did increasing your trapping effort result in a higher catch?

Statewide, 71% of trappers reported that increasing their effort resulting in a higher catch. Only one trapper in the Arctic & Western region reported increasing effort and he did increase his catch. Interior and Southwest trappers had better than average success increasing their catch with increased effort.



# Target Species and Disposition of Furs

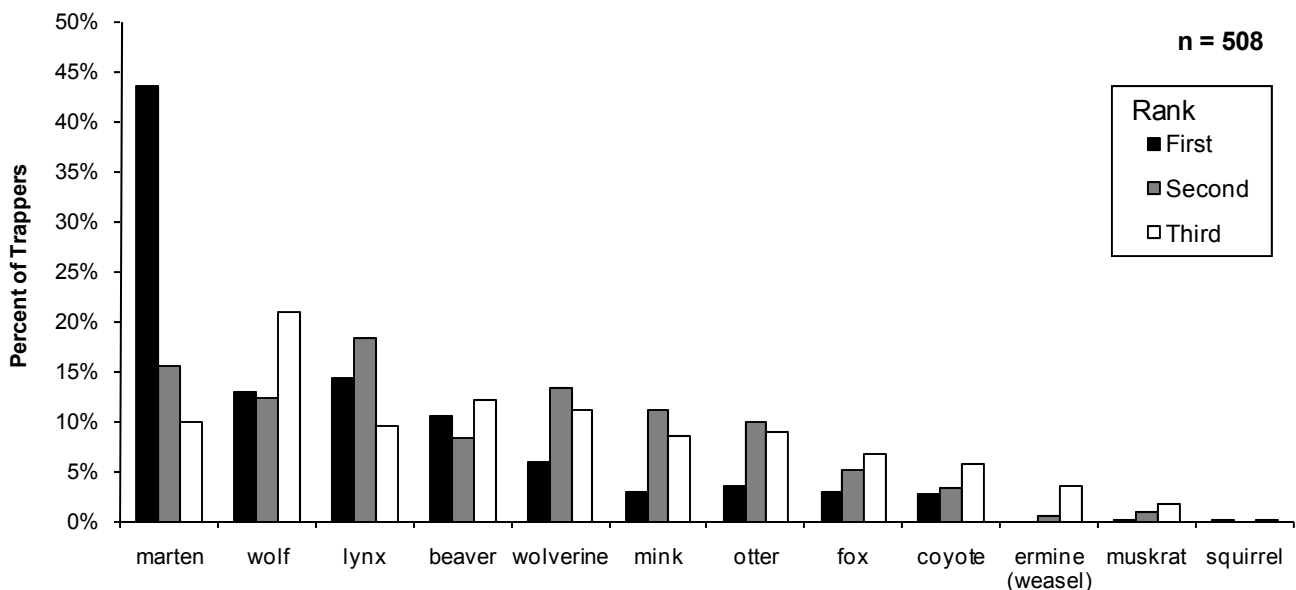
## What was the most important species you were trying to catch?

The table below shows how each species ranked in order of importance by region, with 1 being most important and 11 being least important. Rank was calculated by totaling the number of trappers who ranked that species as one of the three most important species they were trying to catch. The number of trappers who responded is given in parentheses. Repeats of a rank indicate that one or more species tied for that rank. A dash indicates no trapper ranked that species as one of the most important.

Marten was once again the most important species statewide. Marten was the most important species for every region except Southwest where red fox was most targeted, and Interior where lynx was most important. Southcentral and Interior trappers ranked wolves as one of the top three species helping rank wolves second in importance statewide.

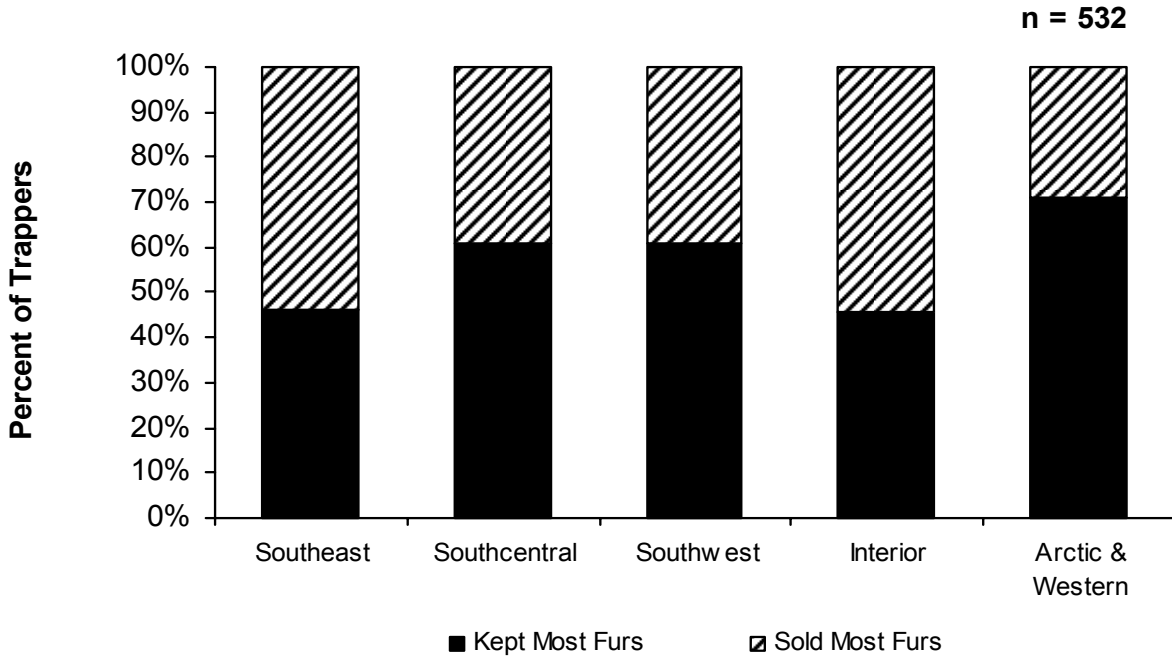
Species	Statewide (508)	Southeast (62)	Southcentral (188)	Southwest (49)	Interior (172)	Arctic & Western (37)
marten	1	1	1	6	2	1
wolf	2	4	2	5	3	5
lynx	3	7	5	7	1	1
wolverine	5	6	3	4	4	1
beaver	4	5	3	2	6	4
fox	9	10	10	8	4	6
mink	6	2	6	8	7	9
red fox	8	10	8	1	10	8
otter	7	3	7	---	9	7
coyote	10	7	9	11	7	9
ermine (weasel)	11	---	11	---	11	11

The graph below gives the percentage of trappers who ranked that species as the first, second, or third



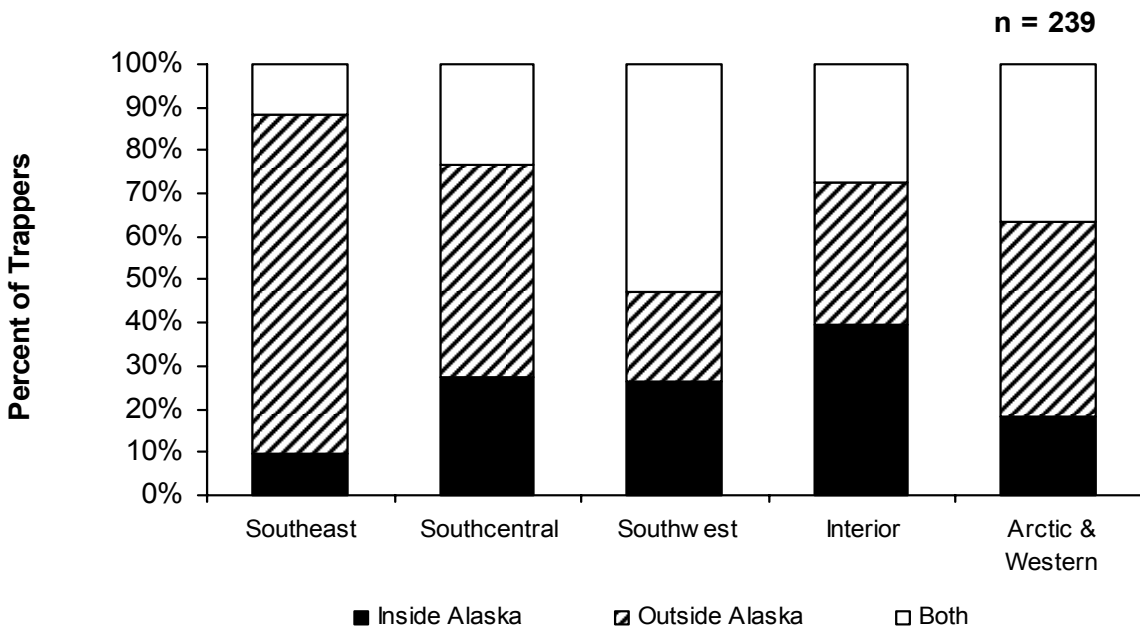
### Did you keep or sell most of your furs?

In Southcentral and Southwest 61% of trappers kept their furs. 71% of Arctic & Western kept most of their furs, whereas 46% of both Southeast and Interior trappers sold most of their furs.

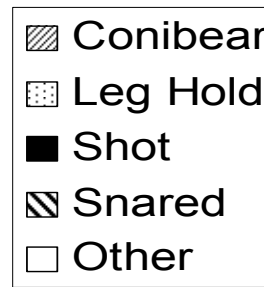
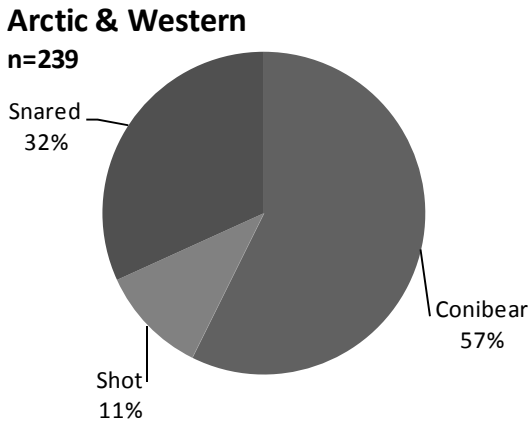
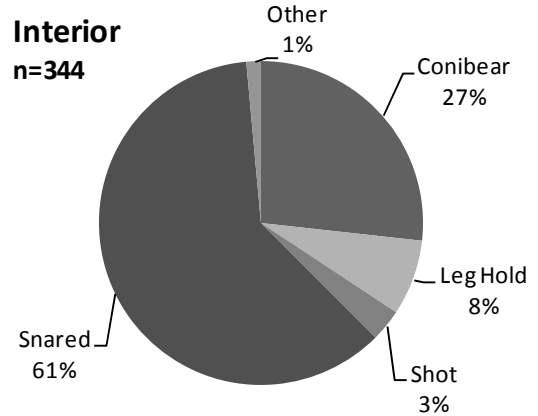
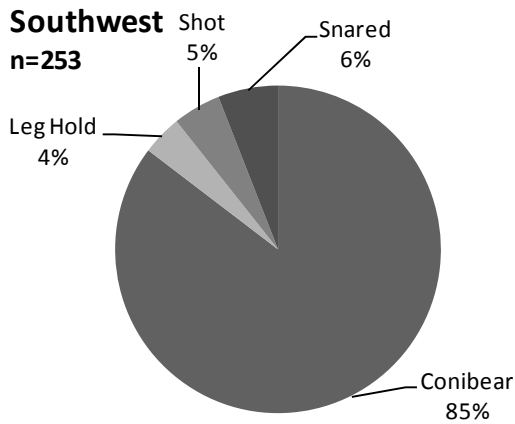
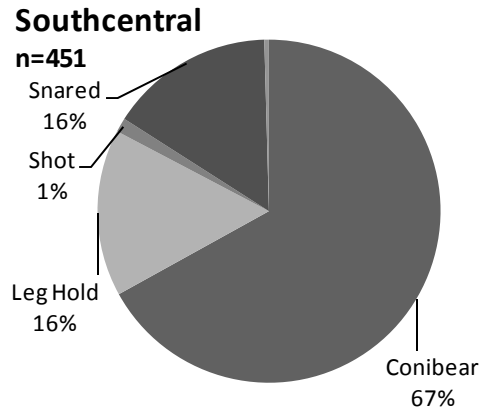
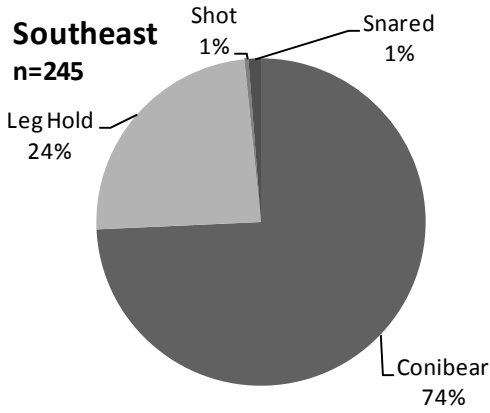


### Did you sell to a fur buyer in Alaska or outside of Alaska?

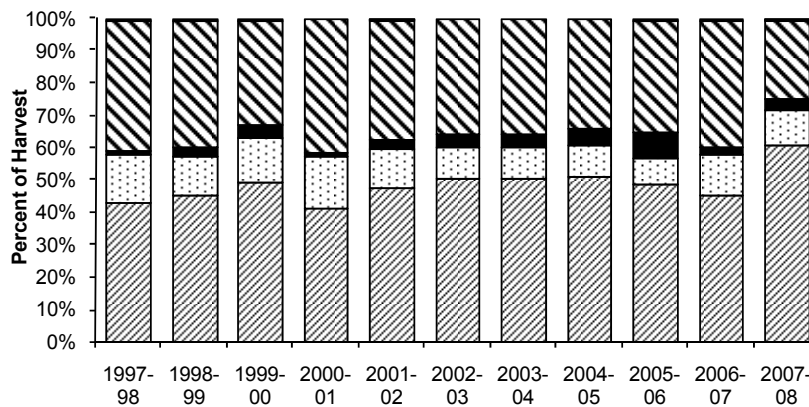
About 80% of Southeast trappers and half of Southcentral and Arctic & Western trappers who responded to this question sold most of their furs to buyers outside Alaska. 40% of Interior trappers sold most of their furs within Alaska. Statewide, 45% sold most furs to buyers outside the state, 29% sold to buyers within the state, and 26% sold to both.



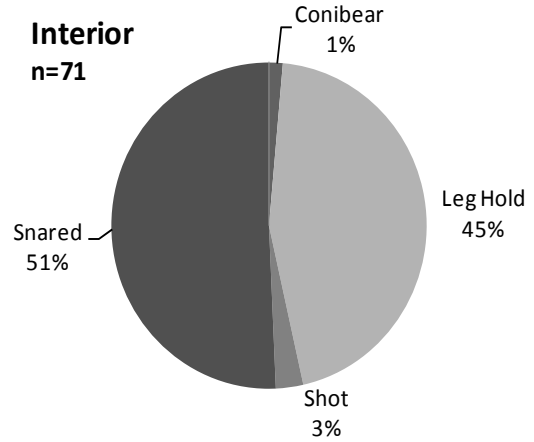
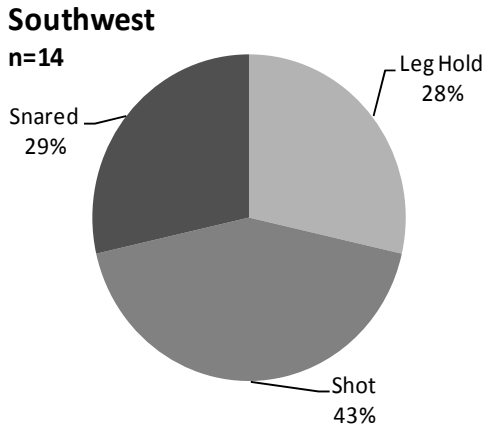
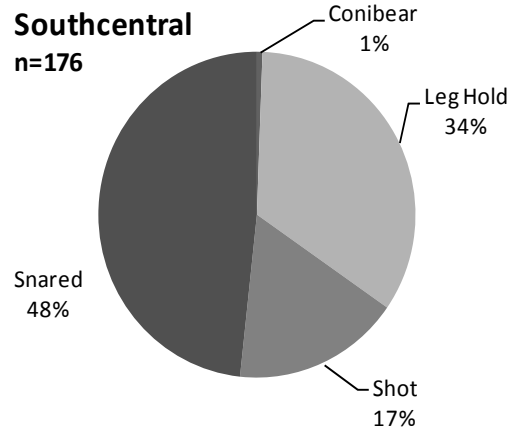
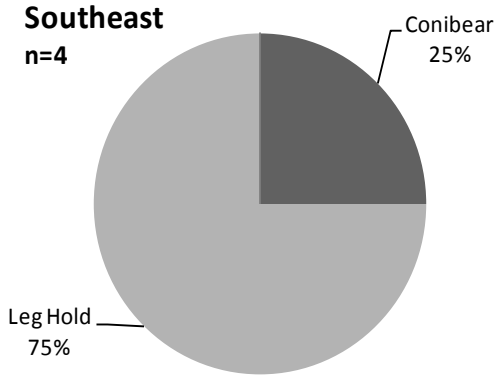
# Beaver Harvest Methods



## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



# Coyote Harvest Methods

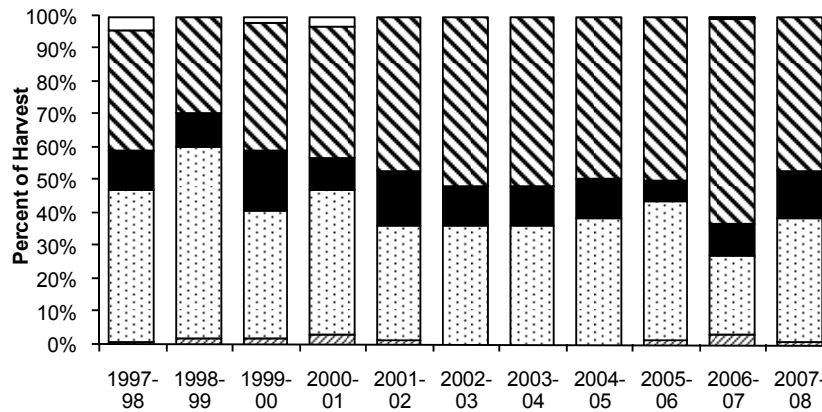


**Arctic & Western**  
n=0

No Data Available



## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

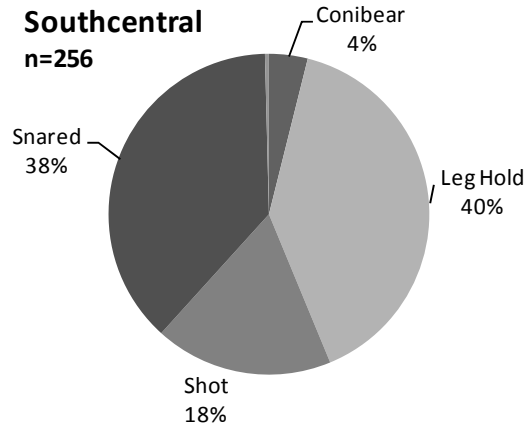


# Fox Harvest Methods

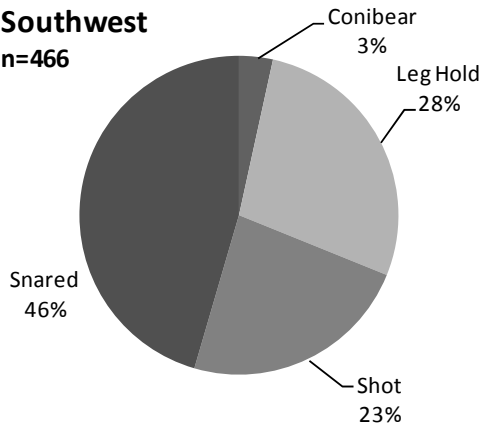
**Southeast**  
n=0

No Data Available

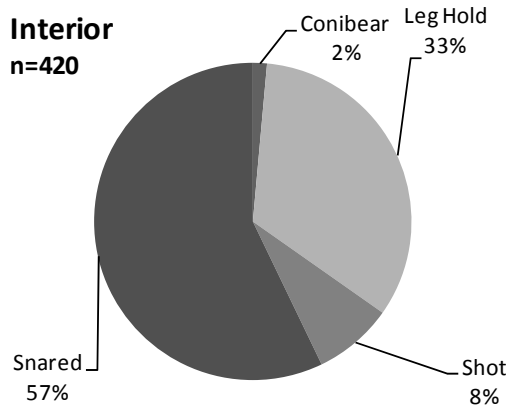
**Southcentral**  
n=256



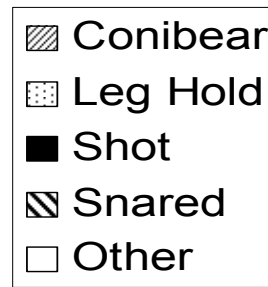
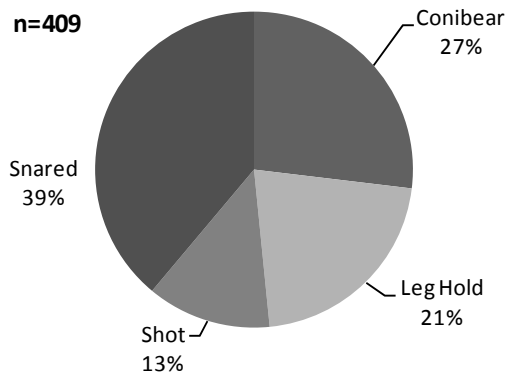
**Southwest**  
n=466



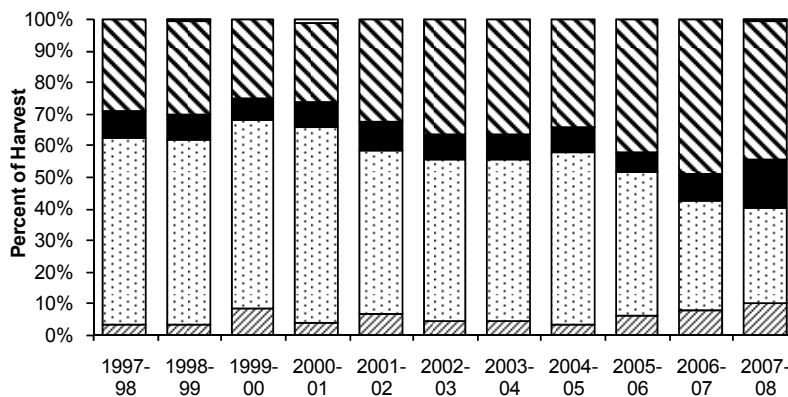
**Interior**  
n=420



**Arctic & Western**  
n=409



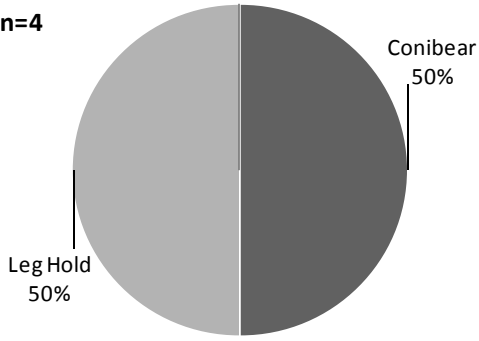
## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



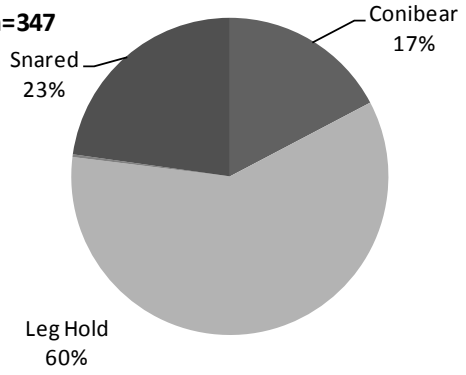


# Lynx Harvest Methods

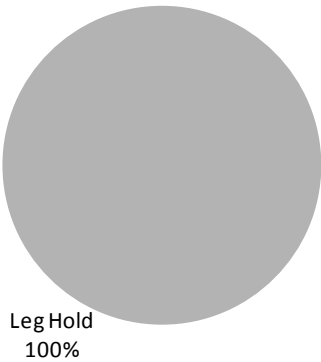
**Southeast**  
n=4



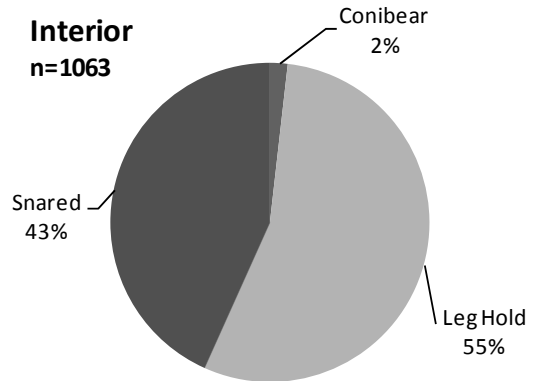
**Southcentral**  
n=347



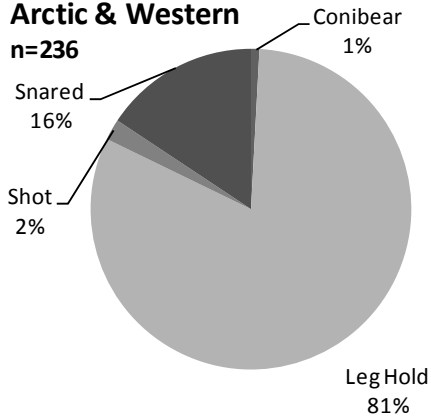
**Southwest**  
n=5



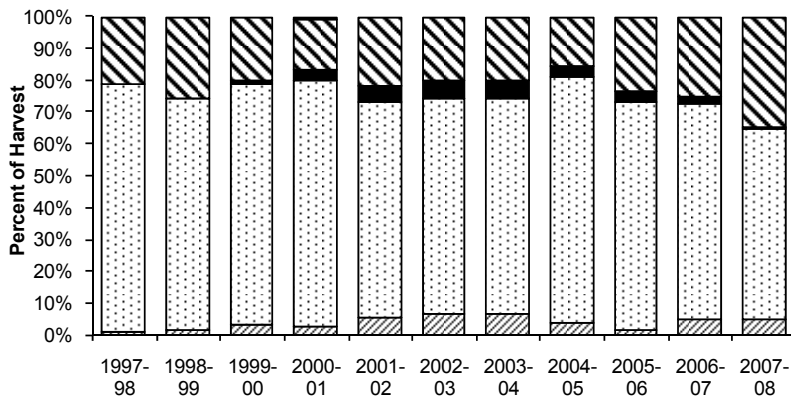
**Interior**  
n=1063



**Arctic & Western**  
n=236

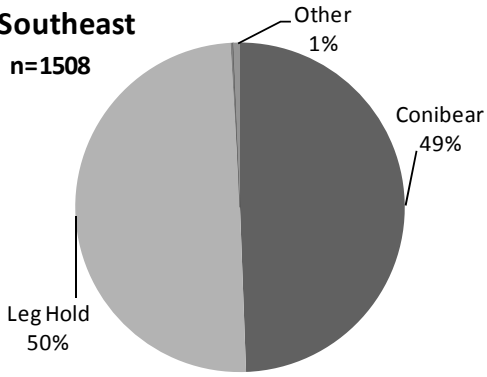


## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

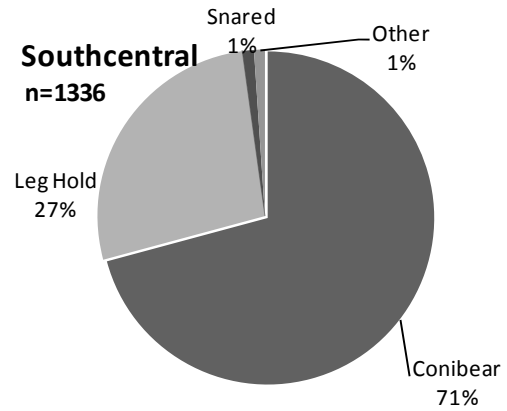


# Marten Harvest Methods

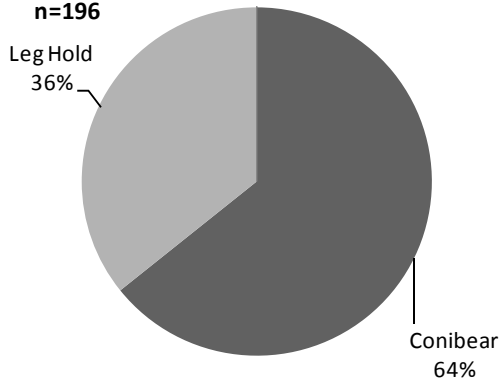
**Southeast**  
n=1508



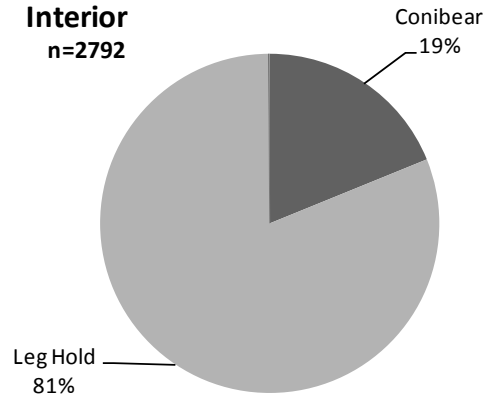
**Southcentral**  
n=1336



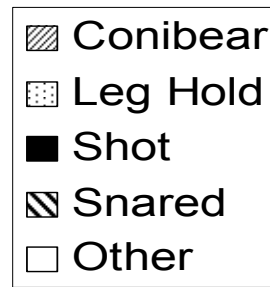
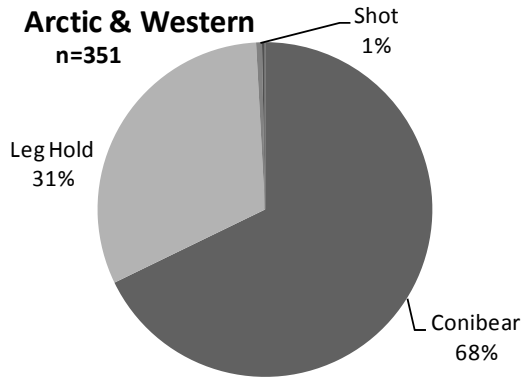
**Southwest**  
n=196



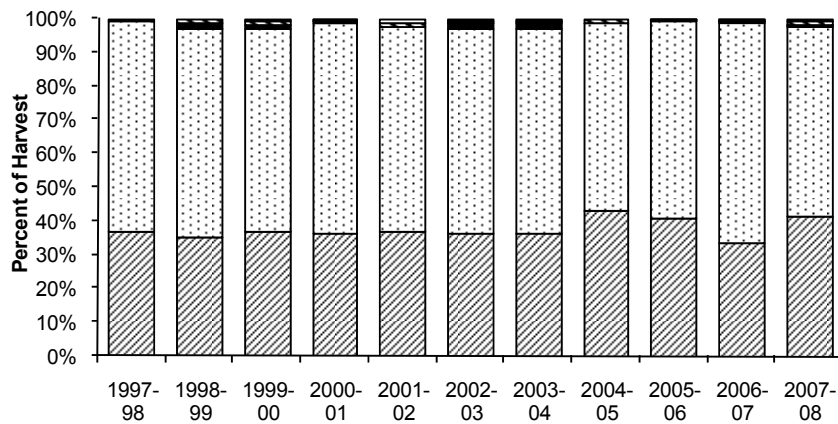
**Interior**  
n=2792



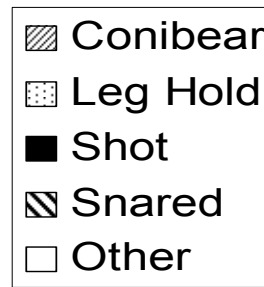
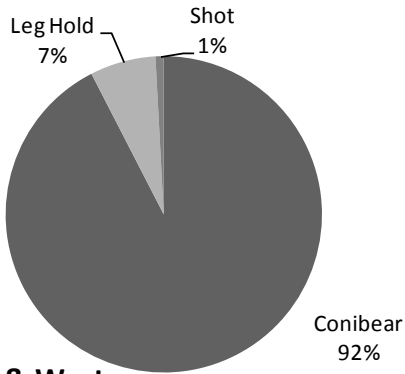
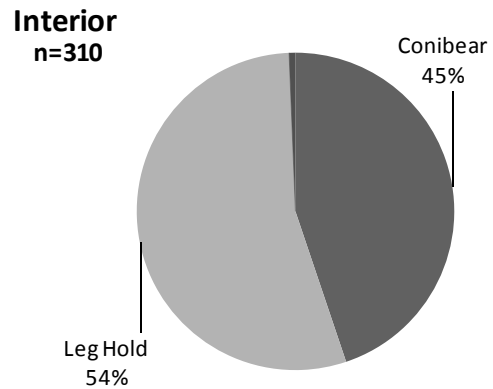
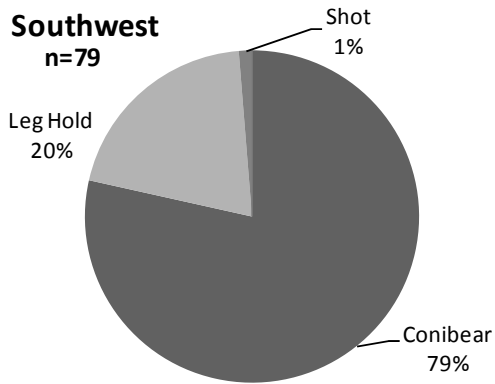
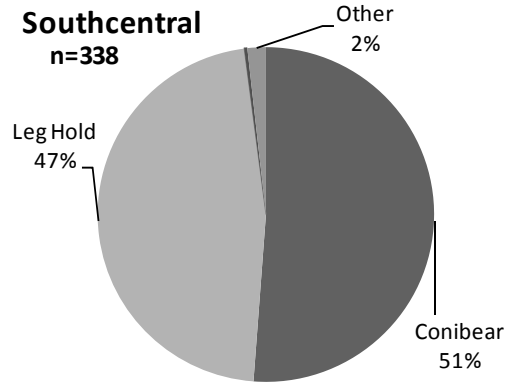
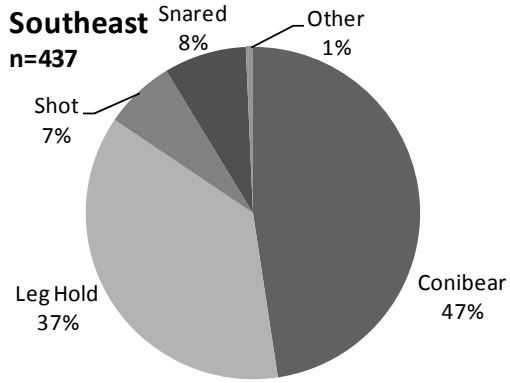
**Arctic & Western**  
n=351



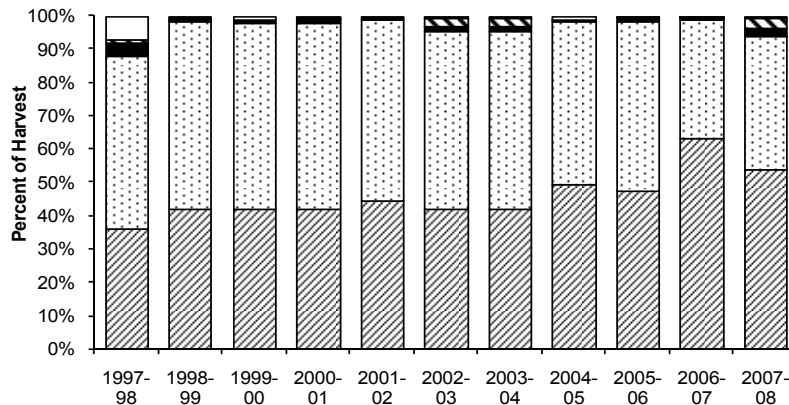
## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



# Mink Harvest Methods

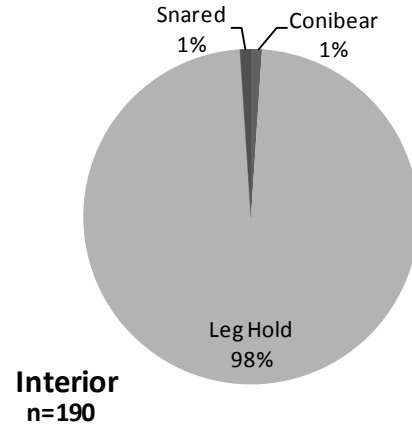
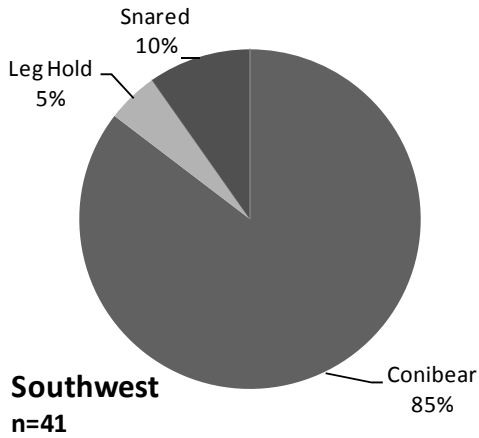
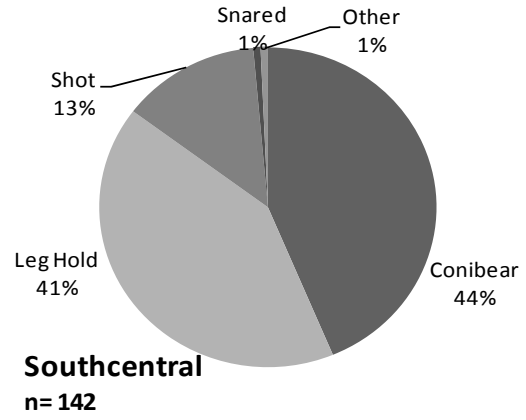
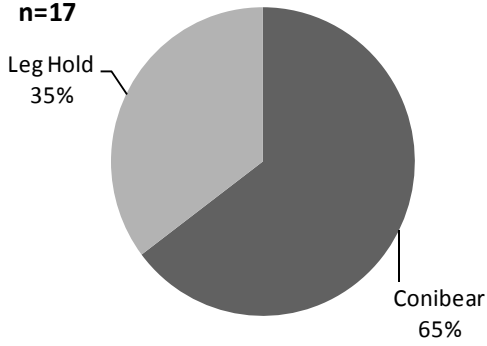


## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

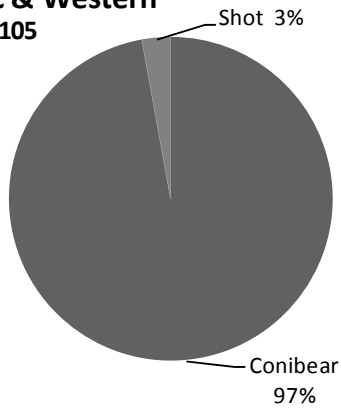


# Muskrat Harvest Methods

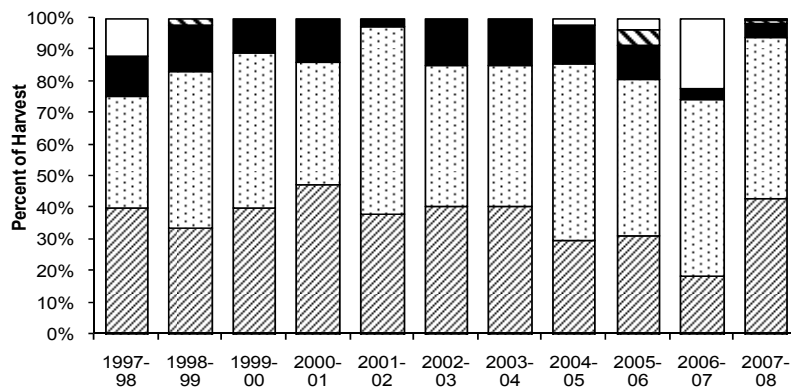
**Southeast**  
n=17



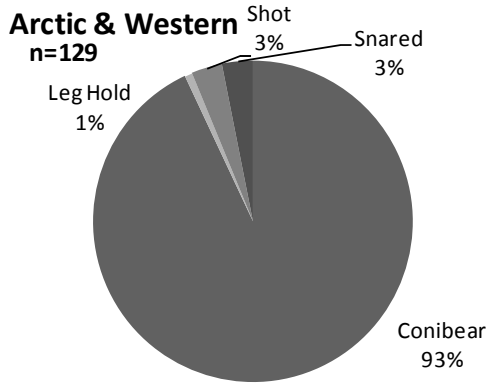
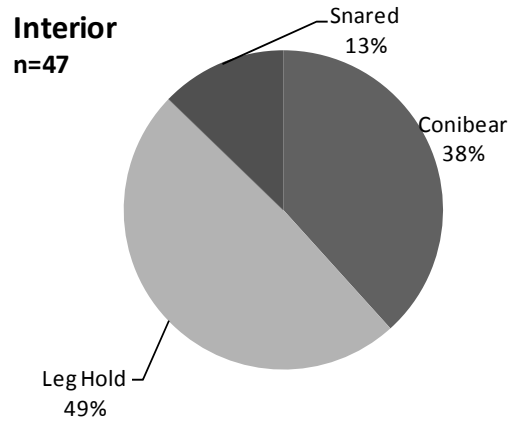
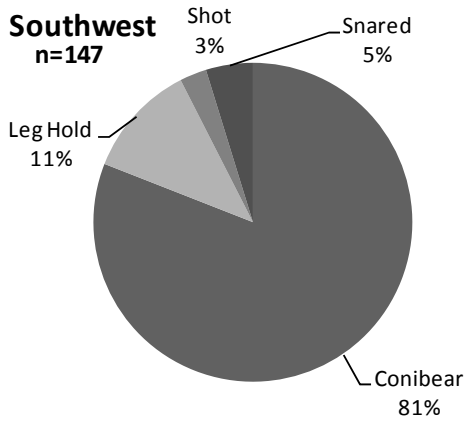
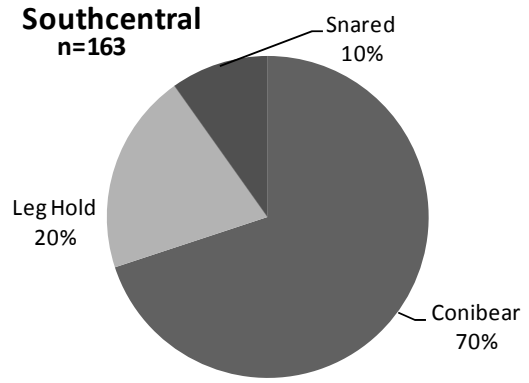
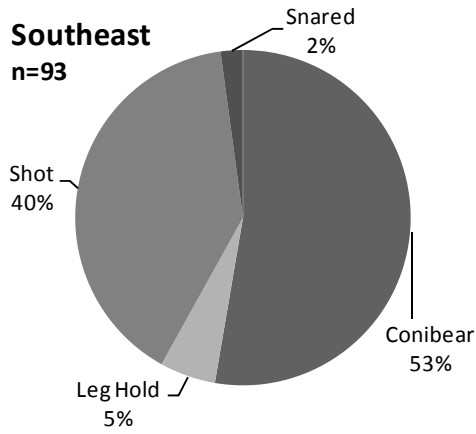
**Arctic & Western**  
n=105



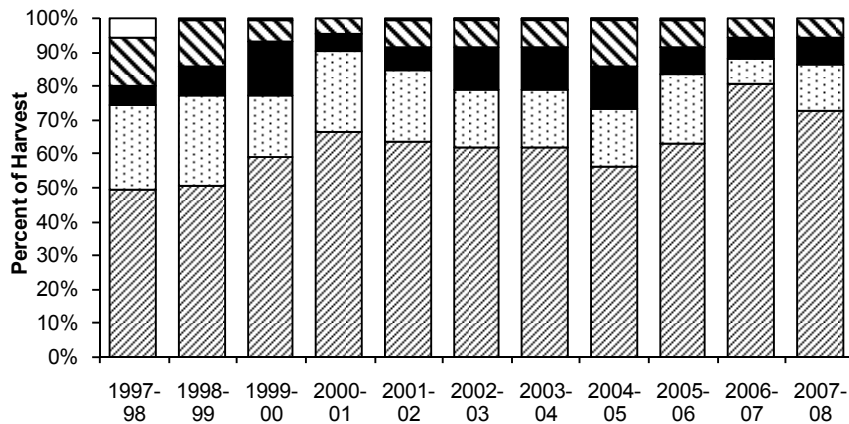
## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



# River Otter Harvest Methods

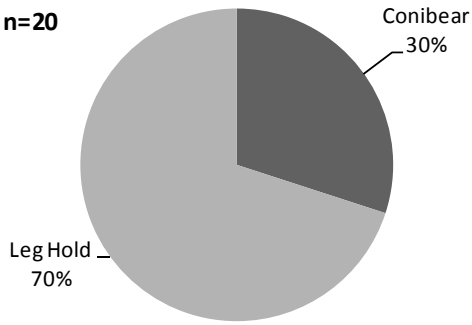


## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

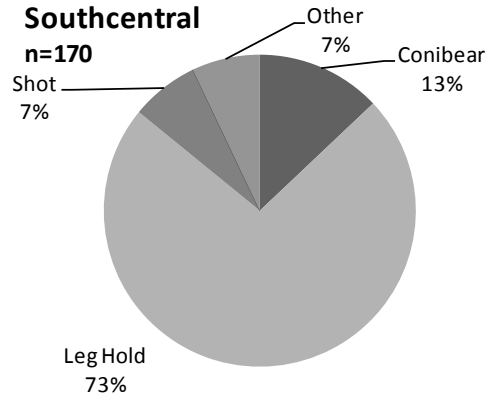


# Squirrel Harvest Methods

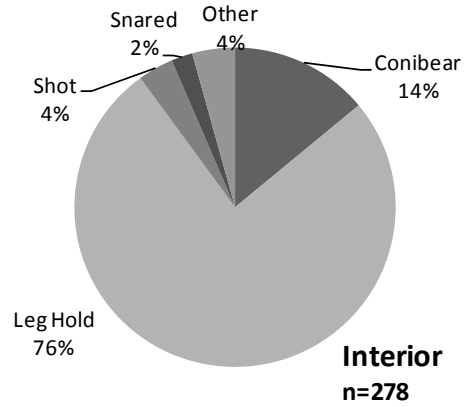
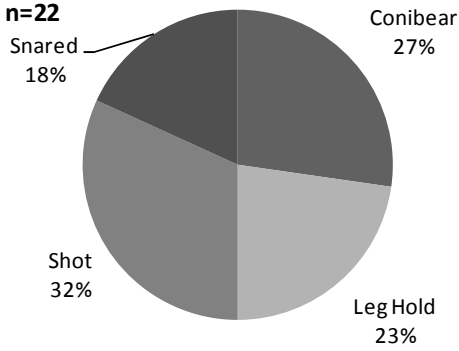
**Southeast**  
n=20



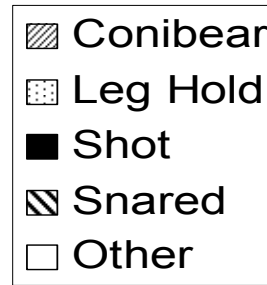
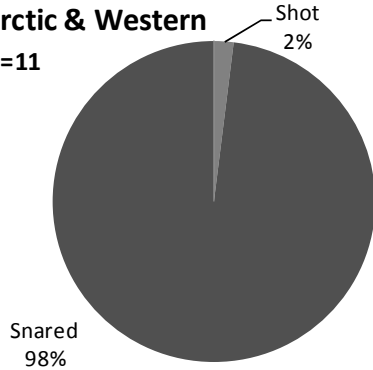
**Southcentral**  
n=170



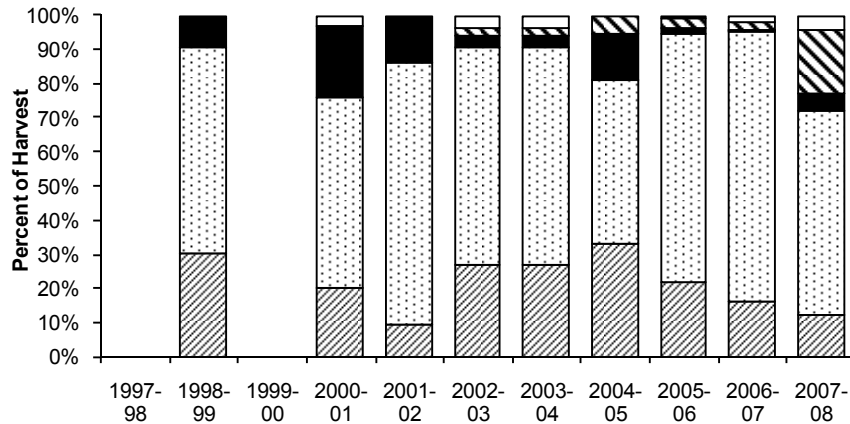
**Southwest**  
n=22



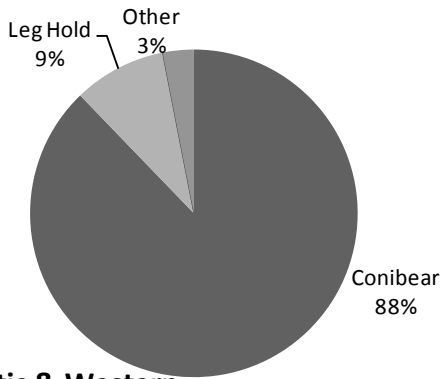
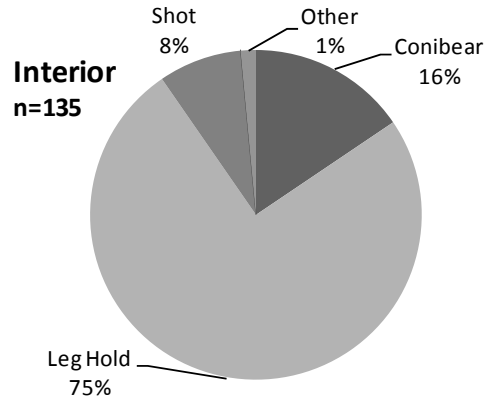
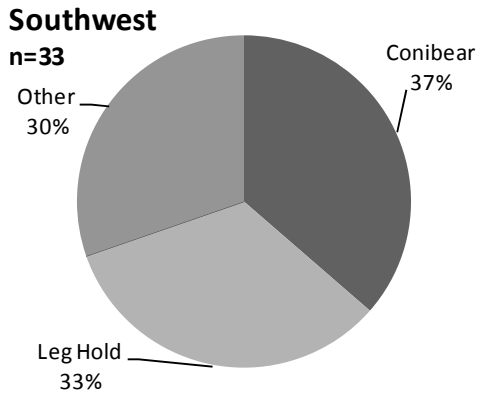
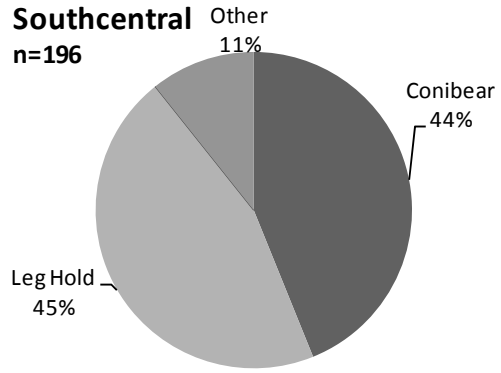
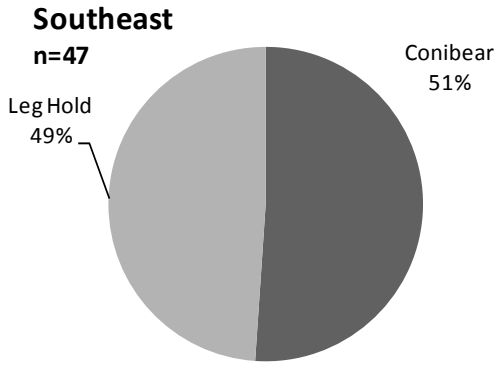
**Arctic & Western**  
n=11



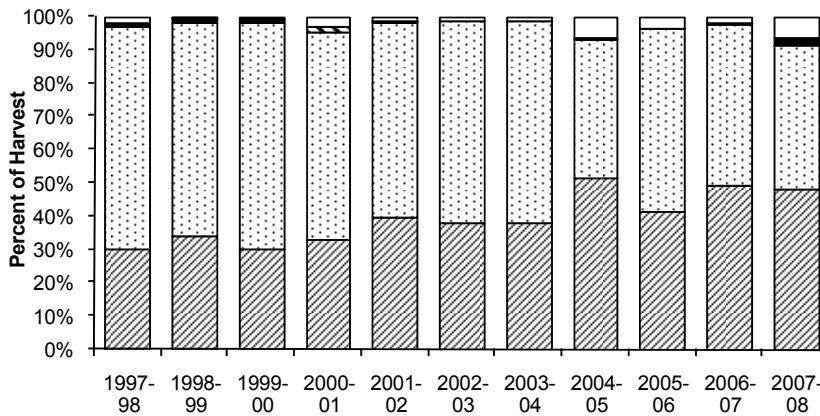
**Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods**



# Weasel (Ermine) Harvest Methods

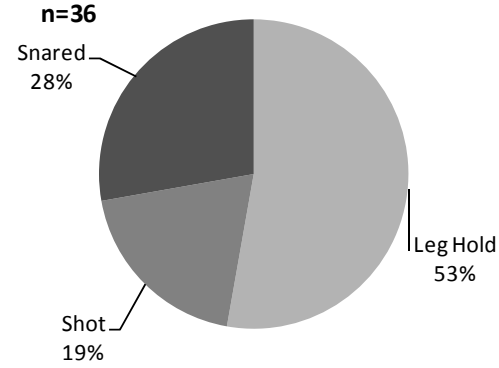


## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

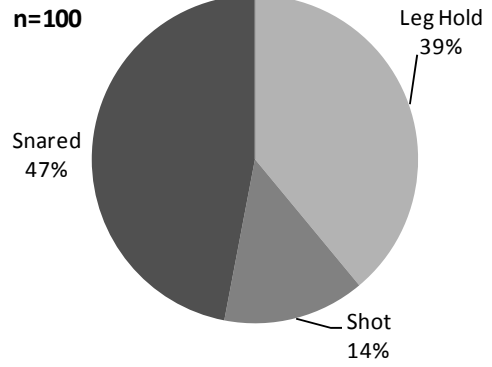


# Wolf Harvest Methods

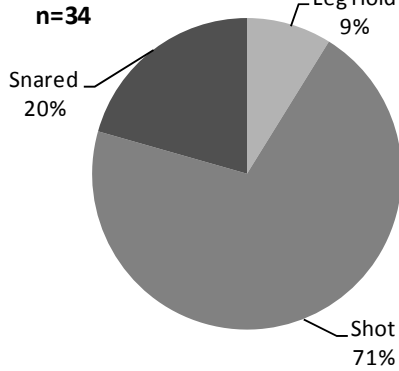
## Southeast



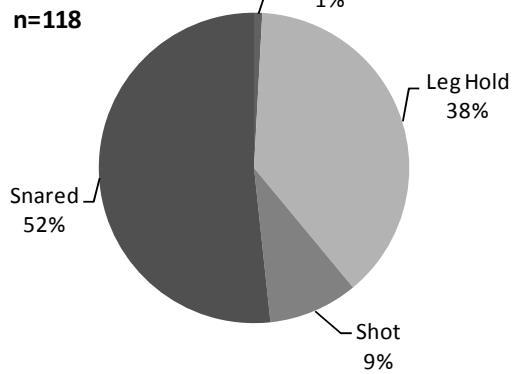
## Southcentral



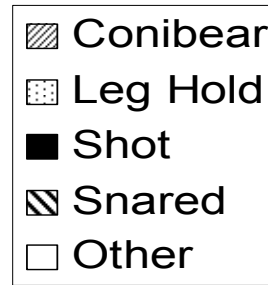
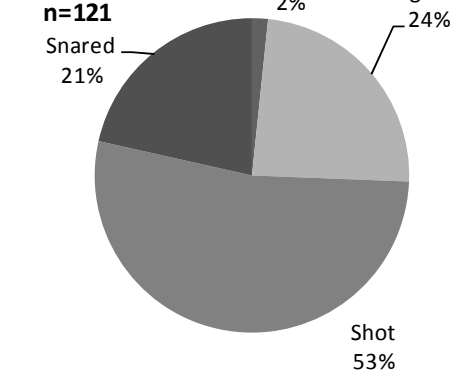
## Southwest



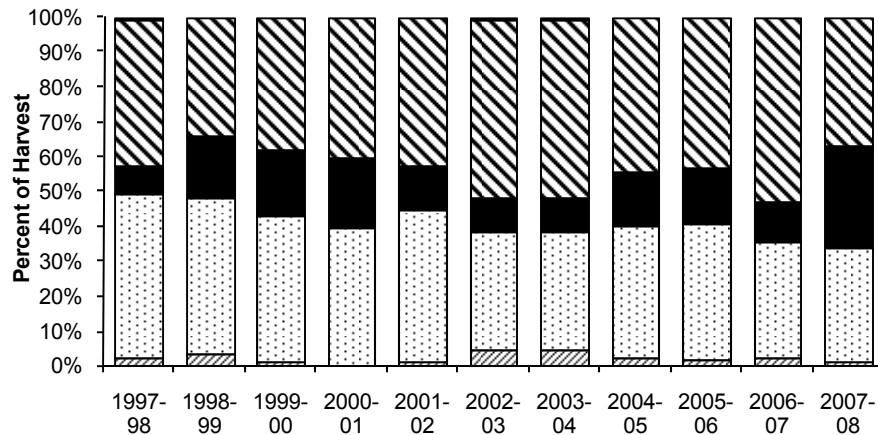
## Interior



## Arctic & Western



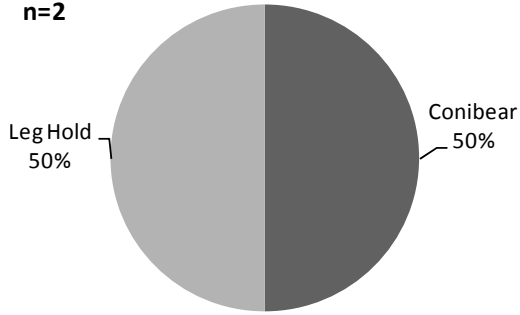
## Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



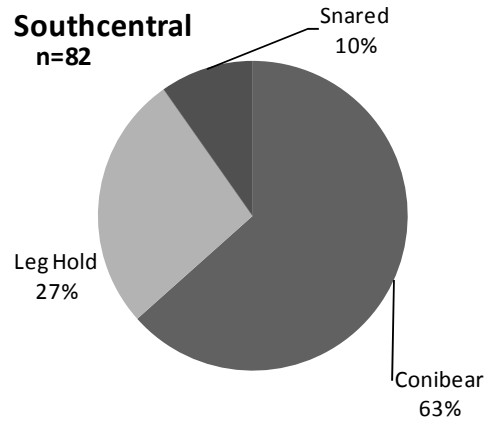


# Wolverine Harvest Methods

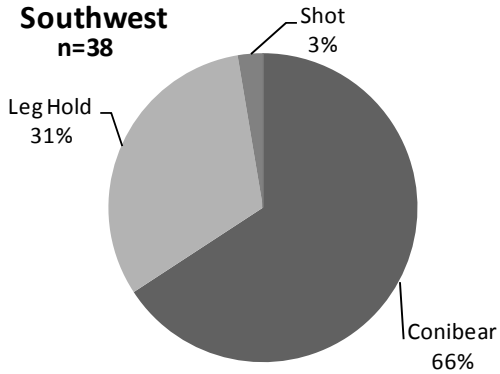
**Southeast**  
n=2



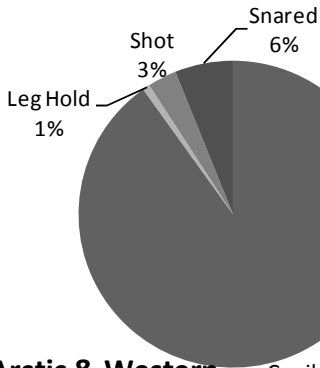
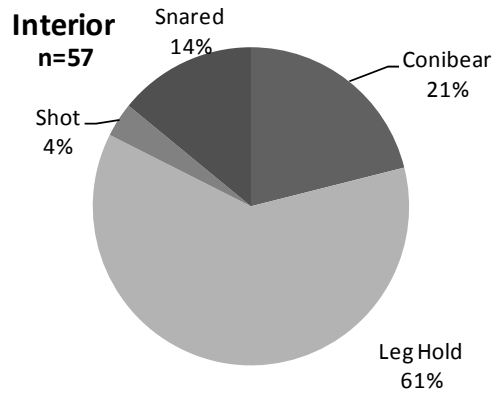
**Southcentral**  
n=82



**Southwest**  
n=38



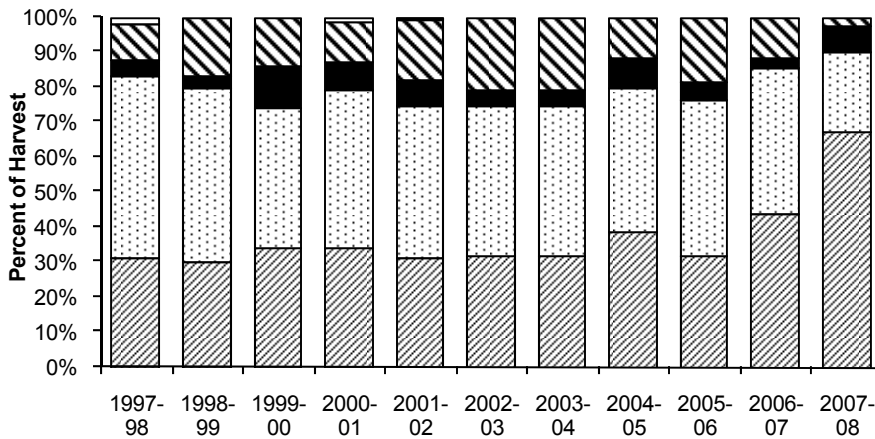
**Interior**  
n=57



**Arctic & Western**  
n=131



**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:

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

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, 2007–08, 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								
Furbearers:	Ketchikan, Prince of Wales & Vicinity GMUs 1A, 2		Petersburg, Wrangell, Kupreanof & Vicinity GMUs 1B, 3		Juneau, Douglas, Haines, Yakutat GMUs 1CD, 5		Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagoff Islands GMU 4	
	Relative Abundance n = 32	Trend n = 21	Relative Abundance n = 7	Trend n = 5	Relative Abundance n = 16	Trend n = 10	Relative Abundance n = 19	Trend n = 14
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	not present		scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c	not present	n/c
Ermine	abundant	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	common	-
Lynx	not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Marten	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	-	scarce	n/c
Mink	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+
Muskrat	scarce	+	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Red Fox	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Red Squirrel	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+
Wolf	not present		common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolverine	not present		common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-
<b>Prey:</b>								
Grouse	not present		common	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c
Hare	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	+	abundant	+
Mice/Rodents	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c

Relative Abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southcentral Alaska, 2007-08, 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	
	Relative Abundance n = 46	Trend n = 40	Relative Abundance n = 71	Trend n = 53	Relative Abundance n = 16	Trend n = 10	Relative Abundance n = 38	Trend n = 27
<b>Furbearers:</b>								
Arctic Fox	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	not present	-
Beaver	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Marten	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Mink	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	-
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+	scarce	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	scarce	-	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c
<b>Prey:</b>								
Grouse	common	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Hare	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	+	abundant	+
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	-
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	+	abundant	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Interior Alaska, 2007–08, 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										
Furbearers:	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	
	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend	Relative Abundance	Trend
	n = 115	n = 84	n = 18	n = 16	n = 18	n = 16	n = 14	n = 13	n = 14	n = 12
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c	not present		not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	+	common	-	abundant	+	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Coyote	common	+	scarce		not present	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	n/c	not present		not present	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Marten	common	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Mink	abundant	n/c	abundant	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Fox	scarce	n/c	not present		not present	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Red Squirrel	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c
Wolf	common	+	common	+	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
<b>Prey:</b>										
Hare	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Grouse	common	n/c	not present		not present	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	+
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	common	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southwest and Arctic & Western Alaska, 2007–08, 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	
	Relative Abundance n = 17	Trend n = 14	Relative Abundance n = 12	Trend n = 7	Relative Abundance n = 20	Trend n = 18	Relative Abundance n = 6	Trend n = 6	Relative Abundance n = 10	Trend n = 8	Relative Abundance n = 16	Trend n = 14
<b>Furbearers:</b>												
Arctic Fox	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c
Beaver	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+	not present	
Coyote	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	abundant	n/c
Lynx	scarce	+	common	+	common	+	scarce	n/c	common	+	common	+
Marten	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Mink	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	not present	
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	
Red Fox	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	not present	
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+
Wolverine	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-
<b>Prey:</b>												
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c	common	+	not present	n/c
Hare	abundant	+	common	+	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	abundant	+
Mice/Rodents	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	+	common	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations by region and statewide for 2007–08, 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		Southcentral		Southwest		Interior		Arctic & Western	
<b>Furbearers:</b>	Relative Abundance n = 74	Trend n = 50	Relative Abundance n = 171	Trend n = 130	Relative Abundance n = 49	Trend n = 39	Relative Abundance n = 179	Trend n = 141	Relative Abundance n = 35	Trend n = 28
Arctic Fox	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Marten	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	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	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Red Fox	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Red Squirrel	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
<b>Prey:</b>										
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Hare	scarce	+	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c
Mice/Rodents	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	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 as reported on the 2007–08 Trapper Questionnaire Harvest Report. Z means there are no subunits or none was specified.

Region	Subunit	Arctic Fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine (Weasel)	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red Fox	Red Squirrel	River Otter	Wolf	Wolverine
Southeast	01A	0	12	0	5	0	39	17	0	5	2	9	8	0
	01B	0	22	0	8	0	70	15	0	0	0	2	2	0
	01C	0	5	0	9	0	47	17	0	2	10	2	4	1
	01D	0	1	3	11	0	88	21	0	0	0	7	0	1
	02Z	0	172	0	18	0	724	263	0	0	0	43	24	0
	03Z	0	1	0	0	0	12	8	0	0	0	3	0	0
	04Z	0	8	0	1	0	563	77	0	0	6	27	0	0
	05A	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Region 1 Totals</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1543</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2</b>
Southcentral & Southwest	06A	0	0	8	2	0	1	6	0	0	0	1	1	2
	06B	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	06C	0	37	7	4	0	3	11	8	0	0	4	1	2
	06D	0	12	4	6	0	43	16	0	0	0	13	0	9
	06Z	0	3	0	15	0	35	10	0	0	0	2	0	3
	07Z	0	11	11	24	0	71	33	14	0	8	5	0	4
	08Z	0	52	0	18	0	7	0	35	226	10	72	0	0
	09B	0	14	4	7	2	7	3	0	42	6	7	5	9
	09C	0	9	7	2	3	0	10	0	32	0	24	5	1
	09D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	11Z	0	10	9	1	64	82	25	1	9	0	0	2	11
	13A	0	4	5	2	35	47	6	6	26	10	1	3	5
	13B	0	48	9	13	94	88	25	15	35	0	3	13	4
	13C	0	22	10	15	30	67	16	0	11	0	0	29	5
	13D	0	14	26	60	60	110	66	6	36	101	3	7	1
	13E	0	36	3	9	1	92	5	1	16	0	0	3	2
	13Z	0	0	0	0	14	2	8	0	8	0	0	6	0
	14A	0	41	9	11	0	15	26	58	38	12	11	0	2
	14B	0	42	4	10	0	89	2	0	5	0	4	8	3
	14C	0	18	3	2	0	18	4	1	11	40	0	0	0
	14Z	0	0	1	2	0	10	2	19	2	0	0	0	1
	15A	0	6	11	4	0	2	8	8	0	10	13	6	0
	15B	0	0	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
15C	0	9	7	11	0	0	30	2	0	2	4	6	2	
16A	0	43	12	6	0	99	9	0	6	2	5	5	0	
16B	0	49	19	5	0	249	18	2	5	0	3	0	16	
17A	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	
17B	0	40	0	3	0	54	1	0	49	0	3	2	9	
17C	0	134	3	8	1	103	50	1	128	4	42	11	12	
17Z	0	1	0	2	0	29	6	0	13	0	2	6	7	
<b>Region 2 Totals</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>1330</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>113</b>



Region	Subunit	Arctic Fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine (Weasel)	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red Fox	Red Squirrel	River Otter	Wolf	Wolverine
Interior	12Z	0	19	11	13	164	88	26	132	42	44	4	10	3
	19A	0	15	0	6	6	237	10	0	28	2	4	9	11
	19B	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	19C	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	19D	0	7	0	2	13	113	11	0	4	0	6	0	1
	20A	0	24	36	18	80	55	92	6	37	65	9	19	1
	20B	0	92	21	49	138	385	68	4	75	215	9	22	3
	20C	0	0	9	17	109	127	20	0	33	0	2	25	7
	20D	0	4	20	2	69	17	6	0	40	1	1	6	11
	20E	0	4	2	0	177	245	1	0	16	0	0	19	2
	20F	0	0	0	8	14	62	1	0	0	7	0	2	0
	20Z	0	1	0	0	2	22	6	0	2	0	2	0	0
	21A	0	5	0	0	0	334	8	0	7	10	0	6	3
	21B	0	29	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	21D	10	11	0	0	0	280	0	0	3	7	0	0	1
	21E	0	47	0	3	1	373	31	0	27	0	0	0	3
	24A	0	0	0	5	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	24B	0	21	0	1	1	14	1	0	0	0	0	3	0
	24C	0	1	0	0	3	52	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
	24D	0	35	1	1	3	35	3	0	10	37	3	4	0
	24Z	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	1
	25B	0	0	0	0	44	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	25C	0	10	0	4	5	153	16	0	6	0	3	6	5
	25D	0	16	2	16	389	165	55	36	82	4	0	20	4
	25Z	0	0	0	0	24	50	0	4	0	12	0	1	3
	26B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	1
<b>Region 3 Totals</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>1243</b>	<b>2865</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>61</b>
Arctic & Western	18Z	3	30	0	7	50	55	1	1	105	2	7	7	2
	22A	0	5	0	4	10	57	8	0	15	0	2	0	4
	22B	0	0	0	4	22	4	3	0	13	0	3	1	3
	22C	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	17	0	0	0	4
	23Z	0	10	0	10	10	102	0	0	16	0	0	6	6
	26A	20	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	6	0	0	2	6
<b>Region 5 Totals</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Statewide Total</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>1272</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>1643</b>	<b>5956</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>201</b>

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 more than 1/2 of the statewide harvest.

Questionnaire Totals as Percent of Number Sealed							
Region	Beaver	Lynx	Marten	Otter	Wolf	Wolverine	Average
Southeast	56%		57%	52%	36%	9%	42%
Southcentral		39%		28%	38%	48%	39%
Southwest		27%		58%	13%	51%	37%
Interior		32%		52%	33%	32%	37%
Arctic & Western		58%		21%	11%	29%	30%
Statewide		34%		44%	28%	38%	

# FURBEARER SEALING RECORDS SUMMARY

Sealing refers to the placement of an official marker or locking tag (seal) by an authorized department representative on an animal hide and/or skull. The sealing process may also involve recording biological information about the animal and the conditions under it was taken, taking measurements, and collecting biological samples. Lynx, river otter, wolf and wolverine are required to be sealed statewide; marten and beaver only in certain Game Management Units. The harvest totals reported below are based on fur sealing records. Numbers reported here may differ from those in previous reports because additional sealing forms have been turned in.

Species	Region	Reported Harvest from Sealing Records					
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Beaver*	Southeast	304	443	343	290	104	393
	Southcentral & Southwest	1797	1099	1126	1402	1078	945
	Interior	170	134	14	91	57	31
	Arctic & Western	78	48	85	76	109	33
	Total Beaver	2349	1724	1568	1859	1348	1402
Lynx	Southeast	5	0	3	1	2	0
	Southcentral & Southwest	137	150	150	242	471	782
	Interior	752	764	1124	1767	2919	3911
	Arctic & Western	164	174	243	243	211	165
	Total Lynx	1058	1088	1520	2253	3603	4858
Marten**	Southeast	2570	2742	3697	3933	4623	2696
	Southcentral & Southwest	761	1264	1180	1972	1438	995
	Interior	0	1	0	0	2	0
	Arctic & Western	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Total Marten	3331	4007	4878	5905	6063	3691
Otter	Southeast	926	809	1061	958	363	179
	Southcentral & Southwest	653	724	983	890	706	518
	Interior	125	153	157	153	123	82
	Arctic & Western	378	350	435	421	257	58
	Total Otter	2082	2036	2636	2422	1449	837
Wolf	Southeast	208	134	162	156	143	107
	Southcentral & Southwest	363	657	508	471	393	481
	Interior	668	582	638	554	546	465
	Arctic & Western	141	177	250	173	99	151
	Total Wolf	1380	1550	1558	1354	1181	1204
Wolverine	Southeast	27	21	18	13	16	22
	Southcentral & Southwest	99	273	232	217	205	229
	Interior	239	224	265	271	257	188
	Arctic & Western	100	159	105	120	65	85
	Total Wolverine	465	677	620	621	543	524

\*Beaver are required to be sealed in 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. The Other category includes wolves taken under same-day airborne predator control programs.

Season	Region	Ground Shooting	Trapping	Snaring	Other or Unknown	Total Wolves Sealed
2001-02	Southeast	48	106	42	4	200
	Southcentral	261	157	174	5	597
	Interior	179	245	344	39	807
	Arctic	126	24	43	14	207
	<b>Total</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1811</b>
2002-03	Southeast	63	113	28	4	208
	Southcentral	173	95	93	2	363
	Interior	168	175	310	15	668
	Arctic	106	19	7	9	141
	<b>Total</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1380</b>
2003-04	Southeast	44	51	39	0	134
	Southcentral	272	136	114	135	657
	Interior	131	153	261	37	582
	Arctic	125	12	32	8	177
	<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>1550</b>
2004-05	Southeast	39	62	60	1	162
	Southcentral	154	88	91	175	508
	Interior	137	136	232	133	638
	Arctic	155	64	15	16	250
	<b>Total</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>1558</b>
2005-06	Southeast	56	57	43	0	156
	Southcentral	193	93	96	89	471
	Interior	122	129	224	79	554
	Arctic	116	15	33	9	173
	<b>Total</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1354</b>
2006-07	Southeast	25	38	15	65	143
	Southcentral	170	70	83	70	393
	Interior	112	151	244	39	546
	Arctic	55	14	16	14	99
	<b>Total</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>1181</b>
2007-08	Southeast	53	36	18	0	107
	Southcentral	216	78	96	91	481
	Interior	117	91	179	78	465
	Arctic	114	17	18	2	151
	<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>1204</b>

## 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.

### 2004–2007 Fur Acquisition and Export

	2004–05		2005–06		2006–07		2007–08	
	Exported	Acquired	Exported	Acquired	Exported	Acquired	Exported	Acquired
Beaver	891	323	832	411	392	230	930	83
Coyote	47	21	121	78	62	20	128	30
Fox, Blue	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Fox, White	38	1	22	8	9	0	12	0
Fox, Cross	88	42	114	68	55	14	158	0
Fox, Red	1,340	182	603	444	300	104	854	168
Fox, Silver	22	2	52	35	31	0	33	0
Lynx	118	586	214	1,324	242	217	4,200	1,219
Marten	3,341	4,449	4,655	13,088	2,364	3,456	16,722	6,295
Mink	498	496	927	1,224	571	321	1,151	549
Muskrat	200	283	300	435	245	395	627	308
Otter, Land	534	397	656	1,066	282	114	346	54
Red Squirrel	14	51	64	402	19	141	274	116
Weasel	73	448	158	262	81	166	336	105
Wolf	164	66	205	76	89	4	242	29
Wolverine	65	70	96	61	58	7	140	27
Other	82	0	68	11	47	0	88	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,517</b>	<b>7,417</b>	<b>9,087</b>	<b>18,993</b>	<b>4,848</b>	<b>5,189</b>	<b>26,242</b>	<b>8,986</b>

# COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING FURS

## Average Prices Paid for Raw Furs

Prices from the two major fur auction houses (North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction Inc.) were averaged to produce the 2007-08 prices in this table. Top prices were also from fur auctions. All species of foxes were added together for this table

Species	Average Price					Top Price
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08
Beaver	\$24.00	\$19.22	\$26.81	\$20.71	\$23.81	\$220.00
Coyote	\$45.00	\$34.07	\$40.45	\$43.67	\$36.50	\$370.00
Fox	\$26.83	\$19.41	\$20.73	\$23.10	\$22.22	\$230.00
Lynx	\$100.67	\$128.85	\$135.20	\$126.34	\$301.80	\$500.00
Marten	\$37.50	\$48.02	\$77.33	\$56.93	\$105.83	\$220.00
Mink (wild)	\$14.33	\$14.52	\$24.08	\$17.84	\$16.07	\$30.00
Muskrat	\$1.62	\$2.56	\$6.49	\$5.00	\$3.22	\$8.00
River Otter	\$99.00	\$100.49	\$103.00	\$58.69	\$39.81	\$240.00
Squirrel	N/A	\$0.85	\$1.65	\$1.31	\$1.42	\$2.20
Weasel	N/A	\$3.15	\$6.83	\$7.55	\$5.55	\$15.00
Wolf	\$214.00	\$93.17	\$83.01	\$121.38	\$164.30	\$740.00
Wolverine	\$233.33	\$130.26	\$155.02	\$220.80	\$269.29	\$875.00

## Minimum Estimated Fur Value

The following table summarizes the minimum total estimated value of furs trapped during the 2007–08 trapping season. This table is intended to provide an estimate of fur values in Alaska and does not represent fur revenue. Average fur auction prices were used to calculate fur value. The number of furs was taken from sealing records for beaver, lynx, marten, river otter, wolf, and wolverine. That means for beaver and marten this table only includes animals harvested from a portion of the state. The number of furs for the unsealed 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.

### 2007-08 Fur Value in Alaska

Species	Total Number	Average Price Paid	Total Estimated
		in Alaska	Value
Beaver	1,402	\$23.81	\$33,381.62
Coyote	158	\$36.50	\$5,767.00
Fox	1,226	\$22.22	\$27,241.72
Lynx	4,858	\$301.80	\$1,466,144.40
Marten	3,691	\$105.83	\$390,618.53
Mink	1,700	\$16.07	\$27,319.00
Muskrat	935	\$3.22	\$3,010.70
River Otter	837	\$39.81	\$33,320.97
Squirrel	390	\$1.42	\$553.80
Weasel	441	\$5.55	\$2,447.55
Wolf	1,204	\$164.30	\$197,817.20
Wolverine	524	\$269.29	\$141,107.96
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,328,730.45</b>

## 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.

### Southeast Region

Chris Frary  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 110024  
Juneau, AK 99811-0024  
(907) 465-4265

### Southcentral/Southwestern Region

Joey Lindberg  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
333 Raspberry Rd.  
Anchorage, AK 99518  
(907) 267-2257

### Interior Region

Jackie Kephart  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(907) 459-7205

### Arctic/Western Region

Karen Mitchell  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 1148  
Nome, AK 99762  
(907) 443-2271

# AREA BIOLOGISTS AND GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS

<p><b>GMU 1A, 2</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 1</i></span>                      Boyd Porter                      2030 Sealevel Drive, Suite 205  <b>KETCHIKAN, AK 99901</b>                      Phone: 907-225-2475                      Fax: 907-225-2771</p>	<p><b>GMU 9, 10</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 2</i></span>                      Lem Butler                      PO Box 37  <b>KING SALMON, AK 99613</b>                      Phone: 907-246-3340                      Fax: 907-246-3309</p>	<p><b>GMU 19, 21A,E</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 3</i></span>                      Roger Seavoy                      PO Box 230  <b>MCGRATH, AK 99627</b>                      Phone: 907-524-3325                      Fax: 907-524-3324</p>
<p><b>GMU 1 (B), 3</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 1</i></span>                      Rich Lowell                      PO Box 667  <b>PETERSBURG, AK 99833</b>                      Phone: 907-772-3801                      Fax: 907-772-9336</p>	<p><b>GMU 11, 13</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 2</i></span>                      Bob Tobey                      PO Box 47  <b>GLENNALLEN, AK 99588</b>                      Phone: 907-822-3461                      Fax: 907-822-3811</p>	<p><b>GMU 20A,B,C,F, 25C</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 3</i></span>                      Don Young                      1300 College Road  <b>FAIRBANKS, AK 99701</b>                      Phone: 907-459-7233                      Fax: 907-452-6410</p>
<p><b>GMU 4</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 1</i></span>                      Phil Mooney                      304 Lake Street Room 103  <b>SITKA, AK 99835</b>                      Phone: 907-747-5449                      Fax: 907-747-6239</p>	<p><b>GMU 12, 20E</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 3</i></span>                      Jeff Gross                      PO Box 355  <b>TOK, AK 99780-0355</b>                      Phone: 907-883-2971                      Fax: 907-883-2970</p>	<p><b>GMU 20D</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 3</i></span>                      Steve DuBois                      PO Box 605  <b>DELTA JUNCTION, AK 99737</b>                      Phone: 907-895-4484                      Fax : 907-895-4833</p>
<p><b>GMU 1C,D, 5</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 1</i></span>                      Ryan Scott                      PO Box 110024  <b>JUNEAU, AK 99811-0024</b>                      Phone: 907-465-4359                      Fax: 907-465-4272</p>	<p><b>GMU 14A,B, 16</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 2</i></span>                      Tony Kavalok                      1800 Glenn Hwy Suite 4  <b>PALMER, AK 99645-6736</b>                      Phone: 907-746-6325                      Fax: 907-746-6305</p>	<p><b>GMU 21B,C,D, 24</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 3</i></span>                      Glenn Stout                      PO Box 209  <b>GALENA, AK 99741</b>                      Phone: 907-656-1345                      Fax: 907-656-2368</p>
<p><b>GMU 6</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 2</i></span>                      Dave Crowley                      PO Box 669  <b>CORDOVA, AK 99574</b>                      Phone: 907-424-3215                      Fax: 907-424-3235</p>	<p><b>GMU 14C</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 2</i></span>                      Rick Sinnott                      333 Raspberry Road  <b>ANCHORAGE, AK 99518</b>                      Phone: 907-267-2185                      Fax: 907-267-2433</p>	<p><b>GMU 22</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 5</i></span>                      Tony Gorn                      PO Box 1148  <b>NOME, AK 99762</b>                      Phone: 907-443-2271                      Fax: 907-443-5893</p>
<p><b>GMU 7, 15</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 2</i></span>                      Jeff Selinger                      43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd Ste B  <b>SOLDOTNA, AK 99669</b>                      Phone: 907-260-2905                      Fax: 907-262-4709</p>	<p><b>GMU 17</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 2</i></span>                      Jim Woolington                      PO Box 1030  <b>DILLINGHAM, AK 99576</b>                      Phone: 907-842-2334                      Fax: 907-842-5514</p>	<p><b>GMU 23</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 5</i></span>                      Jim Dau                      PO Box 689  <b>KOTZEBUE, AK 99752</b>                      Phone: 907-442-3420                      Fax: 907-442-2420</p>
<p><b>GMU 7, 15</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 2</i></span>                      Thomas McDonough                      3298 Douglas Place  <b>HOMER, AK 99603</b>                      Phone: 907-235-1725                      Fax: 907-235-2448</p>	<p><b>GMU 18</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 5</i></span>                      Phillip Perry                      PO Box 1467  <b>BETHEL, AK 99559</b>                      Phone: 907-543-2979                      Fax: 907-543-2021</p>	<p><b>GMU 25A,B,D, 26B, C</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 3</i></span>                      Elizabeth Lenart                      1300 College Road  <b>FAIRBANKS, AK 99701</b>                      Phone: 907-459-7242                      Fax: 907-459-6410</p>
<p><b>GMU 8</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 2</i></span>                      Larry Van Daele                      211 Mission Road  <b>KODIAK, AK 99615</b>                      Phone: 907-486-1880                      Fax: 907-486-1869</p>	<p><b>Wildlife Management Coordinators</b>  <i>Region 1 Neil Barten</i>  <i>Region 2 Gino Del Frate</i>  <i>Region 3 Roy Nowlin</i>  <i>Region 5 Peter Bente</i></p>	<p><b>GMU 26A</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Region 5</i></span>                      Geoff Carroll                      PO Box 1284  <b>BARROW, AK 99723-1284</b>                      Phone: 907-852-3464                      Fax: 907-852-3465</p>

## 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 2007–08? If so, during which months?**

Ten out of 74 trappers who responded (7%) targeted wolverines. Two trappers were from the Petersburg area, 1 was from Ketchikan, and 7 trapped in the Douglas area. All but one trapper targeted wolverines during December – February. Only 2 targeted wolverines during November, and 4 trapped for them in March. Three trappers targeted wolverines in April. Two trappers successfully harvested wolverine, one with a leghold trap and one with a conibear.

### 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.**

None of the 42 trappers responding reported coyotes or wolves they took had signs of lice. However, 3 trappers reported taking fox with signs of louse infection and one reported lynx and marten had fleas throughout the season..

**Note from Asst. Area Biologist Becky Schwanke:** Over the years, lice have been documented in a small number of individual wolves in Unit 13. There are a number of skin infections commonly mistaken for lice in wolves, coyotes, and fox. It is very important to bring your infected hide into an ADF&G office for inspection. Sometimes lice or eggs are visible, other times the hide may need to be chemically treated and examined under a microscope. There are no packs or specific areas within Unit 13 chronically affected by lice at this time. Indications are that lice infections have generally come from the Matanuska / Lower Susitna River areas. Any time a pack is identified with lice, trappers are encouraged to take all the wolves they can out of the area, minimizing the possibility of spreading lice to surrounding packs. Although a recent study by Dr. Kimberlee Beckmen showed some wolves may be able to fully recover from lice infections, there is much to learn about the mechanism for recovery and how and why this happens in some places and not others. Thank you for your efforts in reporting possible lice infections to your local Area Biologist.

### 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?**

Of the 102 trappers who answered this question 21 reported using breakaway snares. About a third used some version of a cut lock; 3 trappers used experimental snares designed by Craig Gardner. The general consensus was that breakaway systems work fairly well.

#### **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?**

Eight out of 78 trappers (10%) who answered this question caught at least one wolf with pelt damage and one was unsure. All but one were caught in the western portion of Unit 20 (20ABCF). The types of damage included short guard hairs, hair missing from tail, back, neck, or between shoulders, waxy patches on skin, and a rank odor. Most trappers reported only 1 wolf with pelt damage. Two trappers reported 3 out of 5 with damage, one trapper reported 50% of wolves taken



in 2007 had damage, and another 25% with damage.

**Note from Fairbanks Furbearer Management Biologist Tom Seaton:** We asked about wolf pelt damage in order to keep tabs on the distribution of lice-infected wolves in the Interior. Thanks so much for your help managing your very important furbearer resources.

**How many marten did you catch? What was your % male catch?**

Eighty trappers responded to the question and reported taking a total of 783 marten. Of the 46 who caught marten, 27 (59%) reported a % male catch of greater than 50%.

**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? Did you participate in an ADF&G wolf trapping clinic? If so, did you trap wolves?**

Eight out of 15 trappers who answered this question reported that moose numbers had decreased over the last 5 years. Most also reported fewer moose now than 10 or 20 years ago. Two of the 7 who trapped wolves participated in a trapping clinic.

**Galena**

**Did you accidentally catch any moose or caribou in your furbearer sets this season? If so, how many?**

None of the 16 trappers who responded to this question reported catching moose or caribou in a furbearer set.

**Would you be interested in attending a Wolf Trapping & Snaring Clinic in your area ?**

Ten of 16 trappers expressed an interest in attending a clinic.

**Were any of your pelts donated to a potlatch before they were sealed? If so, how many of each species ?**

One of 16 trappers reported donating pelts (4 wolves) to a potlatch before it was sealed. One trapper asked why did we ask the question..

**Note from Galena Area Biologist Glenn Stout:** I asked about potlatch fur use because I often hear of trappers harvesting fur and donating fur to potlatches before it gets sealed. I was interested to see how often it occurs. Although the reporting was small, it did confirm the activity. Over time, I hope we will get more documentation of that activity. I asked questions about accidental snaring of moose or caribou because I believe it is important to document that activity.

**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?**

Over half of the trappers (9/16) who responded caught about the same number of marten as during an average year. Four caught fewer than usual, 2 of those because of less effort. None reported catching more than usual. Estimates of the percent females in the harvest ranged from 1% - 57% and averaged about 30%. Of those trappers who noticed a change, 2 attributed changes in the marten harvest to changes in prey populations. One trapper thought fires attributed to changes in harvest and 2 trappers cited changes in their trapping effort.

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

Two thirds of trappers (10/15) noticed an increase in the lynx population and 5 reported no change in lynx numbers.

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

Seven out of 17 respondents reported trapping in wolf control areas. Only one reported that wolf control affected his trapping. He reported that more moose were taken by hunters on the Stony River and he trapped for foxes and wolverines that were feeding on gut piles.

## **Tok**

**Have your wolf trapping efforts changed in recent years? Could you trap more wolves in your area, but chose not to? If so, why?**

Four out of 12 (33%) trappers said their wolf trapping efforts have changed in recent years. Six trappers said they could have trapped more wolves, but chose not to; 2 cited fuel prices, 1 cited the time and effort required to harvest wolves, and 1 trapper indicated there were too few wolves.

**What could be done to make wolf trapping more feasible/affordable or encourage you to trap more wolves ?**

Five trappers mentioned offering a bounty or having higher fur prices would make wolf trapping more attractive. One trapper wanted to ban aerial shooting of wolves.

**In 2004, a louse infestation was confirmed on wolves in Interior Alaska. Have you caught wolves with significant pelt damage? If so, where and what year? Describe the specifics of pelt damage and what proportion of wolves had that damage.**

Three trappers reported catching wolves with pelt damage in Unit 20E, one in 2004 and two in 2006-07. Damage was described as oily patches of fur and bare patches on back.

**Note from Tok Area Biologist Jeff Gross:** I am developing a survey database of ideas for improving wolf trapping effort and effectiveness in our wolf control areas in Units 12 and 20E. It's fairly obvious that money is the crux, but we also get important input on other factors such as lack of snow and the need for more information on wolf locations from ADF&G. It also generates interest in area trappers to learn more about wolf management and has resulted, I believe, in high participation in public and Board of Game meetings by area wolf trappers

## **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?**

Seventeen trappers responded to this question; 6 trappers reported that fewer than 5 wolves were taken; 3 trappers reported 5-10 wolves were taken; 2 trappers estimated 14-15 were taken; 1 trapper estimated 50 wolves were taken; one said simply "a lot", and 4 trappers didn't know. Eleven trappers reported that shooting was the most common method used to take wolves; 1 trapper said snaring or shooting, and 1 trapper reported trapping as being the common take method; 3 said taking wolves from snowmachines was the most common method.

# Trapper Comments

## How did the following factors affect your trapping effort?

- 1)trapping conditions                      2) 2006-2007 fur prices                      3)2007-2008 preseason advertised prices  
4) other trappers                              5) fuel prices                                      6) regulation changes in your area

### Southeast

- High fuel prices and heavy snow.
- We only trapped the last 2 month of the wolf season. With fuel prices as high as they were and a very cold and snowy start to the season.
- Snow and cold made me pull my one line since I only have a 2WD pick-up. The snow and cold also put a large number of sets out of my commission. The snow also caused the theft of 4 of my sets, as my foot prints at the end of one of my lines lead the thief directly to the set sites after they drove in from the back end.
- Early lack of snow and expected prices had many new "trappers" out on road system. I had to adjust effort and areas covered due to theft.
- Deep snow, tons of people trapping (high marten).
- Due to rough weather on rare occasions trap line was delayed in being checked for one day.
- Fuel prices limited the weeks spent trapping.
- We received a great amount of snow this year. Not that many people could get off the main road, so people had sets everywhere they could get them.
- #1: We did lots of walking /driving in deep snow to access gear. Gear was often frozen down or snowed under. Bays were often frozen over=more hiking. #2: Fuel Prices. One must work double time to make ends meet.
- Snow.
- 1) Conditions of weather did not permit access to other areas with present equipment for access. 2) Pre-season prices for many of the furbearers I persive were forecast to be moderate to good and I felt competition from other trappers would be less. It was not for marten. 3) Fuel prices again caused my efforts to decline on further distance with current access vehicle. 4) Regulation changes to require tags on all traps was a step toward reducing unwanted thieves.
- Fuel was up, but my making a bigger effort in a shorter time frame we kept our profit up. We also designed our season so our kids could be with us.
- Prices for mink were lower. We didn't set as many traps soley for mink as often but rather looked more for marten.
- I stayed really close to home and trapped by kayak because I cant afford the fuel. I keep my furs and make garments so I can't recoup the cost of trapping.
- More traps, more animals, different scents and baits, and different way of setting trap.
- Too much snow for my rig.
- There were less animals to trap.
- 1) Icy roads make it difficult to get out. 2) Can hardly afford to go to the store now, this year will be really hard to trap. (referring to fuel prices)
- 4x more snow and 4 new trappers moved in area; 2 trappers started before season.
- In the past year we had more snow than usual, this prevented us from getting into some of our normal areas. The fuel price also hurt us by making out of the way places cost prohibitive to get to. I did less "boat" trapping as a result of higher fuel prices. I used a lot of snares for wolves this last year, but I did not have any luck due to the increased amount of snow in GMU 2. I did see tons of wolf sign, much more than in previous years.
- Good fur prices.
- I was short on time due to school. I did not trap as long and as hard as previous years.
- Being the first time trapping in Alaska. I was definitely trapping with a handicap. It took all season to find and figure out the tricks for the animals up here. I spent about \$3,000 for the season and ended up with 1 mink. Next year, I hope will be better.
- Heavy snow, a lot of stops by cops. Bays and inlets were frozen over often.
- I caught a lot of otters in 2006-07 and they all finally sold this spring for low prices. Not much incentive!
- There are more trappers close to town because of the fuel prices and made it harder to find a location to trap.
- Extended line into back country - Lots of snow ! Some freezing rain early, then had to break trail every trip for 8 weeks.  
We had a house fire last fall. Never burn your house in the fall in Alaska. Schedule these things for spring. My winter was devoted to the hammer but I put out one marten cubby for my soul.

- Decreased effort to give some young trappers more space.
- Weather was better than last year so I could trap longer. Fuel prices kept me from trapping longer distances.
- Limited length of trapline.
- Young kids in area so decreased effort on marten to allow catch by them.
- Harsh winter.
- Another trapper attempted to discourage me from trapping the area and two of my sets went missing. At one of the locations his set replaced my missing set. Reported to enforcement.
- Weather mostly, river conditions.
- Quick freezes after heavy rain resulting in ice, making bays and passage ways unpassable. I wasn't motivated as in years passed, I'm getting older!
- Weather was less windy and allowed longer lines checked more regularly. Otter prices were predicted low so minimal effort put in for them. Previous competition in one area caused new line in a different area with no other trappers.
- Weather was warm so effort was less.
- Several mechanical breakdowns and high fuel prices limited my effort along with lower fur prices in 2006-2007 season.
- 1) Best trapping grounds are taken up by other trappers. 2) Weather was wet and windy. 3) Other possible good trapping grounds are dangerous to get to because you have to travel on the outside waters, and it storms constantly during the winter months.
- Increasing the length and number of sets I made this last year didn't increase my catch avg. last year.
- 1) Snow level on the ground hampered my efforts and when combined with fuel prices, limited my excursions this year. 2) New baby hampered trapping time as well. 3) I ended up only doing one, four day, trip for beavers.
- Weather was not very good all season. Less trappers in area.
- 1) We couldn't check several weeks due to weather and it resulted in damaged catch. 2) This is the first year we could take beaver in Unit 4. 3) Fuel was high so we walked more.
- I did not go as far from town as I wanted to due to high fuel prices.
- 1) Payed more attention to fur quality for better price. 2) Tried to run other trappers out of my area. 3) Lived on my line to decrease fuel consumption.
- Sometimes it was hard to access trapping areas because of snow. Early freeze made trapping beavers difficult.
- Family reasons.
- Trapping conditions: It was a bad snow year in GMU 1A, in some areas 5-6 feet at sea level. I had difficulty maintaining trails and relocating buried traps. Heavy snows kept most of my sets from working most of the season. 2007-2008 Pre-season Advertised Prices: The projections for marten prices in 07-08 season were very high (and the projections were right). So I ran more marten traps than usual. Other trappers: On one of my walking lines I had another trapper move in and set along side my sets near the end of the season. Rather than trying to contact and confront the other trapper I simply pulled my sets out of that area (they weren't producing anyways).
- Very deep snow made travel difficult and made mink trapping difficult.

## Southcentral

- Missed the best month of trapping due to illness.
- I caught more because I trapped more and put more time into it. I had someone set a section of country/trail that I only trap every other year so I don't destroy the marten population now it looks like I'll have to trap it every year.
- It didn't get cold until end of December. The rivers and creeks didn't freeze. What ice there was wasn't safe.
- Late freeze up allowed open water beaver trapping in November and delayed marten trapping to the middle of December.
- Other sets in my primary area - too close.
- Weather too warm and river did not stay frozen + hard to get around - open water were I go.
- No Snow
- Lots of other trappers the last couple of years since marten prices went way up. Fewer joy riders, fuel prices slowed that down. More and more dog mushers here.
- We saw more wolf signs around Larson Lake and Balk Mountain area east of Larson Lake at Talkeetna. There appeared to be more wolves in this area ( 2 packs of 4-5 per pack) and we have found more moose kills in this area that we ride in and around our cabin on Larson Lake. I was more successful this year by using blind sets on well used wolf trails and "Pea" rocks.

- My neighbor keeps putting his trap line closer to mine.
- Freezing and thawing, rain, warm weather conditions melting snow.
- Did not trap as much because of fuel prices.
- Previously no other trappers in my area. Past season THREE additional trappers using same area. Some set traps less than 100 feet from mine.
- More Martin
- Fuel was stupid expensive I calculated my 1 wolverine cost about 800-900 in fuel and each martin about 250-350 in fuel. Conditions - If the people on the big snow machines would not rip up the trail my 9 y.o. son would have more fun going farther.
- I am a recreational trapper - poor results for martin in my main area so I tried another area with poor results - became volunteer trapper for Elmendorf AFB with permit to trap beaver + some fox which I did until end of season.
- 1) I could not get across inlet often - due to poor flying conditions. 2) Other trappers moved right on top of me this yr. 3) High av gas prices cause you to restrict your distances of travel/trapping range.
- Eliminated some traps due to other trapper. Expanded my line elsewhere.
- Had about \$75 worth of traps stolen!
- A lot of pressure from others.
- The areas that I trap are fairly close to home. These places are slowly becoming more developed and populated so I have made some minor adjustments to my trapline to avoid catching dogs. Fortunately, the two areas have plenty of good habitat to support the fox and are not used by dog walkers, hikers, and the like. I run into moose regularly, but have only been charged by one so far. It was dark and I could smell it and hear it, but could not see it until I was close. The muskrat traps are snares and 110's set under the ice so no worries there on any dogs. I use snares more on the fox than I used to, however I do still use leg holds too. Within two more seasons I will likely have to find another location, due to the development of the area. I trap for fun and the challenge. My kids and I have learned a lot about critters in doing so and it has been good fun.
- Had someone making marten sets close to the beginning of my line. They were not there the previous year so I extended my line to add space. I also left them a note stating how close they were to me.
- I removed my sets when a note was left at one of them saying the area was already being trapped. Fuel prices effected where I trapped, which may have had a negative effect.
- I have a cabin there and trapping gets me there every weekend from Nov.1- Jan 15.
- 1) Not enough snow and ice to have a marten line with a t snow machine. When we got snow the season was over. 4) As prices go up more trappers are around, and I don't like trapping near people for a number of reasons. 5) Gas prices are too high.
- Cold weather (<-20) made it difficult to do easily.
- I trap for fun and \$100 to fill my tank sucks all the fun out.
- Late snow prevents travel (snowmachine). I do seasonal work and trap more when work is slow.
- Longer season helped and fur prices made it affordable.
- Very poor weather on weekends for flying.
- Poor snow conditions so I extended my lower line until more snow came.
- Other trappers coming in and setting over our area.
- 4) I trapped with a friend. 5) Consolidated trips to conserve gasoline.
- Deep snow, game movement, cold temperatures.
- Different Snowmachine and new trapping ideas.
- I did not trap for marten.
- 1) No Snow in early season. 4) Had to keep traps locations hidden so they wouldn't be taken or animals damaged.
- This was our first season and we had fun learning.
- I am not a trapper and don't run a trap line. I will go out once and a while to get fur for my own use. Only have a couple traps and snares. May only get out for a week at the longest and not every year. Mabey 3 or 4 years inbetween times. So most of the questions I had problems with answering.
- Marten season was lengthened in my main area, enabling a longer season. "Not" more marten though!!
- Not enough snow or ice at first.
- There were some sonw machines and 4 wheelers cuming around there.
- Poor weather.
- Snow,melt,rain,snow(super deep),melt,rain,superfreeze,melt, it's hard to keep up with. Next year I think I'll have a better handle on it.
- Heavy snow made it difficult to keep some sets open. High fuel cost was the biggest factor in running for such a short time. I only do it recreationally so hard to justify spending the money. This year will be worse.
- Lots of fox,coyote and beaver signs so I spent more time out. Good snow conditions and fair ice conditions.
- Moved to another area but had more success.

- In answering #4, "other trappers", my trapping was affected by lack, lack of muskrat on Duck Lake, located in the Palmer Hay Flats. This decrease in the population was due mainly to another trapper who trapped longer and before I came to the area. The 2007-2008 season was my first try at under ice muskrat and in such a high traffim area I surprised myself in a take of six muskrats. All in all a good time was had though, and a wonderful experience in my relativley new hobby of trapping.
- #1- The numbers of predators was really low this year primarily the marten numbers in my area. #5- Higher fuel costs limited length of time trapping. #6 Closed lynx season.
- Moved to Anchorage area where it is more difficult ot trap due to competition, more restrictions, and increased distance to travel.
- Stable snow conditions- Not as much glaciering of river and creeks with over flow.
- 1) Poor snow conditions, overflow and drifting snow made keeping sets in order pretty tough. 2) The extended marten season was great!
- I trapped less. I just got out and made a few sets to catch beaver for the kids.
- I am trapping 16B and A while participating in the prdator control program. There was more folks with sets out this year so I set fewer than in the past.
- Someone came through the area with a snow machine, followed our tracks, and stole all of our snare sets. They found 2 of our marten sets and sprung the traps!
- Less scouting of fur sign, used old information.
- Freeze/ thaw cycles caused several sets re-made or pulled. Also, I had three animals stolen and two traps taken.
- Lake took forever to freeze and lack of snow.
- Weather impeded travel so that I could not travel as fast or as far.
- I've got a pretty simple run, only a couple sets at 3 different spots on the creek. Open water always attracts people, so sometimes I deal with stolen, frozen, or vandalized traps. The creek isn't mine, so I try to give room if I see another trapper's set. Gas prices don't help any. If I can't check sets every other or 3rd day, I pull them.
- I changed my method of wolf trapping and became more successful.
- My health prevented me from access to my trapline this year.
- Can't trap where I used to trap due to city ordinances. Also, more trappers in a limited area and lousy weather.
- Weather was a factor last season. As a result my work made my line and season shorter. I had zero harvest.
- Hikers and their dogs got into my sets, fouling the locations.
- The heavy snow fall caused me to curtail my efforts early in the season.
- Only had one main line. I didn't do much exploring for more trapping areas.
- Injury to my back kept me from trapping the full season. Less traps and better sets and traps I think it would have been a better season. The first year I had a lot of poorly made sets. This year better traps and well made sets made a difference.
- Warm weather and snow cover made for weak or no ice during November/early December. Tough traveling conditions. Increased fuel cost makes it expensive to check sets 2x per week, but warm weather demands frequent checks.
- River flooded and a lot of overflow in beginning of year. Set more sets closer to home.
- Planned trap checks more efficiently.
- First year trapping. No beaver, no otter, and no wolves on Crooked Creek, unless someone else got them all first.
- After 15 years of not trapping I again set traps. The old line has been taken over by another trapper. I therefore only ran 6 miles for two weeks total this year. I targeted Lynx.
- Started Hep. C treatments Jan. 2nd '08, and was too sick to trap anymore for the season. That is what changed the length of my line and my season, that's all. Be hard at it next year.
- Snow and cold weather.
- I flew looking for kills with fresh snow and tracking light.
- Other trappers checked my sets illegally - discouraged me from contiuing to trap in area. In "urban" Alaska some trappers claim public use trails as their own although the reality is they did not create the trail or maintain it and access using these trails must be shared by other trappers. Trapping on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is unpleasant due to additional and I feel unnecessary regulations and oversight.
- Learned more how to set so snow wouldn't bury or knock down my snares. Tried a couple different sets. This increased my catch.
- Work schedule changed often so I didn't have to much time to trap.
- The only thing that affected my effort was the bad weather which kept me off my line often.
- Lack of snow and increase in new trappers and people in area.
- Couldn't check traps as often as I wanted to.
- Hardly any snow for first 5 weeks of season. Rivers took awhile to freeze also.

- 1) Gas meant less checks. 2) Increase in lynx population and increase in lynx price made that more lucrative for targeting them. 3) Lynx in Unit 13 have spiked due to rabbit population increase.
- 1) Weather was good. 2) Other trappers in area, so I hit it hard to remove the fur first. 3) Cat season was opened earlier. 4) Cat migration in my area was not normal.
- I opted not to trap marten due to a neighboring trapper who over harvested in both the last two season.
- Fuel costs too much and other non-trappers on trail.
- No snow, no go very far.
- Didn't go as far or as often.
- We had good snow on our upper line which made it easier to increase our line.
- Because of fuel prices I trapped harder for a shorter time, so I don't use as much fuel.
- 1) Trapping conditions: No snow in early half of season. Delayed initial setting. 2) Other trappers not respecting my established trapping area. I did not run a trail into some of my area because I knew the other trapper would follow my path and make sets.
- I turned my attention to 90% lynx due to high population and high prices. Was also offered another area from fellow trapper with good lynx numbers. This effort resulted in a good catch of lynx and a nice pay check.
- Marten, mink, and weasle open until Feb. 28 now and fur prices were good.
- 1) Weather: Cold, little precipitation-minimal effort to keep sets working. 2) Prices: High lynx population and '07-'08 advertised prices were reason to set an increase in traps/snares for lynx. 3) Regulations: Lengthened lynx season by approx. 6 weeks paid off big time. Especially prior to Dec. 1 when season used to be closed in times of low fur.
- Prices were to be high, so I increased my line.
- 1) Inconsistent weather. River would not freeze (had to cross). 2) Trapline discovered/disturbed by others. 3) Had to move to new area from other areas due to regulations.
- Fuel prices went up, and the number of people trapping increased closer to town (anchorage) in areas such as willow.
- Heavy snow made some areas inaccessible. High rivers made trapping water animals difficult.
- Did not trap as much due to a lot of trappers in area. Did not want to harvest too many animals, would like to continue trapping so I do not want to over harvest.
- Had to try to run without a trailer whenever possible and make every trip count.
- 1) Trapped/surveyed new area. 2) Increase in gas decreased efforts. 3) Needed more snow to improve effort.
- Only problem was finding a place to trap most all of it is Native ground.
- The most important change was that on our wolf pack, which passed through a few days before our unit traps were set Dec 14. I did not show up on the trapline during the following 9 weeks. Three weeks after we pulled traps a single black wolf was seen on our trapline.
- Used to cost around \$300 for 2 barrels of fuel (100 gallons). I could make that last almost all season, until say 5 years ago. Today with fuel cost at six dollars per gallon it is almost \$700 or more and it's no longer worth it unless you shorten up your lines, cut back on the taking of fur in your area, (don't want to trap it out) and select trap- "what's paying the most and who" etc. Marten today go for \$30, fox \$32, lynx \$60, and wolf \$100 etc. So at those prices you don't even want to skin them or go out. I still do it because it's another way to get through the winters, it's in your blood, there's no money in it, it is more of a lifestyle than anything else. We live our dream, live off the grid for awhile, trade our fur, do it because it is tradition, and it's beginning to look like it is coming to an end too. So we'll do it for as long as we can.
- Weather was too warm at the beginning of season. Rivers not frozen until late December.
- Just wanted more sets so I extended my line a little bit.
- I couldn't find a good line for awhile, people were out!
- Extended lynx season - higher number of catch and improved quality of pelt in later part of season.
- Ice, rain, lack of snow, traps frozen in 3-4 times. Every time you unmuck the ice you lessen your chances to catch something.
- Late freeze up prevented earlier access to trapping areas, reducing the catch, trapline was 1 month late getting setup due to open rivers preventing access.
- Could not afford to fly my airplane and get around. I am also involved in wolf control managing program in Units 13 and 16. I am not a full time trapper, but I get out when I can afford to.
- The use of an airboat.
- 1) Beach area I worked was blocked by sheer rocks and cliffs, limiting my ability to travel east. 2) Prices for marten have been good and stable which affected my desire to be there.
- Beat em up pretty good last year so rested most of line for a season.
- Poor weather conditions, fewer animals early.
- Too many trappers setting right on top of my sets and \$5.00/gal. fuel.
- Time restraints.
- Decreased trapping effort due to aging.
- Overall lack of snow that made travelling difficult. Pre season prices offered greater incentive.

- Someone trapped the lodge we were trapping for 3 years, but we didn't know it. We pulled these traps when we found out. I pulled the marten sets when I only caught one and realized other sets were in the area. Also fuel prices took effect since it was not paying off.
- I did not drive as far out the road due to fuel cost. I did not set traps in certain places due to other trappers setting in those places before I had a chance.

## Southwest

- We had several snows at over 2ft. at a time which made breaking trail VERY difficult. Gas prices made it difficult to explore new areas.
- Deep snow, large snow storms.
- I spent an extra day every week out on the line. With the excessive wind and snow the extra day mid-week helped me keep my catch normal when I had hoped to use it to expand my line, but was impossible due to constantly digging my traps out of the snow.
- High cost of fuel, and training for a dog race made for less time and money to trap.
- There was way too much snow to travel well . I had too many run and gun cowboys chasing the wolves out and around my sets. The fuel prices hurt the pocket book. Stayed home way more than I liked.
- No trapping partner, not enough bait, too much snow and thickness of ice to get beaver for bait.
- Higher than average snowfall impacted our ability ot set traps and keep the traps we had set working. High fuel prices influenced our decisions to spent extra/more time in the field this year.
- Late freeze delayed access to main trapline, then consistantly cold temperatures did not allow heavy snow fall set up for snowmobile travel in timbered areas.
- Price of gas and distance to be traveled.
- Due to the gas prices I was not able to do the trapping that I would have, however I did sell pelts in order to have gas money. The conditions were great for trapping and I did not mind spending my time on foot. Great season!
- Snow conditions: wet then freezing or digging out traps because of heavy snow fall.
- #20- Sets already made; able to continue distance outward.
- Fuel cost is up to \$8.30 per gallon from \$6.00 per gallon last year.
- Deep snow and no crust or base. A lot of trapping preasure in the area. Very expensive fuel prices.
- Ice too thick for beaver and otter. Snow too deep to get to marten sets and most of all fuel to high.
- High amount of snowfall and people springing traps.
- High gas prices mad me keep driving to a minimum. Did more hiking.
- Main reason being that I took the winter off. So I had lots of time to trap and deer hunt. A guy in Anchorage gave me a decent quote on otter.
- Otters finally sold. I still had 80 at the NAFA Auction. Avg. \$40 each. Will probably send in a few this year to see what pricing will be.
- More snow. Easier to check traps with snowmobile than ATV
- I target more fox because the tourist seem to buy them more.
- More conservative driving places to trap.
- Heavy snow and high fuel cost.
- Started trapping otters because my girlfriend wanted an otter skin coat. Needed six more foxes to make her a fox jacket. I work at a hunting and fishing lodge, trapping gives me something extra to do since I am already in the field.
- Prices of fur plus the increased expenses to obtain, it results in less interest.
- Nasty conditions.
- 1) Poor snow and ice in 9B. 2) No snow till late in season.
- Tried a different area for water species. Pulled fox sets early. That was dumb. Tried to show some younger folks some sets.
- Injured knee.
- Less snow and temp. change.
- I had some of my traps stolen.
- Poor conditions in popular area that has otter. Trappers moved to another creek not so popular with others.
- Reduced effort to avoid overharvesting wolverines in areas where wolf numbers are down due to absence of moose.



## Interior

- Airplane, predator control, line jumpers. Traps and furs taken.
- I only trap a few weeks each year cause I enjoy getting out.
- Couldn't cross Delta River as early as last year. Very bad snow / lack of snow conditions.
- I put much more snares and walked more and found a fox trail. Then I started walking in even very cold weather and caught one fox, compared to none with previous years.
- Low snow made trapping rough.
- 1) Poor snow conditions. 2) No game. 3) High fuel cost to fuel truck and snowmachine, couldn't cover as much ground.
- At the end of the 06-07 season fur prices were dismal at best so we didn't put much effort into the 07-08 season.
- Length of Lynx season and high fuel prices reduced effort.
- It takes several days to run a 50 mile trapline (total 100 miles) via dog team. Other activities this year restricted the runs on the line/line checks. Good catch this year considering only 3 line checks (60 marten).
- I decreased my effort for two reasons. 1) Much of my line recently was borned over, and the fur animals have not yet moved back in, in numbers high enough to trap hard. 2) In my steep area the only place to travel is on the creek and it had deep overflow much of the winter.
- I do not run as long of a trapline and only check each line once a week because of high gas prices.
- Late snow prevented me from getting around the whole line until late Dec.
- 1) Aircraft shooters. 2) Line jumpers.
- Tried to consolidate efforts (use less gas). Make less return trips (on same leg of trapline), make sets even more efficient. Eat more at home, canned etc. food on overnights.
- Poor trapping conditions = less inclination to set. Lower advertised prices and poor conditions.
- Decreased after I moved from GMU 18 where more beavers occur. In GMU 12 not as many beavers and more spread out.
- Time constraints.
- Always trying to avoid other trappers.
- With fuel high, marten prices lower, and shallow snow early I reduced effort to optimize harvest and expense..
- High cost of fuel, weather conditions, breaking trail, too much snow.
- Job related.
- Not much fur was taken on my line.
- Last season I decided to focus on getting more beavers and trapped several lodges that I hadn't trapped before. During warm spells I worked hard at this.
- My trapping effort was affected by warmer weather, causing overflow allover trapline. My dad gave us his traplines last year.
- No snow and river freeze up was later.
- Ground never froze deep, loose powder snow that would not set up even on packed trail made hard going.
- Cold spell, lots of overflow and snow.
- It costs a lot to fly to the cabin and then put gas I the snowmobile so I didn't travel as often or run as long of a line.
- Deep, soft snow, then a cold snap slowed marten activity enough that I pulled the traps.
- Fuel prices and my snowmobile broke down. Too warm makes traveling harder and burns more gas due to soft and wet snow.
- Stoney River froze late in trapping season, therefore new lines.
- Lots of snow. I didn't go as often and quit trapping early.
- Yukon River was rough with low snowfall. While trapping at start of season thought that it was not worth the effort so I backed off a lot.
- Marten were abundant. I noticed that the rodent population was good and at the end of the season signs were still good for marten.
- Trapping conditions were very good for us.
- My reasons were purely personal. I needed to finish building my house instead of trapping this year. I eventually got one wolf set and a few beaver sets out at the end of the season, but that was it.
- No snow.
- The weather was so bad, I spent all my time fixing sets. Every week was spent fixing.
- Less fur to pay for gas.
- There is a larger number of rabbits and lynx in the area. Also, I've seen more sign during the fall hunting season. It showed a rapid increase in lynx, fox, and wolverine. Wolf sign remains the same with 9 in one pack and 3 in another.

- The fur prices were low in the early start. Better at the end.
- 1) The trapping conditions in my area changed for the worst in about the middle of Feb. The weather would fluctuate between extreme cold one day to about 10 degrees the next day. This caused the rabbits/hare to move to another area and the lynx and fox followed them. 2) Fuel prices where I live are \$7.76/gallon. My snowmachine takes 5-6 gallons to make a trip and check all the snares. If snow or overflow comes it can take more. It costs about 40-50 dollars a trip to make the loop.
- Poor snow (very little)
- 1) New country that has'nt been trapped in years. 2) New trapper pushing me off my traditional line. Competing me with management of my traditional line.
- Another trapper moved in along my old line. I also wanted to move to an area with better wolf and wolverine habitat.
- Cow killing winter moose season had too many rec. riders tearing up trap trails and ruining sets.
- Need more snow.
- Poor snow conditions, lack of.
- No snow in November. Very little prey (birds, voles, rabbits). No marten tracks.
- More otter around - chased them around more.
- Low snow at 1st of the year. Contending with other trappers who cannot read signs and because the State of AK tells everyone they can trap anywhere they like. Even on other peoples lines when they do all the work to brush lines, build bridges, and groom trails. And with increase of lynx and birds of prey marten numbers were down. My trapping neighbors are such effective trappers they don't leave me very many fringe animals.
- Conflict with a trapper who has no ethics.
- Reduced the number of traps to the line for maintenance and expansion.
- Fewer beaver houses on line and fewer otter and mink.
- Trapped less as a result of poor auction results last season.
- I got too busy with work to do my regular trapping - though this work entailed live-trapping snowshoe hares and lynx.
- Too many trappers in area.
- Too expensive.
- Warm snap in mid-winter resulted in ice under the new snow. Freezing and thawing.
- Kept better records. Sent our furs to auctions - didn't sell locally.
- Higher prices paid the previous year increased the motivation for the 07-08 season.
- 2 operations and recuperation cut my trapping efforts dramatically.
- By the buffer zone when I trap outside the east side of Denali National Park.
- Crushed left ankle in June still not healed up. Fire burned 10 miles of trapline. Area where I caught most of my marten. Only could make high country twice with help.
- FTWW allows trappers to make a line anywhere. They used to have assigned areas that could be managed, now it is over trapped.
- I was with a very good trapper. He knew all about it.
- Low snow year.
- Another trapper messed with our traps.
- Too many new trappers.
- Initial conditions poor then improved. Other trappers took over three of my spots.
- I trap for pleasure not big profit, but it is nice to come close to even but \$40 to fill snowmachine makes it tough.
- Targeted lynx for the first time.
- Less miles on line.
- Trail conditions slowed or delayed travel several times. More sets for lynx due to increased population. Outside time demands decreased efforts at the end of season.
- River froze over and was kind of hard to trap with 3 feet of ice on banks. Jan-Feb.
- 1) Poor snow conditions resulted in lower catch/harvest (poor snaring weather). 2) Fuel prices forced us to curtail beaver trapping- too much time and distance to cover. 3) Lynx season seems far too short in 20B
- Slow start due to warm fall weather and difficulty crossing the Tanana to access our line.
- Having two kids under 18 months, needless to say trapline takes decreases.
- I saw a lot of traffic on Cache Creek, and other trappers wanting the same trapline. I quit early because of too many people.
- Did not put out as many marten sets as we hoped to because the area was being trapped by another trapper. We would've targeted otters more had the price been higher.
- Late freeze up delayed start. Deep cold in the middle of season caused delays also.
- Lots of trappers in area making us run farther. Weather and ice conditions played a role in when we could run and check.
- I had less time to trap due to work. This is a small hobby trapline.

- 2006/2007 marten prices were higher and outlook for 2007/2008 looked good. Thick snow made early efforts harder.
- Have had an inexperienced "city trapper" move in on most of my line the last few years, and claiming it as his own. Troopers tell me to leave him alone and there is nothing they can do about it. Mighty disheartening and upsetting.
- Warm weather kept us from trapping across the Tanana River until mid-December. Missed the best part of marten trapping season. Other trappers competing for same areas. They would set off our traps so we would miss catching target animals with closed traps. Also, ADF&G wolf monitoring program changed batteries in collars on wolves, in Clear Creek area, at the end of wolf season March 7-9. It scared the wolves out of the area for the rest of the season! Next time please do not harass or bother the wolves until after the season is closed.
- Not enough snow on the lines to make the marten climb poles. They could get to food on the ground. Animals didn't have to follow lines because of low snow. Gas prices keep trapping from being profitable.
- I trapped last winter because I expected a fair size lynx population and higher prices due to a weak U.S. dollar. If I don't trap my line someone will probably take over my area.
- It is 180 miles round trip to my line. I get 10 mpg in my truck; it was a lot of money.
- Low snow - not good.
- Low snow fall makes travel rough on snowmachines. Fuel prices affect all factors in trapping from # of trips to trips by plane to and from # of times the traps are checked.
- We moved out of a line in 20A due to lack of fur. The previous several winters the wolf population has crashed. No moose or other feed. There seems to be a lot of rabbits, but no cats sign. 07-08 not one wolf traveled our 20 mile trail. Few lynx, not enough to trap there used to be a large winter population of moose now they're ALL gone! Perhaps 2-3 winter along the 20 miles we trapped.
- With more trapping effort I caught more fur.
- Talked to other trappers I work with, and changed how I did my sets, and location on their advice.
- As the price of fuel rises the more careful I become about setting out traps and how much fuel I must buy!
- Late freeze-up on Tanana led to start-up date around Dec. 8 2007. Early flow in some creeks from warm spells ended season early.
- 1) Lynx population was very good which provided motivation to trap more. 2) The projected prices of furs were very good for lynx. 3) There are other trappers in adjacent areas that I respect, if they were not around I would expand my trapline length and area. 4) Fuel prices were up this year, but not nearly as high as they are now (July). I often spent nearly \$75-100 in gas for a weekends worth of trapping.
- Pulled two fox sets out after discussions with land owner nearby. He stated he was concerned about his dogs not being able to run.
- Yearly we have issues with other trappers trying to move in. Also sneak trapping is going on. I run their asses out of there.
- I have learned in a long time with age to properly place traps, and select locations for sets to improve % catch rate. To pull sets to keep the heard in line and growing. Never over trap. It's like farming, no feast or famine for me. I always do well. Made more for my furs last year then I did working 2 overtime jobs in 1967.
- A lot of pressure in the area. Also, weird snow fall.
- At the end of the season fuel prices started to rise and I had to change to 1 day per week checking the line. I was checking the line 2 days per week. I also had to find other beaver houses which took a lot of time.
- More beaver and otter.
- Cold weather.
- Hope to do more trapping in future, trying to teach my 8 year old son the facts of life. Haven't had much luck, but the experience has been great.
- Not enough snow to travel on.
- Lack of snow early, and had to wait for the river to freeze.
- 1) Conditions for trapping were poor in my area. Few animals to target and they were obviously more difficult to catch given their habitat's close proximity to an urban area. 2) Other trappers started to use same area as me and also recreational users used the area and allowed their dogs to run loose, eventually these factors caused me to quit earlier than I would have liked.
- Snowmachined in and walked farther with predator calls. Had no luck tried multiple areas on about 10 different 2 day trips. Had great time saw a wolf and one silver fox, but was not successful. I'll be out again next year.
- Net furs increased as a result of continuing this pursuit.
- Temperature, snow cover conquered area.
- Low snow limited airplane access.
- Not much snow and lots of high winds. Did not run traps as much because of fuel prices being so high. Other trappers tried to move in on my line. They screwed with my sets and gear.

## Arctic & Western

- Everything in life affects you, only whimps let it stop them.
- Storms, cold weather, deep snow.
- This was my first year trapping around here. I don't have a snowmachine so I set beaver lodges and sloughs alongside the Parks Highway from the Big-Su on up. Since I'm walking, I only had access to lodges within 1/4 mile from the highway. I could see on Google there are lots of lodges/beaver activity further off the road but I just couldn't walk that far, especially after major snow-falls.
- Heavy and steady (day after day) snow early in year made breaking and maintaining trails very difficult in the area I was tryin to reach.
- Gas was very expensive I shortened my line and set fewer traps.
- Sizemic testing, oil exploration, tracked vehicles following our trail and driving next to out traps. None Caught!
- I had to pull and reset my line due to training out of my area. I then started a new job that required more time on the job and less on the line.
- No caribou prey showed up so wolves and wolverine were gone too.
- Poor snow conditions and the high gas increase.
- Trapping effort was effected by changes in my personal life and changes in time available to trap.
- Another trapper set his wolverine set at 25 yards from mine. Also, avgas is expensive.
- Cold and deep snow.
- Weather was nasty, affected traveling.
- My grandpa passed away.
- Gas cost a bit more and I was working so I have set close to town.
- 1) More bad weather. 2) Our fuel increased and impacted how many I set and where.
- Lots of heavy snow on trees. Had to clear trail twice. Would rather been setting than clearing bent over trees from trail.
- Too much snow.
- It wasn't safe to travel by snowmachine until late December. Because it was entirely new country to me, I was depending on setting fresh tracks. Unfortunately, there were no fresh tracks because of constant winds and snowfall. I was happy when I could still make out my 5 hour old snowmachine trail. March weather improved and my catch shot up.
- Snow came late and high fuel price kept me close to home.
- We had a lot of snow and it was tough breaking trail. Used a lot of fuel. Fur prices were expected to be good so I put in more sets and opened up some of my old lines and expanded my new one. Also let portions of my Kuzzelvak line rest last year. Will open it up this year. Other trappers here are few (one other) and we have friendly competition. Fuel prices are getting tough, it almost seams I am trapping for oil companies.
- New chessie pup to train, only so much time after school. It was mostly a time issue. I am a recreational trapper that hunts, fishes, traps, and dog sleds after I teach a full day of school. I needed to put a bunch of time into my new retriever pup so my trapping became an evening walk. I normally run a few mink, beaver, and otter sets but didn't set a single water set this year. Hopefully next year!
- Just a few more trappers in the area make my efforts go further out of town. Fuel prices affected my length of lines and limited to 2-3 times a week checking traps.
- The weather was colder, windier, and more stormy than most winters.
- I was affected by how much snowfall there was during the winter.
- Buired snares, then no snow so snares were constantly at the wrong level.
- Trapping was good.
- More snow this year, helped get around better and tracking conditions were good.

## Do You Have Any Comments To ADF&G?

### Southeast

- Thank you for the survey information! I like to see what the rest of the state's trappers' comments are for the season. There was a noticeable decrease in mouse population in my area from previous years. All the mink and marten appeared to be as fat as usual it may have been the result of last year's (06-07) heavy snowfall. Why do we tag marten in Southeast while the rest of the state it doesn't apply? The trap tags are online with a down south mentality also. Maybe ADF&G could explain the need in Southeast and not the rest of the state.
- I enjoyed trapping a couple of weeks with my wife and enjoyed her reaction to catching her first marten all by herself. I also had an excellent time trapping with my best friend. My only disappointment this year was falling victim to "Johnny Sneakum". I lost 4 sets to one bad person. I wasn't alone this year, as other trappers I know lost far more sets than I.
- Concerning the controversial issue of wolf trapping. I as a trapper appreciate the ability to have input into their management. Due to their elusiveness they're a difficult animal to keep up on the population No. Judging mostly from the tracks and sign we saw this past season (we did see 2 large packs of about 12)!! We would estimate just a small increase in overall population from the previous season.
- Saw marten traps out in April, closes Feb. 15!!!!
- Please allow shooting of beaver.
- Change the trap tag regulation, and big hassle and expense.
- Partner filled the survey out.
- I will trap some this fall, but I'm looking forward to retirement when I will trap in earnest.
- Partner filled out questionnaire.
- Already completed one for this household.
- We need more critters in the Southeast. If the logging roads were accessible, I believe the number of wolves would decrease and the deer population would increase. There are plenty of wolves down here, but very hard to get to.
- I appreciate your department's efforts in managing our fish and game resources in the state. It is my opinion that Alaska does the best of job of any state in the country. Thank you, and keep up the good work. I plan to make a concerted effort to do a good bit of trapping in the '08- '09 season, and will fully participate in the trapper questionnaire program.
- Saw very little rodent sign this year. Lots of snow, but little marten activity. Increase in wolverine activity Deer in areas I've never seen them before.
- I hope to be far more active next winter. Thanks!
- Too many hikers with dogs not on leashes.
- I'd like to see the beaver season open in Nov. instead of Dec. 1st. The water would still be open and would be easier to trap.
- Lots of effort - Poor season and results - Lots of snow.
- Extend unit 1C trapping season for coyote to match wolf season.
- I received three of these surveys under three names. All were sent to the same address. 2) I would like to have ADF&G represent our trapping interest in Juneau. Currently the city does not allow trapping along the road. The land does not belong to the city and the road is not maintained beyond about the 27 mile marker outside the city. What interests are being harmed in allowing trapping along the road?
- Yes, We trapped primarily for food this year, rabbit and beaver were our primary targets. This year, we plan on trapping more beaver and rabbit, but also plan on trying for marten. Thanks!
- Please make ADF&G fur handling video more accessible in Southeast Alaska. (More copies, offer them for sale?) Thank you.
- Keep up the good work. Note: You sent two surveys.
- I used to really enjoy trapping beavers where I grew up so I was excited to see a season open in GMU 4 this year. I only got out for four days. Between us my partner and I had about 6 sets out and got 1 beaver. We'd hoped to set at the False Is. Rd. system, but found that it had been trapped out by someone earlier in the season ( we went in March ). That was troubling to me because where I'm from guys are very careful not to trap an area out. I'm no biologist, so I don't know, but I hope our beavers don't get hammered too hard since they seem to be in isolated pockets here and there. Thanks for the opportunity to trap them again!
- I do not usually actively schedule trapping trips. Just get that every year with my hunting license "in case" an opportunity to trap comes up, I'm ready.
- Send this questionnaire out at the end of the season and you will get better information.
- I received 2 questionnaires. I filled out PET 1668.
- Allow beaver shooting in Southeast Alaska. It is now legal in the rest of the state. Close wolverine season on Feb. 15th along with most other furbearers.

## Southcentral

- I think it's great that you value + consider feedback from sportsman in the field. Thank you for all of your efforts and keep up the good work.
- How do I get this Trapper's Report? I fill this out and that's all I get, for my time.
- The flipping airplane hunters can't seem to stop drag there skis over my wolf sets and it ticks me off. The General Public shouldn't be allowed to conduct wolf control It should be done by professionals who can follow a protocol/the rules. The first trapper I ever talked to in Alaska 19 yrs ago told me not to set where a plane could land cause the fly boys would rip you off, and I am sure they would if I set where they could land. It's too bad cause I have several places where I could keep foothold working well into April and I know I catch more wolves if I set those places. Your predator control program isn't any more than a glorified sport hunt!!! Everything for moose hunters nothing for trappers you could do a better job.
- It appears that beaver, moose, coyote, and red fox populations are improving due to wolf population reductions in GMU 16B. Coyotes seem to disappear with the increase in wolf population during the 90's, but are making a big comeback with less wolves. Coyotes eating trapped animals which is new/old problem. I'm going to have to start working them again.
- I did not trap this year due to high fuel prices and low fur prices. But had to run line to protect it from people moving in. Something needs to be done to help us longtime trappers protect our line. We need your help before thing get out of hand.
- You are doing a fine job - keep it up - thanks.
- We enjoy trapping via snowshoe and enjoy the outdoors and good exercise. Due to broken bones, trapping didn't happen 07-08 season, but we look forward to this next season. We want to keep the opportunity to continue to trap available to our 3rd and 4th Alaskan generation children. Thank you.
- Would like to see trapping in AK better regulated including: 1) identification on traps; 2) no trapping within reasonable distance of high public use areas (trail heads etc) - especially killer style traps; 3) Mandatory trap checking over reasonable period (48 hrs?); 4) limit marten trapping in 14A until population recovers (I saw 75% reduction); 5) limit lynx trapping in 14A until pop. recovers (I saw one lynx track all winter).
- I trapped this area with a buddy who has trapped there for several years. I usually trap in Unit 16, but did not because the Super Cub I fly was out of commission this winter. My buddy sold all the fur.
- We never saw coyotes in the Alexander Creek drainage (Unit 16B) until the wolves were hunted out under predator control. They have increased in numbers significantly over the past 2 years. I'm concerned about their growing impact on other furbearing & prey animals.
- I haven't trap, in 15 years. I still by trapper licence to support the wildlife and predator control.
- As a whole on wildlife, I believe you're doing a great job. As far as managing some of the Parks Hwy streams there is a great need for improvement. The king salmon run was dismal at best. I believe this is due to heavy predation of rainbow trout. PROVE ME WRONG!
- Thank you for opening the park to wolverine we caught 1 - our first ever. But saw 2 other tracks. It would help us if more dogs weren't off their leashes. This is where we trap we stay at least 3 miles from trail head before we set any traps on maintained trails or trails that others enjoy. But my 9 year old can't go very far off the trails to set traps especially when there is deep snow. PS tell the dog walkers to quit setting off our traps with sticks and stealing other traps they steal from a nine year old that saved his money from a lemonade stand and mowing lawns.
- I had some health problems so did do a lot! Better now so maybe this winter will be better.
- I pull all my traps on or before the end of the season. That doesn't seem to be the case with other trappers in this area.
- Trapping as a recreation sport is important to me - with gas prices I make no profit from trapping, but enjoy getting outdoors. Is there any way I could get results of this survey (published). Thank you.
- None - other than weather and fuel prices cut my trapping way down in 07/08 compared to past yrs of airplane trapping.
- I have no intention of trapping this upcoming year, but I would like to again in the future.
- I believe trapping needs to be continued in Bird Creek drainage. I heard that it may be closing. I think trapping can be done safely in this area.
- Keep up the good work. Thanks!
- People catching dogs in traps is a real problem as that seems to get a lot of press. I think education is the key, more than lots of new laws, as people who are not educated seem to ignore laws. I would hate to see mandatory trapper education, but it may have to come to that to preserve the sport. As the press will and can kill trapping. I've lived in Massachusetts and saw it happen first hand. If the non-trapping public votes against it, it is over. The animal rights people have way more money than the sportsman and can fill the TV with some unrealistic info. I really don't think most trappers know what they got here and how fast they can lose it.
- Have a spring beaver season in my area.

- I was glad to see the increase in the season in unit 14B. With the late snows and warmer winters it was hard to get into some of my lines. By then the season was almost over. I like the new increase in the marten season.
- The season should not have been extended in unit 16A. Martens are scarce and too many trappers.
- Search for new areas to open for trapping and predator hunting
- Bought a licence to go with a friend and it did not work for us to do it.
- GMU 14A Wasilla Creek headwaters. A lot of wild dogs running my trapline and getting snared. They might be hard on the moose calves.
- My son and I had a great time. We both learned a lot. My son now understands what the early day (old times, mt. men) had to endure. We had a great experience trapping from our cabin at Trapper Creek. We plan on recreational trapping again next season. The pelts are hanging in our cabin. I think the ADF&G is doing a great job managing the state with its fish and game.
- Marten numbers in the Kashwitna drainage appear to have decreased slightly the last two years. With last year's longer season I expected better results. It appears as though other trappers have moved into the area and increased recreational snow machining may be partially to blame. Poor snow conditions have prevented snare sets for wolves mainly because there is too many recreational riders in the area destroying sets. Whether accidentally or intentionally it's a frustrating venture!! Seem to be seeing fewer wolf tracks in the area as well making it less attractive to attempt. My main area is in North Fork-headwater area of the Kashwitna river. Unless fuel \$ get redicolous I'll keep trying!!
- I wanted to start trapping this year, but due to work and high fuel prices were not able to.
- Had a lot of tracks but nothing in the traps. There was a lot of traffic through the area and I will pick a better area next year.
- I only hoped to trap with my son. But we didn't get the chance.
- I would like to snare/trap lynx in unit 7. Will this be an option in the future? Trapping has opened a new door to my life. This winter my 7 year old boy will join me.
- I have trapped for about 25 years, but as people population grew in Healy area so did people problems with my trapline. When I stopped enjoying it like I did in the past I chose to stop trapping. I still by a trapping license, but haven't used it.
- Dog owners freaked out about trapping. More signage and education for both trappers and public would be money well spent.
- If there is any nuisance beaver trapping in town I'd like to be part.
- I would suggest putting out a detailed map of 14C designating open areas for trapping and species clearly with areas marked and illustrated. Other than that, keep up the good work, you do a fine job.
- Open more liberal hunts for brown bear in all of 16, 14, 13 and some need to be taken out of 7 and 15 as well. These bears have thinned moose numbers by too much.
- Concerned why the limits of red fox is so restricted in unit 7. Maybe there aren't many relative to other units but am not convinced that trappers can hurt a red fox population on the Kenai Peninsula. I would like to see ADF&G make sure that oportunites are maximized for trappers throught the state.
- Extend the marten season in 16A, west of the Susitna river. Those of us that rely on river ice to access our trap lines often miss a lot of the season due to poor ice conditions early in the season.
- I broke my right wrist and did not trap this year.
- Set a couple snares, but no luck will try a little harder this winter, would still like the report.
- My thoughts are, there can be a lynx season established again in unit 7. There can be a limit of two total lynx. Hares are more abundant as are the lynx.
- Thank You !
- I received two of this questionnaire on the same day. The weather conditions made this the worst trapping season I ever had.
- Due to the excess deadfall, rabbits seem to be on the rise. It would be nice to see a lynx season. The wolves in 15C are so flea bitten fur buyers just laugh when they see them. They are worthless as a natural resource and need to be wiped out and start over.
- This year I'm going to focus on the beaver in Bishop Creek. They've cut the salmon off from getting to the lake. I didn't get to do much pre-season scouting last year, so when the ice formed and it snowed I wasn't sure where to make sets. I only own about two dozen traps. So when I compare to someone who traps for money, I'm more of a hobby trapper. I just like being outside and this gives me a reason.
- Due to my wife's health and problems with mechanical breaks at home I could not get out. I'm sorry it is not much to report. I am still a rec. trapper. If all goes well I will be out this season.
- I really didn't trap. I had a shoulder operation in October 2007. I was very limited as what I could and couldn't do. About all I did was travel to and from my cabin with just a few traps set along the trail.
- I would like to see mink, weasel, and otter seasons in unit 15A extended to March 30 for more opportunity. I think we could have a lynx season on the Kenai Peninsula this year.

- The hare population is increasing in our area. 2) My partner had all "our" catch sealed so I didn't really have any harvest.
- I don't think I ever got the trapper report from the 2006-2007 season. If you have an extra, I would appreciate a copy. Thanks.
- It seemed like there were not many coyotes around, although I did see a few sets of tracks. Maybe hunting and trapping pressure in 06/07 season reduced the population slightly. I heard another local trapper had caught 3 mink as well as I did. Mink population on definat increase in the Kenai River area.
- Trapping with my partner was one of my best times all winter. We got out of the house, and seen some pretty country, and lots of moose. Plan on doing it again next season. Hopefully I will have better luck. P.S. Alaska is the best place in the U.S. to hunt, fish, trap and camp! Please keep up all the good work you do to inform us trappers, hunters, and fisherman! Thanks Again.
- I am a FWT III with the dept. in Homer with commercial fisheries for the last 16 years. Keep up the good work! Prior to that I did trap full time in Unit 13A around Lake Louise for 15 seasons.
- Would like to see early beaver season say October 15th or so.
- Some years I trap and take much more animals than others. Generally, trapping is poor on the Kenai Peninsula due to high competition and relatively low # of preferred furbearers like marten and lynx. Also, refuge (KNWR) regulations limiting area to trap and only 1 set per beaver house is allowed.
- Karen, I'm not a trapper. I do not run a trap line anywhere. All I wanted to do was to be able to take coyote and wolf in the winter time with a caller. I talked to a Fish and Game trooper that told me I need to have a trapping license in order to do so. (it says you can shoot coyotes and wolves with a trapping license). Now I have a trapping license. I'm out calling trying to get something to come in. No luck. So I'm going to move to another place. When I get back to my truck there is a Fish and Game trooper at my truck. The trooper asked me what I was doing and I told him that I was calling for coyotes. He asked for my license and I game him my trapping license. He told me that I was not trapping and that I needed a hunting license. I told him that it says that you can shoot coyotes with a trapping license. Because I did not take anything I was not in trouble. I went down and got a hunting license. So I have one trooper telling one thing and one telling something else. So to keep from getting from doing the wrong thing I have both a hunting and trapping license and I hope that is enough to keep me out of trouble. No I don't trap. I'm not a trapper. I'm a caller!
- I would like to see mink open longer.
- Price of fuel is limiting the areas I can trap in.
- I did not see a lot of lynx kitten tracks nor did I catch many. Don't understand seems like the rabbits are everywhere should be more kittens, I think. Too many weekend warriors trapping right off of highway close to our property where my dogs run and play. No respect!!
- It seemed like there were less beaver up high (referring to Hatchers Pass). The rabbit population is up around Healy, Paxson and Chistochina. Lynx should be on highest cycle this year in 13C. Beaver in area around Chisto seem less by a little. I grew up there and trap every year by Chistochina. Muskrat populations seem less than when I was a boy. Also, with increased lynx seems like fox took a dive. My friends have trapped lots of wolves, lynx and marten.
- Thanks for preserving my rights to trap.
- The ADF&G should take more responsibility in protecting the public's right to access public lands for hunting, trapping, and fishing opportunities. It is a disgrace to both state and federal agencies to see that no one is actively protecting public interest to assure that public access is maintained for future use on vast areas of land that are now in the final process of being conveyed to native corporations. ADF&G has side-stepped their obligation by saying that ADNRE easement defense unit if responsible. But one or two people in that Anchorage based office are too uninformed and removed from the rural localities being affected. Local management biologists of ADF&G are some of the more informed staff regarding access patterns and needs. They need to be more involved in this process.
- Enjoy the trapper questionnaire.
- A noticeable decline of moose in the Nelchina River 13D area since 2005. No wintering caribou along Nelchina River corridor during 07-08 season. Wolves are scarce south of the Glenn Hwy. A couple of loners and 1 small pack of 5 or 6 passed through once all winter. I believe bear predation of moose calves to be the primary reason for moose decline, as wolves haven't been plentiful for 3 years in my area. On a 2005 moose hunt I observed over 10 bulls (3 legal), several cows, and 2 calves. 2006 in the same area I saw half that number with only 1 leangle bull harvested. 2007 season was a shocker. On Upper Twin Lake where my cabin is I saw zero moose. Zilch. Nada. Form Aug 30 to Sep 10. I saw no more than 5 or 6 different moose on my trapline. We need some beaver control. Boars, sows, cubs should all be fair for a while. I see them almost daily in the fall.
- Keep the wolverine of the endangered species list.
- I received two of these. The other was GLN 119.



- The art of trapping animals needs to be taught more to younger people. Predator control is necessary for our meat animals to return to historic levels. I know there are cycles in every species. I know it must be very difficult to manage furbearers in this great state. My mom taught me to trap muskrats when I was 9 years old in Minnesota. I was able to purchase my first 20 gauge shotgun with the money I received from the local fur buyer that same year. Trapping off and on in Alaska, teaching my 3 sons how it is done was a great experience for us. We wish we lived in an area where more game was accessible. Trapping needs (must) to continue in Alaska. Use the information you are receiving wisely. The remote trappers have a wealth of information about their trade.
- I am a newbie, didn't catch anything.
- Start the trapping seasons later, one or two weeks, 14A is taking longer to prim-up.
- Received two. Other one is GLN 1589.
- Keep up the good work. Dog owners need to be responsible.
- Not willing to share GMU etc.as it seems to advertise success to my competition.
- If you mark your trap location clearly with surveyors tape problems occur as anti-trappers steal the trap. A friend lost his 120 marten trap (not set) before the season to theft. Another person was losing traps to the trip and flip method. He followed tracks to his set to find it gone. The tracks went to the river- the flip. One trapper put up a sign "Trapping is legal. You are illegal when you interfere with my traps." Trapping licence money should have a portion go to stopping this activity !!!
- You also sent me Alaska trapper questionnaire MCG 2176. I only filled out this questionnaire.

## Southwest

- Thanks for the trapper report!
- Mink and ermine should be extended to end of March. Send out this report at the end of trapping season! It would be easier to get accurate info. If we fill it out while we remember.
- Sorry about being late I've been out on the river guiding.
- While trapping off Afognak Island I noticed that the bear problem is getting worse. This year I witnessed 10 elk taken down by bears most of them by the same bear. I know this doesn't have anything to do with trapping, but the population of bears on Afognak is a lot more than people think, because I work there year round. I'll try to e-mail you some pictures in the future of bears taking down elk and yes you have my permission to use them plus I have some good trapping pictures I'll share with you Karen. Thanks.
- It sure is a fun but expensive sport.
- The abundance of Alaska is awesome. Keep up the good work. Hopefully we can all stick together and keep the anti's at bay.
- Thanks.
- Would have been a great season if I'd not broken my leg this last fall. During my pre-season look there were lots of animals - then I broke my leg! So no hunting, trapping or hockey! Thank you.
- I intend to trap, but my CG deployment schedule prevented all attempts.
- Duck hunters and trappers use the same areas on Kodiak. It would be nice if river otter went for another month or longer after duck season ended.
- In Kodiak we have 3 species of fox: Red Fox, Cross Fox, and Silvers. We catch all three, but Silvers are the smartest and the hardest to come by.
- I am planning on trapping in Cold Bay area this next winter. Looking forward to a good catch. Spent too much time in OK last year. Did trap there though.
- We better get some predator control in this area or there won't be any game animals left. Way too many bears and wolves.
- Some lice in wolves in unit 9. Bears digging out beaver - significantly. Otter season should coincide with beaver season.
- If wolf is open longer than other canids (fox, coyote) then we run the risk of incidental catch. The seasons for all canids should run concurrently throughout the season. This would result in more wolves being removed because more people would keep their wolf line operating for the entire wolf season. The caribou and moose of unit 9 would benefit from this common sense adjustment.

## Interior

- The cow moose season is still open when trapping season opens. Hard to set up with all the hunters. Where have all the cows gone? Lynx season opens Dec. 15 in 20D hard not to catch them, had to let several go, really have to limit what you set for. Fish and Game must get lots of early caught lynx and make a good bit of money. Trappers do the work then.
- At the end of the 2008 season I had 2 wolf traps and 1 fox trap stolen. I made a report to local fish and game but they didn't take down any written info. Fort Wainwright Natural Resources came down to Fort Greely where I work and took a complete report. 2) My daughter trapped one wolf but it got away. Sign indicated there were 2 wolves together one large (that she caught) and a smaller one.
- Something should be done to increase coyote trapping/hunting. They are hard on fox and lynx populations not to mention sheep. 2) Also, beaver are over abundant and not trapped to any extent. Only personal use for the most part and I can't see any valid reason for selling them-pointless.
- Lot less marten that last year, even in new areas. Lot more lynx, as we expected. Expect the populations to be higher next year. The low marten numbers, by contrast, caught us by surprise. Maybe they were all up high due to all the lynx and the lack of snow. Don't know. We really appreciate your interest in trapping and enjoy receiving your reports. Thank you for providing this.
- You are doing a good job. My only comment is if ADF&G is going to study doing fly overs in a trappers area and they know of wolf activity would it be possible to call the trapper and tell them? It is nice to receive your trapper report thank you.
- My brother and I feel (whether we're right or not) that the more aggressive coyotes have pushed the fox out of our area (a guy on a close trapline caught multiple coyotes) as prey animals (mice, grouse, and hares) were all relatively thick. More cats equals less marten as most of our line at present runs through the lowlands and we caught 1/2 as many (or less) marten than last year. Have seen wolverine sign only once to twice in each of the last two seasons. Mink were everywhere on our line last year and this year we saw almost no sign of them (even though we did not trap any the prior year). Perhaps also due to thick cats along rivers and lakes. Voles and mice slightly down in activity/presence. Owls up.
- Why do we have to seal wolf or wolverine skin for a traditional potlatch? It's our custom for centuries to have wolf and wolverine skins for our native potlatch. After the 3 day potlatch is over, then we make parka ruffs out of the skins and use it when it's 70 below out here. We pass it out to the people attending the potlatch. There's no one out here to seal hides.
- Wildfire burned out the core habitat for marten, at least one of the main sources for marten. Also, the fire burned out the grass around tussocks on my trails and now I have hundreds of stump-like tussocks in my trail, causing my snowmachine to turn over 600 su8 constantly. My average speed now is 4-5 mph because of this. My normal speed is 10 mph, so it takes forever to go anywhere, like a dog team. In 06-07 year I ended up hurting my back, chipped a vertebrae and pinched a nerve from cone chip, I now have a numb feeling in one ankle.
- Wolf numbers were at a 20 year low due to shallow snow fall the previous winter. There were only 20% of what would be "normal" numbers of wolves. Predation was low this winter. Snowshoe hares are still in the long recovery from the 2000 peak, here in the Brooks Range. Hare pop. Is approximately 30% recovered, and there is a good leveret production this summer (2008). There is a mast spruce cone crop so the red squirrel population is exploding this summer. Thanks.
- ADF&G rocks! I'm happy to participate in the survey and trapping is my passion. Keep up the good work.
- I saw a musk ox in Kanuti Canyon. Last couple years there were no moose around in our area. I went back Oldman River this spring (2008) and first time I saw a couple moose. I hope they come back again otherwise all of us Indians will go back to poaching again and be sneaky Indians. Don't call me I'll call you!! If I snitch on poachers will I get a reward?
- The reason I trap is to teach my son what my dad taught me. We did not make much money because of gas prices. But trapping is one thing I enjoy. Also to show my son the country that my dad and his dad trapped on.
- Wolves and wolverine should have the same open and close dates, around April 10th or 15th.
- In 32 years of trapping I've never had anybody bother me on my line, until this year when a game officer rode my trail that I'd snapped out by the end of February. It was very obvious my line was shut down, but he still rode about 14 miles of it.
- Thank you for the questionnaire. Keep me on the list I trap every year.
- Keep up the good work.
- I did not trap my whole line due to gas prices and snowmobile problems. Global warming is my main concern we must all work together in how we use petroleum products. I have to invest in better economical equipment to save on gas consumption. I think that ADF&G is doing a great job!
- Game wardens, (AST) should not be allowed to trap on local grounds!

- What we have out here is retired game wardens trapping with airplanes. Every time a newcomer comes around they think they own the damn trapping area.
- The biggest problem or I should say the reason that there are no moose left on the Coleen River is because of an air taxi outfit at Circle Hot Springs saturating the river with hunters. Not wolves, but masses of hunters is the reason for the declining moose population.
- Keep up the good work, I'm glad you guys are looking out for trappers.
- The trapping of lynx should be changed from Nov.1 to Dec.1 at the beginning of season. The fur isn't prime in Nov.
- Change the lynx season to 2 weeks to a month longer in GMU 25D
- Please send information on your next wolf trapping clinic.
- Trapping is a good way to keep out of trouble during the long winter months. And it keeps you in good health.
- This last season I took out a rookie trapper, first year for him. We left from his house. I tried to teach as much as I could. We had low numbers, but a good season.
- Why do trappers that harvest lynx, otter, and wolf need to be sealed with a C.I.T.E seal? According to federal regulation only when the 3 stated furbearers mentioned before are exported from the U.S. are they required to be C.I.T.E sealed. Private use or if the fur is never exported for legal trade is the sealing requirement needed? In fact why seal any furbearer? There is little to no furbearer management going on in the state.
- Please end the senseless cow killing season in the flats.
- Sent two questionnaires.
- Lack of prey may have caused the lack of marten on my line as I did no trapping on it in 2006-2007 season. Are there fish in F8 Knox mine's tailing pond close to where I caught a male mink?
- Stop allowing shooting of beaver! Waste of game and fur! Close open water trapping season for beaver.
- I'd like to volunteer my services as a gunner out of a helicopter!! Hell I'll even pay for the fuel. I'm sure I can supply clients that would pay the state (funds could only go to ADF&G) just for the opportunity to help the caribou herds etc. In all seriousness though I don't think we should be wasting state money on predator control. I think a reasonable bounty on wolves might get people off the couch and into the field. They don't mind whining about the lack of moose, but sure as heck don't want to help put with the problem. Everyone says those antlers don't taste good and "they're" meat hunters only- some people would rather see the habitat eaten out than tip a cow over to eat. Keep up the good work and thanks for sending the trapper questionnaire.
- I still believe starting the beaver season in GMU 20B in September is bogus. I do like the 25 beaver limit.
- First time in 8 years someone stole gas and equipment from back of truck while we were trapping. Trapper to north of us was moving in on our area in previous years, however he must be hiding as we haven't seen him at all this year.
- Increase lynx season in GMU 20B. High microtene / hare pop.
- It is time to stop playing with the lynx season for the interior. If lynx are present you will catch them if not you won't. Moving the season around does no good. I have turned a lot loose because of this and don't like doing it. One could get hurt. I know some that have had coats torn up.
- Glad to help with this info.
- No moose in Unit 20A in the Ferry Management Area. No wolves - No cats - No coyotes. Nothing for them to eat.
- Between fur prices and high fuel it is becoming cost prohibitive to trap especially where you cannot manage the target populations on FTWW. I used to take 20-30 marten a year. After catching 3 yearling marten this year I stopped trapping martin, but 3 others continued so next year they will be even less. Thank you for your service to our state.
- If y'all could put on a trap class that goes over regulations that would be outstanding.
- Don't bother me no more. Thank you.
- I had to have a trapping license to be able to remove beaver from stream on property due to losses in 2006.
- Handicapped and no snowmachine or "traditional" trap line. 2) I only trap around post and town (Fbks/NP). 3) I have to make sets were they can't be seen (one silver fox (only one this year) was stolen). 4) 6 years ago I caught one dog and let him go unharmed. ( he had no collar and was on the Tanana behind the North Pole refinery.) 5) May I have Delta Bull buffalo tags please. 6) I am willing to help the dept. in any and all studies I can. 7) I have about 100 skulls from trappers this year and keep a small herd of demisted beetles (flesh-eating) to finish the skulls and trade trappers back finished skulls on a 2:1 for wolf, bear, and wolverine, 3:1 otter, 4:1 all others except one retired ADF&G biologist who goes to schools to talk to kids and he gets all of his back because that is what I do with them.
- I trap mainly for something to do in the winter. I'm not very concerned about removing human scent. I am guessing that is why I had such a poor catch/set ration.
- I am retired and run a little snare line in winter. My son traps in 20D, I skinned and stretched a lot of his fur, mostly lynx, fox and marten.

- The Unit 20B beaver population appears to be less than previous years, at least in areas I keep track of . Not sure why this is. 2) Lynx abundance appears to be increasing in response to larger hare population. Lynx season should be extended during these periods of abundance. 3) Wolverines should have quotas/limits in less mountainous zones where lower densities occur. Perhaps all areas, or at least those with extensive trapping pressure, should incur a 1-5 wolverine limit? 4) Certain habitats close to population centers or adjacent to roadways should be given consideration for no trapping to promote wildlife viewing and provide breeding stock for surroundings. These could be small (ie. Beaver Pond with mink and otter) or larger (like wetlands south of Anchorage), and be nominated by the public. There needs to be more of this to promote AK wildlife! 5) Thanks for providing the trapper survey and increasing efforts to monitor furbearer populations!
- I'm convinced lynx are on the up swing in 20B and it is time to lengthen the season in this area. 2) Coyotes have gone crazy in population increase in this area. This fact I feel has hurt red fox population on our two lines. 3) We did not catch nor see much wolf activity on our lines this year. I would suspect that other trappers had more success up in the Manley Hot Springs, Livengood, and Dunbar Trail areas- since not much happened with wolves in the southern Minto Flats area we trapped this past year.
- I did not realize that my 2007 license had the hunting/trapping (class 3a) circled and punched, and not the hunting/ sport fishing (class 4) that I normally get. I think it was a mess up at the store. I have never trapped. I might like to someday, but it is tough to find the time. Thank you for your efforts.
- Thanks for helping to keep trapping alive as a recreation and way of life.
- I have a problem with someone moving in on my line and trying to claim it as their own. Troopers tell me there is nothing they can do about it and nothing I can do about it. It is an ethical thing and obviously it upsets me greatly. This person has made trails off of my trail/line and makes sets beside mine. They have interfered with my sets, but troopers tell me they need proof. I guess pictures have not been proof enough.
- We moved her form Maine 3 years ago, a goal of several years. In Maine we trapped/snared a lot and sold most of our fur. Here in Alaska we are only interested in taking 2 or 3 lynx (which we did), 2 or 3 wolves, and 1 wolverine all for our own keepsakes. Any tips on where/how to get the wolves and wolverine would be enormously appreciated.
- I've noticed that in any predator control program it's only the wolves that are targeted. Why are bears not included for reduction in numbers? It's well known that bears are the major predator on both moose and caribou calves, yet only wolves are killed. This practice tends to increase bear numbers as wolves also prey on bear cubs and help keep their numbers in check. The Yukon Flats situation of few moose and exploding bear populations illustrates this very well. When Ft. Yukon people asked ADF&G for help in reducing bear numbers to protect moose calf numbers they were denied. When is ADF&G going to manage wildlife on biological data instead of politically acceptable?
- I would like to see the cow moose hunt stopped in Unit 20A. The late season hunters impact for habitats. The moose are over hunted. Too few moose don't feed predators like the ocean shark and other predators are the sign of healthy population. We don't have this here anymore. Come and see for yourself.
- Trapping was a little slow for me as I was learning the country and habits of the animals around before I got going. Hope this helps. Thanks.
- The process of getting furs to market seems to grow more complicated, is this really necessary?
- Moose in 20A: I am still seeing many moose every day I check my line. I have seen no indication that there are fewer moose despite the cow harvests. Initially during the early part of season I did not see many moose, but lots of tracks. Within a week or two of the end of the winter season I started seeing moose regularly, fleeing into the woods. Within another week or two moose were seen commonly and were no longer as fearful of my presence. My season was short this year. Late freeze-up led to Dec. 8 start date. Personal matters led to shutting down the line in late January for 2-3 weeks. Lots of lynx sign arrived during that period while the line was pulled at the end of lynx season.
- I want to thank ADF&G for doing an excellent job of furbearer management. The lynx population in Unit 20A is phenomenal. Lengthening the season next year for lynx was a wise decision, in my opinion.
- Keep up the good work.
- In 2006 I had a trapper come in and set his traps just across the trail from my sets throughout the line. I stuck a note in a set telling him to remove traps or I will confiscate them. I have trapped here for over 25 years. So he called Alaska State Troopers (brown shirts) he told me he has every right to trap here. Come to find out he is a Fairbanks cop, and was trapping buddies with the AK State Trooper. Then BLM got involved. I told my side of story the enforcement police (trooper) and the city cop were trying to intimidate me with their powers. I made it a pain in the ass for them. What about 25 years in the same area? Grandfather rights BLM land or not.

- "Trap like there is a tomorrow." "Trap like a good farmer would." "Know when to close traps." Have a fur handler expert board you pelts, like your wife. My wife is the expert, but then she is French. She does all my skinning, and I do the fun part. I keep the rabbit population at average by harvesting the lynx just enough. Lynx will eat themselves out of rabbits if you let them, but leave enough lynx to rebuild. And sell to NAFA, I'm happy.
- ADF&G should really put some thought into a trapper/public program that would attempt to teach each type of user to access the same areas without conflict. It seems like a lot of recreational users ignore the danger of letting their pets run loose in green belts around urban areas, and trappers are stubborn about making their sets and building sets that would decrease chance of incidental catches. I hate to say it but the most efficient way of doing this may be to prohibit trapping in a larger area surrounding urban areas. Altogether I think the sacrifice would be worth the long-term benefit to the public's image of the trapping tradition.
- Most people including myself feel the lynx season should be open much longer. There is no conclusive proof that the controlled season has helped increase population and responsible trapping will ensure a healthy future.
- Both the Haul Road and Salcha had bad snow depth. Haul Rd. above Yukon River was caked snow on top kept sinking. In Salcha the hill tops and pipeline was blown and rocks were exposed. Could not get up hills even in timber because of no snow.
- How long is it before a trapline is considered abandoned? Area 20D is getting a lot of pressure from Russian's out of Delta trapping early and not pulling traps at the end of the seasons. Also, Natives out of Healy.

## Arctic & Western

- Fish Creek is our main drinking water. There are 3 to 5 camps that get water from there and we had too many beavers moving in so we had to limit them to a smaller size.
- I noticed a lot of beaver activity along the highway in GMU 14A. I was afraid to trap along that though as there is so much private property. I'm gung-ho and very ready to nail a bunch of beaver and I know those biologists in the Mat-Su area want them gone so as to free-up some major salmon-spawning streams. If I can get some kind of nuisance permit from you all, I'll go and clean-house. (no pun intended...) P.S. Thanks for all the hard work you all do!!
- Hunting for Caribou's this winter, hardly any in our area (unit 23) notice tracks of these fur bearers when I went hunting for Caribou's.
- Abundant blueberry year = more marten
- Snow conditions were very good. Seismic activity and test drilling in my trapping area made a mess of my trails and they ran over some sets. Wolverine seemed to avoid the area with high activity of seismic. Gas prices made it very expensive to trap.
- Send trapper report.
- Can't get out to check line or hunt due to the weather, and fuel limits travel so I can't leave traps as anything caught is eaten if left too long. Too many ravens!! And no one hunts/traps red fox so they are too many. Not worth taking chances with rabies! Need a bounty on raven/foxes. Ravens make a mess at camp and the foxes don't care about people either. Getting too tame or rabid. And they eat all the bird and duck eggs or young.
- What is the point in cooperating with ADF&G when our image is regularly bad mouthed by Rick Sinnott in Anchorage? Sinnott is a crackpot and should be fired. Sinnott took an old, poorly done survey and portrayed it as gospel for wolverine numbers in the Chugach. He constantly defends poor dog owners as having the right of way in every circumstance. It is difficult to take this questionnaire seriously, when ADF&G allows him to be their mouthpiece.
- I didn't catch any lynx this year. Fuel prices and the weather made an impact on the time I spent trapping. I hope to catch next year.
- Send me furbuyers information from Alaska to Non-Alaska locations.
- Relearned one important fact. You will only do as well as the good Lord lets you. I don't care what your plans are. All a guy can do is supply the effort.
- Put a bounty on wolves and bears for trappers. They are killing all the moose in Units 18-19.
- Things are looking up out here in Western Alaska. We have high fur prices for cats and marten and in most cases it's an untapped resource. Very little trapping pressure by anyone. The few trappers left are pretty good at it and can keep busy all season, but of course just when things are looking up, here comes gas prices to smite us down.
- Doing a fantastic job and looking forward to another great season next year. Looking forward to seeing the trapper report.
- I may trap and hunt in years to come. Thank you.

- We have noticed an increase in black bear, brown bear, and wolves with the increase in moose population. This has occurred over the last few years. There is a very high number of lemmings and rabbits in our area this year. The reports of local people also show the coyotes are moving in to the Yukon Delta. I did hear of a possible cougar sighting between Marshall and Pilot station a couple years ago. Might be something to check on. Davit Fitka of Marshall would be the person to ask.
- These are some observations: I ran into moose more than ever. It has always been rare for me to see moose on the trapline. It made me think wolf populations might be increasing. I also thought lynx and marten populations might be at or near a peak. I saw several lynx and caught more marten on a shorter trapline. I am hearing villagers are beginning to see and catch coyotes.
- My snowmobile broke down the first week of snow.
- I have trapped beaver in this game unit (22A) for four years, and the area located is Pikmiktalik and Unaquaz rivers. The beaver population has increased in both rivers and although I've got (trapped) a good number of animals it seems the more I trapped the animals, more seem to replace their species. With the demand for the pelt no longer in demand we have a population explosion. It has affected the migratory salmon that come up the rivers to spawn and also the vegetation (willows, alders) are a primary concern due to beavers choice of constructing dams, houses, etc.
- It should be MANDATORY harvest reporting in order to fully understand populations.

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

I would like to thank Alexis Grundmann and Jno Didrickson for patiently entering all of the 2007-08 questionnaire data and Tom Paul for his editorial assistance.

I would also like to extend my thanks to all of you who responded to the 2007-08 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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Photo courtesy of Ross Beal



Photo by Kevin Castle

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation**



Photo courtesy of Shawn Earl

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