

Trapper Questionnaire

Statewide Annual Report: 1 July 2012–30 June 2013



Photo by Tim McLeod



December 2013

Trapper Questionnaire

Statewide Annual Report: 1 July 2012–30 June 2013

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

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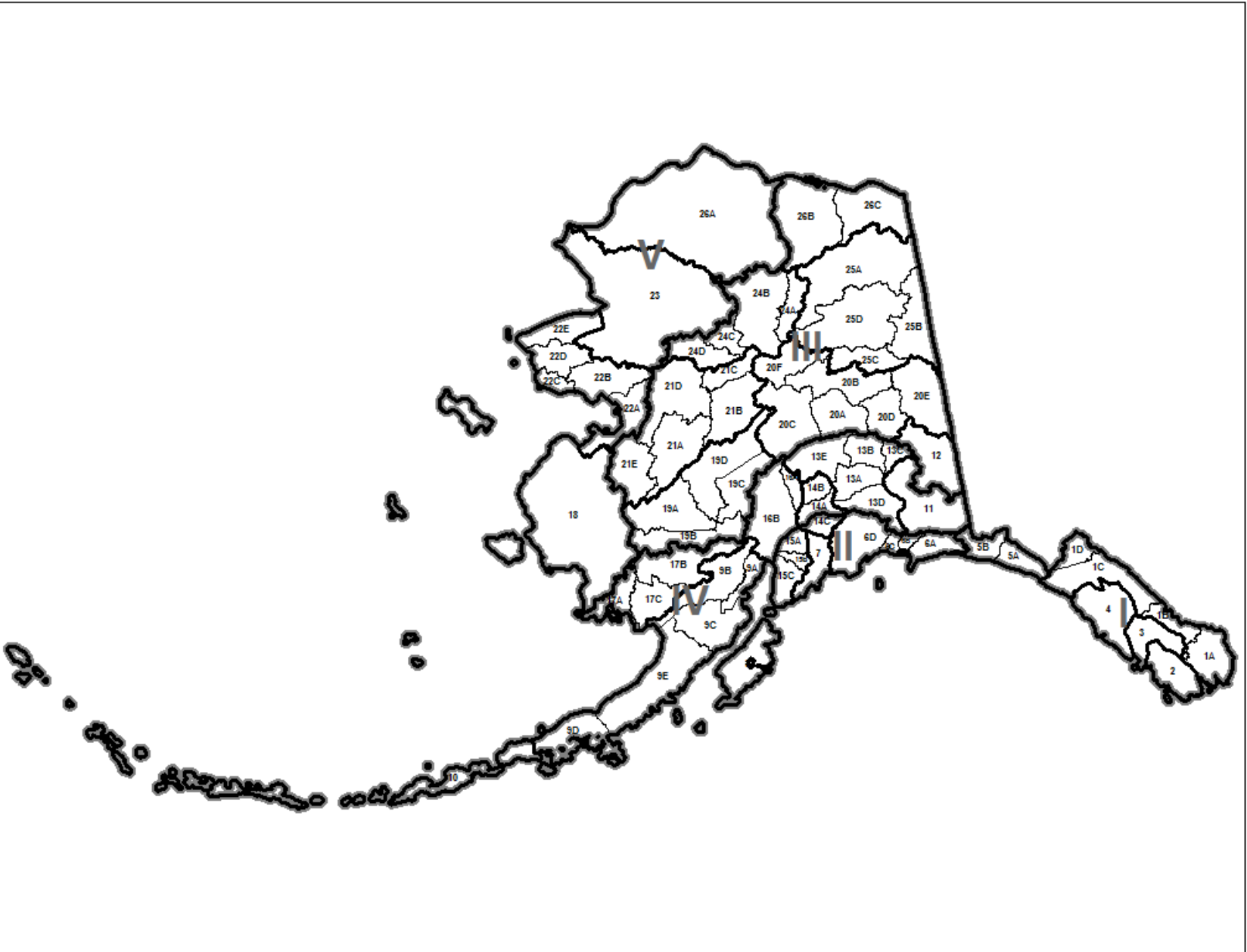
Code of Ethics

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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Photo by Victoria Katongan

ALASKA TRAPPER REPORT

2012–13

INTRODUCTION

The 2012–13 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, raw fur export records, and comments from trappers throughout the state.

This is the third Trapper Report written using data compiled by an optical scanner, rather than having ADF&G staff type information provided by trappers. We continue to improve the Questionnaire form and scanning program. A positive result of this improvement is that the report on the 2012-13 season is being published at the start of the 2013-14 season, rather than a year or two later. We hope that trappers can use some of the information in this report to enhance their efforts during the current season.

The accuracy and value of information provided in this report depends on the number of trappers who reply. To help reach more trappers with the 2012-13 Questionnaire we identified active trappers using licensing, fur sealing, and fur export records. Those efforts paid off. Although we only mailed out about fifty more surveys following the 2012-13 season, 29% of trappers responded to the survey, and the number of trappers who responded increased from 578 in 2011-12 to 688 in 2012-13. That is a nearly 20% increase in the number of trappers responding and likely results in much improved information. Still, 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. Please also encourage new trappers to contact me.

As always, we 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.

Trapper Questionnaire Reports are mailed to all trappers who responded to the survey, and this and previous reports can be found on our website at:

<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?

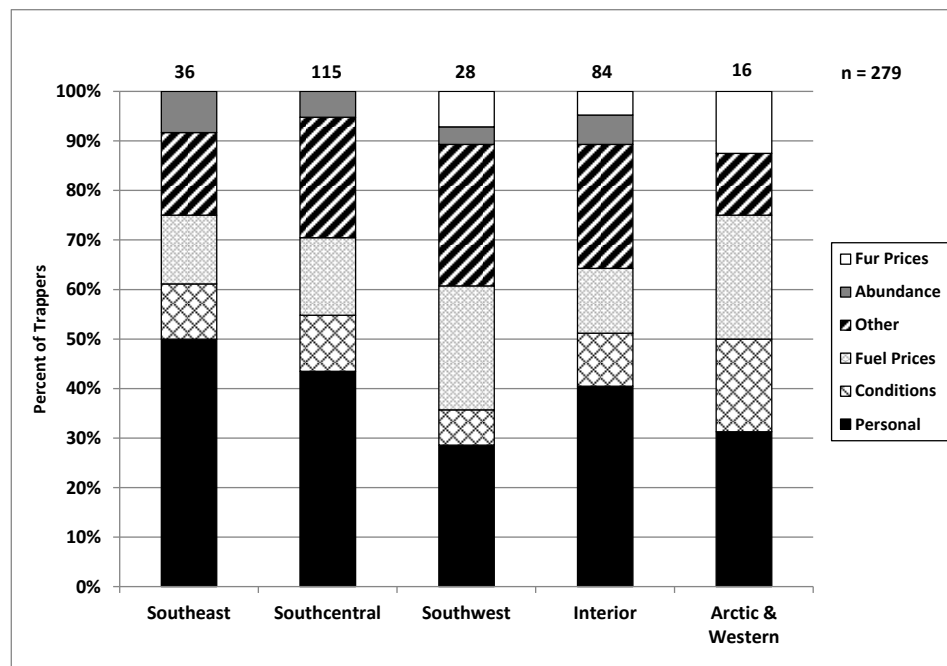
This year 2376 questionnaires were mailed throughout the state and 688 were returned for an overall response rate of 29%; 4% higher than the 2011-12 response rate. The response rate was higher from the Southeast and Southwest regions than from other regions. Statewide, 65% of respondents trapped during the 2012–13 season, 10% higher than the past two seasons. This may be because we think we have a more accurate list of currently active trappers who were sent the survey.

Response to 2012-13 Trapper Questionnaire

Region	Trapped	Did Not Trap	No Response	Total	% Responding
Arctic & Western	34	15	144	193	25%
Interior	131	67	534	732	27%
Southcentral	151	109	644	904	29%
Southeast	90	32	253	375	33%
Southwest	39	20	113	172	34%
Total	445	243	1688	2376	29%

If you did not trap during 2012-13, why not?

Statewide, 279 respondents offered reasons why they didn't trap during the 2012-13 season. Some respondents gave more than one reason. Over all, 69% of the reasons cited were in the personal or "other" categories (poor health, no time, conflicts with jobs or school). As in the last survey 25% of Southwest and Arctic & Western respondents cited high fuel prices as a reason they did not trap. Elsewhere in the state only 14% blamed fuel prices. Statewide, fur prices accounted for only 3% of responses and weather conditions and animal abundance were cited in 12% and 6% of the answers respectively. 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 2012-13 trapping season, 38% of trappers statewide reported they took a young person trapping with them, down 6% from last season and continuing a lower level from the 48% reported 6 years ago. As shown by the graph below, the highest percentage of trappers taking youngsters trapping was in the Southeast region (44%) and the lowest percentage (31%) was in Interior Alaska.

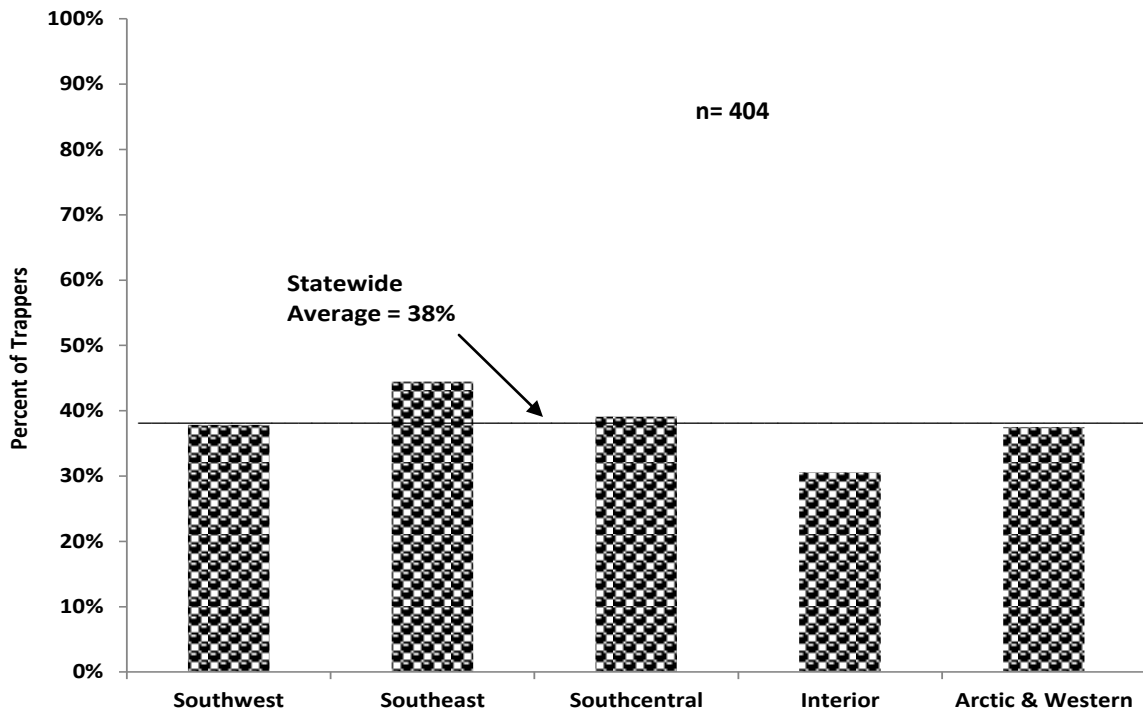


Photo by Bill Brophy

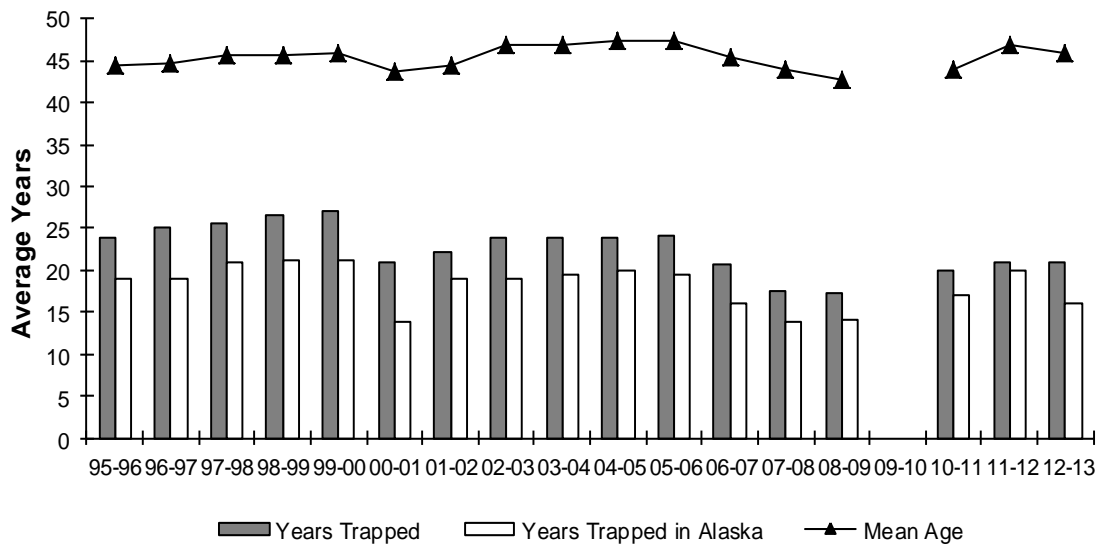


Trapping beaver in winter

Photo by Bill Brophy

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

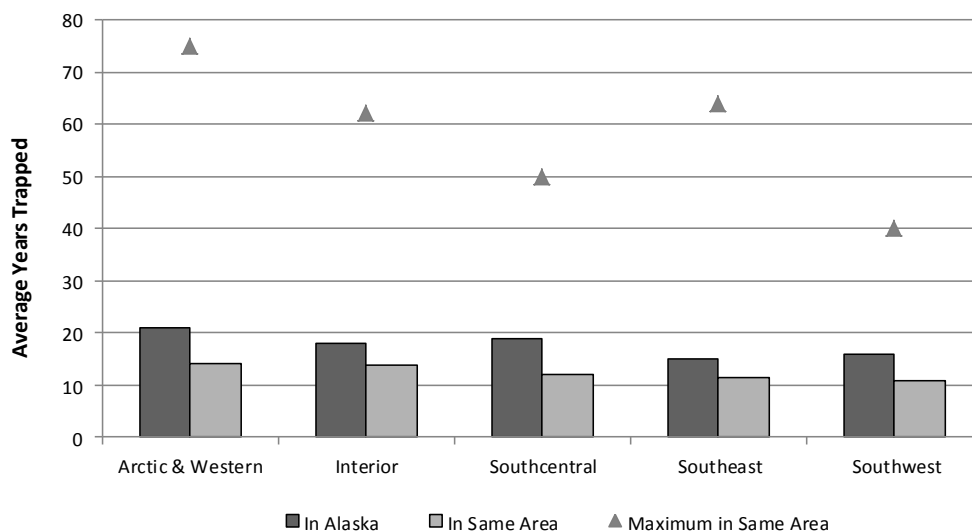
During 2012-13, the overall experience of trappers was similar to last season but the average number of years trapping in Alaska declined compared to last year. (No data were collected in 2009-10.) Statewide, trappers averaged 16 years experience in Alaska and 21 years trapping overall. Trappers in the Interior region (49) and those in the Southcentral region (47) were the oldest on average and those in Southeast (41 years) the youngest on average. The oldest trapper responding was 90 from the Interior. The top line in the graph shows average statewide trapper age. In 2012-13 it was 46, down from 47 in 2011-12 but higher than any other year since 2005-06.



Trapline Information

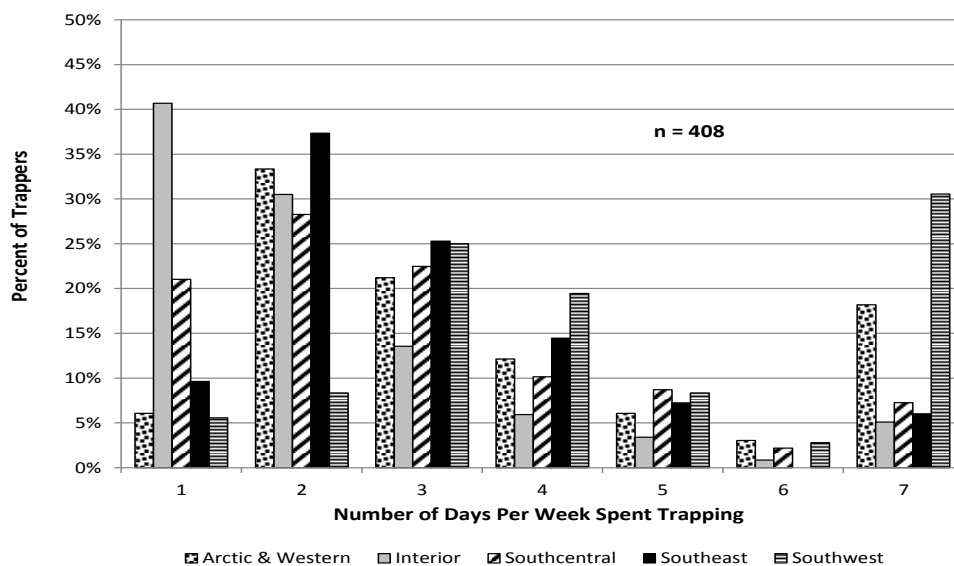
How many years have you been trapping in the same area?

Of 413 trappers who responded statewide, Arctic & Western trappers spent the longest time trapping in Alaska on average (21 years) and trapping in the same area (14 years). Interior trappers also spent an average of 14 years in the same area, whereas Southeast, Southwest, trappers reported trapping in the same area an average of 11 years. Southcentral trappers reporting trapping an average of 12 years in the same place. One Arctic & Western trapper reported trapping in the same area for 75 years.



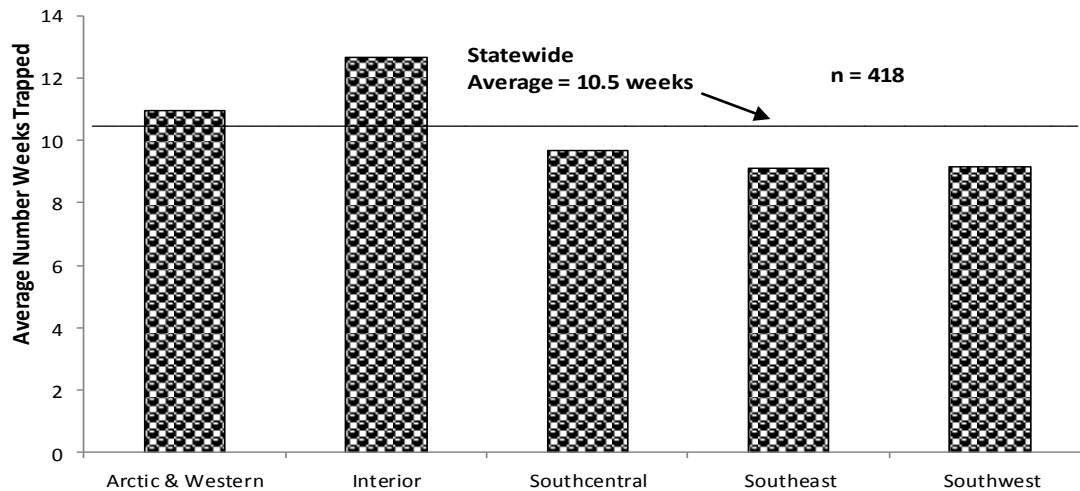
How many days per week did you trap?

Statewide, 72% of all trappers conducted their trapping activities 3 days per week or less compared to 79% last season. In the Interior region 72% of trappers trapped 2 days a week or less. Southwest Alaska (31%) again had the highest percentage of any region of trappers who trapped every day of the week. A good percentage of Arctic & Western trappers (18%) also were afield 7 days a week.

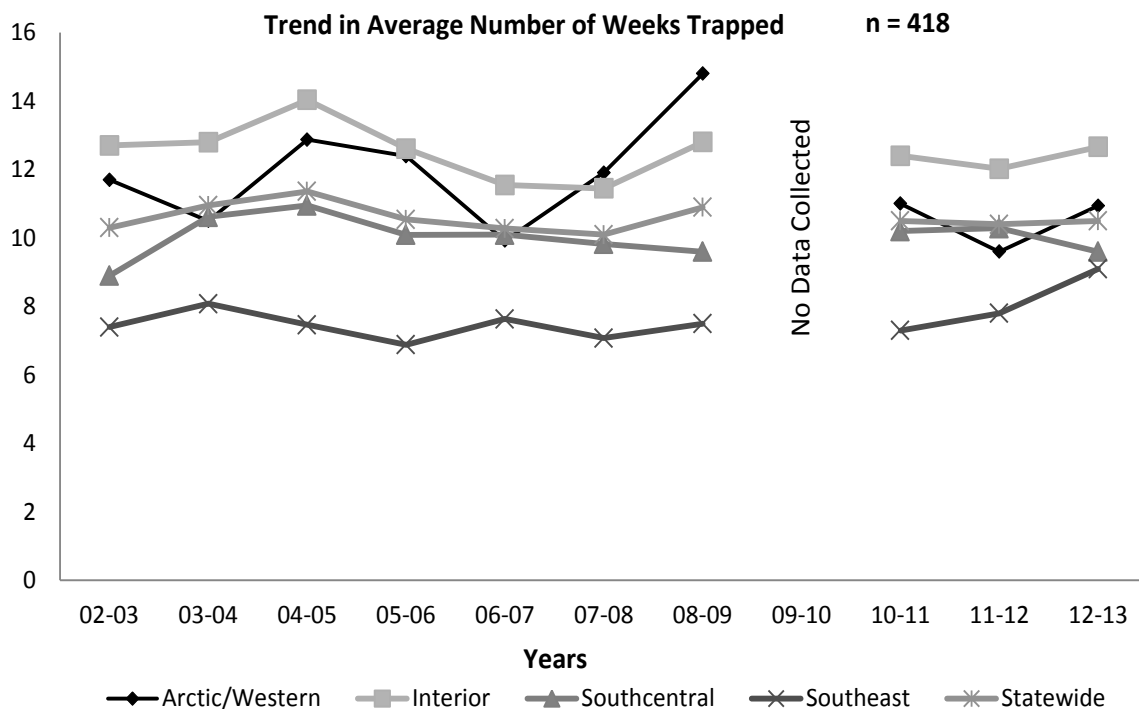


How many weeks did you trap?

During the 2012-13 season Southeast and Southwest trappers reported trapping for an average of 9.1 weeks. Southcentral trappers averaged 9.7 weeks afield. Interior trappers were in the field an average of 12.7 weeks, and Arctic & Western trappers trapped an average of nearly 10.9 weeks.

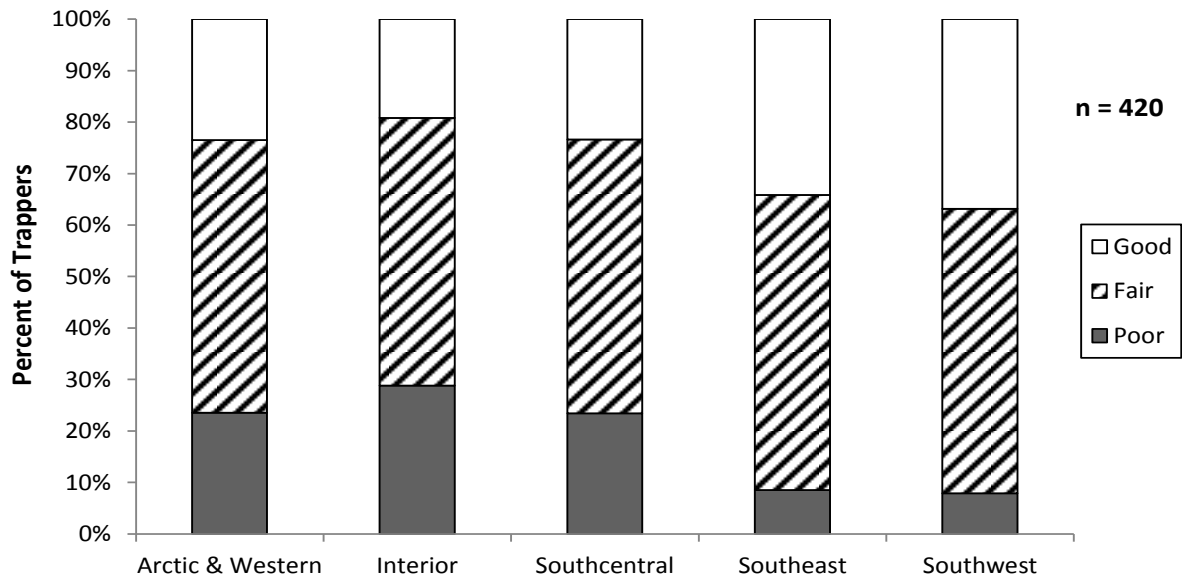


The average number of weeks trapped statewide during the 2012–13 season was 10.5, about the same as the past 2 years. Trappers in the Arctic & Western, Southwest, and Southeast regions spent an average of nearly a week and a half more afield in 2012-13 than in 2011-12. Average time afield for trappers in Southcentral decreased by 3 to 4 days, whereas Interior trappers spent an average of almost a full week more afield than the previous year.



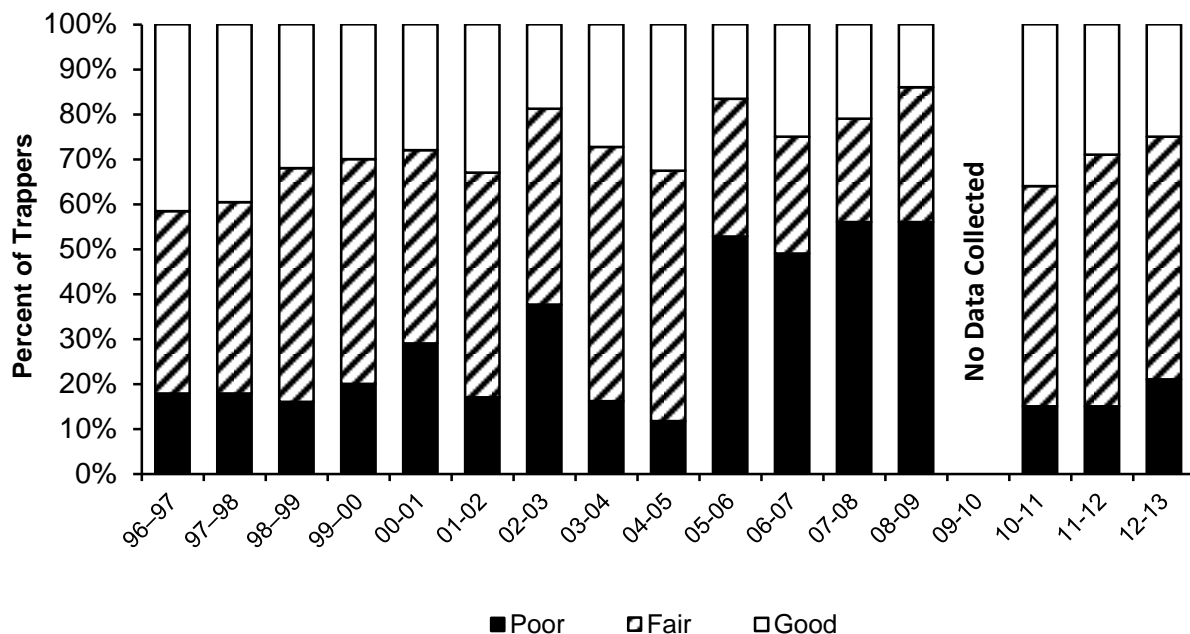
What were trapping conditions like on your trapline?

Most trappers in all regions reported fair trapping conditions in 2012-13. A higher percentage of Interior trappers (29%) than in other regions reported poor conditions. Southwest trappers (37%) and Southeast trappers (34%) were most likely to report good conditions. About a quarter of Arctic & Western and Southcentral trappers reported conditions poor, and another quarter said conditions were good. Statewide averages were 25% good, 54% fair, and 21% poor.



Statewide, 25% of trappers reported good trapping conditions. That is less than the two previous seasons but higher than other years since the 2004-05 season. The percentage of those reporting poor conditions (21%) was higher than the past two seasons but still better than most years since 2004-05.

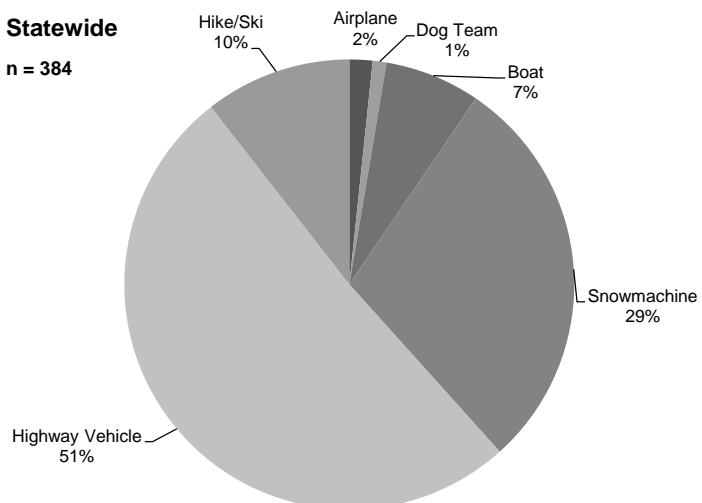
Annual Variation in Statewide Trapping Conditions



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

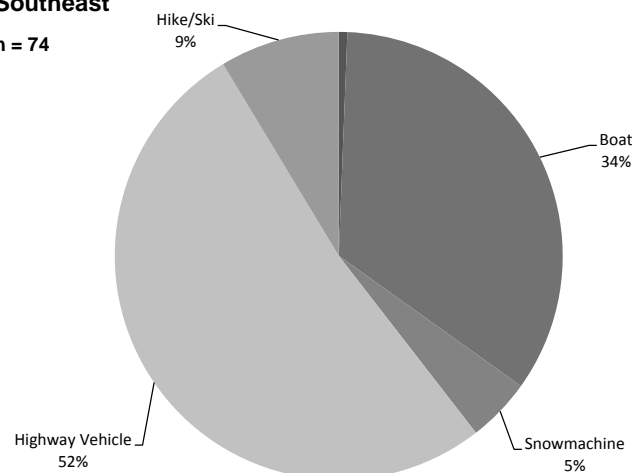
Statewide

n = 384



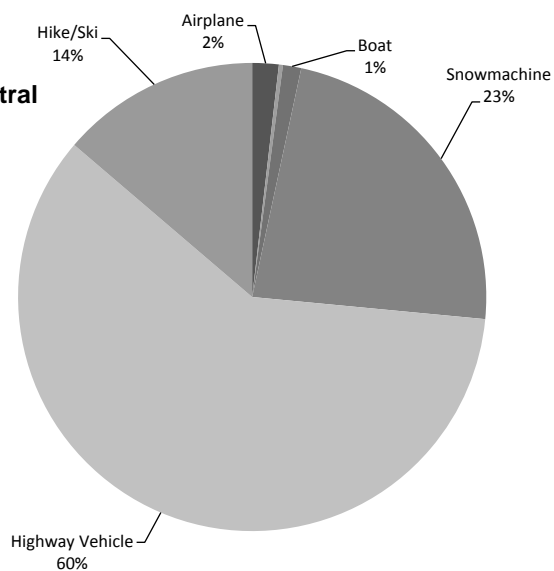
Southeast

n = 74



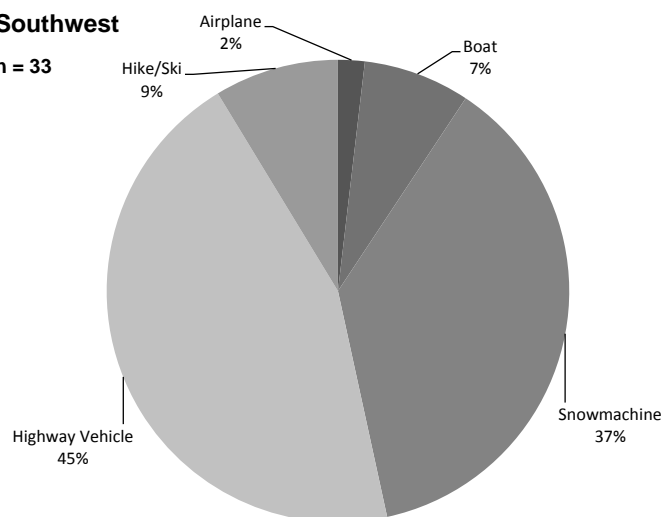
Southcentral

n = 135



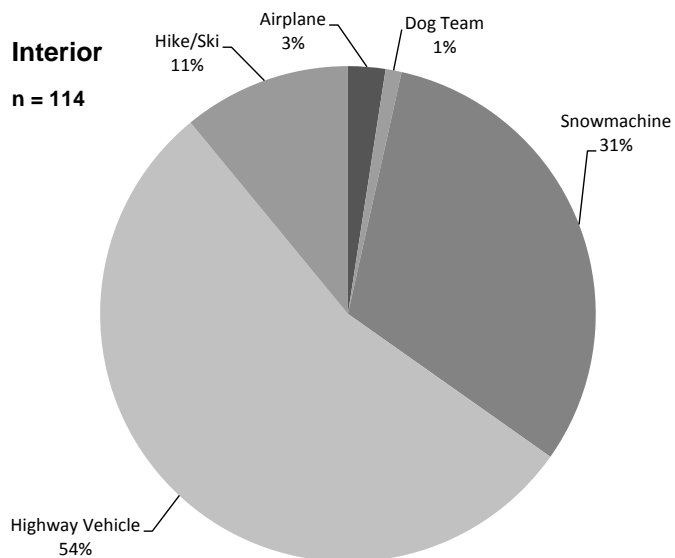
Southwest

n = 33



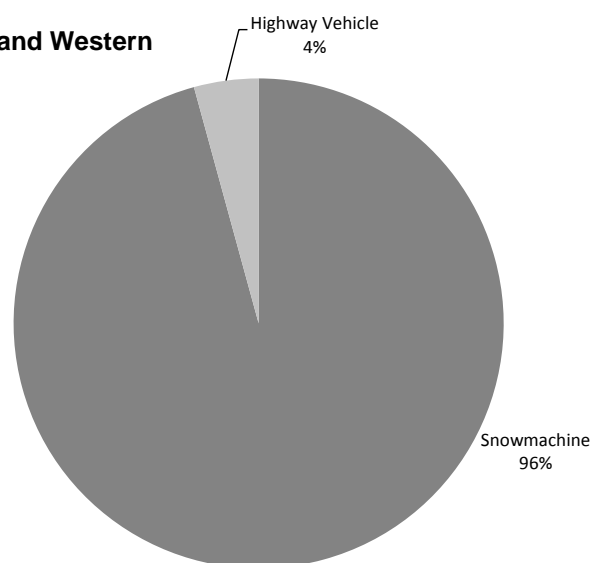
Interior

n = 114



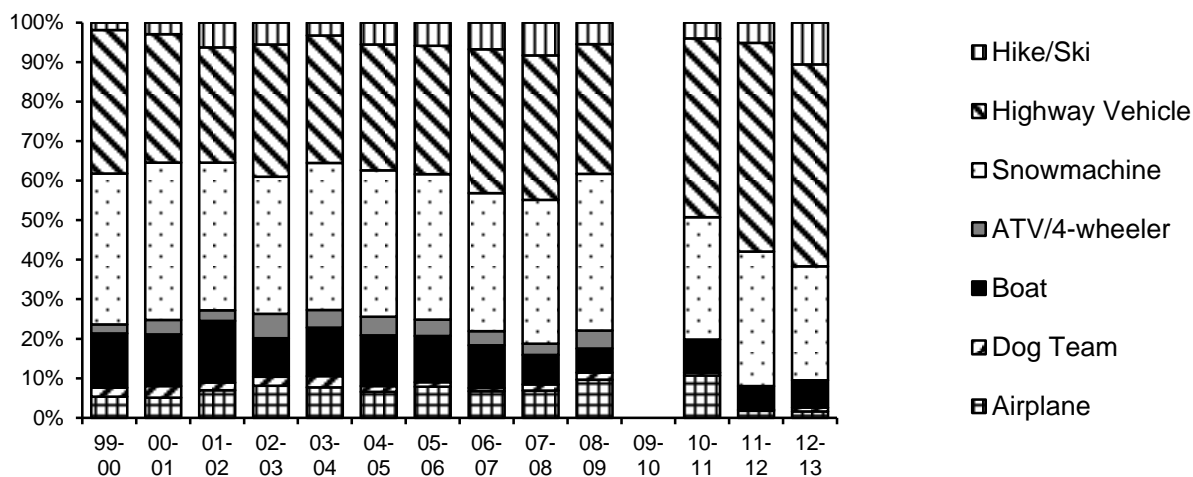
Arctic and Western

n = 28

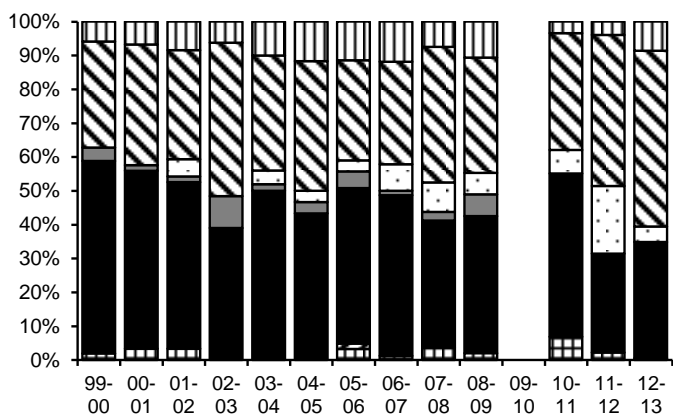


Trends in mode of transportation used to get to traplines

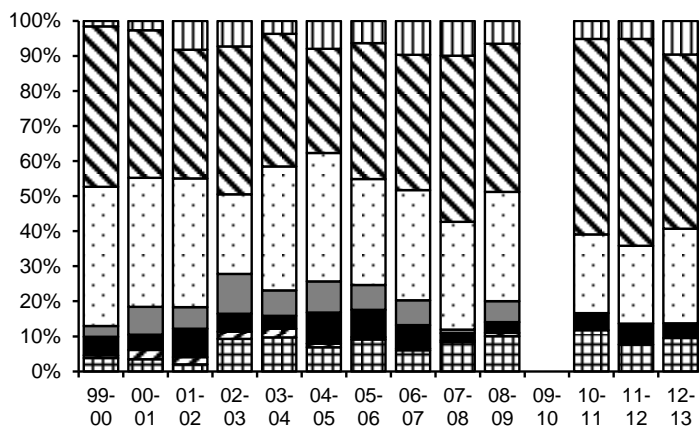
Statewide



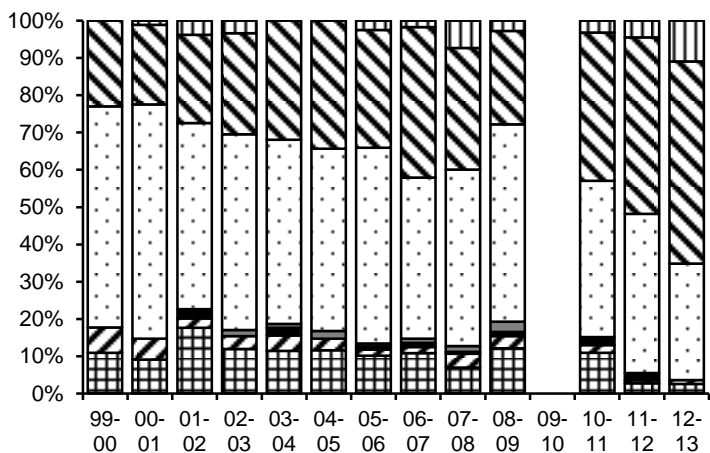
Southeast



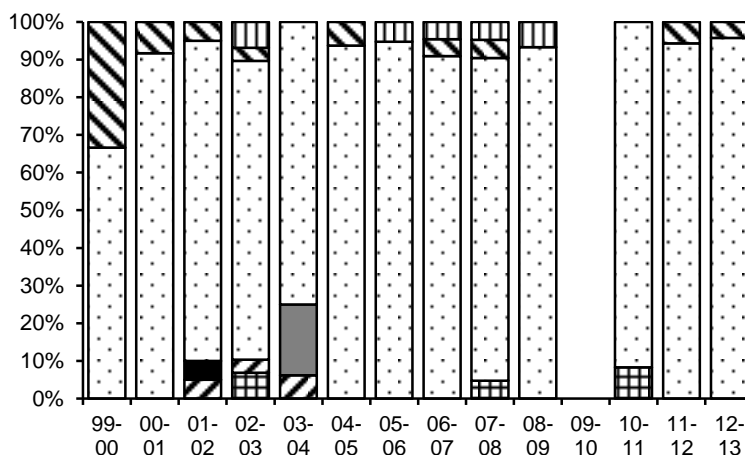
Southcentral & Southwest



Interior



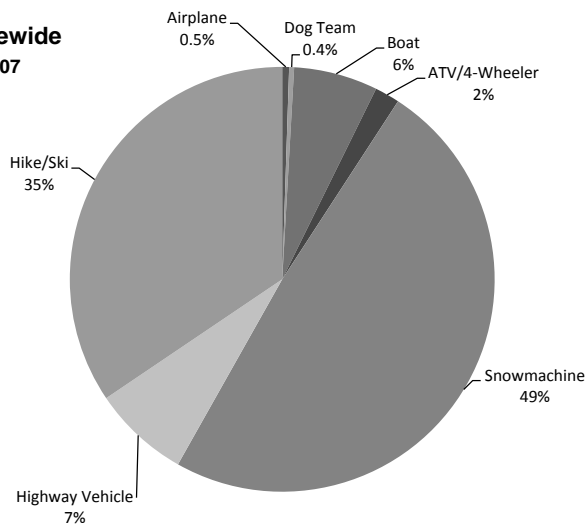
Arctic & Western



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

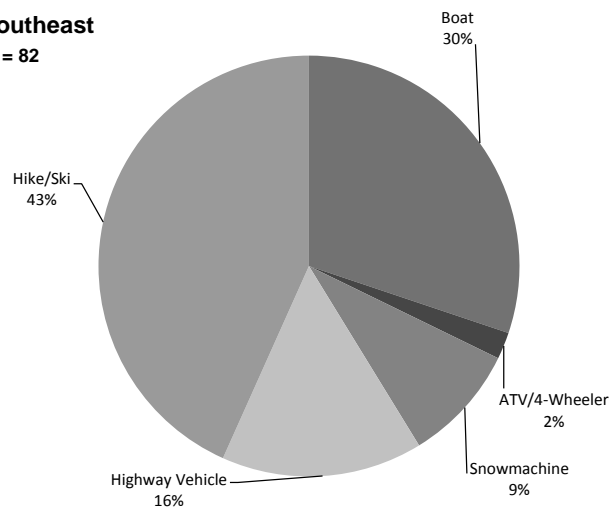
Statewide

n = 407



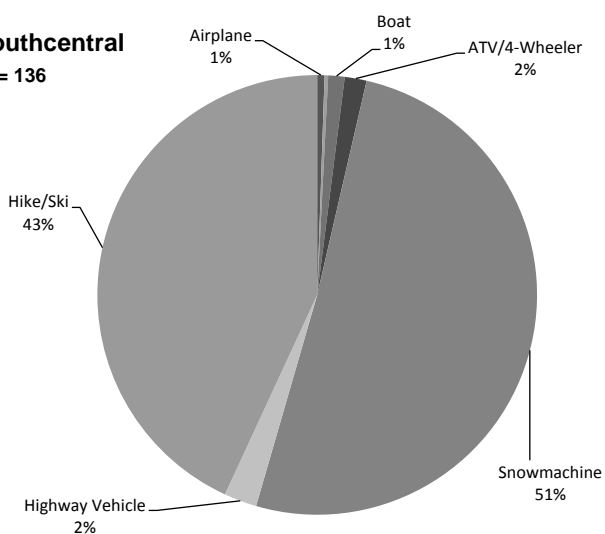
Southeast

n = 82



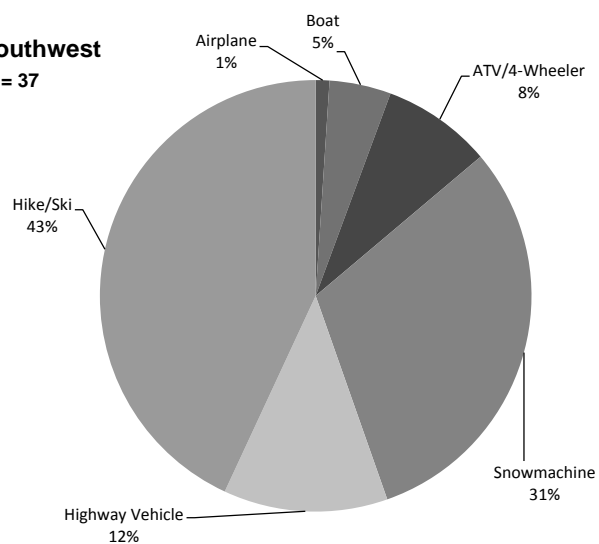
Southcentral

n = 136



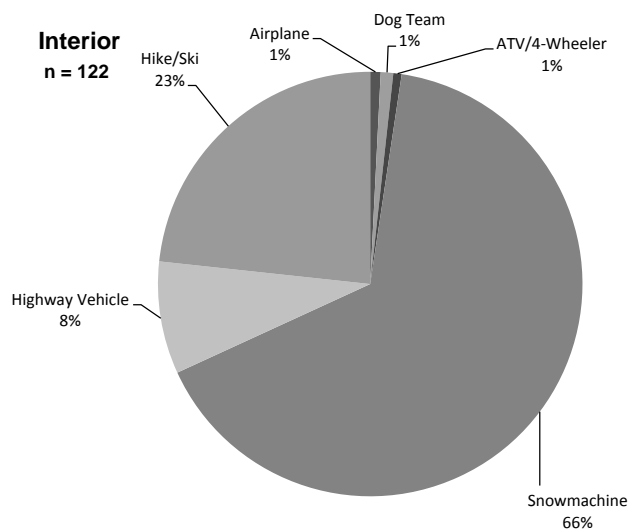
Southwest

n = 37



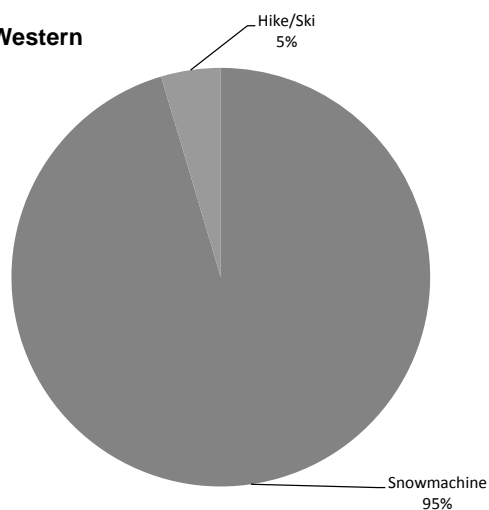
Interior

n = 122



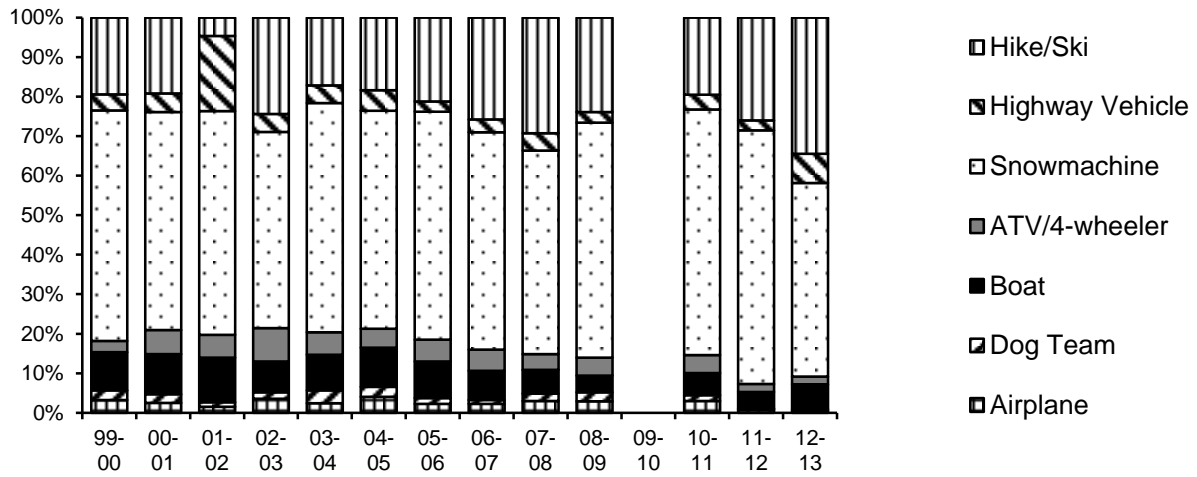
Arctic & Western

n = 30

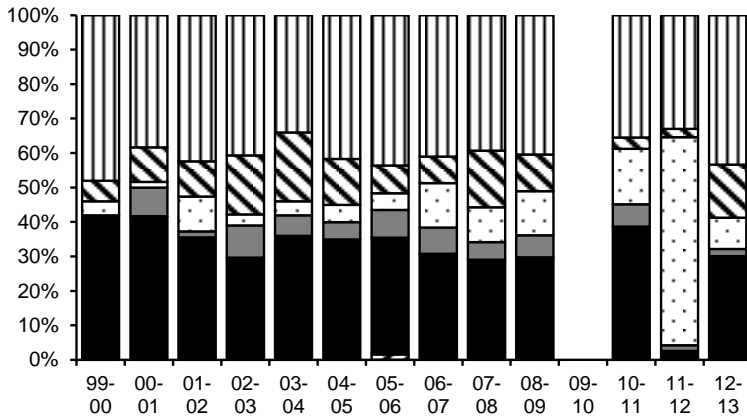


Trends in mode of transportation used to run traplines

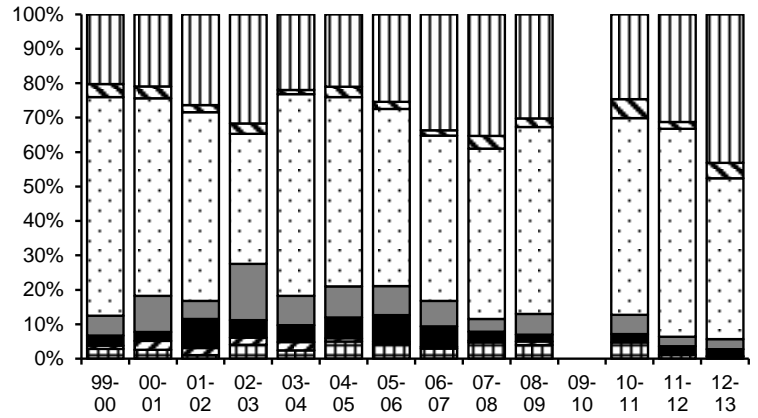
Statewide



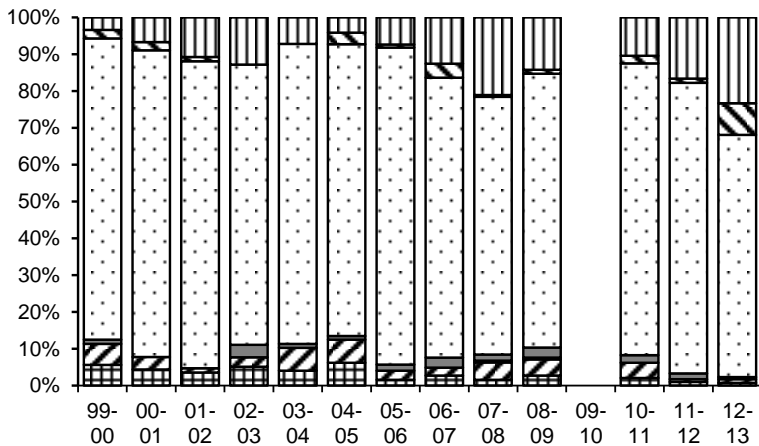
Southeast



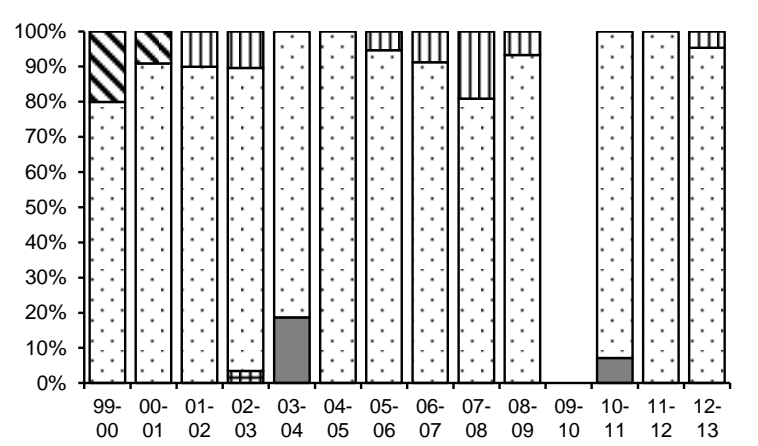
Southcentral & Southwest



Interior



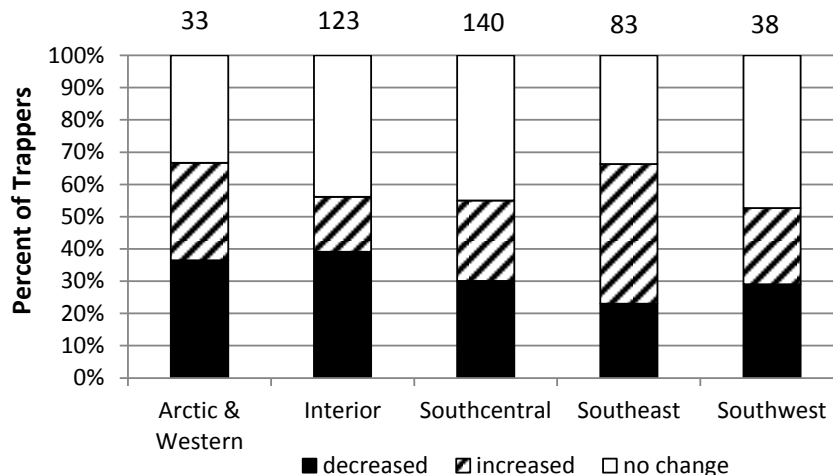
Arctic & Western



Trapping Effort

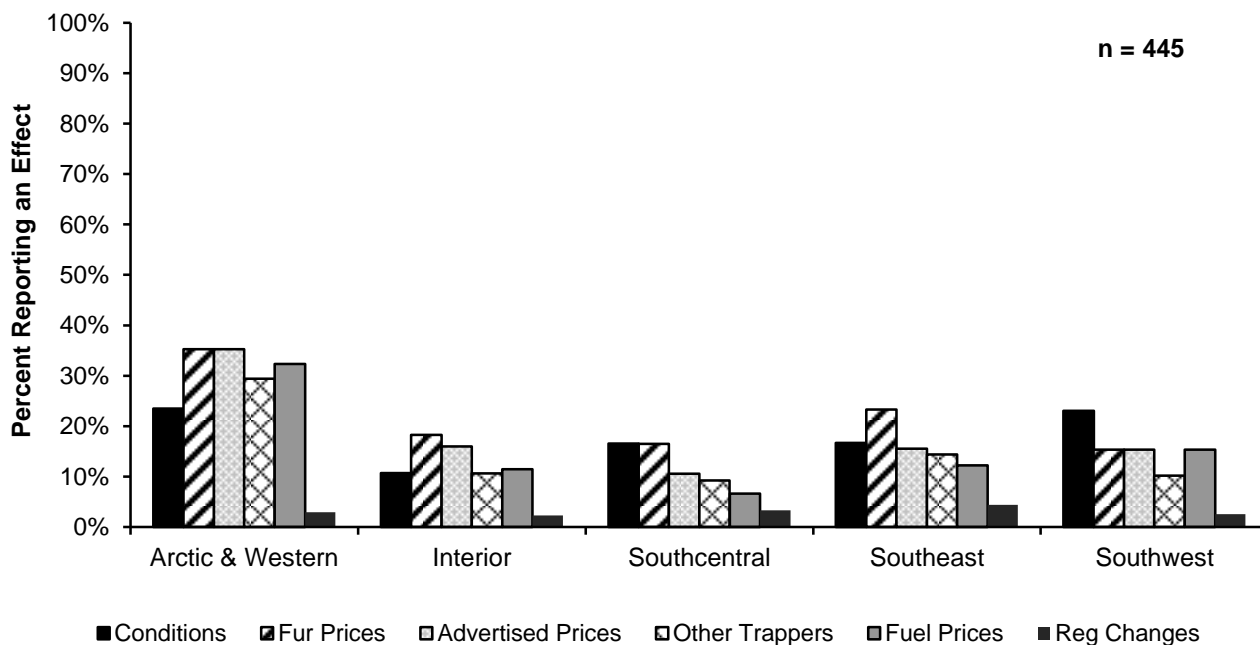
Did you change your trapping effort this season?

Changes in trapping effort during the 2012-13 season were very specific to regions. More than half of trappers in all regions reported some change. Arctic & Western and Southeast trappers reported the most change in effort with 36% decreasing effort and 33% increasing effort in the Arctic & Western region and 43% reporting increased effort and 23% decreased effort in Southeast. A decidedly larger percentage of Interior trappers decreased effort (39%) than increased (17%). Southwest (47%) and Southcentral (45%) trappers were most likely to report no change in effort. Of those who did change, about 5% more trappers in both regions decreased effort than increased effort. The number of trappers in each region who responded is given above each bar.



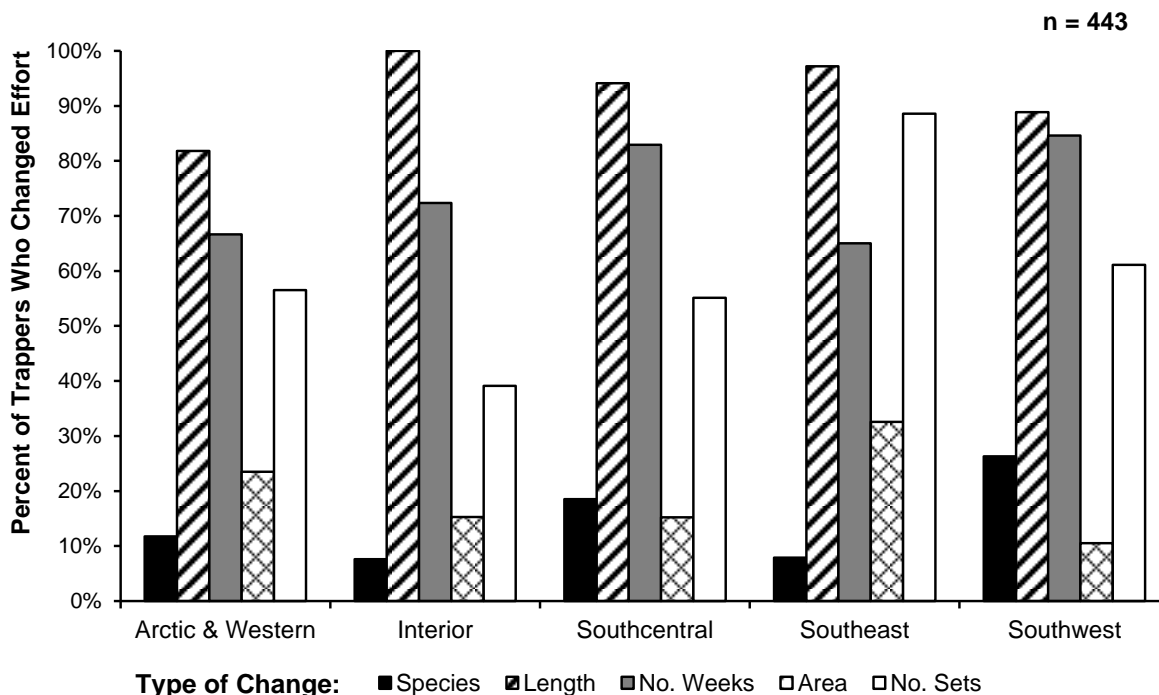
What factors affected your trapping effort?

Unlike last season when trapping conditions was the most important factor cited as affecting trapping effort, there appeared to be no one major factor affecting trapping effort in all regions during the 2012-13 season. Trapping conditions in the Southwest and fur prices in the Southeast were most often cited factors in those regions but not by a great deal. With the exception of regulations changes, all factors appear to have had a roughly equal effect on trappers' effort during 2012-13.



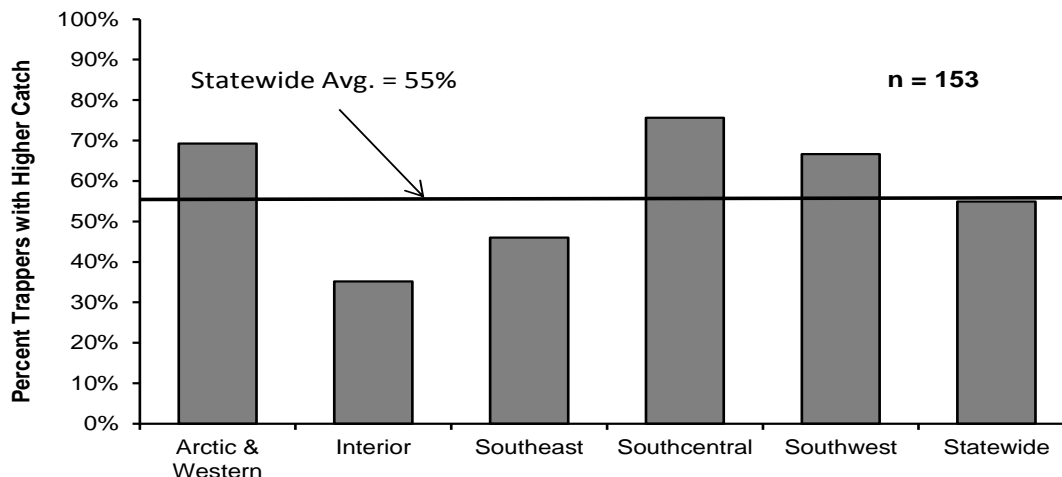
How did you change your trapping effort?

Once again trapline length and weeks trapped were the most common ways trappers changed effort in most regions. Changing the number of sets was the second most important change in the Southeast region and third most important way trappers changed effort elsewhere. Statewide, 58% of trappers reported some change in effort.



Did increasing your trapping effort result in a higher catch?

Statewide, an average of 55% of trappers reported that increasing their effort resulted in a higher catch. However, fewer than half of trappers in the Interior and Southeast said increased effort resulted in increased catch. Arctic & Western, Southwest, and Southcentral trappers had better than average success increasing their catch with increased effort.



Target Species and Disposition of Furs

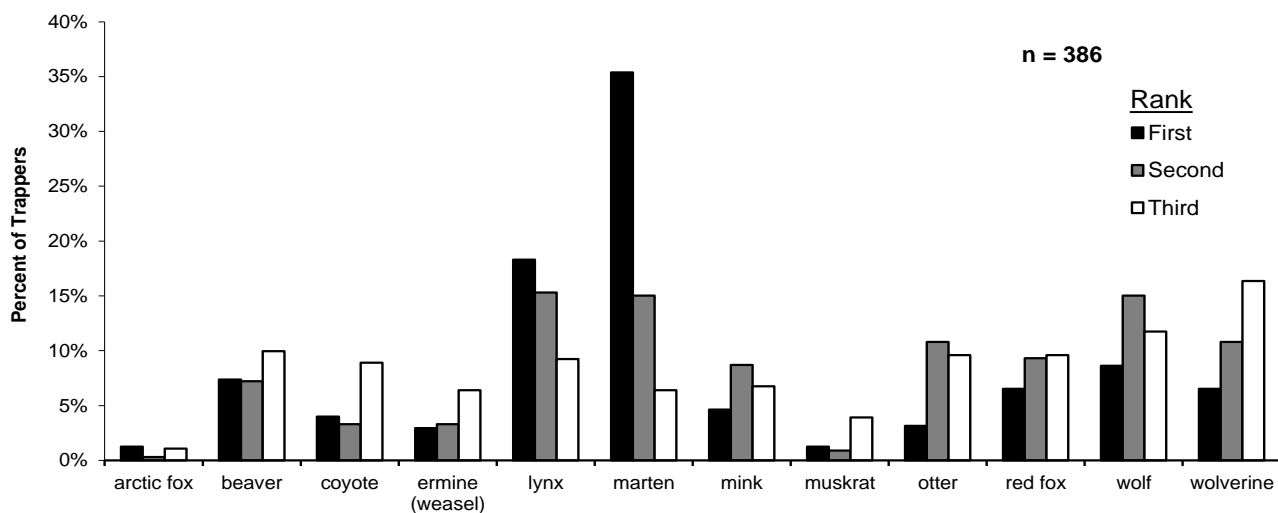
What was the most important species you were trying to catch?

The table below shows how each species ranked in order of importance by region, with 1 being most important and 12 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 Southeast and Interior regions and second in the Southcentral region. Lynx was second most important statewide and targeted first in the Southcentral and Arctic & Western regions. Trappers in 3 regions ranked wolves in the top 3 or 4 species helping wolves rank third in importance statewide.

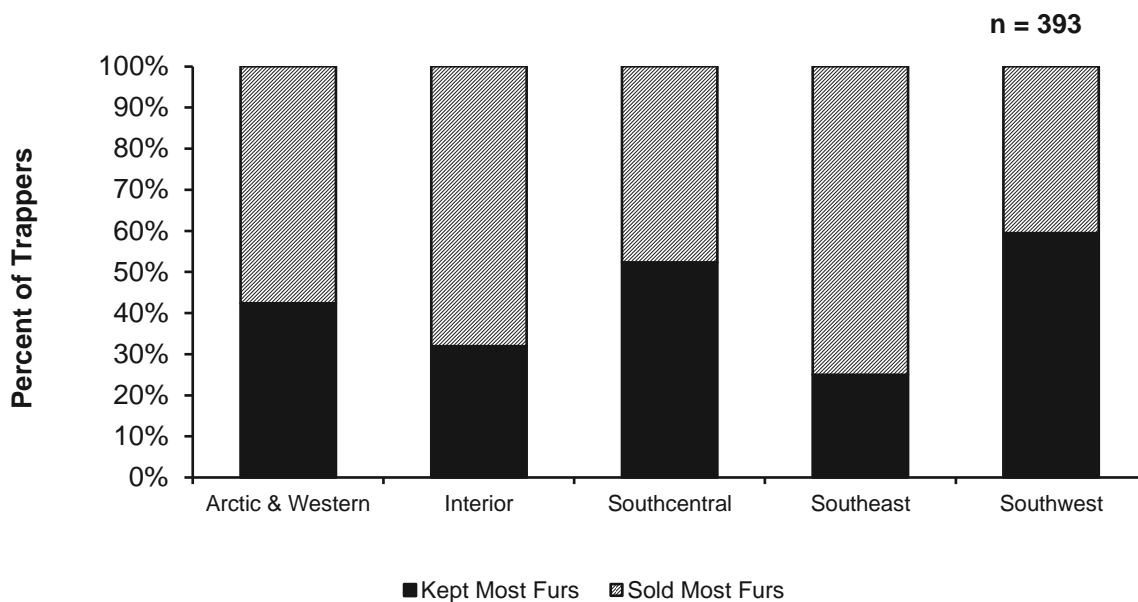
Species	Statewide (386)	Southeast (78)	Southcentral (129)	Southwest (33)	Interior (115)	Arctic & Western (31)
marten	1	1	2	4	1	4
lynx	2	9	1	5	2	1
wolf	3	4	4	--	3	5
beaver	4	5	5	3	7	6
red fox	5	10	7	2	5	2
wolverine	6	6	3	--	4	3
mink	7	2	10	7	9	8
coyote	8	8	6	10	6	10
otter	9	3	8	1	10	7
ermine (weasel)	10	7	9	6	8	11
arctic fox	11	--	12	9	12	12
muskrat	12	--	11	8	11	9

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



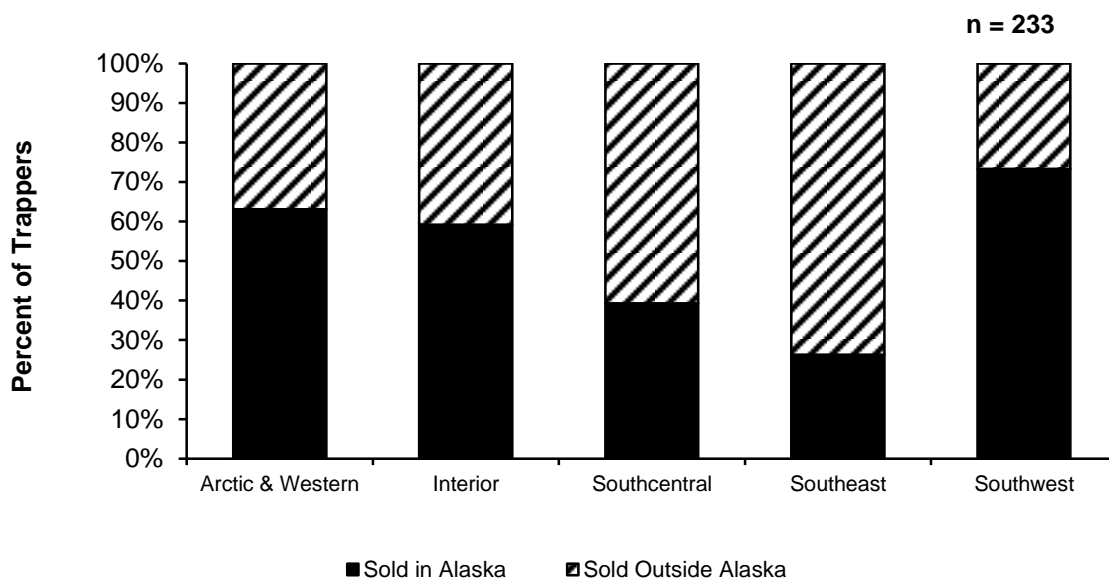
Did you keep or sell most of your furs?

Trappers in the Southeast (75%), Arctic & Western (58%), and Interior (68%) regions reported they were most likely to sell most of their furs in the 2012-13 season. However, 59% of Southwest trappers and 52% of Southcentral trappers kept most of their furs. Statewide, 59% of trappers sold most of their furs.



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

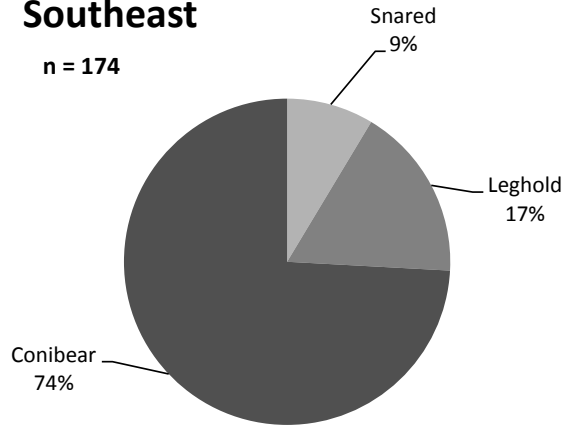
Of those who sold their furs, 74% of Southeast trappers and 61% of Southcentral trappers who responded to this question sold most of their furs to buyers outside Alaska. Interior (59%) and Arctic & Western (63%) trappers sold most to buyers within Alaska. And almost three-fourths of Southwest trappers (73%) said they sold most furs to buyers within the state. Statewide, 53% sold most of their furs to buyers outside the state.



Beaver Harvest Methods

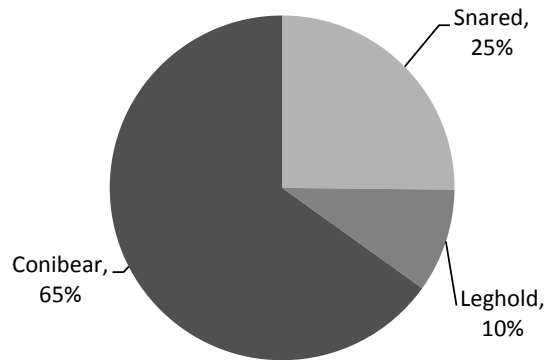
Southeast

n = 174



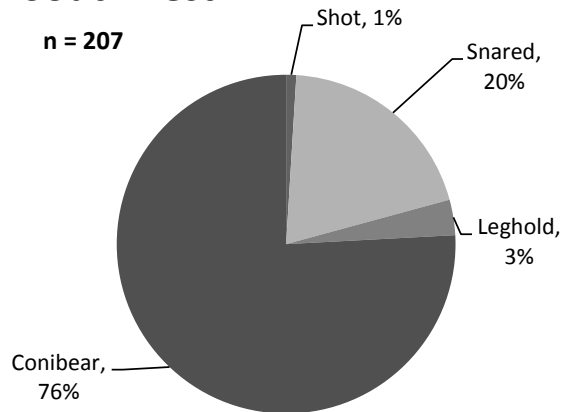
Southcentral

n = 298



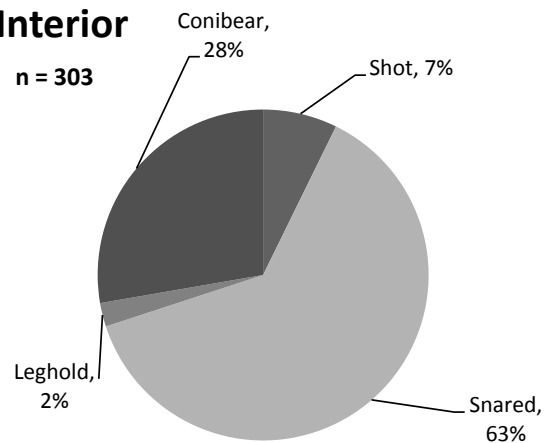
Southwest

n = 207



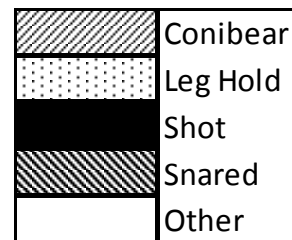
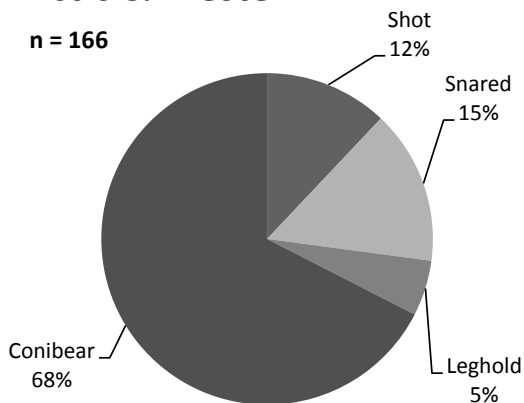
Interior

n = 303

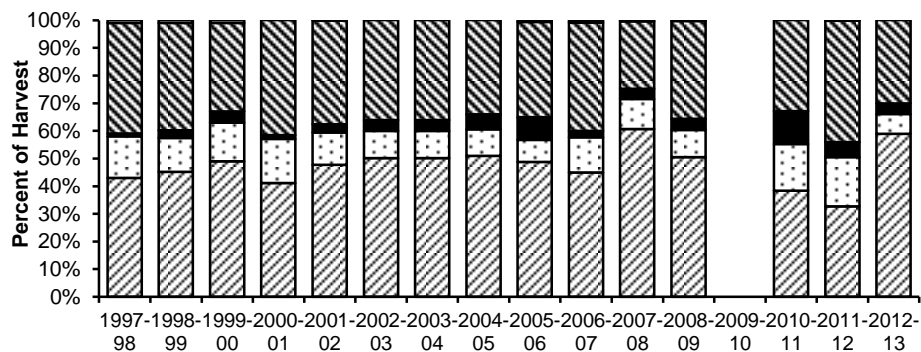


Arctic & Western

n = 166



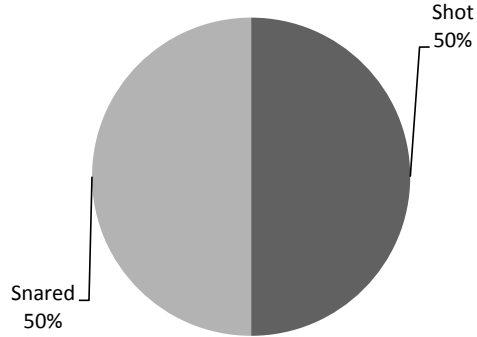
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Coyote Harvest Methods

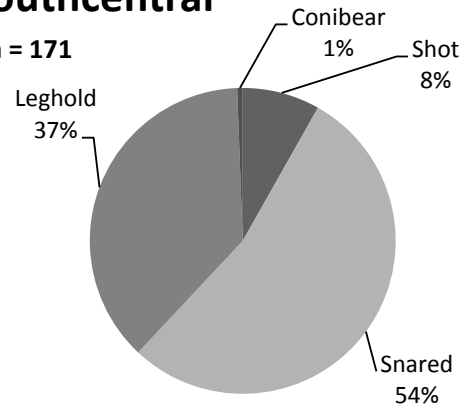
Southeast

n = 2



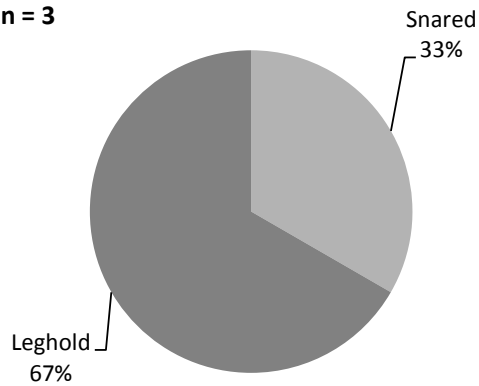
Southcentral

n = 171



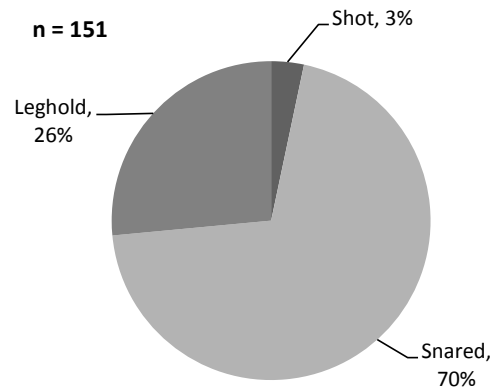
Southwest

n = 3



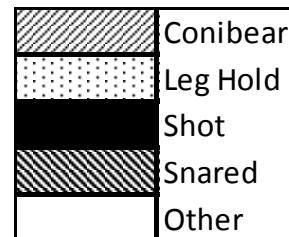
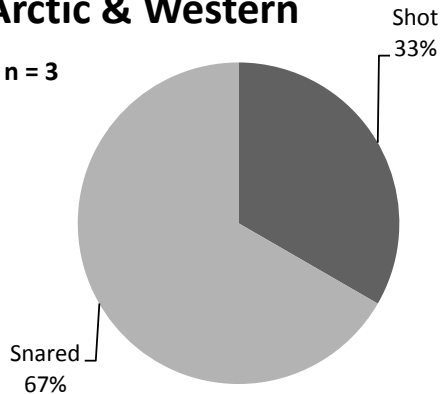
Interior

n = 151

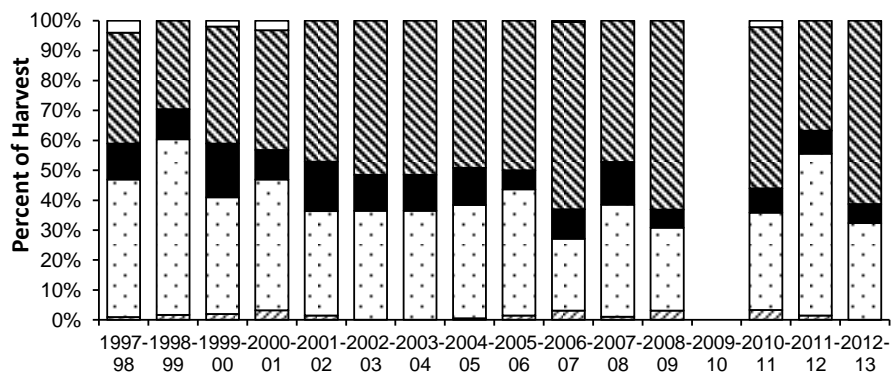


Arctic & Western

n = 3



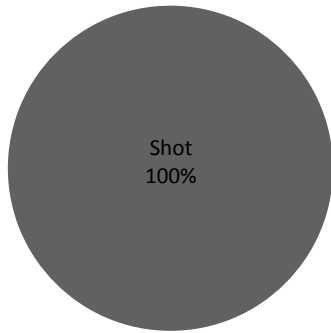
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Fox Harvest Methods

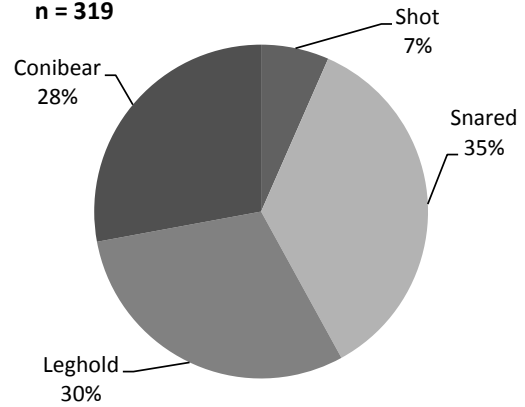
Southeast

n = 1



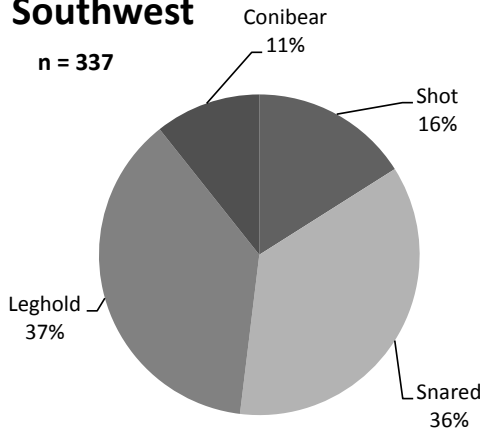
Southcentral

n = 319



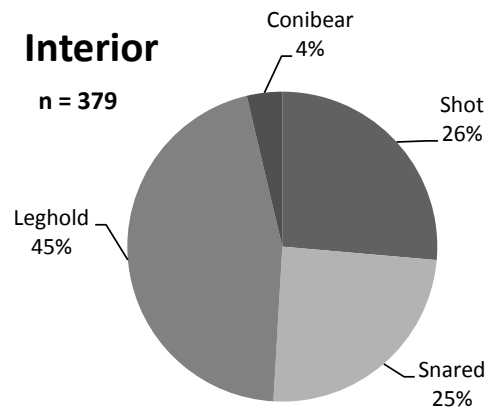
Southwest

n = 337



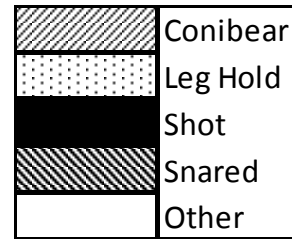
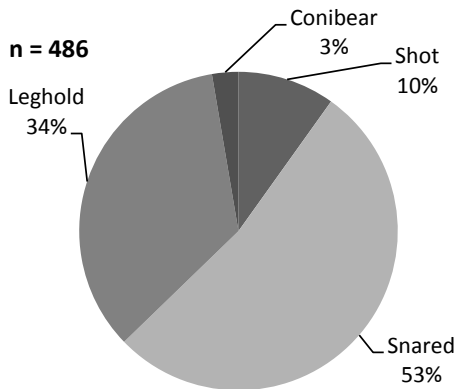
Interior

n = 379

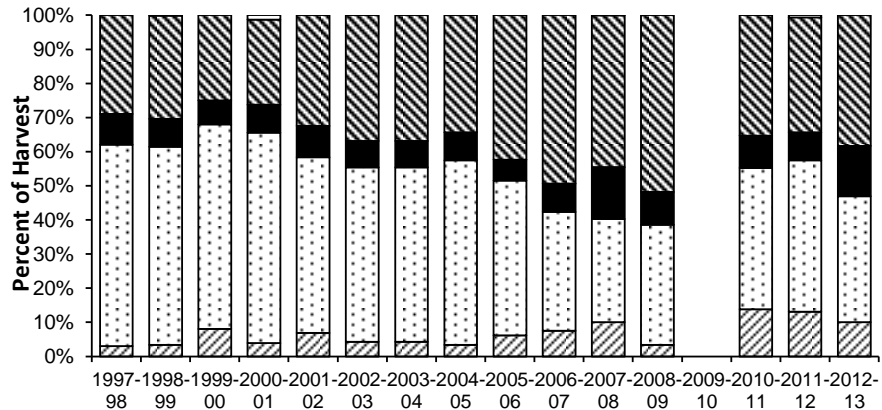


Arctic & Western

n = 486



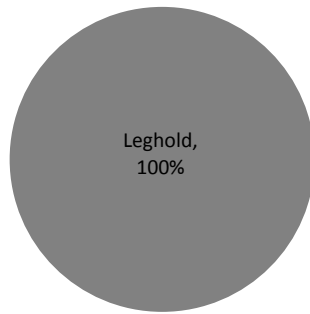
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Lynx Harvest Methods

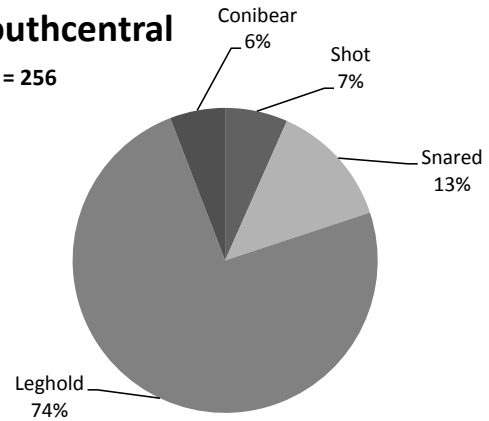
Southeast

n = 1



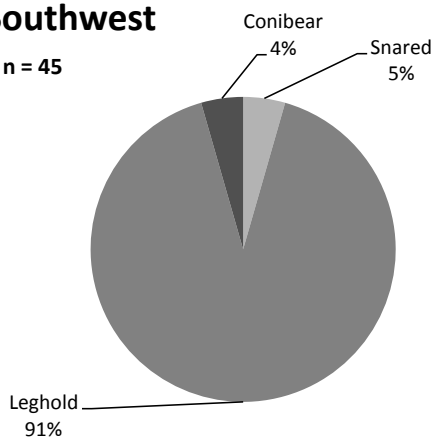
Southcentral

n = 256



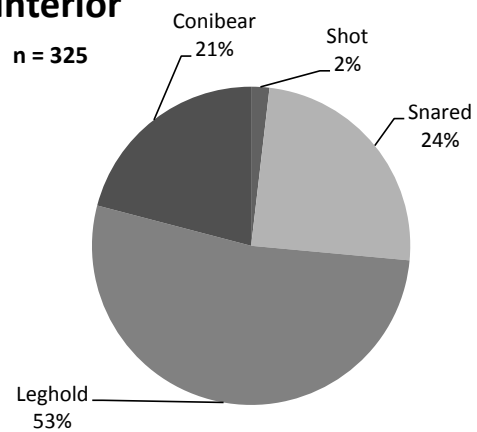
Southwest

n = 45



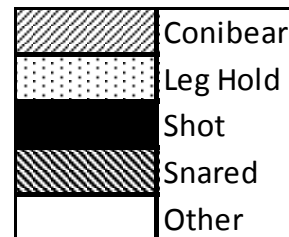
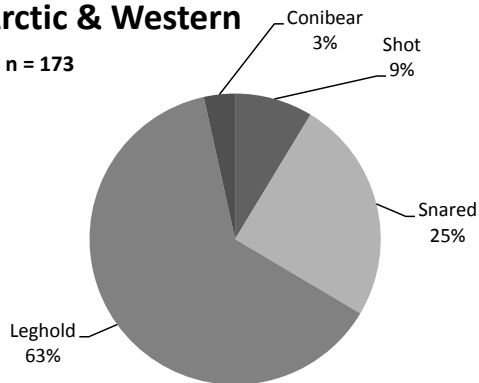
Interior

n = 325

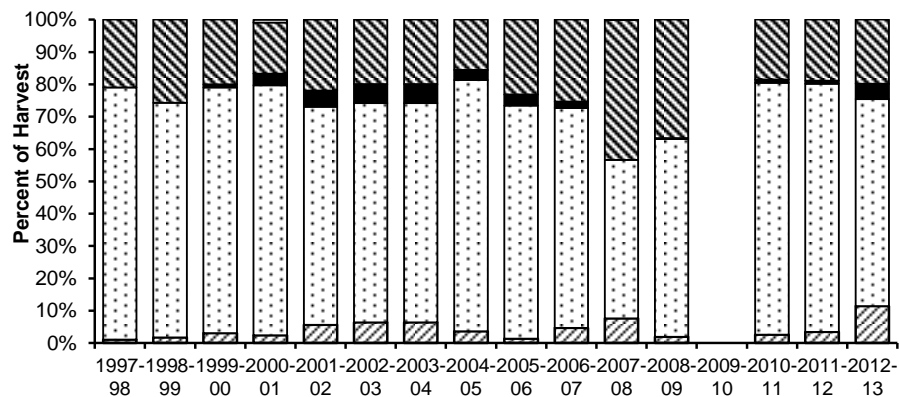


Arctic & Western

n = 173



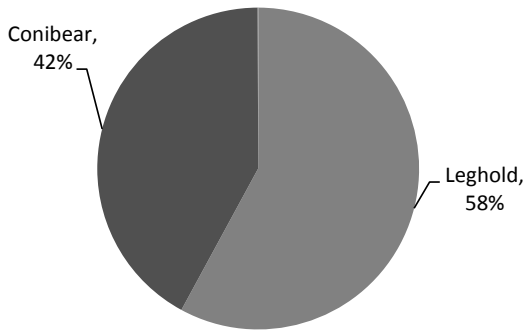
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Marten Harvest Methods

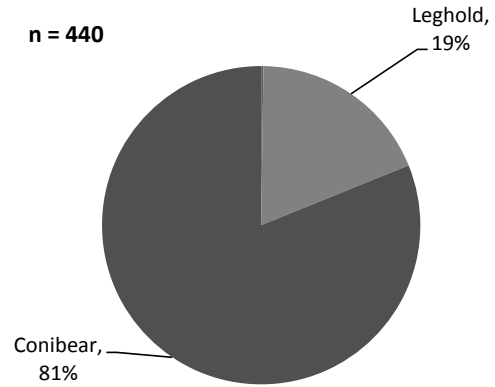
Southeast

n = 2210



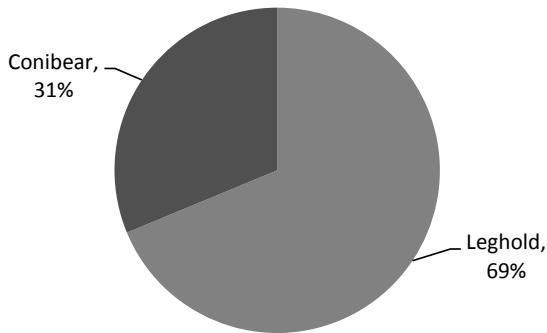
Southcentral

n = 440



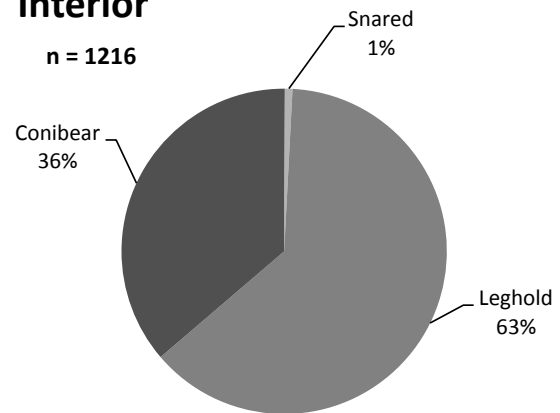
Southwest

n = 144



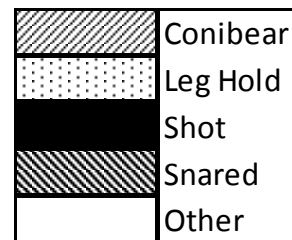
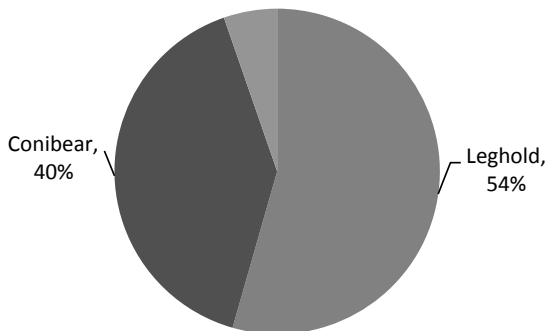
Interior

n = 1216

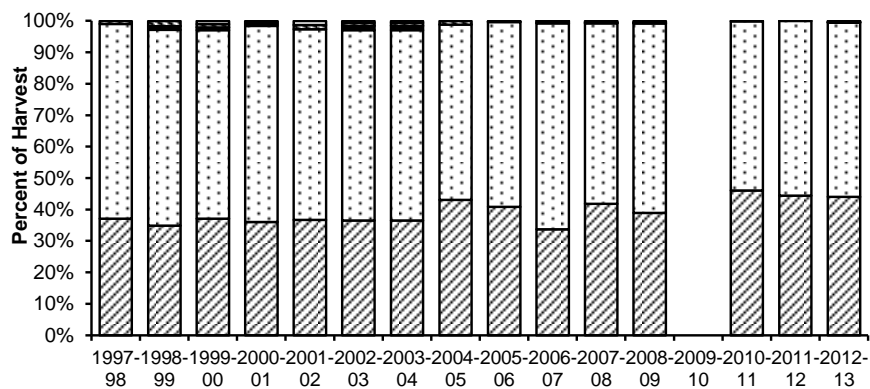


Arctic & Western

n = 226

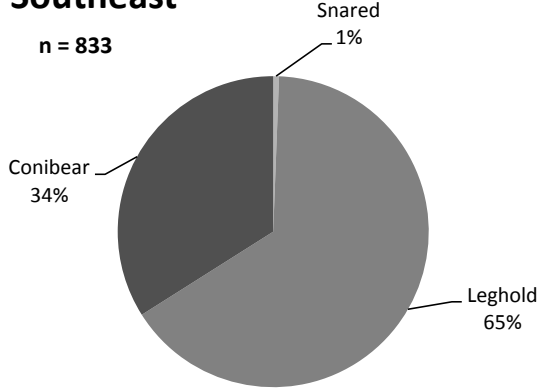


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

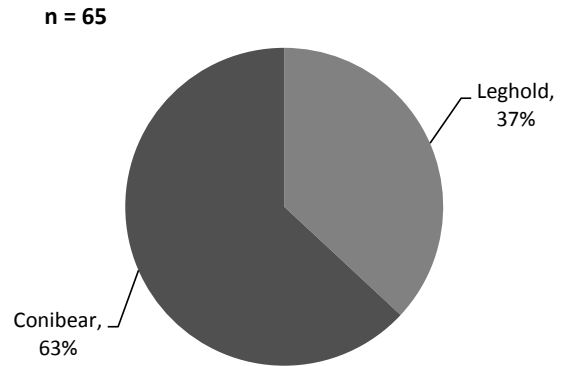


Mink Harvest Methods

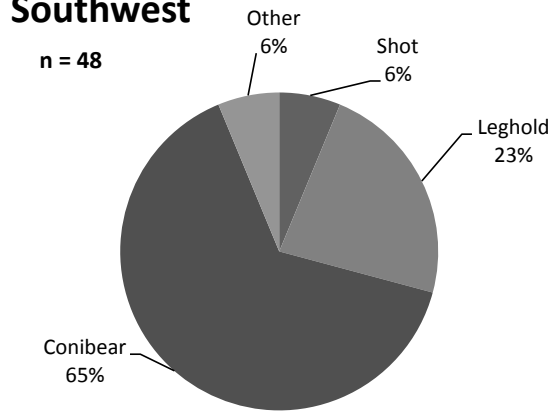
Southeast



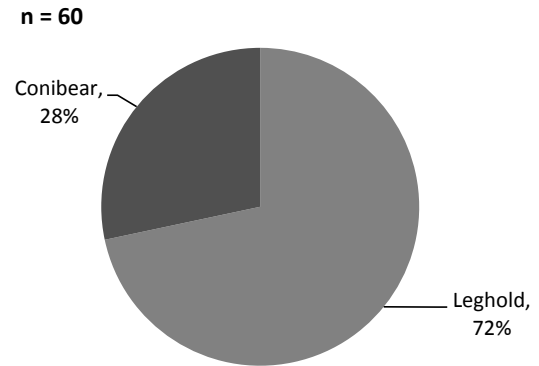
Southcentral



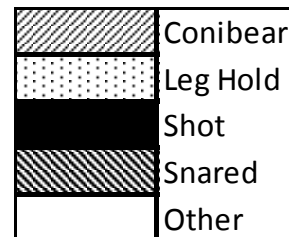
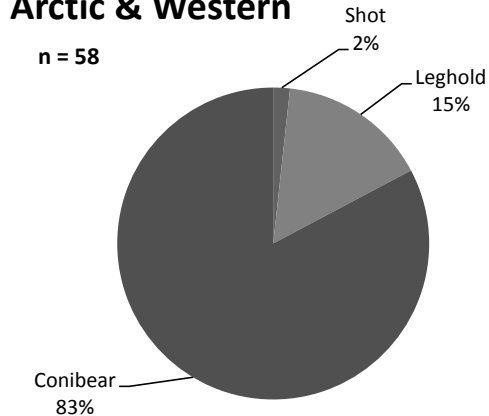
Southwest



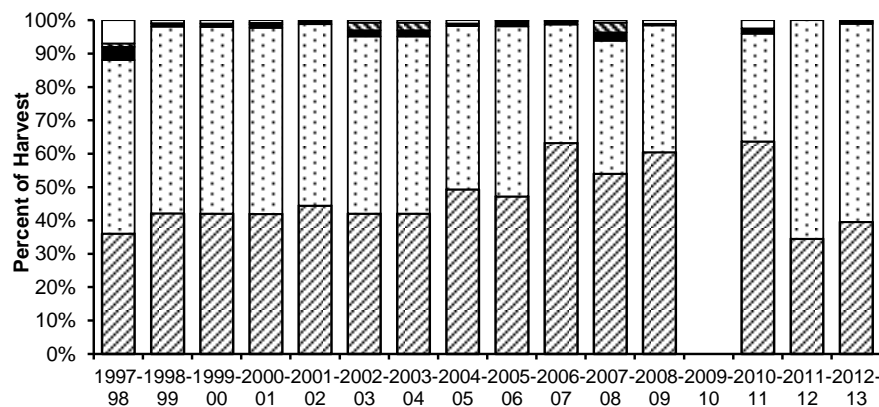
Interior



Arctic & Western



Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



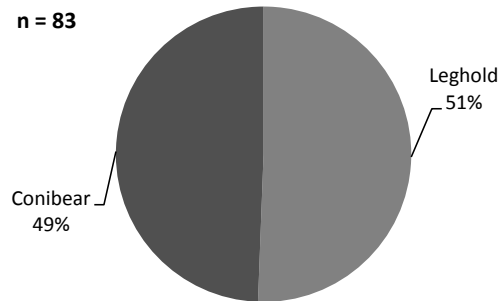
Muskrat Harvest Methods

Southeast

No Harvest Reported

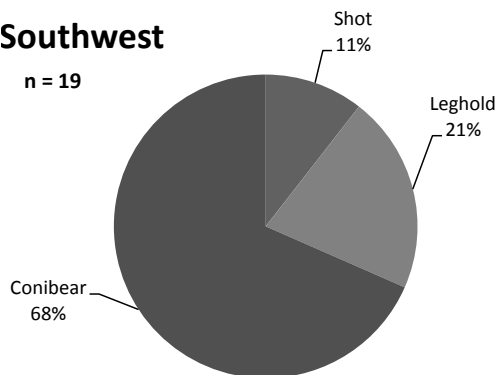
Southcentral

n = 83



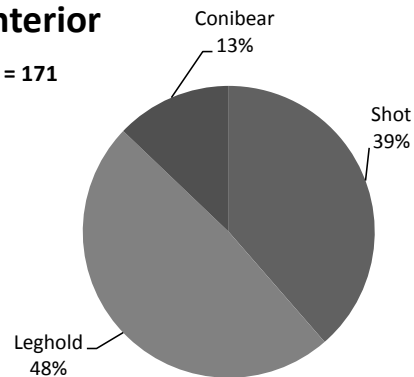
Southwest

n = 19



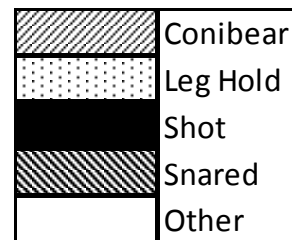
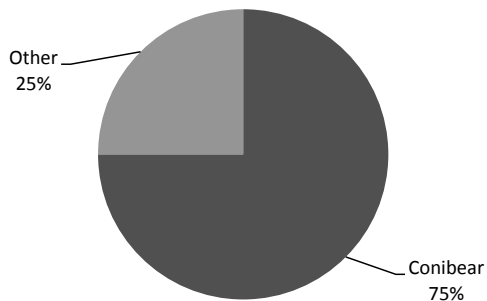
Interior

n = 171

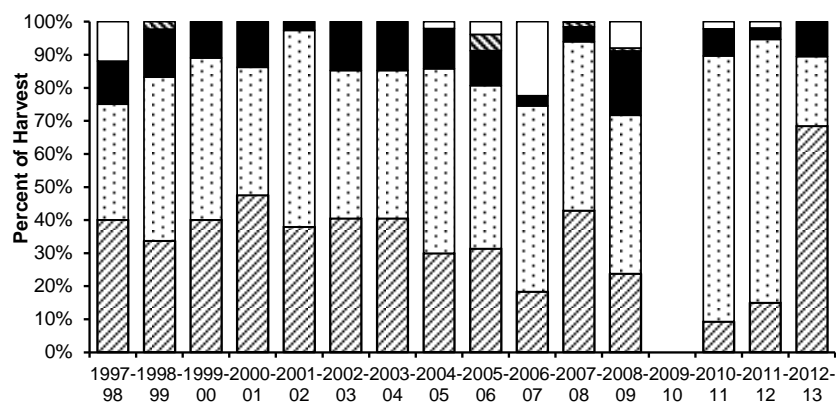


Arctic & Western

n = 12



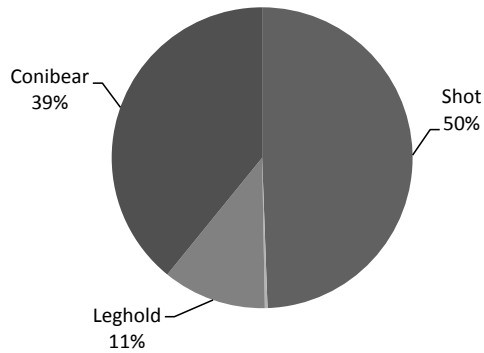
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



River Otter Harvest Methods

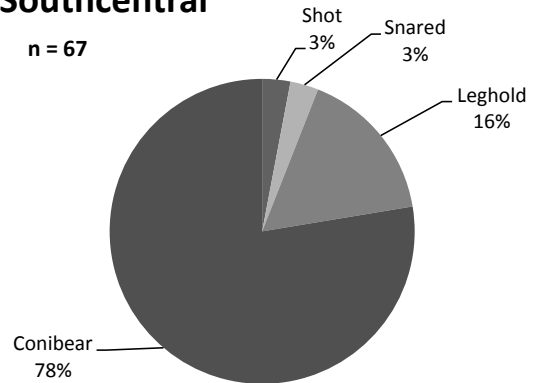
Southeast

n = 350



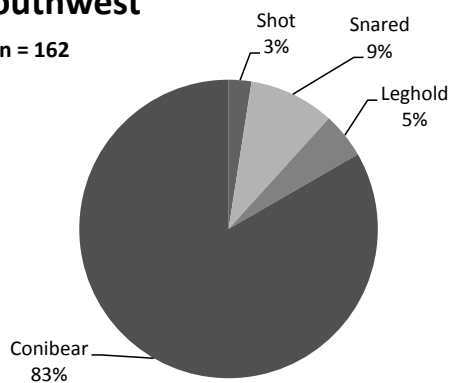
Southcentral

n = 67



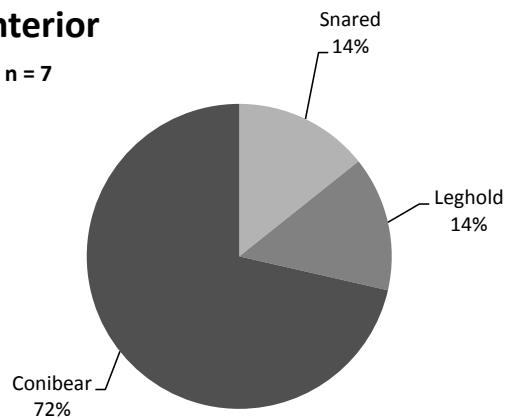
Southwest

n = 162



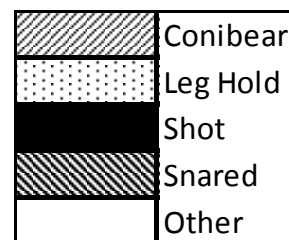
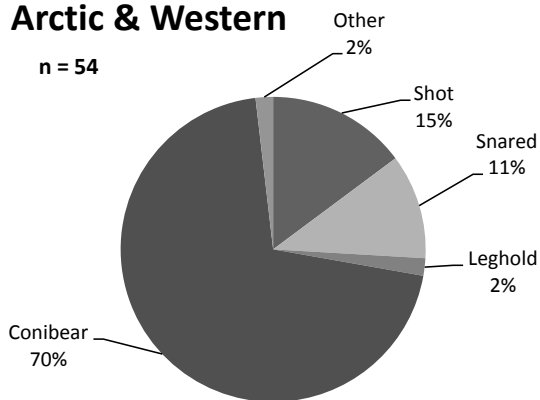
Interior

n = 7

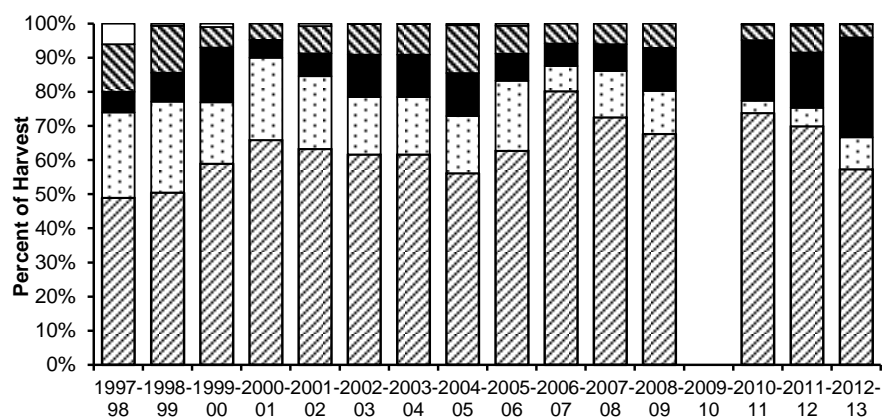


Arctic & Western

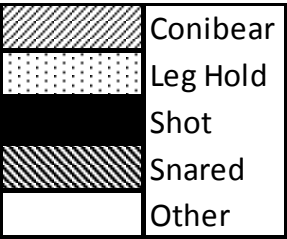
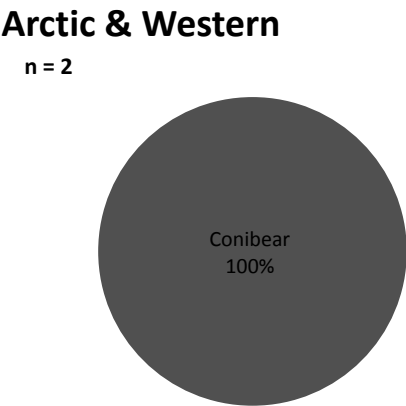
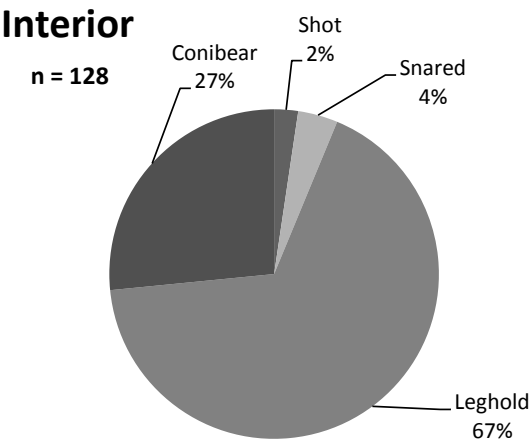
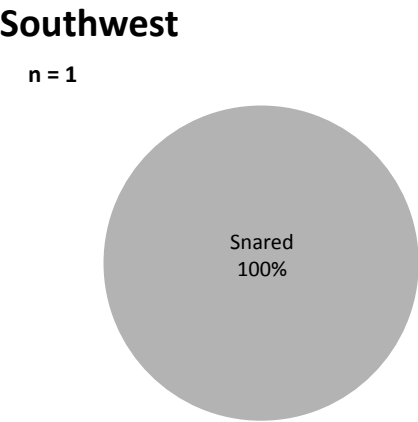
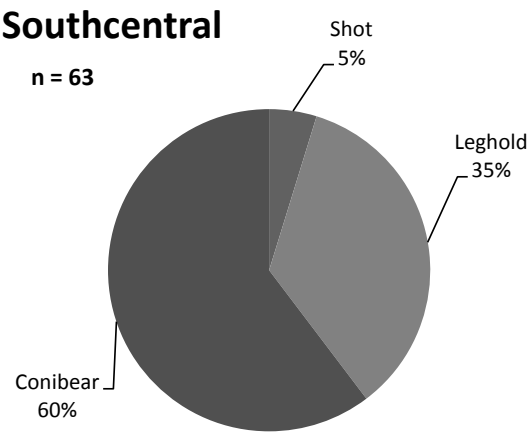
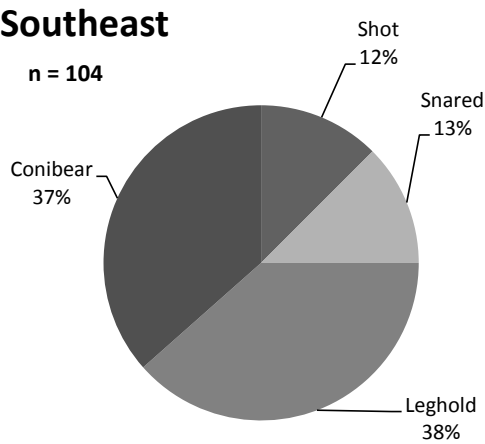
n = 54



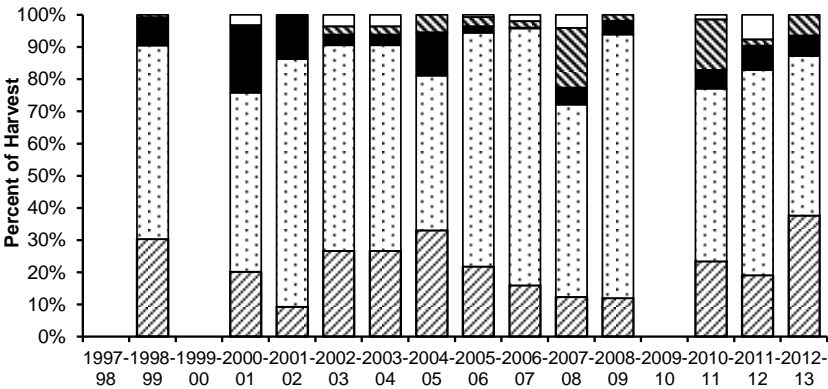
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Squirrel Harvest Methods



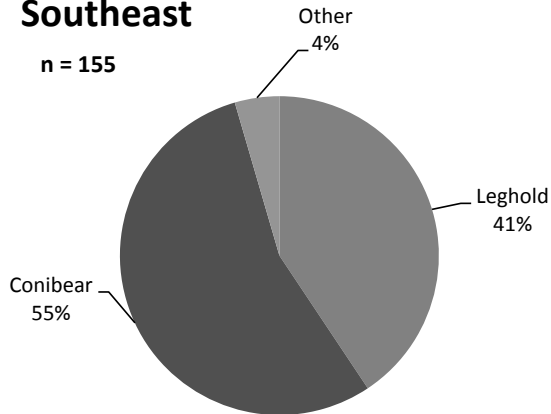
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Weasel (Ermine) Harvest Methods

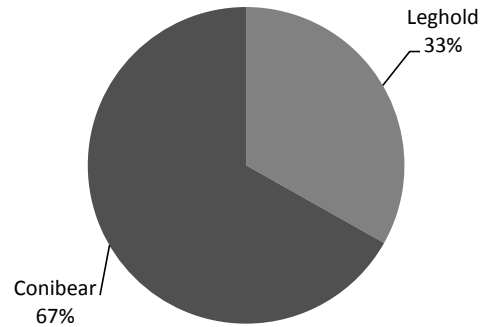
Southeast

n = 155



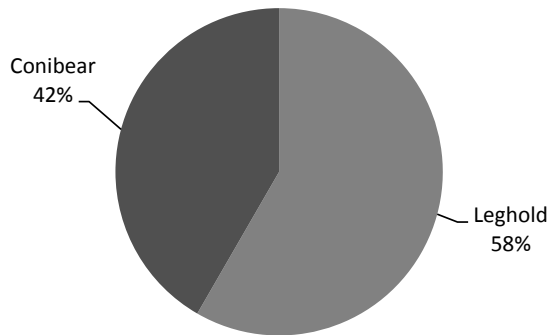
Southcentral

n = 190



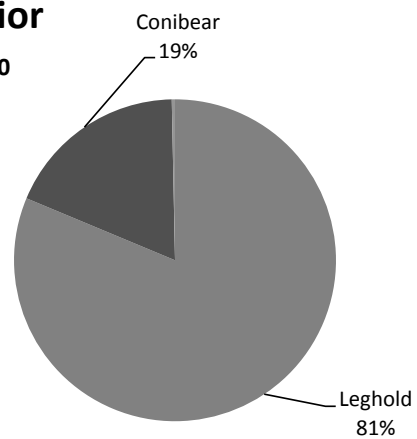
Southwest

n = 12



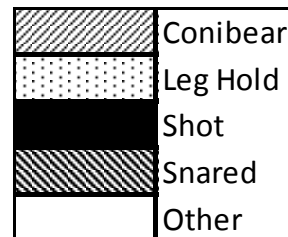
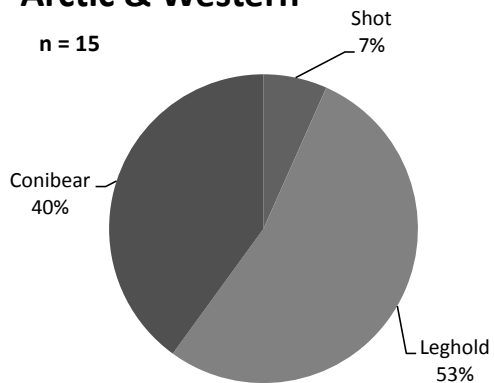
Interior

n = 310

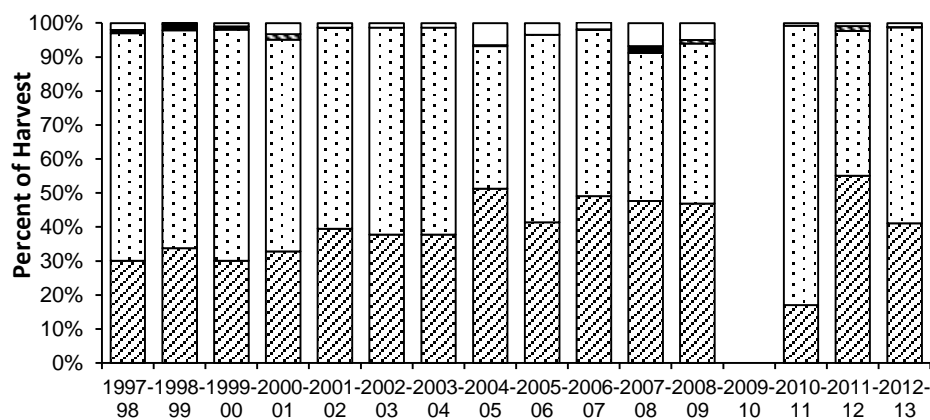


Arctic & Western

n = 15

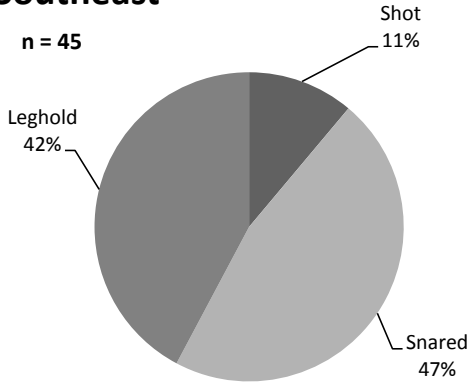


Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods

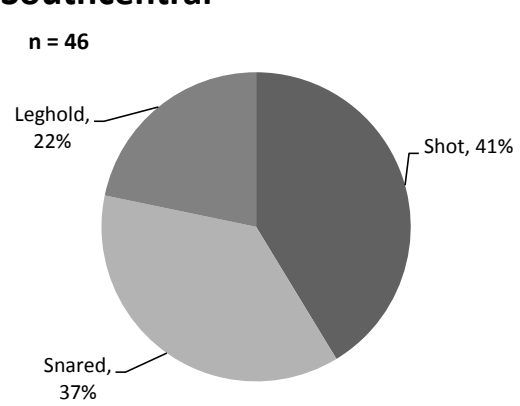


Wolf Harvest Methods

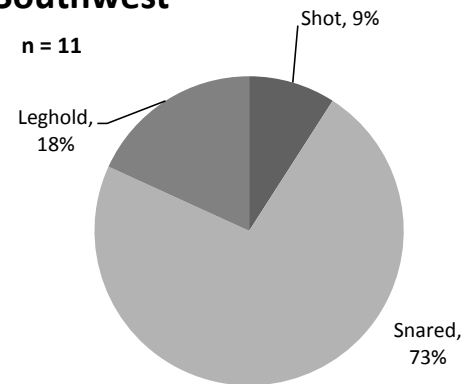
Southeast



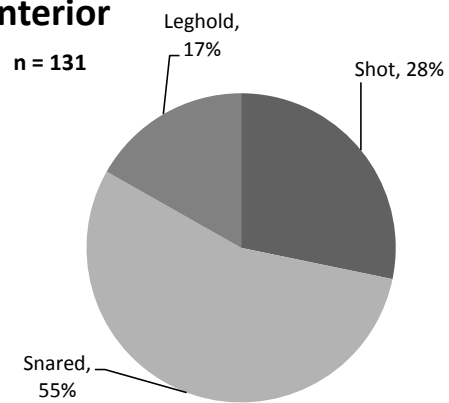
Southcentral



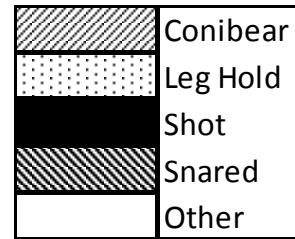
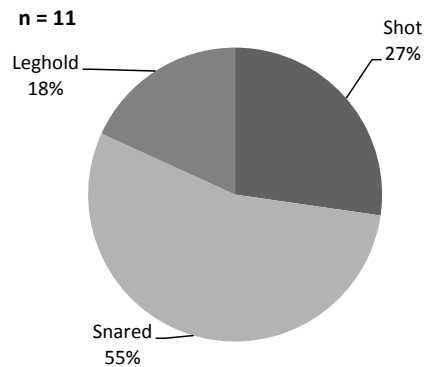
Southwest



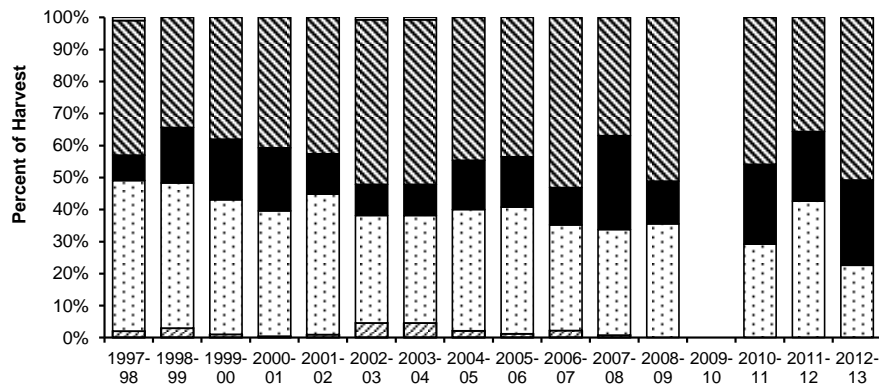
Interior



Arctic & Western



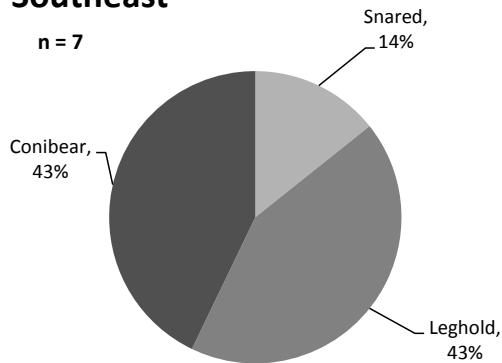
Statewide Trends in Harvest Methods



Wolverine Harvest Methods

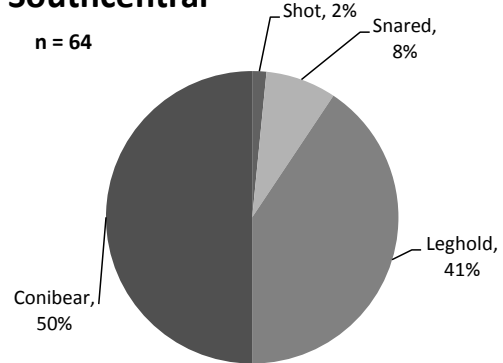
Southeast

n = 7



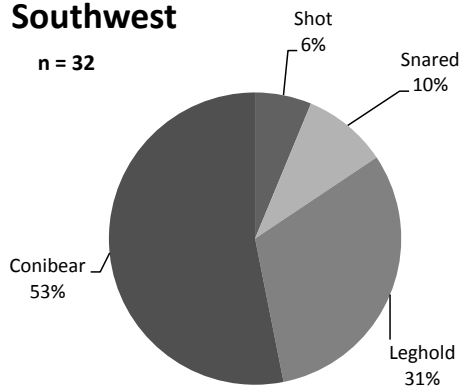
Southcentral

n = 64



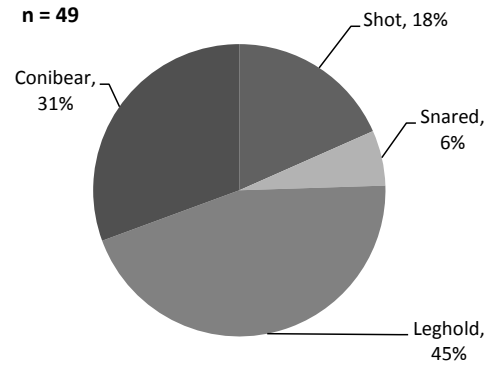
Southwest

n = 32



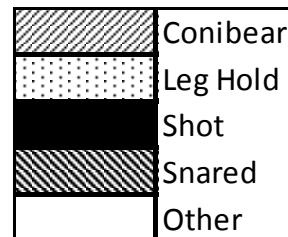
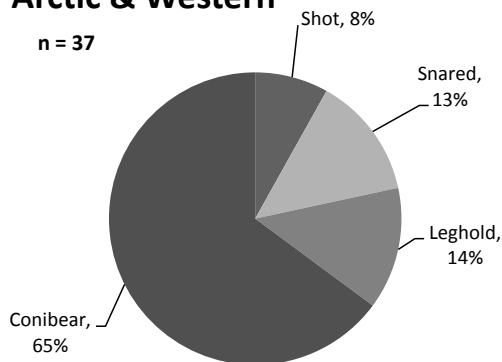
Interior

n = 49

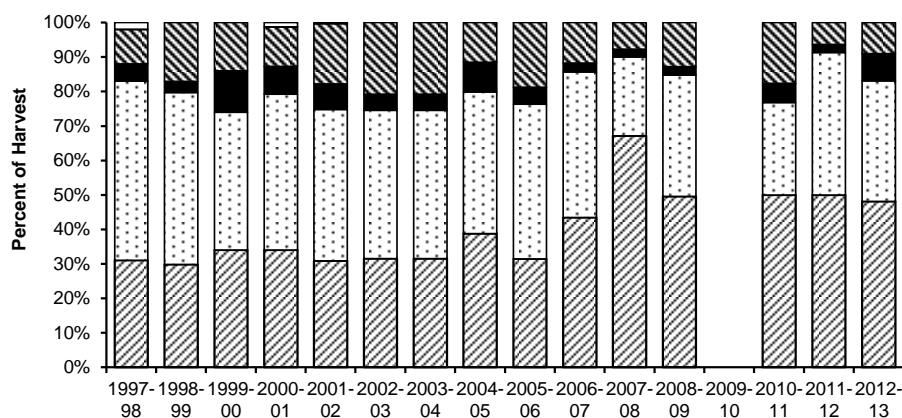


Arctic & Western

n = 37



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, 2012-13, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

Southeast Alaska								
	Ketchikan, Prince of Wales & Vicinity GMUs 1A, 2		Petersburg, Wrangell, Kupreanof & Vicinity GMUs 1B, 3		Juneau, Douglas, Haines, Yakutat GMUs 1CD, 5		Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagoff Islands GMU 4	
	Relative Abundance n = 17	Trend n = 15	Relative Abundance n = 12	Trend n = 10	Relative Abundance n = 19	Trend n = 18	Relative Abundance n = 25	Trend n = 24
Furbearers:								
Arctic Fox	not present		not present	n/c	not present		scarce	-
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-
Coyote	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Lynx	scarce	-	not present	n/c	scarce	+	scarce	-
Marten	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	abundant	-
Mink	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	-
Muskrat	scarce		scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	-
Red Fox	not present	+	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Squirrel	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	-
River Otter	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	+	abundant	n/c	common	-	scarce	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Prey:								
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	scarce	n/c
Hare	not present	-	not present		scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c

Relative Abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southcentral Alaska, 2012-13, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

Southcentral Alaska								
	Copper River & Upper Susitna Basins		Lower Susitna Basin		Prince William Sound & North Gulf Coast		Kenai Peninsula	
	GMUs 11, 13		GMUs 14, 16		GMU 6		GMUs 7, 15	
Furbearers:	Relative Abundance n = 12	Trend n = 12	Relative Abundance n = 68	Trend n = 59	Relative Abundance n = 8	Trend n = 8	Relative Abundance n = 39	Trend n = 35
Arctic Fox	not present		not present		not present		not present	
Beaver	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-
Ermine	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	n/c	common	-	scarce	-	common	-
Marten	scarce	-	scarce	-	abundant	-	scarce	-
Mink	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-
Muskrat	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Squirrel	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	-
Wolverine	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-
Prey:								
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	-
Hare	scarce	-	common	-	common	-	common	n/c
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	common	-	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Interior Alaska, 2012-13, 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 = 74	Trend n = 72	Relative Abundance n = 12	Trend n = 10	Relative Abundance n = 10	Trend n = 10	Relative Abundance n = 7	Trend n = 6	Relative Abundance n = 4	Trend n = 4
Arctic Fox	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	not present		not present		scarce	-
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-
Ermine	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	common	+
Lynx	common	-	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	scarce	n/c
Marten	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	common	-
Mink	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	-	scarce	-
Muskrat	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Fox	common	-	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	scarce	+
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	-	abundant	n/c	common	-
River Otter	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	+	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolf	common	+	common	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	common	-
Prey:										
Hare	common	-	scarce	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	scarce	-
Grouse	common	-	scarce	-	common	-	common	-	scarce	-
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Mice/Rodents	common	-	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations for Southwest and Arctic & Western Alaska, 2012-13, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

	Southwest Alaska						Arctic & Western Alaska					
	Kodiak Archipelago GMU 8		Alaska Peninsula GMU 9		Bristol Bay Area GMU 17		Arctic GMUs 23, 26		Seward Peninsula GMU 22		Yukon Kuskokwim Delta GMU 18	
Furbearers:	Relative Abundance n = 12	Trend n = 11	Relative Abundance n = 11	Trend n = 9	Relative Abundance n = 12	Trend n = 11	Relative Abundance n = 5	Trend n = 5	Relative Abundance n = 7	Trend n = 6	Relative Abundance n = 19	Trend n = 16
Arctic Fox	not present		not present		scarce		scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Coyote	not present	-	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	-
Lynx	not present	-	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Marten	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	common	-	scarce	n/c	common	-	common	-
Mink	not present	n/c	common	n/c	common	-	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Fox	abundant	n/c	common	-	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	+
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	common	-	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	common	+	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	-
Wolf	not present	-	common	+	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+	scarce	n/c
Wolverine	not present	-	scarce	-	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-
Prey:												
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+	common	-
Hare	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	-	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	-
Mice/Rodents	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	-

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations by region and statewide for 2012-13, as reported by trappers (n is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species). For trend, + indicates increase, - indicates decrease, and n/c indicates no change.

	Southeast		Southcentral		Southwest		Interior		Arctic & Western	
Furbearers:	Relative Abundance n = 73	Trend n = 67	Relative Abundance n = 127	Trend n = 114	Relative Abundance n = 35	Trend n = 31	Relative Abundance n = 117	Trend n = 112	Relative Abundance n = 31	Trend n = 27
Arctic Fox	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	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	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	-	scarce	-	common	-
Marten	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	-	common	-	common	-
Mink	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	-
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Fox	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Red Squirrel	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolf	common	-	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Prey:										
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Hare	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	-	common	-	common	-
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c

FURBEARER HARVEST REPORT

Only 4 of the 14 species defined as furbearers are required to be sealed throughout Alaska; lynx, otter, wolf, and wolverine. Marten and beaver are required to be sealed in some units but not statewide. Consequently, information on the numbers, distribution, and harvest of many furbearers is limited. The following tables show the numbers of each species harvested in each GMU subunit as reported on the 2012-13 Trapper Questionnaire. Letter Z means there are no subunits or none was specified.

Region	Subunit	n	arctic fox	beaver	coyote	ermine (weasel)	lynx	marten	mink	muskrat	otter	red fox	squirrel	wolf	wolverine
Southeast	01A	5	0	1	0	1	0	8	6	0	5	0	3	0	9
	01B	3	0	11	0	3	0	42	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
	01C	10	0	13	0	33	0	54	25	0	11	0	19	7	1
	01D	3	0	0	2	8	1	67	14	0	1	0	10	0	1
	02Z	5	0	92	0	37	0	287	442	0	127	0	0	6	0
	03Z	14	0	22	0	40	0	126	51	0	44	0	0	29	2
	04Z	30	0	22	0	22	0	1561	237	0	151	0	71	0	0
	05A	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Region 1 Totals		80	0	164	2	144	1	2148	794	0	340	1	103	42	13
Southcentral	06A	2	0	0	1	4	2	51	0	3	8	0	0	0	1
	06B	2	0	6	3	1	2	25	0	2	1	0	0	1	5
	06C	2	0	18	0	0	0	6	9	4	4	0	0	0	0
	06D	3	0	5	5	12	5	28	20	0	17	2	0	0	2
	07Z	9	0	2	7	10	8	18	0	0	1	0	5	1	6
	11Z	5	0	0	5	46	8	25	1	0	0	6	0	5	0
	13A	9	0	6	22	19	47	20	0	2	0	17	5	1	9
	13B	2	0	0	32	18	24	25	5	2	10	32	0	6	5
	13C	2	0	3	8	13	19	29	1	0	10	12	0	7	2
	13D	4	0	25	25	18	18	12	0	0	4	19	1	4	2
	13E	6	0	27	6	5	6	20	0	2	0	1	0	3	2
	13Z	2	0	0	9	4	15	13	1	4	0	19	0	1	2
	14A	14	0	19	9	16	8	12	0	38	10	30	31	0	0
	14B	9	0	8	20	18	5	42	4	20	0	11	6	0	0
	14C	1	0	0	0	10	0	9	1	2	3	0	0	0	1
	14Z	3	0	8	0	1	0	3	2	14	3	56	0	2	0
	15A	11	0	22	2	5	16	5	13	3	1	0	7	2	0
	15B	6	0	4	3	1	30	1	6	0	0	0	0	2	0
	15C	11	0	2	9	2	29	0	3	0	1	0	0	3	0
	16A	11	0	98	2	32	2	90	9	0	15	19	8	0	1
	16B	4	0	6	5	3	0	74	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
	16Z	3	0	4	0	12	0	19	12	0	15	0	0	0	1
Southwest	08Z	14	0	28	0	26	0	7	0	10	88	164	0	0	0
	09A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
	09B	3	0	22	0	0	30	9	8	6	1	0	0	5	3
	09C	4	0	7	0	2	0	0	10	1	6	29	1	0	0
	09D	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2
	09E	3	0	10	2	0	3	0	9	1	9	32	0	1	6
	09Z	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	17A	2	0	23	0	0	4	0	3	0	11	11	0	1	6
	17B	6	0	76	0	0	8	88	7	3	27	64	0	3	8
	17C	5	0	45	1	2	1	59	11	1	21	20	6	0	11
Region 2&4 Totals		162	0	475	176	281	290	692	137	118	267	548	70	49	75

Region	Subunit	n	arctic fox	beaver	coyote	ermine (weasel)	lynx	marten	mink	muskrat	otter	red fox	squirrel	wolf	wolverine
Interior	12Z	10	0	2	8	101	23	94	4	20	1	9	1	36	7
	19A	7	0	22	0	4	7	129	2	3	2	22	0	8	6
	19B	1	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	19C	4	0	0	2	0	10	81	0	0	0	1	0	2	9
	19D	4	0	22	0	8	0	45	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
	20A	17	0	31	50	35	62	106	11	62	2	26	25	5	11
	20B	39	0	85	17	59	62	159	6	13	3	25	23	16	3
	20C	9	0	37	3	4	14	24	2	0	2	4	0	3	2
	20D	8	0	13	59	23	33	48	2	1	0	19	56	6	5
	20E	2	0	0	0	0	2	109	0	0	0	2	0	33	3
	20F	2	0	0	3	14	35	73	0	20	0	2	21	13	2
	20Z	2	0	20	2	11	17	39	15	5	0	19	0	0	0
	21A	2	0	0	0	0	25	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	21B	1	0	49	0	0	31	21	1	0	1	0	3	3	2
	21C	1	0	0	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	21D	2	0	4	0	16	17	135	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	21E	4	0	18	0	4	2	69	5	16	0	4	0	0	1
	24A	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	24D	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	25B	1	0	8	0	4	3	31	3	0	1	1	8	0	1
	25C	5	0	2	0	4	7	57	3	0	0	6	10	9	1
	25D	3	0	2	0	4	24	11	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Region 3 Totals		126	0	317	144	291	376	1292	56	140	13	142	148	135	61
Arctic & Western	18Z	15	0	152	3	10	125	108	41	6	44	229	0	6	13
	22A	4	4	22	1	5	97	20	4	15	5	135	4	3	4
	22B	1	0	4	0	2	16	0	1	0	1	12	0	1	7
	22C	2	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	28	0	0	1
	22D	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	23Z	4	0	2	0	0	15	19	1	1	2	10	0	2	1
	26A	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	26B	2	109	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	2	2
Region 5 Totals		30	113	186	4	17	254	147	48	22	53	458	4	14	33
Statewide Total		398	113	1142	326	733	921	4279	1035	280	673	1141	325	240	182

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 could be between 7% to 100% of the actual statewide harvest of species with a statewide average of 42% of actual harvest. (See sealing records on following page.)

Questionnaire Totals as Percent of Number Sealed							
Region	Beaver	Lynx	Marten	Otter	Wolf	Wolverine	Average
Arctic & Western		32%		17%	7%	25%	25%
Interior		30%		16%	22%	24%	27%
Southcentral		29%		28%	29%	27%	62%
Southeast	49%	100%	48%	39%	22%	52%	46%
Southwest		41%		57%	15%	64%	31%
Statewide		31%		35%	20%	30%	42%

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					
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Beaver*	Arctic & Western	33	21	23	11	3	39
	Interior	31	4	127	12	1	94
	Southcentral & Southwest	945	991	1096	1164	851	802
	Southeast	393	215	415	265	291	333
	Total Beaver	1402	1231	1661	1452	1146	1268
Lynx	Arctic & Western	165	296	750	728	944	789
	Interior	3911	5373	3615	2122	1513	1240
	Southcentral & Southwest	782	1455	2160	2446	1594	948
	Southeast	0	8	8	4	4	1
	Total Lynx	4858	7132	6533	5300	4055	2978
Marten**	Arctic & Western	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Interior	0	2	160	20	41	6
	Southcentral & Southwest	995	2117	1372	879	1364	935
	Southeast	2696	2488	1795	2530	3758	4466
	Total Marten	3691	4607	3328	3429	5163	5407
Otter	Arctic & Western	58	100	196	134	119	308
	Interior	82	77	106	70	61	79
	Southcentral & Southwest	518	468	441	540	485	657
	Southeast	179	288	248	528	619	871
	Total Otter	837	933	991	1272	1284	1915
Wolf	Arctic & Western	151	112	142	227	102	190
	Interior	512	668	499	438	557	605
	Southcentral & Southwest	454	365	288	341	421	203
	Southeast	107	150	134	160	168	191
	Total Wolf	1224	1295	1063	1166	1248	1189
Wolverine	Arctic & Western	85	66	95	139	108	132
	Interior	188	243	252	220	231	250
	Southcentral & Southwest	229	184	225	219	189	199
	Southeast	22	21	17	25	20	25
	Total Wolverine	524	514	589	603	548	606

*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
2005-06	Arctic & Western	116	15	33	9	173
	Interior	122	129	224	79	554
	S.central & S.west	193	93	96	89	471
	Southeast	56	57	43	0	156
	Total	487	294	396	177	1354
2006-07	Arctic & Western	55	14	16	14	99
	Interior	112	151	244	39	546
	S.central & S.west	170	70	83	70	393
	Southeast	25	38	15	65	143
	Total	362	273	358	188	1181
2007-08	Arctic & Western	114	17	18	2	151
	Interior	117	91	179	78	465
	S.central & S.west	216	78	96	91	481
	Southeast	53	36	18	0	107
	Total	500	222	311	171	1204
2008-09	Arctic & Western	75	7	16	14	112
	Interior	122	152	213	181	668
	S.central & S.west	131	68	78	88	365
	Southeast	57	65	27	1	150
	Total	385	292	334	284	1295
2009-10	Arctic & Western	119	18	4	1	142
	Interior	108	144	201	46	499
	S.central & S.west	120	59	71	38	288
	Southeast	45	56	31	2	134
	Total	392	277	307	87	1063
2010-11	Arctic & Western	172	23	26	1	227
	Interior	96	134	157	49	438
	S.central & S.west	88	45	78	117	341
	Southeast	46	69	44	0	160
	Total	402	271	305	167	1166
2011-12	Arctic & Western	115	18	13	0	146
	Interior	97	113	201	102	513
	S.central & S.west	230	54	54	83	421
	Southeast	53	79	36	0	168
	Total	495	264	304	185	1248
2012-13	Arctic & Western	152	17	10	11	190
	Interior	121	129	205	150	605
	S.central & S.west	103	42	49	9	203
	Southeast	57	100	34	0	191
	Total	433	288	298	170	1189

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) by regulatory year. 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. Beginning in regulatory year 2012 (July 1, 2012—July 30, 2013) ADF&G ceased collecting data on acquisitions of furs by fur buyers. Taken together 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.

2010–2012 Fur Acquisition and Export

	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13*
	Exported	Acquired	Exported	Acquired	Exported
Beaver	387	1113	2352	571	2067
Coyote	97	329	371	184	386
Fox, Blue	1	1	4	0	23
Fox, Cross	48	183	279	108	225
Fox, Red	371	1027	1757	1026	1026
Fox, Silver	1	43	64	5	79
Fox, White	1	29	114	14	86
Lynx	2157	3340	3435	2605	1651
Marten	6836	8378	10967	12270	9383
Mink	418	1236	1180	1054	1747
Muskrat	1240	900	2219	1654	2321
Other	25	73	286	41	246
Otter, Land	332	872	1081	715	1724
Red Squirrel	277	410	455	120	168
Weasel	296	453	754	385	577
Wolf	91	287	521	201	420
Wolverine	63	169	262	125	320
Grand Total	12641	18843	26101	21078	22449

*Beginning in regulatory year 2012 (July 1, 2012—July 30, 2013) ADF&G ceased collecting data on acquisitions of furs by fur buyers.

COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING FURS

Average Prices Paid for Raw Furs

Prices published by two major fur auction houses (North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction Inc.) during January-June were averaged to produce the 2012-13 prices in this table. Top prices were also from fur auctions. All species of foxes were added together for this table.

Species	Average Price					Top Price 2012-13
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	
Beaver	\$20.11	\$12.83	\$17.82	\$32.56	\$32.56	\$200.00
Coyote	\$24.33	\$36.13	\$52.90	\$65.99	\$76.27	\$1,400.00
Fox	\$21.42	\$26.22	\$33.55	\$52.82	\$59.97	\$340.00
Lynx	\$94.53	\$127.50	\$149.64	\$179.78	\$205.11	\$1,050.00
Marten	\$41.68	\$32.92	\$51.07	\$108.78	\$143.81	\$1,300.00
Mink (wild)	\$10.18	\$12.62	\$16.78	\$22.83	\$27.90	\$184.00
Muskrat	\$3.19	\$7.73	\$7.22	\$9.97	\$12.53	\$54.00
River Otter	\$33.11	\$43.65	\$58.84	\$86.76	\$100.75	\$330.00
Squirrel	\$1.20	\$1.50	\$1.06	\$0.97	\$0.74	\$1.30
Weasel	\$3.49	\$3.77	\$3.49	\$3.57	\$3.43	\$31.00
Wolf	\$144.90	\$98.69	\$150.67	\$245.29	\$215.84	\$1,600.00
Wolverine	\$234.00	\$227.80	\$273.50	\$269.95	\$271.35	\$550.00

Minimum Estimated Fur Value

The following table summarizes the minimum total estimated value of furs trapped during the 2012-13 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. For beaver, lynx, marten, river otter, wolf, and wolverine we used number of furs sealed. That means beaver and marten values are certainly underestimated because the table only includes animals harvested from the areas of the state where sealing is required. For the unsealed species we used the number of furs exported by hunters and trappers. All species of foxes were added together for this table.

2012-13 Fur Value in Alaska			
Species	Total Number Sealed or Exported	Average North American Price	Minimum Estimated Fur Value
Beaver	1268	\$32.56	\$41,281.01
Coyote	386	\$76.27	\$29,440.22
Fox	1439	\$59.97	\$86,301.63
Lynx	2978	\$205.11	\$610,810.14
Marten	5407	\$143.81	\$777,553.64
Mink	1747	\$27.90	\$48,747.12
Muskrat	2321	\$12.53	\$29,074.39
River Otter	1915	\$100.75	\$192,936.25
Squirrel	168	\$0.74	\$124.32
Weasel	577	\$3.43	\$1,977.19
Wolf	1189	\$215.84	\$256,627.82
Wolverine	606	\$271.35	\$164,440.12
Total			\$2,239,314

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 of these animals 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)

Timothy Miles
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)

Cory Stantorf
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

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION -- ABs and GMUs

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	GMU 9, 10 Dave Crowley (AAB: Chris Peterson) PO Box 37 KING SALMON, AK 99613 Phone: 907-246-3340 Fax: 907-246-3309	GMU 19, 21(A),(E) Roger Seavoy (AAB: Josh Peirce) PO Box 230 MCGRATH, AK 99627 Phone: 907-524-3323 Fax: 907-524-3324
GMU 1 (B), 3 Rich Lowell (AAB: none) PO Box 667 PETERSBURG, AK 99833 Phone: 907-772-5228 Fax: 907-772-9336	GMU 11, 13 Becky Schwanke (AAB: Wm (Frank) Robbins) PO Box 47 GLENNALLEN, AK 99588 Phone: 907-822-3461 Fax: 907-822-3811	GMU 20(A),(B),(C),(F), 25(C) Don Young (AAB: Tony Hollis) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: 907-459-7233 Fax: 907-459-7332
GMU 4 Phil Mooney (AAB: none) 304 Lake Street Room 103 SITKA, AK 99835-7563 Phone: 907-747-5449 Fax: 907-747-6239	GMU 12, 20(E) Jeff Gross (AAB: Vacant) PO Box 355 TOK, AK 99780-0355 Phone: 907-883-2971 Fax: 907-883-2970	GMU 20(D) Darren Bruning (AAB: none) PO Box 605 DELTA JUNCTION, AK 99737 Phone: 907-895-4484 Fax : 907-895-4833
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	GMU 14(A),(B), 16(A),(B) Todd Rinaldi (AAB: Tim Peltier) 1800 Glenn Hwy Suite 4 PALMER, AK 99645-6736 Phone: 907-746-6325 Fax: 907-746-6305	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
GMU 6 Charlotte Westing (AAB: none) PO Box 669 CORDOVA, AK 99574 Phone: 907-424-3215 Fax: 907-424-3235	GMU 14(C) Jessy Coltrane (AAB: Dave Battle) 333 Raspberry Road ANCHORAGE, AK 99518-1565 Phone: 907-267-2811 Fax: 907-267-2433	GMU 22 Tony Gorn (AAB: Letty Hughes) PO Box 1148 NOME, AK 99762 Phone: 907-448-8189 Fax: 907-443-5893
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	GMU 17 Vacant (AAB: none) PO Box 1030 DILLINGHAM, AK 99576 Phone: 907-842-2334 Fax: 907-842-5514	GMU 23 Branden Saito (AAB: none) PO Box 689 KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 Phone: 907-442-1712 Fax: 907-442-2420
GMU 8 Nate Svaboda (AAB: John Crye) 211 Mission Road KODIAK, AK 99615 Phone: 907-486-1880 Fax: 907-486-1869	GMU 18 Phillip Perry (AAB: Patrick Jones) PO Box 1467 BETHEL, AK 99559 Phone: 907-543-2979 Fax: 907-543-2021	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
R1 Reg Supr - Doug Larsen - 465-4369 R1 Mgt Coord - Neil Barten - 465-4267 R1 Res Coord - Rod Flynn - 465-4353	R4 Reg Supr - Bruce Dale - 861-2101 R4 Mgt Coord - Lem Butler - 861-2105	GMU 26(A) Geoff Carroll (AAB: none) PO Box 1284 BARROW, AK 99723-1284 Phone: 907-852-3464 Fax: 907-852-3465
R2 Reg Supr - Larry Van Daele - 486-1876 R2 Mgt Coord - Gino DelFrate - 267-2198 R2 Res Coord - vacant	R5 Reg Supr - Steve Machida - 267-2421 R5 Mgt Coord - Peter Bente - 443-8188	
R3 Reg Supr - David James - 459-7222 R3 Mgt Coord - Roy Nowlin - 459-7250 R3 Res Coord - Scott Brainerd - 459-7261		

Updated 08/27/13

Trapper Comments

We are looking for ways to improve the Trapper Questionnaire. Please suggest changes, especially ideas for types of information that would make the annual Trapper Questionnaire Report more useful for trappers.

Southeast

- ❖ Thank you for putting the 'Code of Ethics' at the beginning of the trapper questionnaire report – hopefully inexperienced trappers will realize it is not as productive to trap an area already being trapped.
- ❖ You can send these things out earlier – while we can still remember what we did
- ❖ Southeast is a little different from the mainland. Most people trap strictly from a boat so line length can be difficult to determine
- ❖ Weather Conditions
- ❖ It's unfortunate but it is what we have to work with. I see season dates being held back as the only way of effectively keeping the quality potential up for everyone. I'm willing to hear out other opinions though. There are some seasons where heavy snows and bad weather reduce production, but to me, I'd rather have less opportunity at better quality than more opportunity at poor quality. Early cold like last year gives fuel to the early season case but I don't think exceptional weather should be considered for regulations – call me if you want
- ❖ Pretty good report. No changes needed
- ❖ This new format is hard(er) to fill out. Most ?'s on item 22 are irrelevant as most of these species don't occur on any specific trapline in 5B.
- ❖ I am not an experienced trapper. During the periods 12/1988-2/1989 and 12/1989-1/1990 I harvested about 60 mink around the shores of Sitka Sound. Then since 12/2009 I've put out a few traps principally to collect specimens for UAF Museum + Joe Cook down at the University of New Mexico ("Isles Project").
- ❖ It is becoming more difficult to manage marten on our trapline due to one individual who doesn't respect other trappers or the resource. We trap the appropriate number of marten, and pull our traps. He then comes in and leaves his traps out until the end of the season.
- ❖ Show a map with subunits and # of pelts taken out of them – I'd like to know if the areas I'm trapping are being overharvested or trapped by someone other than me later in the season.
- ❖ Don't know what "Conditions" mean (#16)
- ❖ Provide portable heated bathrooms, it's hard to go while shivering.
- ❖ Change the wording on the questionnaire from leghold to foothold.
- ❖ You might consider asking about contact w/non-trappers utilizing some area, how trapping in area is kept out. Observance of others, and any negative or positive interactions. This would be useful info...
- ❖ Inquire about the number of trappers ran into while trapping. Or if there was any competition for area to trap.
- ❖ Maybe give each trapper a simple 1 page log book so he/she could check each animal on it fairly soon after they were trapped
- ❖ I would like to see the statistics on the furs caught in the state and their estimated value. And impacted on economics, gas snowmobiles, boats + motors
- ❖ This concern goes along with NO#27 – Here in Alaska everyone that traps has a good season or an off season and this past year everyone had an off season. Martin was way up high in the mountains because there was hardly any snow. Wolf were also up high.
- ❖ I think it is well-rounded. Thank you
- ❖ All fine
- ❖ I enjoy reading the report. Thanks for your efforts. I would enjoy knowing why others trap. I do so because it is a fun winter activity that gets myself and my son outdoors.
- ❖ Not so long
- ❖ The questionnaire has good questions that apply to most trappers. Good Job
- ❖ Most furbearers listed in 22 are documented with AK sealing agents; because of the variability of reasons for differences of numbers between seasons I feel 22, 24, some of 25 may be moot points. (24 should not be compared to last season as some of us may change effort "just on a whim") I answered 23 using a percentage.

- ✱ Frankly I have no idea how many years I have trapped. Please restructure your question to keep me from a forced untruth – please include the word “about”.

Southcentral

- ✱ Good Questionnaire!
- ✱ Questionnaire looks great! I'll be trapping main line – Holitna River this coming season.
- ✱ Simpler rules + area coverage
- ✱ Ask if any pelts had mange or other diseases
- ✱ None
- ✱ Ask trappers if they use journal for trapping. On some questions respond No Affect
- ✱ Looks good as is.
- ✱ Bait used Set used
- ✱ Please note that all of my responses are based on predator calling outings, hence the reason that my trapline information is missing. I have a few favorite spots, but not an official line with a specific number of sets. If it would be helpful, perhaps the questionnaire could include information specific to calling – number of stand per animal called, number of animals seen but not taken, etc.
- ✱ I liked it. No changes recommended.
- ✱ Question about Federal interference while trapping
- ✱ I think it okay. For me I was in a bad area!
- ✱ N/A – good job
- ✱ I think you do a very good job but many trappers in this area will not fill out forms
- ✱ Move start of marten season: starting date to Dec. 20 in 14-A
- ✱ Good Questionnaire. I just didn't trap during this season.
- ✱ You might ask how trappers have increased the value of their catch. (Things like selling carcasses to dog mushers, selling skulls, teeth, claws, scent glands, etc.).
- ✱ Add a question at end asking whether the trapper feels trapping was better or worse than last year and why. Did weather play a factor, too much snow, too much rain, too many wind storms, weather too hot, weather too cold. Basically allow the trapper an opportunity to express why they thought trapping was better or worse than previous year since they're running the lines every year.
- ✱ Can't think of any thing maybe be more pacific about conditions on trapline like snow level + temp
- ✱ No suggestions yet as I am still very new to trapping this being my first year
- ✱ No I like this way it works.
- ✱ Ask if environmental conditions affected (increased/decreased) trapping effort. Ask if fur sales opportunity affected trapping effort.
- ✱ Ques #25 – Do you want us to rank species targeted by number of sets/effort or by the species we most want to catch.
- ✱ Period of season trapped – lots of guys wait till December to start, instead of Nov. when season starts. Moose + caribou – abundant or not. Main catch/take- how many were kittens, pups – ect.
- ✱ On area trapped comments, break it down further to include Unit, subunit, and possibly drainage so that fur concentrations can be noted.
- ✱ Show a trapper who did not trap, should only fill out select questions.
- ✱ Questionnaire appears to be a fair way to obtain data. Keep it as it is.
- ✱ In my years of trapping + guiding in 9B-17B+ 19B I have not been contated or seen a biologis in any of these areas and feel they should spend a little time in the field meeting with traoppers to better understand what is going on.
- ✱ Start collecting data from trappers that harvest furbearers using a predator call. This method of harvest is increasing and should be monitored. At least provide a couple questions to determine the level of interest by trappers. I harvested one lynx using a predator call.
- ✱ As a first year trapper some of the questions did not apply
- ✱ Doing good job
- ✱ Did not use snares or traps. Called and used rifle
- ✱ Very good booklet
- ✱ This one is fine
- ✱ Not a full trapper
- ✱ I have never had an Alaska trapping license. I had a lynx sealed that I shot during hunting season.

- ❖ I trapped in a different location than last year due to a knee injury. Question 25 Assumes you kept the same trap lines when some people move traplines
- ❖ I have filled these out before and think that all pertinent info is captured. It would be nice to maybe read about male:female catch rates in the actual report. Could possibly include a question on sexes of animals. Although the high number guys might have a hard time keeping track. All I ask is that trapping areas remain out of the report. That is specific locations/drainages.
- ❖ Could this be put online?
- ❖ Maybe some type of graph for area's for abundance and prices on some pelts.
- ❖ Note: My season was not usual as I experienced several snowmachine breakdowns that affected trapping time, harvest (and wallet).
- ❖ Looks good
- ❖ Pretty good
- ❖ Due to recent wildfires + advancing age our trapping has dropped way off + we don't intend to increase our efforts in the future. So our observations on abundance + population changes are very limited in area. I would hate for our input to skew the data for our area.
- ❖ You may want to add one or two blanks on question 21, number of traplines. There are trappers that run more than 4 lines.
- ❖ Recommend you add a comments section. In my case, I only trapped 4x weeks this year w/ poor results as I was moving out of state (military pcs).
- ❖ If you stay away from home while on your trapline

Southwest

- ❖ The questionnaire is pretty good as is.
- ❖ Nice job I like the report (Thank you guys)
- ❖ Questionnaire was good – No change
- ❖ Seems to be a great survey, would definitely participate.
- ❖ I buy trapping license nearly every year "just in case"... and in part for the opportunities it allows us just a hunting license. I do nuisance trapping for the city often in summer under special permits. I do often run a regular "line" and could be considered a "hobby" trapper. I live in Dillingham and trap in the local area.
- ❖ Limit wolverine in Unit 17.
- ❖ I think its fine the way it is
- ❖ Transportation portion of questionnaire does not allow for accurate travel type. Example – I generally use a boat for early & late(spring) beaver then during main season use ATV or snowmobile depending on conditions.
- ❖ This is a big improvement but I saw more otter on one line the normal + fewer on another line but total catch was normal
- ❖ I don't really know what you mean on question number 25 Last column "please rank the top 3 species your targeted?"
- ❖ Make it available online
- ❖ For questions 11 & 12, I do not have just 1 line in the area & change transportation with conditions (such as snowshoes or a kayak). The wording of these questions do not necessarily reflect true field operations. #16 by "conditions", I assumed overall habitat & wildlife abundance – not a clear question if you want specifics would it be worth asking about trapping for subsistence (beaver, muskrat, hare, etc.), damage control & personal use (for sewing, educational specimens)? #25 does not include hare. Also did you want a quantifiable range?
- ❖ No changes
- ❖ The questionnaire is fine. Getting the questionnaire a month or two after the season is much preferred than getting it later.
- ❖ Put on internet
- ❖ OK now
- ❖ Its good

Interior

- ✿ Looks good to me – keeping it simple is best. It was not a normal winter – signs + rough ground due to no snow and no rabbits. When I trap I average 30 lynx + this season it did not look worth it to me.
- ✿ More options for trappers to suggest their ideas, concerns.
- ✿ I could not tell if my village of Minto was in GMU 20C, I need a better map w/names like Fairbanks on the map so would know exactly where I'm at.
- ✿ This was a duplicate survey with #2304. Remove me from #2304
- ✿ Reports of disease occurrence.
- ✿ What info do you feel you are missing w/ the questionnaire? You could ask about other forms of bycatch – like reptors. That's important, but hard to collect. On Q 9 add "5- Other-explain." Clarify "Conditions" in Q 16. Q 20 seems grammatically incorrect "...did you: chane to a different area" etc. Q 24 seems Redundant. This should be distributed in April.
- ✿ Not sure.
- ✿ Ask for general comments. The 12-13 season was not very bountiful during Nov-Dec for my primary catch, lynx and marten, during the previous 3-4 years so I voluntarily pulled the line early in order to preserve for the future.
- ✿ It fine
- ✿ Ask if cold weather or snow conditions hinder days per week that traps were checked.
- ✿ You used to have a section for general comments. They always proved interesting. Also, when the report is over a year old, the information is not nearly as relevant or useable.
- ✿ No changes. Thanks for letting us help
- ✿ Figure out a way for trappers to be able to report marten sex and age ratios in their catch
- ✿ I like this one. Easy and don't take forever to fill out
- ✿ Keep them as short as possible. Thank you
- ✿ I do not run a trapline. Buying a trapping license allows me the opportunity to "trap" with a rifle or shotgun for furbearers. I will continue to do so. I shot one lynx this year using my trapping license.
- ✿ In question 20 we decreased the number of sets when our target male/female ratio of 2 to 1 dropped to 50/50. There was no way to provide you a reason.
- ✿ Animal population trend analysis for each area
- ✿ As a Airplane Trapper I cover a 70 mile radius from my home. It is hard to answer some of the questions. I just go by GMU for main trapping 2nd 3rd etc. I just use the airplane and snowshoes.
- ✿ We trappers can also supply ADF&G with accurate information on other animal populations and fluctuations such as big game, waterfowl, and fish.
- ✿ Ask trappers if weather or over flow conditions caused problems trapping on there line
- ✿ Web based option for reporting
- ✿ No recommended changes
- ✿ None at this time
- ✿ In #24; add option that we decreased trapping effort due to change in furbearer numbers, or prediction of furbearer numbers.
- ✿ Ask trappers if they think soom areas are to low, in animals to trap.
- ✿ I liked receiving the results this last year in the mail.
- ✿ Question 16 and 24 ask about "Trapping Conditions". That seems real vague to me. You could be more specific. Weather conditions, snow conditions, overflow conditions, how abundant fur was or lack there of are all trapping conditions.
- ✿ N/A It is good questionnaire
- ✿ Its good
- ✿ Unable to trap as often as I would have liked. Pulled traps early.
- ✿ Maybe a question about fur quality; fur and or traps being stolen.
- ✿ Ask about bringing along friends to share the trapping experience
- ✿ It would be nice to see some graphs and maps of previous years' catches.
- ✿ Seems like you have it pretty well set up the way it is. With the seemingly problem of more wolves being found in the northern parts of the state with lice + diseases, maybe some questions related to that might become relevant.
- ✿ No suggestions
- ✿ Please stop using the term "leghold" to describe trap use "foothold"

- ❖ Quest. #12 I will use snowmachines, walking, and my wife will use dogs to run traps. 1 answer does not fit.
- ❖ For me the questions about increase/decrease in effort don't apply because I live out all winter utilizing the animals for food + fur and as long as there is a market for fur I will continue to trap regardless of weather, gas prices, fur prices, ex...
- ❖ Nothing
- ❖ Looks good!
- ❖ If ??ed about weather conditions + high + low water prior to season from yr., this would explain why some species not as caught as previous yrs. High water Stony River, Holitna, Hoholitna 2012 spring, summer + fall. Lots of rain. I think this was part of low beaver and otter catch, winter 2012-2013. We feel these factors affect our trapping.
- ❖ Good job
- ❖ Kick out all those lower 48 so-called trappers out of Alaska. Find out why some species are abundant and others are not at the same year. For instance one year there are lots of lynx and not much marten and vice versa.
- ❖ I can't think of any changes
- ❖ First questionnaire I've received. Looks good as is.
- ❖ This is a very useful publication. Thank you for sending it out- I really enjoy reading it every year. Please keep up the good work.

Arctic & Western

- ❖ It's Good
- ❖ Maybe a request to find out the condition of the animals – ex. Fat or skinny, mangy, no guard hair, etc.
- ❖ Maybe include a section for predator hunters
- ❖ Have a prize or money, even traps n snares raffle a snogo, or gas n oil
- ❖ I thought this was pretty good
- ❖ Trappers stealing fur that's what changed. They took 5 marten from me.
- ❖ May ask if main purpose of trapping is for financial or recreational value.
- ❖ I think it's pretty good the way it is.
- ❖ N/A is just fine
- ❖ I have not received a questionnaire yet

Do you have any comments or suggestions for ADF&G or the Board of Game regarding how trapping can be improved in Alaska?

Southeast

- ❖ Regarding the request to begin an earlier trapping season in SE Alaska – we would prefer the trapping season for marten remains as is (12/1), an earlier opening would cause us to have bear problems with our sets – most definitely.
- ❖ No comment at the present time.
- ❖ With higher prices of pelts there is a lot more effort with new and inexperienced trappers setting right through others traplines with no code of ethics and no responsibility to taking care of their traps and furs. At some point in time we need to differentiate between sport trappers and commercial trappers possibly by limiting # of traps that each entity can use, go to registered traplines for people that have used an area for years.
- ❖ Start registration/database for where others are trapping to avoid conflicts.
- ❖ I think marten could be opened Nov. 10. They prime up earlier. When trapping with a boat the weather conditions are better. Not so dangerous.
- ❖ I only took the one wolverine last year. I'm not a avid trapper by any means. I may never do it again. Sorry I'm not of much assistance to you.

- ❖ The only real concern I have currently, and I know it was addressed last year but can't hurt again, is that of not allowing for an earlier marten season. I know there was some talk of it and my reason for being against it in this area is as follows: there is too much competition locally for trappers to feel like they will have any more fur to catch if they wait until everything is prime. In an uncrowded or exclusive area, the trapper would put out a few sets and test the fur quality waiting until it is prime before going all out.
- ❖ I would like to see marten and otter trapping season run from Nov 30 to March 15th.
- ❖ It would be nice to see common sense trapping regulations in affect along the Juneau road system. Instead of kneejerk reactions because of the concerns of people who know nothing about trapping or wildlife management. Even if a course was required to trap certain areas while avoiding conflict in other users. It can be done w/o banning trapping in certain areas.
- ❖ I don't think we need this wolf management program here in Unit 3. I saw less wolves this year than years past. I'm also concerned about some one on my trapline. I am good friends with most all the trappers in the area. We respect each other's areas for the most part. We cover this area well with wolf traps. It is one thing shooting wolves from the air like you do up north. A totally different situation if you put a trapper on the ground in a local trapper's area. The department should have thought of this before approving wolf management.
- ❖ Open otter and martin Nov 1
- ❖ Allow the use of artificial lights to target furbearers. Especially here in Southeast Alaska.
- ❖ Make it so a trapper can register there trapline so other trappers don't tromp on ones trapline and then they know the area is already being active so they don waist there time in that area
- ❖ Lengthen otter & mink/ermine in SE by 2-3 weeks. Marten season could be started earlier except in heavily harvested areas. Marten are prolific & young of year die once food gets hard to find.
- ❖ Educate trappers as to good ethics and furbearer management
- ❖ Open a season for sea otters, they are overpopulated and the natives aren't managing them
- ❖ Start marten and mink seasons in Unit 4 2 weeks earlier. Trap tags not necessary in non urban areas
- ❖ Keep up the good work
- ❖ Remove the ¼ mile no trapping/no fur zone on portions of Juneau's road system. The whole 40 mile stretch doesn't need to be off limits
- ❖ I would like to see season alignments in Units 1-5 with most seasons open Nov. 10 and closing Feb. 15. Except wolves.
- ❖ Bait – whole pink salmon can be used for crab bait – state in regs whole pink salmon can be use for trapping bait in SE AK. Kudos to Petersburg's ADF&G Mary Meucci is very accommodating for trappers sealing furs.
- ❖ Put a quota on how much marten each person can catch.
- ❖ Open the season for marten/mink earlier
- ❖ Southeast Units 1 + 4 should have longer seasons. November 15th through February 28th. There is no biological reason to have such short seasons. There is an overabundance of animals, and fur quality is fine by these dates. Please consider this SERIOUSLY, as our seasons are so short already, if a we have some winter storms, a guy barely has a chance to get a line going, before it's time to pull.
- ❖ I know I work hard to ensure nontrappers have no idea I'm busy setting traps and that I avoid areas w/people w/pets
- ❖ Introduce red squirrels and snoshoe hares to prince of wales island. This would greatly increase the food source for all preydatory furbearers which equals more furbearers and it would take some of the preydatory pressure on the grouse and ptarmigan deer populations. The Island has unlimited food supply for squirrels and rabbits.
- ❖ I would like to see trappers get to shoot sea otters not just Natives
- ❖ I believe that the marten population in Unit 2 is and has been decreasing. Beaver are also harder to find. Wolves are overrunning the place. I think marten and beaver need a break. Thank you so much!
- ❖ I think you have the season about right. Mink prime sometime after Dec. 10th but most trappers know this and time their target species to match when the fur is prime. Overall – Good Job !!
- ❖ Trapping for mink, marten, and otter should be earlier than Dec. 1st. Bays frees up and become untrappable. Be nice to use artificial light for taking furbearers.
- ❖ Maybe a price list for furs at least for trappers who are just starting out. And maybe a list of buyers?
- ❖ Caught more ermine this year than previous 20+ years combined. They are all incidentals, so I don't know what this indicates other than they seemed to be plentiful.
- ❖ Poor weather main reason for my decreased effort in 2012.

- ❖ I think the ADF&G needs to promote trapping in a positive light, just the same as sport fishing is. (ie. Public forums, school presentations) etc. Esp. in Juneau area. I fear all the regulations will soon make it impossible to trap the local area of Juneau. Too many greenies that need proper education to see the value of trapping.
- ❖ The survey seems fine. I don't really trap, just helped my husband one year. I buy a license most years in case I decide to help with beavers in the spring. But I usually don't. Thx
- ❖ Wolf numbers aren't decreasing – others trappers are saying the same. I saw more trappers this year compared to last year due to mild snow levels. Saw several illegal wolf snares: w/o trap tags on them. Some marten trappers are getting defensive of "their" areas.
- ❖ Keep up the good work
- ❖ Comments – Trapping pressure from other trappers Lack of animals – high fuel prices – this is the worst year of the 25 years I've trapped on (Prince of Wales Is) I don't believe I'll trap next year for lack of animals and so many other people & fuel prices
- ❖ The requirement of ID tags on traps + snares should be restricted to the Juneau Douglas area where political knee jerk reaction started. The tag seems to be the first thing a trapped animal finds to chew on even when rolled around the trap chain ring. The sea otter need thinning as they eat their way through the once abundant shellfish population. An overpopulation of the sea otter only leads to more problems later, Thanks for the copy of the survey and look forward to the next one.
- ❖ The loss of our May beaver season in 1A 2 years ago by the BOG had me pulling beaver sets early. The health of my trapline is fine, the ave. number of my catch has stayed the same for every yr. of the 35 I have trapped it. Past wolf predation had taken deer numbers down in Portions of 1A, individual wolf trappers are helping to turn this around (on their own dime) but when ADF&G and BOG took the last 2 ½ months of the wolverine season away from us they took the #1 incentive to trap wolves on the mainland
- ❖ It should be easier to build trapping cabins. The weather conditions in Southeast merit the need for a cabin in several places along my trapline. There have been situations where I have spent the night under my skiff because I could not make it back to the main boat due to weather/wind
- ❖ I will try to remember to take photos of the 2013-2014 season for you. Sea otter are abundant in most areas of Unit 2. I feel that river otter are being replaced by rapid growing numbers of sea otter.
- ❖ Would nest boxes for marten be helpful in some areas? Is there any info out there in regards to targeting male marten so as to avoid catching females?
- ❖ Information on fur handling could be expanded on. The video is good and could cover more.

Southcentral

- ❖ Need more biologist input and "eyes in Field" to place EO if warranted. Marten population last year was depleted all over but season were still allowed to continue.
- ❖ I support regulations that facilitate increased responsibility for trappers. Required trap check times 24-48 hrs, use of killer type traps away from trails, roads, houses etc., marking traps w owner name or other ID
- ❖ The seasons for beaver, river otter and muskrat in Unit 14 need to end at the same time.
- ❖ I've noticed a decline in snowshoe hare in my area and a drop in marten as a result as well as other furbearers. I've noticed an increase in trappers in the woods. I think it's more a desire to be in the woods than to make money. Traps placed by a novice take on a whole different look than those placed by a veteran. I see a lot of the fore mentioned.
- ❖ Extend muskrat season when winter is long sprint is late
- ❖ I strictly call predators, no steel traps or snares are used. I trap from the road system. Many questions do not apply to what I do. Trapping regs on pg 13 needs to be changed to allow artificial light for all open seasons. Now it closes before many trapping seasons close.
- ❖ Please, Please, Please open sea otter trapping soo many everywhere don't know if they are responsible for very bad clamming this year I have never seen soo many otters in Homer/Anchorpoint/whiskey gulch/Clam gulch and Kasilof.
- ❖ Nice to have wolf season open early!!
- ❖ Stop any & all cooperation with Federal authorities on all lands inside the State of Alaska. Have experienced significant interference by Federal Protection officers contaminating wolf sets + tripping traps in lynx sets.
- ❖ The main reason for shorter season, lacked snow to cross Copper River due to bridge washout @ 36 mile which state continues to put off fixing. Trapping on east delta only possible by airplane or big snow year!

- ❖ The biggest problem in trapping Alaska is finding an area to trap. I understand that is not an easy problem to fix. I don't have any good suggestions. Could there be a rotation, every other year – or drawing system to trap popular areas - ?
- ❖ N/A Good job
- ❖ Make all new trappers complete, either on-line or in class setting, a Basic Trappers Ethics Course. Too many new trappers encroach on established traplines, don't check traps "regularly", don't respect existing trappers territories, use baits that are illegal, overharvest furbearers, and have a general attitude of "I can trap anywhere I want" attitude. Things need to change and I think it's going to have to be mandated by ADF&G.
- ❖ What happen to the marten? Never found 1 track in the 4 weeks I was able to trap
- ❖ 14A/14B(in Willow area) open too late for open water beaver trapping.
- ❖ Stop the land +shoot for wolves in units that have a fair number of trappers. Start lynx season Dec. 1st when they begin to prime. end season is good Feb. 28th
- ❖ Start muskrat season in Oct. for 15 and 7. And a bigger bag limit for beaver.
- ❖ Maintain confidentiality about productive areas. Be careful estimating the total fur value based on FHA/NAFA values because many people, like myself, don't sell wolverine or wolf pets through FHA/NAFA because of their ridiculously low sale prices. Registered traplines is a bad idea that restricts trapping opportunity.
- ❖ Trappers should target coyotes more.
- ❖ Many trappers are hesitant to supply the Dept. w/exact + personal results of trapping activities – de to pas abuses by Dept. personel, and past attempts to "micro-manage" speicies at different cycle levels.
- ❖ Offer a shooting season for beaver 16B. Eliminate predator control on wolves 16B
- ❖ I only caught 2 beaver 2011-2012 season on Kashwitna River. Just trying to get a few nuisance beavers. Hope I filed this out right. It looked like question 8 on were for 2012-13 trappers.
- ❖ Create a regulation preventing trapping within 200' of main highways. Folks at rest stops letting there pets out shouldn't have to deal with trapping. There's enough room for everyone. Move lynx season back in Unit 13 to stare December 1st.
- ❖ #22 The female wolverine was caught off season for this species closed in a lynx set. We turned it into ADF&G at Palmer as required. #16 Trapping conditions were poor due to lack of snow in Nov. and early Dec. Once we started trapping conditions were good.
- ❖ If trappers marked their trails with something like "active trap line" others would know this area is in use
- ❖ Look at pushing for trap line registration to slow down some of the pre and post season trapping
- ❖ Make new trappers take a trapper education course
- ❖ Do not allow arial wolf hunting in the Ochetna drainage. Give me a break. Kill some coyotes from the air.
- ❖ You sent me 2 copies of this form. Also # 1952
- ❖ I've trapped in GMUs 9-17-19 for forty year – also hold a master guide lic. So very familiar with game populations – the marten and fox populations have seen a significant drop in the last few years. Have not noticed a corresponding drop in prey, i.e. voles, etc. We have no caribou in 17B so wolves have moved out. I would strongly rec. a shorter season on wolverine, fox, and marten.
- ❖ Remove all the unnecessary restrictions imposed on trappers in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. All trapping regulations should be consistent with regulations on non-refuge lands.
- ❖ For Unit 6C end river otter the same month as beaver so you do not get a bi-catch. Thank you for a great report also!
- ❖ The trapping regulations have got some dates when they open that are confusing. I would suggest all open dates be more easily understood. Can be confusing for some people.
- ❖ This was my first season. I didn't trap as much as I wanted due to weather and personal travel. However, I was very pleased with the amount of information I was able to find from ADFG in the preseason.
- ❖ The friction between trappers and non=trappers (anti's). Stealing traps, disturbing sets, and occasionally taking the animal. Plus putting up aggressive signs. During trapping season, trappers are the biggest users in any area. We should have the right to be left alone as long as we're not breaking the law. Trails are the best way for anyone to get around. If people would keep their dogs on a leach (being in their control), no dogs would ever get caught. We can trap along the sides of any trail without interfering with anyone (except radicals).
- ❖ The need to better protect the trapline (trappers) against hikers, skiers, snowmachines and other trappers. These people are causing irreparable damage in practice – trappers had no chance to protect their right.
- ❖ Keep beaver season open 6C Copper delta till May 1
- ❖ Wolverine season should be extended to March 15th.

- ❖ I think there should be more strict regulations on snowmobiles use for trapping. Too many snow mobiles driving around trapping. Takes the sport and hard work out of it.
- ❖ I would like to see fox season, end same time as coyote season so you didn't accidentally catch a fox. Unit 14B
- ❖ The beaver are disappearing off the Susitna – season is too early starting before freeze up – before they are prime and too far into the spring resulting in females heavy with young being taken
- ❖ Stop trapping of bears!
- ❖ None. All in all trapping is my favorite time of the year. I love to hunt and fish but trapping season gives me the opportunity to disappear into the woods, set my own pace, etc. I think this state does a great job at managing its fur resources. I do feel that in the area I trap, marten season could be more aligned with wolverine season (effectively extending it by one month, to end on Jan. 31). With the limited pressure this area sees and the amount of land that is for the most part inaccessible (providing vast refugia for population migration), any marten taken by those of us on foot will be quickly replaced by marten coming from the “back 40.”
- ❖ Keep the ermine season open longer so my kids can trap for them when I target late season wolves.
- ❖ I think more people ought to go with their grandkids. Some of them days in Jan. it was 20+ Afoot, We never got back to the pick-up early. Them kids will never forget those days, I'm sure at least two will be there this winter.
- ❖ Just by informing the public on how trapping helps sustain the overpopulation of furbearers
- ❖ Would like to see otter + beaver season run at the same time. Or at least run beaver season longer so we can open water trap them in Unit 14 A&B
- ❖ The trooper here around Homer is always checking out everyone's trapline. He walks right up to sets and I think it can scare away some animals. I don't mind being checked but wish he would leave my line alone. He has done it to several of my friends too. Please help if you can. Thank you.
- ❖ None – good job Map could be a little more detailed.
- ❖ I have said this for years; the Copper River Highway corridor is grossly over trapped for all species. This year the bottom finally fell out and trappers got very little. Trapping within ¼ mile of the highway should be closed.
- ❖ Thanks for the questionnaire and a Great trapping program. We genuinely miss and look forward to retuning to Alaska and continue trapping. Aside from the wilderness and wildlife, trapping in Alaska is unique given its strong reliance on ethics to guide trappers' behavior. While this sometimes presents challenges, this is a far better system than one governed by laws and regulations which are difficult, if not impossible, to enforce.
- ❖ 14B Talkeetna River drainage full of bears. Allow trapping of bears until healthy population density is reached. Open brown bears to “No Closed Season”, during hunting season.
- ❖ Severe penalties for people who steal traps/animals, Greenies ruining traps
- ❖ I no longer see ANY wolf sign in my area but the moose population seems to have increased since the predator control has been in effect
- ❖ Does the sealing of marten in Units 7, 14, 15, & 16 still serve a purpose?

Southwest

- ❖ Extend the river otter season
- ❖ My suggestion to the ADF&G and the Board of Game is to keep the politics out of the decision making.
- ❖ I would like to see otter trapping in Unit 8 last through the end of February
- ❖ Unit 8 February otter season – off road system – under harvested
- ❖ I love to trap, but I live on ANC land. If they permitted the use of ATVs or snow machines on logging roads, the increased land access would allow me to cover more ground and catch more animals
- ❖ I am glad to get this survey and hope ADFG can maintain or increase its research + mgt to assure future trapping. I encourage ADFG + the BOG to support responsible trapping. Thanks for the wolf trapping clinics. I don't support some of the recent proposals to extensively liberalize the shooting of fox + coyotes – moderation in all things
- ❖ No I don't have any comments or suggestions
- ❖ Weather was poor – fluctuating temperatures made for poor conditions – travel was limited due to unsafe ice.
- ❖ I would like to see beaver season come in Oct 1st instead of Oct. 10 to allow more trap time before water may freeze up
- ❖ The scarce & comment categories? Would scarce be 1 or 2 sightings/observed tracks a season? Are there any research or management concerns that can be added to this survey tool? Can this be rewritten to glean

more quantitative versus qualitative data? If you are sending out a request for help, samples or info from the public seriously review having correct name spelling & addresses. Unprofessional when mail is mis-labeled & may decrease your return ratios. Also, going through records quantifying sets, distance etc. writing & filling out the survey took ~ ½ hour. Consider 1st sentence on the 2nd paragraph or trappers may not take the time/effort to ensure accuracy.

- ❖ Like long session for wolf in 9D.
- ❖ Put more animals in my traps. Hahaha Thanks for all info.
- ❖ Everything works fine now!
- ❖ Allow a season on sea otters
- ❖ Regulations are fine now.
- ❖ Extending marten trapping until the middle or end of March. Open beaver trapping earlier beginning Sept. 20

Interior

- ❖ Rabbits crashed. No food for lynx + extreme cold early with no snow. I keep an average of rabbits and lynx. Lynx left alone eat all the rabbits thus later the lynx crash or eat their own so I keep a balance of each. I farm fur by only trapping when there is enough to make young for the next season – the signs for game wolves, lynx, + wolverines + rabbits was scarce to none. I prefer to not trap the few but leave them to populate for the next season.
- ❖ Need a longer season for trapping.
- ❖ I am an avid hunter and pride myself in a quick kill. Trapping, I believe is a slow death for the animal, and should be outlawed. However I respect other's feelings on trapping.
- ❖ Do not go to mandatory check times, keep regulations simple. Must institute a trapper education program (or a better one). Use trappers and possible incentives to control predator populations – Does not make sense to spend millions on predator control when the public (trappers & hunters) can take care of these problems.
- ❖ Nope – Doing a good job A note on !16-Conditions: It was a screwy winter in the interior. The water was high and the rivers froze high. The water fell and gave lots of hiding spots for aquatic mammals. Didn't see them all winter. Also – a few more -40 degree days kept us inside compared to other years.
- ❖ I was gone most of the winter so did not trap. I only trapped a few nuisance fall beaver.
- ❖ I greatly decreased my trapping this past season because of health. I hope to be back out there this coming season. Also I didn't see where to report taking kids with us on the trap line. I usually take 3 or 4 young people along with me during the season.
- ❖ ATA a Great organization. ADFG ought to have a liaison at every meeting
- ❖ Restrict GI's from trapping. I find where they set traps and snares and never return. GI's also steal a lot of fur. Just ask
- ❖ Eliminate the cow moose hunts in the Minto Flats and Chatanika River drainages. The uneducated and unethical hunter that destroy my sets make trapping almost impossible.
- ❖ I think it's very good and do it only to keep me active in winter. Better trapping education would be nice
- ❖ Study marten cycles more aggressively; they have been low in our area for 13 years despite careful conservation and low trapping pressure.
- ❖ I would like to see a "2 week window" for each Minto Flats moose permit (winter). If not able to hunt those 2 weeks, to bad.
- ❖ Marten #s very very low. My area should typically produce 6-18 marten per year. Caught 1 on the first week of season and saw 1 set of tracks a week later. Should at least shorten the season to prevent over harvest. Especially b/c with current fur prices anything road accessible is very heavily trapped.
- ❖ Comments – Available info before the 2012/2013 provided an indication that 1) marten would be fewer and the catch would mainly be of adults + 2) we would likely be reducing the probability of population recovery in my area if we hammered the already reduced population. In the first week of trapping it was evident that marten were scarce on my trapline, which is usually a good producer. After the 1st week of targeting on marten I closed all of my marten traps, shortened my line and trapped for fox, beaver, a few foxes + wandering lynx.
- ❖ Would like to see more furbearer studies. With hunting there are sometimes programs to improve the habitat to increase the carrying capacity of the land. Hunters volunteer to provide the manpower to do this. The ruffed grouse society and the program to improve the habitat for ruffed grouse is but one example of this cooperative effort. Can there be one for the trappers helping furbearer habitat?

- ❖ Saw very little cat sign in the low country but did catch some big tom lynx up in higher country.
- ❖ You seem to be doing a good job. It's up to the trapper not to OVER trap his area.
- ❖ Despite high prices for marten we didn't set for them this year due to low sign and large catch last year.
- ❖ Specifically in 20B GMU you can only use snares for wolves in April, must pull your legholds March 31. This does not make sense to me. If the reason is to avoid incidental catch all leg holds should be pulled at the same time. Fox, lynx, and wolf trapping seasons are all different. Maybe there's something I don't know about but why not have all wolf trapping end at the end of April. (legholds and snares)
- ❖ Prices fuel & oil is really the main factor do not make any money more like a hobby, also weather getting later for rivers & lakes to freeze, global warming, the past is dead and gone.
- ❖ Caught 0 on my trap line No fur
- ❖ I did not trap for the last 15 years not what I'm not working I'll be trapping to stay healthy and get out of house
- ❖ When I started to trap 1972 trappers respected others' areas + did not want to be close to each other! Today we have individuals showing up and have no regards for established lines. Do not believe in buffer zones. Registered traplines like Canada has is not the answer. Publications by F&G on BiD's recommendations on effects of over harvesting – buffers – would help
- ❖ Beaver season is open to long in spring, to close to having litters fur is of poor quality almost all are rubbed.
- ❖ Just let us trap
- ❖ Marten in our area has declined, even though we try to rotate trapping area to reduce over harvest also seems to be more people trapping!
- ❖ Tell the Alaska Trapper Assn. to quit having trapping school. Too competitive, over flow with trappers. I am getting older so I am mostly a recreational trapper I am just going by the signs and tracks I see when I travel
- ❖ Make existing traplines register or at least map them so it would be easier for trappers to find an area to trap without interference to other trappers.
- ❖ Open coyote snaring only in Unit 20D on Oct 15th to coincide with Units 13B and Unit 12 – these coyotes are farther north and the pelts are better. I killed 9 coyotes in Unit 13B between Oct 15th and Nov. 10th when the other seasons open for trapping. Also a lot of coyotes are killed in wolf equipment, which wolves open on Oct 15th in Unit 20D. The coyote is a wolf.
- ❖ I did not run my mainline this season & made a small effort. Furbearer seem to have become scarce with not much moving around, saw very few tracks all winter.
- ❖ I retired from trapping but I still obtain a license and also purchase a duck stamp each year for purpose of keeping up with the recreation areas for kids to go. I also take kids out to teach them the traditional life style of the outdoors. I do this on my own expenses and time.
- ❖ Need more furbearer biologist in state
- ❖ Just a comment that marten numbers in the Tok area in Unit 12 were down significantly on my trapline from the previous two years. There are lots of trappers targeting marten in my area and numbers are way down. My marten catch was down by 80% from 2011/12 to 2012/13 and my trapping effort was the same.
- ❖ Due to the lowest animal populations that I have seen in this area in the past 35 years. And the antlerless moose hunt that starts in August and runs through February I can not operate a trapline in the area. The moose hunters steal or destroy fur and trails and sets. The moose numbers are declining in Minto Flats and it is time to reduce this hunt to a reasonable amount of time or close it completely.
- ❖ Low snow (4") made trail conditions tough and previously burned off tussocks make it brutal. Martin were plentiful till Jan, then they almost disappeared. I may not have any martin next year. The lack of martin sign in Jan was shocking.
- ❖ You will improve trapping if you quit shooting so many wolves from aircraft. Wolverine numbers in the area will also likely increase.
- ❖ How I can increased habitat to increase catchable numbers of animals.
- ❖ I think you should change the lynx season to in Unit 25D to Dec 15 – March 30
- ❖ I think the cold weather kept them from moving much. Also I am just started to trap this area.
- ❖ I just want to say that trapping is an important part of are culture and I consider it part of the subsistence lifestyle that some people still choose to live. Unfortunetly lots of people don't understand this but that's the way it is.
- ❖ Stop giving away our land to the natives – especially next to the road so we can't access public land !!!
- ❖ Encourage more recreational trapping as opposed to vocational trapping – most trappers can't even recoup costs associated
- ❖ Put a harvest limit on wolf, wolverine and lynx. Or put a quota on game units.
- ❖ What happen to the marten?

- ❖ Far as I can guess most fur is in low cycle due to low rabbit cycle and should rebound when the rabbits do, can't think of anyway to improve it it's just nature.
- ❖ This is the 1st questionnaire I ever received in all the years I trap. I been trapping Big Creek area last 60 years, the most marten I caught up there is about 50, it has dropped quite a bit, I may have to let it rest
- ❖ Don't bother me when I'm poaching. Educate trappers especially younger or new trappers. Lots of trappers are honest hard working folks because it sure takes a lot of time + work to trap. Myself I like going out + see my old trapping country that has been handed down to me for many generations. Even tho I don't make any money trapping maybe it's in my blood. We live off the land "subsistence".
- ❖ Don't start lynx season until at least the second or third week of Nov.
- ❖ Realign season open/close dates for predators. Regulations would be much simpler to follow and enforce if the seasons opened and closed at the same time. This would also eliminate accidental out of season catches much better than simply restricting type of gear that can be used at certain times. (i.e. no steel traps in Oct. or April – a non-target species can still be caught in a snare during those times).
- ❖ Worst trapping season in 32 yrs. No hares. Ever thing was scarce, snow conditions were great
- ❖ Protect habitat. Protect habitat. Protect habitat. Study why there are less marten statewide. (It is not from over-trapping). Keep same day airborne SDA for wolves in place. Less state gunning and more private citizen, permitted gunning. With SDA, permitted pilots can keep the wolves in check. Do not collar so many wolves – especially park service. We state & feds collar wolves, pelt loses most of its value to trappers.
- ❖ Continue to work on programs to involve schools, kids and the youth in general. It seems like there are fewer and fewer kids getting involved in trapping. Not that AK F&G can do much about it, but I think the "reality" shows like Yukon Men will have a negative impact on trappers and trapping if they are not more careful. There were some questionable depictions of trapping on this show in particular

Arctic & Western

- ❖ I always buy trapping license in case I do trap.
- ❖ I submitted 2 carcasses to F+G this winter and I am curious of what the findings are. 1 carcass was a mangy fox the other was a female wolverine. I believe they went to the U of A Fairbanks. The report could reveal local area without names of trapper.
- ❖ During summer we see more brown bears around here, please have them quit sending them around this part, Too many fish camps are getting raided by them. Da bears here are getting too much. When we were young we didn't hear of brown bears or grizzlies. People are getting scared for there children.
- ❖ This weather has a big effect. Warm, cold, warm, rain, cold. Hard to make sets. Other than that I think its pretty well regulated.
- ❖ Make a law for steeling.
- ❖ Lynx populations are crashing on MY trapline in Unit 18 south of the Yukon River and starting to decrease on the north side as well.
- ❖ No – Thanks for the chance to comment
- ❖ Too many wolfs and bears killing off all our moose
- ❖ My wife + I sell licenses, and I am an authorized sealer, and my wife + I buy our licenses and try to follow the regulations, and we encourage others in our village to do the same. Things here in the bush...It seems to be screw the regulations and licenses. The people in our village keep claiming their subsistence rights, but just slaughter anything and everything they can here. The only time we sell licenses is just before moose season, and that's because if they get a moose they don't want to loose the meat. Come Jan. 1st, my wife and I are the only licensed people in the village, but hunting and fishing still go on.
- ❖ Young people are not living our traditional ways of life. They're living a fast lifestyle – no respect for elders + they're into snowmachines and 4 wheelers.
- ❖ We could have used more snow in November. I skinned some of the fattest mink, marten and fox that I've ever seen. The animals all seemed to be in great shape last winter.
- ❖ No Keep up the good work
- ❖ Thank you for all you do. The wolves in our area at a real low population. Haven't seen such a low population density since the pre-Malchatna caribou immigration to our area. This should be good news I guess, but I miss the wolves. (and the huge numbers of caribou as well). Other than that, no complaints.
- ❖ Limit the number of wolverines taken in Unit 23 under a trapping license.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Once again I would like to thank ADF&G Information Services staff for their help in scanning and compiling data from the 2012-13 Trapper Questionnaire. Without their help it would be difficult or impossible to complete reports before the next trapping season. I would also like to thank Tom Paul for his effort at assembling this report. The accuracy of information reported here, insightful interpretation, and readability of this report result from Tom's keen eye for detail and ability as a writer.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who responded to ADF&G's 2012-13 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 those resources. It also gives you a better understanding of how other trappers fared statewide. Please continue to return surveys and encourage other trappers to participate. If you know any trappers who would like to receive a Questionnaire and Report, please ask them to contact me at the phone number or email listed below.

Finally, many thanks to all who sent trapping photos. I enjoy seeing them and look forward to sharing them with others in this and future Trapper Questionnaire Reports. Please consider taking your camera along this season and e-mailing more photos when you return. We really need more trapping photos. 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.

Thanks and good luck in the field this coming season.

Sincerely,

Tom Schumacher, ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire Coordinator

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Photo by Ken Marsh



Photo by Ken Marsh



Photo by Bill Brophy



Photo by Rafe Johnson