

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

**Statewide Annual Report
1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009**

TRAPPER QUESTIONNAIRE



Photo by Stan Zuray

December 2010

State of Alaska

Sean Parnell, Governor

Department of Fish and Game

Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner

Division of Wildlife Conservation

Corey Rossi, Director

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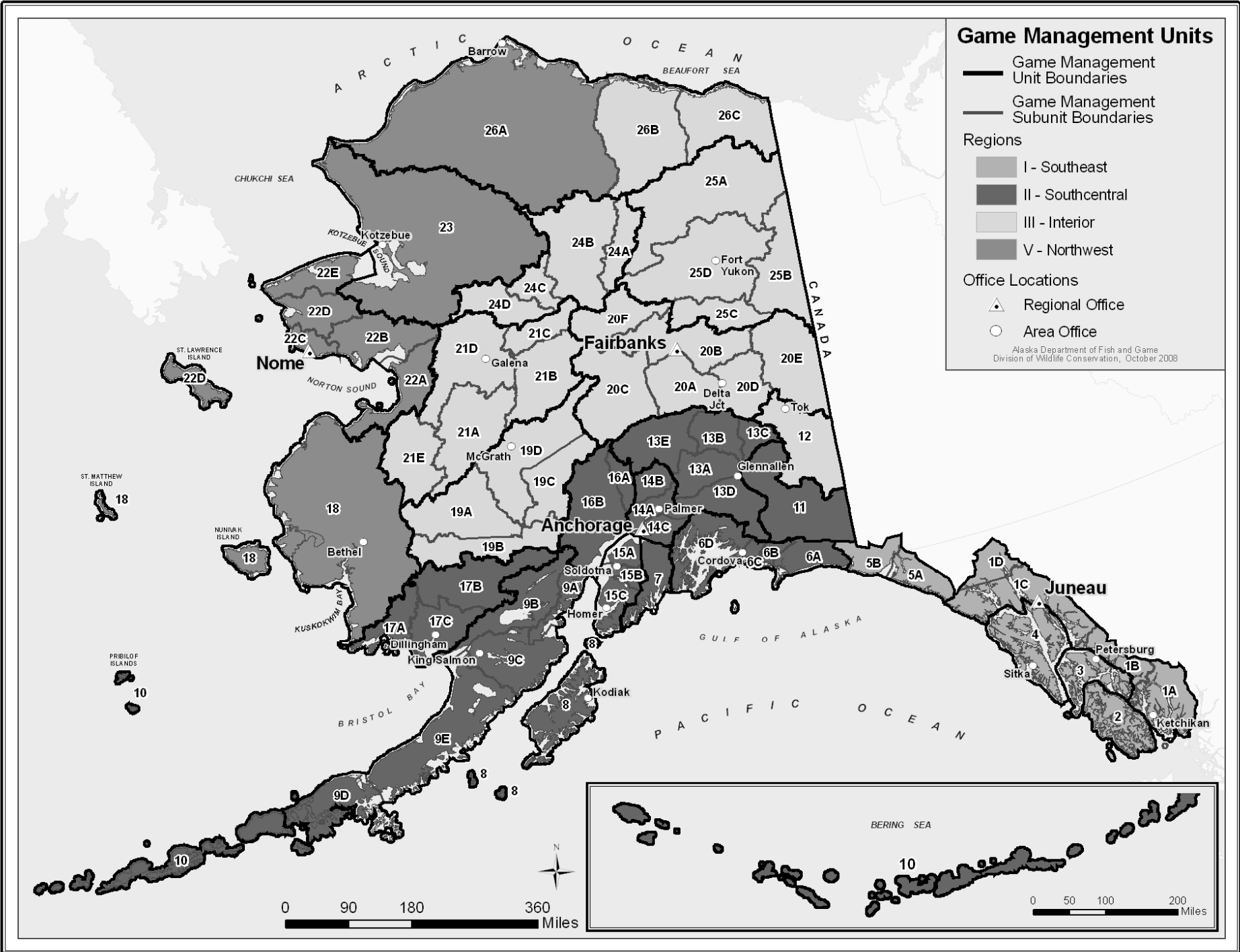
Code of Ethics

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

2008–09

INTRODUCTION

The 2008–09 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 many of you probably noticed, I did not send out a Trapper Questionnaire after the 2009-2010 season. The annual Trapper Questionnaire Reports had fallen 2 years behind schedule, so instead of sending out another survey, I used the time to catch up on reports. Those reports will be mailed to all trappers who responded to the 2008-2009 Questionnaire this winter, and I will send out a new Questionnaire after the 2010-11 season.

The 2010-11 Questionnaire form will look different from past forms. I changed the format of the survey so that much of the information can be scanned by a machine directly into a computer database, rather than ADF&G staff typing it by hand. Some information like comments will always need to be typed, but I believe machine scanning will greatly reduce the time needed to enter data from Questionnaires and result in more timely reports to trappers.

The 2010-2011 Questionnaire will also include questions about using e-mail as a way to send Questionnaires to trappers and for trappers to return responses and about preferences for viewing reports on our website or having paper copies mailed to you. Mailing and printing costs have increased in recent years, and using modern technology would reduce costs and possibly speed completion of the annual Trapper Questionnaire Report. We recognize that not all trappers have access to the internet and e-mail, so participating in that way would be voluntary.

Maintaining current mailing addresses for trappers is one of the biggest challenges of coordinating this program. If you or other trappers you know have changed addresses in the last year or two, please let me know your new address. Please also include which Game Management Unit(s) you plan to trap in so I can send the applicable Questionnaire. If you or someone you know no longer traps but would like to continue receiving Reports, please also let me know that. My mail, phone, and e-mail contact information is below.

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.

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A PROFILE OF TRAPPING IN ALASKA

Trapper Information

Did you trap?

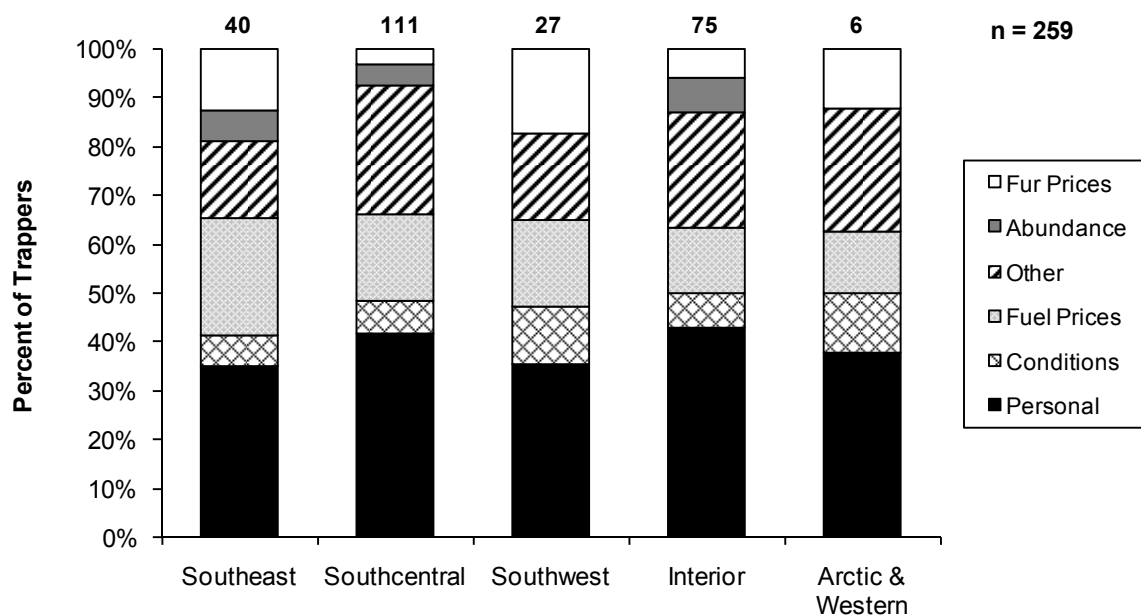
This year 2718 questionnaires were mailed throughout the state and 766 were returned for an overall response rate of 28%. Response rates were about the same for all regions. Statewide, 60% of respondents trapped during the 2008–09 season, the same percentage as the previous year.

Response to 2008-09 Trapper Questionnaire

Region	Trapped	Did Not Trap	No Response	Total
Southeast	48	41	213	302
Southcentral	161	121	656	938
Southwest	42	27	157	226
Interior	184	77	730	991
Arctic & Western	27	38	196	261
Total	462	304	1952	2718

If you did not trap during 2008-09, why not?

Statewide, 259 respondents gave reasons why they didn't trap during the 2008-09 season. Some gave more than one reason. Over all, 63% of the reasons cited were in the personal or "other" categories (poor health, no time, conflicts with jobs or school). Fuel prices were cited 17% of the time and fur prices and weather conditions each accounted for only 7% of the responses. Responses were similar among regions. Surprisingly, fuel prices were less a factor in the Arctic & Western region than elsewhere. 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 during the 2008-09 season, 41% of trappers trapped alone, 21% trapped with family members, 17% trapped with a partner, and the remaining 21% occasionally took someone with them. Southwest region trappers were most likely to trap alone (55%) followed by the Arctic & Western region (47%). Southwest region trappers were also by far the least likely to trap with a partner. Only 7% of trappers in Arctic & Western Alaska trapped with family members versus 17%-25% in other regions. The number of trappers in each region who responded is given above each bar.

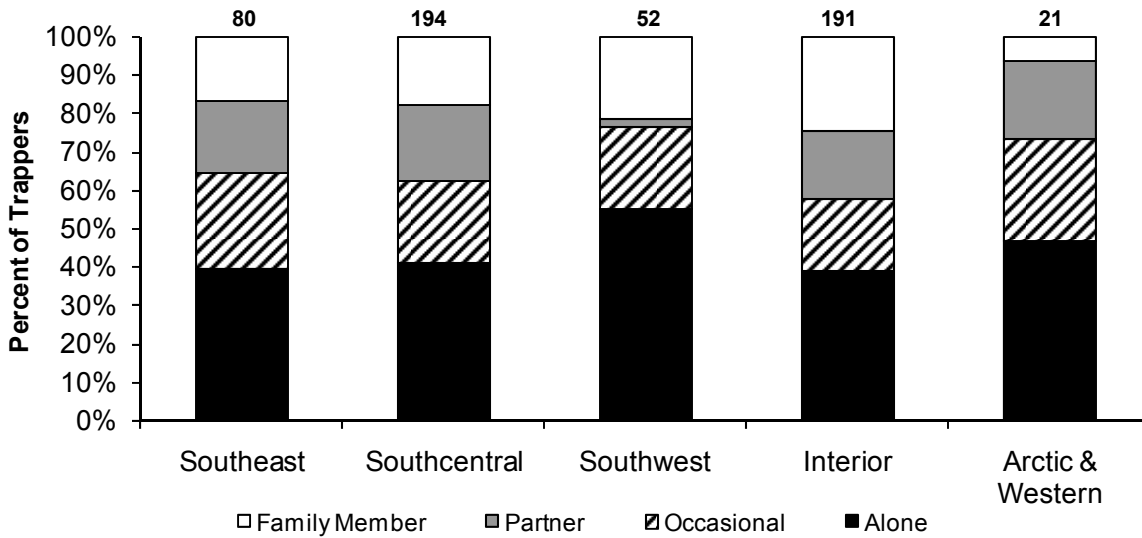
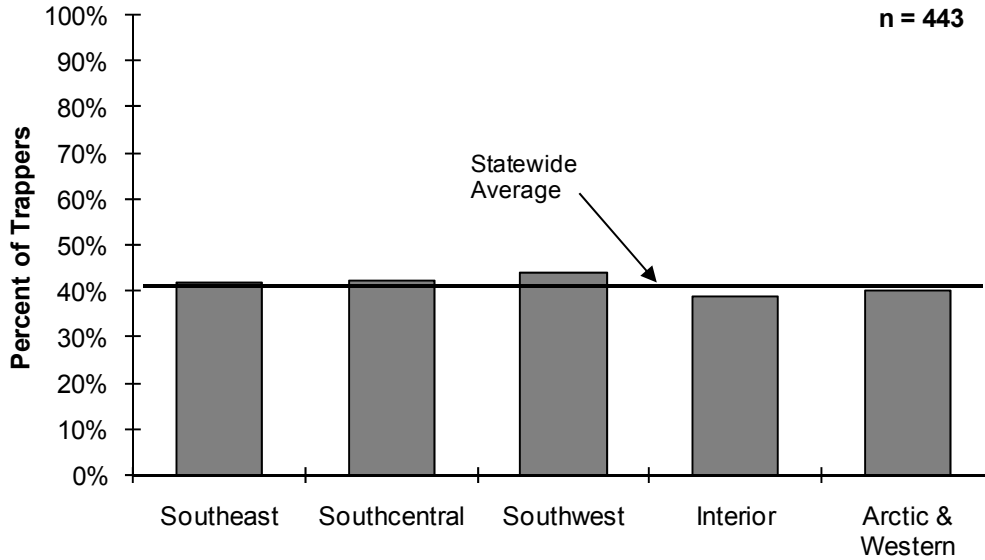


Photo courtesy of Lance Williams

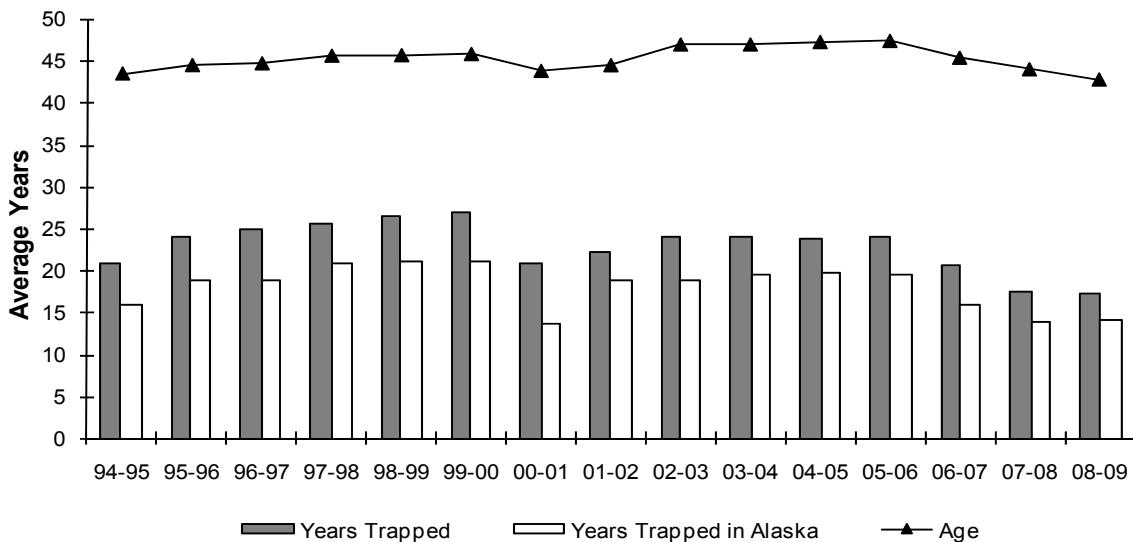
Did you take a young person (under 16) with you on your trapline this year?

During the 2008-09 trapping season, 41% of trappers statewide reported they took a young person trapping with them, up from 37% last year but below the 48% reported 3 years ago. As shown by the graph below, the percentage of trappers taking youngsters trapping was pretty consistent throughout the different regions of the state.



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

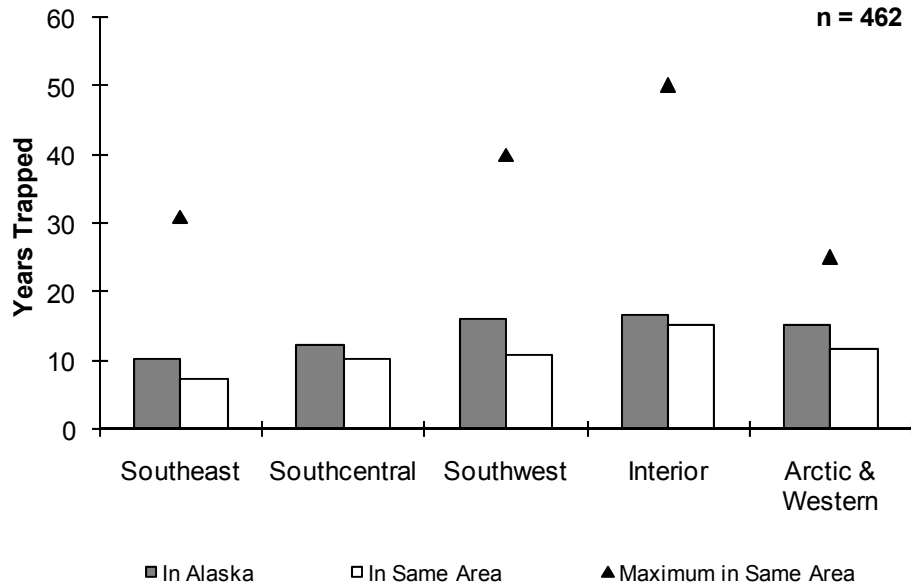
The overall experience of trappers declined slightly whereas the average number of years trapping in Alaska increased slightly from last year. Statewide, trappers averaged just over 14 years experience in Alaska and 17.3 years trapping overall. Trappers in the Arctic & Western and Interior regions had the most experience and those in Southeast had less experience on average than the other regions. Correspondingly, Southeast trappers (39) were slightly younger on average and Interior (43) and Southcentral (44) trappers a bit older. The oldest trapper responding was 83 from the Interior. The top line in the graph shows average statewide trapper age. In 2008-09 it was 43, continuing a 3-year trend toward a younger trapper population.



Trapline Information

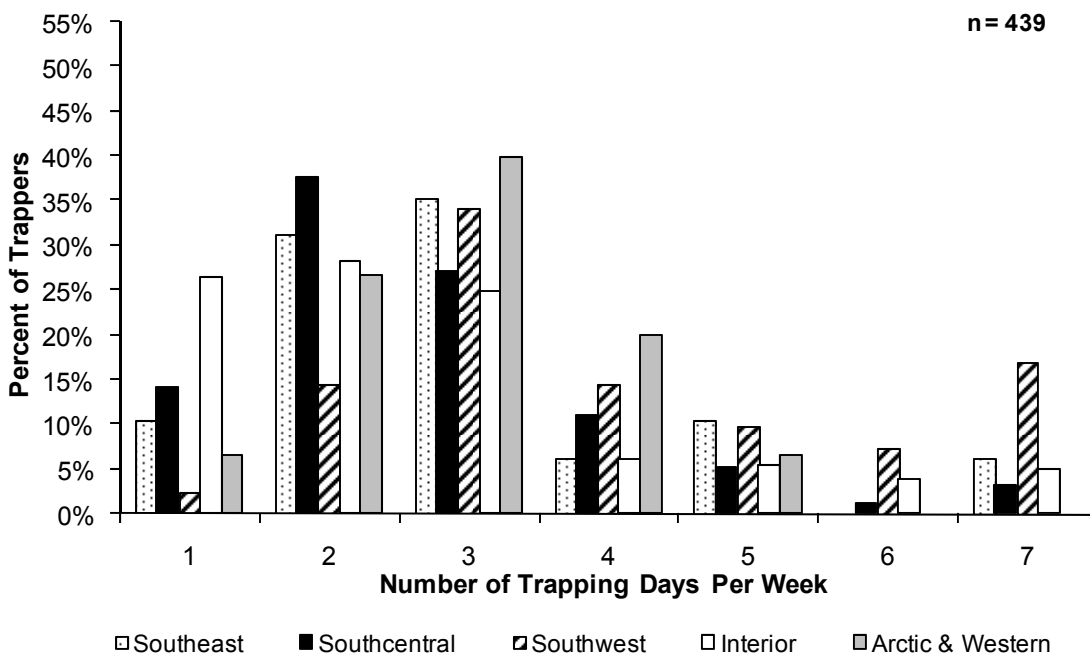
How many years have you been trapping in the same area?

On average, Interior and Arctic & Western trappers who responded spent the longest time trapping in Alaska (more than 16 years) and Interior trappers have spent the longest time trapping in the same area (15 years). Southeast trappers have been trapping in the same area for less than half as long (7 years). A Southcentral trapper holds the record for trapping the longest in the same area (73 years).



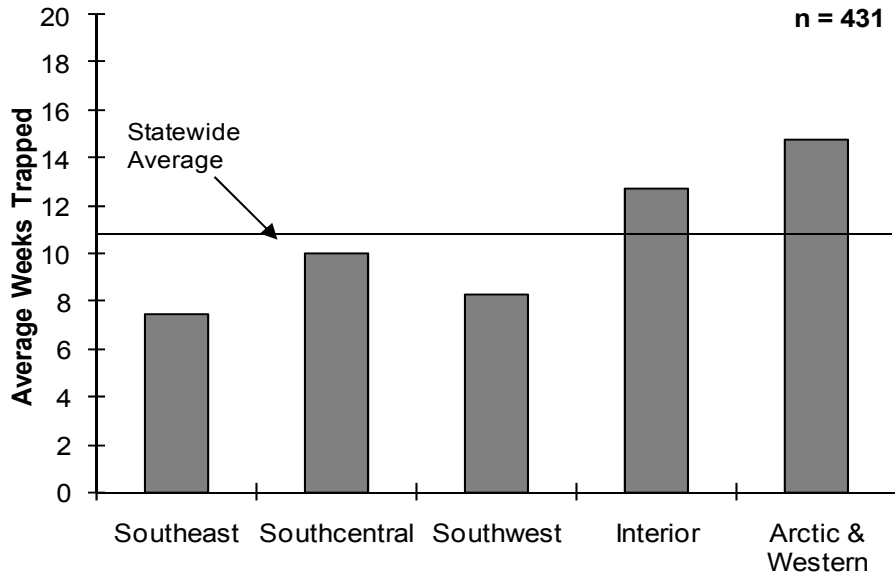
How many days per week did you trap?

Statewide, more than half (59%) of all trappers conducted their trapping activities 2 or 3 days per week. In Southwest Alaska, 17% of trappers trapped every day, compared to just 6% or less of trappers in other regions.



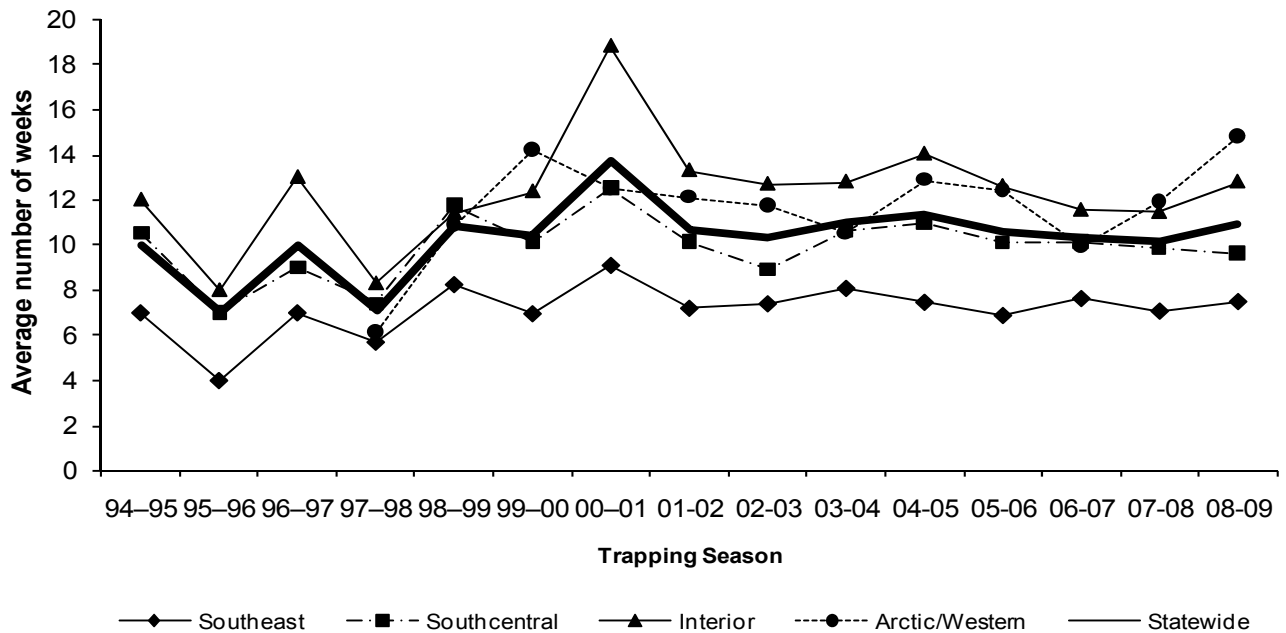
How many weeks did you trap?

During the 2008-09 season Southeast trappers trapped for an average of 7.5 weeks. Southwest trappers were in the field 8.3 weeks on average and Southcentral trappers averaged 10 weeks afield. Interior trappers were in the field an average of 12.8 weeks, and Arctic & Western trappers trapped an average of nearly 15 weeks.



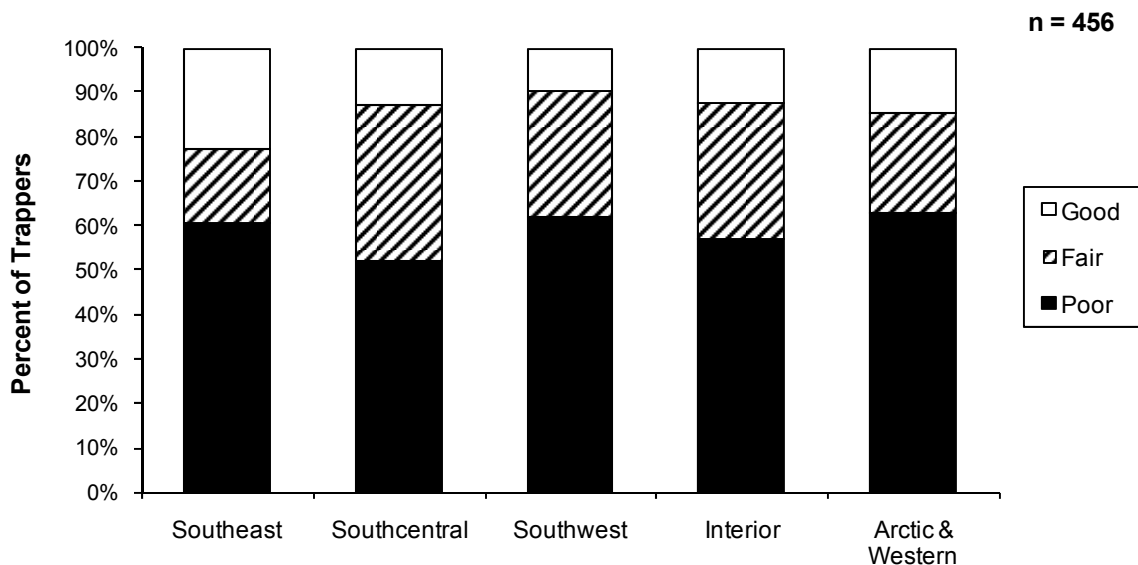
The average number of weeks trapped statewide during the 2008–09 season was 10.9, nearly a full week longer than the previous year. In the Arctic & Western region the average number of weeks trapped was 3 weeks longer than the previous year. The Southcentral/Southwest average weeks dropped slightly continuing a downward trend since 2004-05. Trappers in Southeast increased their time afield by a few days and those in the Interior by a week and a half more than 2007-08.

Trends in Average Number of Weeks Trapped



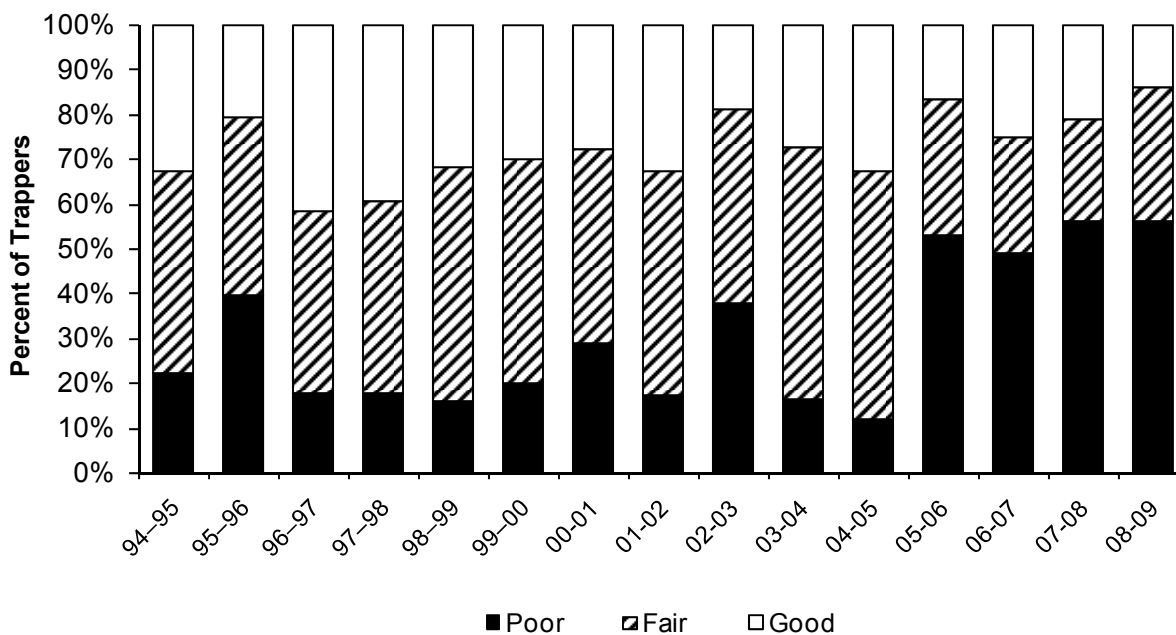
What were trapping conditions like on your trapline?

More than half of trappers in every region reported poor conditions this year. Although 60% of Southeast trappers reported poor conditions, weather apparently varied enough in the archipelago that 23% of trappers reported good conditions, the highest of any region.



Statewide, for the fourth year in a row, half or more of Alaskan trappers reported poor trapping conditions in the 2008-09 season. The percentage of those reporting poor conditions (56%) was the same as in 2007-08 and equaled the highest in at least the past 15 years. The percentage of trappers reporting good conditions (14%) was the lowest in the past 15 years.

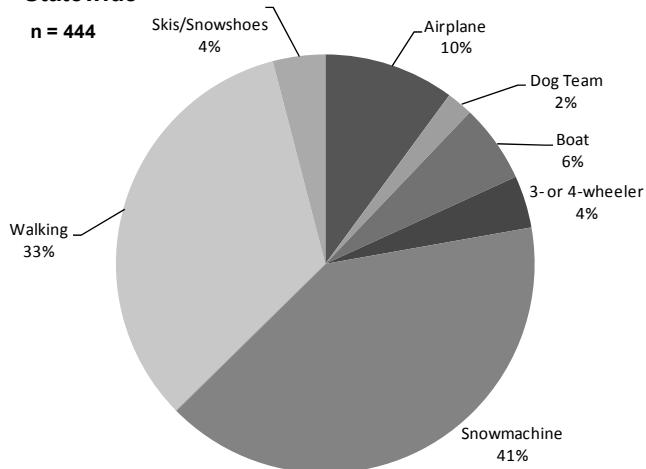
Annual Variation in Statewide Trapping Conditions



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

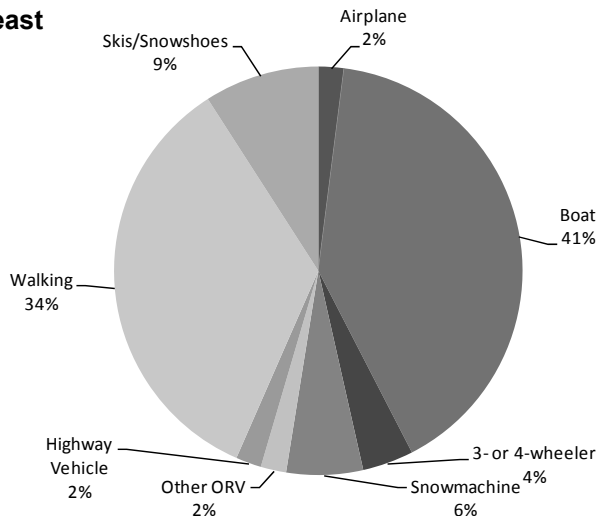
Statewide

n = 444



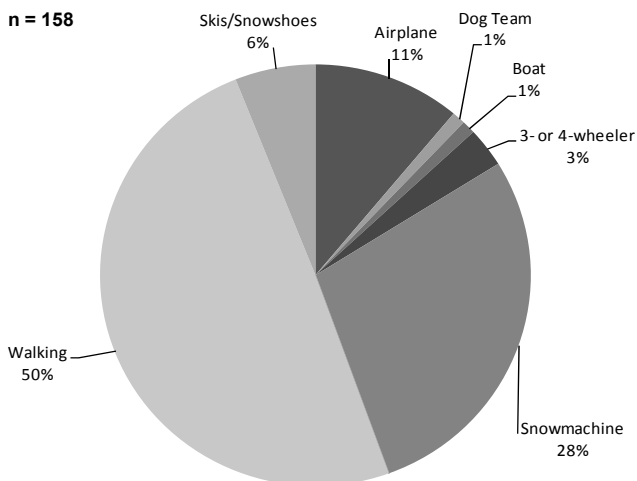
Southeast

n = 47



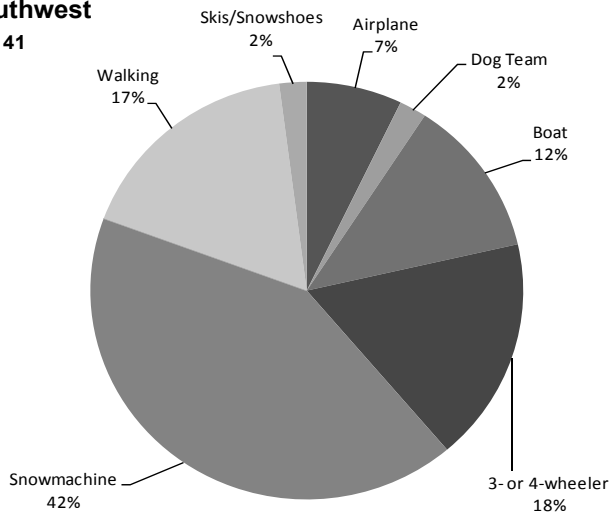
Southcentral

n = 158



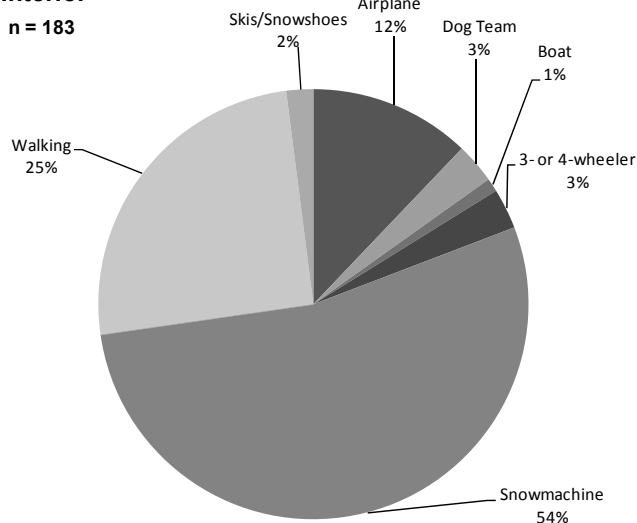
Southwest

n = 41



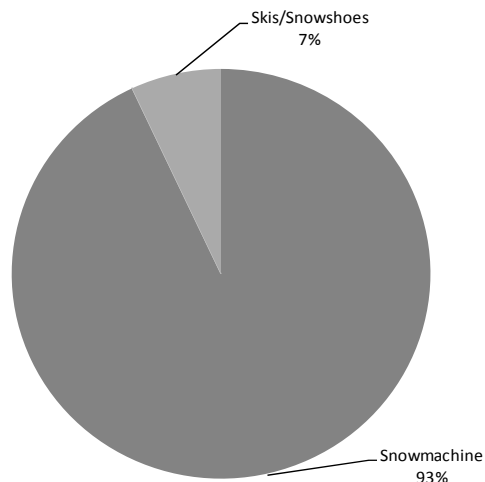
Interior

n = 183



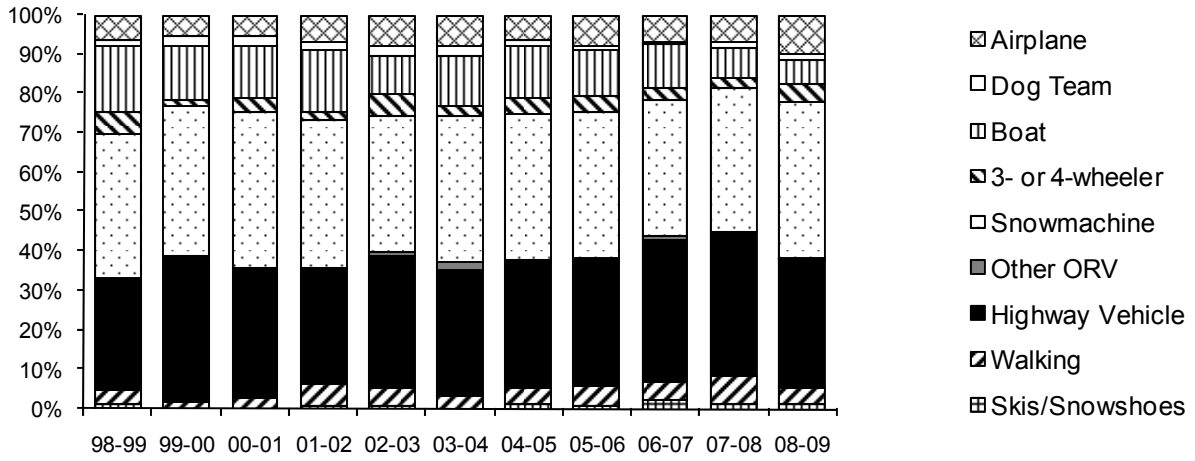
Arctic & Western

n = 15

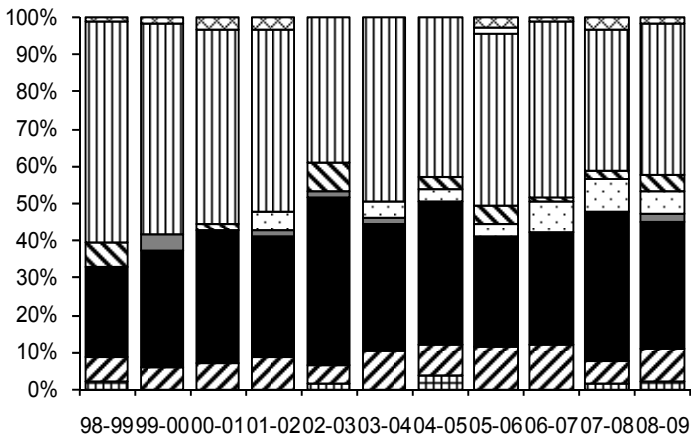


Trends in mode of transportation used to get to traplines

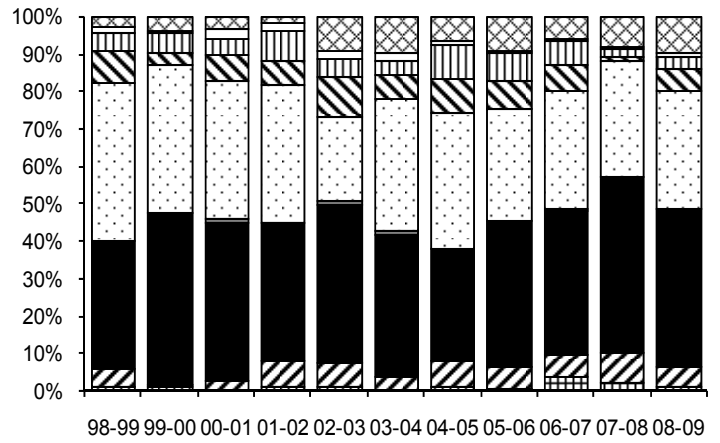
Statewide



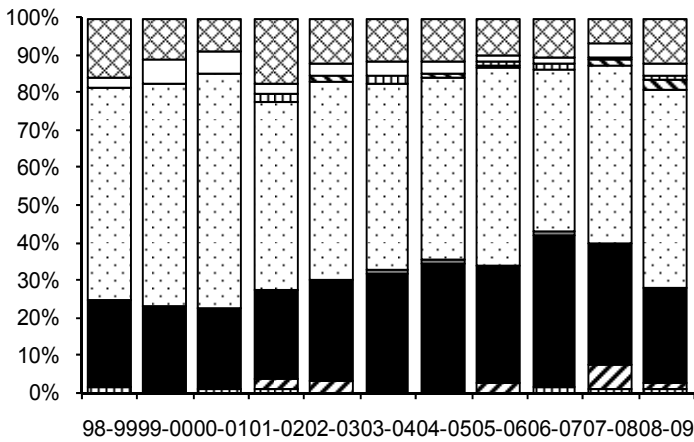
Southeast



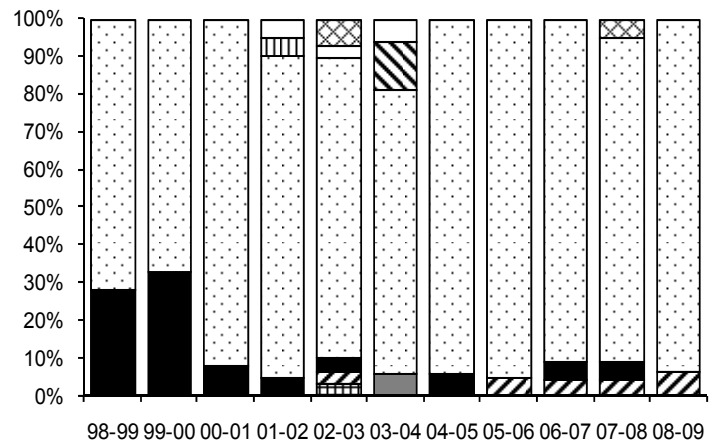
Southcentral & Southwest



Interior

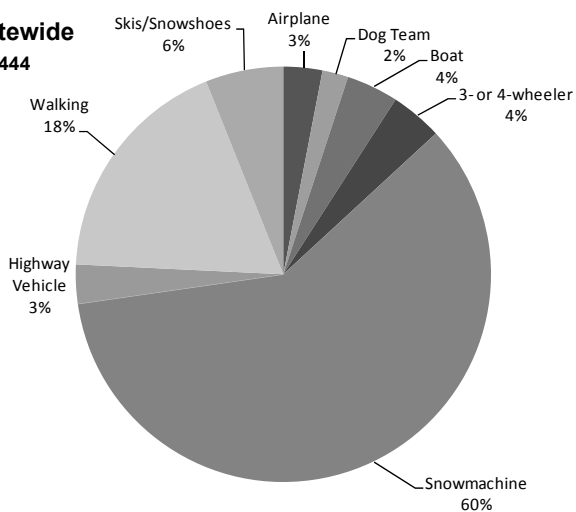


Arctic & Western

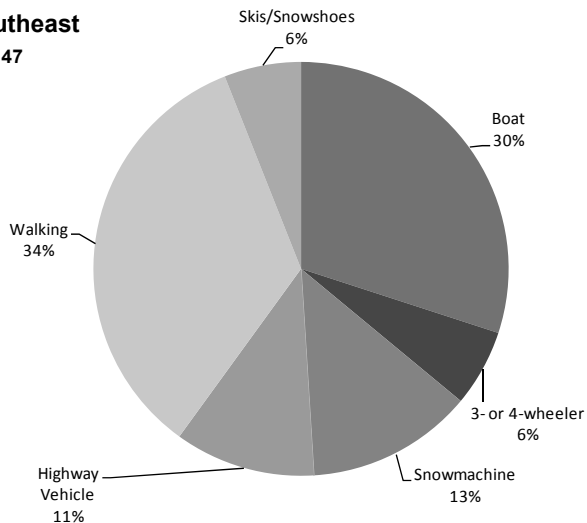


What mode of transportation did you use to run your main trapline?

Statewide
n = 444

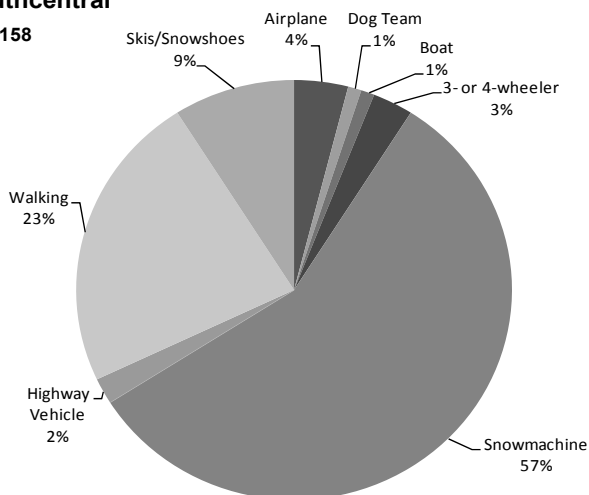


Southeast
n = 47



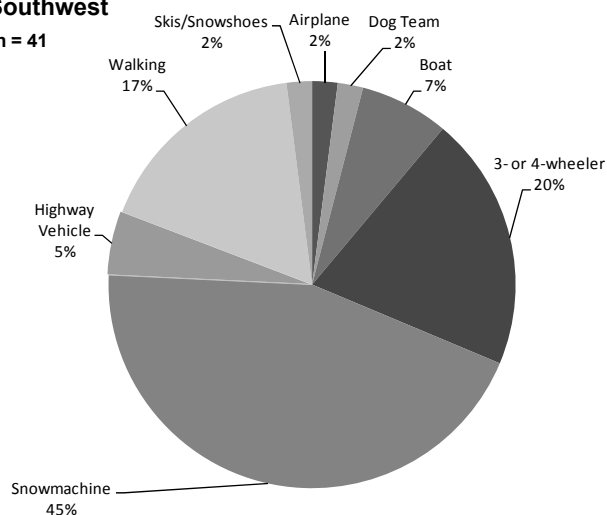
Southcentral

n = 158



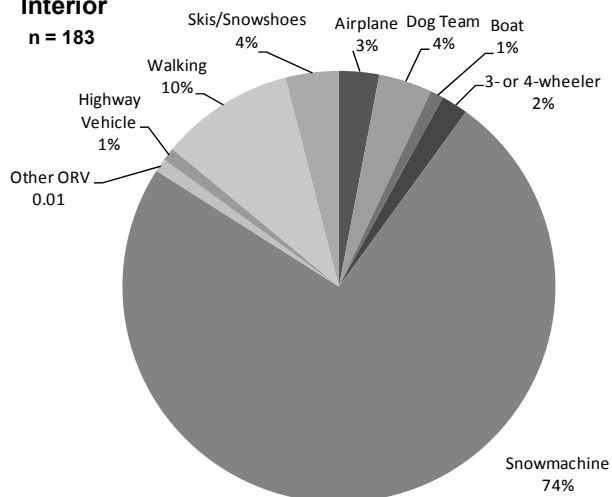
Southwest

n = 41



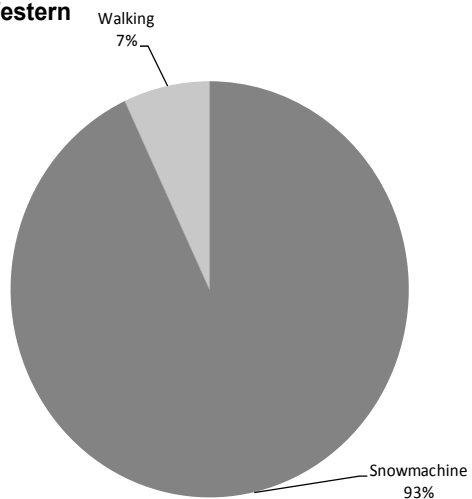
Interior

n = 183



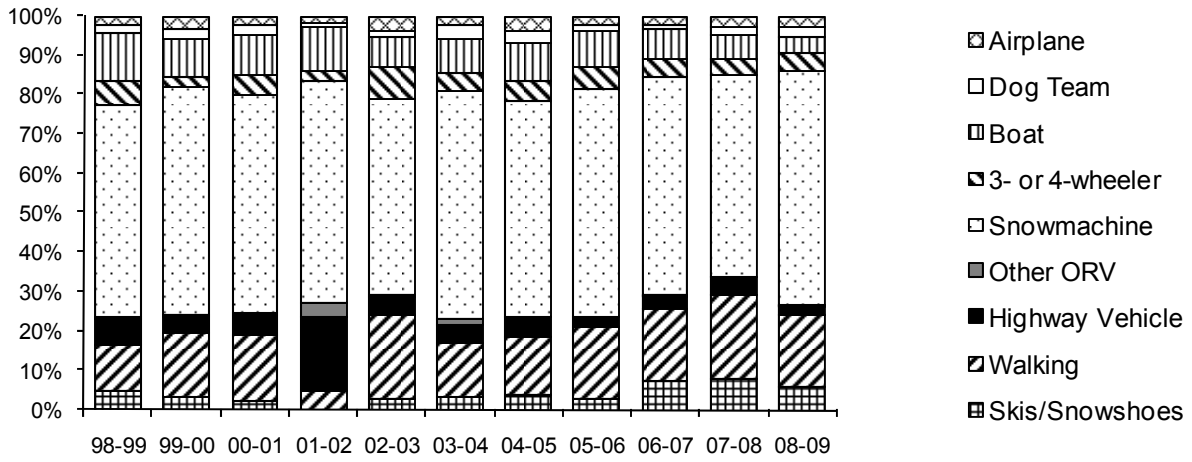
Arctic & Western

n = 15

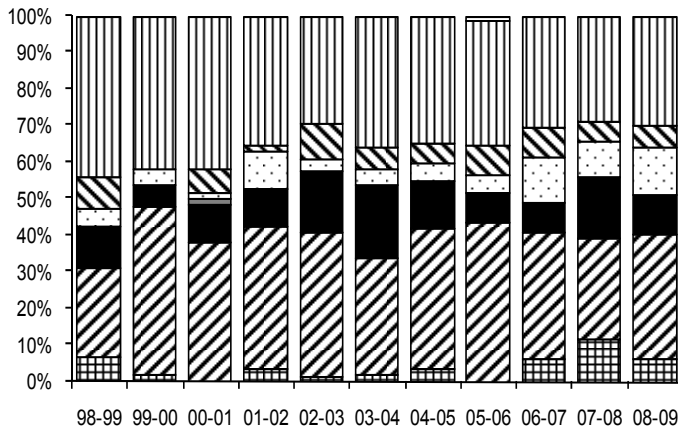


Trends in mode of transportation used to run traplines

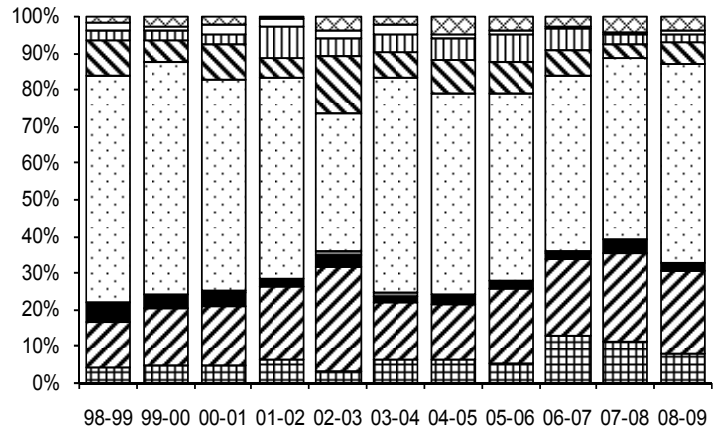
Statewide



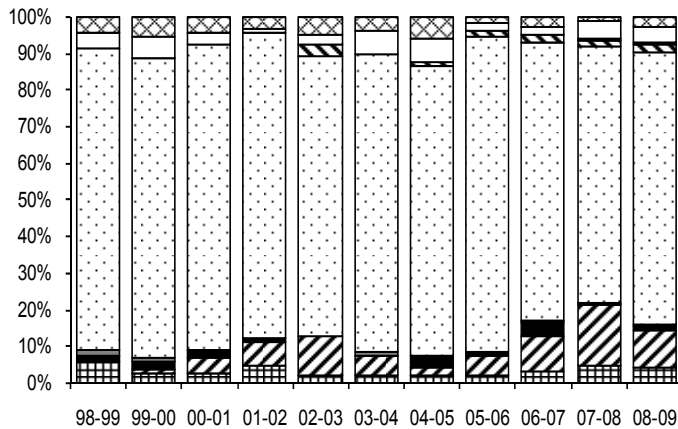
Southeast



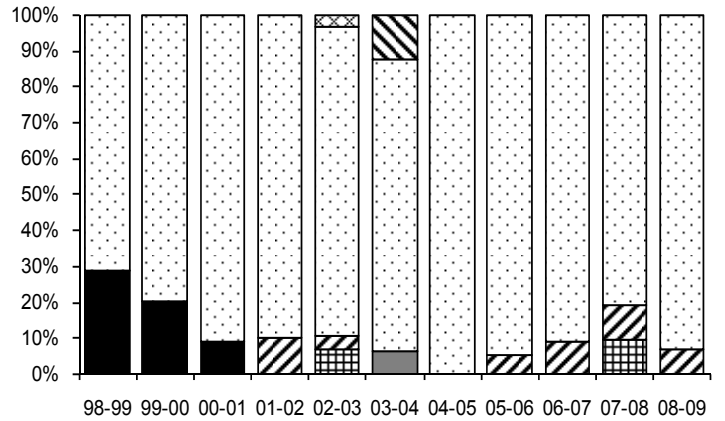
Southcentral & Southwest



Interior



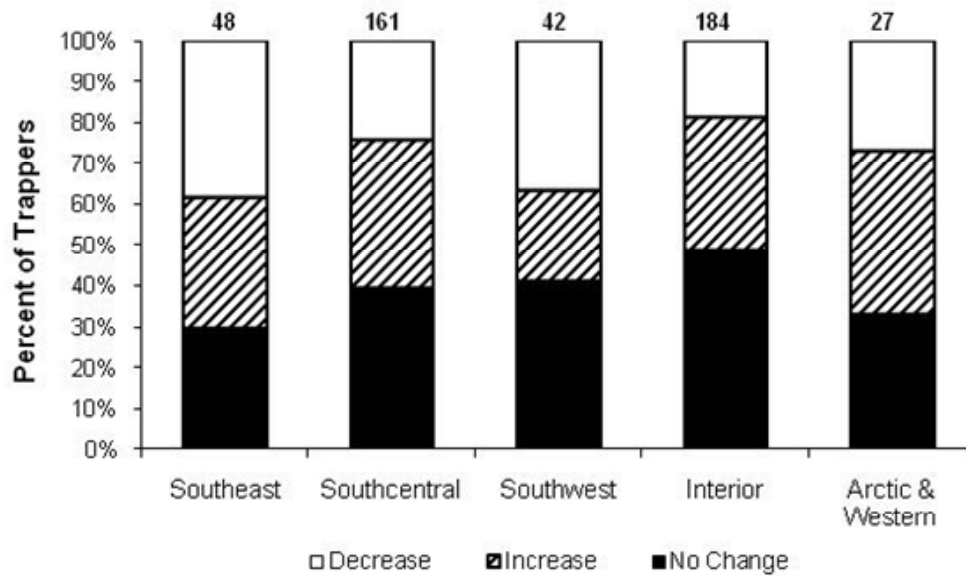
Arctic & Western



Trapping Effort

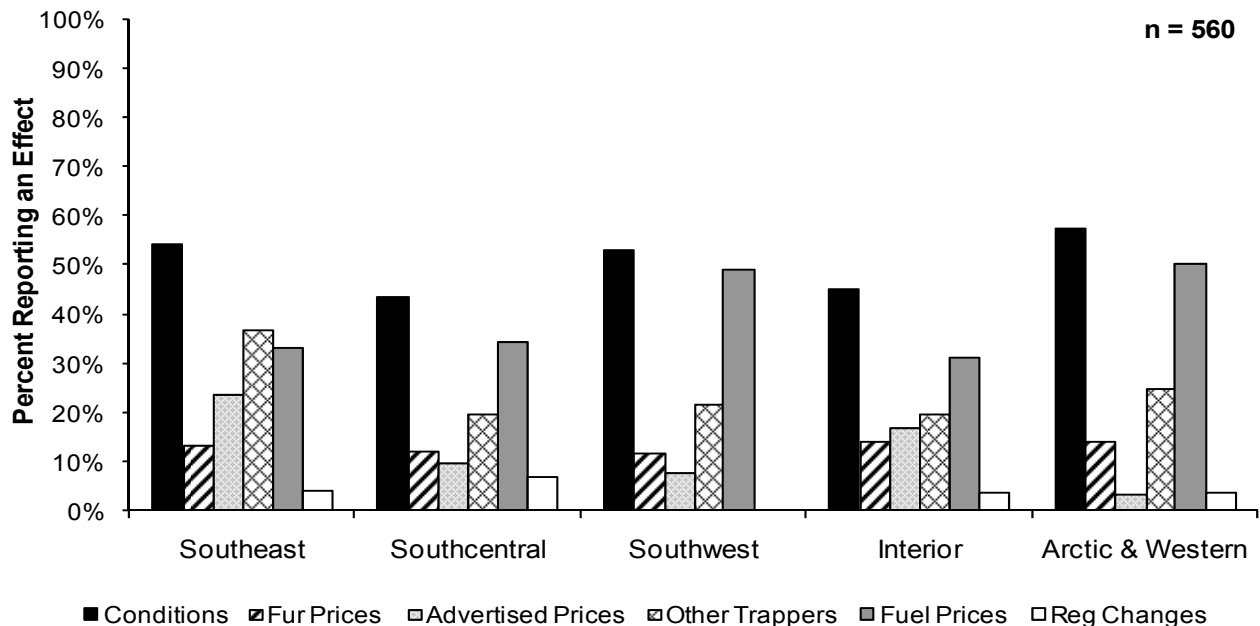
Did you change your trapping effort this season?

Changes in trapping effort during the 2008-09 season were very specific to regions. About half of Interior trappers answering the question reported no change in effort, whereas about 70% of trappers in the Southeast and Arctic & Western regions, and about 60% of Southcentral and Southwest trappers reported changing effort. In the Southeast and Southwest more reported decreasing their effort than increasing effort. The number of trappers in each region who responded is given above each bar.



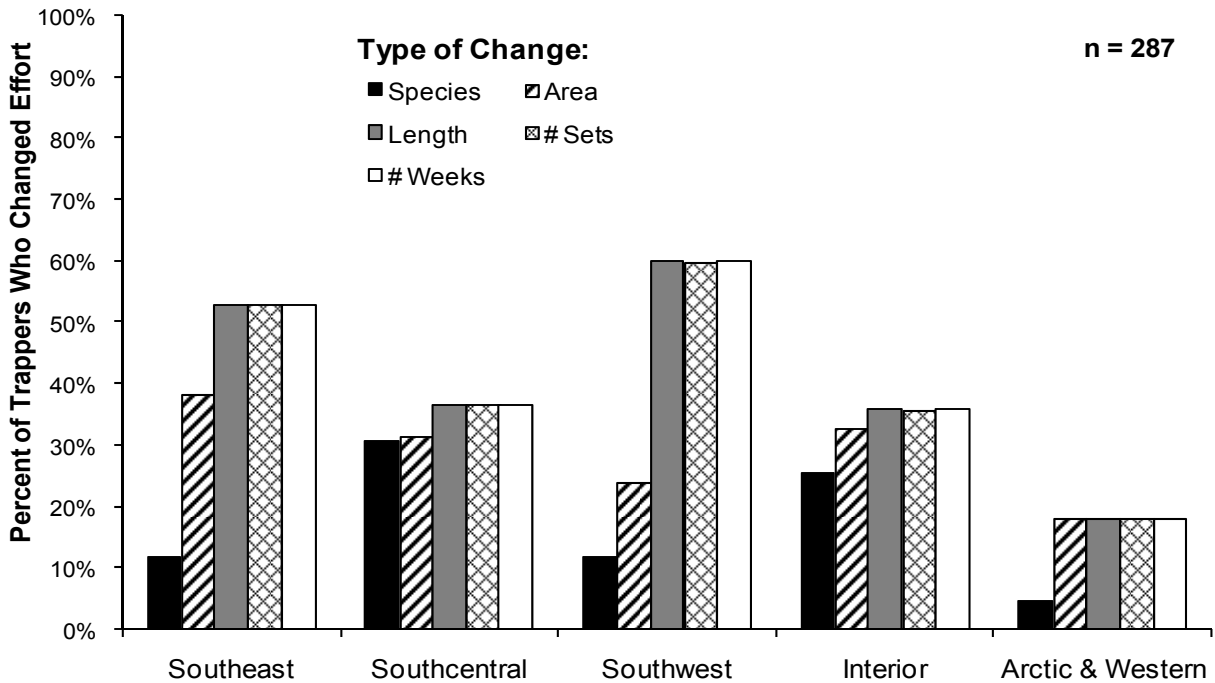
What factors affected your trapping effort?

In all regions statewide, trappers reported trapping conditions were the most important factor affecting trapping effort during the 2008-09 season. In every region but Southeast, high fuel prices were the second most important factor affecting trapping effort.



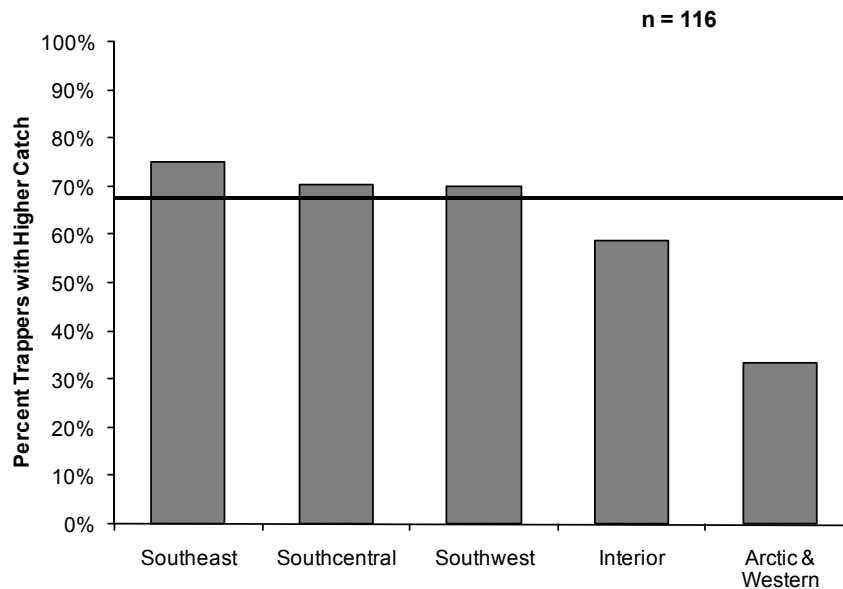
How did you change your trapping effort?

Number of sets, weeks trapped, and trapline length all tied in every region for the most common changes in effort. Statewide, an average of 39% of trappers reported these changes. In the Arctic & Western region trappers also reported changing the size of their trapping area was equally as important a change in effort.



Did increasing your trapping effort result in a higher catch?

Statewide, an average of 69% of trappers reported that increasing their effort resulting in a higher catch. Most trappers in the Arctic & Western region that reported increasing effort did not increase their catch. Southeast, Southcentral and Southwest trappers had better than average success increasing their catch with increased effort.



Target Species and Disposition of Furs

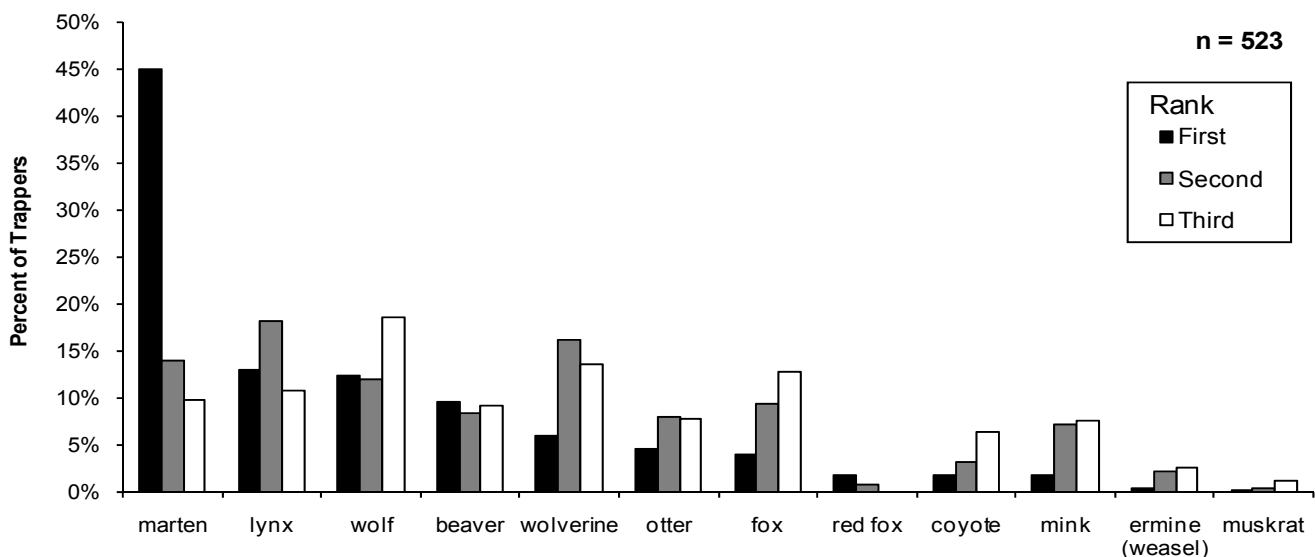
What was the most important species you were trying to catch?

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 otter was most targeted and Arctic & Western where wolverine was most important. Southcentral and Interior trappers ranked wolves as one of the top three species helping wolves rank second in importance statewide in a tie with lynx which ranked high in the Interior and in the Arctic & Western regions.

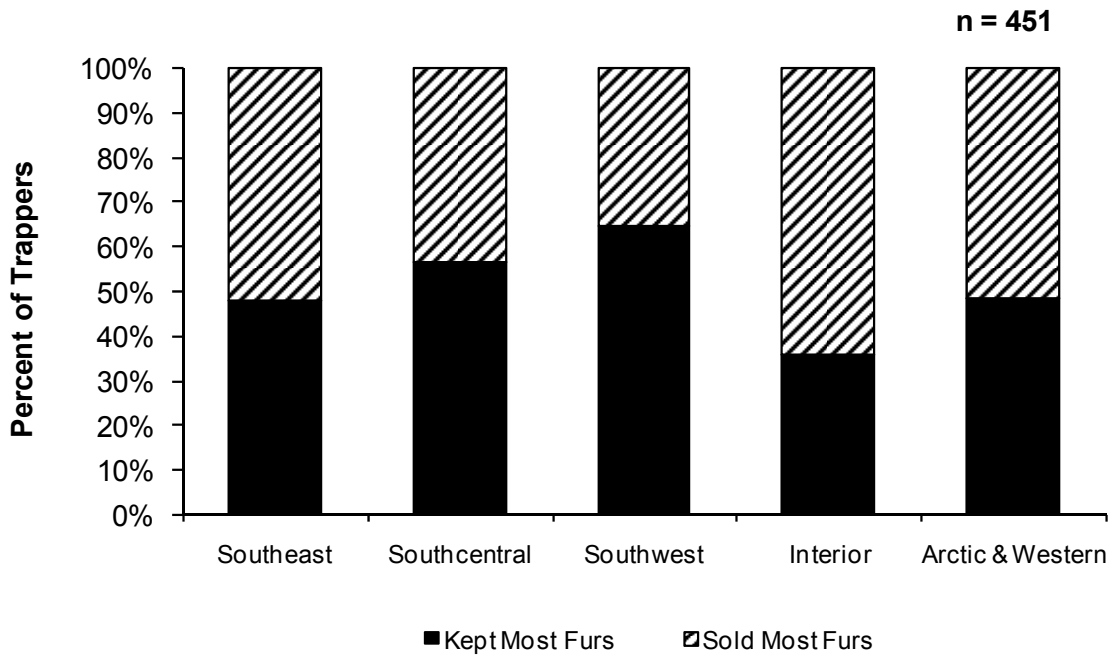
Species	Statewide (523)	Southeast (79)	Southcentral (163)	Southwest (52)	Interior (185)	Arctic & Western (44)
marten	1	1	1	7	1	2
wolf	2	5	2	4	3	5
lynx	2	8	5	8	2	3
wolverine	4	6	3	5	4	1
beaver	5	4	4	2	6	4
fox	6	9	6	3	5	5
mink	8	2	9	---	8	8
red fox	11	9	11	6	10	9
otter	7	3	8	1	9	7
coyote	9	---	7	---	7	10
ermine (weasel)	10	7	10	9	11	10
muskrat	12	---	12	---	---	---

The graph below gives the percentage of trappers who ranked that species as the first, second, or third most important species they were trying to target.



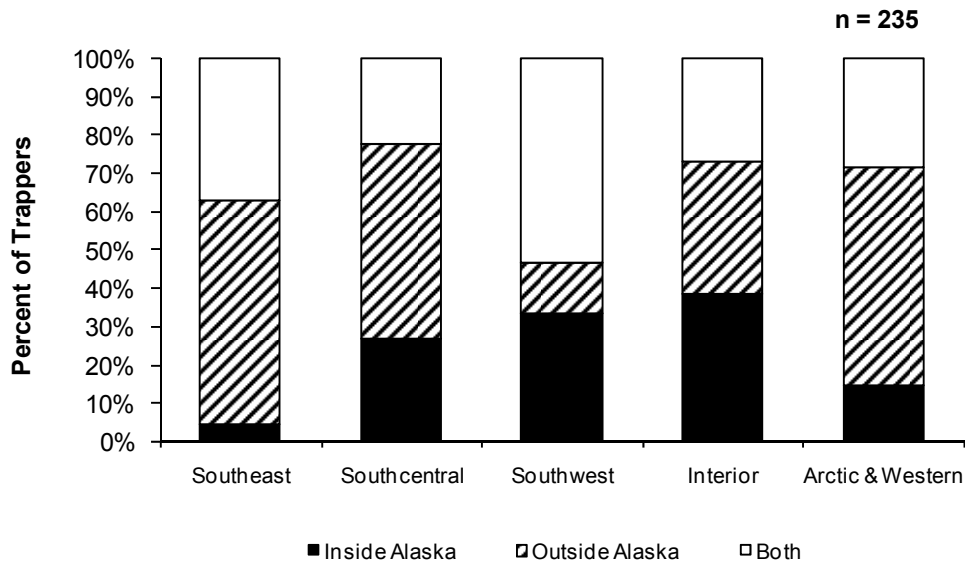
Did you keep or sell most of your furs?

In Southcentral (56%) and Southwest (64%) most trappers kept their furs in the 2008-09 season. 64% of Interior trappers sold most of their furs, whereas 52% of both Southeast and Arctic & Western trappers sold most of theirs.

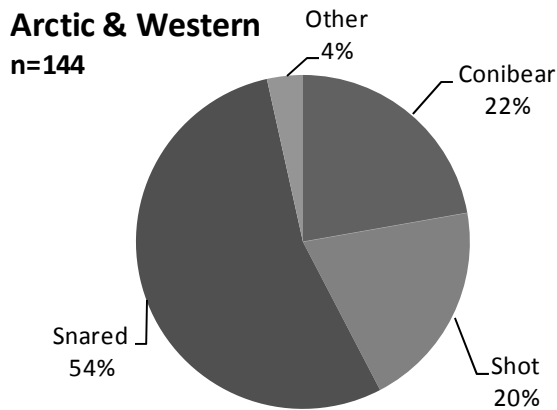
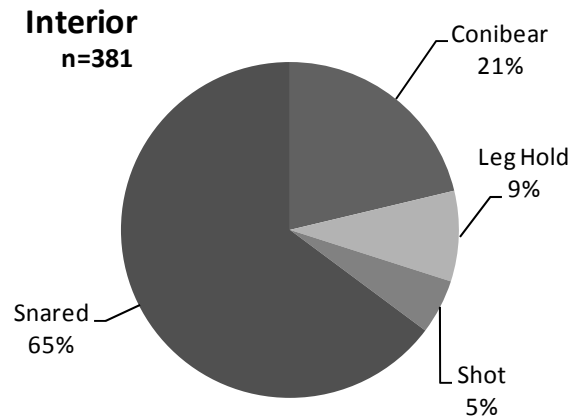
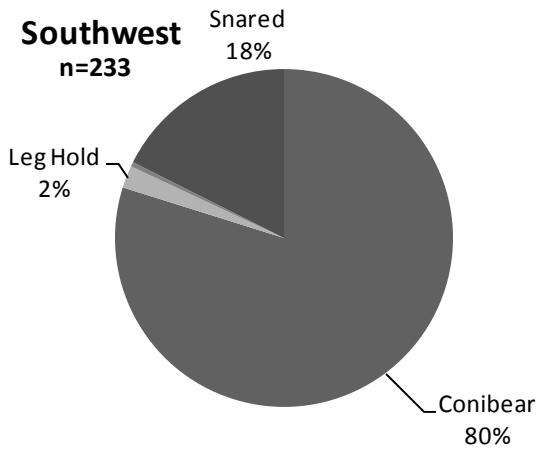
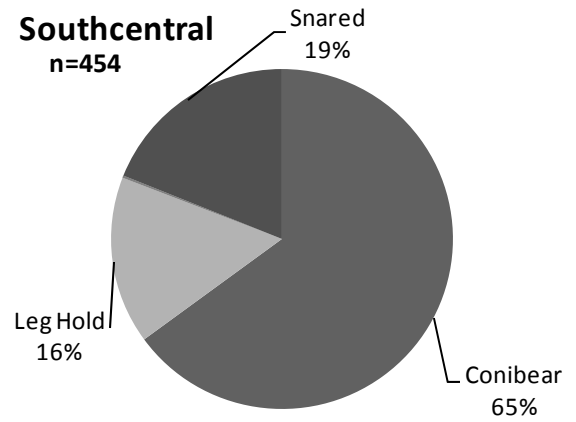
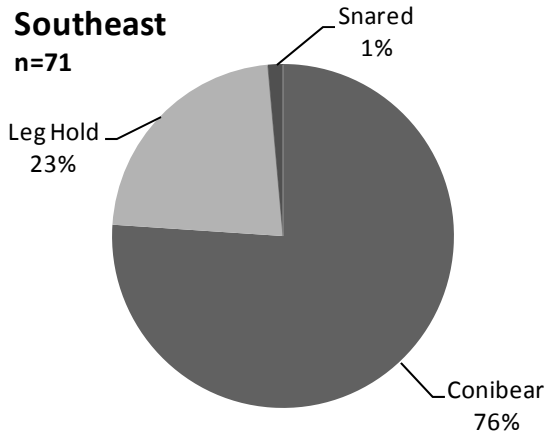


Did you sell to a fur buyer in Alaska or outside of Alaska?

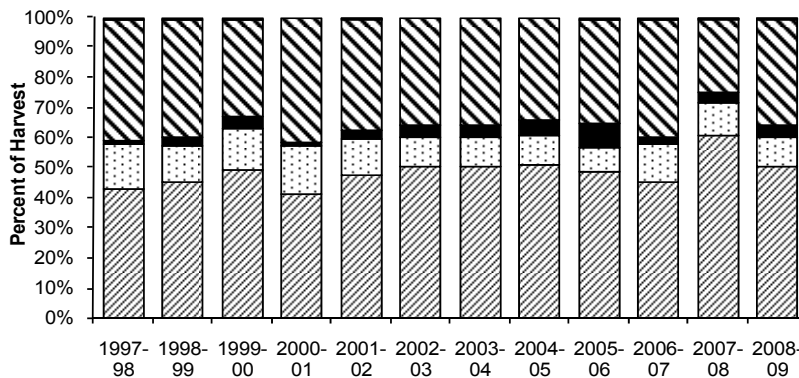
About 58% of Southeast trappers, 57% of Arctic & Western trappers, and half of Southcentral trappers who responded to this question sold most of their furs to buyers outside Alaska. 38% of Interior trappers and 33% of Southwest trappers sold most of their furs within Alaska. More than half of Southwest trappers sold furs equally to buyers within and outside Alaska. Statewide, 42% sold most furs to buyers outside the state, 30% sold most to buyers within the state, and 29% sold equally to both.



Beaver Harvest Methods



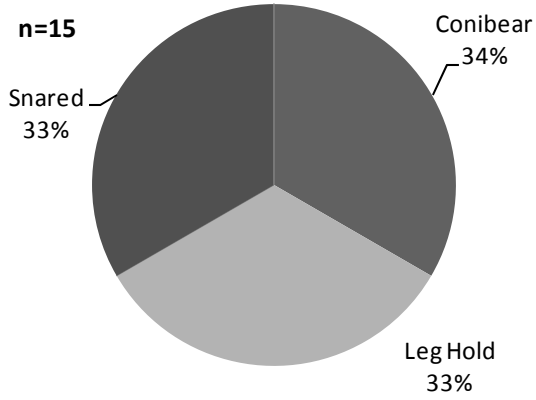
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Coyote Harvest Methods

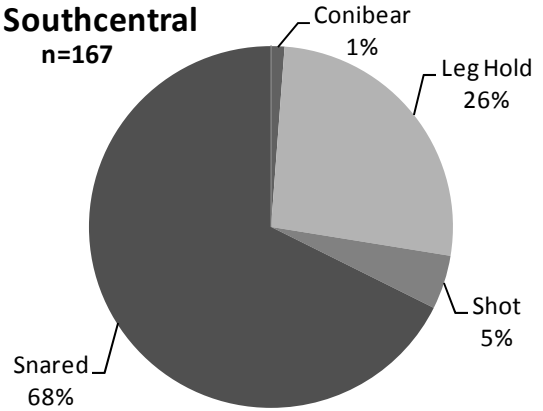
Southeast

n=15



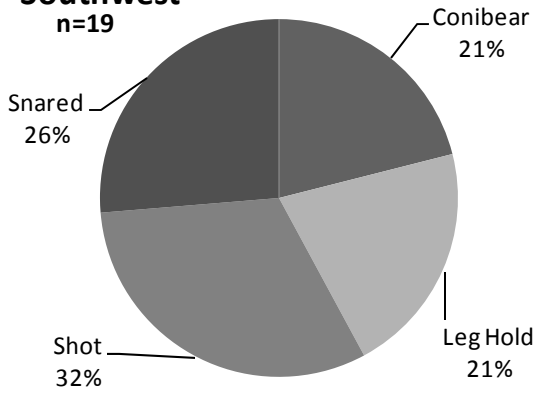
Southcentral

n=167



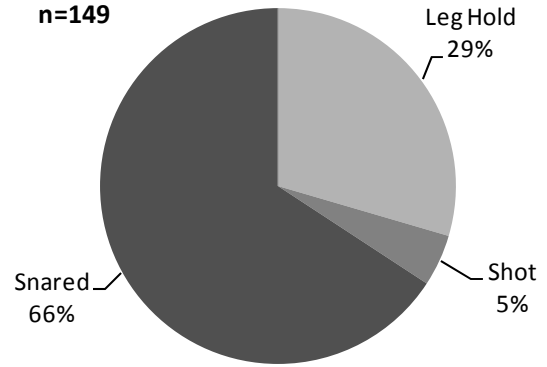
Southwest

n=19



Interior

n=149



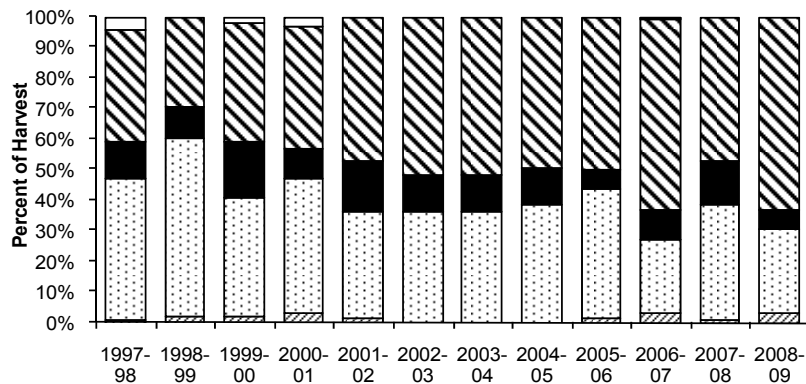
Arctic & Western

n=0

No Data Available

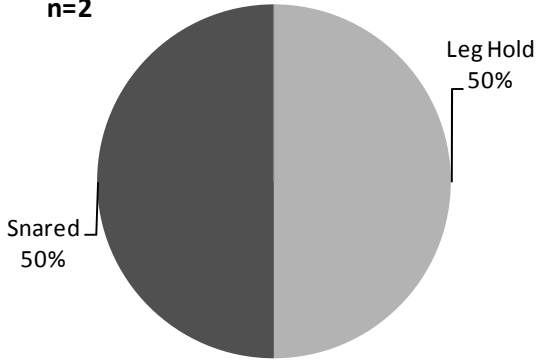


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

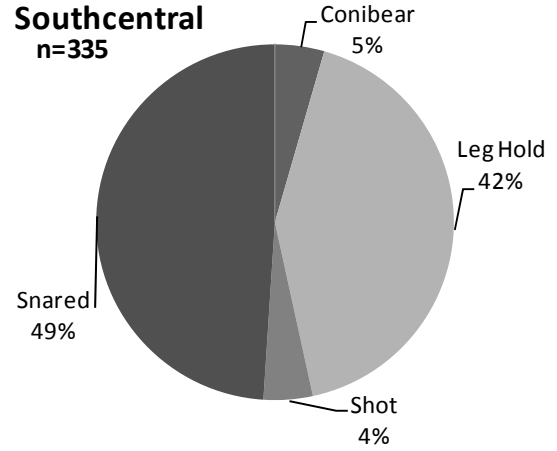


Fox Harvest Methods

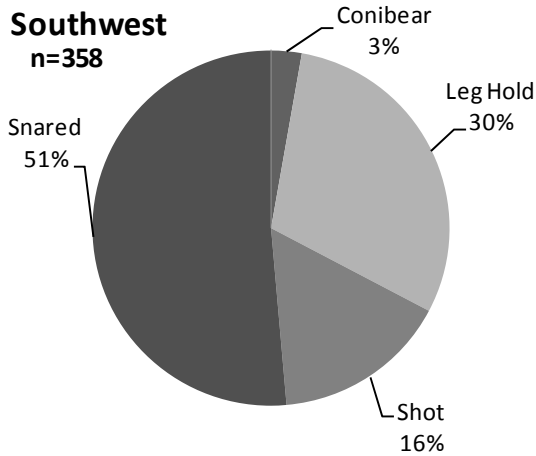
Southeast
n=2



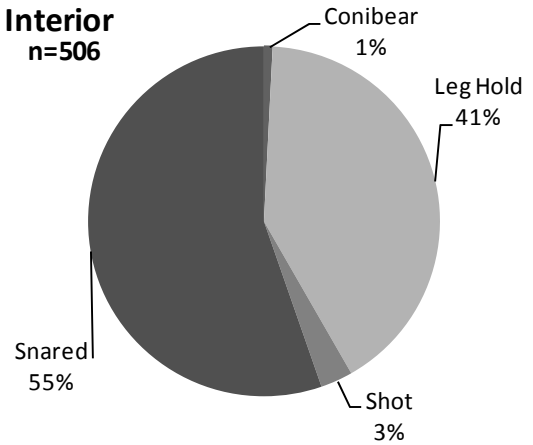
Southcentral
n=335



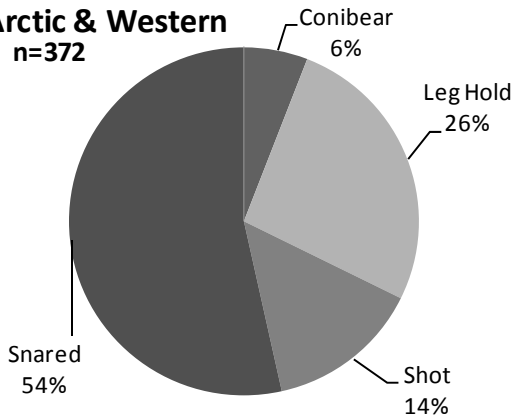
Southwest
n=358



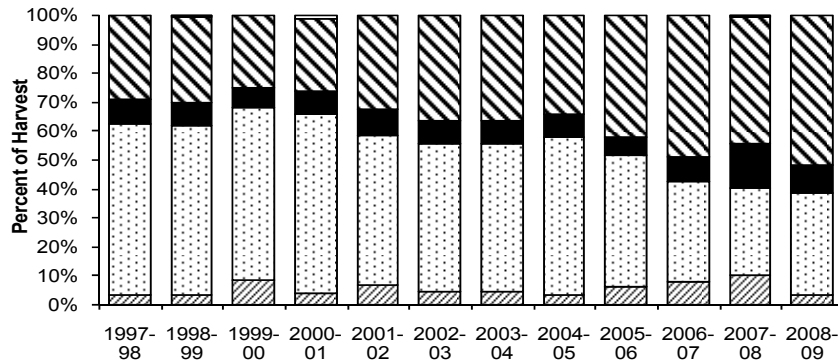
Interior
n=506



Arctic & Western
n=372

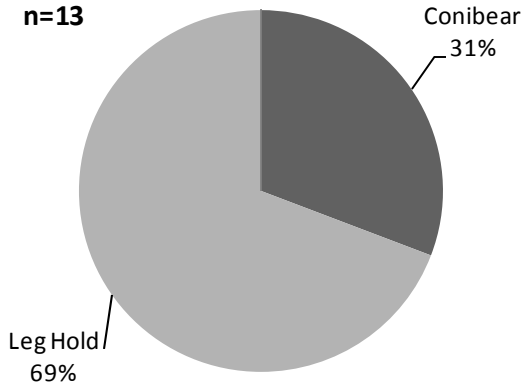


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

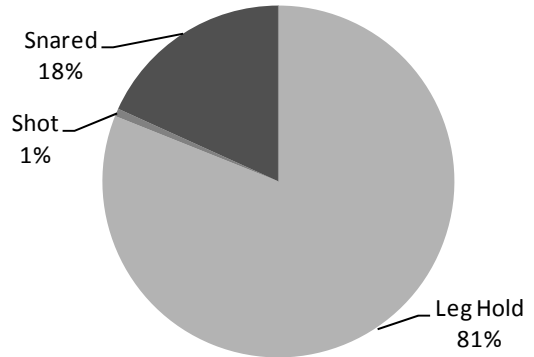


Lynx Harvest Methods

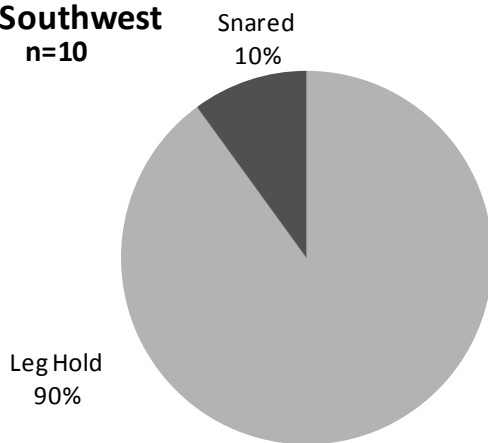
Southeast
n=13



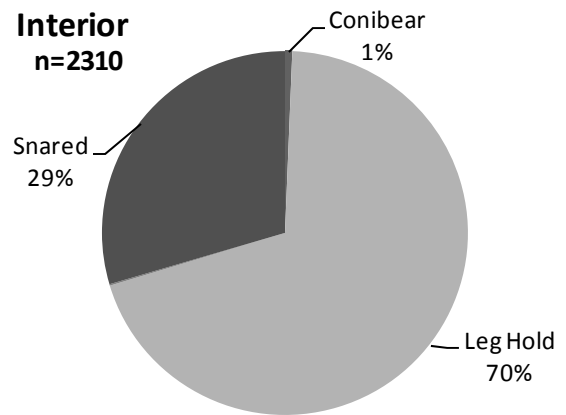
Southcentral
n=428



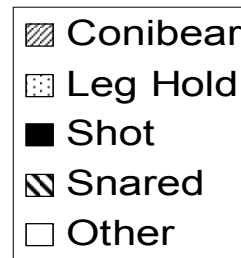
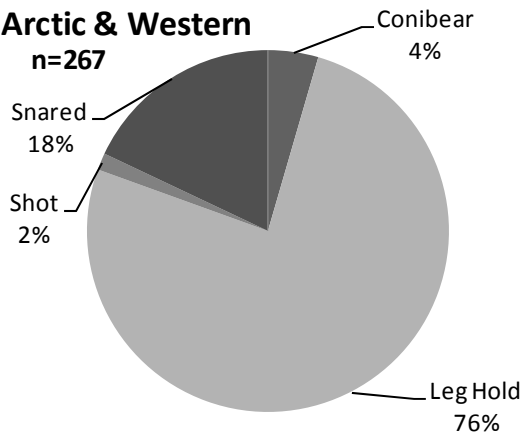
Southwest
n=10



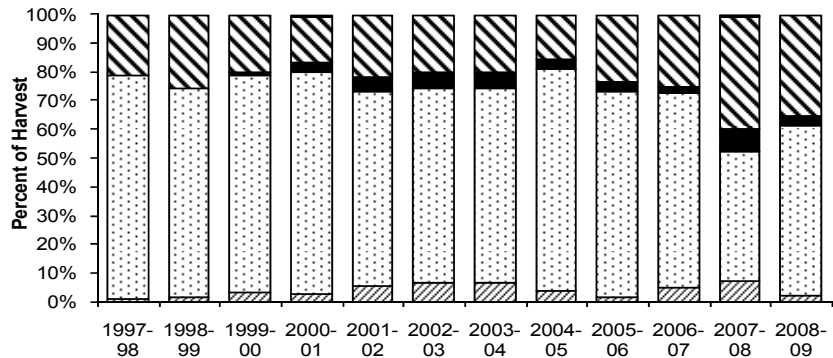
Interior
n=2310



Arctic & Western
n=267

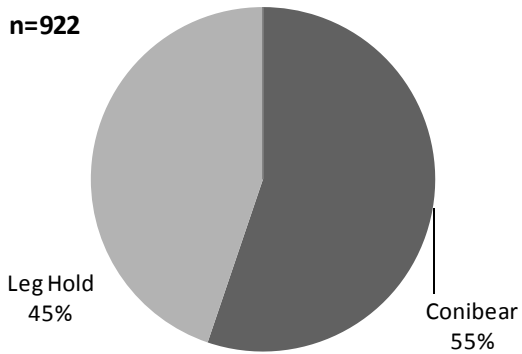


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

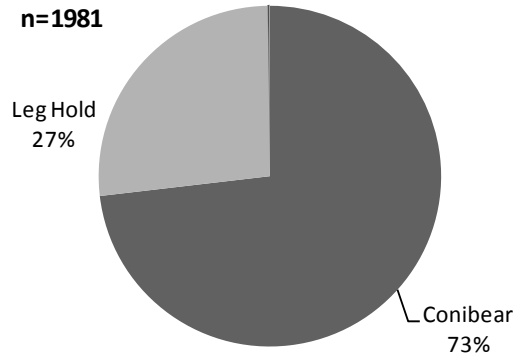


Marten Harvest Methods

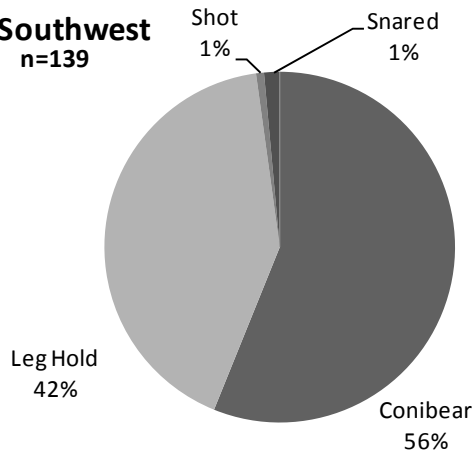
Southeast
n=922



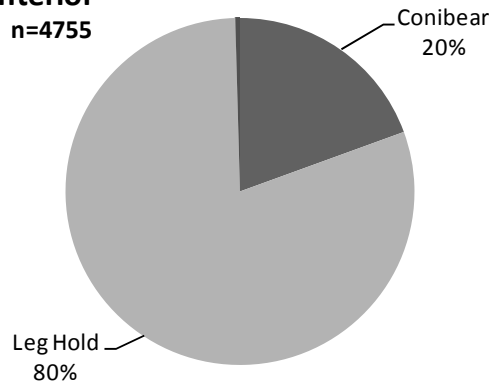
Southcentral
n=1981



Southwest
n=139

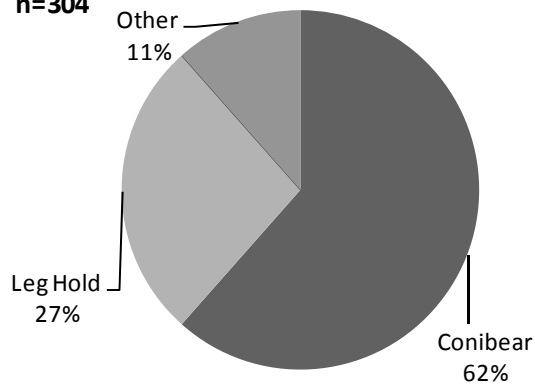


Interior
n=4755

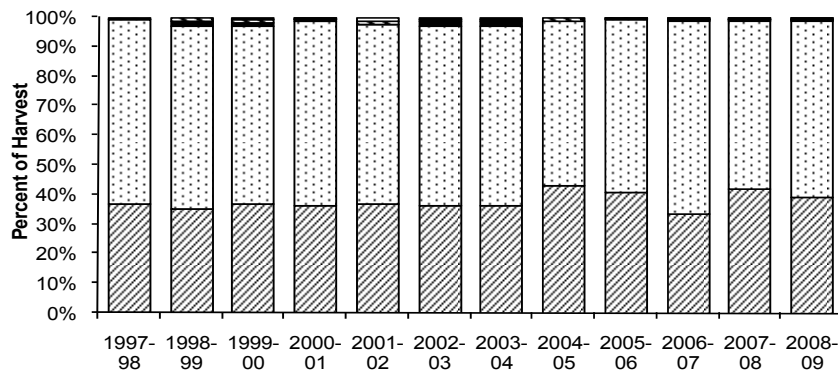


Arctic & Western

n=304

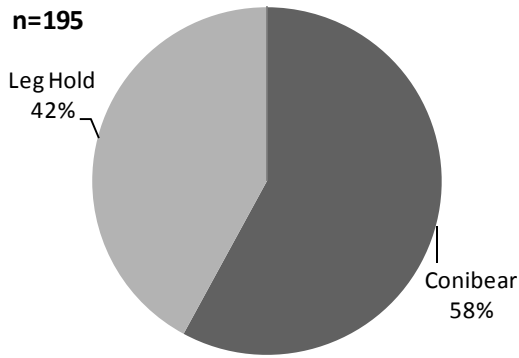


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

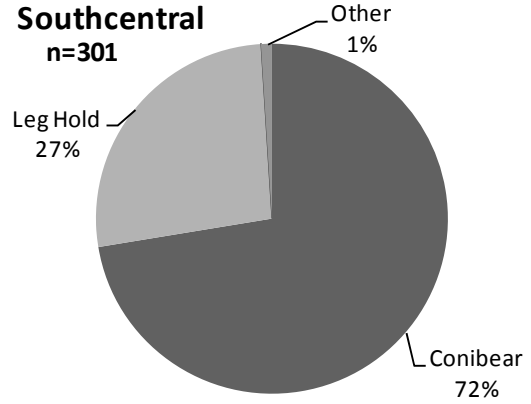


Mink Harvest Methods

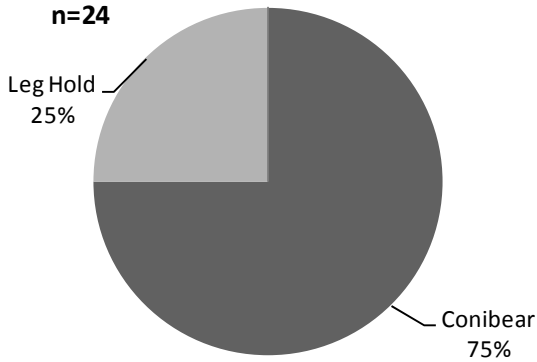
Southeast
n=195



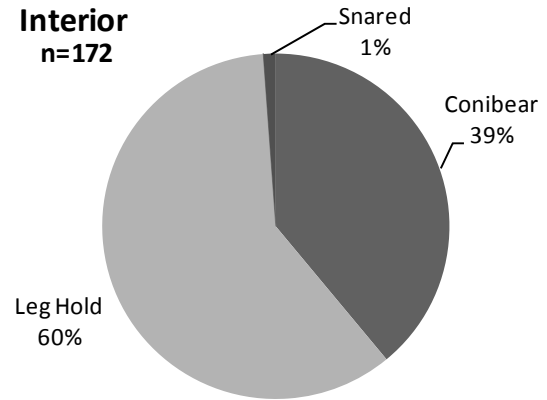
Southcentral
n=301



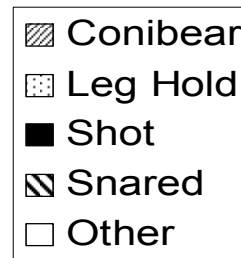
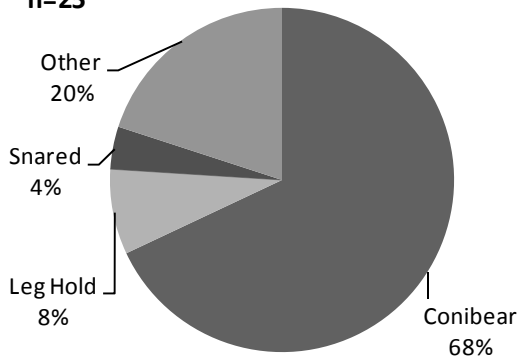
Southwest
n=24



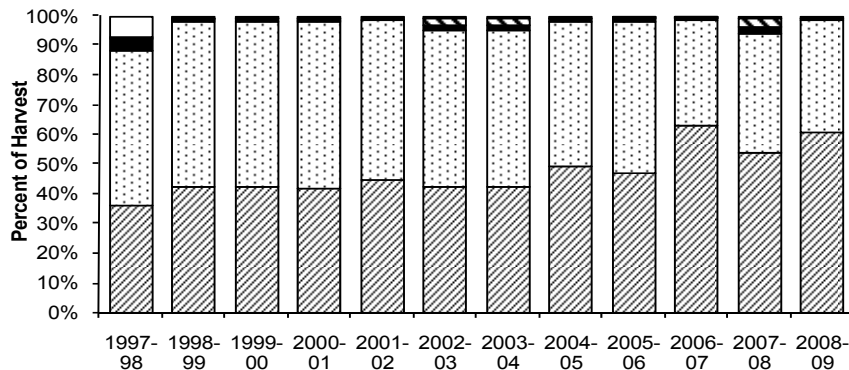
Interior
n=172



Arctic & Western
n=25



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

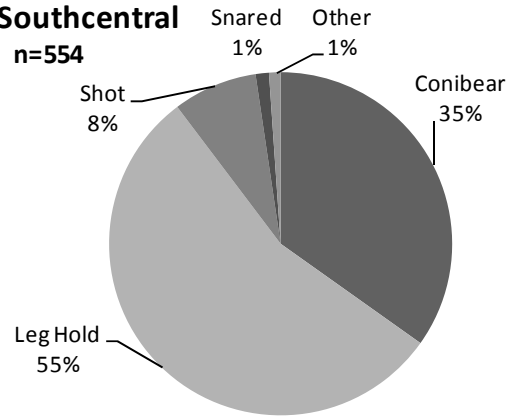


Muskrat Harvest Methods

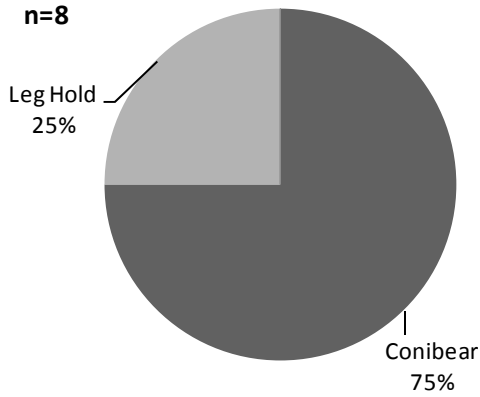
Southeast
n=0

No Data Available

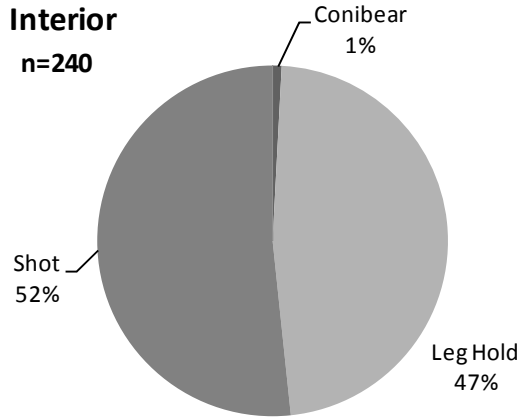
Southcentral
n=554



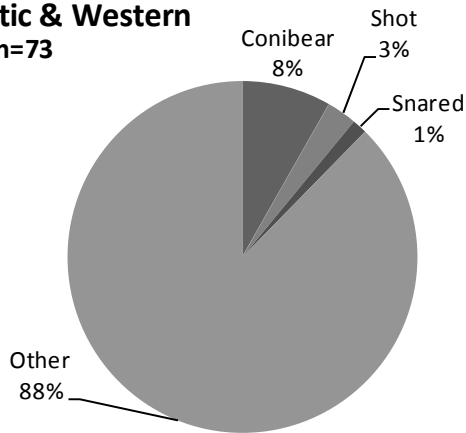
Southwest
n=8



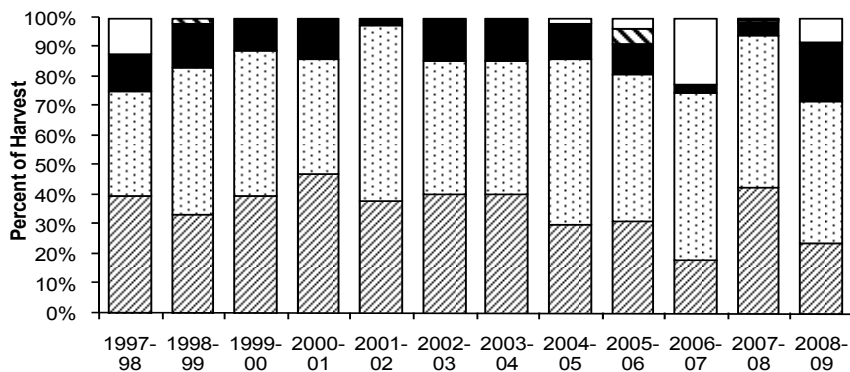
Interior
n=240



Arctic & Western
n=73



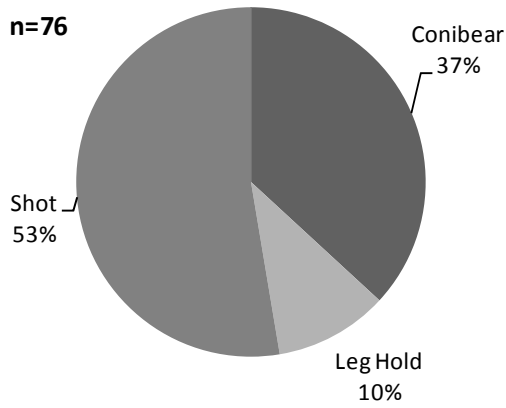
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



River Otter Harvest Methods

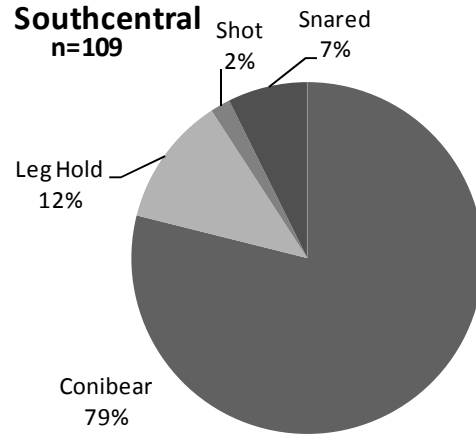
Southeast

n=76



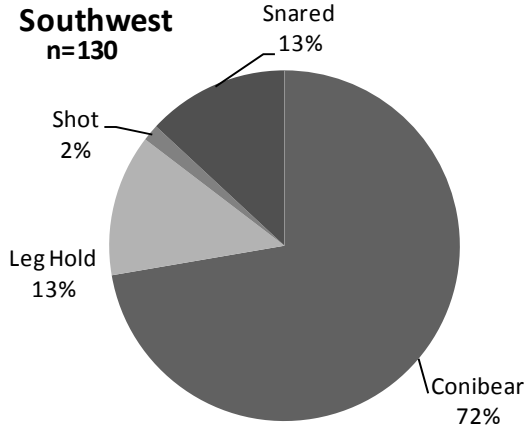
Southcentral

n=109



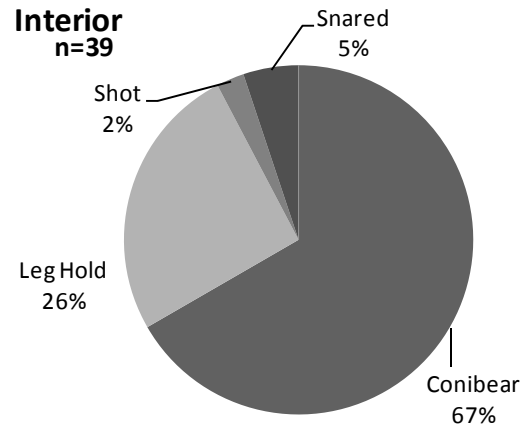
Southwest

n=130



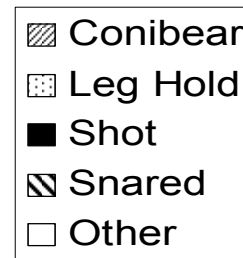
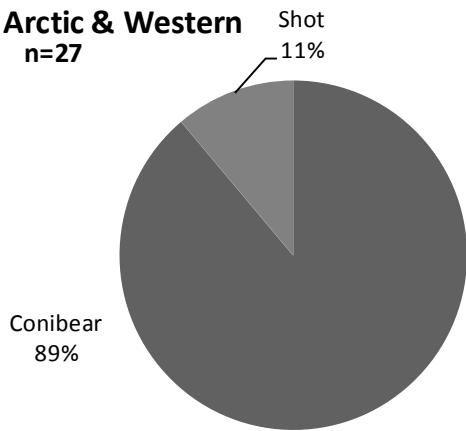
Interior

n=39

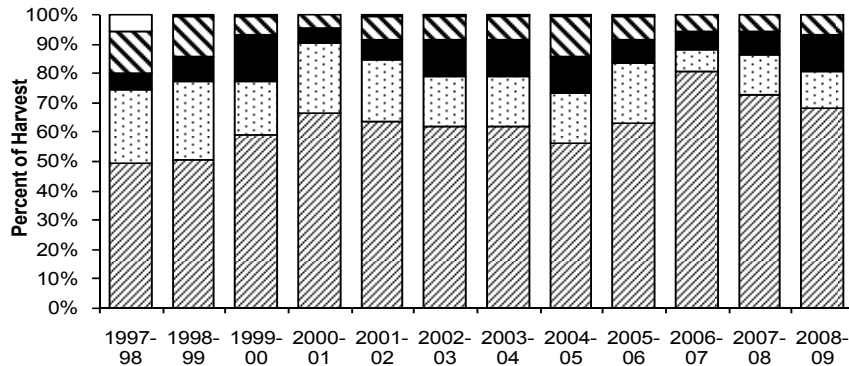


Arctic & Western

n=27

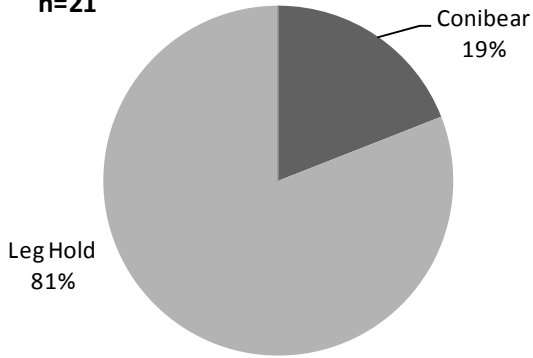


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

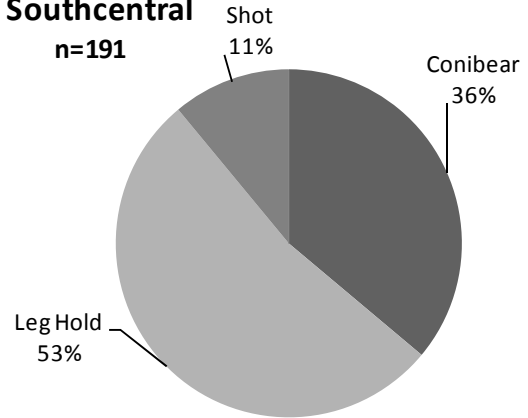


Squirrel Harvest Methods

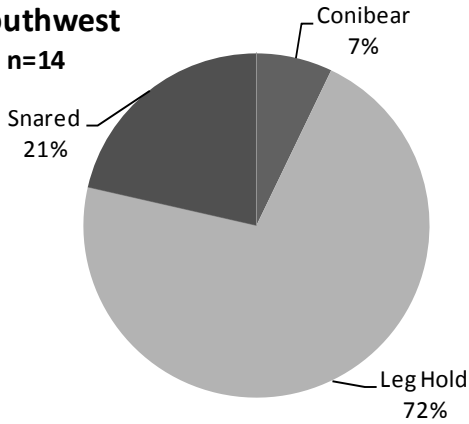
Southeast
n=21



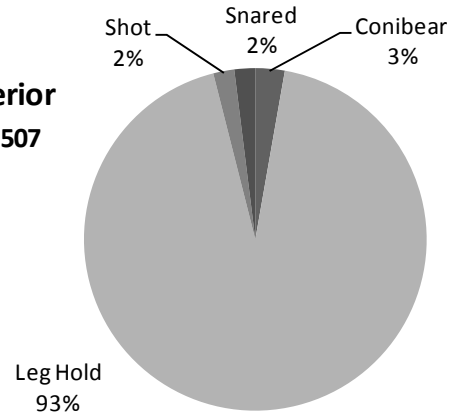
Southcentral
n=191



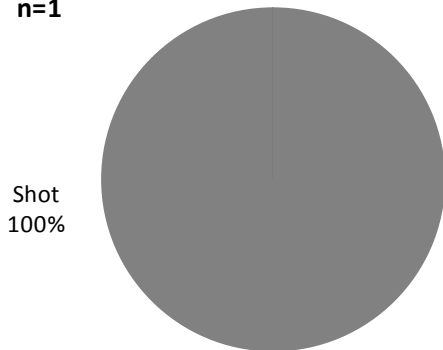
Southwest
n=14



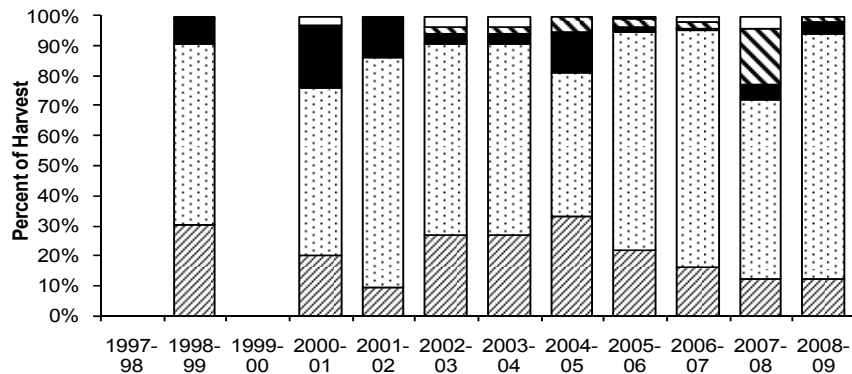
Interior
n=507



Arctic & Western
n=1

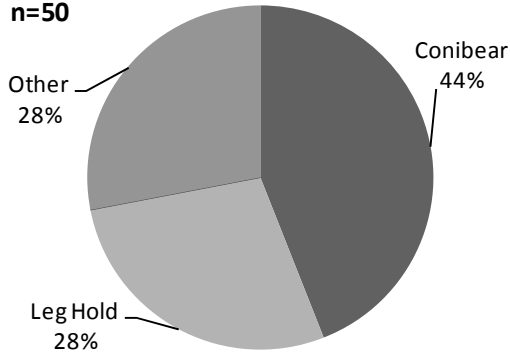


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

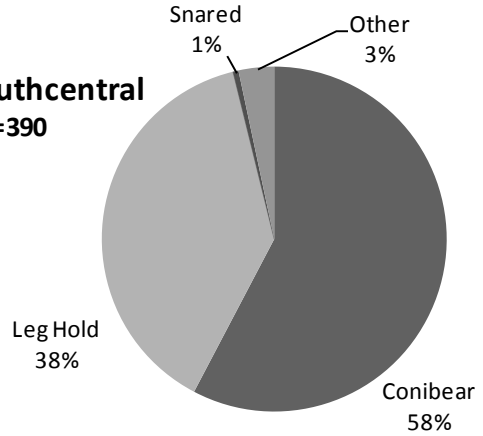


Weasel (Ermine) Harvest Methods

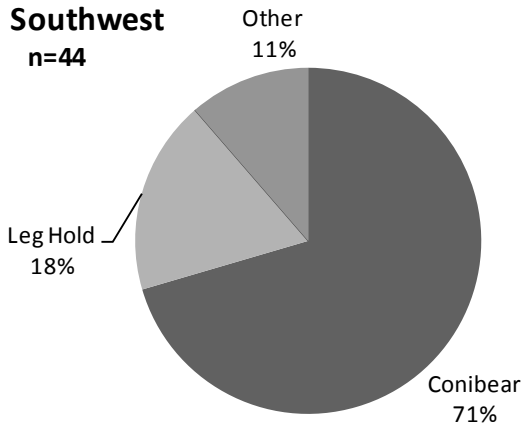
Southeast
n=50



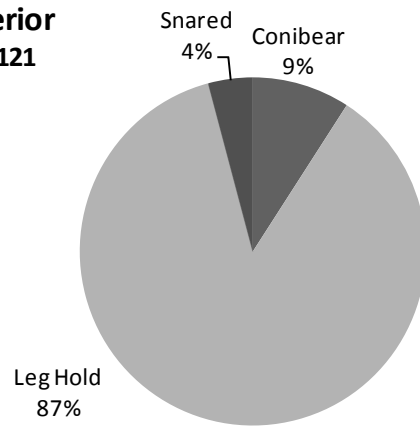
Southcentral
n=390



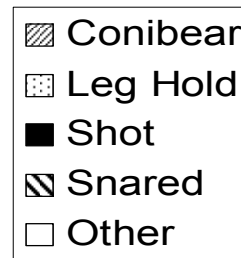
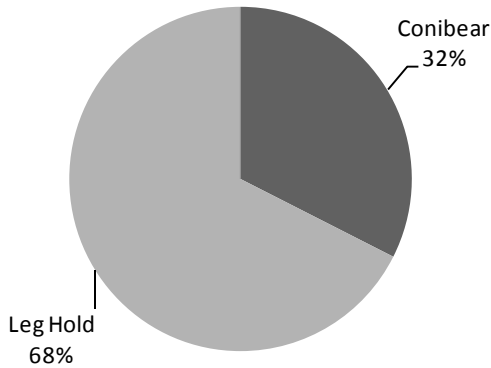
Southwest
n=44



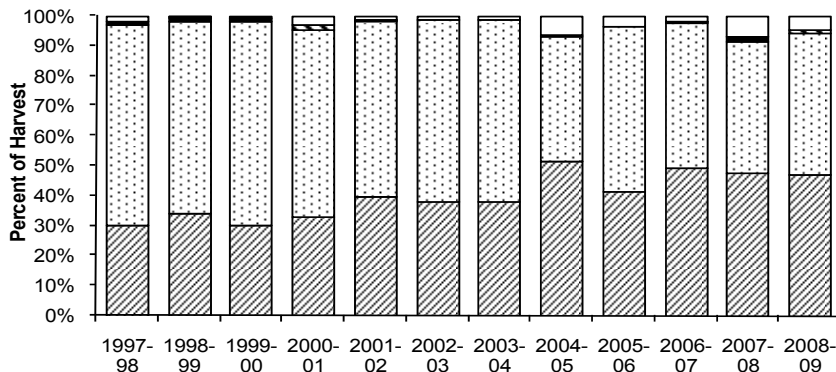
Interior
n=121



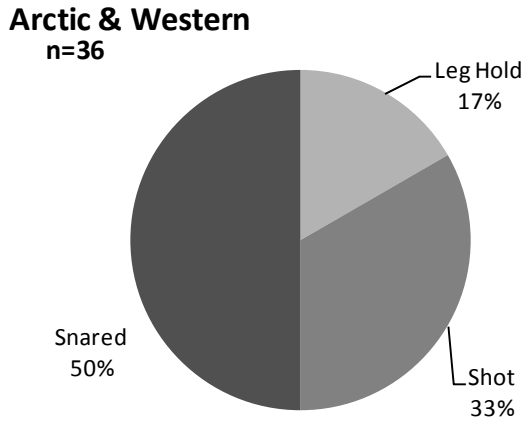
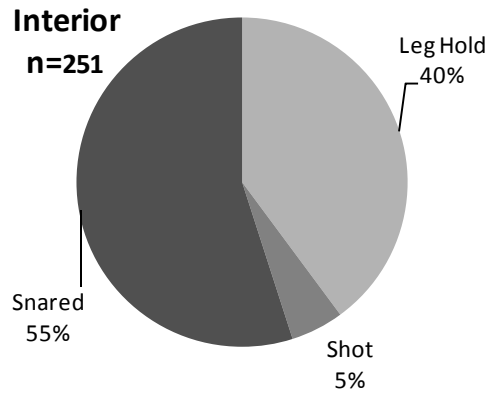
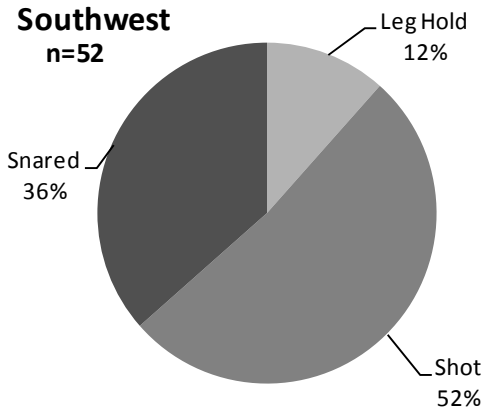
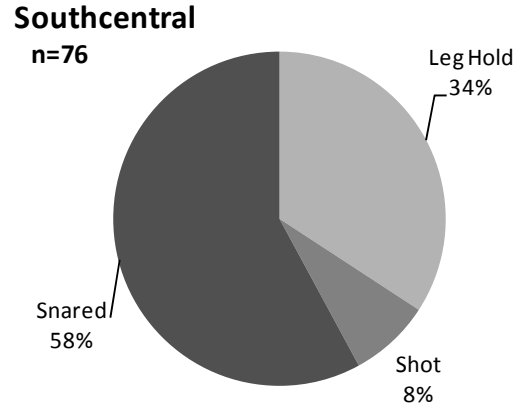
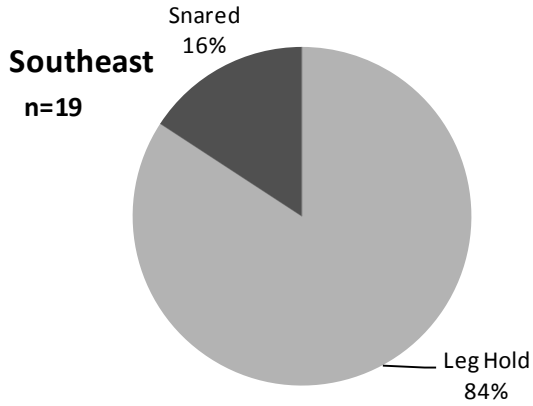
Arctic & Western
n=40



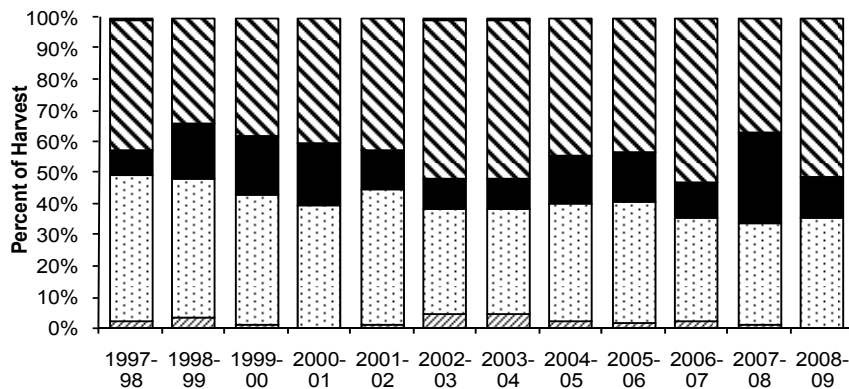
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Wolf Harvest Methods



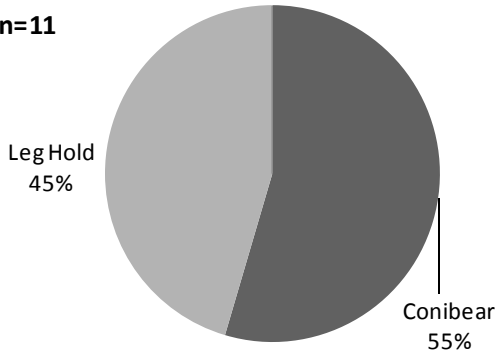
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Wolverine Harvest Methods

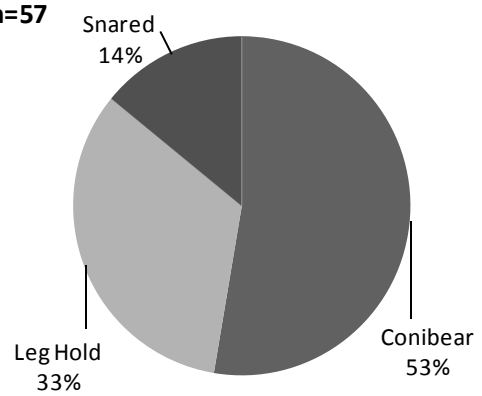
Southeast

n=11



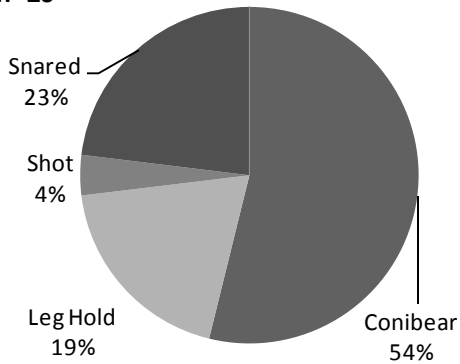
Southcentral

n=57



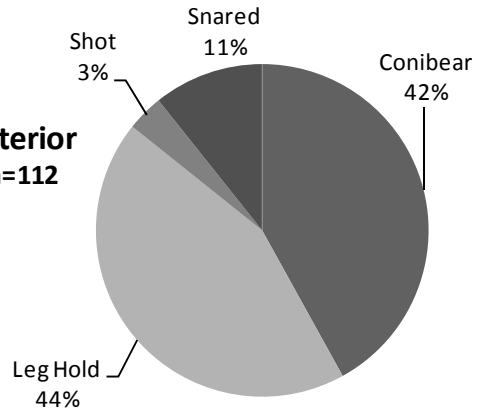
Southwest

n=26



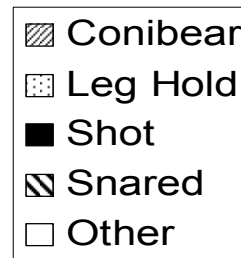
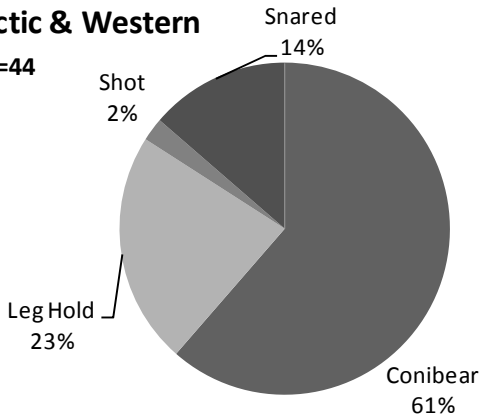
Interior

n=112

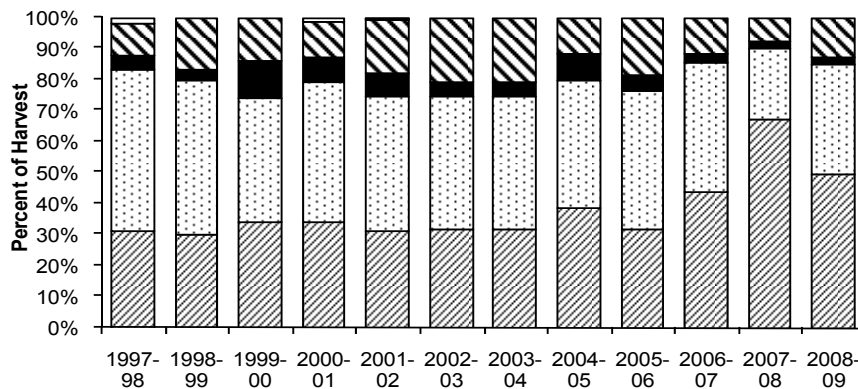


Arctic & Western

n=44



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, 2008-09, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

Southeast Alaska								
	Ketchikan, Prince of Wales & Vicinity GMUs 1A, 2		Petersburg, Wrangell, Kupreanof & Vicinity GMUs 1B, 3		Juneau, Douglas, Haines, Yakutat GMUs 1CD, 5		Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagoff Islands GMU 4	
	Relative Abundance n = 17	Trend n = 14	Relative Abundance n = 5	Trend n = 5	Relative Abundance n = 9	Trend n = 9	Relative Abundance n = 14	Trend n = 13
Furbearers:								
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	+	common	+
Coyote	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Lynx	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Marten	common	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-
Mink	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Muskrat	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c
Red Fox	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Red Squirrel	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Wolf	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	scarce	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	not present	n/c
Prey:								
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Hare	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Mice/Rodents	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ptarmigan	abundant	n/c	common	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c

Relative Abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southcentral Alaska, 2008-09, 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 = 40	Trend n = 30	Relative Abundance n = 57	Trend n = 54	Relative Abundance n = 8	Trend n = 8	Relative Abundance n = 24	Trend n = 21
Furbearers:								
Arctic Fox	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	-
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	-	abundant	+
Lynx	common	+	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	+
Marten	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Mink	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	-	abundant	n/c
River Otter	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	common	-	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	-	scarce	n/c
Prey:								
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Hare	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Interior Alaska, 2008-09, 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 n = 80	Trend n = 67	Relative Abundance n = 10	Trend n = 9	Relative Abundance n = 18	Trend n = 15	Relative Abundance n = 16	Trend n = 14	Relative Abundance n = 13	Trend n = 9
Arctic Fox	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	scarce	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	common	+	common	n/c	common	+	common	n/c	abundant	+
Marten	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	-
Mink	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
River Otter	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c
Prey:			scarce							
Hare	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-
Grouse	abundant	+	abundant	+	common	+	common	+	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c	common	+	scarce	-
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southwest and Arctic & Western Alaska, 2008-09, 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.

Furbearers:	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 = 15	Trend n = 13	Relative Abundance n = 8	Trend n = 7	Relative Abundance n = 15	Trend n = 13	Relative Abundance n = 2	Trend n = 2	Relative Abundance n = 2	Trend n = 2	Relative Abundance n = 15	Trend n = 14
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	common	+	abundant	n/c
Coyote	not present	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	abundant	+	common	n/c
Lynx	not present	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	+	common	+	common	n/c
Marten	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c
Mink	not present	n/c	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	-	scarce	-	abundant	+
Red Fox	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	+	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	not present	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	common	+	common	n/c
Wolverine	not present	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Prey:												
Grouse	not present	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Hare	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	+	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations by region and statewide for 2008-09, 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	
Furbearers:	Relative Abundance n = 45	Trend n = 41	Relative Abundance n = 129	Trend n = 113	Relative Abundance n = 38	Trend n = 33	Relative Abundance n = 150	Trend n = 125	Relative Abundance n = 19	Trend n = 18
Arctic Fox	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Beaver	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+
Lynx	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	scarce	+
Marten	scarce	-	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	abundant	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Fox	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Prey:										
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Hare	common	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	scarce	n/c
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ptarmigan	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c

FURBEARER HARVEST REPORT

Only 4 of the 14 species defined as furbearers are required to be sealed throughout Alaska; lynx, otter, wolf, and wolverine. Marten and beaver are required to be sealed in some units but not statewide. Consequently, information on the numbers, distribution, and harvest of many furbearers is limited. The following tables give the numbers of each species harvested in each GMU subunit as reported on the 2008–09 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	musk rat	red fox	squirrel	otter	wolf	wolverine
Southeast	01A	0	0	0	2	0	118	54	0	0	15	18	18	0
	01B	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	01C	0	10	0	13	0	32	11	0	0	12	0	0	2
	01D	0	8	0	14	1	44	3	0	1	0	0	0	1
	02Z	0	56	0	18	1	322	125	0	0	0	13	2	0
	03Z	0	3	0	4	0	39	13	0	0	0	14	5	0
	04Z	0	3	0	3	0	332	22	0	0	0	32	0	0
Region 1 Totals		0	84	0	54	2	887	228	0	1	27	78	25	3
Southcentral & Southwest	06A	0	6	0	8	0	5	12	0	0	0	2	0	0
	06B	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	06C	0	26	3	10	0	44	6	1	0	0	14	0	0
	06D	0	3	0	0	0	25	54	0	0	0	19	0	3
	06Z	0	3	5	43	0	65	41	5	0	0	13	0	2
	07Z	0	6	5	42	9	77	13	13	0	13	1	0	0
	11Z	0	13	11	15	120	96	14	0	15	5	4	4	5
	13A	0	17	7	15	112	97	3	51	57	12	4	5	6
	13B	0	58	8	20	78	122	14	53	85	0	3	10	9
	13C	0	23	14	19	81	130	14	0	19	0	4	14	4
	13D	0	4	22	29	46	63	10	14	26	34	0	2	0
	13E	0	23	3	33	3	93	3	8	27	0	1	7	5
	13Z	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	14A	0	33	16	32	5	92	27	74	47	5	11	0	0
	14B	0	67	10	33	0	131	5	33	18	10	2	1	2
	14C	0	7	1	16	0	45	9	176	29	1	3	0	3
	15A	0	15	17	9	2	0	15	64	0	20	11	6	0
	15B	0	0	14	1	2	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	1
	15C	0	3	8	47	7	0	16	3	0	3	1	6	0
	16A	0	36	8	20	0	197	10	18	7	3	2	6	0
16B	0	105	27	55	0	716	48	42	34	38	21	7	6	
08Z	0	10	0	31	0	14	0	3	173	0	41	0	0	
09B	0	12	3	3	8	18	2	0	30	0	13	4	5	
09C	0	41	2	0	3	1	11	2	49	0	22	22	5	
17A	0	10	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	5	3	
17B	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	7	0	0	2	5	
17C	0	168	4	7	0	73	13	3	103	1	22	18	8	
Region 2 Totals		0	699	188	488	476	2142	346	564	726	148	219	119	72

Region	Subunit	arctic fox	beaver	coyote	ermine (weasel)	lynx	marten	mink	muskrat	red fox	squirrel	otter	wolf	wolverine
Interior	12Z	0	11	22	0	139	90	9	66	52	0	0	25	9
	19A	0	33	0	1	4	478	0	0	30	0	3	12	20
	19B	0	0	0	0	5	13	0	0	4	0	0	1	7
	19C	0	1	0	0	16	21	0	0	0	0	0	3	6
	19D	0	14	0	7	16	649	20	2	4	0	0	5	5
	20A	0	27	38	10	335	91	22	133	73	212	4	39	5
	20B	0	178	22	64	258	494	66	1	116	80	21	44	5
	20C	0	5	15	6	218	455	14	0	15	0	4	15	2
	20D	0	18	51	1	86	167	11	0	57	28	2	24	7
	20E	0	10	7	2	297	432	4	0	44	0	0	30	17
	20F	0	6	0	0	13	130	1	0	2	0	0	1	1
	21A	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	3	0	3	0	1
	21B	0	14	0	11	61	583	7	0	1	0	0	5	3
	21D	0	246	0	3	10	260	9	1	14	115	2	4	0
	21E	0	26	0	3	0	392	11	0	13	0	3	0	2
	21Z	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	24A	3	0	0	10	7	30	1	0	8	0	0	8	3
	24B	0	28	0	0	20	76	10	3	3	11	0	1	1
	24C	0	1	0	10	3	115	2	0	0	10	0	0	6
	25A	0	0	0	0	17	80	0	0	7	0	0	0	8
	25B	0	1	0	6	199	175	0	0	2	200	0	3	0
	25C	0	1	0	4	8	112	6	0	8	0	0	4	2
	25D	1	10	1	14	550	19	9	9	67	10	1	35	8
25Z	0	0	0	0	9	85	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	
Region 3 Totals		4	630	156	152	2271	5049	202	215	526	666	43	262	118
Arctic & Western	18Z	1	25	0	10	123	107	11	12	124	0	7	3	3
	22A	0	0	0	0	1	16	4	0	5	0	0	0	1
	22B	2	0	0	5	17	35	0	0	10	0	0	0	5
	22C	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
	23Z	0	15	0	14	37	137	4	0	65	0	0	4	6
	26B	4	0	0	2	0	8	0	0	25	0	0	12	16
Region 5 Totals		7	42	0	31	178	303	19	12	232	0	7	19	31
Statewide Total		11	1455	344	725	2927	8381	795	791	1485	841	347	425	224

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.

		Reported Harvest from Sealing Records					
Species	Region	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Beaver*	Southeast	443	343	290	104	393	215
	Southcentral & Southwest	1099	1126	1402	1078	945	991
	Interior	134	14	91	57	31	4
	Arctic & Western	48	85	76	109	33	21
	Total Beaver	1724	1568	1859	1348	1402	1231
Lynx	Southeast	0	3	1	2	0	8
	Southcentral & Southwest	150	150	242	471	782	1455
	Interior	764	1124	1767	2919	3911	5373
	Arctic & Western	174	243	243	211	165	296
	Total Lynx	1088	1520	2253	3603	4858	7132
Marten**	Southeast	2742	3697	3933	4623	2696	2488
	Southcentral & Southwest	1264	1180	1972	1438	995	2117
	Interior	1	0	0	2	0	2
	Arctic & Western	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Total Marten	4007	4878	5905	6063	3691	4607
Otter	Southeast	809	1061	958	363	179	288
	Southcentral & Southwest	724	983	890	706	518	468
	Interior	153	157	153	123	82	77
	Arctic & Western	350	435	421	257	58	100
	Total Otter	2036	2636	2422	1449	837	933
Wolf	Southeast	134	162	156	143	107	150
	Southcentral & Southwest	657	508	471	393	481	365
	Interior	582	638	554	546	465	668
	Arctic & Western	177	250	173	99	151	112
	Total Wolf	1550	1558	1354	1181	1204	1295
Wolverine	Southeast	21	18	13	16	22	21
	Southcentral & Southwest	273	232	217	205	229	184
	Interior	224	265	271	257	188	243
	Arctic & Western	159	105	120	65	85	66
	Total Wolverine	677	620	621	543	524	514

*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
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
	Total	510	402	438	30	1380
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
	Total	572	352	446	180	1550
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
	Total	485	350	398	325	1558
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
	Total	487	294	396	177	1354
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
	Total	362	273	358	188	1181
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
	Total	500	222	311	171	1204
2008-09	Southeast	57	65	27	1	150
	Southcentral	131	68	78	88	365
	Interior	122	152	213	181	668
	Arctic	75	7	16	14	112
	Total	385	292	334	284	1295

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.

2005–2008 Fur Acquisition and Export

	2005–06		2006–07		2007–08		2008–09	
	Exported	Acquired	Exported	Acquired	Exported	Acquired	Exported	Acquired
Beaver	832	411	392	230	930	83	910	158
Coyote	121	78	62	20	128	30	154	46
Fox, Blue	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	13
Fox, White	22	8	9	0	12	0	28	6
Fox, Cross	114	68	55	14	158	0	161	26
Fox, Red	603	444	300	104	854	168	972	261
Fox, Silver	52	35	31	0	33	0	28	1
Lynx	214	1,324	242	217	4,200	1,219	4,111	1,791
Marten	4,655	13,088	2,364	3,456	16,722	6,295	12,921	8,364
Mink	927	1,224	571	321	1,151	549	664	267
Muskrat	300	435	245	395	627	308	527	141
Otter, Land	656	1,066	282	114	346	54	400	58
Red Squirrel	64	402	19	141	274	116	276	101
Weasel	158	262	81	166	336	105	425	131
Wolf	205	76	89	4	242	29	271	83
Wolverine	96	61	58	7	140	27	227	36
Other	68	11	47	0	88	3	41	0
Grand Total	9,087	18,993	4,848	5,189	26,242	8,986	22,119	11,483

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 2008-09 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
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2008-09
Beaver	\$19.22	\$26.81	\$20.71	\$23.81	\$14.04	\$82.00
Coyote	\$34.07	\$40.45	\$43.67	\$36.50	\$25.34	\$200.00
Fox	\$19.41	\$20.73	\$23.10	\$22.22	\$15.58	\$70.00
Lynx	\$128.85	\$135.20	\$126.34	\$301.80	\$104.55	\$340.00
Marten	\$48.02	\$77.33	\$56.93	\$105.83	\$39.63	\$150.00
Mink (wild)	\$14.52	\$24.08	\$17.84	\$16.07	\$10.50	\$20.00
Muskrat	\$2.56	\$6.49	\$5.00	\$3.22	\$2.86	\$7.90
River Otter	\$100.49	\$103.00	\$58.69	\$39.81	\$30.57	\$94.00
Squirrel	\$0.85	\$1.65	\$1.31	\$1.42	\$1.20	\$2.00
Weasel	\$3.15	\$6.83	\$7.55	\$5.55	\$3.52	\$8.60
Wolf	\$93.17	\$83.01	\$121.38	\$164.30	\$123.77	\$650.00
Wolverine	\$130.26	\$155.02	\$220.80	\$269.29	\$229.64	\$470.00

Minimum Estimated Fur Value

The following table summarizes the minimum total estimated value of furs trapped during the 2008–09 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.

2008-09 Fur Value in Alaska

Species	Total Number	Average Price Paid	Total Estimated
		in Alaska	Value
Beaver	1,231	\$14.04	\$17,283.24
Coyote	200	\$25.34	\$5,068.00
Fox	1,499	\$15.58	\$23,354.42
Lynx	7,132	\$104.55	\$745,650.60
Marten	4,607	\$39.63	\$182,575.41
Mink	931	\$10.50	\$9,775.50
Muskrat	668	\$2.86	\$1,910.48
River Otter	933	\$30.57	\$28,521.81
Squirrel	377	\$1.20	\$452.40
Weasel	556	\$3.52	\$1,957.12
Wolf	1,295	\$123.77	\$160,282.15
Wolverine	514	\$229.64	\$118,034.96
Total			\$1,294,866.09

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>GMU 1A, 2 <i>Region 1</i> Boyd Porter 2030 Sealevel Drive, Suite 205 KETCHIKAN, AK 99901 Phone: 907-225-2475 Fax: 907-225-2771</p>	<p>GMU 9, 10 <i>Region 2</i> Lem Butler PO Box 37 KING SALMON, AK 99613 Phone: 907-246-3340 Fax: 907-246-3309</p>	<p>GMU 19, 21A,E <i>Region 3</i> Roger Seavoy PO Box 230 MCGRATH, AK 99627 Phone: 907-524-3325 Fax: 907-524-3324</p>
<p>GMU 1 (B), 3 <i>Region 1</i> Rich Lowell PO Box 667 PETERSBURG, AK 99833 Phone: 907-772-3801 Fax: 907-772-9336</p>	<p>GMU 11, 13 <i>Region 2</i> Bob Tobey PO Box 47 GLENNALLEN, AK 99588 Phone: 907-822-3461 Fax: 907-822-3811</p>	<p>GMU 20A,B,C,F, 25C <i>Region 3</i> Don Young 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: 907-459-7233 Fax: 907-452-6410</p>
<p>GMU 4 <i>Region 1</i> Phil Mooney 304 Lake Street Room 103 SITKA, AK 99835 Phone: 907-747-5449 Fax: 907-747-6239</p>	<p>GMU 12, 20E <i>Region 3</i> Jeff Gross PO Box 355 TOK, AK 99780-0355 Phone: 907-883-2971 Fax: 907-883-2970</p>	<p>GMU 20D <i>Region 3</i> Steve DuBois PO Box 605 DELTA JUNCTION, AK 99737 Phone: 907-895-4484 Fax : 907-895-4833</p>
<p>GMU 1C,D, 5 <i>Region 1</i> Ryan Scott PO Box 110024 JUNEAU, AK 99811-0024 Phone: 907-465-4359 Fax: 907-465-4272</p>	<p>GMU 14A,B, 16 <i>Region 2</i> Tony Kavalok 1800 Glenn Hwy Suite 4 PALMER, AK 99645-6736 Phone: 907-746-6325 Fax: 907-746-6305</p>	<p>GMU 21B,C,D, 24 <i>Region 3</i> Glenn Stout PO Box 209 GALENA, AK 99741 Phone: 907-656-1345 Fax: 907-656-2368</p>
<p>GMU 6 <i>Region 2</i> Dave Crowley PO Box 669 CORDOVA, AK 99574 Phone: 907-424-3215 Fax: 907-424-3235</p>	<p>GMU 14C <i>Region 2</i> Rick Sinnott 333 Raspberry Road ANCHORAGE, AK 99518 Phone: 907-267-2185 Fax: 907-267-2433</p>	<p>GMU 22 <i>Region 5</i> Tony Gorn PO Box 1148 NOME, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-2271 Fax: 907-443-5893</p>
<p>GMU 7, 15 <i>Region 2</i> Jeff Selinger 43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd Ste B SOLDOTNA, AK 99669 Phone: 907-260-2905 Fax: 907-262-4709</p>	<p>GMU 17 <i>Region 2</i> Jim Woolington PO Box 1030 DILLINGHAM, AK 99576 Phone: 907-842-2334 Fax: 907-842-5514</p>	<p>GMU 23 <i>Region 5</i> Jim Dau PO Box 689 KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 Phone: 907-442-3420 Fax: 907-442-2420</p>
<p>GMU 7, 15 <i>Region 2</i> Thomas McDonough 3298 Douglas Place HOMER, AK 99603 Phone: 907-235-1725 Fax: 907-235-2448</p>	<p>GMU 18 <i>Region 5</i> Phillip Perry PO Box 1467 BETHEL, AK 99559 Phone: 907-543-2979 Fax: 907-543-2021</p>	<p>GMU 25A,B,D, 26B, C <i>Region 3</i> Elizabeth Lenart 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: 907-459-7242 Fax: 907-459-6410</p>
<p>GMU 8 <i>Region 2</i> Larry Van Daele 211 Mission Road KODIAK, AK 99615 Phone: 907-486-1880 Fax: 907-486-1869</p>	<p>Wildlife Management Coordinators <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>GMU 26A <i>Region 5</i> Geoff Carroll PO Box 1284 BARROW, AK 99723-1284 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 2008–09? If so, during which months?

Ten out of 51 trappers who responded (20%) targeted wolverines. Five trappers were from the Petersburg area and 5 trapped in the Douglas area. Seven trappers targeted wolverines during December – February. Only 3 targeted wolverines during November, and 5 trapped for them in March. Just 1 trapper targeted wolverines in April. Eleven wolverines were reported harvested, six by conibear and five by leghold trap.

Glenallen

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

Three of the 43 trappers responding reported coyotes or wolves they took had rubbed or matted fur and one of those also reported finding fleas. Two of them noticed signs of lice in December and one in March. Locations identified were the Chitina River (Unit 11) and Unit 12. One trapper saw no signs of lice on wolves or coyotes but reported finding fleas on fox, lynx, and marten.

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 104 trappers who answered this question 19 reported using breakaway snares. Eight used some version of a cut lock; 1 trapper used experimental snares designed by Craig Gardner. The general consensus was that breakaway systems work fairly well although one trapper reported having to release a moose caught in a breakaway, while another won't use them again because he said he lost 2 wolves using them.

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?

Twelve out of 92 trappers (13%) who answered this question caught at least one wolf with pelt damage. 4 caught on wolves on Minto Flats and reported 10% or more of wolves had no hair on

parts of their bodies. Five caught wolves on the Teklanika and Tanana Rivers in 20C and reported 25% to 75% of wolves they caught had substantial hair loss. One reported catching a wolf on the upper Goodpaster River in 20B with no hair on its shoulders. Others reported wolves from 20A and 25D showing signs of louse infestation.

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?

Seventy-six trappers responded to the question and reported taking a total of 1484 marten. Of the 51 who caught marten, 4 reported 50% of their catch was male, 1 reported less than 50% males, and the rest (90%) reported that 60-100% of marten caught were male.

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. Four said they thought they had increased and three said moose numbers were stable in their trapping areas. More than half also reported fewer moose now than 10 or 20 years ago. Three of the 5 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 18 trappers who responded to this question reported catching moose but one did catch a caribou in a furbearer set that he released unharmed.

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

Twelve of 17 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 ?

Four of 18 trappers reported donating pelts to a potlatch before they were sealed. A total of 6 wolves, 4 wolverines, 2 otter, 1 lynx, and a beaver were reported donated before sealing.

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?

Sixteen trappers responded and caught marten. Five of the trappers who responded (31%) caught about the same number of marten as during an average year. Five caught more than usual, 1 of those because of more effort. Three reported catching less than usual, two because of less effort. Most reported 25-40% female composition, although one reported 75% females in his catch. A number of trappers reported that recent burns in the area resulted in some years of higher marten populations and those populations may now be stable or beginning to decline as the burns grow in.

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

About half of trappers (8 of 17) noticed an increase in the lynx population and half 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?

Eight out of 19 respondents reported trapping in wolf control areas. Only two reported that wolf control affected their trapping. One said there were fewer wolves to trap as a result of wolf control. Another said fewer gut piles from wolf kills may be adversely affecting wolverine and red fox populations. Wolverine numbers are low and red fox have disappeared from his area.

Tok

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

Ten out of 11 responding trappers trapped for wolves. Six trappers said their wolf trapping efforts have changed in recent years. One said fire and aircraft hunting discouraged him from trapping. Another said predator control reduced his effort but one trapper said his increased because he wanted to help with predator control. A fourth said money discouraged his effort. Three trappers said they could have trapped more wolves, but chose not to; 1 cited cost, 1 cited scarcity of wolves, and 1 trapper reduced wolf trapping because moose and caribou were in the area.

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

Three trappers mentioned higher fur prices would make wolf trapping more attractive. One trapper said banning use of aircraft and fewer fires would encourage more effort from him. Another trapper said someone needed to make him smarter than a wolf to get him to trap them more.

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, dating back to 2005-06 and 2006-07. But none since.

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?

Twenty-one trappers responded to this question; 7 trappers estimated that fewer than 5 wolves were taken; 4 trappers reported 5-10 wolves were taken; 3 trappers estimated up to 20 were taken; 1 trapper estimated 40 and another estimated 50 wolves were taken in his village (Bethel), and 5 trappers didn't know. Fifteen trappers reported that shooting was the most common method used to take wolves and 8 of those said wolves were shot from snowmachines; 2 trappers said snaring or shooting were most common.

Trapper Comments

How did the following factors affect your trapping effort?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1)trapping conditions | 2) 2007-2008 fur prices | 3)2008-2009 preseason advertised prices |
| 4) other trappers | 5) fuel prices | 6) regulation changes in your area |

Southeast

- -Less effort so as to avoid overlapping w/others
- -Squeezed out of prime spots because it doesn't mean enough to me to compete, this year. I don't even plan to bother
- Because of the 07 & 08 fur prices on martin many more people started trapping. They were mopped up fast. Also we had heavy snows mid December that snowed out vehicles (highway) I heard of 3 people that left out over 300 sets and made no effort to get them out all winter + spring. I'm pissed !! Its likely not worth even trying this year
- Conditions were constant bad weather and cost of fuel was too expensive to run both lines
- Deep snow - freezing conditions closed bay areas to boat travel in January
- Fur prices low
- Fuel prices High
- 7) job responsibilities
- We had lots of snow, which made everything more difficult + slows everything down. I started out the season with a lot of traps, because the previous season had good prices. After the first auction the prices were down, so I pulled a lot of traps. Also, the small mammal population, and hence marten population were low, so I quit early, to give the marten a break.
- New competition in my area
- I felt that marten #'s are not doing well. In my own opinion, I think trapping pressure is most responsible. Finding an untrapped area (by this, I mean not taken already) is very difficult where sign is common
- Prices were predicted to be lower so I downsized the number of traps and tried a different area.
- Fuel prices increases and lower fur prices caused me to set fewer traps. The number of furbearers seemed quite a bit lower than I anticipated, so I pulled all my traps early to allow my line to rest and see what 2009-2010 brings.
- To many bears
- There wasn't much snow in the early part of the season and that makes it a little harder to find where the marten are hanging out. Other trappers in the area kinda crowded me out of a few of my traditional spots.
- We had access and time so we pulled traps from one location and reset another line twice more during the season.
- -->wet snow falling from tree branches tripped traps
- 4) - other trappers in area spread the catch out
- Wetter than usual
- -Very low marten #'s + lots of competition sorry for the bad writing. I hurt my right arm + the left is not cooperative.
- #1) Trapping conditions such as inches of accumulated snow affected if I set or pulled marten sets. If snow did not allow passage of my 4x4 truck (even chained up) then I pulled sets. However, I only made wolf sets in areas that could only be reached via ATV to avoid human disturbance & dogs.
- #3) I did not make only river otter sets due to low predicted prices & other fur lots not selling
- #4) If sign was apparent from other trappers (especially marten) I avoided the area as to not over harvest marten or "squeeze" another trapper.
- With low prices + high fuel I put in less effort
- I increased # of marten sets + expanded line. Many other "new" trappers around due to expected fur prices, hopefully they go dudy this season after last season's disappointing prices.
- Conditions have been snowy here for the past 3 winters precluding vehicle access to many of the secondary roads, so efforts have been concentrated to areas with lower snow levels. Stoney Creek is such an area here in Unit 2. 07-08 fur prices were moderate to good, and that brought on a lot more trappers here in Unit 2. I have a full time job, and 08-09, I decided to reduce my impact to the resources and trapped only species I knew were in high numbers.
- More ice + snow harder to check traps
- 4) Other trappers set over me mid season
- Other) Focus on taking others on a shorter trapline to give them the experience

- More trappers in the brush, less area to set traps, set down by two other trappers, had to pull up and move.
- Fuel Prices
- Fur prices dropped do to economy
- Lots of snow
- Heavy snow end of Dec 2008. Early freeze heads of bays 1 airplane wolverine trapper set on top of me in 1 bay 1 wolf trapper set on top of me in 2 bays
- Weather (wind) mainly getting back + forth from home to line.
- Snow loads caused a decrease in effort de access
- The weather was better which increased trapline checks
- A lot of area was already being trapped and snow and Ice affected my effort
- Fuel prices were over \$4 a gal. at times. Couldn't afford to run boat + heat house all the time.
- We had an amazing amount of snow in the end of Dec. - really fast.
- I had other commitments in the 08/09 season. I trapped very little in the 08/09 season. Maybe this year I will get out more.
- Gas prices were high so I didn't expand my trapline
- Marten and beaver prices were poor. I would rather let the populations increase and hope for better prices in the future.
- 7) too much school work! I had 4 classes + couldn't devote time to trapping :(
- 1st line- snow conditions - road was not plowed, forced to pull traps
- Trapping in same area as another trapper is not likeable.
- Poor price = less effort
- We could not get out because it was too cold and snow
- Marten numbers way down - high mouse population.
- Early hard freeze made it harder to trap beaver + otter
- Fuel prices have continued to limit trapping every year. It is hard to even pay for fuel after selling furs.
- Low prices = low effort

Southcentral

- Put in more effort, but snow melted and state parks closed drainage to snowmobiles, causing us to have to pick up our line after about 6 weeks and gas costs a small fortune! =)
- The pre season prices told me that marten and lynx prices would be down which they were compared to previous season. So I eased up on them and I also had to go to work in Feb.
- Shut down line in med -Dec. due to other personal commitments that made trapping difficult this yr.
- Trapping conditions were pretty good. Fur prices looked like they would be good, they weren't
- #1 once it gets too cold and dark I quit trapping up north
- #2 If there are other trappers around or if I see sets I go elsewhere
- #3 gets expensive to drive faraway regularly, so I might not trap as much this year
- Good snow early, 2 hobby trappers moved out, 1 moved into. Redid main line to shorten distance in non productive areas
- I put more effort in and caught more animals
- "Hard to make it anymore." Fuel prices are the biggest thing. Limits how far I go out now, how long I can stay out. Prices of fur haven't changed much, so it's become harder to reason why we all still do it. New trapper's, better snow machines. Bring new faces every few years. As has our state's predator control program.
- I spent less time trapping due to health problems and family obligations
- I had a good season and lengthened my lines because conditions were good - (no other trappers), and prospect of high fur prices. Prices were disappointing but I got \$42 average on my martin. I am trapping again this year because I love to get out there and trap (my dad was one of the better coyote trappers in northern Michigan).
- Lynx all caught within 1 mile Tyone creek + Daisy Creek
- 1 red fox was from Tyone Creek, demo set for friend
- Wolverine learn of little"O"
- 2 red fox eaten at lower set
- The Kanuti River Flats had lots of snow and lots of wind which made travel very difficult because my trail kept getting blown over. It was also cold with a 2 week cold snap in which I caught no marten (-40 f or colder for 2 weeks).
- Instead of using my truck to drive down to the gravel pit + road snow machine, cheaper on gas
- Herd the Chinese + Russian market dropped next to nothing
- I had one lynx trap stolen.
- Did not trap for beaver this year

- 7) use fur sign
We started once the river froze over sufficiently + made sets of fresh wolf sign and lynx sign. We never had the wolves return to our trapline in 6 week + cat sign had dropped off so we pull the traps. We both had other matters to attend to in February anyway.
- I live in Palmer, fuel ended up being the reason we quit trapping. It just became too expensive
- Didn't get snow till first of December
- I used more snares and conibears (killer type sets), so I didn't have to check certain lines as often. Also didn't stay in a given area quite as long once the catch rate dropped off. All in an effort to conserve fuel consumption.
- Insufficient snow cover in Nov & December
- Marten season extended in Unit 13
Weather was good
- Lynx were on a "high cycle" so I targeted them more
Legth of season extended for lynx so I was able to trap them longer
- I trapped harder for a shorter time, was the only change
- The 07'-08' marten prices were very high, resulting in an increased effort to trap them, Unfortunately, last year's price was down a bit.
The regulation change in 14c was to register with Chugach State Park, I had to tag all my traps. I think it is a good idea, to prevent illegal trappers and incidental catches, such as pets
- During the 08-09 season there was ample snowfall that made travel easy by snow machine/snow shoes and helped me access a lot more terrain in comparison to the previous season.
As well as enjoying just being out in the woods I also hoped for good prices to help support my hobby. And really hit it hard while prices were good.
- - a time (3 weeks) of average 29 degrees F resulting in normally less snow at times
- way too many trappers in tight confines due to access to areas (restricted)
can't use machines etc (pull offs are at a minimum and they seem to be located at areas of minimal animal).
Maybe that's my problem
- Good snow conditions, higher marten prices in 07/08
- Fuel
Fur prices
- Less time for trapping 2008-09 because of working on the cabin and lower prices
- Didn't target beaver want them to populate beaver pelt prices low
- Too much snow
- The abundance of marten vs the cost to trap along with the time involved woven into the scenario decreased my willingness to trap
- Less desirable to trap if it's going to be a hassle w/ other trappers, and it doesn't pay well enough to recover much of the costs
- Had another trapper set-up on my main line. Some of his traps were within 50 ft of my sets. After a month or so he pulled his traps. He took some of my #'s so I was slightly down.
- The depressed world economy hurt the fur markets hence decreases in fur prices being paid by fur auction houses that couple with high fuel costs made trapping a challenge in 2008-2009 season. My partner and I purposely stopped trapping earlier than normal (by about 4 weeks) due to these two circumstances.
- - Low snow conditions, less drifting snow covering sets
- Slob trappers crowding & encroaching.
Also using methods I'm trying to not expose youth trappers to. Example: leaving muskrat "houses" open when pulling traps, checking traps when convenient for them as opposed to daily whenever possible to prevent "wring offs" and/or loss of resource (fur).
- Well let's see there a big difference between running around picking up 100 bills verces 20 dollar bills
- I probably will not run my marten lines this year because of fur prices crashing so bad. Just do some wolf wolverine, and run my lynx line in 13. Fuel prices really cut into your prophet
- Alaska free for all trapping does not allow for conservation by the trapper. I have a new to trapping trapper with traps set 900 ft from my line. What I leave for future he takes (marten). Canada has a better system.
- Too many other people trapping. Way too hard to find an area that is accessible that isn't already being trapped.
- Tried a new area & bait. Bait did not do as good. We also did not trap our main line due to low animal pop.
We did not get any fur last year.
Some scouting this fall shows that the marten & beaver population is on the rise.
- I am volunteer trapper for Elendorf AFB-for mainly fox + beaver. Used to trap Mckenzie Pt. but o fuel prices ++ market + not worth it. Do it for recreation we target specific species according to wildlife (base) requirements.
- Not much sign of fur so we set less traps and trapped fewer weeks

- Changed areas to get away for other trappers
- Just put more effort into trapline/result more fur goodies for family
- Fuel prices did effect me a little, but I mostly just did not have the time to trap.
- gas was cheaper
- Lotsa Wind
- Fuel prices kept the trapping close to home.
- Only trapped early on - & weekends at the cabin
- Poor snow con- warm wet weather - rain - overflow
poor ice cond- pulled out early
- Less frequent checks of line and early abandonment of non productive areas.
- More \$ for fuel
- I keep expanding my line more each year trying to get a 200 mile loop
- 1)good conditions-expanded trapline
- 2)expected better prices
- 4)competition with airplane trappers constrained area
not enough snow
- -Extreme cold limited access & movement of animals
- -Other people stole some traps
- Only because of difficult snow machine conditions
- Will to learn and catch more animals
- Low snow fall, hard to travel
- Made a couple of lynx sets due to new open season this year. Glad to see it.
- Got none
- No trapline Hunted furbearers w/ rifle in unit 14A-13D
No takes in 08-09
- Trapping effort was not affected by any of the above.
- I used to trap a different drainage for a number of years until other novice trappers started setting all around me & I decided to move. I increased my efforts because the price of marten went up dramatically, and I just wanted a place where I wasn't crowded.
- As I have aged my medical condition limits my activities.
- Extreme cold this year; more effort put into staying alive than trapping
- Other trappers moved in on my sets. Cold temperatures + snow hindered success.
- Too many people - too little fur
- See partner's report
- ->One beaver lodge had been trapped by other trappers, so I had to find other lodges.
- ->Increases in fuel prices made checking sets 2x per week unappealing.
- The freeze / thaw condition always affects efforts on the peninsula. Overflow / frozen sets etc. . .
- I set more traps just to have something to do.
- Lynx season opened for a four week time frame. Not long enough! Good weather for trapping mink.
- Good snow conditions
- Lynx season opened for the first time in several years, so I increased my efforts in that direction.
- Conditions were poor on the creek, lots of new trappers in the area trying their luck. Lots of sign that the critters are coming through, but never came back to the same area. Lots of trappers trying to stay close to road systems that may be a factor, when I walk or snowshoe in a mile before I start my line. Passed a few traplines on the way in. I need to find some new areas to trap for next season.
- Had a lot of problems with other trapper moving into an area and setting all over me. They don't even know what they're doing and they end up educating the animals.
- Did not check everyday
- In unit 6B I am also an aerial wolf control hunter. Wolves in certain areas were tough to get at due to snow conditions so we used snares to get a lot of our wolves last season.
- Reg changes in 20B allowed easier method of catch
Trappers increase every year.
- Deep snow and very cold temps seemed to affect amount of furbearer movement
- Trapping conditions were very good for me - So I increased length of line + # of sets
- Lynx season was opened, it's been closed for several years
- Lynx opened less effort on wolves (no hair)!
- Rain in Jan. - Lack of snow
With lynx opening for the 1st time in years lots of people on my line
- Poor weather conditions in January warm with rain overflowed lakes, water on top of ice.
Made lynx season difficult
- Gange Baits

- Poor Fur take from prior year
Plan larger line 09-10 season
- Did trail sets as well as moose kills
- Did not get anything

Southwest

- I did not do as much because of taking a new job so had less time off this year
- No snow, mild winter
- Otter prices were still pretty low so we are waiting for them to come back. There are plenty of otters
- The high cost of fuel here in Unit 8, makes the river otter not worth the gas it takes to harvest them, any good trapper knows the only way to effectively catch otters is with a skiff + a lot of country
- Too much work in furs to sell for nothing
- 1. Bear activity was high along the American through mid December. I don't like to push my luck too much with them so I set then pulled when I realized how many bears were using the drainage. I then reset after they went to den but the fox population was not as high as I had hoped for by then (see #2)
- 2. At least 4 other folks trapping the same areas
- 3. Fuel prices kept me from expanding to other areas.
- I just did damage control for a neighbor
- Deep snow limited access to some areas
- Lots of ice and otter weren't moving more effort to find. Ocer it warmed up. Otter were on the move again and trapping picked up. Weather major factor.
- I was in a new area with much better trapping conditions
- Mostly due to icy snow conditions on trails, now traveling on snow machine or trail conditions get good when the daylight time gets longer. Can't usually travel until about late January and after.
- New child + personal health affected my effort. I trapped less, closer to home, fewer nights spent in the field, + fewer sets. Still had a good time + caught reasonable amount of wolves + wolverines. Also participated in SDA in 19A w/ moderate success. Wolf #'s are much reduced in 19A since beginning of program, which is the goal I guess, but not as productive :)
- High fuel prices are a major factor during powder snow
- Gas Price is too high to travel far and maintain the trapline, please help me with gas so I can trap all year this winter. It's a dying traditional way of life in the village. Too much welfare dependency.
- Age - as Willie Nelson put it - I can jump as high but can't stay up as long!! Pictures of 2005 + 2007 sent in by me for report.
- Trail condition safe for 4 wheel as well as snowmachines
- 1)Conditions were poor due to large amount + frequency of snow making it difficult to keep sets working
- 2)High price of gas limited my snowmobile travel to an extent.
- Trapping as always depends on weather. Fur prices are extremely low to me and fuel prices are off the charts in the bush so a little of everything affected trapping last year I made the best out of my short line with fuel prices
- -Trapped a more diverse area & focused on multiple species which yielded a high catch from previous years.
- Lots of ice kept the otter under the ice and catch below normal. Wolf hunters kept the catch down. Early freeze up had me spending too much time trapping beaver thru ice.
- My kids left for college No partners now.
- Increased wolf sets - less otter sets
- Interloper took part of trapline causing me to extend in another direction - started trapping early
- Family health
- Fuel was \$8 a gal-no barge delivery we lost most of our snow for end 6 wks
- Fur prices are mostly down. With time & fuel not much for profit.
- The weather started off with not enough snow so I waited to start, along with the fuel prices being twice as much limited my outings
- Got more animals
- Not enough animals for amount of trappers in area.

Interior

- Weather, caused problems
 - Fuel, expensive
- Not as many animals
- Cat prices were expected to be down even though cats are at or near the high cycles, so trapping effort was equal to my enthusiasm which was rather low.
 - If I didn't trap for a year or two (pretty much less) other trappers would absorb my very short line without so much as a second thought, which sucks.
- 5) less profit more expense
- 6) hunters shooting fur bearing animals in hunting season, half for each
- Didn't run as many traps
- Wind in the hills drifted out trails normally usable
- Late summer flooding led to trap area being very wet, avoided several areas because of water/ overflow. Flood submerged much of my line for quite a while. Appeared to decrease vole #s + marten + fox. I decreased effort as a result. Also-snow fall immediately after each check routinely buried most sets making them ineffective. Led to some missed checks/effort. Heavy snow late in season led to pulling wolf gear early.
- Gas went up to \$7.65 a gallon. It was not profitable to go very far to trap, so I ran a short line, close to town.
- A lot more snow
- Price drop in 08-09 season compared to 2007-08 season. Gas prices speak for the cost.
- Infringements on trapping. Tampering / stealing fur and maintaining their self imposed inherent authority to drive others off public land
- 1) We had a high snow year and lots of wind braking trail all the time very hard on equipment
- 2) 2007-2008 made me hope prices may be good in 2008-2009
- \$7./Gallon for gas! Too high.
- Other trappers moving in, I trap harder to discourage them wanting to be there.
- Marten populations seemed very low; didn't want to catch the seed animals.
- Another trapper trying to move in on my lines.
- Because I did have a permit. Once I caught 6 beavers I did not get another house to trap. Because I was teaching kids they wanted something close. However, I did give the beavers to other trappers for bait.
- 2009-2010 I am going to expand on trapping. I have started early and will trap throughout the winter for different species.
- \$3 gallon fuel
 - Low prices
- On Emlson you have other trappers sharing trails to their lines not always a bad thing but an increase in traffic I think keeps some animals off your line.
- Deep snow made it difficult to break out trails in some areas.
- I was deployed to Iraq and returned in Feb. to trap the last 3 weeks of the season.
- Aerial wolf hunters. Took out whole pack we put a lot of effort during the season for wolves and had a good pack. The airplane hunters wiped out all of our effort.
 - I know who it was but he would not admit it until after season.
 - I don't care if they hunt but let me know so we don't waste time we could have put effort on other things
- 1 Sets blown in
- 1) sets blown in
- 1) sets blown in
- 4) theft of traps and animals
- 5) ran once a week rather than 2 or more days
- Partner in Iraq/cheaper to share expenses
- The higher prices paid for lynx motivated me to target those areas that favored the cat habitat
- We had decent snow for a change so we were able to trap more. Ran less together due to fuel prices
- Please consider aligning fox and coyote seasons in 20 AB
 - Also consider delaying start of lynx season until Dec (rather than Nov. 1). (Very few bits in the Tanana flats (20A) harvest.) Keep close tabs on airplane trappers, and in general encourage better trapping ethics.
- Very all weather made it harder to get out
- Worked during season when I'm normally laid off
- Weather conditions
 - Late freeze up
 - Not enough snow
 - Some extreme cold
- Due to fuel costs I trap a very short line close to town and it was unproductive last winter

- More and more out of town highway trappers trapping in the area of my trapline prohibit me from expanding my effort
- New trapping area added to my line
- I just buy a trapping licence because I like to shoot wolves and you need a license to do that/ I also love to trap beaver for the meat and just love being out in the woods
- Extreme soft snow caused period of hard travel + traps not working
- #3 Trap for fun / not money
- #5 Fuel not check traps as often
- #4 Russian trappers out of delta go right down my line and set right next to me!
- I was injured in Sept. 2008, severely limiting my mobility
- Wanted to trap more but couldn't afford to purchase fuel
- Weather between Fai + Yukon River
- Too much overflow
- *Lynx season was extended-I thought that was a good idea in light of the high lynx numbers
- *The fur prices for 07-08 were high. I hoped they would hold for 08-09, but they clearly did not.
- 1) -->fewer canines, fox otter
- 6) Open water beaver trapper caused over harvest of beaver dens
- significant reduction in beaver houses / population
- -I still trap in a small area mainly for lynx and it seems if you don't keep your line there is always some other Joe ready to step in
- -Another point for last season's increase in trapping is the lynx cycle being at a high
- Decrease efforts due to increase in work requirements
- One line I was excited about using was taken over by another "trapper" who did not use it at all during the season but had his signs up
- I very seldom sell any of my catch to fur buyers, I get all tanned + sell some to friends or donate for fund raising. Those 2-3-5-+6 have no effect on my schedule. Weather conditions have the bigger effect on how and when I trap. Most of my furs my wife turns into hats etc.
- The antlerless winter hunt destroys my ability to catch animals. Then retaining trapped animals or finding them not shot up becomes second problem. The area has too much traffic and not near enough moose for the people coming. They even broke into my trapline calun.
- Had to work away from home so was not able to spend as much time in the field
- Gas too high and not enough animals getting caught
- Too many trappers (road)
- Fuel too costly
- With good trail conditions we had more time for trapping as opposed to trail breaking
- Possibly delayed checking traps due to extreme cold weather
- Being off the road system you really have to make a presence on your line or somebody will try and move in.
- Knew more about trapping and was able to catch more animals
- Snow conditions almost always limit travel early in the season. Fuel prices are extremely high so some line reduction is needed for saving fuel costs. Past prices and advertised prices determine what is worth trapping if that species is available in the area being trapped.
- Temperatures
- Not crossing river sooner
- Poor snow
- Too many people around
- 1- More overflow- spent more time getting traps away from the water and where we could set
- 4- And another trapper run over line, this interfered with our sets and animal travel
- Military allowed other trappers within my area
- Weather was a factor
- Several factors - - 1) other involvements that lasted through November of '08; 2) a late start during mid-winter (hard to really get set up); 3) thick ice (affected beaver) ; 4) low prices and 5) unusually windy weather (big snow drifts) starting in mid-January
- All of things taken together probably made the low prices a larger factor with respect to how long and hard to trap.
- Standard dealing with overflow early and deep snow as season progressed
- Lynx population is slowly gaining momentum
- At 5+ dollars a gallon of gas, it's expensive
- Conditions were good so I got early start with high prices had good motivation to get traps out
- At \$7.36 a gallon of gas, I could not go as much as I liked to
- Increased line and set more traps
- It cost more to set + check sets

- Decreased effort because age/sex ratios of marten did not look good. Almost no Juveniles
- Quit early because not seeing enough marten sign
- I did not trap due to fuel cost also had snow machine problems
- Best freeze-up in 10 years
no rain
- Ok snow or would have decreased my effort as per low prices. Must keep my presence on trapline or other trappers will encroach, fuel prices resulted in less trips and stayed on line longer periods between trips
- I always have striven to increase the length and breadth of my trapline and the principal reason has nothing to do with money. I want to see what is over the next ridge and see what is at the end of the rainbow.
- Well my sled eats a lot of gas so I had to full it up ever time I go check my traps
- Snow conditions
- 1)Set for lynx earlier in the season
- We lengthened our line letting us get more sets out. It is hard to find areas trap as newcomer traps. It is tough to expand due to so many other trappers.
- 1)Good snow year
- 1) Good snow year
- 5) stock piled fuel when it was cheaper
- Getting old and worn out, like my snow machines.
- 21 explain it all
Very poor place to trap
Looking for new place to trap
- Have trappers on line
- Weather
- Most snow ever experienced on my trapline line in eastern Brooks Range since I've lived there (31yrs)
- The auction in may 08 paid fantastic prices with good expectations for the next yr. But by May 09 prices were back to normal meaning \$100 lynx which I don't consider bad.
- I caught more cats this year
- Wild fire?
- I had back surgery mid winter and it cut things short
- Unable to understand wolf trapping around all the dead moose that they leave laying up and down the river sometimes we can set by it and most of the time we can't.
- Had knee-deep snow mid Oct. Hard to get around. Had snow-machine problems all season. Pre-season prices were high, so wanted to trap hard.
- Fuel was very expensive
\$8.50/gal
- High cost fuel
Prices not good
- The pre-season outlook was optimistic and with fuel costs so high and climbing I needed to catch more fur.
- I trap beaver for the meat. It is good eating but it is a lot of work. So it is something like subsistence living.
- -Heavy late snow reduced catches (Feb.)
-Conditions early on were very good and catches good then. Prices remained steady even after levels dropped below 2007-2008 levels.
- Gas is \$8.50 a gallon with 1 qt of oil about \$14.00
- Tough going in deep snow-higher gas price, lower fur price, mostly trap for local people for potlatches and clothing
- More effort but worse conditions & higher fuel prices made it tough. Will probably decrease effort in 2009-10 season.
- Didn't trap with much effort from years past in count of fur prices and fuel costs
- Low marten abundance high fuel prices made trapping uneconomical.
- Less Effort
- More beaver houses
- Snow kept traps working at all times
- Deep snow
- 7) No time
- Deep Snow, deepest in years,
- Did not know what the prices would do so gave it a shot and hoped.
- I had more lynx + less marten so I focused my effort on catching lynx.
The other major change was that we had a lot of rain in the fall of 2008 so the creeks froze very high. By trapping season the water had gone back down and the creeks had big deep hollows to break into. It was so dangerous that I didn't trap 15 miles of my main line.
- I caught a lot more marten and lynx also more wolves than normal

- Not as aggressive with lower prices
- On the southern Seward Peninsula we had about 4 weeks of blizzards. It made keeping sets open very difficult.
- Temporary work relocation from home (Manley) to Fairbanks for 2 years. I don't use leghold traps when access is airplane only due to possibility of too long between checking. One more winter ('09-'10) of limited trapping then will resume more like I have done in the past.

Arctic & Western

- Trapping was more ideal due to moderate snow conditions. I wasn't being buried yet I wasn't running on bare ground either
- Fuel Prices in the village were so high it was very hard to come up with gas money it was almost as if my trapping was for the fuel company, and a lot of it was. Also moose were a huge problem, and altered my line so I did not have to deal with them on my trails every day, I almost got stomped once.
- -Bad snow conditions-too many thaws
- -Other trappers in same area: had to fill in
- Bad snow
- People checking traps
- 4.00/gal gas
- We thought the cat prices would hold. But of course they didn't. Nonetheless, we had fun and will do it again this year.
- Deep Snow- hard to travel
- Gas prices were \$6.00 a gallon. Had to quit early for wood gathering purposes.
- Number of catches increased due to different call lure (gusto) and switches to using red mailboxes purchased from www.continentalproducts.com
- The weather contributed to my ability to make sets and to maintain, e.g. when it was snowing heavily I needed to wait until the weather improved to go and make a check on my line. I needed to keep an eye out for other trappers who have sets made so I won't intrude into their line. Fuel prices played a major role in the amount of trapping I was able to do.
- Warm weather snow / freezing rain off and on 4 ovs weeky
- Cost of fuel prohibits running the line, or much exploration looking for sign.
- Traveling was a little harder + gas prices were to high.
- Gas at \$7.25 gal.
- I usually trap fox in December and January (and part of February). I was too busy to trap in December and I iced up every time I tried to get started in January (freezing rain). I finally gave up!
- Allowed me more than 5 beaver this year
- Had another person over-trap me.
- Wx effected flying wx
- Bad coastal storms
- Not enough trappers in the area. Too hard on breaking trail and prices too high.
- 6 1/2' of snow in 3 weeks in Feb slowed things
- Weather - Several storms through w/ a lot of wind & snowfall dangerous conditions @ times

Do You Have Any Comments To ADF&G?

Southeast

- So how do we stop these people from leaving their sets out all winter + spring because they aren't smart enough to pull them before the snows close the roads? There are a few snow machines around. There are ways they could have arranged to their sets out, but these people have no respect for the resources. And they are repeat offenders. If there is a way to discuss this further I'd like to be involved.
Thanks. Harley D. Black, P.O. Box 19103, Thorne Bay AK 99919
- Unit 4 is on the down swing for prey, voles + mice, and the marten are likewise low in their cycle. At least in my area, but overall, there is not a lot of pressure, and they will both come back up in a few years. I've been trapping the Northeast portion of Chichagof Island since 1983, and this last season is the lowest I've ever seen both the prey species, and marten. But comparatively to most other areas, the marten are still doing great.
- The martin I caught seemed in prime shape. All animals were very fat (body fat under the hide).
- This survey is a great idea.
- The ADF&G regulations & Federal Subsistence Regulations for trapping should be more consistent (if possible) as Fed. Regs do not require trap tags or 3"x5" cards. However, if I make a set under a bridge I personally know the trap should have a tag to be legal (as it is a state owned ride-a-way). But many follow fed. regs as they are not quite as restrictive. For conservation & enforcement reasons, every trap or snare should be marked (State or Fed).
I do believe the wolf pop'n is stable or increasing. I cross several pack areas and each has increased in individual wolves since 2006/2007 winter. I removed 4 wolves from one pack w/ only two remaining in 2007/2008 this pack was back to 6 or 7 (I removed two more). Then in 2008/2009 this pack had similar stability or increases from my observation when I could read the sign well enough to where the wolves spread out & each individual could be counted (snow tracks).
The short-tailed ermine were really down last winter from the previous year. I had seen so many tracks during 2007/2008. I made 1 dozen modified wooden cubbie's for rat stop traps. I still caught ermine but not incidentally, but had to search more for snow tracks, etc. Other trappers also mentioned way #'s down.
The river otter were everywhere (well almost) but no-one trapping due to political pressure of winter olympics in China & Dalla Lama & no market.
The worse feeling here comes from D. Person's (ADF&G) remarks that as many wolves are caught here (killed) but not recorded as are sealed. Simply not true despite his research here w/ wolves. He is totally out of touch & insulting.
- I'm glad to see ADF&G interested in trapping. It would be a huge issue but of interest is people "staking out" trapline areas. It is a situation where people are setting over others or if I want to let my favorite area rest a season someone might go in and trap or claim it. It is a big issue on the P.O.W. road system especially when the fur price was up there were many conflicts. It would be nice to register an area for maybe 3 or 4 years at a time to cut down on conflicts and let a trapper manage his own take of furs. I know some who move from place to place using high volume techniques. I know it would be a big management issue but would be good for the resource.
- I did not sell any furs this season (last) due to low prices + hope that market will rebound this winter
*-flying squirrel number must be up I caught about 2 dozen this last season. I normally only catch 1 or 2 all season
*Very few other trappers are abiding by the new rule requiring tags on all traps in GMU2. If you are going to require it, you should enforce it + get the subsistence law fixed so it can't be used as an excuse to break the state law.
- Why are trap tags a requirement in Southeast and not the rest of the state? Sounds like politics to me.
- Good to see the season on wolverine shortened to Feb., since they have their young in Feb. Disappointed to see beaver season lengthened to May, which is ridiculous. Any trapper even the bad ones, will not trap any fur past March. Furs are about worthless after end of Feb into March. In Unit 1D, opening the season earlier, Nov 1st instead of Dec 1st makes more sense, it would give trapping a chance to trap them in open water instead of chopping through 3' of ice. At least fish + game gave up the stupid idea of opening a hunting season on beaver, or shooting them on sight. Open the trapping early on beaver, I for one will spend the future month of Nov. trapping beaver. After all you open wolf + wolverine early although I have no clue why.

- Keep up the good work!
Voles seem to be in decline on my line, and marten populations are following. I gave them a rest, and may again this year. I also had wolves come through for the first time, as well as a coyote.
Snow fall has been a serious factor the last 3 years, making travel (snow shoes) difficult, limiting access.\nFur prices being what they are, I'm glad I don't depend on trapping for a living, but oh, what a hobby!
- (on Douglas Island)
2 others were trapping in my area. For this reason, along w/ less time, I halted my efforts. (I know they trapped an otter.) Also I did set up traps in Clover's Inlet - Then, that nogut. It snowed 3 feet. I pulled the traps. . . as it kept snowing + I was worried about children moving (age 4 + 6) in snow + boat @ anchor. .
- I do not support the shortening of wolverine season in 1C. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game needs to be re-organized. This can only be accomplished through election of governor, and state representatives that understand the important and the issues.
- Disappointed in change of trapping season for wolverine in unit 1 Feb/March/April has the best the safest + best trapping conditions

Southcentral

- I was ticketed for trapping marten after season and decided to take the year off because I didn't have time to give to get it right, this year I will trap again and make no mistakes
- I'm glad to have the privilage to work in the field and enjoy a heritage that has been for centuries/trapline presure was minamal last season
- I feel lynx season should not open until December 1st!! It's common knowledge that lynx pelts are not prime that early and they have real brown fur that early. I recommend lynx season should be : Dec 1st to Feb 28th in unit 13 anyways. SERIOUSLY!!!
- Thank you for asking about my trapping experiences. I am only a hoppy trapper but thoroughly enjoy my time out in the woods. This is the reason information I share on this survey is quite limited.
Questions:
1. Does ADF&G ever hold trapper seminars?
2. Is general information from this survey available to read?
Thank you!
- I would like to see 7-10 day trap check. Sick of seeing the hobby trappers leaving sets go up to 5 week without checking. It seems that most trapping being done in 13A is weekenders or hobby trappers along the road. And if it gets cold on the weekend they don't come to check traps even if it had got real warm in the week.
- Keep up the good work!
- Just 1 question - "Why antler distruction-"13E Caribou?" Does having 5 or so board members now have anything to do with this new law? Seems like the guides want the racks for their clients, and every hunter is having to give up their racks - what's up with that? Who doesn't want to shoot a big buck, and not keep the rack? Maybe the locals should go back to running the board, seems like these new laws are for the new members and they are the ones who benefit from all this.
- I normally trap in Unit 8 on 17. Kodiak Is, Raspberry + Afognak Island but trapped the past 3 yrs in 13 +16 due to health + family issues
- Thanks for the questionnaire. Sorry to be so late getting it sent.
I'm trapping again this year even though prices are down from a year or two ago. I have a cabin there in 16B and that's much of the motivation to get out & trap. There's very little competition near my area which makes it all the better.
I cross wolverine and otter track frequently but haven't concentrated on them. Martin are quite prevelent. I almost never have seen wolf tracks but are occasional coyote &/or fox.- Not many lynx and few hare.
- If I missed anything or you want to know something of that area (Little + Big "O", Nelchina, Sannona Creek, Daisy, Tyone Creek, Yako Creek!!
How come this survey is not being conducted out of the Anchorage ADF&G (my area) likewise for other areas in state?
- Yes 1. Lengthen wolverine season
2. Start moose season 2 wks later
- A warm season over all, we keep getting rain storms from the sound P.W. alot of ice every year now. Makes for a short season. I had bears walking around in Dec, breaking my marten poles

- We would like to know what happened to our wolf / pack. (5-7 left tracks about Dec. 14) Were there any wolf packs taken by aerial hunting that could have frequented our area? Or did another trapper report taking their number of wolves in the last 1/2 of December that could have been our pack?
- Marten abundances in 14C is high, I think the season should be extended to the end of January instead of December. Also, the limit on red fox should be up to 3 or 4 instead of 1. I would see a fox nearly every time I checked my sets.
Thank you for putting together this survey and the report, it helps alot.
- Wolverine trapping should be opened in Chugach state Park as the amount of sign in my travels there scouting out a trapline was quite a lot.
Revision of 7x7 jawsread conibears is submerged underwater as 220's are too small to reliably trap beaver.
- I'm just glad I can fill out this report even if my catch is miserable.
5,000 miles for one lynx is expensive. But I'm learning. It's mostly about my son.
- Need trappers safety + Ethics course.
Trap numbers for beginners or everybody.
Pro's - Sometimes beginners-trappers set out traps and don't pick them up. I have seen this.
I had somebody tried to skam me for a high dollar bird dog. What happened don't know. But I ignored him and that was all. I did not trap in that area. In civil court anybody can say anything. It is up to me to prove otherwise. (I used to trust our court system not any more).
I have never got Trapper report I have asked every year.
- 1)Sealing requirement for beaver should go away
2) Would be nice if Lynx opened Nov 10
- Dec is with a limit of (1) for an incidental catch (where release is not ethical or reasonable) in unit 16A/14B
3)F & G should do a better job completing questionnaire surveys and sending out reports. It may be helpful for trappers to see trends in their GMU from the previous year. It's starting the 09/10 season and we've not gotten the 07/08 reports back!
- Trapping schools were very helpful
- We had a trapper or two making sets in our area. This year we will post signs on our mainline going through the forest. 16A
- Require all traps/snares have owner's name. Too many irresponsible trappers. They need to be identified
Snares, conibear and all "killer" traps should not be allowed within 300 ft of roads, trailheads etc
- Partner already filled one out.
The lynx in 13c need to have a Dec 1 or 15th season start date! They are off color and not fully prime yet!
Thank you
I take my son with us whenever I can we have to teach new trappers
- No hare this summer and fall around my place near Talkeetna
- Early snow last year slowed my trapping way down
- I think using this questionnaire is a smart way for you guys to manage the resource. I applaud your resourcefulness and I hope this helps. In our area most of the fur I target must be tagged & sealed so it also helps the dept. keep tabs on what's harvested in our areas
I'm glad the dept. opened lynx season here in unit 6 as the hare population has been rising & I've pulled sets where lynx have come to my marten sets. I think you are doing the right thing by asking trappers to help with research info.
I will always be willing to fill out these surveys and again thank you!
- A few years ago when my grandson J.D. was 5 and going trapping with me I was grinding some beaver castors for scent. Later when he went inside my wife said J.D., what are you doing? He said " helping Bumpe grind beaver guts." This is why I want to pass the outdoors on to my grand kids.
- Still enjoy trapping even if not at the same level - limited by my physical condition.
- In my area it is difficult to trap because some trappers feel they "own" trap lines that they did not build they are trails established by U.S.F.S. or U.S.F. & W.S. - a few trappers lay claim to a disproportionately large area. In their area - all of us are recreational trappers, there is no profit - simply too little for coupled with low prices. In these areas / instances public use trails and lakeshores should be expected to be shared by trappers - not owned by a few - just my personal view.
- I am enclosing both of these questionnaires in one envelope because they reflect the results + harvest from the same trapline. Both of us think this report info is important and do not wish to skew the "numbers" by double reporting. Please provide a summary to both of us and notice the abundance reports differ, which is purely a matter of perception.
Thank you

- While I do believe that most of ADFG employees are dyed in the wool members of PETA. And work against trappers and hunters. All in all the department does a good job of managing Alaska's furbearers. It was nice to see some of the season lengths and openers change for the 09/10 season. I do think that you guys need to re-visit the change you made to wolverine trapping in Chugach State Park. The data you provided on your survey counts in no way reflects actual populations (see first sentence). If you gonna close a season, just tell the public the truth (you wanted to provide safe areas for hippies and then dogs to roam free without fear of encountering traps), don't make up false data based on a quick aerial survey that showed one set of tracks. The biggest problem I see is too many trappers in too small of an area (i.e. road accessible areas). The good thing is that most "trappers" put in minimal effort earlier in the season and give up around Christmas. The bad thing is every now and again one of these "trappers" manages to catch something and post it all over the internet (Alaska outdoor forums, Trapperman.com, etc., etc., . . .) with location. Most of the time landmarks are seen in the picture. This makes the following year in that area a real hassle on the opener as everyone with a vehicle has a new secret spot. I digress. The bottom line is I think that excellent trapping opportunities exist for individuals who are willing to work harder and longer than the next guy.
- In past years I targeted multiple species, but in 2008-2009 I just tried to catch a few beavers. I have recently moved to Fairbanks, so I now trap in unit 20B, and will no longer run my line in unit 7.
- Trapped many years ago as a kid in North Dakota. Primary reason now is to be outside and to collect furs for personal use.
South Central is a difficult place to trap with relatively few animals.
- For unit 7 Kenai Sheep should be transplanted to start new herds on some of the other mountains where they were years ago.
 1. Johnson Pass area
 2. Mills Creek
 3. Mt Ty Haker
 4. Mt Eva South Kenai Lake
- I just turn 73 still trapping but my trapline is shorter and using less traps - my overall numbers of fur bearers is down that I used to harvest each year, but I'm still trapping each year.
- I have been promised in past questionnaires that I would receive a trapping report but never have. Could I get one this year? Please.
Thanks Tom
- If you send out this questionnaire you should also send out last year's survey results. For that regard send me a survey.
These animals taken under subsistence regs not sure if that makes a difference on state of AK's #'s
- If the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge opened more areas to snowmachine access, it would be easier to find convenient places to trap
- I'm thinking we should be doing this in the early part of the summer so as the memory is better - - -
- Put this form out at the close of the season
- Keep up the good work that all you do! Thanks for keeping us all informed on the next trapping season
- Too many jokers who don't know what they are doing!
- NO
- Would be nice to have yr round coyote season. They are common many areas + red fox populations are slowly declining.

Southwest

- No, ADF+G is doing a great job managing our natural resources.
- This doesn't apply to trapping but I work on Afognak Island year round & we have a huge problem with bears (way to many). I've seen them hunting & killing Elk in pairs. (In the winter some of the bears chase them very day until they get them.)
I think we should have a registration hunt on the Island instead of a drawing or both for a couple of years. I work for the Afognak Native Corp. and I'm sure that they would get rid of the bear endorsement for this. Also I've seen the elk (bull population) drop @ an alarming rate so we should have only a cow hunt for at least 2 or 3 years.
I've seen 4 different herds, one herd of (32) (45) (60) & (85) and only 1 bull in each herd. If you don't do something about it (like a cow hunt) we will lose the elk for sure. Please look at this closely. Thank you!

- My focus has pretty much always been on foxes. Last year was not as good for me as in a typical year. Fox numbers were a little lower and pressure higher. This year I have seen many more foxes running around but still below the number we used to have.
- Harbor seal should be opened back up to harvest, we are getting over run with them. Our sea otter population is also exploding
- -Need more buyers only buyer this side of country - L+M - with no competition
- there has been lots of bears this year here in Togiak area - less caribou lots of moose, lots more wolves - there is hardly any muskrats - used to be abundant
- Beavers are starting to come back on the river
- Question 11 - 2nd line was a single day trip by snowmachine I which I harvested 1 otter by shooting
- Also my main line only had traps set in the farthest 8 miles i.e. my house to 1st set = 30 miles, my house to last set = 38 miles, back track to my house another 38 mile
- I carry a gun and the past have taken fox(red) and coyote by shooting
- Send in May so I can remember more!!!
- Did not get questionnaire til Nov. 17, 2009 won't get this out till plane comes in sometime in Dec. 2009
- To the best of my memory I split the #'s I harvested in 1/2 w/ my trapping partner. I know he filled out a survey too + did the same
- Thank you and Happy Holidays
- Too much regulation, give us a break
- I wish we could register our trapline so no one could trap that same area. I try not to take too much out of the area. If someone else shows up once in a while and starts trapping, they will trap until everything is gone not leaving some for the following years.
- I would like to see beaver season moved to start Nov. 10 reason: other want to be trappers start catching other animals out of season such as otter, fox, etc.
- More trapping than I have seen in years going on - Can't keep fox, coyotes down.
- New trappers are trapping on top of each other with little respect for established lines.
- Brown bears hanging into season makes for spooky work in thickets!
- Stop fall beaver season, poor quality
- Stop spring subsistence shooting of beavers much abused few actually eaten.
- Thanks - you guys do a good job!

Interior

- There are still lots of lynx on my line, hares were still pretty abundant when I left in March, maybe another good season this upcoming winter.
- The wolves on my line were really careless this season, pretty hungry I think. The moose are scarce. No marten out there to speak of. More salmon in the Sheenjek this fall than last. Bears stayed out late until end of November. Lots of owls and hawks, ptarmigans down.
- I'm not a very good trapper just trying to learn. I didn't catch a single animal but sure had a great time.
- Lynx, fox and otter seen to be increasing. Wolf and wolverive were scarce, on my trapline, wolf are abundant throughout region
- The wolf buffer around Denali is not needed
- We need more moose on the west side of 20a around the ferry area. The area biologist wants to put more people out at moose. This area can't withstand the pressure. Back off on the killing of moose. On the northeast side of 20c needs antler restriction. Too many people shooting everything
- It's going to be hard to make any money this year with the low prices. But I will trap a little anyway because I trap for fun not for profit. All though a little profit would be nice.
- The word needs to get out more that public land is for everybody. The AK state troopers are the constitutional authority. We don't have separate little empires with different laws! People who tamper with and or steal traps are committing crime.
- No one, except a constable, has a right to order anyone off public land.
- It is the arrogance and alienation on the part of members of the trappers association, and not that of animal rights activists, who causing the decline in interest in trapping.
- Making an activity an exclusive club can only serve to accelerate its own demise. (I.e. fox hunting in England)
- Too few are allowed to participate therefore too few will miss it.
- 1. Help out trappers with gas money. Like rebates. We're low on moose here. We should have incentive to catch more wolves. Give trappers a certain amount of gallons of gas for every wolf caught

- Unethical trappers trying to take over territory
- Moose seem to be more scarce. Grizzly bears are abundant. I believe grizzlies are the main cause of low moose numbers by preying on the calves in spring. We need some bear control in this area.
- Trapping was good but it's hard to sleep between the carpenter + the logger + the BATT
- This was the biggest cat population spike I have ever seen. Incredible numbers. Few kittens, they will crash this year.
No one can tell me beyond a guess why marten disappear when cats get thick. Can you?
Something is happening to the beaver. There are fewer.
What happened to the muskrats and why won't they return. It's been 20 years.
I think wolverine no's. are down in a lot of areas.
When cats are thick they really eat up the grouse, probably fox too.
Do the right thing with the wolf. Don't let PETA influence sound game management. It's not good for the moose and caribou or the wolf either. Let's stop collaring wolves. Put the time and capital toward wolverine. We have studied the wolf to death. What can you tell me about the wolverine? Not Much!!
I think you guys do a great job. I appreciate your work, not many trappers will be out this year. Only a few of us bush trappers left.
- Need to let trappers know ahead of time or get survey to us before we throw away our catch record. Wish I could be more accurate on my martin count
- Trapping has been great as long as the BAT stays off our line.
- When is Coldfoot going to get a new trooper?
- I think there should be no closed season on beaver in 20B, so the fellas from Michigan can catch 'em all!
- Lynx season should open fully on 1 Nov. They are either there or not. Hares are what matter.
- Coyotes have been spotted @ MP 224 Dalton Hwy. Rabbits are more abundant.
- I think that allowing hunter to shoot beaver in the fall is bad policy, I have always tried to farm my beaver huts by not taking more than 2 kids from each hut. This has worked well for me for 15 years. This year there were fewer beavers and two of the huts that had nice caches that have always produced beaver for me showed less activity when I set my snares. I believe that hunters killed the beaver in the fall moose season after they had set up their caches. This makes it very difficult for me to know if any beaver have been killed before I start trapping in a particular hut. I would like to see the fall hunt of beaver eliminated.
- More snow. I had several snowmachines ignore my trapping signs and ran over trail snares
I caught a lynx that was eaten by coyotes.
- The beaver are eating themselves out of house + home and are cutting down trees, by the hundreds they are doing much damage.
The best thing I ever seen Alaska Fish + Game do is open season for trapping Sept. 1st for rifle & bow because of extra low prices for beaver pelts- no one traps them.
- We need to be allowed a year round open season on coyotes at least in 20A. These guys are harder on our Dall sheep than wolves. There is no reason to fear over harvest, they tried that throughout the lower 48 w poison + it didn't work. Tell the park service to stick their "expand the buffer zone" proposal where the sun doesn't shine!
- The wolf buffer zone that currently runs along the parks highway basically from Cantwell north through McKinley Village, the Nenana River cyn. + up to the wolf township area by Healy - was put in place under a sunset clause which comes up this year + already the park service + state are talking about keeping it in effect or possible enlarging it - If you take a close look at it from Cantwell appx. Mi. 210 - McKinley village mi. 231 is AHTNA inc. Private property which does not allow trapping without a \$1000 permit + that's not cost effective Than from mi 231 - 236 is in Denaly National Park where I trap + for the last 5 years we're not allowed to trap wolves + I saw wolf sign 1 time 251 north of Healy to Dry Creek is Alaska Railroad land + is private property + no trapping is aloud on railroad land in that area except for nuisance beaver with a permit - So this buffer zone is really only covering appx 3 mi in the Nenana river cyn where I trap on safe land I guess I would like to see the buffer zone done away with if it was placed in effect for true science + not tourism or -politics- I would feel different - Thanks for all you do + your time
Martin W.
- Yes, I hunted for moose this fall out of Chena hot springs road as I have done for the past 25 years. And ever since the beginning of the regulation permitting the harvest of cow moose, hunting for bulls has become futile. This last season, all I ever saw taken were cows. This regulation is directly responsible for the change in bull density of this area. I am retired and need to hunt close to home. The Chena Hot Springs area is now ruined for young bulls. I refuse to obtain cow tag and add further destruction to the lack of young bulls. Just the idea of "get meat in the freezer", does not equate with good game mgmt. I hope you reconsider this regulation.
- Please eliminate some coyotes. They are not native, have little fur value, are sheep killers, and prey on valuable fox also.

- No expansion of buffer zone in the stampede area for wolves!
- Black bear snaring/trapping should be legalized for the sportsman to assist in predator management. With proper equipment, this can be just as effective as bear baiting/hunting.
- Although the federal gov. and the state passed a genocidal act called A.N.S.C.A., I still believe I own the countryside and have the right to take all the fish and game that I need. As an Athabaskan man, I know when all the birds, game, and fish are in season, and not to take more than I need.
- Fall-Early winter 09
No moose in 20A where we trap. . . No wolfs, some coyotes. Snow has been down 3 wks no. lot's at rabbits, not many cats. 20C is normal a fair amount at game
I sure would like to see the moose hunt in 20 A shortened + big bull only to bring back the moose herd. I've been here 20+ yrs. It's at a all time low now (the moose population)
- Need not to have a Nov. 1 to Dec. 1 season on lynx in 20D - 2 limit also on martin to start on Dec 1 too warm
- For me, trapping is far more than just catching fur in that, so long as I can go, I do. That is not to say that other factors do not influence the extent and intensity of my trapping effort. That is probably true for most of the elderly trappers that I know. Trapping, in the manner carried out in the remote area I do it, is probably the single most meaningful involvement of my annual activity cycle because of all of the associated tasks, undertaken in real Alaska wilderness, that are required to be out in mid-winter. And, more importantly, it reinforces my psychological and physical well being. As an example, every snow fall is like turning a different page in a good book. One can see what most of the critters we encounter have been doing since the last snowfall. The slate is continuously partially erased, to be written on again with new encounters and incidents
- Wife Betty & I have made Stoney River Lodge our year round home for the past 4 years. Majority of our time between Nov 1 & April 1 is devoted to fur animals. We experiment with different areas on Stony River, mainly for martin, beaver, & wolverine. We occasionally bi-catch wolverine on moose kills set for wolves, with use of aircraft. We have also taken part in GMU 19A predator control program since its start. I have also been a master guide in this area since 1984. We would be glad to help with your research in any way we can and "trapper types" would be welcome @ lodge at any time.
- I purposely kept the trapping pressure on lynx "zero", in order to help the low population numbers pick up when the time is ripe. Don't know if it really makes a difference, but it just does not feel right to harvest "the last one" when the numbers are down.
Trapping is a wonderful thing, thank you for managing it!
Arno Krumm
- Next time you vote, vote to get Senator Baggit OUT! And get Obama OUT and while he is in don't cave into him for anything.
I couldn't get this in by Nov. as we live way out in the bush and have very little contact with the rest of the world except AM radio.
- New A.S.T. should not be allowed to trap.
All their gas is free. They can ride all day, and it doesn't cost them anything
- Keep wolf control program
- Put bounty on predators - All predators year round
- Sorry I took so long in answering
- Have a good day
- Moose numbers are way down from 10-15 years ago! WOLVES 75% down or more.
- Some form of registered trapline system is necessary in less road accessible areas, form intensive management areas?
To maintain species balance you have to know how many animals have been harvested. If others are sneaking around trapping in your area or on lines which are annually alternated it's impossible to know or over trapping has already occurred before anything can be done.
- Thanks for sending these out. I try to be as accurate as I can but memory is a might foggy- will be glad to get these in the spring next year
- I am looking for one of bigger traplines mean longer traplines that are free around our area. Because I was wondering if you know who has a trapline they're not using it and if they would let me get their trapline, or is there traplines that are located around 20A or 20D that could be loaned to me or given or have would I do all that, or I have to bild my own trapline.
- My son and I run what I refer to as the "teaching trapline". Methods are studied and learned. My oldest sons run longer lines with success in the Johnson River, Sears - Berry Creeks country to upper Bear Creek, beyond Fish Lk. We all have a great time.
- Spawned a couple youngns' last few years. Has slowed my pace a might. But I'm sure it's temporary. The boys will be chomping @ the bit soon!
- Send more animals to my line! :)

- Too many hunters for moose. That is why there is a decrease in moose numbers. I would love to see it illegal to keep antlers or horns on moose, caribou and sheep. Then you would only see true hunters. The whole meaning of hunting is providing meat, not some disgusting antlers.
- You are really screwing up by allowing these Washington (state) based trawlers to wipe out our Bearing Sea fish stocks. I know they pay you a lot for their licenses, you are suppose to be thinking about the fish not the \$. This stress it until it breaks is B.S. you are suppose to be inteligent educated people and should know this cap crap isn't going to work, it wastes thousands of fish, can't be monitored it's a do nothing policy in disguise, the trawlers get all the fish they want for lower 48 and overseas, I live here and I'm a criminal if I eat them!
- BLM scorched earth policy has ruined our trapline. We wish those fat beaucrats would quit monitoring fires and put them out when they are small. They wait til the fires are monstrous then ***** that they do not have the money to stop a big fire! Yet these fat bureaucrats can spend tons of money flying around in big turbo prop planes watching fires wipe us out!
- I think there need to be more effects put into predator control. Bounties, aerial hunts on mainly wolves. Their killing most of our moose in the country. And we need to do something about it.
- I could talk about how fire destroys the animal number. And up the wolf population. But ADFG would say how it would up the moose population.
Thank You.
- Nope
- For the last 25 years the state or whatever agency is letting the country burn in hoping that the moose population will come back.
I'm sorry to tell you but they never come back, nothing came back in the burns that went through 40 years ago.
The fire was so hot that it burnt the ground and now all we have is mud slides in the creeks and valleys all through the country the moose can't even walk through it.
I never harvest a moose yet because all the places that I use to hunt were burned from the forest fires in the past 5 years. I'm forced to follow the moose to the rivers in areas I never seen moose before.
I'm 45 years old and I've been an active trapper since I was 8 years old, over that time frame I saw a lot of changes in the way animals move to on area to the next but lately the moose, caribou, bears, fur animals all moved to the areas that never burned.
The caribou never came back period, and we mite never see them around here in my lifetime.
I don't have the answers to all the world's problems but I do know that letting the country burn up is the wrong answer if it's for the moose.
The only reason that I can see is you're burning out the trappers, forced them to towns and cities.
The subsistence life style will die cause there ain't no more food for the animals that use to live here, therefore we're forced to move on to follow the game and most of the time it's in someone else's hunting trapping country.
The area is getting smaller and smaller pretty soon we won't have anything to hunt and trap.
Thank you for your time.- Fort Yukon
- We had deep snow and cold temperatures during the 08-09 season. Wolf & wolverine went up high in the Mts to avoid soft snow. Sets were buried several times when they did come through. We had four feet of snow late winter. Lynx started moving into this area very late in the season from the south. The hare population is only 30-50% recovered from the 00-01 crash. The Brooks Range is a much longer amplitude of cycle. Marten were healthy. Arctic fox are caught when their numbers are high on the north slope, they disperse out, but do not live here.
Thanks for the questionnaire.
- Although expected, not a single track was observed for these species (lynx, wolf, wolverine) on my line. A small pack (+-6) of wolves crossed my line following caribou NW. There were more lynx in the village than on my line.
Caribou moved into my area early in the season thus raising my expectation of wolves and wolverines. It never happened, but I got two caribou which was appreciated. Lynx sign was abundant around the twin villages, but nary a one left a print on my line. Marten numbers and good trapping conditions still made the past season the most productive season I've ever had all things considered. It very well might have been better, but for the tremendous drifting that resulted from the high winds late in the season. Because I explored and set up in new/different area(s) the fur size was up and the quality is always the best. I'm looking forward to even more this coming season.
- I hope I give an honest reply. I'm an Indian and been living off the land "subsist" for thousand of years. + hope to keep doing that. Keep up the good work.
- Thanks for staying out of our way! :)

- Thanks! I appreciate the questionnaire. I would like to see the Dept. lay off wolf control in the Forty Mile for a while. Last season took quite a bit on the wolves here.
Unless the dept can do something about the dismal fur price forecast, I think trapping will take a hit this coming season.
Lynx are coming back finally. Marten continue a healthy population and are now frequenting the 2004 burn areas.
- Keep up the good work, even when some want to complain.

Arctic & Western

- Thank you for commitment to the resource. There is actually a fair amount of effort given to introducing people to trapping. I've introduced and trained quite a few young people to it. They love it until the skinning starts. The only guys that stuck with it are the ones that were older (late 20's early 30's). They were mature enough to know that with every enjoyable activity there is always drudgery aspect involved. I think we trappers are the true stewards of the wilderness. If only the public realized it.
Thanks again for your efforts.
- Fox, lynx, and beaver populations are exploding; moose are also and have become a problem and a safety issue while trying to travel on the portages. I have to carry a large caliber pistol for defense, thankfully I have not needed to use it, but it's been close a couple times and was treed once. It is also good to see these reports take us trapper's suggestions, and us them, a few years ago, I suggested that, perhaps if you just ask trappers how many wolves are caught in each village because many go straight into rugs without tagging, and now I see it as a regular question on the survey, and I also pointed out that in this area, we have more than one trapline and don't trap martin on our beaver line, so after that I now see you are asking about multiple traplines. It's good to see you listening to trappers, now if you could get the survey out in May that would be nice. LOL.
- -All fur should be recorded to ADFG.
-We need this information in order to manage better
-It doesn't make sense to have a quota on hunting & no quota on trapping fur.
-There should be a quota on more sensitive species such as lynx, wolverine, otter & marten
- Other people checking traps is more common and makes you not want to trap. Also people will set traps next to yours.
- I would like to see more furbearer studies done especially concerning lynx and their cycle, wolverine territory and wolf packs and their locations here in GMU 18
- Moose population growing in unit 18 - Good job ADFG other than that it would be nice if trapping season opened on the 1st of Nov. instead of the 10th.
- You should start paying people who fill out questionnaires!
- Always like these questionnaires gets me excited for trapping :)
- Too many bears & wolves they are killing off all our moose.
- Have local members with tags for the animals that must be tagged
- The previous season I caught 20 marten. I used the same number of traps & caught only 6. I did experiment with lures a little, but everything else was the same.
- No.
- I had another person check out my trapline the previous spring, then last year start trapping my exact same area. Same trees and same bushes. Even said "I saw your trap there." The worst part is he works for ADF&G and has access to all my harvest reports (amount, times, + locations). Where are the ethics here?? Trapping the same tree doesn't work very well. . .
- Talking # out here gets you shot, check your sealing and export records
- Trapped behind the house at fish creek where we get our water and ice.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I would like to thank Jno Didrickson for patiently entering and summarizing the 2008-09 Trapper Questionnaire data and Tom Paul for his tireless editorial assistance in assembling this report.

I would also like to extend my thanks to all of you who responded to the 2008-09 trapper survey – I hope you enjoy this 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. Please consider submitting photos when you return your 2010-11 Questionnaire or by e-mail. If you do send photos, please also include written permission for ADF&G to use them in the Trapper Questionnaire Report and other trapping-related publications.

Good luck in the field this year.

Sincerely,

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Photo by Stan Zuray



Photo by Stan Zuray



Photo by Lance Williams



Photo courtesy of Rick C. Ellis



Photo by Michael Kramer

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



Photo courtesy of Stan Zuray

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