

Trapper Questionnaire

Statewide Annual Report: 1 July 2010–30 June 2011



Photo by Larry Edfelt



Trapper Questionnaire

Statewide Annual Report: 1 July 2010–30 June 2011

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This Wildlife Management Report was approved for publication by Thomas Schumacher, ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire Coordinator.

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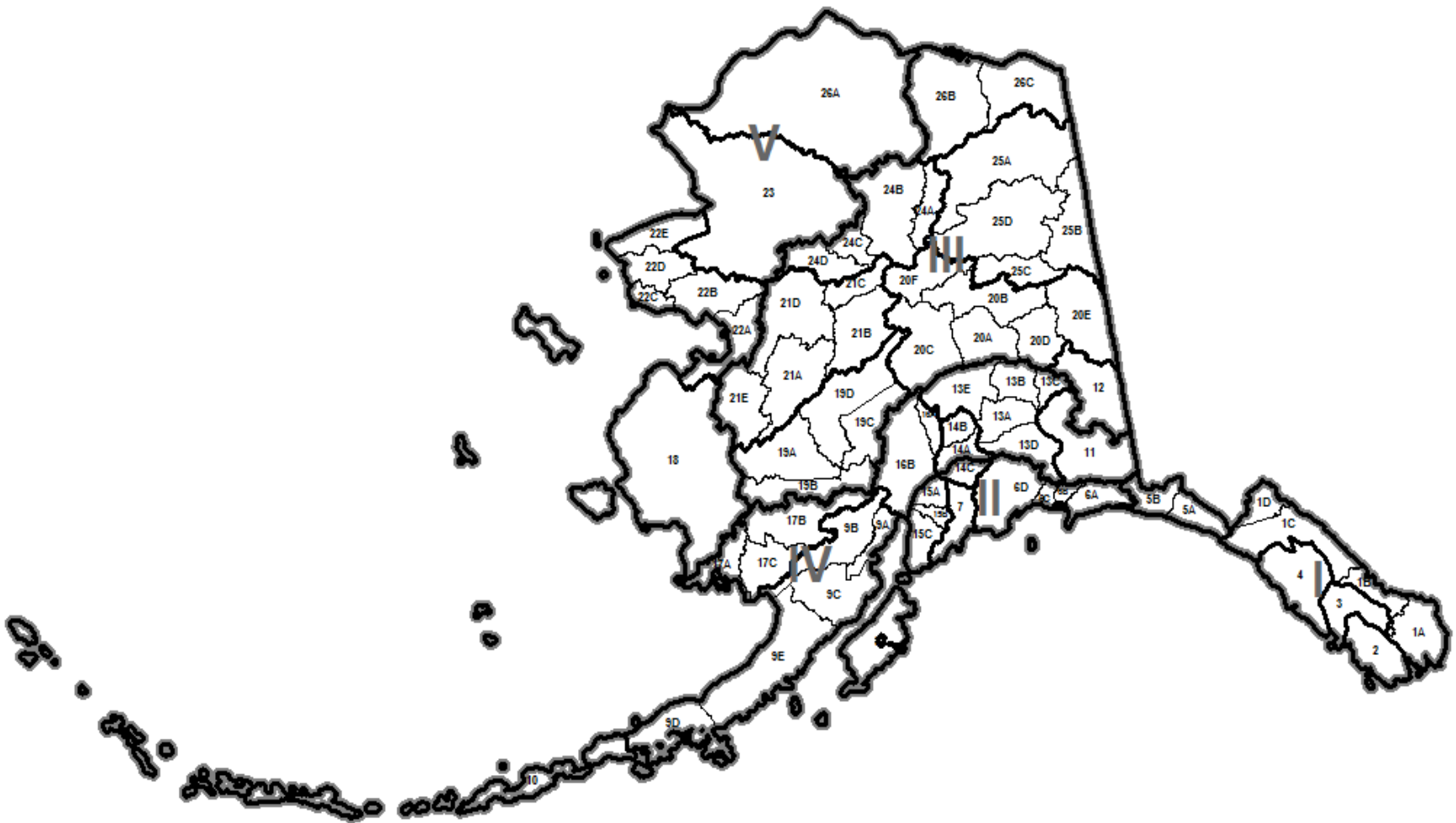
Code of Ethics

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

2010–11

INTRODUCTION

The 2010–11 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.

This is the first Trapper Report written using data compiled by an optical scanner, rather than having ADF&G staff type information provided by trappers into our electronic database. Overall the process worked well, but we did encounter some technical challenges, and that is why both this report and the 2011-12 Questionnaire were mailed out later than usual. However, now that we've worked out the bugs, the process should be much faster. We plan to mail out the 2012-13 Questionnaire in April 2013 and publish the resulting Report by September.

The number of trappers responding to the 2010-11 survey was relatively low. Trappers responded to the survey at a rate similar to previous years, but the number of active trappers for whom we have current addresses has declined. Maintaining current mailing addresses for trappers is one of the biggest challenges of coordinating this program. Prior to mailing out the 2012-13 survey we will identify additional active trappers based on trapping license and fur sealing records. However, if you or other trappers you know have changed addresses in the last year or two, please let me know your new address. My mail, phone, and e-mail contact information is below.

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

Finally, the 2010-11 survey asked whether trappers would prefer to receive the Questionnaire and Report by e-mail, rather than regular mail. Few trappers indicated they would prefer e-mail, so we will continue to send both documents by regular mail and to post the Report on our website:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=trapping.reports>

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A PROFILE OF TRAPPING IN ALASKA

Trapper Information

Did you trap?

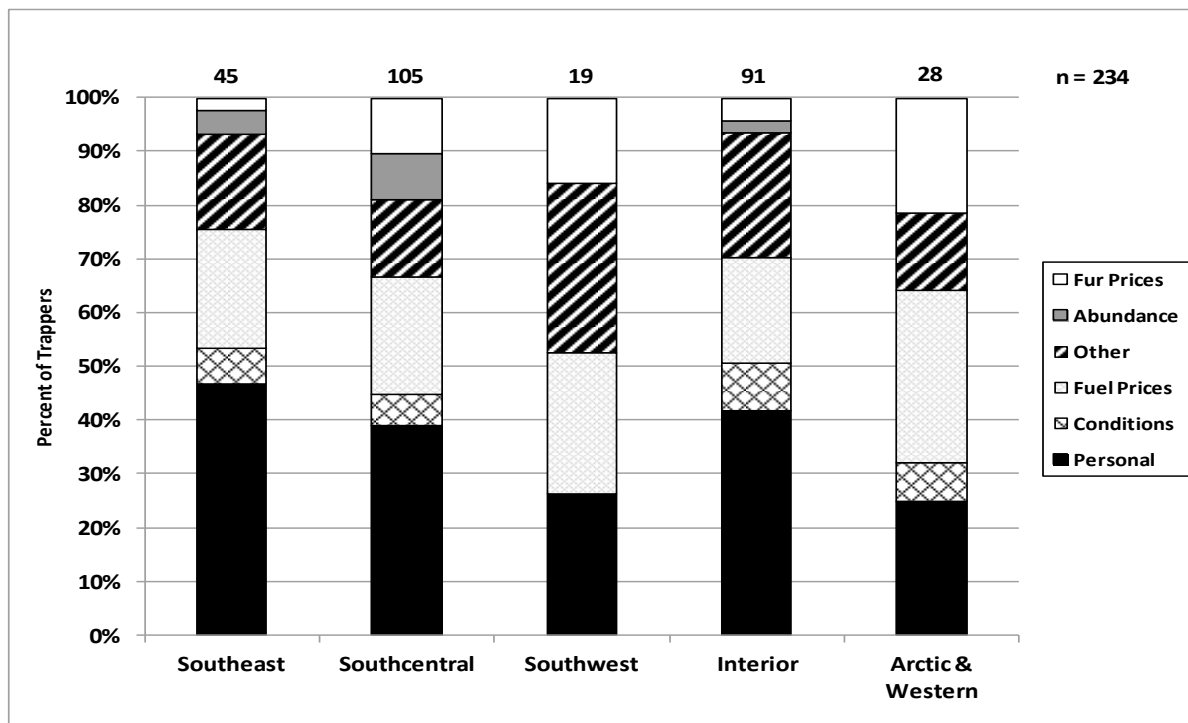
This year 2401 questionnaires were mailed throughout the state and 531 were returned for an overall response rate of 22%; 6% lower than from 2008-09 trappers. The response rate was lower from the Arctic & Western region than from other regions. Statewide, 55% of respondents trapped during the 2010–11 season, 5% lower than during the 2008-09 season.

Response to 2010-11 Trapper Questionnaire

Region	Trapped	Did Not Trap	No Response	Total	% Responding
Arctic & Western	16	20	205	241	15%
Interior	108	78	683	869	21%
Southcentral	107	91	620	818	24%
Southeast	33	34	220	287	23%
Southwest	29	15	142	186	24%
Total	293	238	1870	2401	22%

If you did not trap during 2010-11, why not?

Statewide, 234 respondents gave reasons why they didn't trap during the 2010-11 season. Some gave more than one reason. Over all, 71% of the reasons cited were in the personal or "other" categories (poor health, no time, conflicts with jobs or school). Fuel prices were cited 28% of the time, an 11% jump over the last survey. Fur prices accounted for 11% of responses and weather conditions and animal abundance were cited in 8% and 6% of the answers respectively. Responses were similar among regions, but fuel prices were cited by nearly a third of Arctic and Western trappers. The number of trappers in each region who responded is given above each bar.



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

During the 2010-11 trapping season, 35% of trappers statewide reported they took a young person trapping with them, continuing a declining trend from the 48% reported 5 years ago. As shown by the graph below, the highest percentage of trappers taking youngsters trapping was in the Arctic & Western region (over 50%) and the lowest percentage was in Southwest Alaska.

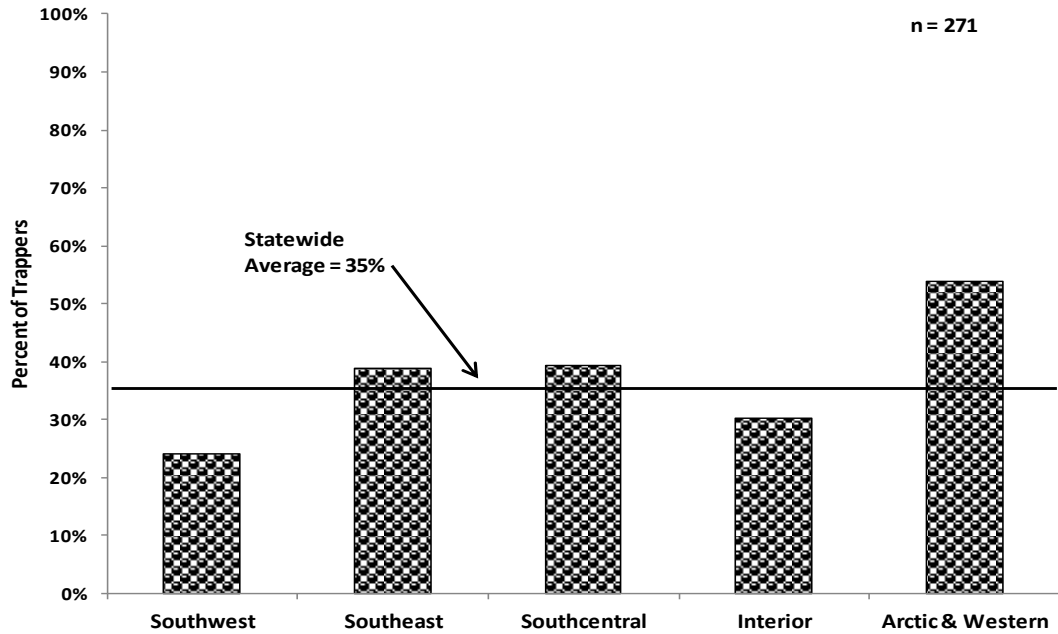


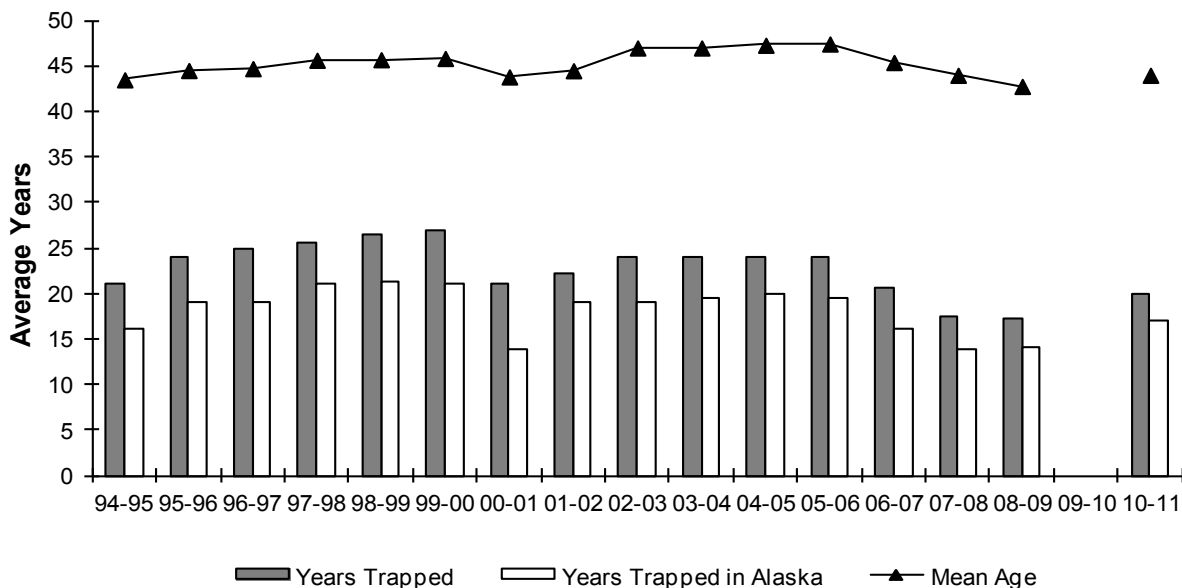
Photo courtesy of Shawn Conway



Photo by Ken Marsh

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

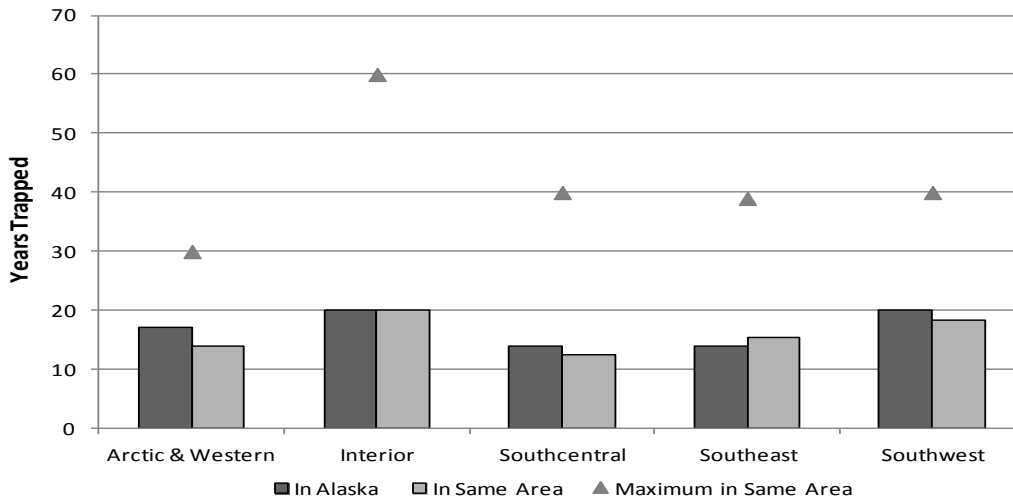
During 2010-11, the overall experience of trappers and the average number of years trapping in Alaska was the highest in the past 3 years. (No data were collected in 2009-10.) Statewide, trappers averaged 17 years experience in Alaska and 20 years trapping overall. Trappers in the Interior and Southwest regions had the most experience on average, 23 years; whereas those in Southeast Alaska had the least experience on average, 16 years. Correspondingly, trappers in Interior and Southwest regions were the oldest on average (47 years) and those in Southeast (39 years) the youngest on average. The oldest trapper responding was 83 from the Interior. The top line in the graph shows average statewide trapper age. In 2010-11 it was 44, up from 43 in 2008-09.



Trapline Information

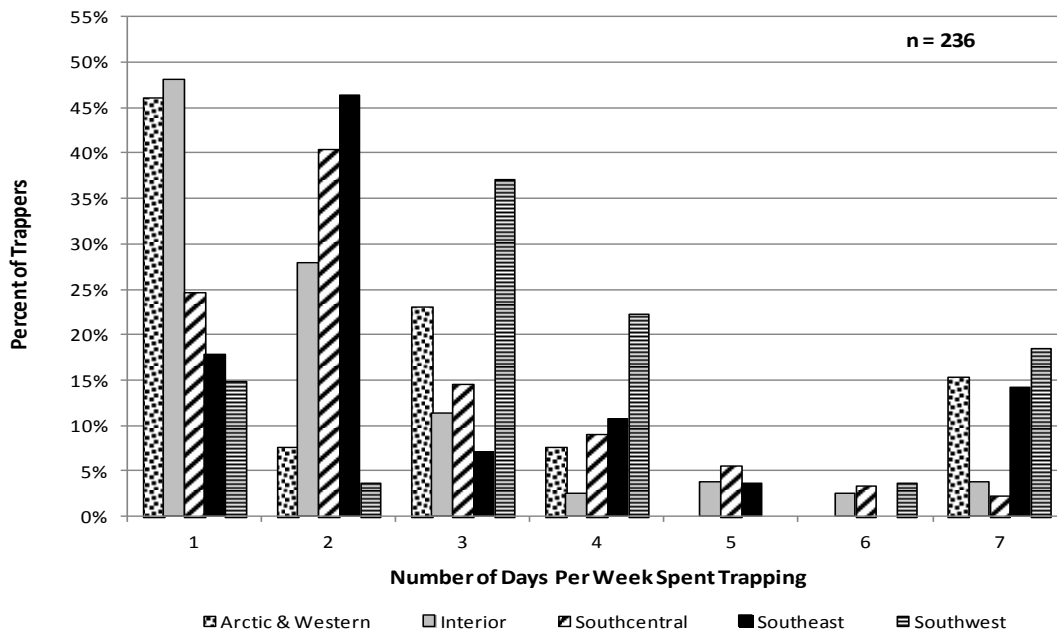
How many years have you been trapping in the same area?

On average, Interior and Southwest trappers who responded spent the longest time trapping in Alaska (20 years) and trapping in the same area (20 and 18 years respectively). Southeast and Southcentral trappers reported trapping in the same area an average of 15 and 13 years respectively. A Interior trapper holds the current record for trapping the longest in the same area, 60 years.



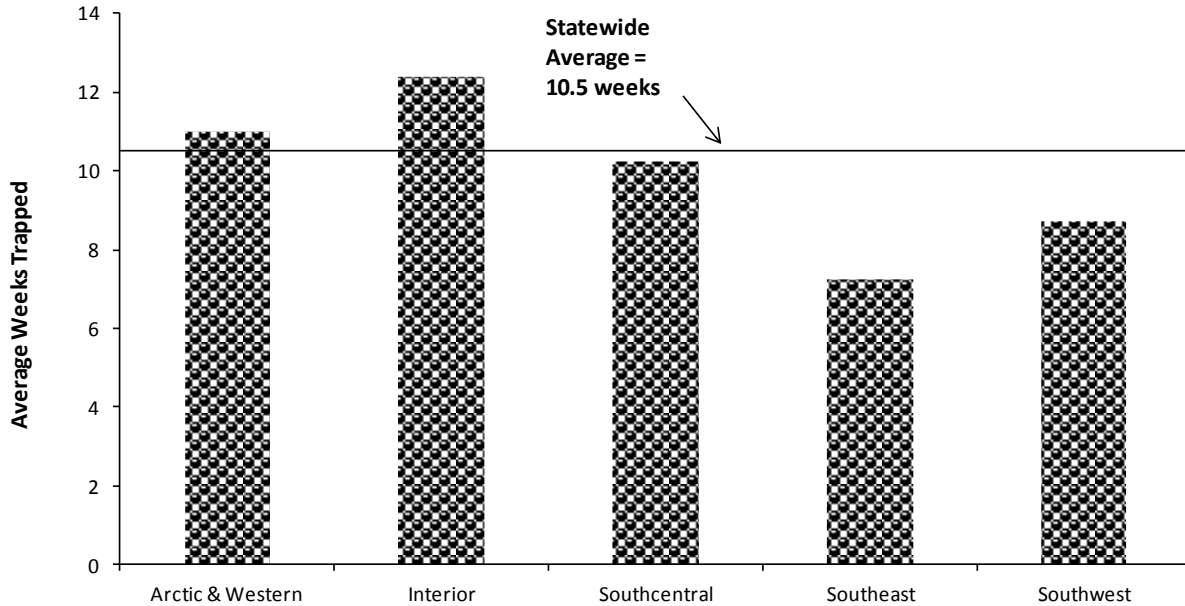
How many days per week did you trap?

Statewide, 79% of all trappers conducted their trapping activities 3 days per week or less. Southwest Alaska (19%), had the highest percentage of any region of trappers who trapped every day of the week and over 80% of Southwest trappers were afield 3 days a week or more; a considerably higher percentage of trappers than in other regions.

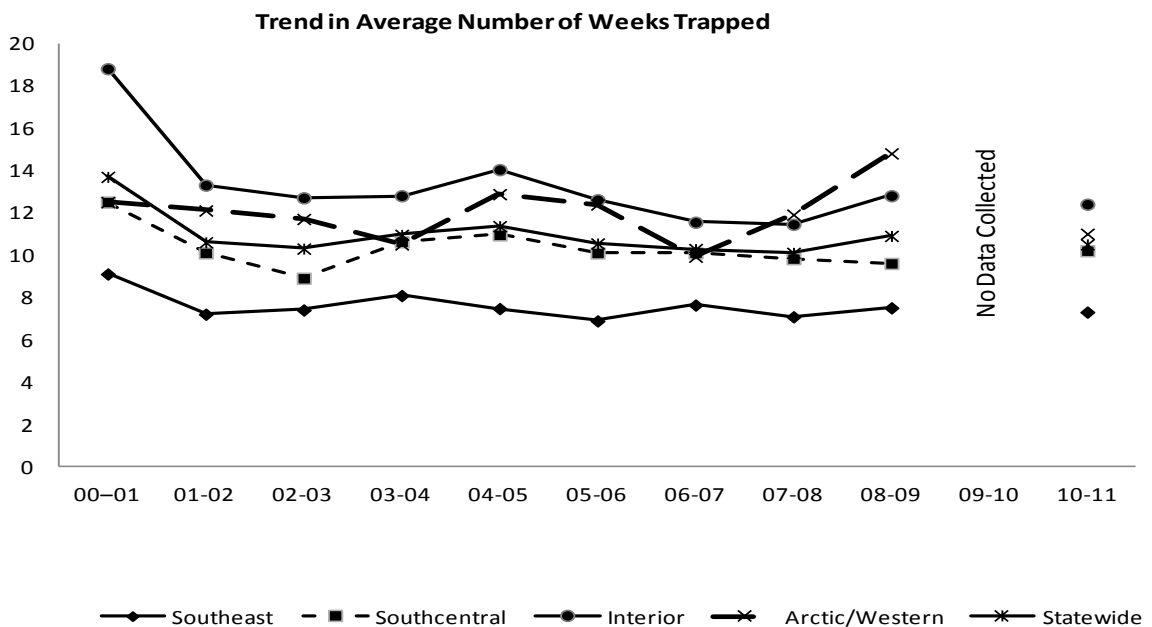


How many weeks did you trap?

During the 2010-11 season Southeast trappers trapped for an average of 7.3 weeks. Southwest trappers were in the field 8.7 weeks on average and Southcentral trappers averaged 10.2 weeks afield. Interior trappers were in the field an average of 12.4 weeks, and Arctic & Western trappers trapped an average of nearly 11 weeks.

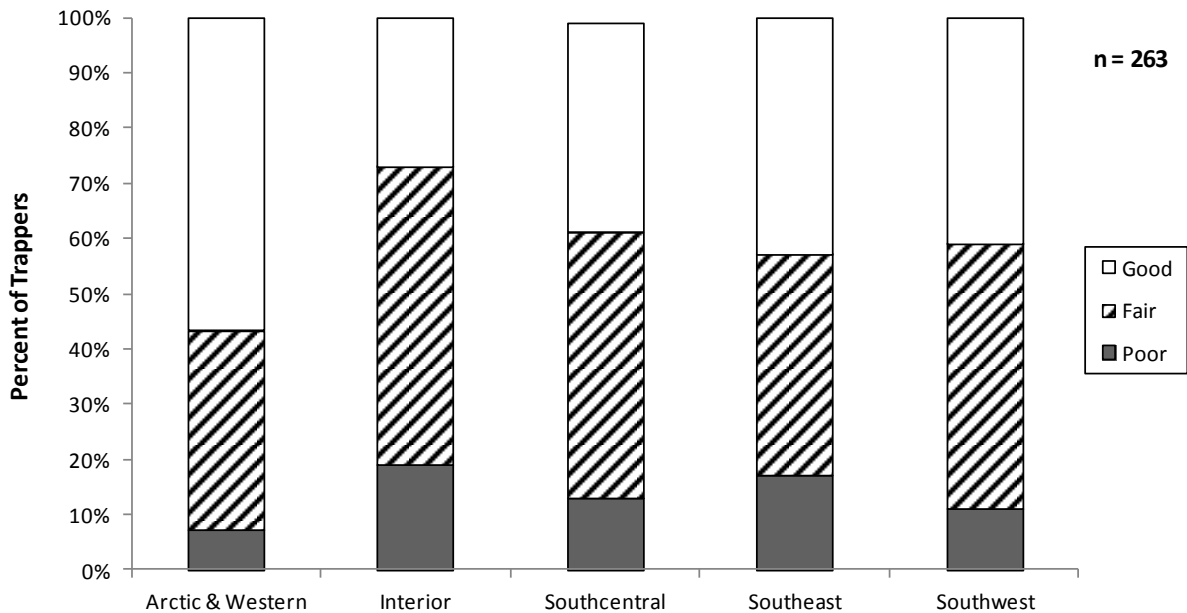


The average number of weeks trapped statewide during the 2010–11 season was 10.5, nearly a half week less than in 2008-09. In the Arctic & Western region the average number of weeks trapped was 4 weeks less than in 2008-09. The Southcentral/Southwest average weeks increased slightly reversing a downward trend lasting from 2004-05 to 2008-09. Trappers in Southeast and the Interior decreased their time afield by a few days compared to 2008-09.



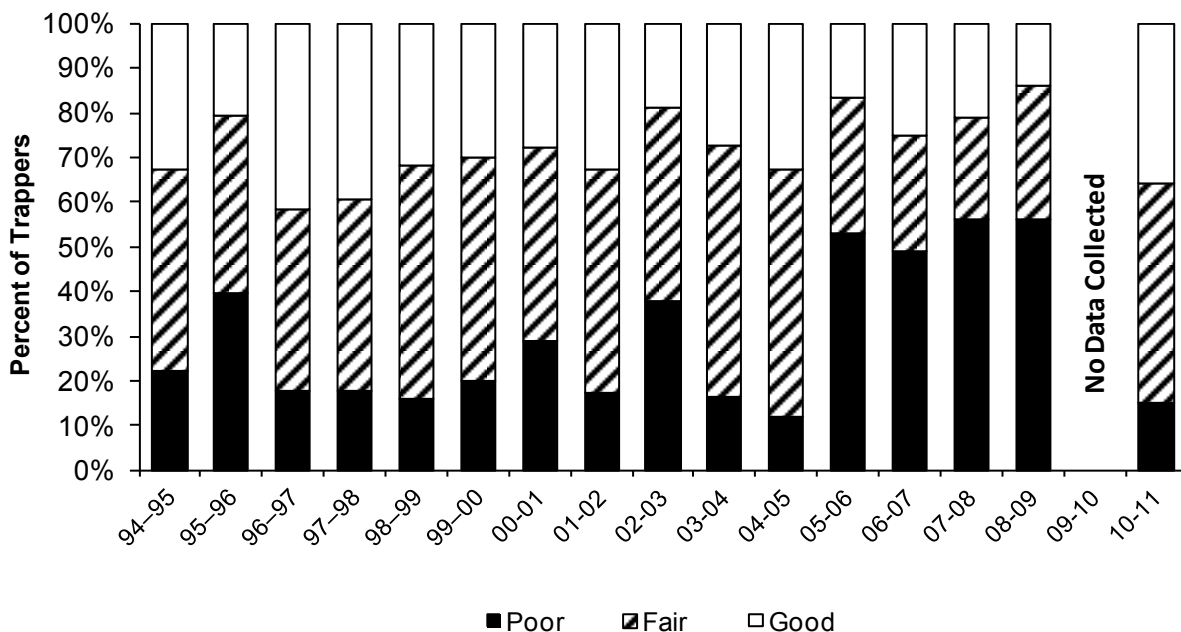
What were trapping conditions like on your trapline?

More than 80-90% of trappers in every region reported fair to good conditions in 2010-11. Fifty-seven percent of Arctic & Western trappers reported good conditions. Interior region trappers were least likely to report good trapping conditions and most likely to report poor conditions.

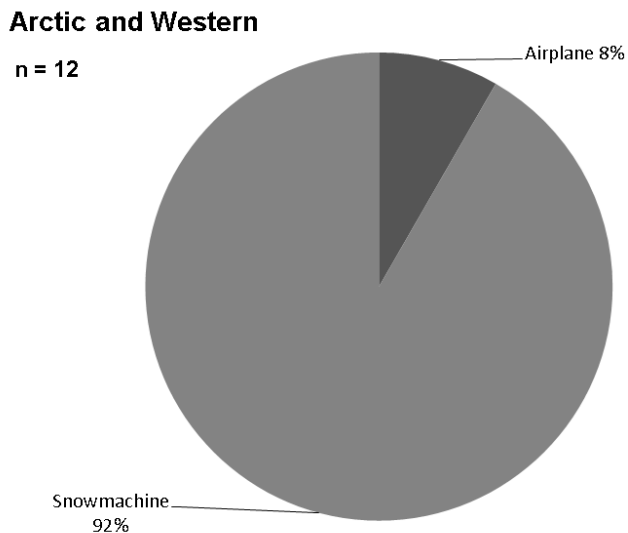
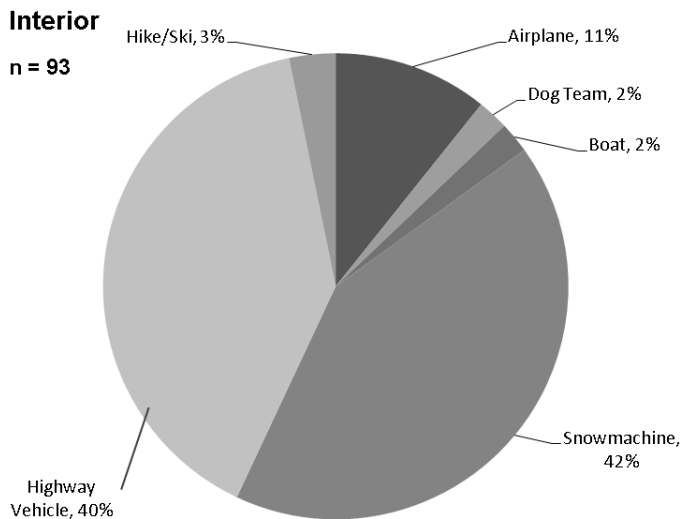
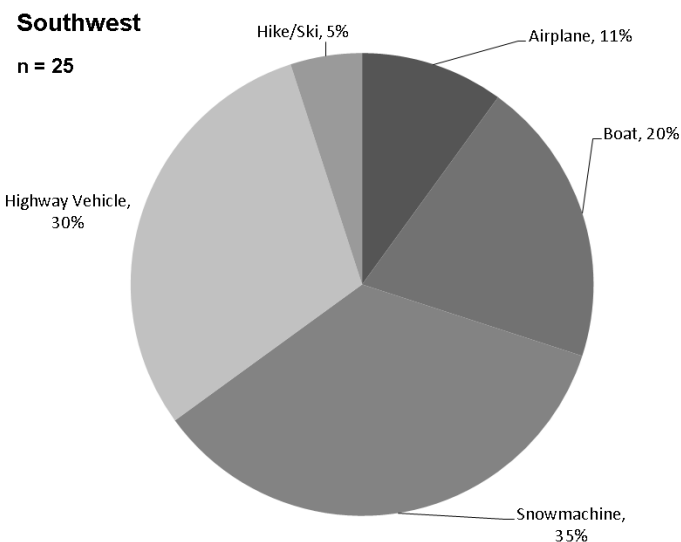
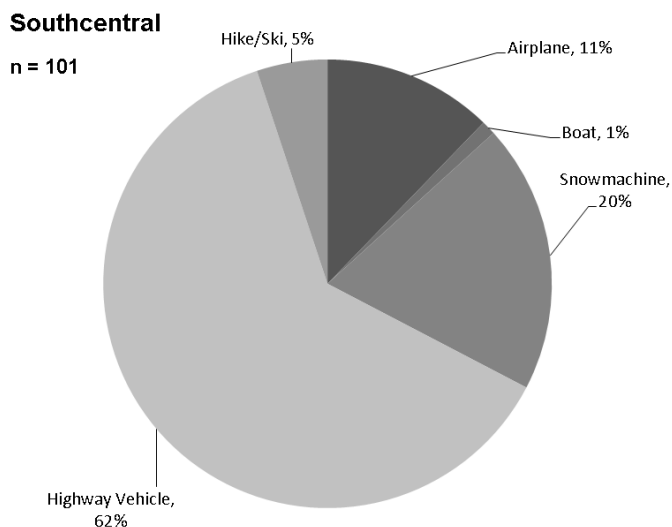
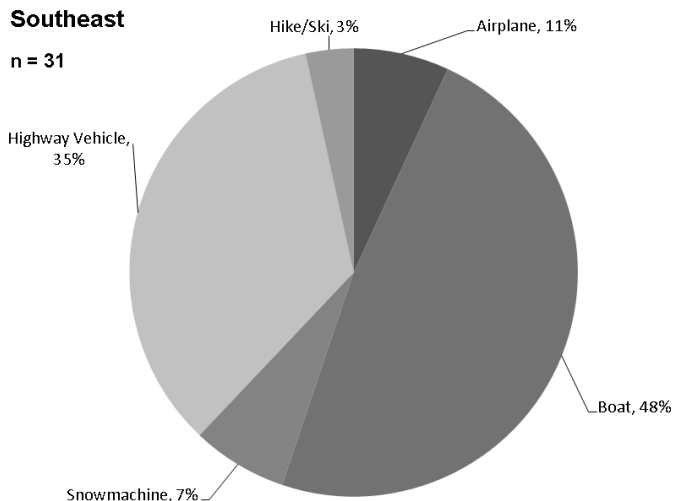
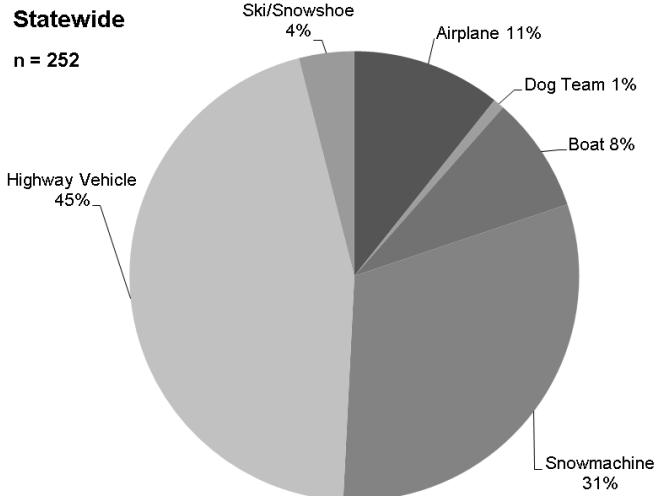


Statewide, a higher percentage of Alaskan trappers reported good trapping conditions (36%) than at any time since the 1997-98 season, 13 years. The percentage of those reporting poor conditions (15%) was the second lowest in the 16 years the trapper survey has been conducted.

Annual Variation in Statewide Trapping Conditions

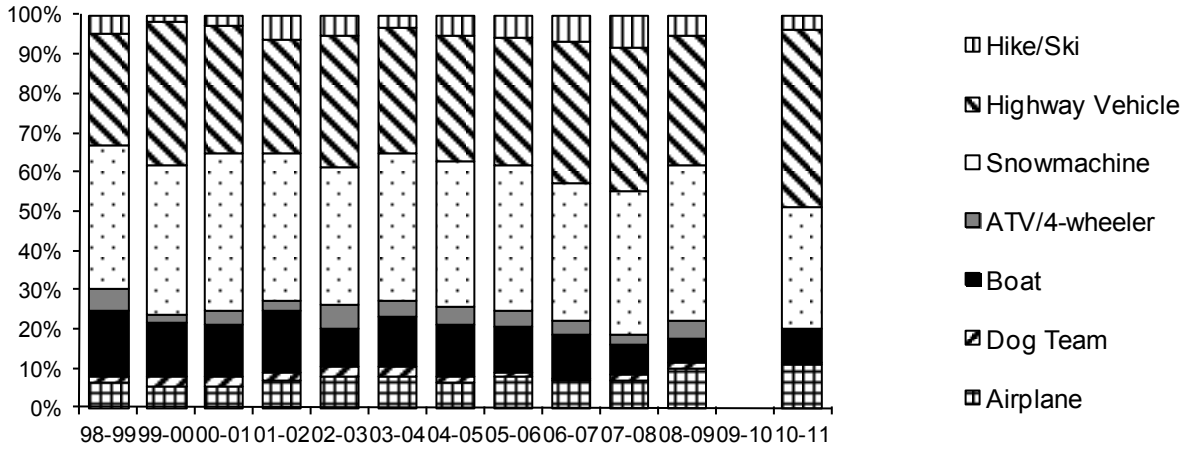


What mode of transportation did you use to get to your main trapping area?

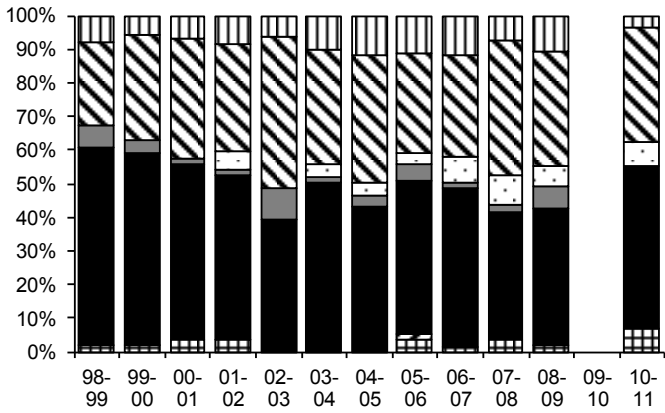


Trends in mode of transportation used to get to traplines

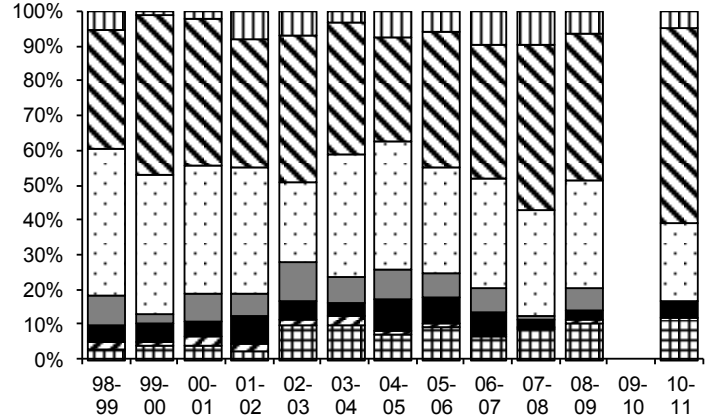
Statewide



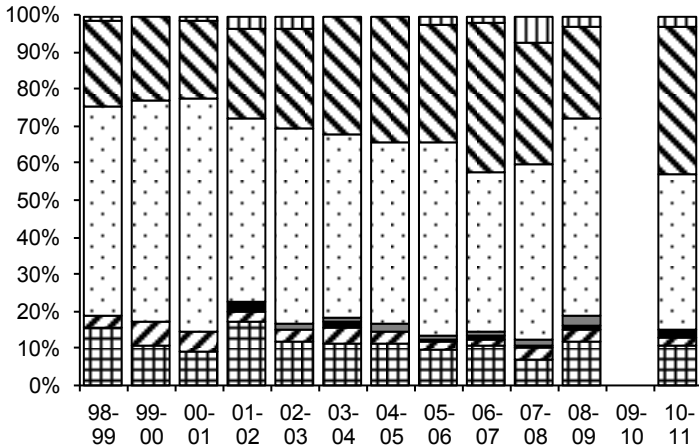
Southeast



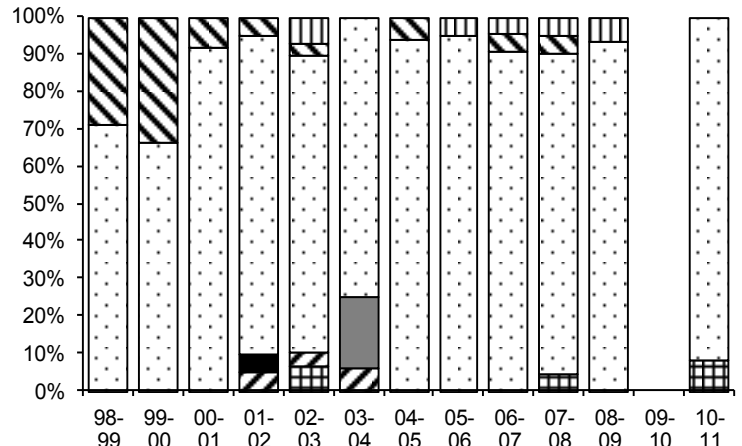
Southcentral & Southwest



Interior



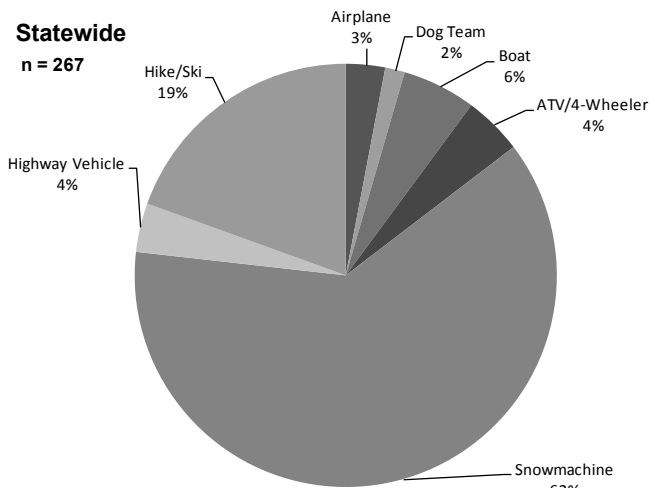
Arctic & Western



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

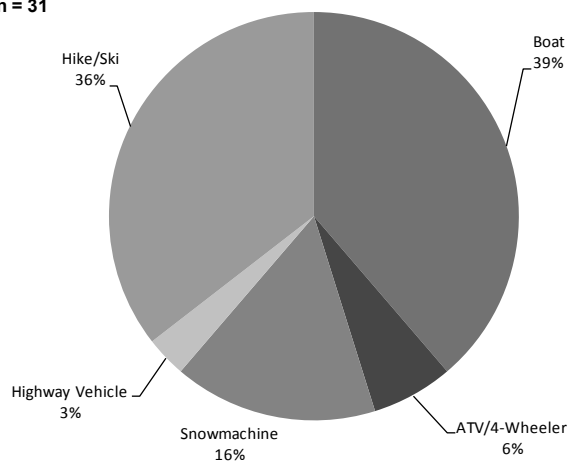
Statewide

n = 267



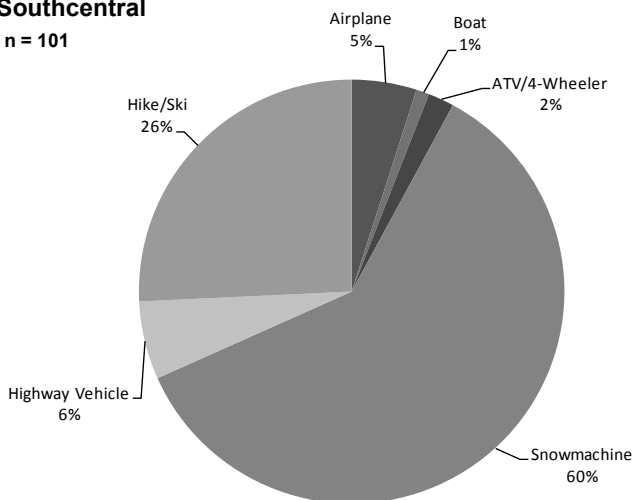
Southeast

n = 31



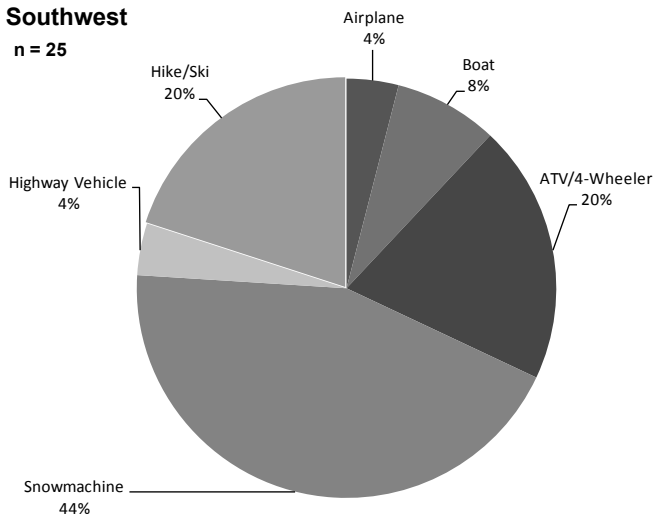
Southcentral

n = 101



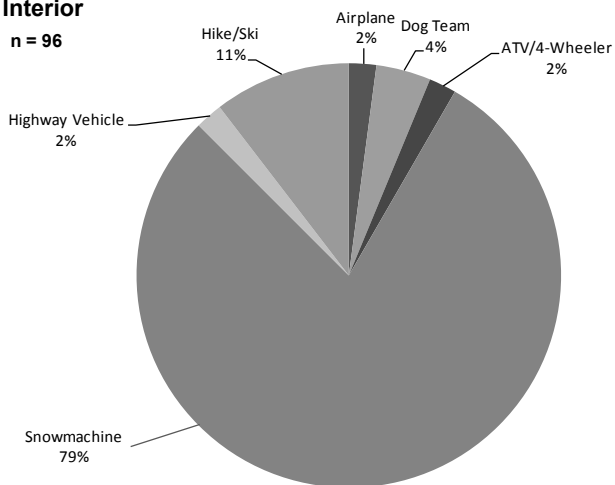
Southwest

n = 25



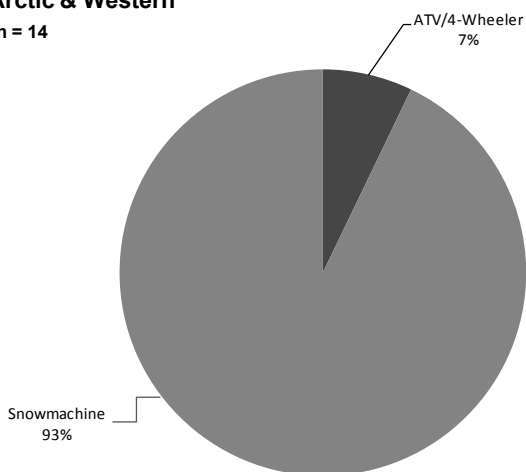
Interior

n = 96



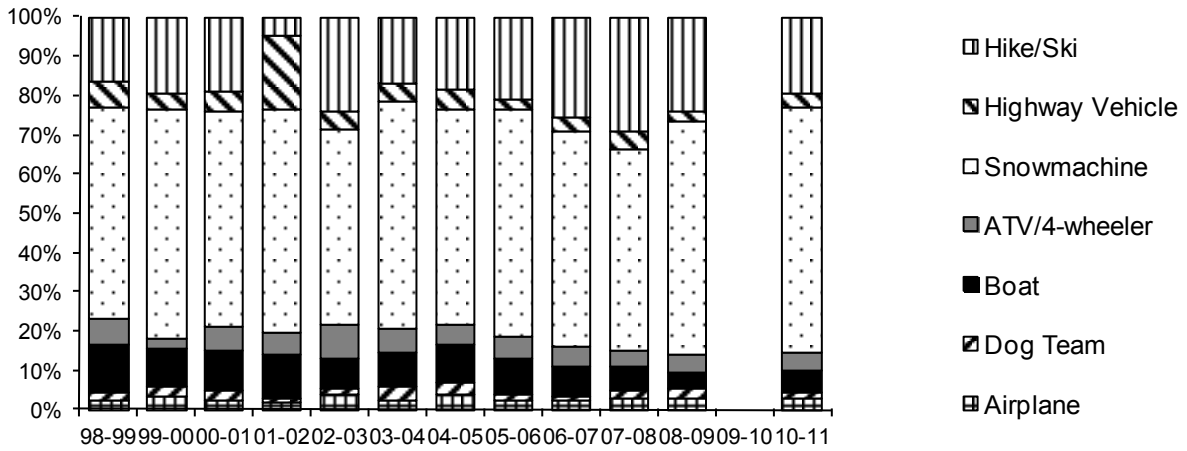
Arctic & Western

n = 14

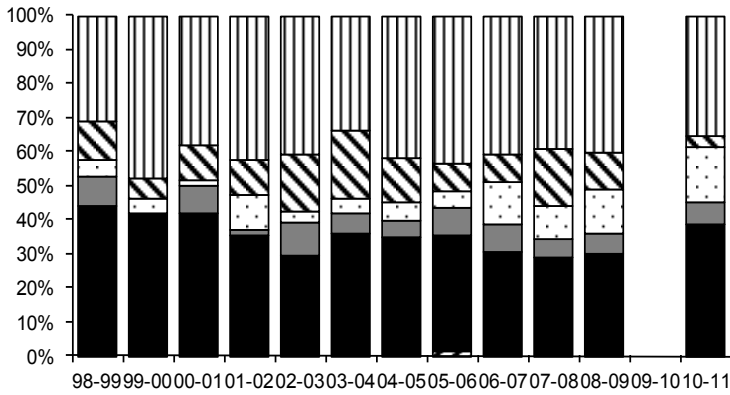


Trends in mode of transportation used to run traplines

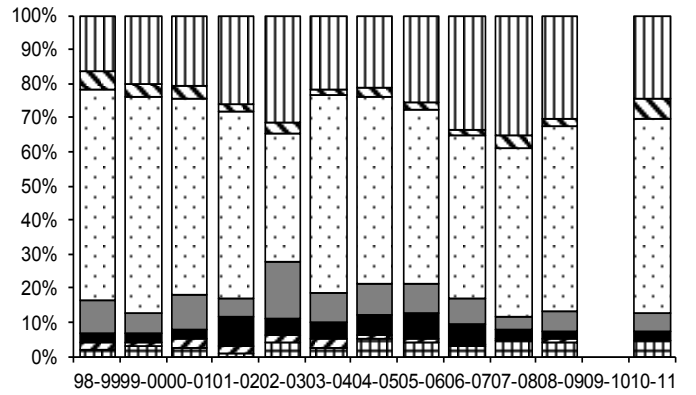
Statewide



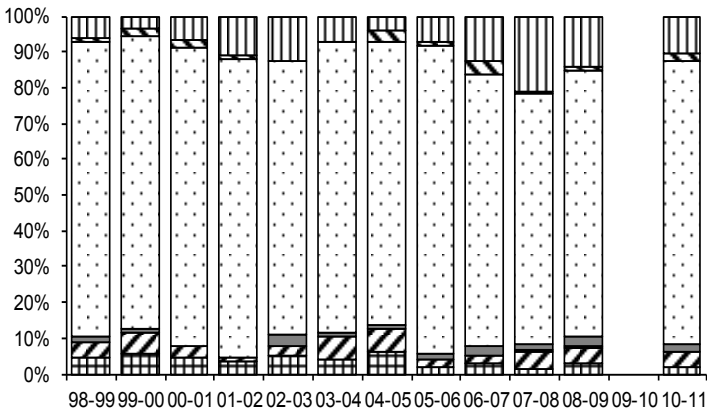
Southeast



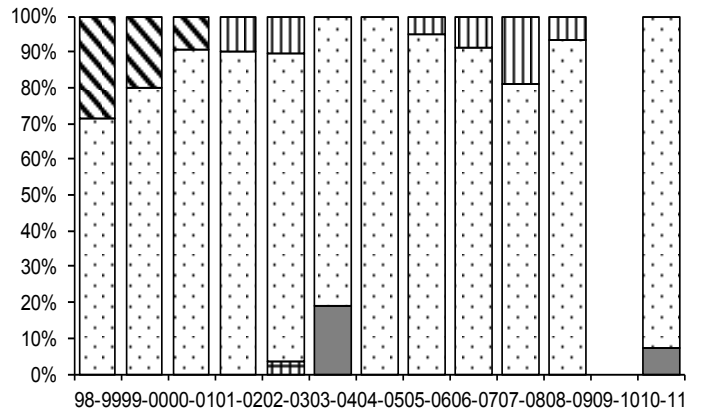
Southcentral & Southwest



Interior



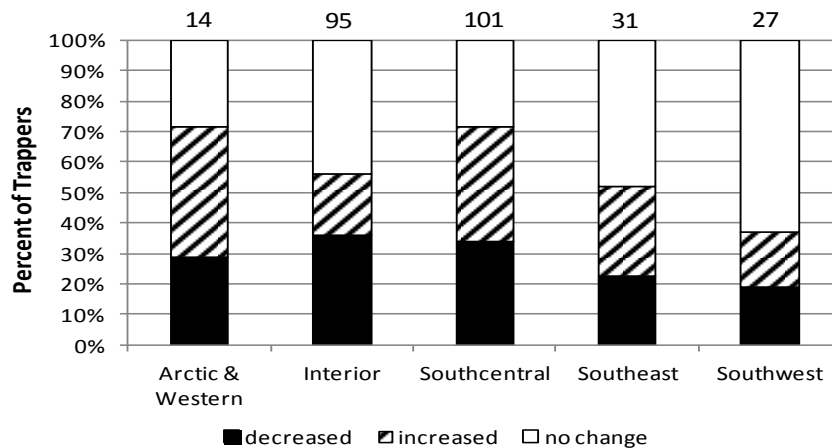
Arctic & Western



Trapping Effort

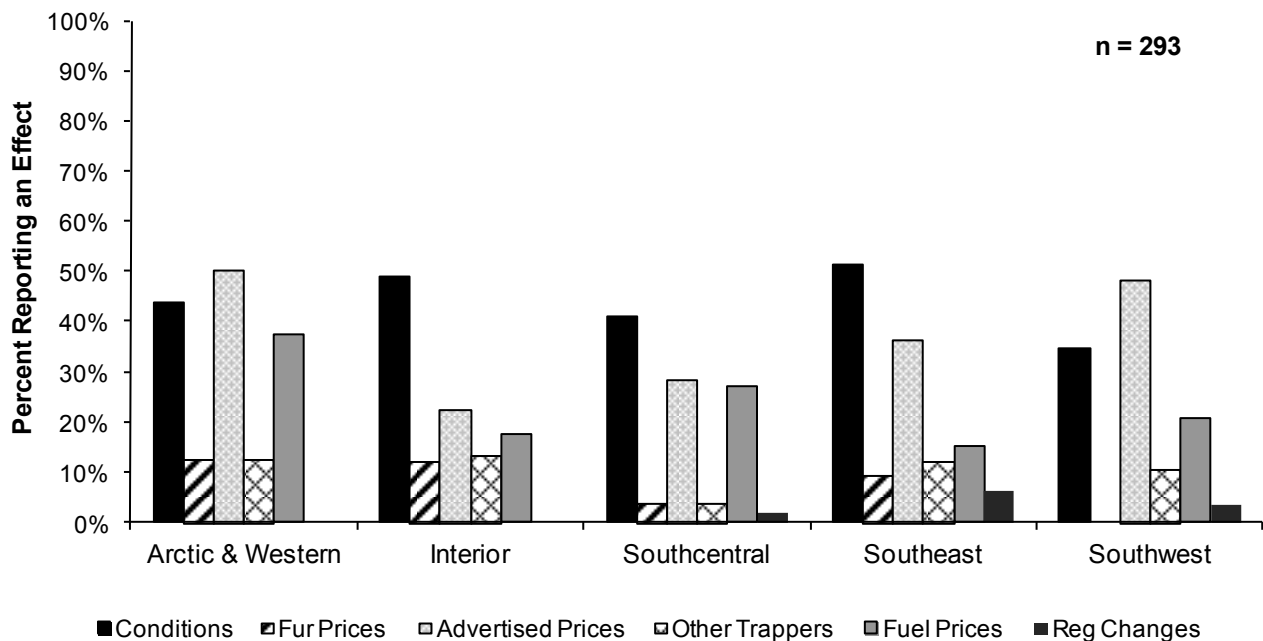
Did you change your trapping effort this season?

Changes in trapping effort during the 2010-11 season were very specific to regions. About 63% of Southwest trappers, 49% of Southeast trappers and 44% of Interior trappers answering the question reported no change in effort, whereas about 29% of trappers in the Southcentral and Arctic & Western regions did not change effort. Sixty four percent of Interior trappers who reported changing effort decreased their effort, whereas 60% of Arctic & Western trappers who changed increased effort. Slightly more Southcentral and Southeast trappers increased effort than those who decreased effort. In the Southwest the same number reported decreasing effort as increasing it. The number of trappers in each region who responded is given above each bar.



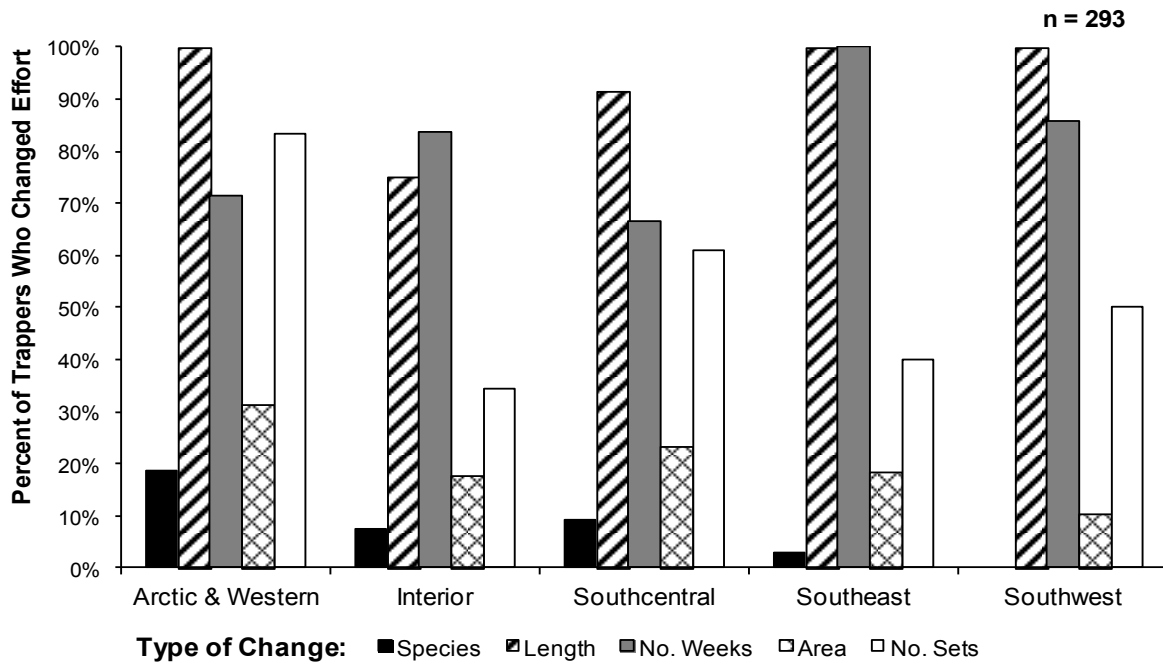
What factors affected your trapping effort?

In the Arctic & Western and Southwest regions, trappers reported advertised prices were the most important factor affecting trapping effort during the 2010-11 season. In the other regions, trapping conditions were most important. In every region, high fuel prices were the third most important factor affecting trapping effort.



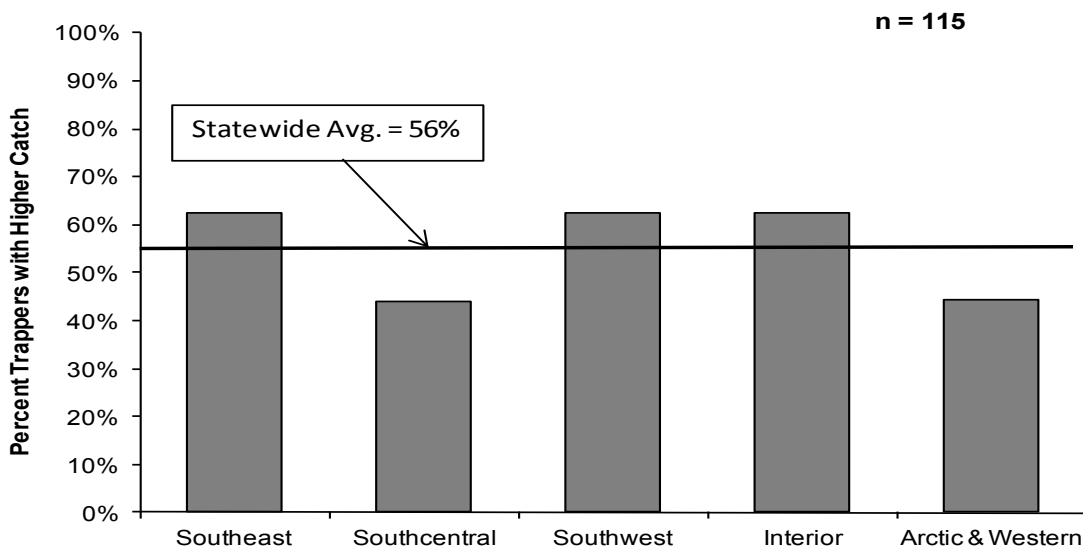
How did you change your trapping effort?

Weeks trapped and trapline length were the most common ways trappers changed effort in most regions. In the Arctic & Western region trappers reported that changing the number of sets was the second most important way they changed effort. Statewide, 40% of trappers reported some change in effort.



Did increasing your trapping effort result in a higher catch?

Statewide, an average of 56% of trappers reported that increasing their effort resulted in a higher catch. However, fewer than half of trappers in the Southcentral and Arctic & Western regions said increased effort resulted in increased catch. Southeast, Interior, and Southwest trappers had better than average success increasing their catch with increased effort.



Target Species and Disposition of Furs

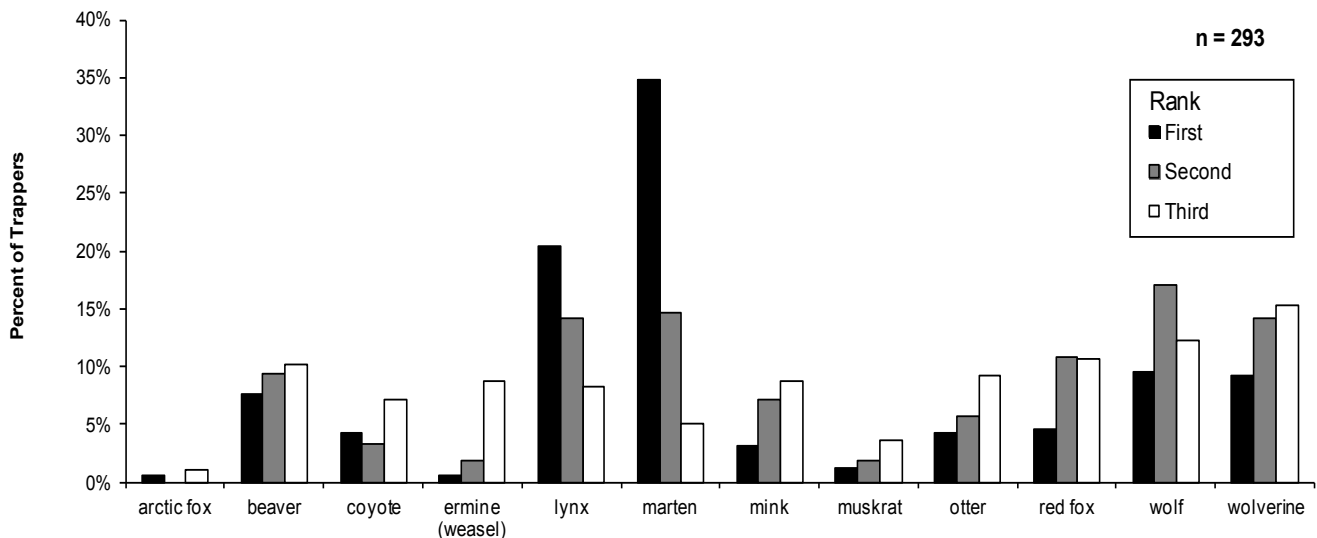
What was the most important species you were trying to catch?

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

Marten was once again the most important species statewide. Marten was the most important species in the Southcentral region and second in the Southeast, Interior, and Arctic & Western regions. Lynx was second most important statewide and targeted first in the Interior and Arctic & Western regions. Trappers in 4 regions ranked wolves in the top 3 or 4 species helping wolves rank third in importance statewide.

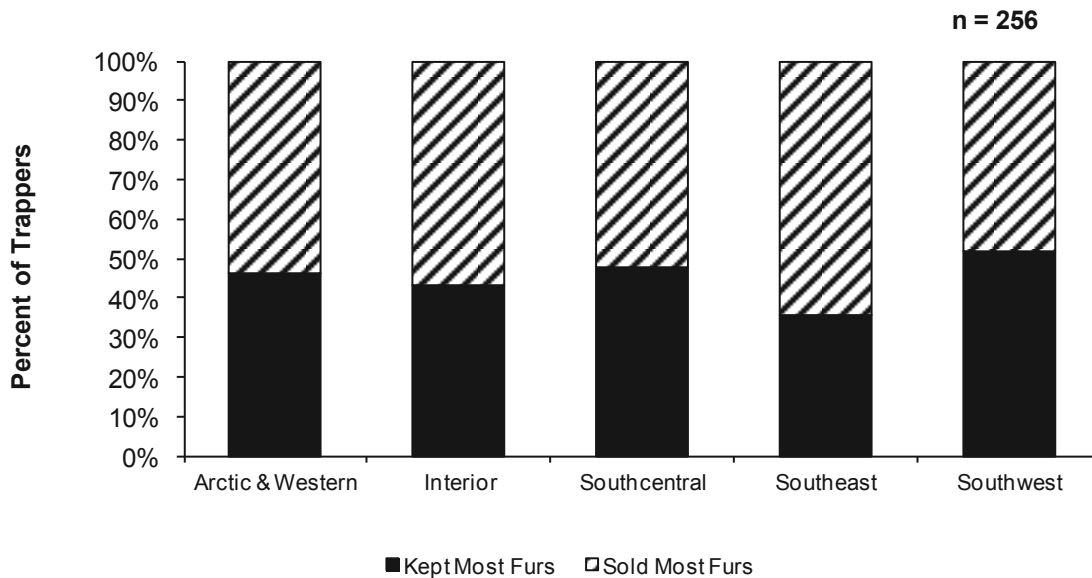
Species	Statewide (475)	Southeast (52)	Southcentral (146)	Southwest (23)	Interior (238)	Arctic & Western (16)
marten	1	2	1	6	2	2
wolf	3	4	4	4	3	6
lynx	2	9	3	7	1	1
wolverine	4	8	2	2	4	3
beaver	5	5	8	1	5	4
arctic fox	11	---	---	10	11	---
mink	9	1	7	9	9	8
red fox	6	10	5	3	6	7
otter	7	3	6	5	7	5
coyote	7	7	9	10	7	---
ermine (weasel)	11	5	10	8	11	8
muskrat	10	11	11	10	10	---

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.



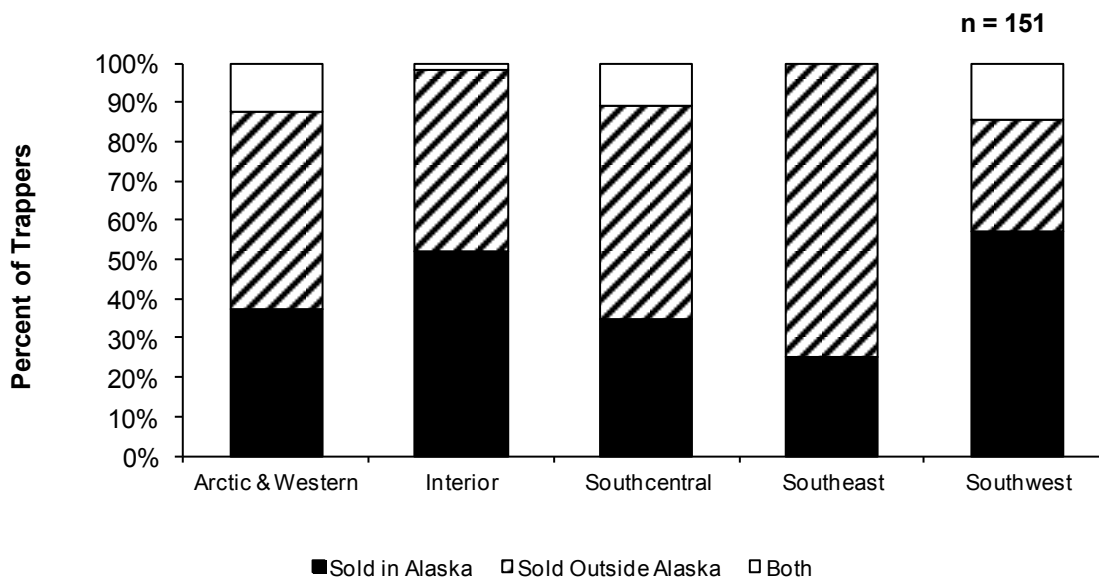
Did you keep or sell most of your furs?

Slightly more than half of trappers in the Arctic & Western, Interior, and Southcentral regions sold most of their furs in the 2010-11 season. About two thirds of Southeast trappers sold most of their furs, whereas 52% of both Southwest trappers kept most of theirs.



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

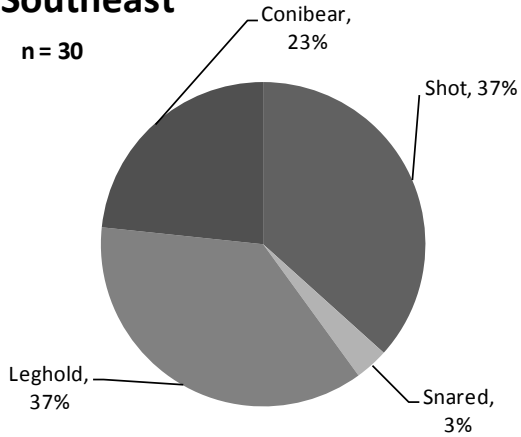
About 75% of Southeast trappers, 50% of Arctic & Western trappers, and 55% of Southcentral trappers who responded to this question sold most of their furs to buyers outside Alaska. 52% of Interior trappers and 57% of Southwest trappers sold most of their furs within Alaska. Statewide, 52% sold most furs to buyers outside the state, 42% sold most to buyers within the state, and 6% sold equally to both.



Beaver Harvest Methods

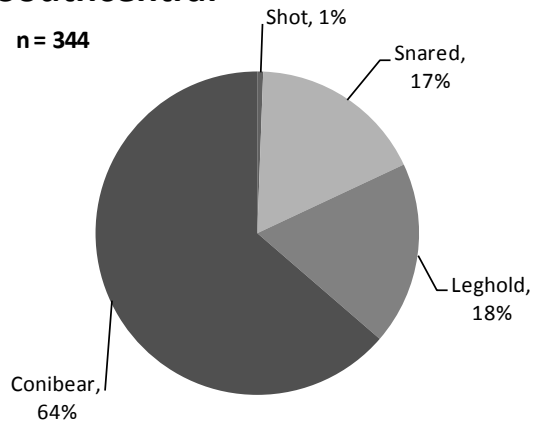
Southeast

n = 30



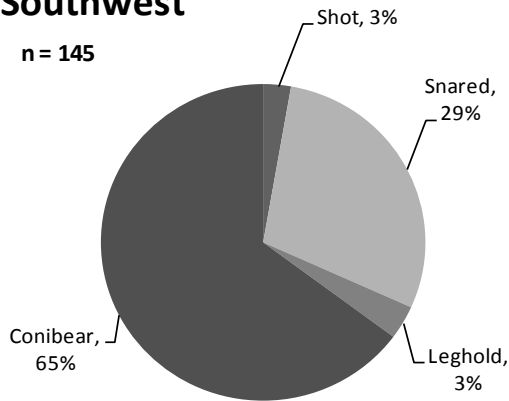
Southcentral

n = 344



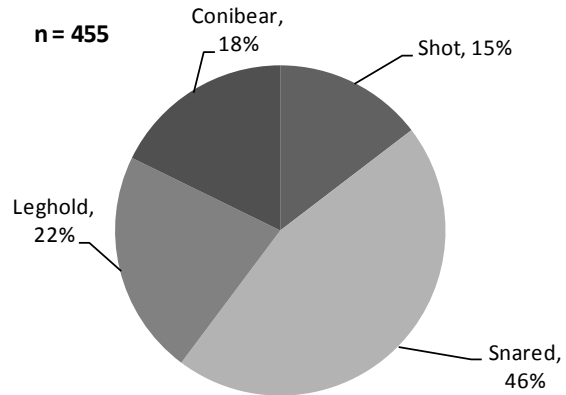
Southwest

n = 145



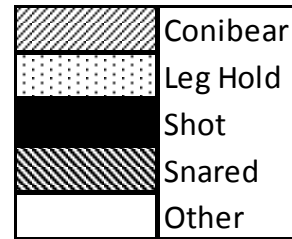
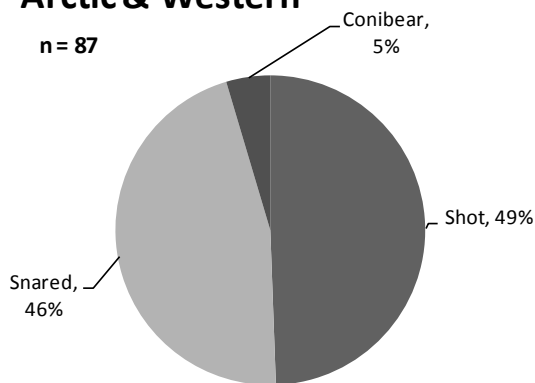
Interior

n = 455

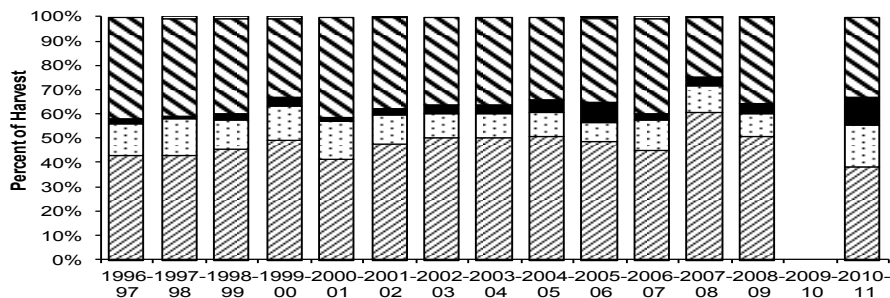


Arctic & Western

n = 87



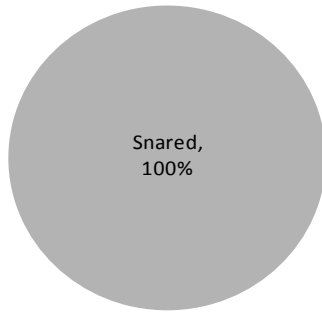
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Coyote Harvest Methods

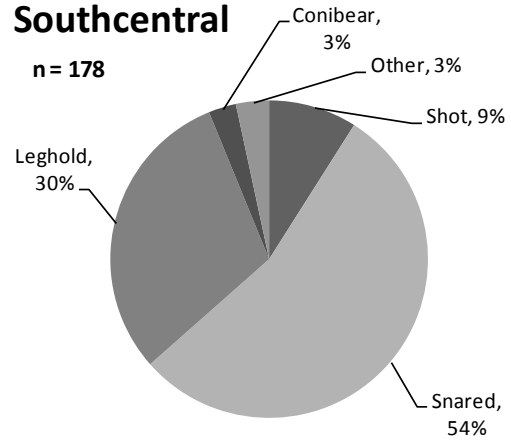
Southeast

n = 2



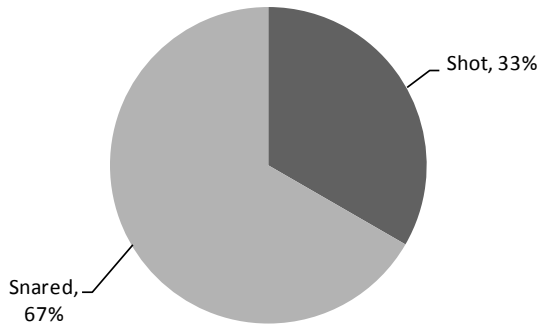
Southcentral

n = 178



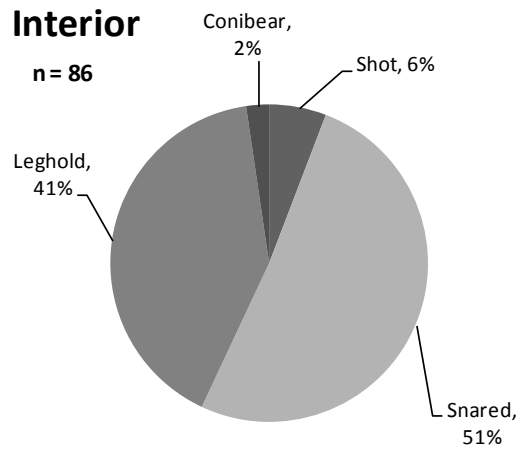
Southwest

n = 3



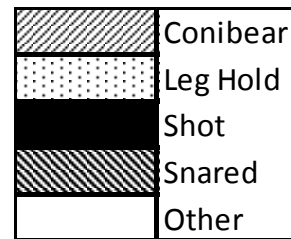
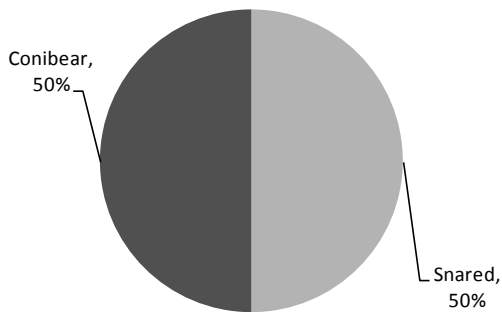
Interior

n = 86

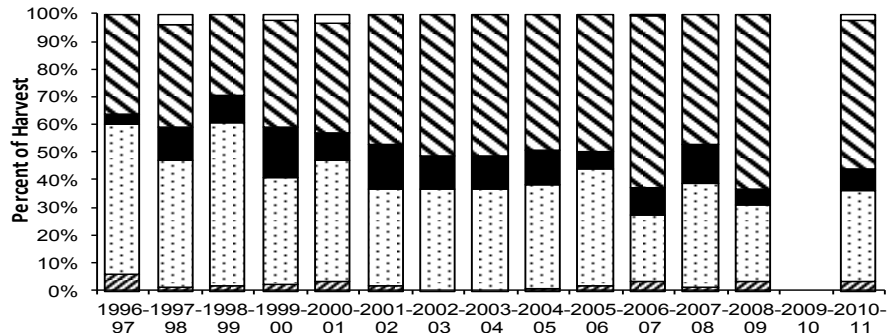


Arctic & Western

n = 4

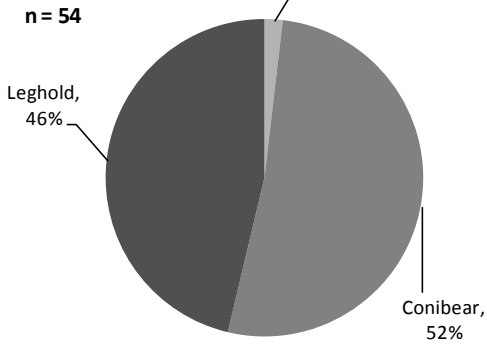


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

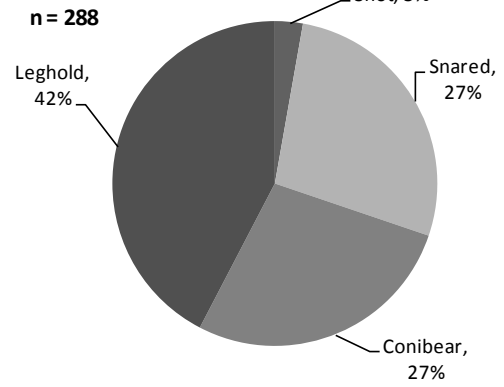


Fox Harvest Methods

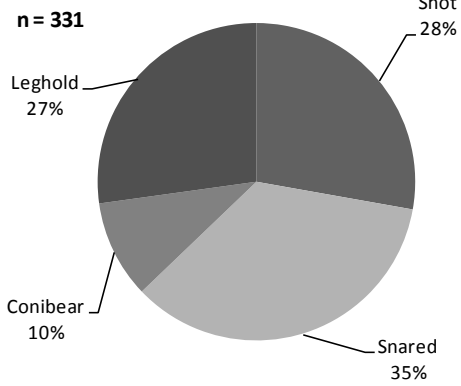
Southeast



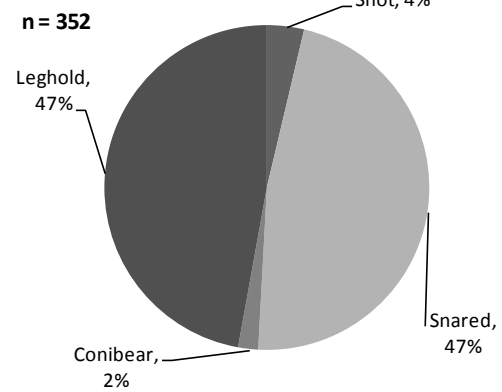
Southcentral



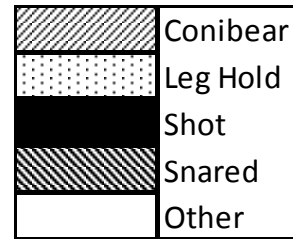
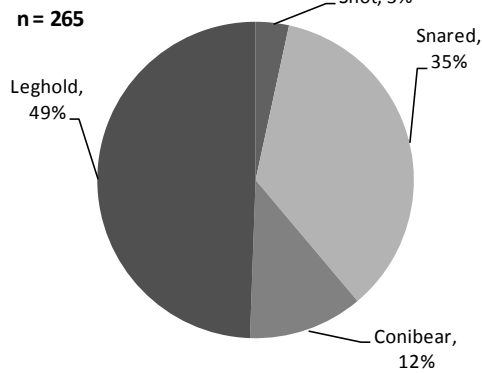
Southwest



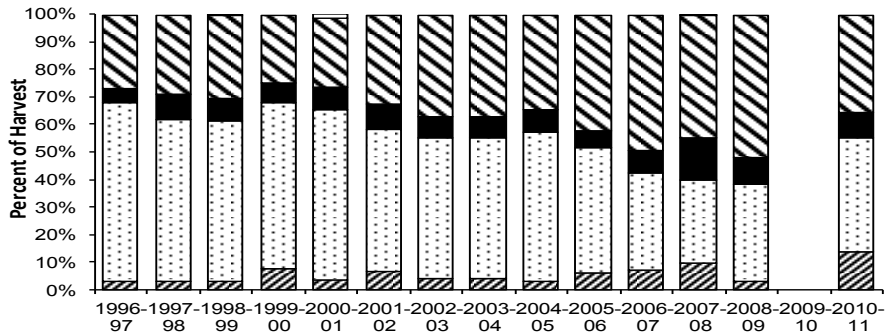
Interior



Arctic & Western



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



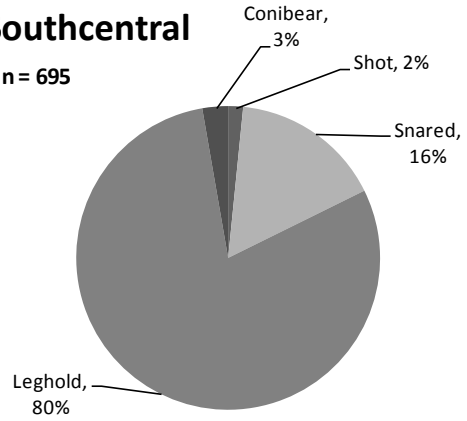
Lynx Harvest Methods

Southeast

No harvest reported

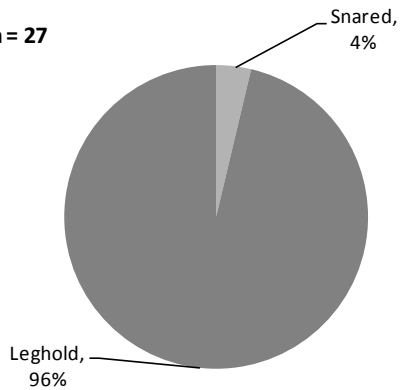
Southcentral

n = 695



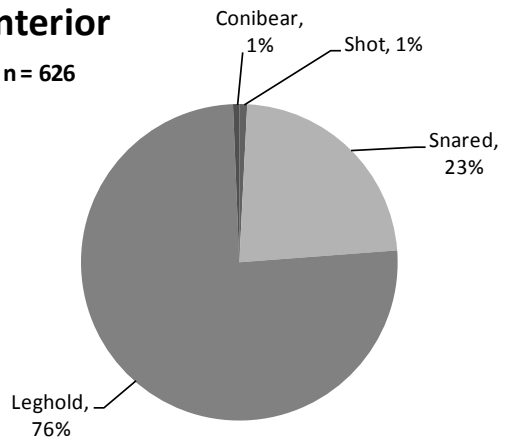
Southwest

n = 27



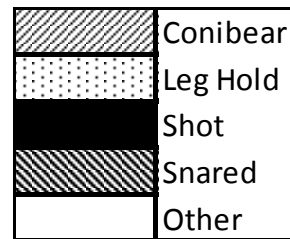
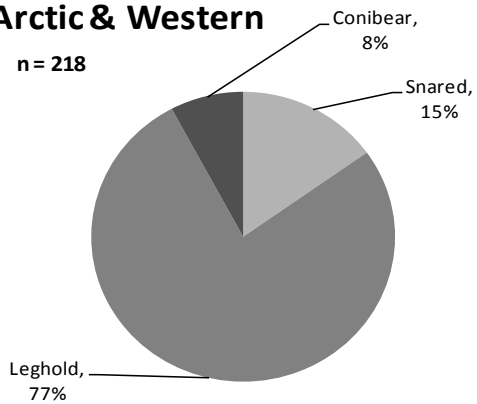
Interior

n = 626

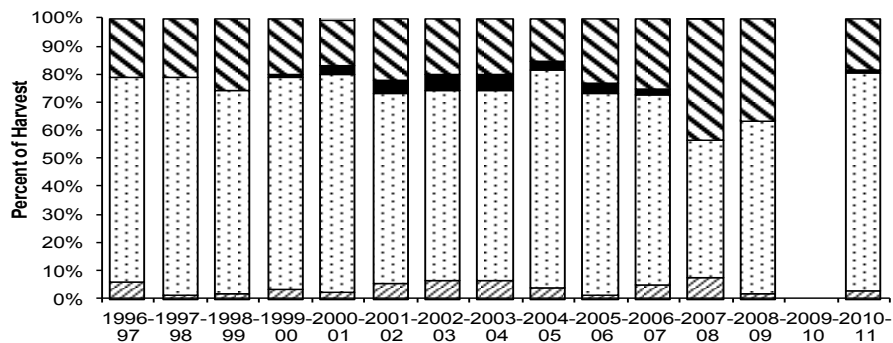


Arctic & Western

n = 218



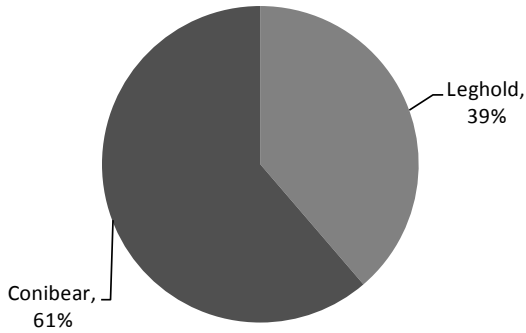
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Marten Harvest Methods

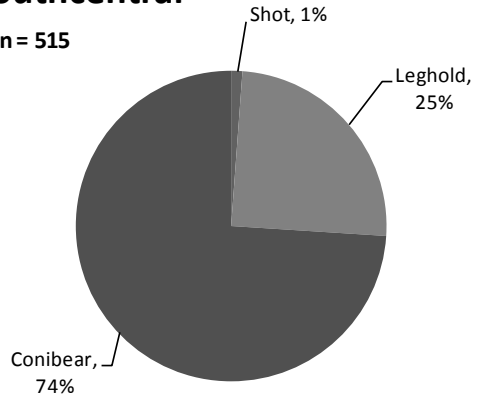
Southeast

n = 651



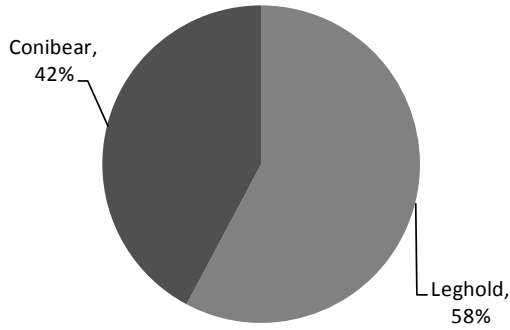
Southcentral

n = 515



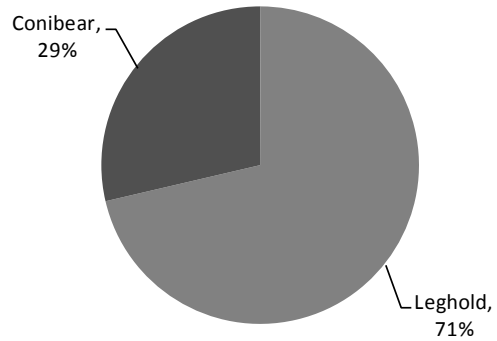
Southwest

n = 180



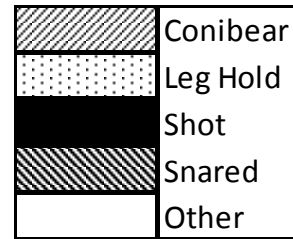
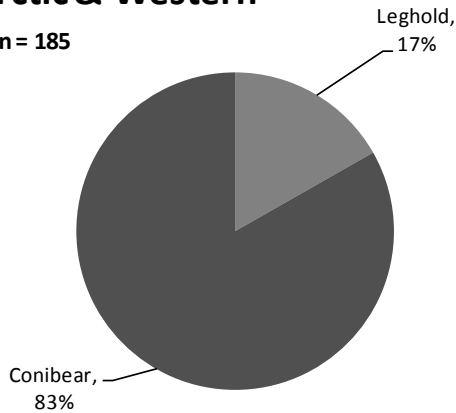
Interior

n = 1759

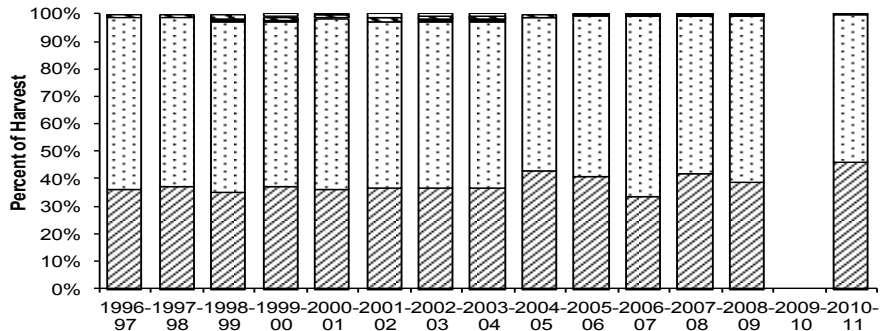


Arctic & Western

n = 185



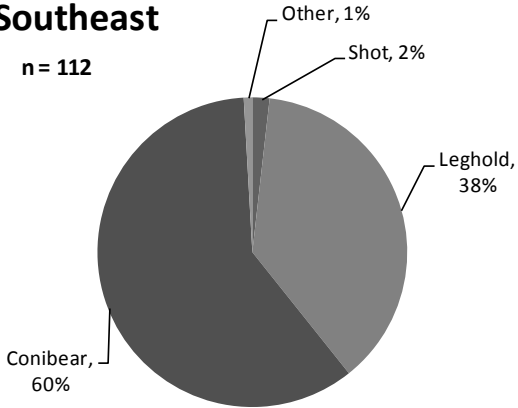
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Mink Harvest Methods

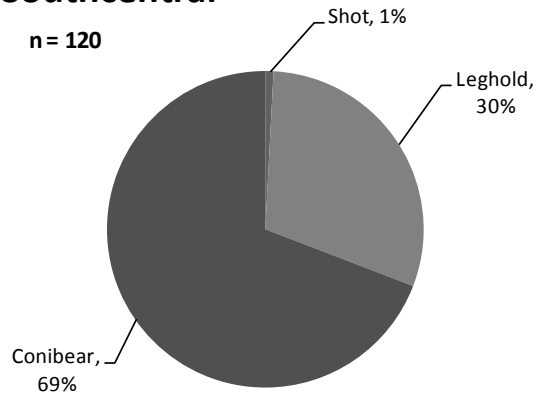
Southeast

n = 112



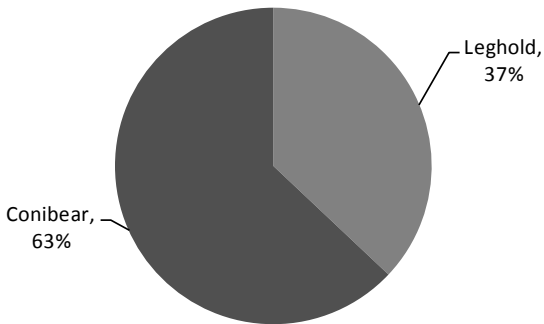
Southcentral

n = 120



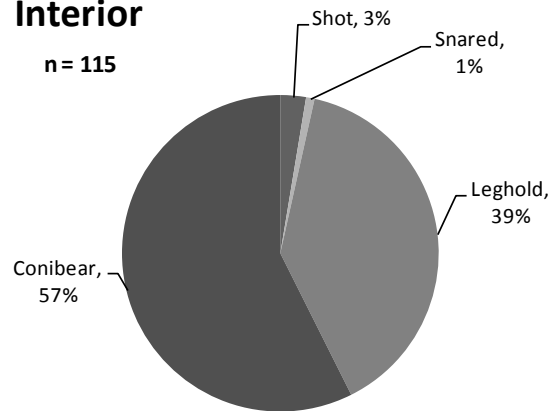
Southwest

n = 54



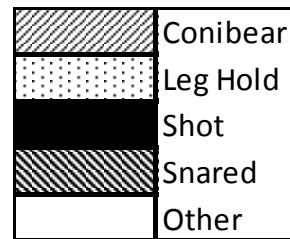
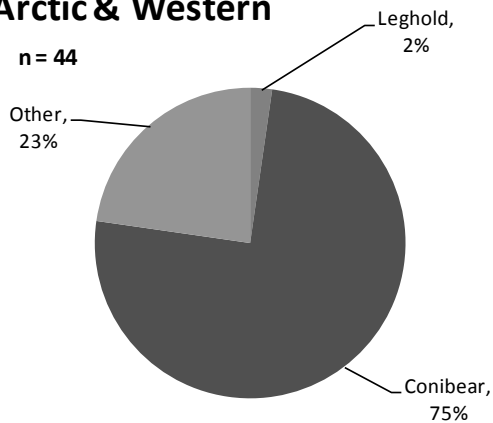
Interior

n = 115

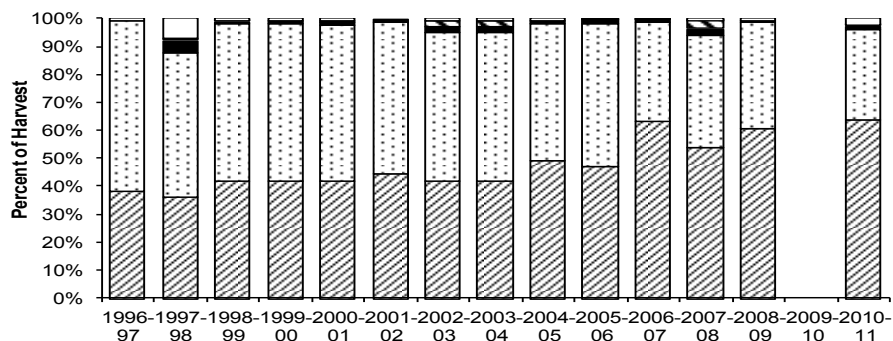


Arctic & Western

n = 44



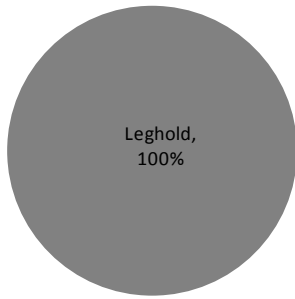
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Muskrat Harvest Methods

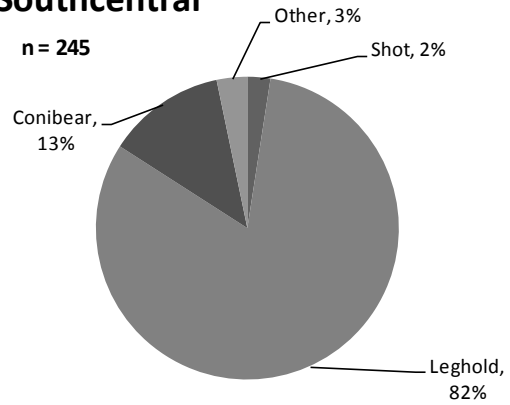
Southeast

n = 1



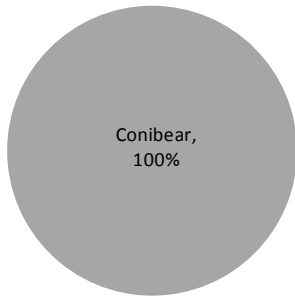
Southcentral

n = 245



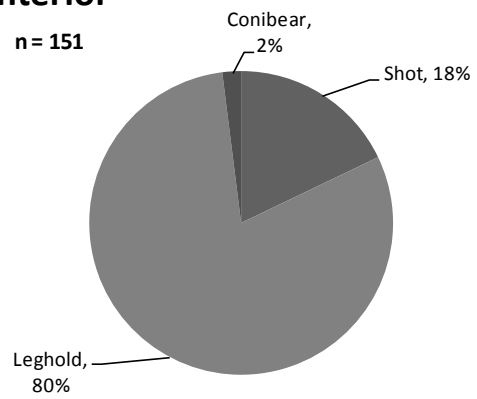
Southwest

n = 2



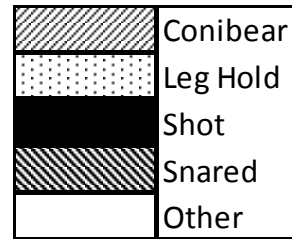
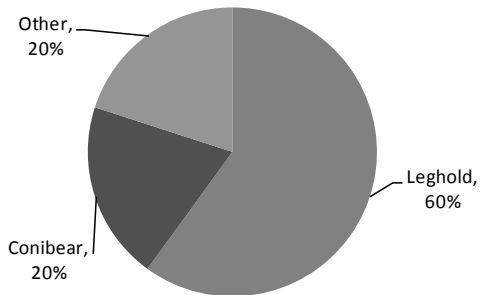
Interior

n = 151

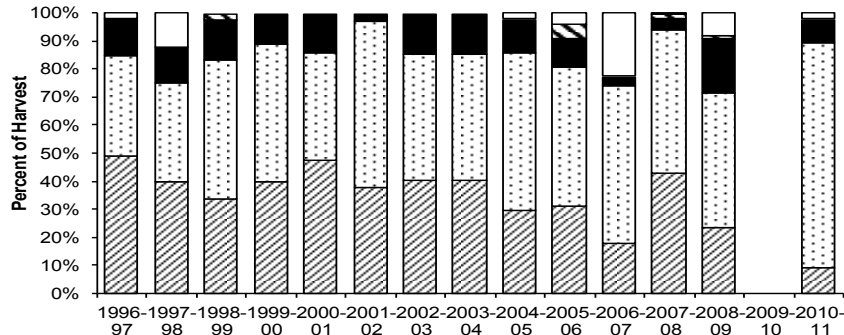


Arctic & Western

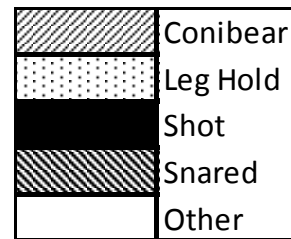
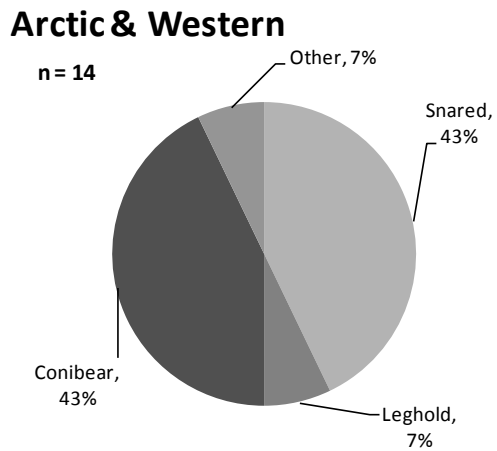
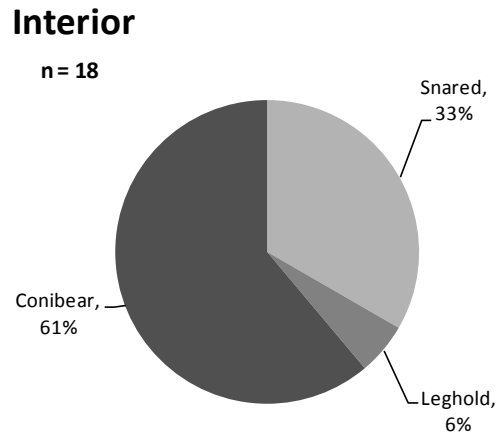
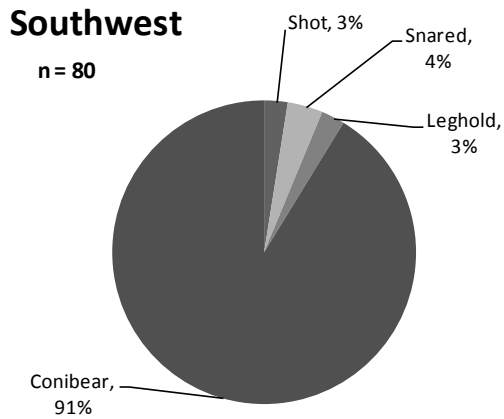
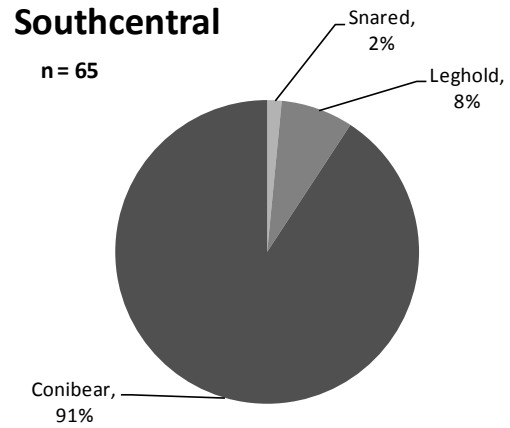
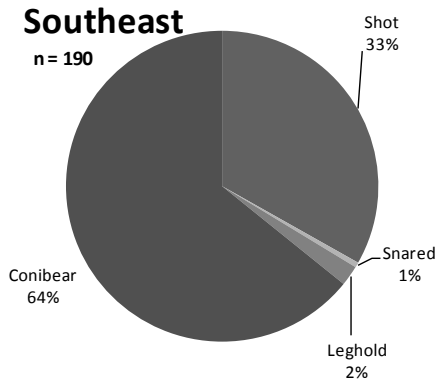
n = 5



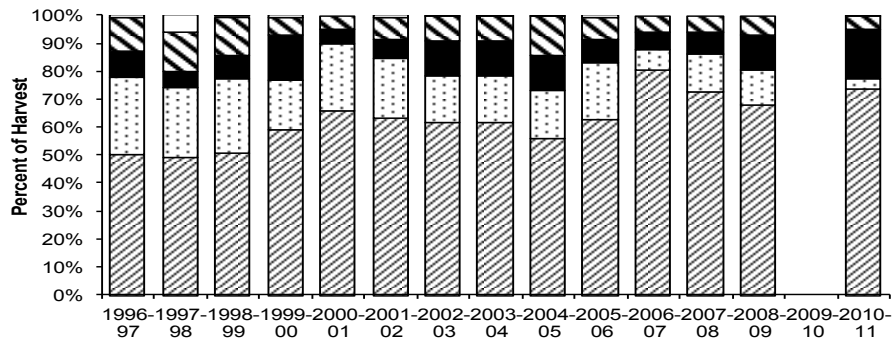
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



River Otter Harvest Methods

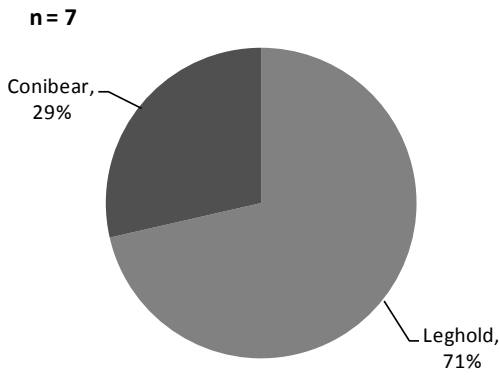


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

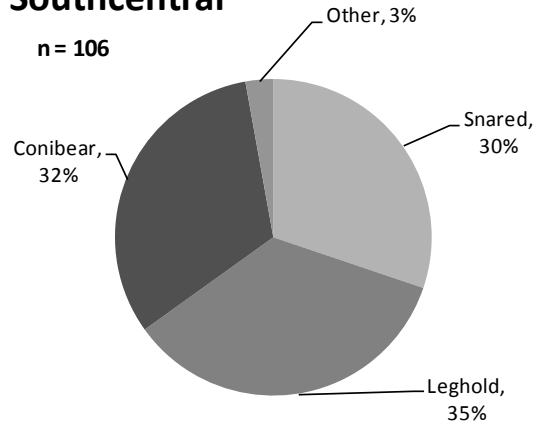


Squirrel Harvest Methods

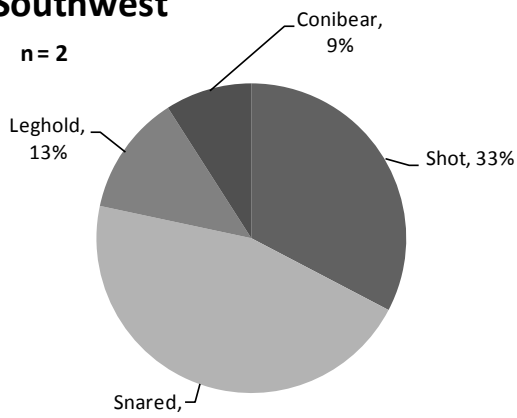
Southeast



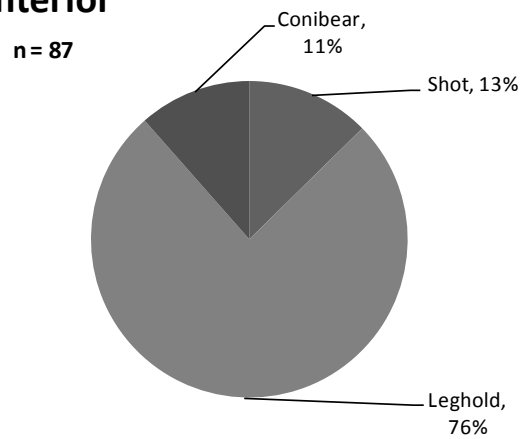
Southcentral



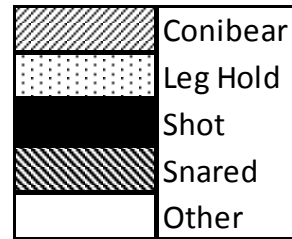
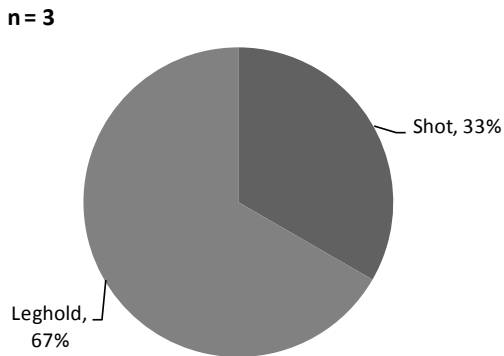
Southwest



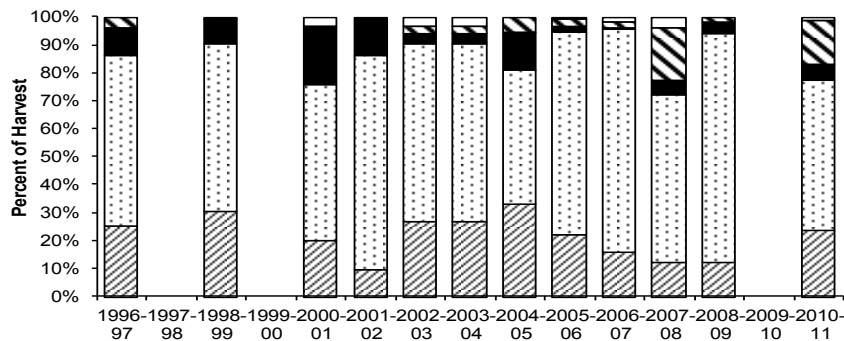
Interior



Arctic & Western



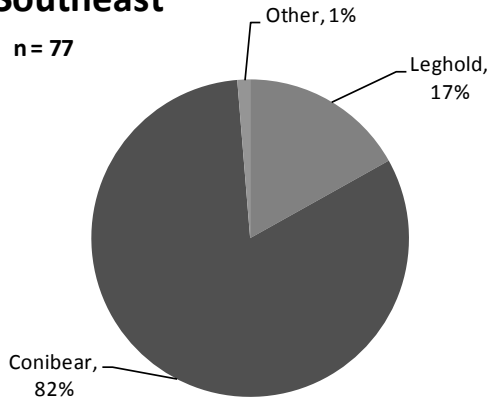
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Weasel (Ermine) Harvest Methods

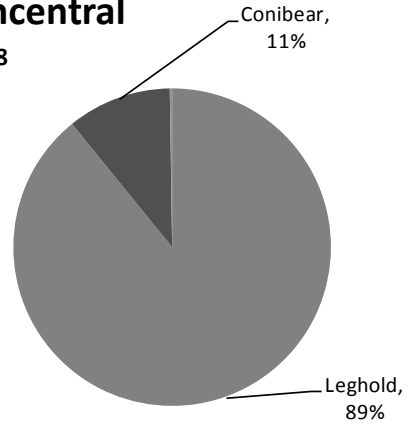
Southeast

n = 77



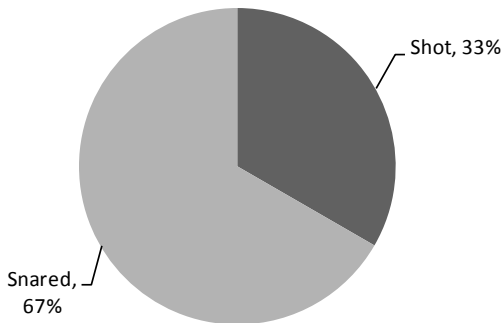
Southcentral

n = 838



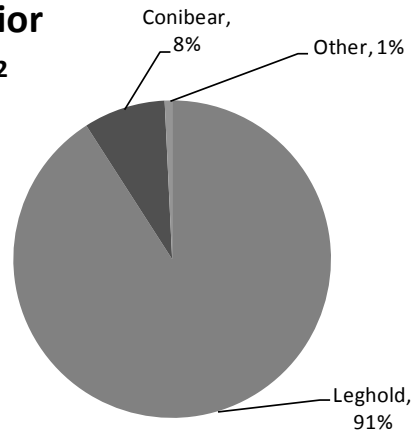
Southwest

n = 14



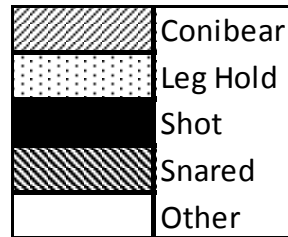
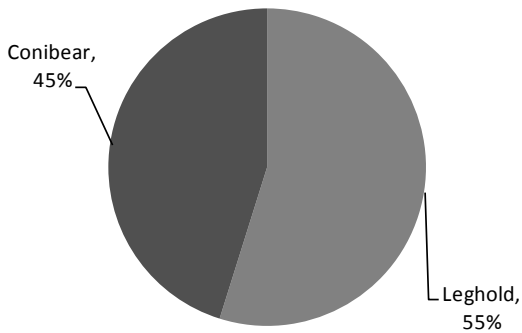
Interior

n = 132

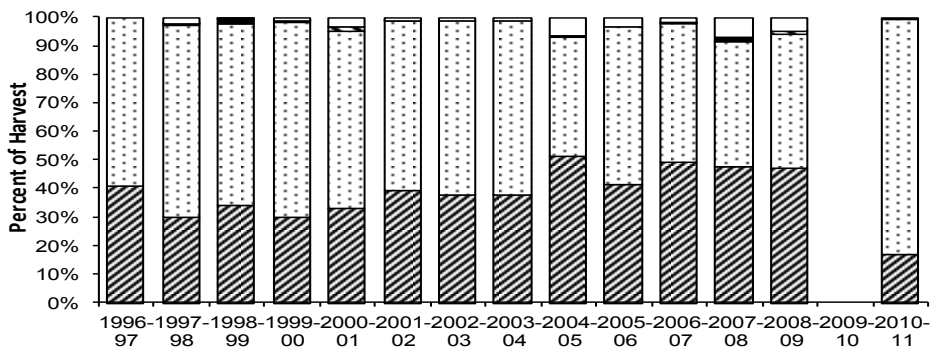


Arctic & Western

n = 31

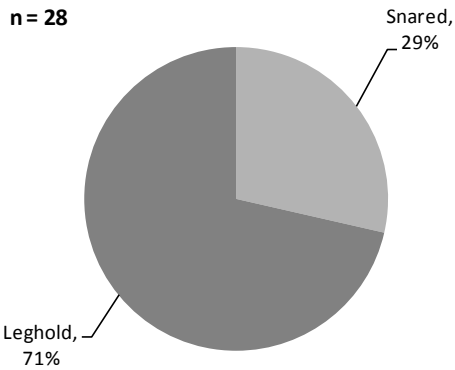


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

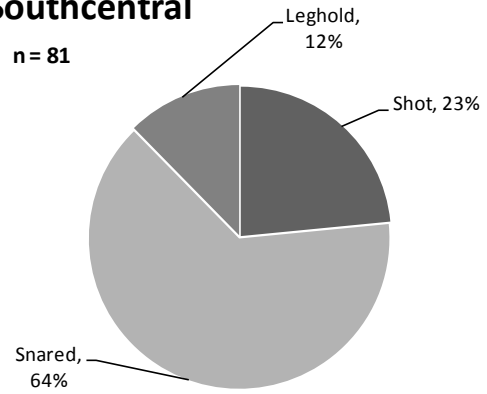


Wolf Harvest Methods

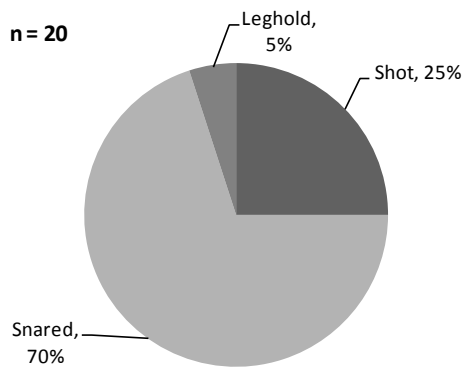
Southeast



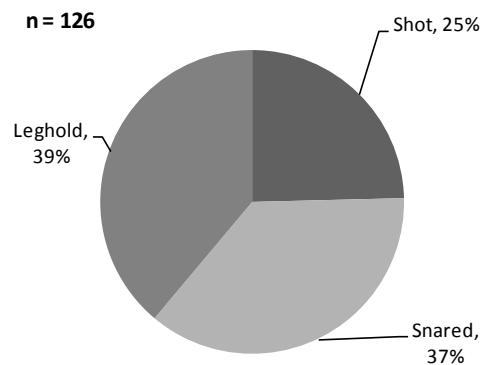
Southcentral



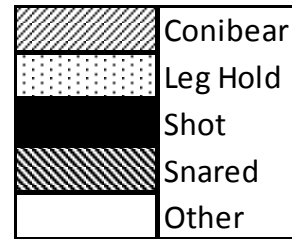
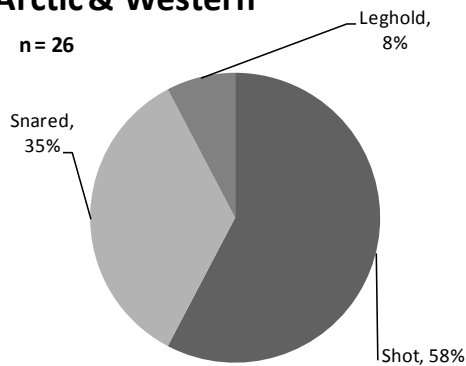
Southwest



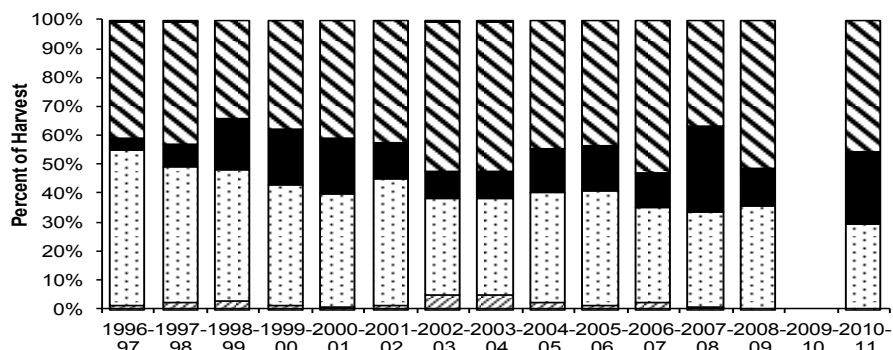
Interior



Arctic & Western



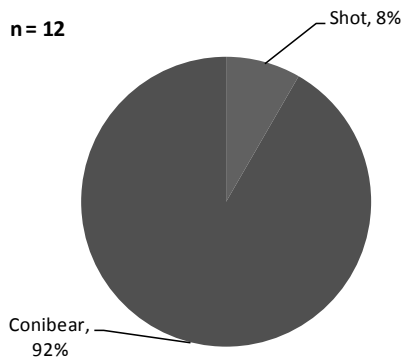
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Wolverine Harvest Methods

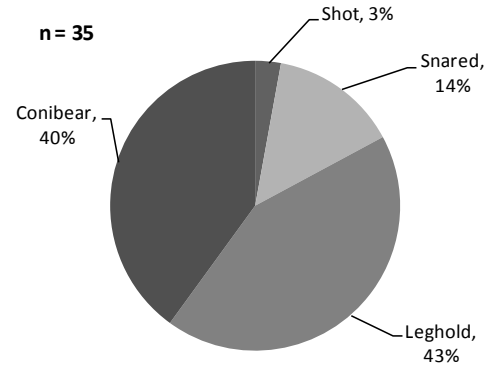
Southeast

n = 12



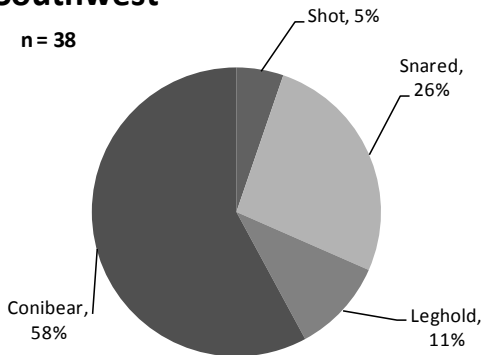
Southcentral

n = 35



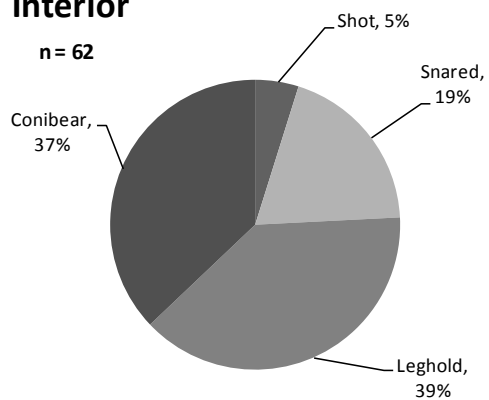
Southwest

n = 38



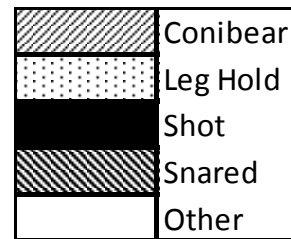
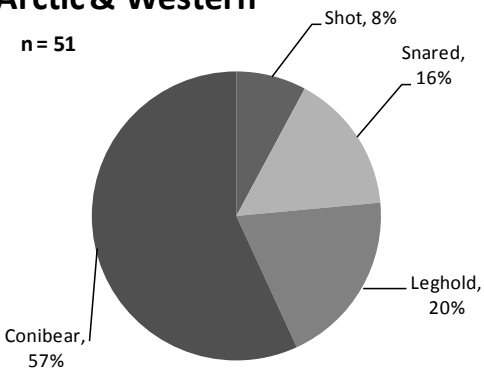
Interior

n = 62

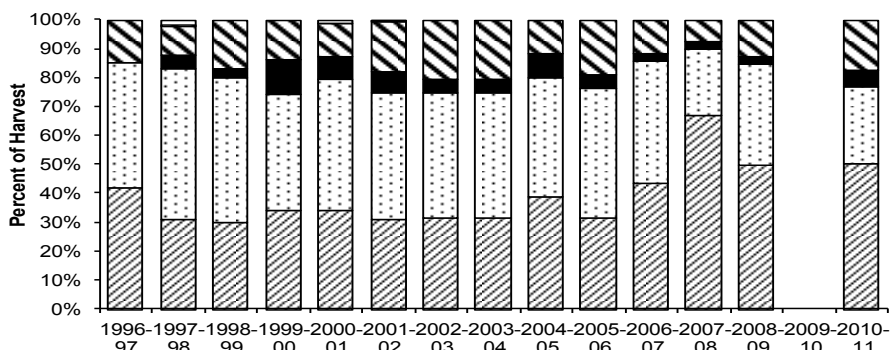


Arctic & Western

n = 51



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, 2010-11, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

Southeast Alaska								
Furbearers:	Ketchikan, Prince of Wales & Vicinity GMUs 1A, 2		Petersburg, Wrangell, Kupreanof & Vicinity GMUs 1B, 3		Juneau, Douglas, Haines, Yakutat GMUs 1CD, 5		Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagoff Islands GMU 4	
	Relative Abundance n = 3	Trend n = 3	Relative Abundance n = 5	Trend n = 5	Relative Abundance n = 10	Trend n = 7	Relative Abundance n = 11	Trend n = 12
Arctic Fox	not present		not present		not present		scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Coyote	not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Ermine	scarce	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Lynx	not present		not present		scarce	-	not present	
Marten	scarce	-	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Mink	common	-	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Muskrat	not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	
Red Fox	not present		not present		scarce	-	not present	
Red Squirrel	scarce		common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	not present	
Wolverine	not present		common	+	scarce	-	scarce	
Prey:								
Grouse	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Hare	not present		not present		scarce	-	not present	
Mice/Rodents	common	+	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce		scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c

Relative Abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southcentral Alaska, 2010-11, 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								
Furbearers:	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 = 22	Trend n = 22	Relative Abundance n = 36	Trend n = 31	Relative Abundance n = 9	Trend n = 8	Relative Abundance n = 16	Trend n = 15
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present		not present	
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	common	+	common	n/c	scarce	+	common	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Lynx	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c
Marten	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Mink	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	-	abundant	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Prey:								
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c
Hare	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	-	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Interior Alaska, 2010-11, 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, 26BC	
	Relative Abundance n = 39	Trend n = 39	Relative Abundance n = 10	Trend n = 10	Relative Abundance n = 9	Trend n = 8	Relative Abundance n = 10	Trend n = 9	Relative Abundance n = 8	Trend n = 8
Arctic Fox	not present		not present		not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Beaver	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	common	+	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Lynx	common	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	common	+	common	-
Marten	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c
Mink	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-
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	scarce	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Prey:										
Hare	common	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	-	common	n/c	scarce	-
Grouse	common	n/c	common	-	common	+	abundant	+	common	-
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southwest and Arctic & Western Alaska, 2010-11, 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 = 6	Trend n = 6	Relative Abundance n = 6	Trend n = 6	Relative Abundance n = 10	Trend n = 9	Relative Abundance n = 2	Trend n = 2	Relative Abundance n = 3	Trend n = 3	Relative Abundance n = 8	Trend n = 8
Arctic Fox	not present		not present		scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	common	+	common	n/c	not present		common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Coyote	not present	n/c	not present	-	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c
Lynx	not present		common	+	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c
Marten	common	+	scarce	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	+
Mink	not present		common	n/c	common	+	not present		common	n/c	abundant	+
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present		scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Red Fox	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	-	abundant	n/c
Red Squirrel	common	+	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
River Otter	common	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	+	abundant	n/c
Wolf	not present		common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	-	common	n/c
Wolverine	not present		common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	+
Prey:												
Grouse	not present		common	n/c	common	n/c	not present		scarce	-	scarce	n/c
Hare	abundant	+	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c	abundant	+	abundant	n/c
Mice/Rodents	abundant	+	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	common	-
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+	abundant	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations by region and statewide for 2010-11, 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:	Southeast		Southcentral		Southwest		Interior		Arctic & Western	
	Relative Abundance n = 26	Trend n = 27	Relative Abundance n = 83	Trend n = 76	Relative Abundance n = 22	Trend n = 21	Relative Abundance n = 81	Trend n = 79	Relative Abundance n = 13	Trend n = 13
Arctic Fox	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Marten	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Mink	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Red Fox	scarce	-	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Prey:										
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Hare	scarce	-	abundant	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+

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 2010-11 Trapper Questionnaire. Letter Z means there are no subunits or none was specified.

			arctic fox	beaver	coyote	ermine (weasel)	lynx	marten	mink	muskrat	otter	red fox	squirrel	wolf	wolverine
Subunit	n														
Southeast	01A	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	0	0	0	5	0	0
	01B	1	0	0	0	35	0	72	0	0	2	0	0	0	9
	01C	4	0	0	2	10	0	18	20	1	9	0	0	8	1
	01Z	1	0	0	0	11	0	140	20	0	30	0	0	5	2
	02Z	6	0	6	0	0	0	129	64	0	12	0	0	0	2
	03Z	3	0	8	0	23	0	25	8	0	20	0	0	2	0
	04Z	12	0	0	0	6	0	296	53	0	116	0	2	0	0
	05A	1	0	1	0	1	0	20	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Region 1 Totals	29	0	15	2	86	0	712	168	1	189	0	7	15	14	
Southcentral	06B	1	0	6	1	20	0	45	10	0	4	0	0	0	0
	06C	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	06D	5	0	0	1	1	0	14	2	0	12	0	8	0	0
	06Z	2	0	6	10	17	0	78	12	0	4	0	1	0	0
	07Z	7	0	4	0	25	1	14	27	4	1	0	48	0	1
	11Z	3	0	0	6	7	119	9	0	0	0	4	0	1	3
	13A	4	0	5	4	5	61	19	0	25	1	35	0	3	4
	13B	6	0	65	29	7	100	30	8	15	2	35	0	2	2
	13C	8	0	14	9	20	104	80	4	1	9	16	2	29	1
	13D	3	0	2	10	2	83	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	3
	13E	7	0	45	5	8	3	44	4	1	3	22	11	1	7
	13Z	5	0	2	10	6	69	2	0	0	0	6	0	2	2
	14A	12	0	5	29	13	0	28	3	52	5	12	9	0	0
	14B	9	0	24	6	2	0	20	1	8	1	4	7	0	2
	14C	3	0	0	0	11	0	16	8	4		0	0	0	0
	14Z	4	0	5	13	14	0	23	27	102	1	13	0	0	0
	15A	6	0	5	6	3	11	3	8	0	2	0	2	5	0
	15B	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15C	4	0	1	2	0	37	0	0	14	1	0	0	0	3
	15Z	1	0	0	0	2	6	0	10	1	0	0	0	0	0
16A	4	0	56	7	6	0	18	1	0	8	5	8	0	2	
16B	4	0	36	7	4	1	165	2	3	3	4	15	0	1	
16Z	3	0	0	0	0	0	26	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Southwest	08Z	7	0	20	0	5	0	10	0	0	35	104	0	0	0
	09B	4	0	8	3	0	24	22	3	0	6	26	0	1	3
	09C	3	0	18	2	3	2	0	22	1	12	44	0	6	5
	17B	2	0	6	0	0	0	26	1	0	0	8	2	1	4
	17C	6	0	75	3	3	1	79	9	1	18	30	0	7	13
	17Z	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	12	0	0	3
	Region 2&4 Totals	127	0	408	164	184	626	783	169	233	129	380	113	61	59

Region	Subunit	n	arctic fox	beaver	coyote	ermine (weasel)	lynx	marten	mink	muskrat	otter	red fox	squirrel	wolf	wolverine
Interior	12Z	10	0	36	25	71	99	114	21	95	3	42	8	19	16
	19A	4	1	6	0	0	0	72	0	0	0	20	0	3	6
	19C	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	19D	1	0	3	0	2	6	100	3	0	0	2	4	1	7
	19Z	1	0	0	0		0	14	0	0	1	2	0	1	4
	20A	7	0	17	23	3	92	18	13	0	2	14	0	9	4
	20B	28	0	87	20	15	155	297	44	2	5	58	31	18	3
	20C	10	0	1	21	4	140	114	3	1	0	4	0	13	4
	20D	9	0	6	25	5	26	26	1	0	0	17	26	11	2
	20E	4	0	0	4	0	20	81	0	0	0	5	0	10	1
	20F	1	0	0	0	0	12	35	1	0	0	0	0	3	2
	20Z	3	0	12	0	0	5	61	0	0	0	2	13	0	7
	21B	2	0	16	0	0	2	78	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	21D	5	0	22	0	6	16	167	5	0	1	2	0	2	0
	21E	1	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
	21Z	1	0	35	0	0	0	174	21	0	1	1	0	0	1
	24A	1	0	0	0	2	6	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	24B	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	24Z	1	0	8	0	0	2	10	0	0	1	4	0	3	0
	25A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25B	2	0	2	0	0	105	45	1	0	0	3	2	3	6	
25C	1	0	0	0	2	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
25D	6	0	9	3	8	66	9	4	13	0	17	0	5	7	
Region 3 Totals		102	1	268	121	118	760	1459	117	112	14	197	84	103	73
Arctic & Western	18Z	12	1	126	2	21	155	62	40	7	41	180	3	10	27
	22A	3	0	24	0	0	14	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
	22B	1	0	5	0	6	28	0	1	0	0	14	0	7	8
	22D	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	22Z	1	0	24	0	4	53	159	2	0	0	15	0	5	5
	23Z	1	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
26A	2	0	0	0	0	1	11	2	0	0	0	0	3	1	
Region 5 Totals		21	18	187	2	31	251	237	46	7	41	210	3	29	48
Statewide Total		279	19	878	289	419	1637	3191	500	353	373	787	207	208	194

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 1/5 to 1/3 of the statewide harvest of species.

Region	Beaver	Lynx	Marten	Otter	Wolf	Wolverine	Average
Arctic & Western		34%		31%	13%	35%	28%
Interior		36%		20%	24%	33%	28%
Southcentral		25%		22%	20%	24%	23%
Southeast	6%		28%	36%	9%	56%	27%
Southwest		38%		26%	13%	31%	27%
Statewide		31%		29%	18%	32%	

FURBEARER SEALING RECORDS SUMMARY

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

Species	Region	Reported Harvest from Sealing Records					
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Beaver*	Arctic & Western	76	109	33	21	23	11
	Interior	91	57	31	4	127	12
	Southcentral & Southwest	1402	1078	945	991	1096	1164
	Southeast	290	104	393	215	415	265
	Total Beaver	1859	1348	1402	1231	1661	1452
Lynx	Arctic & Western	243	211	165	296	750	728
	Interior	1767	2919	3911	5373	3615	2122
	Southcentral & Southwest	242	471	782	1455	2160	2446
	Southeast	1	2	0	8	8	4
	Total Lynx	2253	3603	4858	7132	6533	5300
Marten**	Arctic & Western	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Interior	0	2	0	2	160	20
	Southcentral & Southwest	1972	1438	995	2117	1372	879
	Southeast	3933	4623	2696	2488	1795	2530
	Total Marten	5905	6063	3691	4607	3328	3429
Otter	Arctic & Western	421	257	58	100	196	134
	Interior	153	123	82	77	106	70
	Southcentral & Southwest	890	706	518	468	441	540
	Southeast	958	363	179	288	248	528
	Total Otter	2422	1449	837	933	991	1272
Wolf	Arctic & Western	173	99	151	112	142	227
	Interior	554	546	465	668	499	438
	Southcentral & Southwest	471	393	481	365	288	341
	Southeast	156	143	107	150	134	160
	Total Wolf	1354	1181	1204	1295	1063	1166
Wolverine	Arctic & Western	120	65	85	66	95	139
	Interior	271	257	188	243	252	220
	Southcentral & Southwest	217	205	229	184	225	219
	Southeast	13	16	22	21	17	25
	Total Wolverine	621	543	524	514	589	603

*Beaver are required to be sealed in Units 1–11, 13–15, and 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
2003-04	Arctic	125	12	32	8	177
	Interior	131	153	261	37	582
	Southcentral	272	136	114	135	657
	Southeast	44	51	39	0	134
	Total	572	352	446	180	1550
2004-05	Arctic	155	64	15	16	250
	Interior	137	136	232	133	638
	Southcentral	154	88	91	175	508
	Southeast	39	62	60	1	162
	Total	485	350	398	325	1558
2005-06	Arctic	116	15	33	9	173
	Interior	122	129	224	79	554
	Southcentral	193	93	96	89	471
	Southeast	56	57	43	0	156
	Total	487	294	396	177	1354
2006-07	Arctic	55	14	16	14	99
	Interior	112	151	244	39	546
	Southcentral	170	70	83	70	393
	Southeast	25	38	15	65	143
	Total	362	273	358	188	1181
2007-08	Arctic	114	17	18	2	151
	Interior	117	91	179	78	465
	Southcentral	216	78	96	91	481
	Southeast	53	36	18	0	107
	Total	500	222	311	171	1204
2008-09	Arctic	75	7	16	14	112
	Interior	122	152	213	181	668
	Southcentral	131	68	78	88	365
	Southeast	57	65	27	1	150
	Total	385	292	334	284	1295
2009-10	Arctic & Wes	119	18	4	1	142
	Interior	108	144	201	46	499
	Southcentral	120	59	71	38	288
	Southeast	45	56	31	2	134
	Total	392	277	307	88	1063
2010-11	Arctic & Wes	172	23	26	1	227
	Interior	96	134	157	49	438
	Southcentral	88	45	78	117	341
	Southeast	46	69	44	0	160
	Total	402	271	305	167	1166

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). Prior to 2010-11 only Raw Fur Skin Export Permits that were filled out by individuals (not dealers) were included in the furs exported totals. Beginning in 2010-11 the raw furs exported column includes exports by dealers as well as individuals. 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.

2007–2010 Fur Acquisition and Export

	2007–08		2008–09		2009-10		2010-11	
	Furs		Furs		Furs		Furs	
	Raw Furs	Alaskan	Raw Furs	Alaskan	Raw Furs	Alaskan	Raw Furs	Alaskan
	Exported	Dealers	Exported	Dealers	Exported	Dealers	Exported	Dealers
Beaver	930	83	910	158	1,113	387	2,352	571
Coyote	128	30	154	46	329	97	371	184
Fox, Blue	1	0	3	13	1	1	4	0
Fox, White	12	0	28	6	29	1	114	14
Fox, Cross	158	0	161	26	183	48	279	108
Fox, Red	854	168	972	261	1,027	371	1,757	1,026
Fox, Silver	33	0	28	1	43	1	64	5
Lynx	4,200	1,219	4,111	1,791	3,340	2,157	3,435	2,605
Marten	16,722	6,295	12,921	8,364	8,378	6,836	10,967	12,270
Mink	1,151	549	664	267	1,236	418	1,180	1,054
Muskrat	627	308	527	141	900	1,240	2,219	1,654
Otter, Land	346	54	400	58	872	332	1,081	715
Red Squirrel	274	116	276	101	410	277	455	120
Weasel	336	105	425	131	453	296	754	385
Wolf	242	29	271	83	287	91	521	201
Wolverine	140	27	227	36	169	63	262	125
Other	88	3	41	0	73	25	286	41
Grand Total	26,242	8,986	22,119	11,483	18,843	12,641	26,101	21,078

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 2010-11 prices in this table. Top prices were also from fur auctions. All species of foxes were added together for this table

Species	Average Fur Price					Top Price 2010-11
	2005-06	2006-07	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	
Beaver	\$26.81	\$20.71	\$20.11	\$12.83	\$17.82	\$66.00
Coyote	\$40.45	\$43.67	\$24.33	\$36.13	\$52.90	\$135.00
Fox	\$20.73	\$23.10	\$21.42	\$26.22	\$33.55	\$170.00
Lynx	\$135.20	\$126.34	\$94.53	\$127.50	\$149.64	\$330.00
Marten	\$77.33	\$56.93	\$41.68	\$32.92	\$51.07	\$155.00
Mink (wild)	\$24.08	\$17.84	\$10.18	\$12.62	\$16.78	\$26.00
Muskrat	\$6.49	\$5.00	\$3.19	\$7.73	\$7.22	\$25.00
River Otter	\$103.00	\$58.69	\$33.11	\$43.65	\$58.84	\$120.00
Squirrel	\$1.65	\$1.31	\$1.20	\$1.50	\$1.06	\$1.30
Weasel	\$6.83	\$7.55	\$3.49	\$3.77	\$3.49	\$10.00
Wolf	\$83.01	\$121.38	\$144.90	\$98.69	\$150.67	\$525.00
Wolverine	\$155.02	\$220.80	\$234.00	\$227.80	\$273.50	\$625.00

Minimum Estimated Fur Value

The following table summarizes the minimum total estimated value of furs trapped during the 2010-11 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.

2010-11 Fur Value in Alaska

Species	Total Number	Average North American Price	Total Estimated Value
Beaver	1,452	\$17.82	\$25,875
Coyote	426	\$52.90	\$22,535
Fox	1,705	\$33.55	\$57,203
Lynx	5,300	\$149.64	\$793,092
Marten	3,429	\$51.07	\$175,119
Mink	1,654	\$16.78	\$27,754
Muskrat	2,140	\$7.22	\$15,451
River Otter	1,272	\$58.84	\$74,844
Squirrel	687	\$1.06	\$728
Weasel	749	\$3.49	\$2,614
Wolf	1,166	\$150.67	\$175,681
Wolverine	603	\$273.50	\$164,921
Total			\$1,535,817

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.

Region 1 (GMUs 1-5)

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

Region 2 (GMUs 6,7,8,14, & 15)

Kyle Smith
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1565
(907) 267-2257

Region 3 (GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 & 26BC)

Jackie Kephart
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1551
(907) 459-7205

Region 4 (GMUs 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, & 17)

Leigh Honig
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 4
Palmer, AK 99645-6736
(907) 746-6300

Region 5 (GMUs 18, 22, 23, & 26A)

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

AREA BIOLOGISTS AND GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS

<i>DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION -- ABs and GMUs</i>		
<p>GMU 1 (A), 2 Boyd Porter (AAB: Steve Bethune) 2030 Sealevel Drive, Suite 205 KETCHIKAN, AK 99901 Phone: 907-225-2475 Fax: 907-225-2771</p>	<p>GMU 9, 10 Vacant (AAB: Meghan Riley) PO Box 37 KING SALMON, AK 99613 Phone: 907-246-3340 Fax: 907-246-3309</p>	<p>GMU 19, 21(A), (E) Roger Seavoy (AAB: Josh Peirce) PO Box 230 MCGRATH, AK 99627 Phone: 907-524-3323 Fax: 907-524-3324</p>
<p>GMU 1 (B), 3 Rich Lowell (AAB: none) PO Box 667 PETERSBURG, AK 99833 Phone: 907-772-5228 Fax: 907-772-9336</p>	<p>GMU 11, 13 Becky Schwanke (AAB: Wm (Frank) Robbins) PO Box 47 GLENNALLEN, AK 99588 Phone: 907-822-3461 Fax: 907-822-3811</p>	<p>GMU 20(A), (B), (C), (F), 25(C) Don Young (AAB: TonyHollis) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: 907-459-7233 Fax: 907-459-7332</p>
<p>GMU 4 Phil Mooney (AAB: none) 304 Lake Street Room 103 SITKA, AK 99835-7563 Phone: 907-747-5449 Fax: 907-747-6239</p>	<p>GMU 12, 20(E) Jeff Gross (AAB: Torsten Bentzen) PO Box 355 TOK, AK 99780-0355 Phone: 907-883-2971 Fax: 907-883-2970</p>	<p>GMU 20(D) Darren Bruning (AAB: none) PO Box 605 DELTA JUNCTION, AK 99737 Phone: 907-895-4484 Fax: 907-895-4833</p>
<p>GMU 1(C), 1(D), 5 Ryan Scott (AAB: Stephanie Sell) PO Box 110024 JUNEAU, AK 99811-0024 Phone: 907-465-4359 Fax: 907-465-4272</p>	<p>GMU 14(A), (B), 16(A), (B) Olin Albertson (AAB: Tim Peltier) 1800 Glenn Hwy Suite 4 PALMER, AK 99645-6736 Phone: 907-746-6325 Fax: 907-746-6305</p>	<p>GMU 21(B), (C), (D), 24 Glenn Stout (AAB: Nate Pamprin) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: 907-459-7218 Fax: 907-459-7332</p>
<p>GMU 6 Dave Crowley (AAB: none) PO Box 669 CORDOVA, AK 99574 Phone: 907-424-3215 Fax: 907-424-3235</p>	<p>GMU 14(C) Jessy Coltrane (AAB: Dave Battle) 333 Raspberry Road ANCHORAGE, AK 99518-1565 Phone: 907-267-2811 Fax: 907-267-2433</p>	<p>GMU 22 Tony Gom (AAB: LettyHughes) PO Box 1148 NOME, AK 99762 Phone: 907-448-8189 Fax: 907-443-5893</p>
<p>GUM 7, 15 Jeff Selinger (AAB: Jason Herreman) 34828 Kalifornsky Beach Rd Ste B SOLDOTNA, AK 99669-8367 Phone: 907-260-2905 Fax: 907-262-4709</p>	<p>GMU 17 Jim Woolington (AAB: none) PO Box 1030 DILLINGHAM, AK 99576 Phone: 907-842-2334 Fax: 907-842-5514</p>	<p>GMU 23 Charlotte Westing (AAB: none) PO Box 689 KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 Phone: 907-442-1712 Fax: 907-442-2420</p>
<p>GMU 8 Vacant (AAB: vacant) 211 Mission Road KODIAK, AK 99615 Phone: 907- Fax: 907-486-1869</p>	<p>GMU 18 Phillip Perry (AAB: Patrick Jones) PO Box 1467 BETHEL, AK 99559 Phone: 907-543-2979 Fax: 907-543-2021</p>	<p>GMU 25(A), (B), (D), 26(B), (C) Beth Lenart (AAB: Jason Caikoski) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: 907-459-7242 Fax: 907-459-7332</p>
<p>R1 Reg Supr - Doug Larsen - 465-4369 R1 Mgt Coord - Neil Barten - 465-4267 R1 Res Coord - Rod Flynn - 465-4353</p>	<p>R4 Reg Supr - Bruce Dale - 861-2101 R4 Mgt Coord - Lem Butler - 861-2105</p>	<p>GMU 26(A) Geoff Carroll (AAB: none) PO Box 1284 BARROW, AK 99723-1284 Phone: 907-852-3464 Fax: 907-852-3465</p>
<p>R2 Reg Supr - Larry VanDaele - 486-1876 R2 Mgt Coord - Gino DeIFrate - 267-2198 R2 Res Coord - vacant</p>	<p>R5 Reg Supr - Steve Machida - 267-2421 R5 Mgt Coord - Peter Bente - 443-8188</p>	
<p>R3 Reg Supr - David James - 459-7222 R3 Mgt Coord - Roy Nowlin - 459-7250 R3 Res Coord - Scott Brainerd - 459-7261</p>		

Updated 10/08/12

Trapper Comments

Do You Have Any Comments For ADF&G?

Southeast

- ❖ I'm afraid I'm not too representative of the average AK trapper. My efforts are limited – I just run a small line with my young son that gives us something to do in addition to deer hunting.
- ❖ Open a season on sea otters in Cordova Bay for White Men.
- ❖ I appreciate the effort on the survey and enjoy reading it.
- ❖ I do believe the requirement of trap tags in Southeast is a kneejerk reaction when it is not required in the rest of the state. Politics should not be involved in game management as it has made for the loss of trapping in other states. Don't let it happen in this state! Thanks for the survey as the comments from other trappers in the state are an interesting read.
- ❖ Try to speed up the sealing process? Other than that, I feel that your department does an outstanding job managing our resources (except icing crab in Juneau)
- ❖ We live remote and do not have internet access at our home.
- ❖ I think beaver season in Unit 1D should open Nov. 1st.
- ❖ Change the marten/mink trapping season in n. SE to start Nov. 1st. Fur is prime then. It will allow more hunters/trappers to take bothersome marten on hanging deer. It will allow more marten to be taken in Bays that ice out in December. The resource (marten/mink populations) can take the added trapping pressure because they are not taken in these areas that get iced over.
- ❖ For the most part you can use the information on my sealing forms and have the same result for the Questionnaire. The one exception is the fact that the only boat launch which serves the northern part of 1A (West Behm Canal, Gravina Island north, etc.) was totally closed from the 1st of Feb to 3rd week of April. We lost 3 months of the wolf season in areas we been trying to control, the total wolf harvest for 1A will certainly reflect this as did my fur check on losing the last three weeks of otter and marten season. Wished the state could have worked with the local harbor dept. on this.
Also I have a problem with ADF&G issuing bear baiting permits on top of my wolf sets in areas of my line that have been long established. Otherwise all is well. Thanks
- ❖ If these reports are expensive discontinue. I have not seen were they do the trapper any good.
- ❖ You sent me two surveys, I'm only answering this one.
- ❖ Lower trapping license price. Take the trapping line sign out marking your traps off or limit it to around areas where people are living. The forcircus cops get off on writing tickets for nothing.
- ❖ More law enforcement for people who starts early on trapping.
- ❖ Lengthen coyote season 1C – two caught during wolf season. Coyotes are common.
- ❖ I think marten season in S.E. Alaska should open in November when wolf and wolverine opens. The fur is prime. Most of Alaska opens in Nov. We would be able to maximize our profits by trapping all species at one time.
- ❖ I have limited access to the internet so hard copys are much more practical. I wish I could of gotten out on my line for more than 3 weeks, but family matters wouldn't allow me. I really enjoy trapping and I hope I can continue and pass it on.
- ❖ Need to do something about people trapping on top of others established traplines: Trappers Safety/Ethics class or something. I'm tired of losing fur and being frusterated because others trap on top of my sets.
- ❖ Do something about managing sea otter so the shellfish return.
- ❖ Tagging each trap is not necessary in our area. Its just a pain. Make the Juneau and Anch. trappers do it, leave us out of it.
- ❖ I think ADF and G should do a little more field work and a little less computer work.
- ❖ Question 9 is not clear – I'm not sure what you want – also please clarify "regularly"
Question 15 is not clear – Do you want to know how many days per week I checked my traps
Question 17 asks about my "Furst"
Questions 24 and 25 are tricky = q. 24 asks about trapping conditions – do you mean how successful I was or how much effort I put in? and q. 25 – There wasn't a yes/no question to be answered.
I'd be happy to discuss any of my answers or comments if you'd like.

Southcentral

- ❖ A post card notice that the ADF&G site was updated would be sufficient.
- ❖ Maybe fold the questionnaire to fit a smaller envelope and save \$.
- ❖ Close beaver season in the Portage area and Six Mile Creek.
- ❖ This report has one confusing question. #'s 15+16. If I trapped 12 weeks, I checked traps 12 weeks.
- ❖ Thanks for sending this report. I made some edits (suggested) in questionnaire. I really appreciated receiving the trapper report this year. Trapping on the Kenai Peninsula means lots of competition and few furbearers except for coyote & lynx. Some decent beaver can be had in more remote areas.
I sometimes question the much touted "trapper ethic" to... "respect another trappers trapline/area" when the trapper claims multiple publicly maintained trails, or, trapping road or other highly accessible areas that they do not maintain themselves. Those trappers should expect competition.
This is not an ADF&G problem but something I find frustrating. KNWR regulations for trapping are overbearing. Thanks
- ❖ End the River Otter season the same time Beaver season closes so you don't catch otter out of season – they share houses w/ the beavers. Thank you
- ❖ It's time to cut back on the wolf control programs, (of which I was involved). The goal of rebuilding the moose populations has been a success. Wolves are a vital part of a healthy wilderness ecosystem. Keeping their numbers so low for so long is not healthy. The effects of continued low wolf numbers are many. i.e...increased coyote populations, their range and numbers have expanded in direct relation to the lack of wolves. Ravens and other scavengers have been displaced. What about wolverines? Many of them rely heavily on wolf kills. Does this have an impact on them? etc. etc. Ecosystems are too complex for us to fully understand the ramifications of removing a vital component, such as wolves. There are however many examples of man's attempts to overmanipulate natural cycles. Their overall results have been poor.
Thank you for the questionnaire and keep up the good work.
- ❖ Keep up the good work!
- ❖ I would suggest extending wolverine season to February 28 in Unit 11. Wolverine tend to get caught in the same sets as lynx. Therefore the season should be the same.
- ❖ Is it still necessary to seal marten in Units 7 & 14?
- ❖ Recommend sending a one page letter after trapping season with a website or weblink where trappers can go to complete annual trapping questionnaire online vs through the mail. Although not convenient for non-computer savvy people, it would save on cost! And/or...Send a one page letter to trappers after season ends and ask if they prefer doing questionnaire on-line or via mail system. Then provide web link to accomplish questionnaire. Those wanting hard copy can then have them mailed out for completion.
"Most" trappers have access to the internet – Probably 75% or better. If trappers were allowed to complete survey on-line, the data could be compiled through program logic and less human involvement by techs at ADF&G "hand-jamming" it into the program themselves.
- ❖ Start shooting tourist at Boarder 1 out of 2 it would detract the Rest, the salmon would thank you
- ❖ My trapline is so short – one or two other trappers can ruin my season. Lack of dead salmon hurt the mink and otter population which was way down this year, the otter just moved. The mink? Just wasn't here. Lynx population is up. I don't feel qualified to give too many comments/opinions. Do something about the salmon. I am always negative but you do a good job thanks. On the whole I do not trap for money. I try not to spend money (fuel) on my efforts. I have seen a few hounds in the area! Please! Do not legalize the use of dogs – I have used hounds and dogs out of state – 12 yrs on and off. I understand this (beast) too. Trappers and hunters will butt heads.
- ❖ The Fish and Game counts for wolverine on the Kenai Peninsula are really low. Counting methods are obviously flawed, so to base management on them is silly. Wolverine are difficult to count at best and the only way to get an idea of their numbers is to be in the field constantly. My family has consistently caught from 2 to 6 large wolverine from a very short trap line for more years than I can count. I guess in conclusion I would be careful to regulate a species that you know so little about. Some of the info about # of breeding pair in the Chugach Mtns have been so low that it is ridiculous. After nearly 30 years of trapping and catching between 30 and 50 wolverine I still have yet to see one that wasn't in a trap. Yet I can confidently say there are several hundred in the Kenai Mtns. Thanks for your time.
- ❖ 1) Marten #'s in my area are down due to too much pressure in surrounding areas.
2) Wolves appear near non-existent due to harvests by cub pilots & gunners.
- ❖ Please make a shorter season for marten in 14B. The numbers have gone down a lot in the past few years. A limit would be good.

- ❖ Align otter season with early beaver season in GMU 13 to eliminate incidental take otter being turned into Fish & Game.
Extend wolverine season in GMU 13.
Prohibit Fish & Game biologists from trapping wolverine.
- ❖ You could obtain this information more easily by having the trapper answer these questions when they seal their furs.
- ❖ Extend Unit 14B brown bear to: No closed season. Bears have excellent hair mid to late June. Limit should be 2. Or better yet, allow One Brown Bear over bait, one per year. No non-residence hunting. Then after a few good harvest years, we could go back to 1 per year, no bait.
Landowners with house or cabin, Brown Bear no closed season, limit 2 per year.
Black bears, no closed season, no limit.
Registration Permit One landowner per property.
- ❖ I think these questionnaires are important and I enjoy looking at the results of the combined furbearer surveys. I also think that recent road proposals in Juneau planned for interior Alaska threaten the Fish and Wildlife resources and rural trappers who choose to live the subsistence life style.
- ❖ Wanted to trap and take my kids but my work schedule didn't allow and any where I could was already taken by people doing the same thing.
- ❖ Nothing to do with trapping but please enforce and catch so many of the violators at the Kenai depository site. Lots of violations I see.
- ❖ I increased my efforts but it only showed on the wolf catch and not the other species. My increased effort was do to no mechanical failures.
- ❖ Reduce the bag limit of snowshoe hares to one a day, or close the season completely, to let the lynx population come back, (they're not that great eating anyway). I would like to hear about and see more studies done on furbearers/population, in unit 14b. Also I would like to see the leash law enforced in Alaska, because I don't think dogs should be miles away from their houses harassing wild game, and then trappers get blamed for being irresponsible when they catch them.
- ❖ I do not use the computer. Weather played a part in low catch this year. The biggest thing I noticed was a lack of food. No birds, no mice or voles, very few squirrels. Lack of sign and high fuel cost made me pull early. Thanks for the reports and keep up the good work.
- ❖ Start lynx season Dec 1st. The reason being is that most all lynx caught in November are brownish in color and are not fully prime. Most of us responsible trappers know this, but the weekend warriors try and catch anything and don't realize if they wait, there fur will be worth more.
Where have all the gray jays gone??? You should look into this. Used to be everywhere. Hardly see them now.
- ❖ Would like to see a registration of some sort with trappers having to register there lines when off road system 10 miles or more and limit trappers in that area. Thanks.
- ❖ The wolf predation system has helped to reduce the excess number of wolves. Good job. GMU 7/15 have very high numbers of brown and black bears that need to be better controlled. Please help are moose calves.
- ❖ Questions 8+9 – I taught a class on muskrat trapping to 5 youth under 16 years of age on consecutive Saturdays – thus my answer left blank because really did not apply. We set, checked and pulled same day, thus the trap check answer.
I currently chair the Trapper Education Committee for our local trapper association, Alaska Frontier Trappers Association, and we are working on putting together an outline for a trapper ed class and any info or resources would be greatly appreciated.
- ❖ Never trapped – Got trapping license for bear bait.
- ❖ I trap for fun and to get outside with friends and family. Lynx was my main target but I did get a couple of fox (red) and 3 wolverine.
- ❖ The wolves have increased their packs by 2 fold. In 15C there is 4 packs that I have seen in 15C north of Anchor Point. The largest had 13 wolves this winter. 2 packs have 8-10 wolves. One pack is at 6. I no longer target wolves due to...no return on my time and money spent. Put a bounty on them. And give us some incentive.
- ❖ **"NO"** trapping within 500' of main highways! This is an intrusion on other public enjoyments – people stopping at a pull-off to let their dog have a break should not be at risk due to trappers and sets in a close proximity, both groups have every right to enjoy the outdoors but should not be put at risk without knowing the risks. I would like my grandkids to have the same right to enjoy trapping as I, without this opportunity put in jeopardy by the few who do not wish to remove themselves from everyday public sector. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion.

- ❖ I only buy a trapping license so I can shoot fur bearing animals!!
- ❖ I understand the need for wolf control, but I feel the objective of the effort has been more than reached. I feel the continued effort to take wolves from the air has reached a point where I'm being denied the opportunity to trap for my very favorite species. It has been more than three years since I have personally crossed paths of wolves. I was harvesting more than 10 wolves per year. I miss wolf trapping.
- ❖ I have basically moved from trapping close to Cordova (where I live) to flying out so I don't have other trappers setting on top of me. I trapped an area here for a number of years only to have 2 others flagging and setting as close as 20 ft. I would propose to ADF&G to consider certified traplines (as they do in Canada), so people who brush out lines and build cubbies can expect to use them over and over. Too many people in one area not only causes animosity, but can damage the resources by overharvesting. Thank you for sharing all your data, and thanks for letting us Alaska trappers say our piece.
- ❖ No, I'm just happy to be able to do this. I've been bringing the two kids into this. I love it and so do they. Your doing a great job ADF&G representing our rights. Cabin Fever what???
- ❖ The trapper report was too long and included info I did not think helpful or useful for the individual trapper. It may benefit the ADF&G but probably not necessary to send it to trappers. E-mail would be fine.
- ❖ Only buy the trapping license as a just-in-case measure. Have never used it or trapped.
- ❖ I sold most furs to fur buyer in Alaska!!!
- ❖ ADF&G should facilitate a couple of trapping workshops for trappers of all ages. Your biologists could work with an experienced trapper(s) to create an excellent presentation. This should include, code of ethics, basic review of the various types of fur bearers in the area, hands on how-to session for making sets, and a demonstration on proper fur handling. Too many folks do not do these things appropriately and simply need a little training. There is a young boy that traps a drainage near where I trap fox. His desire is huge and his sets are poorly made. It appears he has had some success nevertheless. I'd suggest you approach Chuck Heath regarding a trapping seminar. He is a good man and a retired teacher so quality of presentation would be fantastic and informative.
- ❖ In 16-A martin season is too long – the animals are being depleted.
- ❖ The lynx cycle in my area has been high for some time now, (about five years) and on this the fifth year I still had a 33% kitten catch. We will see what next year brings, but I will be shocked if there is still a lot of kittens. Because of the high lynx/birds of prey population the marten population is way down and I have been observing them out of their typical habitat. They have been above tree line, if you can imagine that, where the spruce trees are several hundred yards apart. Due to this exceptionally long lynx cycle, I am a little worried about the marten population rebound.
I am seeing an increase in the coyote population with the decrease in the wolf population (predator control). Unfortunately, in this coyote population I have witnessed at least one with the mange (sp).
- ❖ I am reporting our meager catch since I am not in contact with my partner at this time, I see him only during trapping season. Senior citizens and those of us that spend time in the bush do not have good internet access so please continue to use the mail, it is slow but it works. Thanks
- ❖ I am not willing to share detailed information about my trapline as I am paranoid and do not want others to move in on me.
- ❖ I did not trap this year due to a broken arm. I did run my dogs through my trapping area later in the season. Marten tracks were scarce. There are also few voles in this area and rabbits have declined.
- ❖ Comment 8-11
- ❖ I would like to see coyote classified as a "varmint" as in, no closed season, no limit in 14C, especially. But in all other areas. The population of coyotes seems to be growing rapidly. I see them frequently in 14C in the summer on hikes. I would gladly shoot them. I am unwilling to hike in neck deep snow to target the smelly, flea ridden pests.
- ❖ I believe the amount of martin taken is too high in unit 16B. You could consider shortening the season or low bag limits. Thank you very much!
- ❖ I had a good year – lot of lynx – rabbits – we need some help from the state on wolf control – with the wolfs being infested with lice there's only a few of us die hard trappers who trap them all winter – even if the pelts are worseless.
- ❖ Wolverine and lynx season need to be extended.
- ❖ Did not trap as much as I wanted to.
- ❖ Provide more access to areas of better hunting. There are areas that are great for hunting and trapping but no access to them, or not enough info on how to get to them.
- ❖ The wolf population has gone down in low population from airplane hunting. This doesn't give the trapper much of a chance to catch many. In my area there is another trappers in this area to keep the wolf population at

safe levels. We need to have wolfs around to keep sick or deased animals at bay. Between the trapper putting out more effort to catch just a few and the airplane hunters is to much pressure in this area. I agree with it in some areas where there are no trappers. Thanks for sending back trapper report. It helps me with population levels present and future.

- ❖ Thank you for sending out the Questionnaire Reports.
- ❖ Previously trapped Pt. MacKensie but 1½ hour drive expensive with gas prices – currently only nuisance trap for Elmendorf AFB – Beaver on golf course – this year trapped 2 beavers – last year ~ 13.
- ❖ Units 13C and 14A are both getting warmer. More ice and rain, I've been not setting traps until 25 November because the fir isn't prim.
- ❖ Registered Traplines. Please back off on airial wolf hunting in my area 13.9 Ochetna River.
- ❖ Wish ADF&G would manage all trapping on Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. I think mink/ermine season should be extended one month to co-inside with otter and that way incidental mink and ermine caught in otter sets could be utilized.
- ❖ This was my first year trapping in Alaska and in snow covered areas. I plan on taking many lesson learned and reapply them next year. I trapped with family in West Virginia and it very different, almost an entirely new technique.
- ❖ More trapper clinics.
- ❖ Am not on e-mail just P.O. office.
- ❖ Get rid of Fed. Restrictions.
- ❖ Keep sending your reports, they are very helpful to everybody. We need info on traping just as much as you do (the state). Not everybody has a computer or knows how to use one. So please keep sending by mail, and keep up the good work!
- ❖ In Area 13 we have so many weekender trapper who do not check their traps on a regular bascis and do not respect those who have trapped on a regular bascis. I would like to see a 7 day requirement for trap checks.
- ❖ Can't wait until next year!!!
- ❖ Appreciate the chance to report, a little bit confusing to fill out. On-line would be great, as well as a forum? to discuss trapping and such. Thanks.

Southwest

- ❖ Can you please not send me Questionnaire every year – maybe every other year or two.
- ❖ It doesn't bother me to fill out ?air on paper. I'm in a remote area so catch is totally dependent on my effort. My opionion is that our current BOG is doing a great job. Thanks.
- ❖ Because of the high # of trappers in Aleknagik. People using the main trail. There was a high stress level and conditions for trapping were very poor.
- ❖ Glad to receive the report. Thank you.
I've been in this area ever year during hunting and trapping season and think the season on wolverine is too long. More planes from town come in and target this species only and have reduced #'s.
- ❖ As I get older I do more subsistence like beaver meat. Once in awhile if I want wolverine I'd get one are two. Thankx
- ❖ Would like to see river otter season extended longer into the trapping season. Seems when we really start to locate and the season is over.
- ❖ I would like to do away with early beaver trapping and let it start up on January 1. Too many people trapping beaver early and depleting the stock. Too many one a bee trappers concentrating on beaver early in the season because it is too easy. If the season opened on Jan 1 like it used to, the trappers that were serious would be the ones still trapping when conditions were cold and nasty and the areas would not get depleted and some would be left for seed for the future. As I see it safety really isn't an issue. You should be concerned about creating more trappers in a small area and depleting certain species due to the October season. Other animals are getting caught such as otter before the season starts.
- ❖ Appreciate the effort put into the questionnaire and results. Interesting info. Not too many better ways to spend a day than flying your cub and checking traps.
- ❖ You may delete me from Quetionaire and Questionnaire Reports since I don't "trap" anymore.
- ❖ Keep up the fine work! Thanks for sending out 3 years of surveys, very informative.
- ❖ I think you should not allow taking bull elk on Afognak for at least 2 to 4 years.
- ❖ Please help me with fuel costs, so I can continue to trap.

- ❖ ADFG needs to rid our area of some bears. We are over-run by them. They are spilling out of Katmai Park – raising hell with the moose and caribou – predator ration to big game is almost 1-1 – its nuts!
- ❖ Fur prices are so low, gas too high makes you think
- ❖ Be able to use an artificial light at night while calling and shooting fox on trapping license in Game Management Unit 8.
- ❖ Thanks for your great management!
- ❖ We took it easy this seeing what prices would do. We will probably increase the line as otters made a fairly nice come back.
- ❖ I never trapped this year; I usely use a snowmachine to check my trap line; If I trap I trap anything, like beaver, fox, lynx, marten, otter, wolverines, and wolf. If price on furs are good, I will trap; price on furs are cheap I won't trap!!
- ❖ I urge the state to remain in control of public land. I understand trespassing on so called native land, but charging for big game animals or restricting access for small game that are hunting license fees are supposed to enhance, while they pay nothing in taxes is wrong. I no longer put in for drawing permits. Virtually every area I would hunt is native owned or trap.

Interior

- ❖ Put the bounty back on wolves to make it more worthwhile to target them.
Over the years I've seen traps unchecked for 4 and 5 weeks with dead furbearers in them and damaged from rodents. There should be consequences for this. What a waste!!!
- ❖ Reduce the coyote population to help red fox and sheep.
- ❖ Keep up the good work, Thank you.
- ❖ I drive 600 miles (Homer to Fairbanks) then charter air taxi to camp. Lynx came through in a wave in Dec. then were gone. Red fox are always non-existent, but strangely one came through and got caught in a wolverine set. I put a little more pressure on martens due to high prices, with intent to not trap them this year. Beavers are thick, with approximately 100 live houses within a 14 mile radius from camp but I only take a few for bait, meat, and some furs to sell to local sewers – hat makers.
Usually average 1 wolverine a year. They didn't find my sets this year. Wolves come through regularly, but I lack the gear and confidence to target them. Other numbers seem steady, and some years I'll take a few (target them) and then it takes a couple years for numbers to come back.
- ❖ There was a fire in 2004 and most of our martin were gone. Last year 2009-10 we had some martin, this past fall 2010-11 there are a lot of martin. There were lots of blue berries in the fall, and lots and lots of ptarmigan. When we quit trapping at the end of the season we still have lots of martin tracks.
Set a few sets for wolves but did not catch any. We targeted martin. Rabbits are in pockets, and not many mice. 3 years ago there were mice and ermine all over the trap line. Only a few mice and ermine now.
- ❖ Not many moose any more, so not many wolfs, too long of lynx season!
- ❖ This is my last year. My grandson will take over my lines.
- ❖ I am so called a rectional trapper now days!
- ❖ Limit aircraft.
- ❖ We mostly trap for subsistence and for sale. It's getting harder to go way out Chalatna and around Kanubinka area where I use to trap because of the expense of going out there; cost of gas snowmachine upkeep, etc. Whatever we catch it usually is not enough to make any profit. So we hardly go out there. My question is if anyone from outside our area; ie. Fairbanks, Bettles can they do that and can we keep them out? I wouldn't mind going out Chalatna area again. My father, grandfather and relatives have been trapping out there for years. I like that country. I remember trappers can trap only certain areas allotted to them. Is the regulation still in effect? Sorry about this letter writing. I'm not used to writing and I don' have e-mail.
- ❖ I called Tom Seaton of Fairbanks ADF&G 2 years ago, spring '09, to get a trapper to take beaver on my property on the Chena River because they are destroying my bank (880') and taking trees around my house. There were 6 beaver. The trapper caught 4. Tom was asked in 2010 again and he said I needed to fence my property. I am on an eroding high bank and my house is now 15' from the river bank, below Nordale Bridge several miles, in an area designated "trappable" by "take a kid trapping only". He (Tom) called a native fellow with a kid. The guy never came through even though I called several times. The beaver lodge is in my riverbank. Now I have 5 or 6 beaver and they go under the fence (3' range fence) I installed, or up a slough and around. They are a nuisance (denuding property, dropping trees on my house, water quality down)
- ❖ Trapped 74 beaver last year and caught my first wolverine. Got him mounted.

- ❖ Road trappers not trapping ethically. Caught coyote with the mange pretty bad.
- ❖ Many trappers don't have e-mails or computers so keep sending me this in mail.
- ❖ Have no e-mail and limited internet access. Marten have been seriously depressed in Foraker-McKinley River area for 10+ years. Muskrat seriously depressed for ~30 years. First coyote shot in Minchumina area in 2009-2010. Late freeze ups have been delaying trapping start for ~10 years. Questionnaires would be more accurate if sent in April instead of summertime.
- ❖ Glad to see the lynx change in 20B. If they are there catch them if not you won't anyway. Winter ice storm was just too much to deal with and trap the way we normally do.
- ❖ Change the lynx season in 25D Nov. 15 - March 15. Reason change in weather in the past years.
- ❖ Thank you for the report once again. I only trapped about ½ of my trapline. Busy with other projects. Lynx population crashed here, not near the sign as last year. Marten still holding up well and increasing in areas that burned in 2004. Very few wolves on my line last winter. Coyotes drastically increasing in the Fortymile! Never used to see them here and now I catch 3-4 a winter in wolf sets.
- ❖ I really enjoy getting the hard copy!!
- ❖ Lynx season should start later Nov. Cats and not any good. Lynx season should open 1st Dec. or even 15th Dec.
- ❖ Too many grizzly bears in my area. Moose population has declined dramatically during the past few years. Also much wanton waste of meat occurs during hunting season, mostly by float hunters.
- ❖ Not trapping but furbearer related; why are we filling out harvest tags for black bears when they are sealed and all of the same info is recorded in the ADF&G office? I think the only thing this does is give troopers a chance to ticket you if you forget to punch your tag. What's next, harvest tickets for lynx and beavers, wolves and wolverines?
- ❖ This is the last year for cats in my area. We all know marten leave when cats increase. No one knows why. This is the biggest cat cycle I have ever seen and the fewest marten. Fox crashed 20 yrs. ago and never came back. Muskrats have been gone for longer. Beaver are in decline. Moose were thick 20 years ago. Now I can't even put one in the freezer. More wolverine but they always get more abundant when the cats crash. No one knows why. All grouse are down but should rebound as the cats disappear. Lots of fires the past 10 years. Big effect on fur. Trappers dislike the BLM because that's what the BLM wants. Why is this? You guys do a good job. I wish I understood more about the animals and what makes them cycle. Very complicated. It's one of the reasons I will always trap.
- ❖ I live remote full time 100 miles from a road/center of my trap lines. My website has over 30,000,000 views <http://www.osemountain.com> Google search for a TV interview on my wife and I on our homestead life KSTP TV-Minneapolis St. Paul – The Last Homesteader of Alaska.
I love trapping and do not rape or trap out completely the fur but have learned how to maintain a fur heard. A stayble catch. Plus we sell by special taxidermy orders direct for high prices. We skip the middle man. The skulls too are sold and for sure never sell to a local fur buyer – “NAFA” only
2 Arctic Cat 660 cc 4 stroke wide track snowmachines are used. My wife is the fur handler – I just trap and cut new lines.
- ❖ Amount of game animals accesibal in area very low. Wanting to try up on haul road corridor more next season.
- ❖ Wolf population is outrages here in Arctic Village.
- ❖ Yeah – open up more predator control areas for bears – black and grizzly – especially grizzly bear – I've notice more grizzly bears than used to be 20 years ago. I found 16 bears (grizzly) in Unit 23 on a four day fishing trip – I wasn't overly looking for them either. I never used to see bears at that rate when I lived there. I've notice a lot more grizzly bears in Unit 25C where you used to see black bears all the time 15 years ago.
- ❖ Extending the lynx season into March was a big help.
- ❖ It would be my suggestion on the fall beaver trapping season to adjust the muskrat season to the same time as there can in some years or situations be significant by catch.
- ❖ I buy a trapping license just in case I go trap again.
- ❖ Check with AK state troopers about their interpretation of legal bait – ie/ salmon parts from salmon personally caught – their interpretation is questionable.
- ❖ Keep up the good work.
- ❖ I trap every year and I always catch the same amount of marten because I quit early.
- ❖ Be aware of the conflict of interest between your staff and where they trap.
- ❖ Extending the beaver season through May and opening it up in September promotes waste of fur and wildlife. Beaver houses have decrease by a factor of 30% since these regulations. Over-harvesting is occurring.

- ❖ I went after beaver this season.
- ❖ You're doing a good job.
- ❖ ADF&G is doing a good job. Sorry, I don't have e-mail and thanks for sending the past years reports to me. Apart from being interesting, it was a good opportunity for my 12-yr. old to see how the different graphs can be used and actually have interesting and important meaning to them. This season my sons and I never made it across our entire line. So we look at it as giving the line a good rest. Take best of care.
- ❖ If trap lines are registered why is it not legal to trap someone else's trap line. Legislation needs to step up. I was a victim of someone trapping over top of me. If I register my line it should be my fur.
- ❖ I am full Athabaskan Indian. I grew up in trapping camp with our family. That's how we ate our own native food. We were strong then. We use dog team. Maybe 5 big dogs with a 12' basket sled. We still have our own traplines where we grow up. I could've caught more if I just stayed out there. But our kids and grandkids go to school in the village. I'll trap forever cause that's all I know how to do as soon as it starts freezing up and snowing every fall. Only problem I got is that the cost of gas for snowmachine is \$7 per gallon here. I hope the country quit spending so much money on foreign countries and help us out instead. Lower cost.
- ❖ Protection of an individual's trapline that has a history of using a traditional line is essential for the preservation of the trapping industry. Caution to other trappers be careful who you take on your line and what you say. Best to have a written agreement with well defined conditions. Late comer individuals have no knowledge of the gentlemen's agreements regarding buffer zones or managed harvesting.
- ❖ Increase wolf and bear take to help moose pop.
- ❖ Keep it up, this info is very important for all of us.
- ❖ New game wardens and troopers, should not be allowed to trap with state machines or gas. We can't compete when we buy our own machines and gas.
- ❖ Lengthen lynx season by 1 month for 21D.
- ❖ How about a hunting/trapping/fishing license that does not fall apart. Get better material and offer a "loaded" type license for residents that includes everything the state has to offer. Put it on a laminated credit card so it does not rot in our wallet like they do every year.
- ❖ ADF&G is doing a good job managing fur species in the Interior.
- ❖ I run two lines. Globe Ck. on Elliot Hy. This is mainly a lynx and wolf area for me. This year there were wolves in the area in Nov., but never came back all year. Most years they came through every 3 wks. I think their a number of good wolf trappers in the Minto and Tolovana that are taking a good # of animals and their patterns aren't the same as in years past – I used to get 1-2 wolves a year.
Unit 25C. This is a great area for marten, wolves and wolverine. I get the marten set out early and wait for the winter caribou hunt to get over to set out my wolf and wolverine set, because over the past 10 years I've had over a dozen set's stolen by so-called (hunters), but this year the season got extended and extended and extended. Hope It doesn't happen again.
- ❖ Spring beaver season in 20B is to long. Most fur is rubbed or has bite holes by early May. End the season 1st of May since it opens so early no need for spring season to last that long.
- ❖ Registered traplines. Would allow better management of long lines as far as sustained yield. Knowing number of harvest animals, especially females of cyclic species, is necessary to maintain prey species diversity and prevent over trapping. This is impossible when others sneak in on my trapline and rape part of it.
- ❖ Lynx, fox and my part of Delta 20 A + D were numerous – however I was hospitalized most of the season.
- ❖ Keep on guy's your doing good. Thanks.
- ❖ I find you Alaska's trappers manual and wolf trappers man. very helpful.
- ❖ I think ADF&G does a good job of balancing trapper's wants/needs with biological data. F&G should be given a pat on the back for a job well done in Alaska. Compared to many other western states, Alaska's Fish and Game department is amazingly rational, functional and reasonable.
- ❖ Shallow snow in '06-07' and again in 09'-10' has reduced wolf numbers in the central Brooks Range. There may also be disease vector from high fox populations on the North Slope. Hare numbers are moderate still after the 2000-01' crash. Large lynx continue to migrate out of the Yukon Flats into the south slope Brooks Range, suppressing hare numbers currently. Next peak hare cycle is anticipated here in or about 2018.
- ❖ Greatly thankful for the removal of the beaver tagging requirement for 20C, 20B area. They are very abundant and it was really a chore to comply with in the past.
- ❖ Trapping has been my livelihood for as long as I was old enough to do it professional like. Now it seems the animals are not getting along and mating as per usual or they have been victim to another trapline. There's more trappers getting out in me old stompin grounds likely overharvesting. I've trapped many a year and since homesteading boomed the fur seem to go the other way in my neck'o the woods anyway, we'll see next

season. Adios

- ❖ Thank you for implementing fare, as well as needed regulations that protects Alaskan fur bears and insures our future generations the chance to enjoy the rich heritage that I have had and continue to have.
- ❖ You have been doing a very good job. Keep up the good work.

Arctic & Western

- ❖ No comments or suggestions at this time, and I didn't trap last winter or the previous year.
- ❖ The trapping here on the lower Yukon River has seen an increased interest in trapping in the local villages do to the local fish company that is now buying fur in the villages. With the increasing fur prices we once again can have a viable trapping industry in our area. Populations of fox lynx otter, and beaver are abundant and stable. Other populations are well where they occur. We still have a very low population of wolves with a high population of moose. Lucky us. Also, I would like to add, I think it's a bad idea to post trapper questionnaire comments online for everyone to view, as some of the comments could be used against us. Thank you.
- ❖ Too many bears and wolfs. Would like to see a bounty on wolfs and bears, kill off all our moose.
- ❖ Open mink season earlier in Unit 18 – as long as fur is good.
- ❖ We need fur buyer and fur price in Bethel area.
- ❖ Thanks for all you do. Keep up the good work.
- ❖ Love trapping questionnaires! You guys do a very great job.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I would like to thank ADF&G Information Services staff for their help in converting the Trapper Questionnaire to a format that could be read by an optical scanner and for creating the database that made information from the Questionnaire usable. I would also like to thank Tom Paul for his erudite and creative assistance in assembling this report.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who responded to the 2010-11 Trapper Questionnaire – 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 who sent trapping photos. I enjoyed seeing them and look forward to sharing them with others in this and future Trapper Reports. Please consider taking your camera along this season and e-mailing more photos when you return. If you do send photos, please also include a brief explanation of each picture and a statement in your e-mail giving ADF&G permission to use your photos in the Trapper Questionnaire Report and other trapping-related publications.

Good luck in the field this year.

Sincerely,

Tom Schumacher, ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire Coordinator
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Photo courtesy of Bill Stannard



Photo by Davin Holen



Photo courtesy of Shawn Conway



Photo courtesy of Roy Fukuoka



Photo by Ken Marsh



Photo courtesy of Michael Druckrey



Photo by Bauer, USFWS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

