

2013 Alaska Trapper Report: 1 July 2013–30 June 2014

Brynn L. Parr



©2018 ADF&G. Photo by Brynn Parr.



2018

2013 Alaska Trapper Report: 1 July 2013–30 June 2014

Brynn L. Parr

ADF&G, Trapper Questionnaire Coordinator

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

dfg.dwc.permits@alaska.gov

©2018 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Wildlife Conservation

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526



This project was supported by Pittman-Robertson funds from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program. Monies come from a manufacturer's excise tax from the sales of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. State matching funds were provided from the Fish and Game Fund.

Wildlife management reports are used to document general wildlife management issues or information. They typically summarize information related to a specific management issue, review management activities, and/or provide information about why a particular management approach has been taken or is recommended. They may be produced primarily for general or technical audiences. These reports are professionally reviewed by staff in the Division of Wildlife Conservation.

This wildlife management report was reviewed and approved for publication by Brynn L. Parr, ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire Coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Conservation, Juneau.

Wildlife management reports are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, PO Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526; phone (907) 465-4190; email: dfg.dwc.publications@alaska.gov; website: www.adfg.alaska.gov. The report may also be accessed through most libraries, via interlibrary loan from the Alaska State Library or the Alaska Resources Library and Information Service (www.arlis.org).

This document, published as a PDF only, should be cited as follows:

Parr, B. L. 2018. 2013 Alaska trapper report: 1 July 2013–30 June 2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2018-1, Juneau.

The State of Alaska is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Contact the Division of Wildlife Conservation at (907) 465-4190 for alternative formats of this publication.

ADF&G does not endorse or recommend any specific company or their products. Product names used in this publication are included for completeness but do not constitute product endorsement.

Cover Photo: Lynx resting under trees, Yukon Territory. ©2018 ADF&G. Photo by Brynn Parr.

Contents

Code of Ethics.....	1
A Trapper's Responsibility	1
Introduction.....	3
A Profile of Trapping in Alaska.....	4
Trapper Information.....	4
Did You Trap?	4
Trapping with a Partner	5
Trapping Experience.....	5
Trapline Information.....	6
Trapping Area	6
Trapping Frequency.....	7
Trapping Conditions	8
Trapline Composition	12
Trapping Efforts.....	12
Target Species and Fur Disposition	14
Target Species	14
Fur Disposition.....	16
Harvest Methods	18
Arctic Fox	18
Beaver	19
Coyote.....	20
Ermine.....	21
Lynx	22
Marten	23
Mink.....	24
Muskrat	25
Red Fox.....	26
Red Squirrel	27
River Otter	28
Wolf	29
Wolverine.....	30
Species Relative Abundance and Population Trends.....	31
Furbearer Harvest Report.....	38
Furbearer Sealing Records Summary	40
Wolf Harvest Methods.....	42
Commercial Transactions Involving Furs.....	43
Average Prices Paid for Raw Furs	43
Minimum Estimated Fur Value	44
Fur Sealing Requirements.....	45
Regional ADF&G Fur Sealing Officers	45
Area Biologists and Game Management Units.....	46
Trapper Comments.....	47
Author's Note.....	62

List of Figures

Figure 1. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation's regions and game management units.....	2
Figure 2. Reasons cited for not trapping during the 2013–2014 season, Alaska.....	4
Figure 3. Percent of trappers who took a young person (<16) trapping during the 2013–2014 season, Alaska.....	5
Figure 4. A statewide 15-year trend of trapper age and experience, Alaska, 1 July 1999–30 June 2014.....	6
Figure 5. Length of time spent trapping by region, Alaska, 2013–2014.	7
Figure 6. Number of weeks Alaska trappers spent trapping during the 2013–2014 season by region.	7
Figure 7. Number of days Alaska trappers spent trapping during the 2013–2014 season by region.	8
Figure 8. Trapping conditions reported for the 2013–2014 season by region, Alaska.	9
Figure 9. Annual variation in statewide trapping conditions, Alaska, 1999–2014.....	9
Figure 10. Primary mode of transportation used by Alaska trappers to reach their traplines during the 2013–2014 season.	10
Figure 11. Primary mode of transportation used by Alaska trappers to run their traplines during the 2013–2014 season.	11
Figure 12. Change in trapping efforts for the 2013–2014 season by region, Alaska.	12
Figure 13. Types of change in trapping effort for the 2013–2014 season, Alaska.	13
Figure 14. Factors affecting trapping effort by region during the 2013–2014 season, Alaska.....	14
Figure 15. The number of trappers statewide ranking each species as the first, second, or third most important species they targeted during the 2013–2014 season in Alaska.....	15
Figure 16. Disposition of furs harvested during the 2013–2014 season in Alaska.....	16
Figure 17. Disposition of furs being sold to fur buyers harvested during the 2013–2014 season in Alaska.	17

List of Tables

Table 1. Response to 2013 Alaska trapper questionnaire.	4
Table 2. Average trapline length and number of sets per trapline in Alaska for the 2013–2014 season.	12
Table 3. Species ranked ^a by importance at both statewide and regional levels, Alaska, 2013–2014.....	15
Table 4. Southeast Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.....	32
Table 5. Southcentral Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.....	33
Table 6. Interior Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.....	34
Table 7. Southwest Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.....	35
Table 8. Arctic & Western Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.....	36

Table 9. Statewide Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.....	37
Table 10. Furbearer harvest as reported on the 2013 trapper questionnaire, Alaska.....	38
Table 11. Trapper questionnaire totals as a percent of total number sealed, as reported on the 2013 questionnaire and in the 2013 regulatory year ^a sealing records, Alaska.	40
Table 12. Reported harvest from regulatory year ^a sealing records, Alaska, 2009–2013.....	41
Table 13. Reported wolf harvest methods from regulatory year ^a sealing records, Alaska, 2009–2013.....	42
Table 14. Average fur prices published by the North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc., for the last 5 regulatory years ^a , 2009–2013.	43
Table 15. Fur value in Alaska, 2013–2014 trapping season.	44



Code of Ethics

A TRAPPER’S RESPONSIBILITY

1. Respect other trapper’s “grounds” – particularly brushed, maintained traplines with a history of use.
2. Check traps regularly.
3. Promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching nontarget animals.
4. Obtain landowners’ 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. Dispose of animal carcasses properly.
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 in a joint effort between the Alaska Trappers Association and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The manual is available in Alaska book stores and from the Alaska Trappers Association for approximately \$26.00.

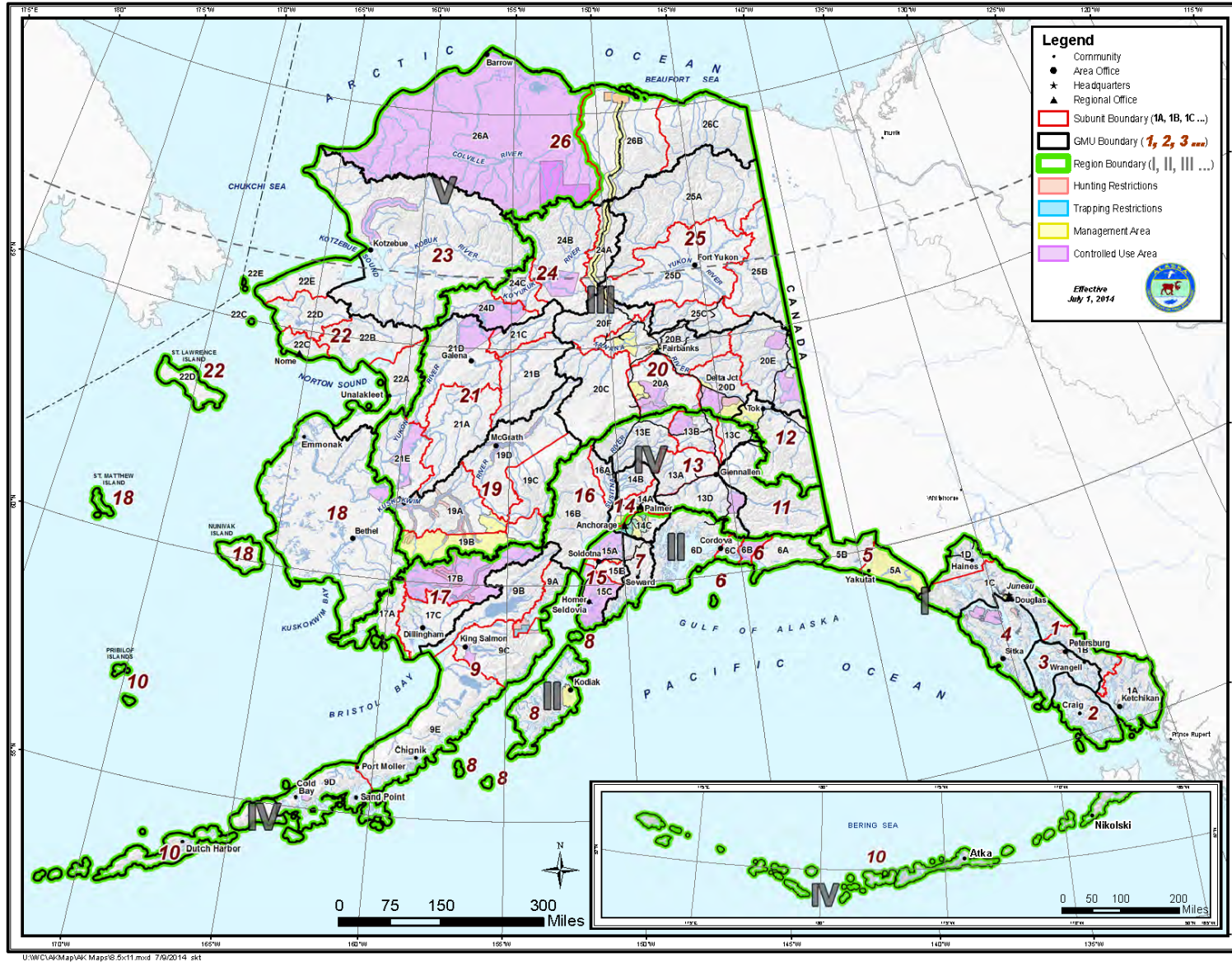


Figure 1. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation's regions and game management units.

Introduction

This *2013 Alaska Trapper Report: 1 July 2013–30 June 2014* contains information provided by trappers through the annual trapper questionnaire. On the following pages, you will 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 will also find fur sealing summaries from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and comments from trappers throughout the state.

This is the fourth trapper report written using data compiled with an optical scanner, rather than having ADF&G staff type information provided by trappers. We continue to improve the questionnaire form and scanning program.

The accuracy and value of information provided in this report depends on the numbers of trappers who reply. To help the 2013 questionnaire reach trappers, we identified active trappers using licensing and fur sealing records. Those efforts paid off. We mailed 2,376 questionnaires in 2013 and received 479 responses, a 20.2% response rate.

As always, we maintain strict confidentiality. The 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.

This report and all previous reports can be found on our website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=trapping.reports>

A Profile of Trapping in Alaska

TRAPPER INFORMATION

Did You Trap?

This year, 2,376 questionnaires were mailed throughout the state and 479 were returned for an overall response rate of 20.2%. The response rate was highest from the Southcentral region and lowest for the Southwest region. Statewide, 59.7% of respondents trapped during the 2013–2014 season.

Table 1. Response to 2013 Alaska trapper questionnaire.

Region	Trapped	Did not trap	No response	Total	% Responding
Southeast	55	25	295	375	21.3
Southcentral	97	97	373	567	34.2
Interior	89	38	601	728	17.4
Southwest	26	15	462	503	8.2
Arctic & Western	19	18	166	203	18.2
Total	286	193	1,897	2,376	20.2

Statewide, 168 respondents offered reasons why they did not trap during the 2013–2014 season. Some respondents gave more than one reason. Overall, 65% of the reasons cited were in the personal or other categories (family commitments, poor health, conflicts with work schedule, etc.).

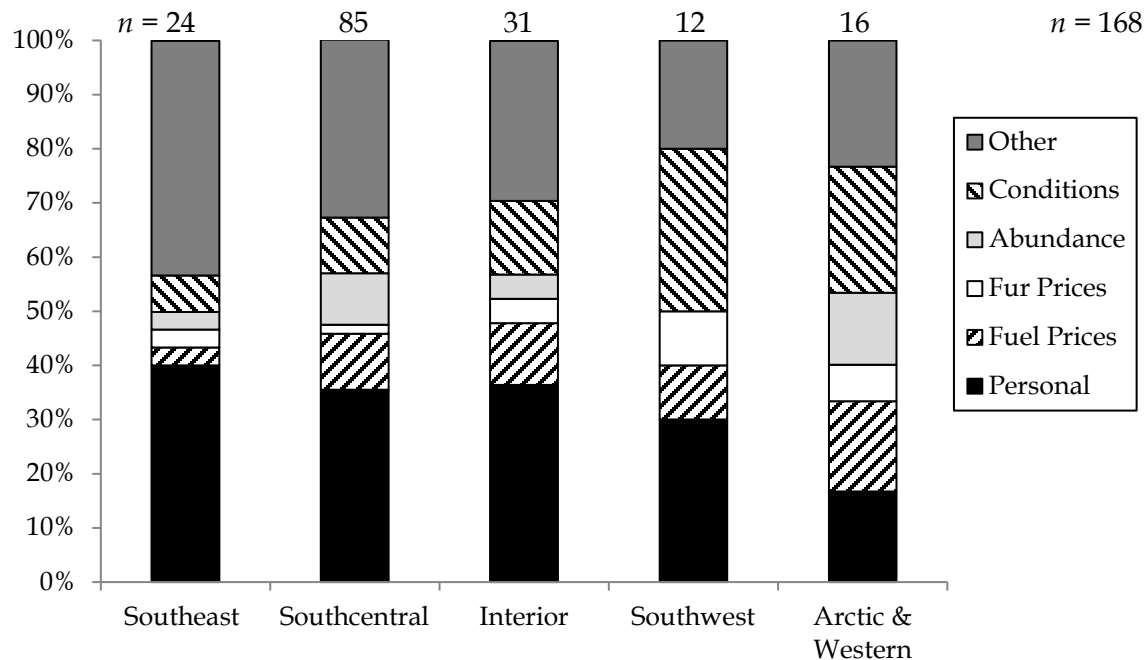


Figure 2. Reasons cited for not trapping during the 2013–2014 season, Alaska.

Trapping with a Partner

During the 2013–2014 trapping season, 39% of trappers statewide reported they trapped with a partner. However, only 10% of trappers statewide reported they took a young person (under 16) with them, down 28% from 2012 and continuing the lower trend down from the 48% reported in 2005. As shown by the graph below, the highest percentage of trappers taking youngsters trapping was in the Arctic & Western region (15%) and the lowest percentage (1%) was from the Southcentral region.

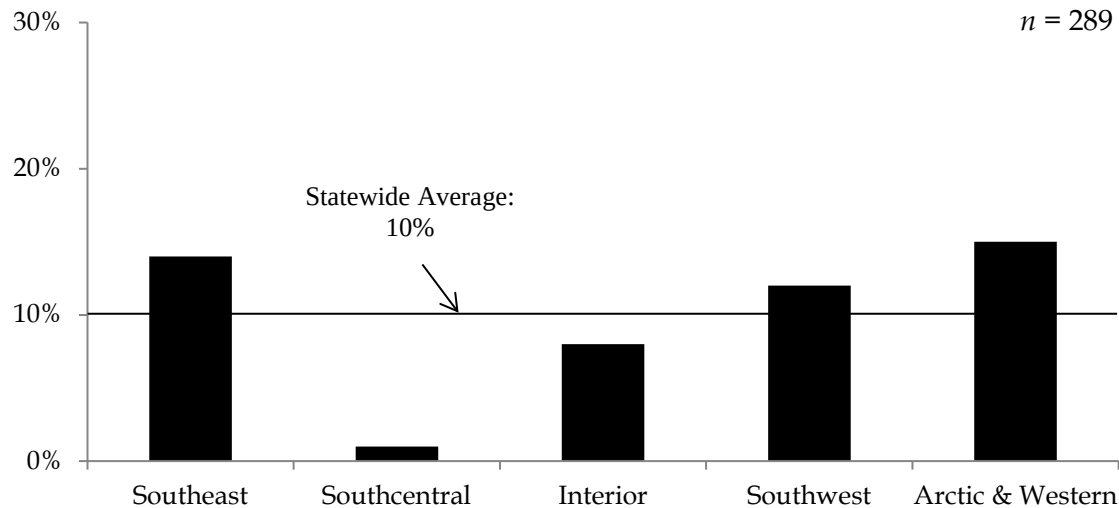


Figure 3. Percent of trappers who took a young person (<16) trapping during the 2013–2014 season, Alaska.

Trapping Experience

During the 2013–2014 season, trappers statewide averaged 23 years of experience trapping overall and 19 years of experience trapping in Alaska. This average is down slightly from the averages over the last 15 years, indicating there is a younger group of trappers in the field. This average is also up slightly from the low found in 2008, indicating Alaska is retaining its trappers. No data were collected in 2009. Trappers in the Interior region averaged the highest trapping experience overall (26 years trapping) and the most trapping experience in Alaska (23 years trapping).

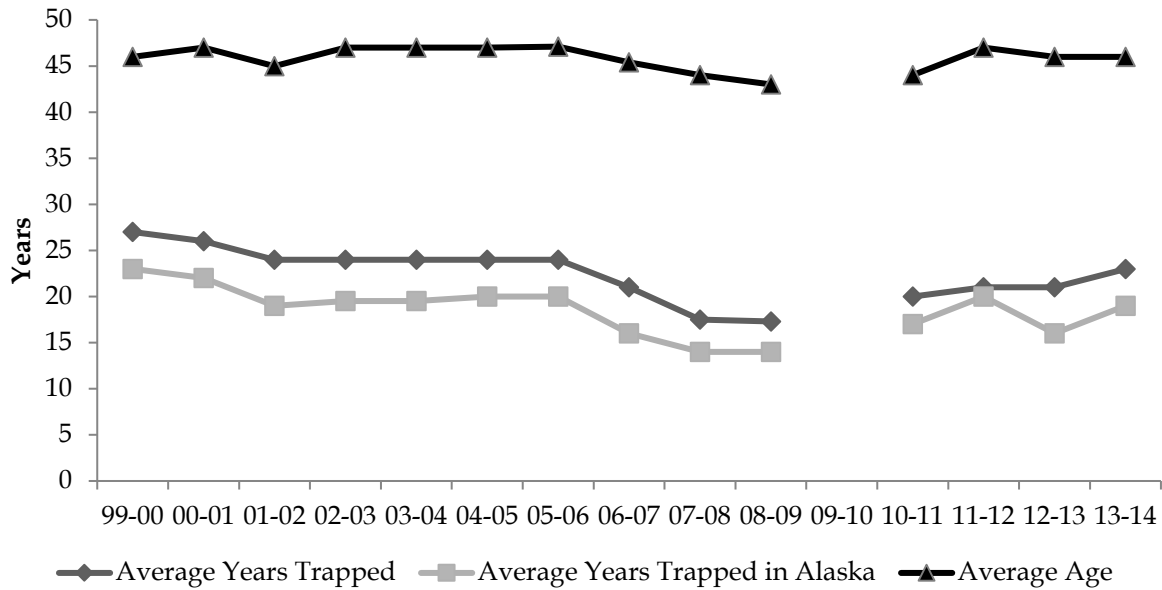


Figure 4. A statewide 15-year trend of trapper age and experience, Alaska, 1 July 1999–30 June 2014.

TRAPLINE INFORMATION

Trapping Area

Statewide, trappers have trapped in the same area for an average of 15 years. Trappers in the Arctic & Western region have spent the longest time trapping in the same area (19 years), while trappers in the Southcentral and Southeast regions have spent the least amount of time in the same area (13 years). The longest time spent trapping in a single area was 60 years, reported out of the Southeast region.



Photo by Ken Marsh

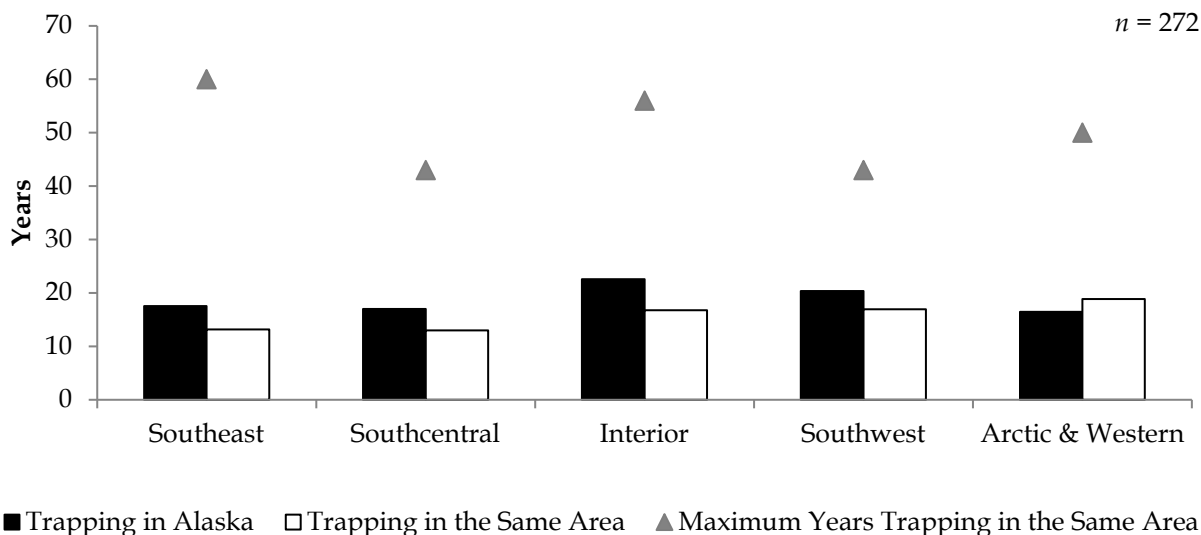


Figure 5. Length of time spent trapping by region, Alaska, 2013–2014.

Trapping Frequency

During the 2013–2014 season, trappers spent an average of 9.8 weeks in the field trapping. Trappers in the Interior region spent the longest time trapping (average of 13 weeks), while trappers in Southeast spent the least amount of time trapping (average of 7 weeks). Statewide, 41% of trappers trapped more than 10 weeks.

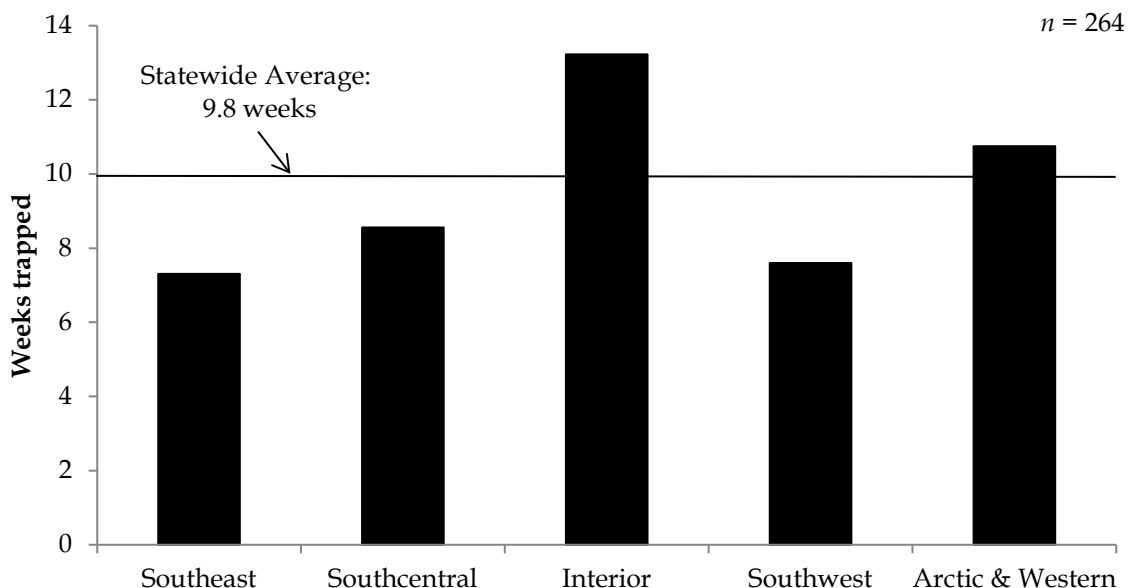


Figure 6. Number of weeks Alaska trappers spent trapping during the 2013–2014 season by region.

Statewide, 74% of trappers conducted their trapping activities 3 days per week or less, up slightly from 2012. The Southwest region of Alaska had the highest percentage of trappers (27%) trap all 7 days of the week.

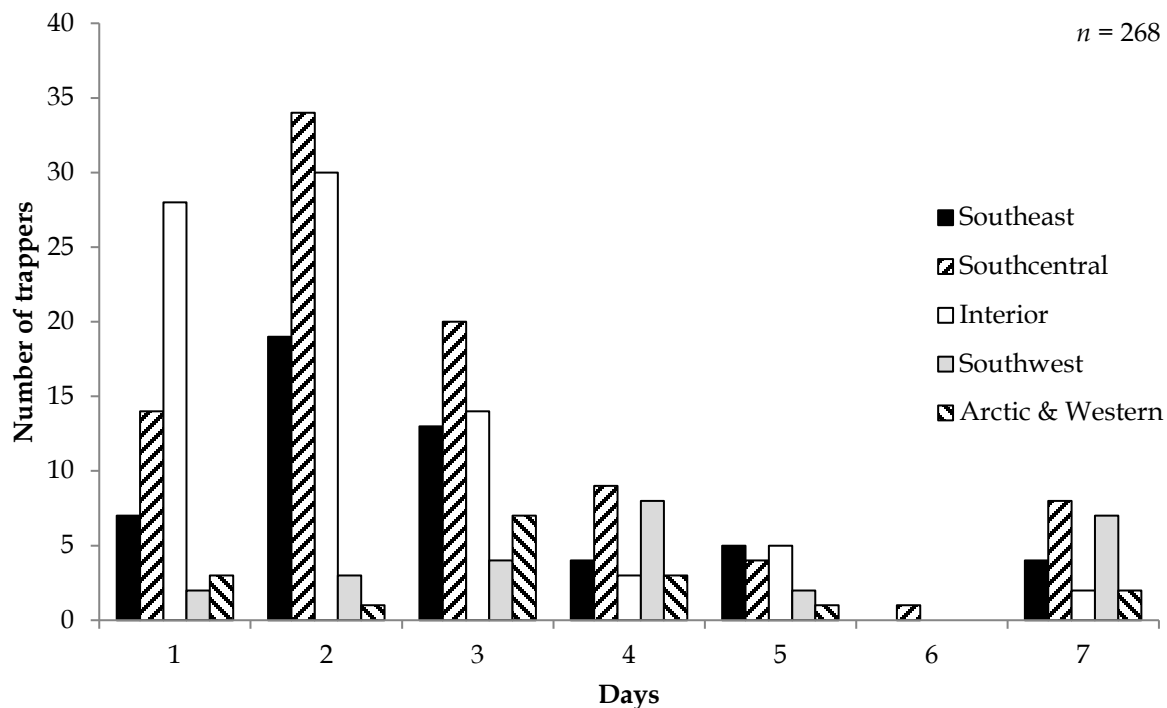


Figure 7. Number of days Alaska trappers spent trapping during the 2013–2014 season by region.

Trapping Conditions

Most trappers in all regions reported fair trapping conditions during the 2013–2014 trapping season. A higher percentage of Arctic & Western trappers (41%) than in other regions reported poor conditions. Trappers in the Southcentral region (58%) were most likely to report fair trapping conditions. Statewide, 18% of trappers reported good trapping conditions, 50% reported fair conditions, and 32% of trappers reported poor trapping conditions.

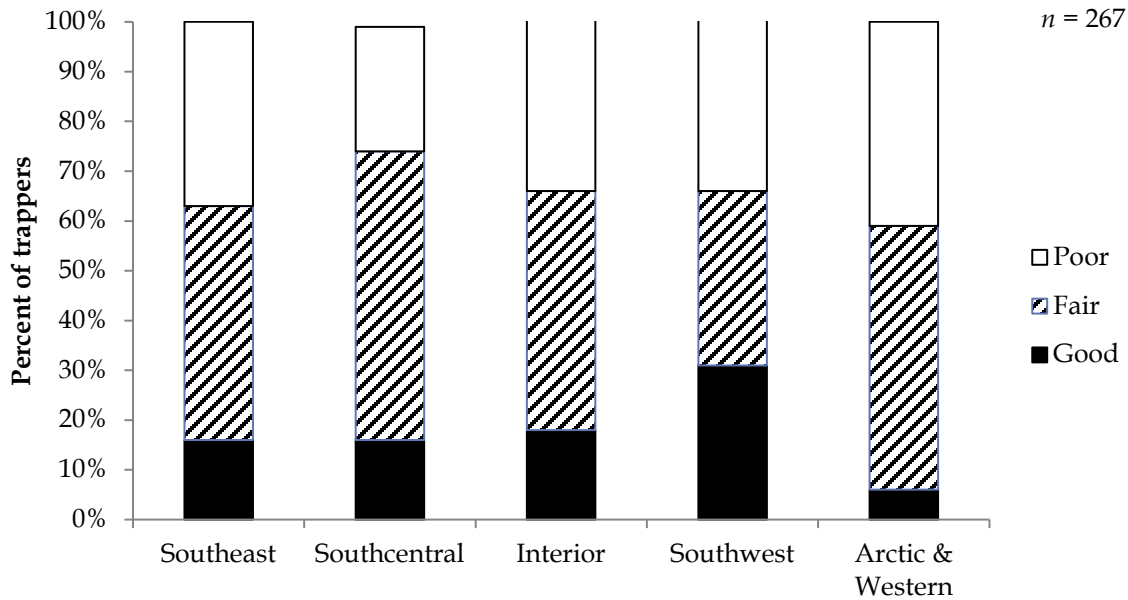


Figure 8. Trapping conditions reported for the 2013–2014 season by region, Alaska.

Statewide, only 18% of trappers reported good trapping conditions. This continues a downward trend seen over the last 3 seasons and is the second lowest level reported by trappers over the past 15 years. An additional 32% of trappers statewide reported poor trapping conditions. This is higher than the 2012, but is lower than the percentage of poor conditions reported from 2005 through 2009.

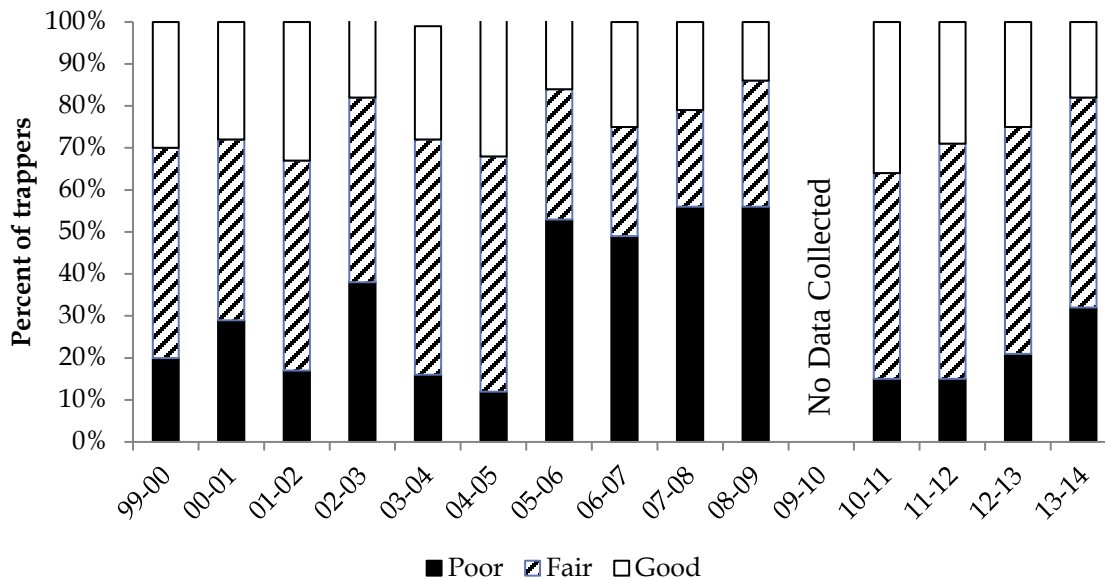


Figure 9. Annual variation in statewide trapping conditions, Alaska, 1999–2014.

Primary Mode of Transportation from Home to the Traplines

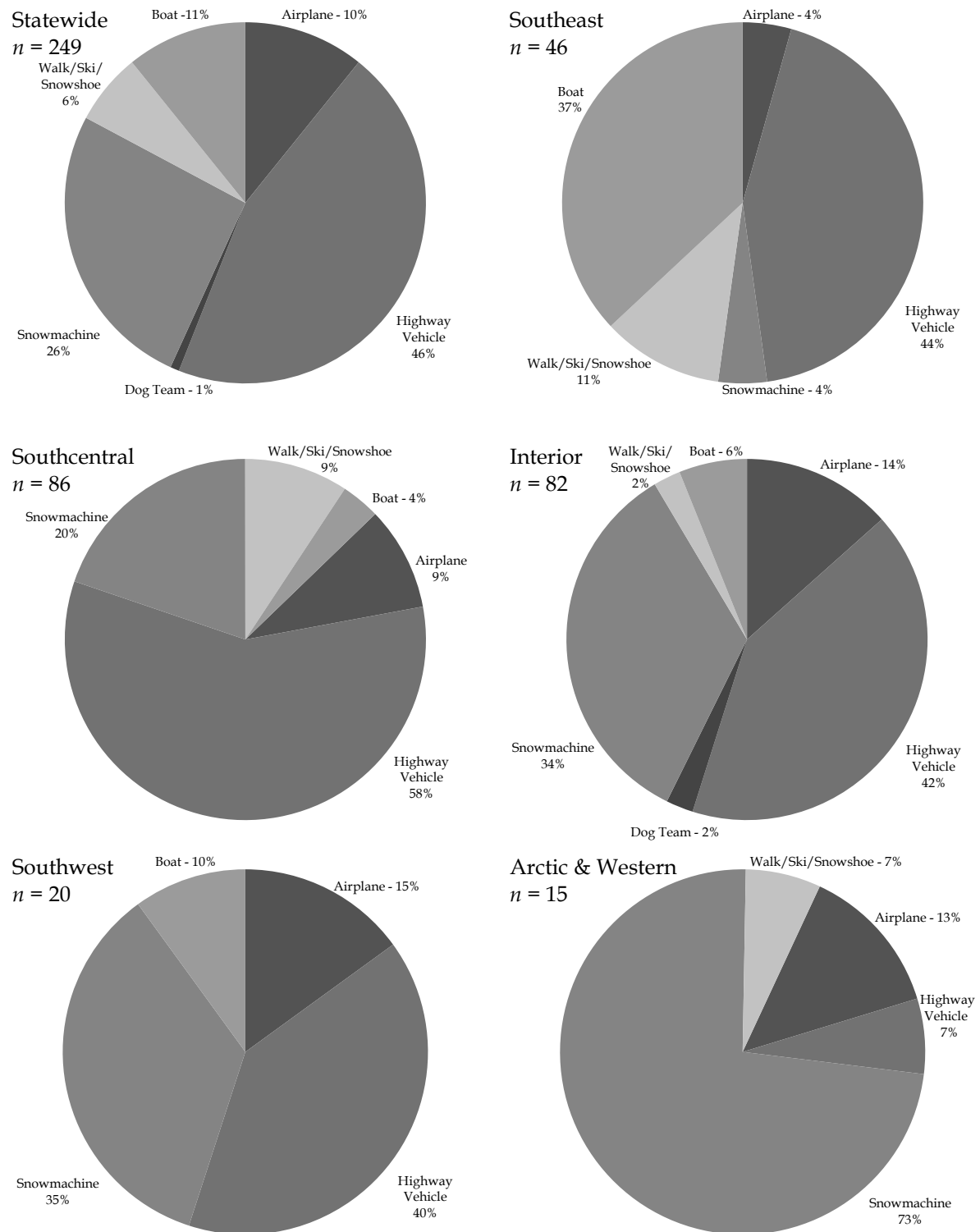


Figure 10. Primary mode of transportation used by Alaska trappers to reach their traplines during the 2013–2014 season.

Primary Mode of Transportation Used to Run the Traplines

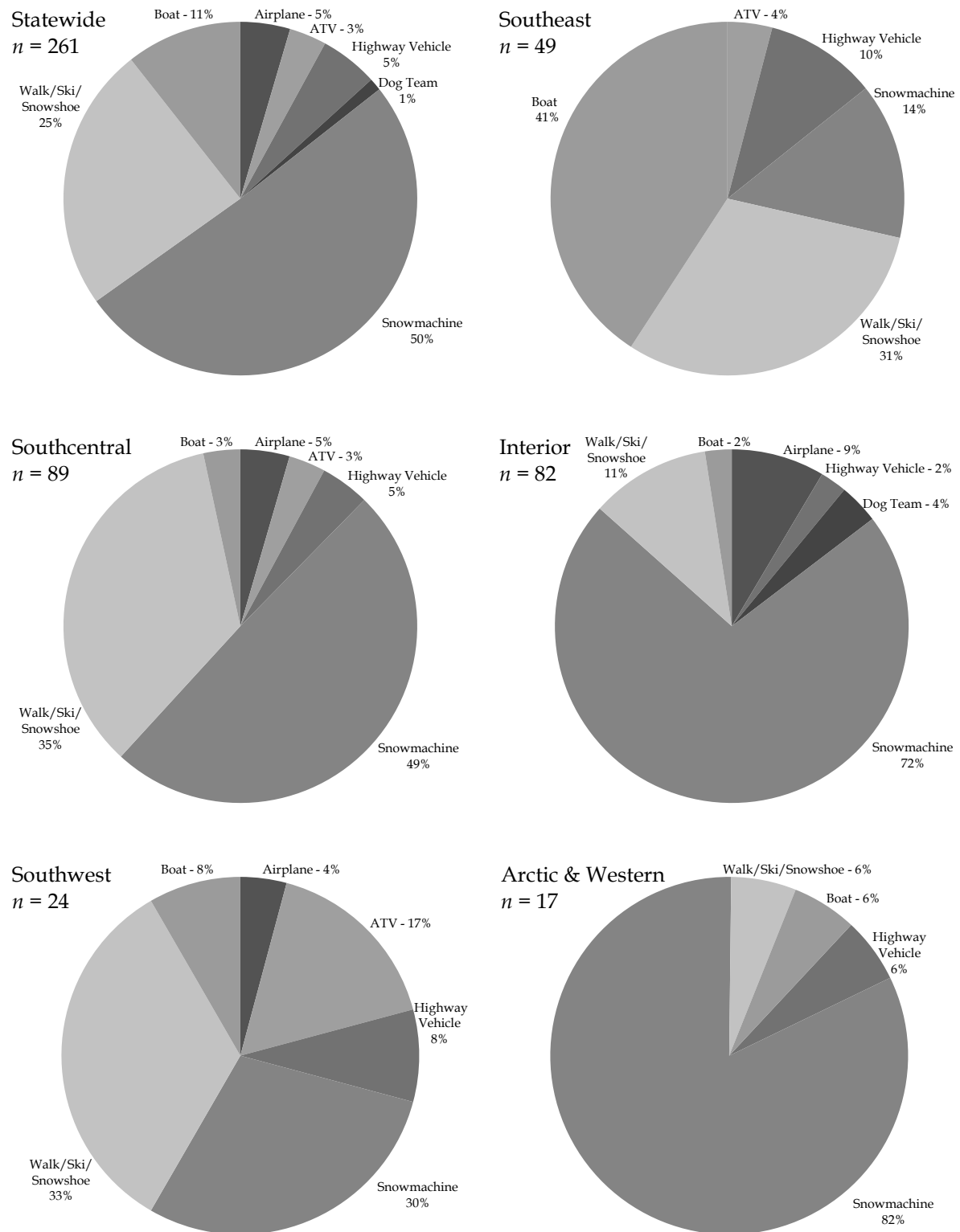


Figure 11. Primary mode of transportation used by Alaska trappers to run their traplines during the 2013–2014 season.

Trapline Composition

Statewide, trappers ran a trapline an average of 22 miles in length and averaged 42 sets per trapline. Trappers in the Arctic & Western region averaged the longest traplines (32 miles) and fewest sets (26) per trapline. Interior trappers averaged the highest number of sets per trapline (60).

Table 2. Average trapline length and number of sets per trapline in Alaska for the 2013–2014 season.

Region	Average length (miles)	Maximum length (miles)	Average number of sets	Maximum number of sets
Southeast	17	130	38	250
Southcentral	17	300	30	190
Interior	27	140	60	350
Southwest	24	150	36	200
Arctic & Western	32	170	26	80
Statewide	22	300	42	350

Trapping Efforts

During the 2013–2014 season, 41% ($n = 111$) of Alaskan trappers did not change their efforts from last season. Of those who did change their efforts ($n = 160$), 36% increased their efforts. As a result of those increased efforts, 47% of trappers ($n = 27$) saw an increase in their overall catch.

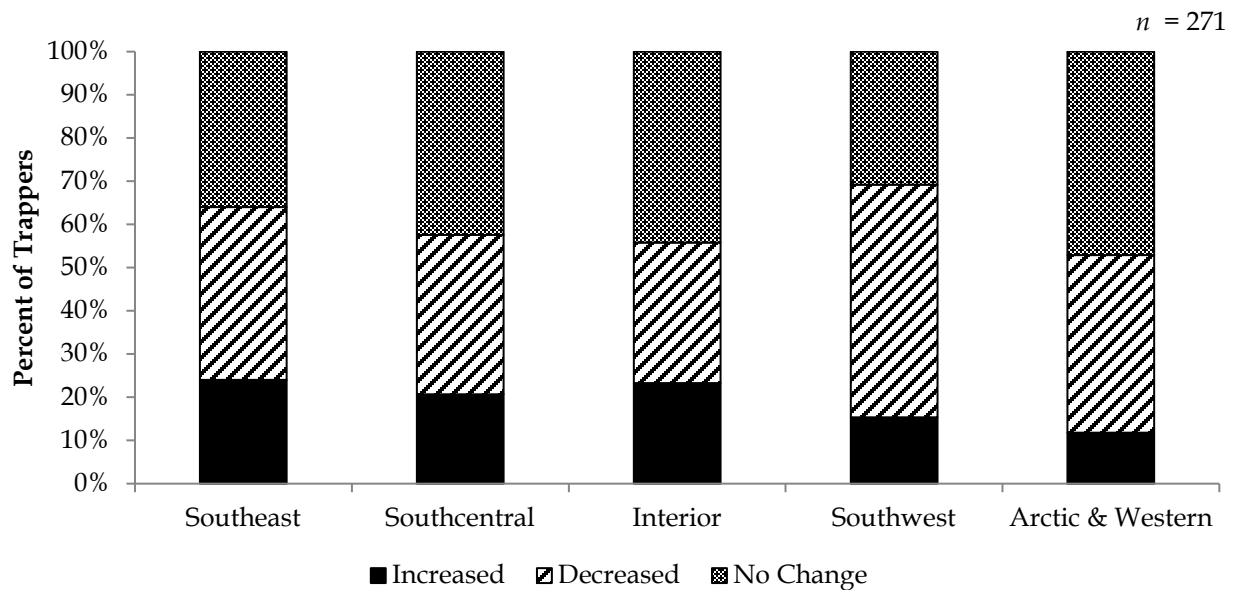


Figure 12. Change in trapping efforts for the 2013–2014 season by region, Alaska.

Trappers could choose multiple responses for how their efforts changed in the 2013–2014 season. The most common change in effort across Alaska ($n = 80$) was seen by increasing the number of weeks trapped; this change was most common in all regions except in Southeast. In Southeast the most common change ($n = 17$) was increasing the number of sets.

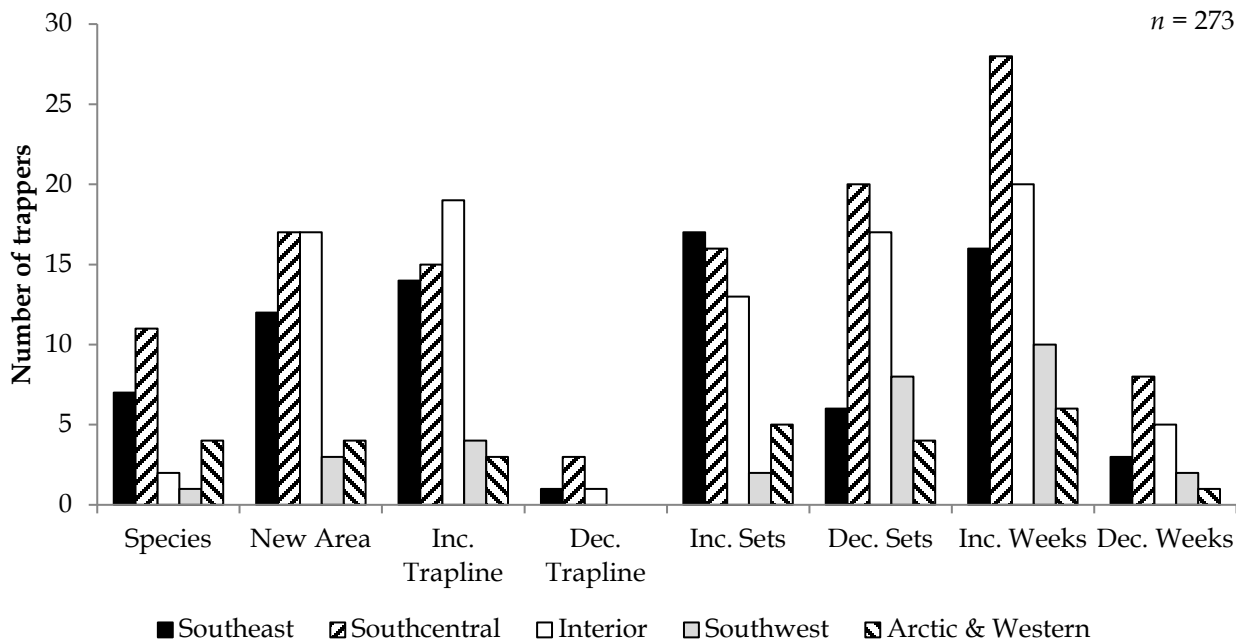


Figure 13. Types of change in trapping effort for the 2013–2014 season, Alaska.

During the 2013–2014 season, the leading factor affecting trapping effort cited by trappers in Southeast, Interior, and Arctic & Western Alaska was the previous season’s fur prices. Southcentral trappers cited trapping conditions as the leading factor affecting their trapping effort, and trapping conditions and fuel prices impacted Southwest trappers’ efforts equally.



Figure 14. Factors affecting trapping effort by region during the 2013–2014 season, Alaska.

TARGET SPECIES AND FUR DISPOSITION

Target Species

Table 3 below shows how each species ranked in order of importance by region, with 1 being most important and 13 being least important. Rank was calculated by totaling the number of trappers who ranked that species as 1 of the 3 most important species they were trying to catch. Repeats of rank indicate that 1 or more species tied for that rank. A double-dash indicates no trappers ranked that species as one of the most important.

Marten was once again the most important species across Alaska. Lynx was the second most important species statewide, and beaver was the third most important species across Alaska.



Photo by Brian McCorison

Table 3. Species ranked^a by importance at both statewide and regional levels, Alaska, 2013–2014.

Species	Statewide	Southeast	Southcentral	Interior	Southwest	Arctic & Western
Marten	1	1	1	1	2	1
Lynx	2	6	2	2	6	2
Beaver	3	3	2	5	1	4
Wolf	4	4	5	3	4	5
Wolverine	5	5	3	4	3	4
River Otter	6	3	4	8	5	5
Mink	7	2	6	9	6	6
Red Fox	8	-- ^b	8	6	1	3
Coyote	9	7	7	7	7	--
Ermine	10	7	5	8	--	--
Muskrat	11	--	8	10	7	6
Red Squirrel	12	7	9	--	7	7
Arctic Fox	13	--	--	11	--	7

^a Rank = 1–13; with 1 being most important and 13 least important.

^b A double dash indicates no trappers ranked that species as one of the most important.

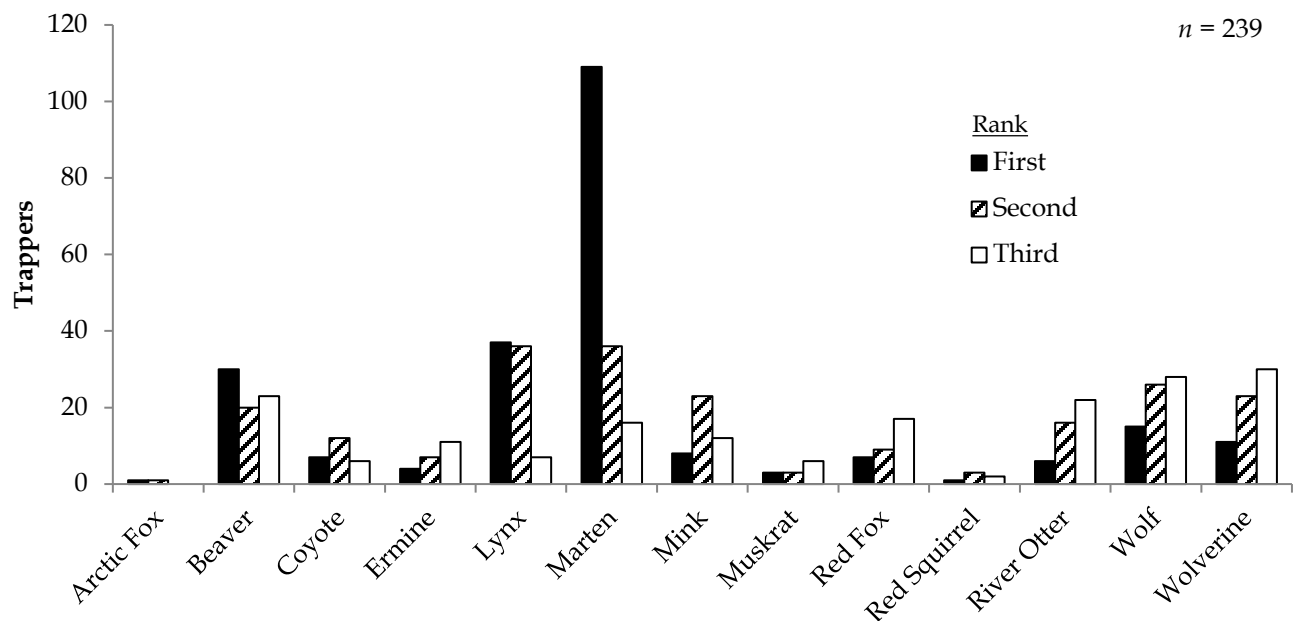


Figure 15. The number of trappers statewide ranking each species as the first, second, or third most important species they targeted during the 2013–2014 season in Alaska.

Fur Disposition

Trappers in Southcentral split nearly even whether they kept (49%) or sold (48%) most of their furs in the 2013–2014 season. In other areas, 72% of Interior trappers, 65% of Arctic & Western trappers, and 62% of Southeast trappers sold most of their furs, while 54% of trappers in Southwest kept most of their furs. Statewide, 57% of trappers sold most of their furs.

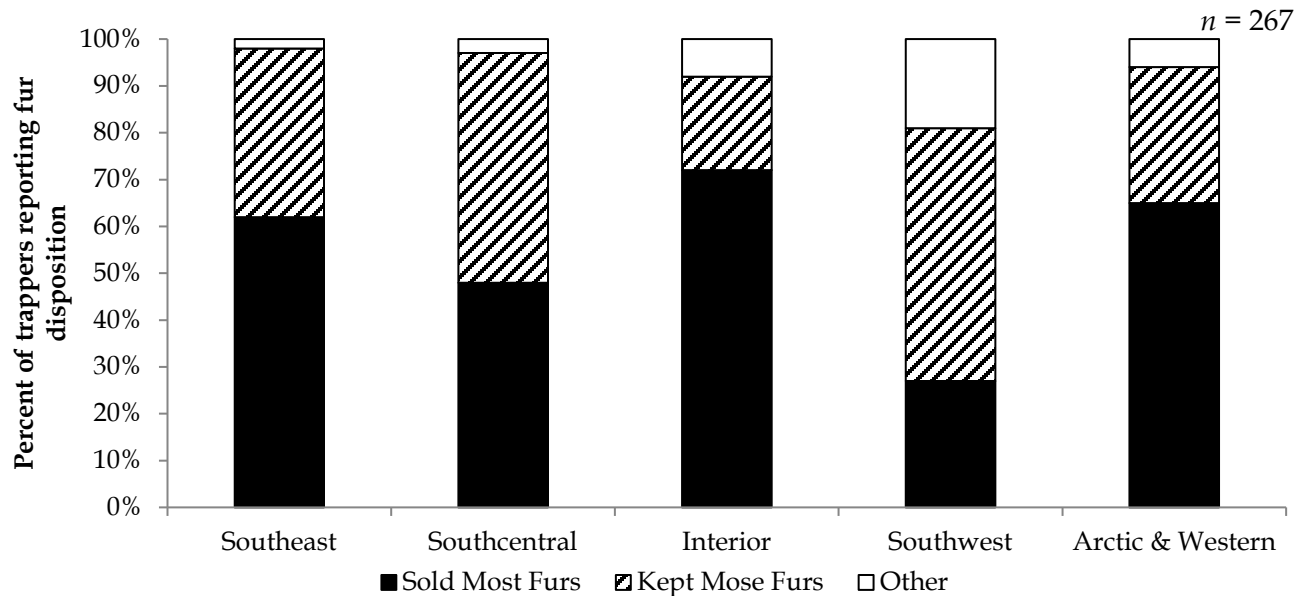


Figure 16. Disposition of furs harvested during the 2013–2014 season in Alaska.

Of those who sold their furs, 57% of Southwest trappers sold most of their furs to buyers in Alaska. In both Southcentral and Southeast Alaska, 74% of trappers sold most of their furs to buyers located outside Alaska, as did 55% of Arctic & Western trappers and 62% of Interior trappers. Statewide, 66% sold most of their furs to buyers outside Alaska.

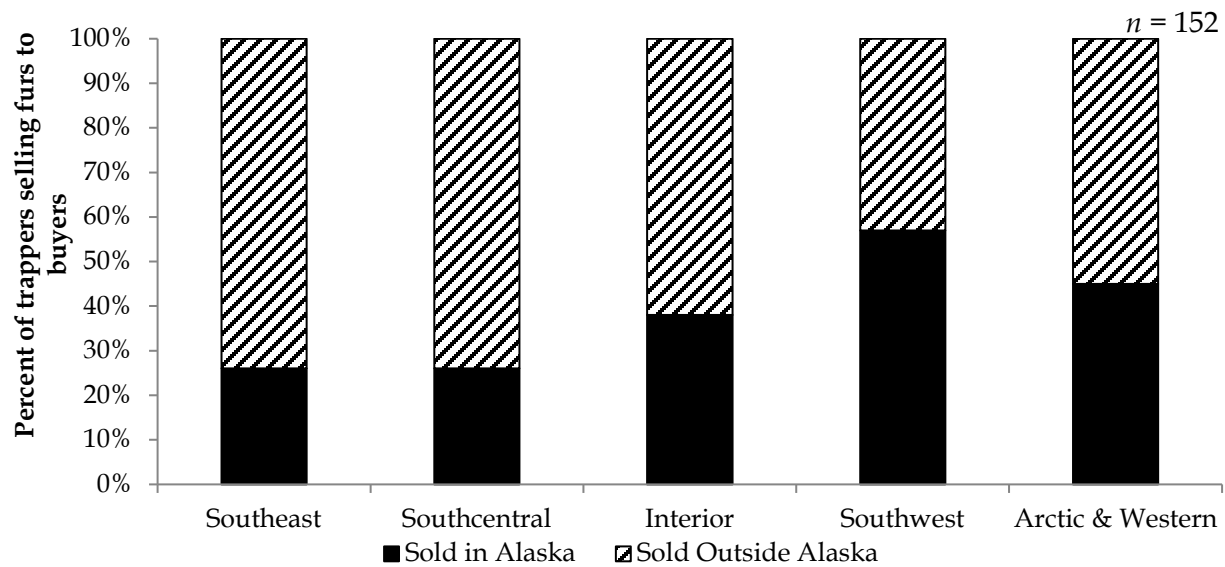


Figure 17. Disposition of furs being sold to fur buyers harvested during the 2013–2014 season in Alaska.



Photo by Victoria Kotongan

Harvest Methods

ARCTIC FOX

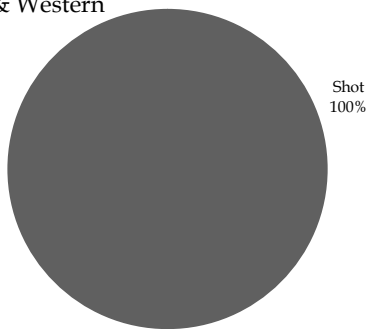
Southeast
No harvest reported

Southcentral
No harvest reported

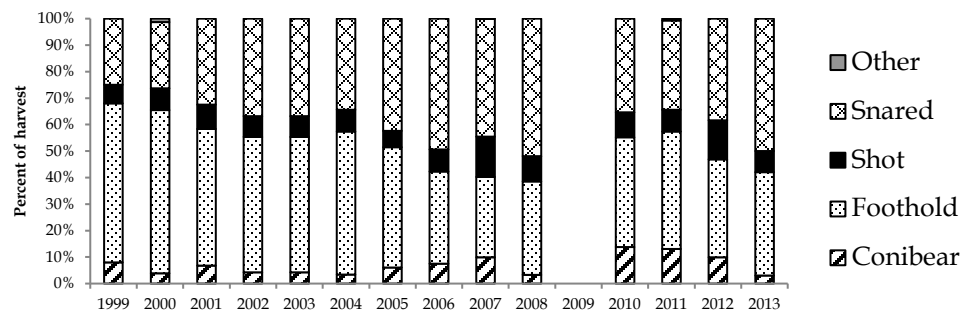
Interior
No harvest reported

Southwest
No harvest reported

Arctic & Western
n = 1



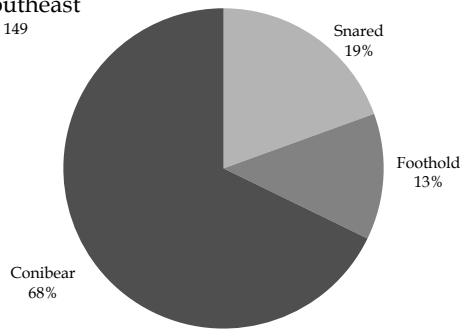
Statewide
trends in all
fox harvest
methods



BEAVER

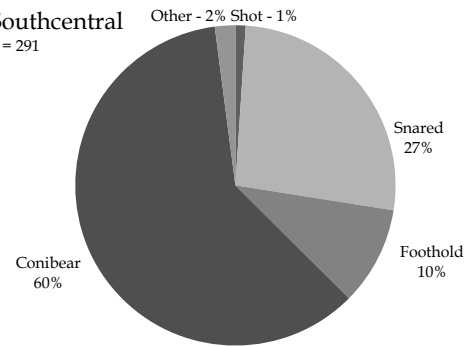
Southeast

n = 149



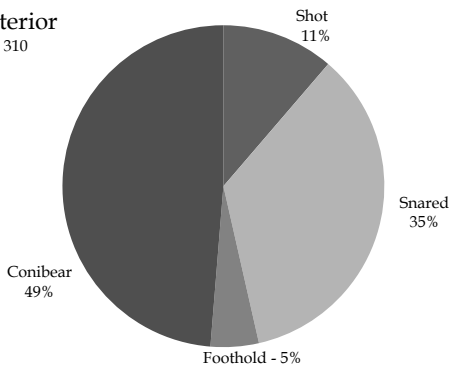
Southcentral

n = 291



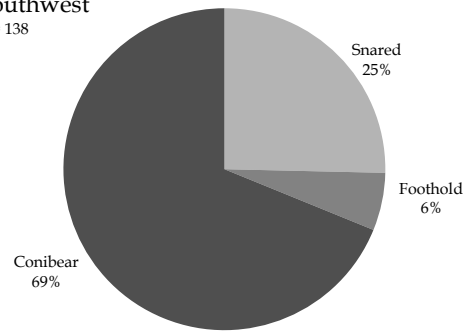
Interior

n = 310



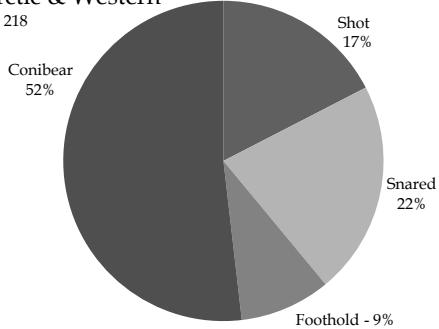
Southwest

n = 138

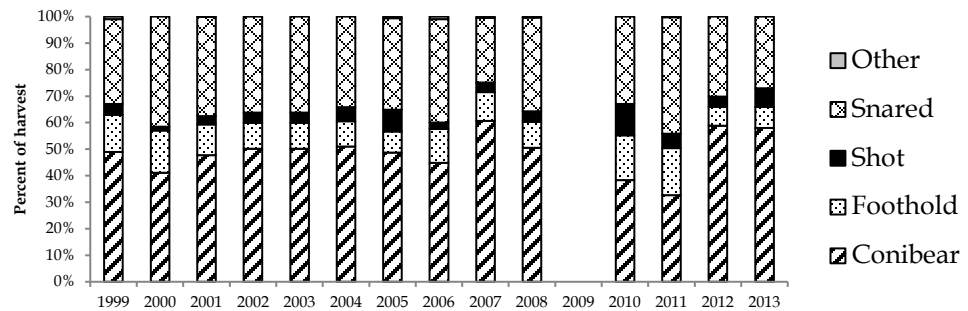


Arctic & Western

n = 218

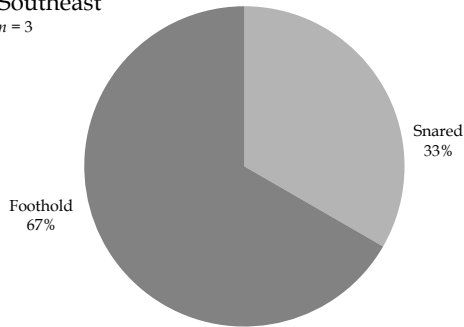


Statewide trends in harvest methods

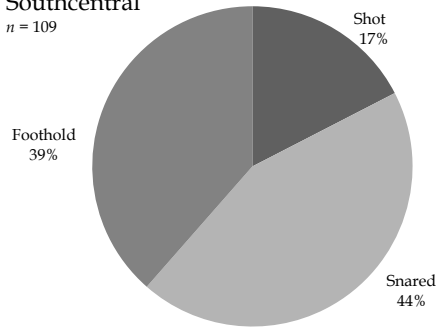


COYOTE

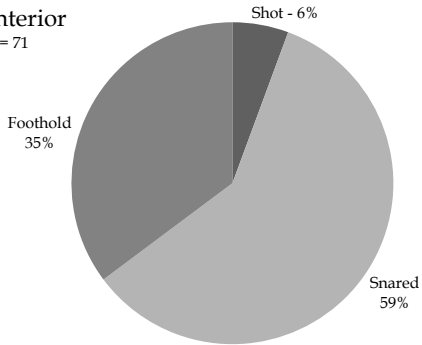
Southeast
n = 3



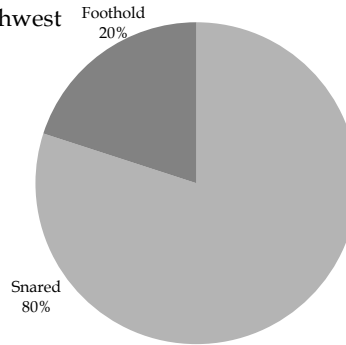
Southcentral
n = 109



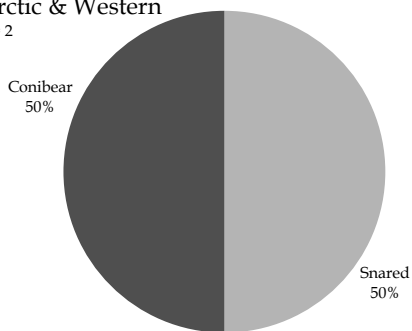
Interior
n = 71



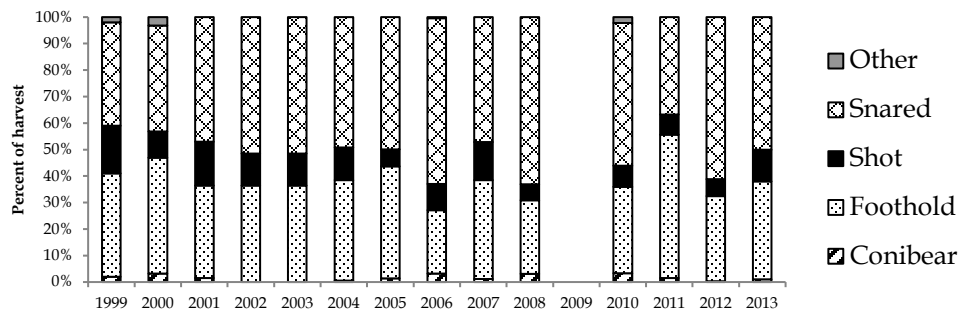
Southwest
n = 5



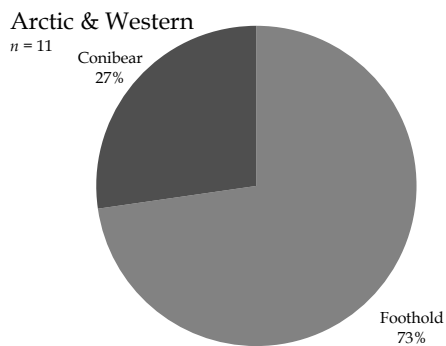
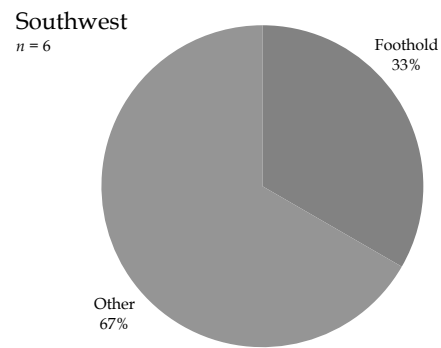
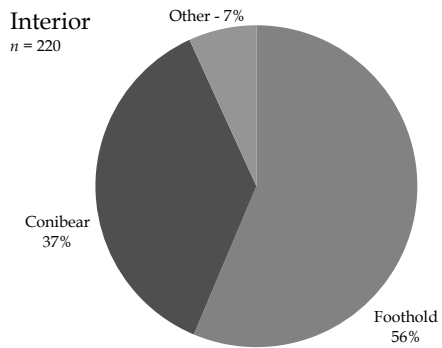
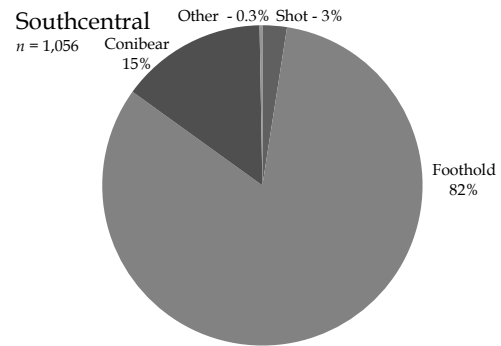
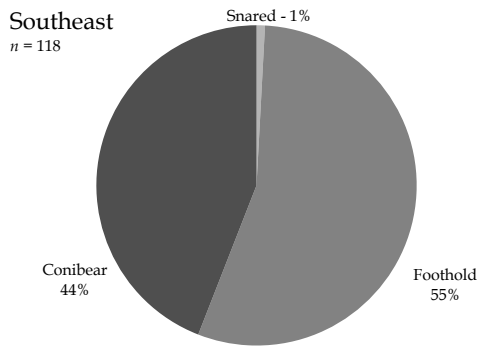
Arctic & Western
n = 2



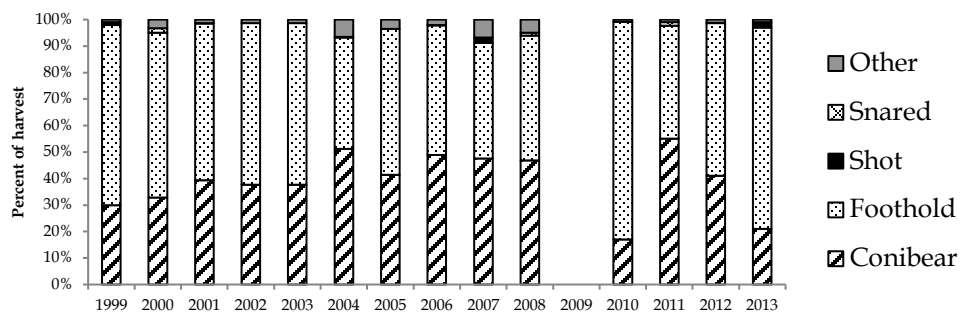
Statewide
trends in
harvest
methods



ERMINE

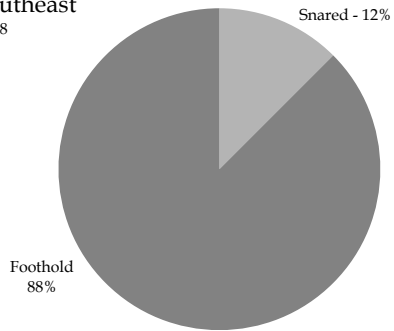


Statewide trends in harvest methods

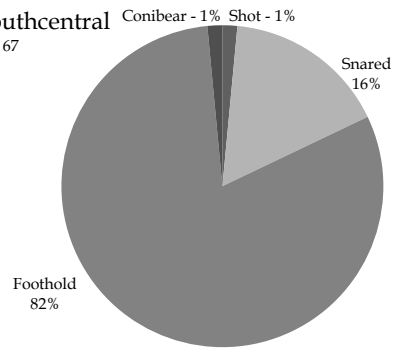


LYNX

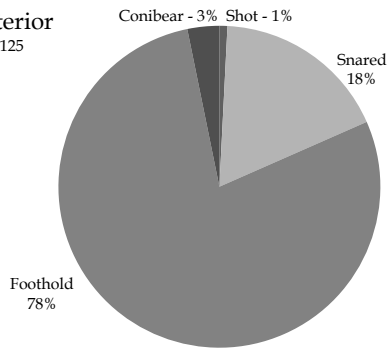
Southeast
n = 8



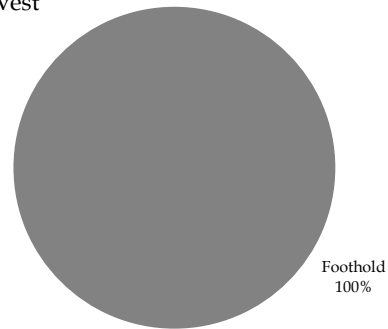
Southcentral
n = 67



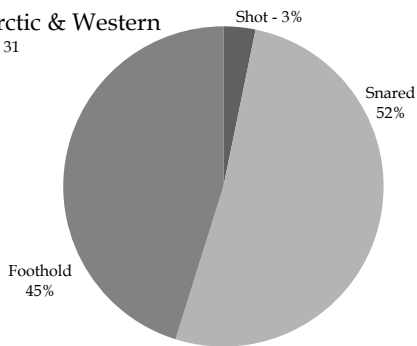
Interior
n = 125



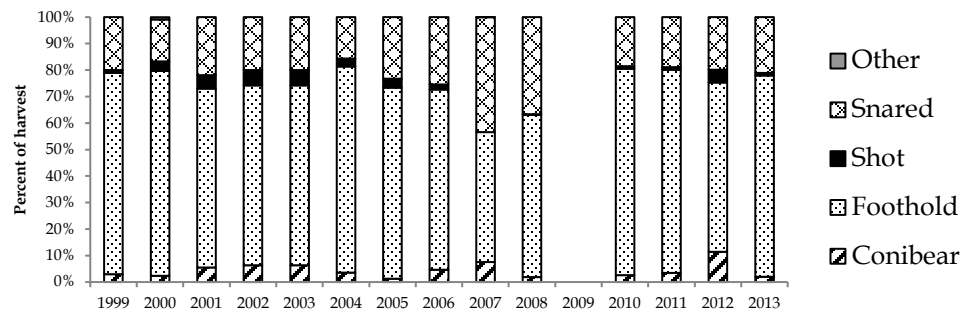
Southwest
n = 9



Arctic & Western
n = 31

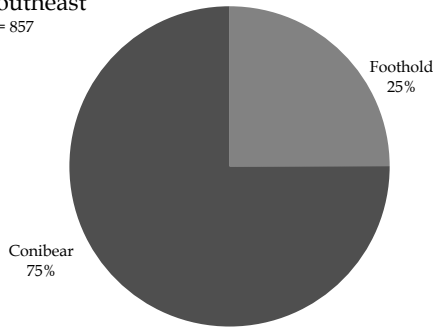


Statewide
trends in
harvest
methods

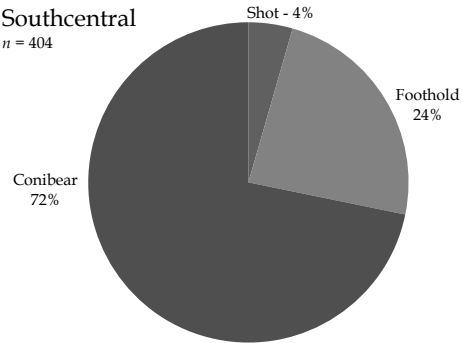


MARTEN

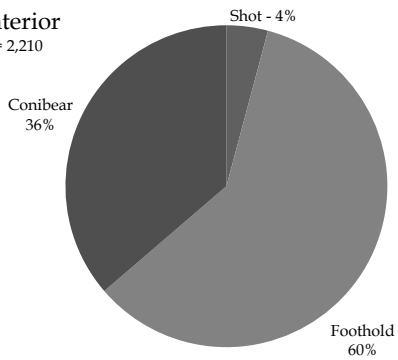
Southeast
n = 857



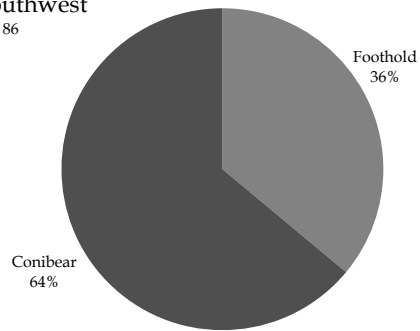
Southcentral
n = 404



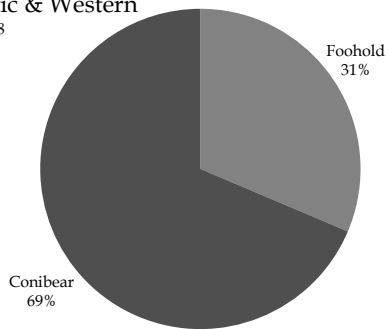
Interior
n = 2,210



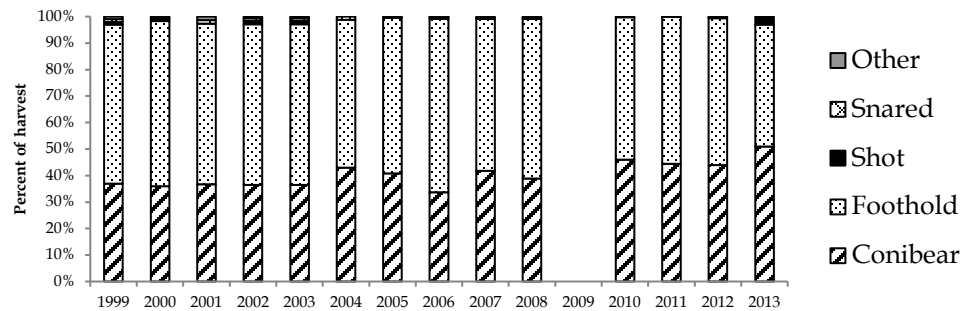
Southwest
n = 86



Arctic & Western
n = 188

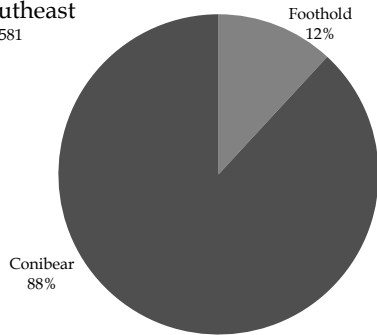


Statewide trends in harvest methods

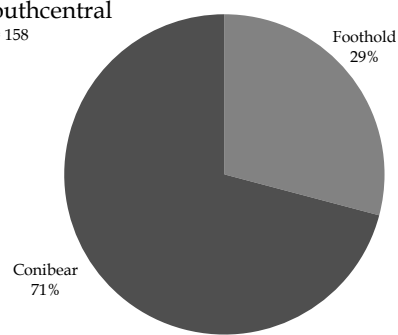


MINK

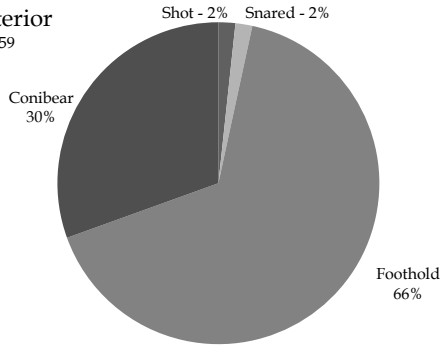
Southeast
n = 581



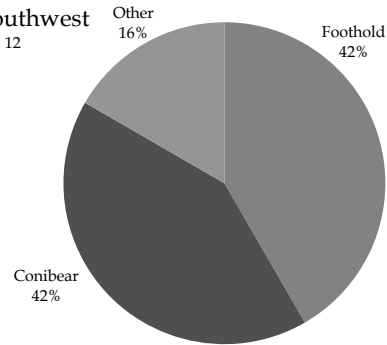
Southcentral
n = 158



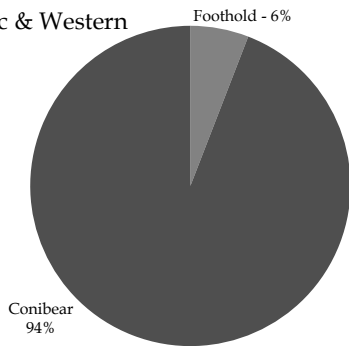
Interior
n = 59



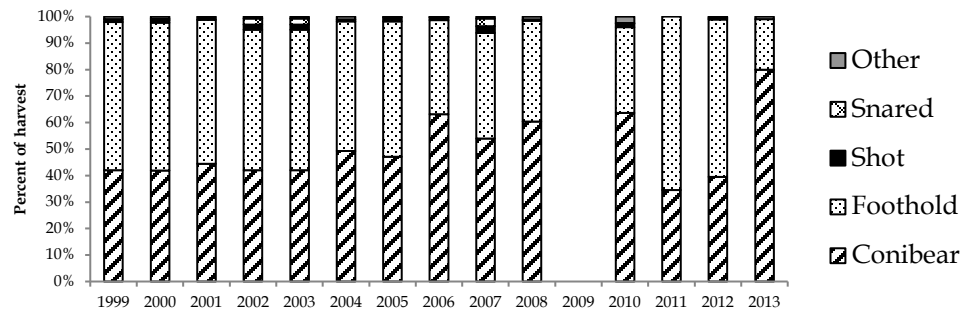
Southwest
n = 12



Arctic & Western
n = 17

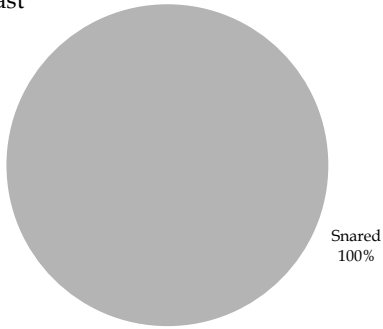


Statewide trends in harvest methods

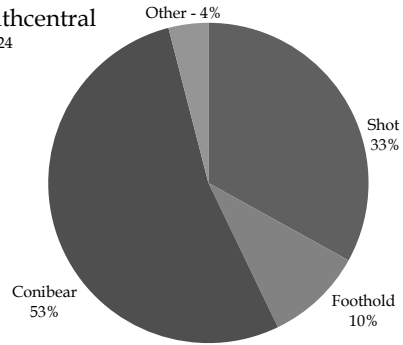


MUSKRAT

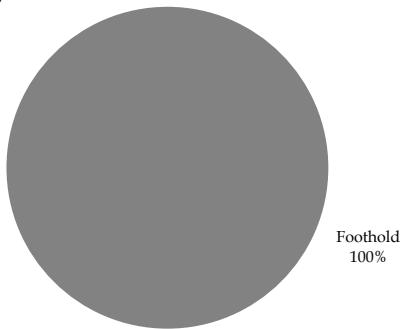
Southeast
n = 1



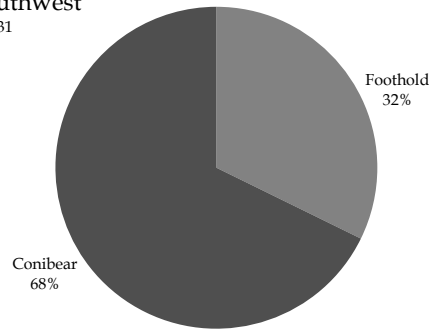
Southcentral
n = 224



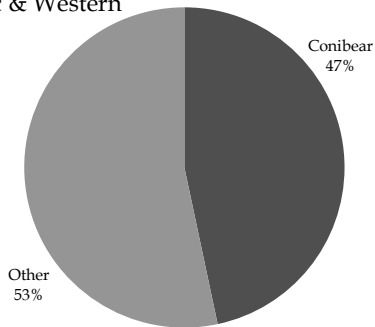
Interior
n = 102



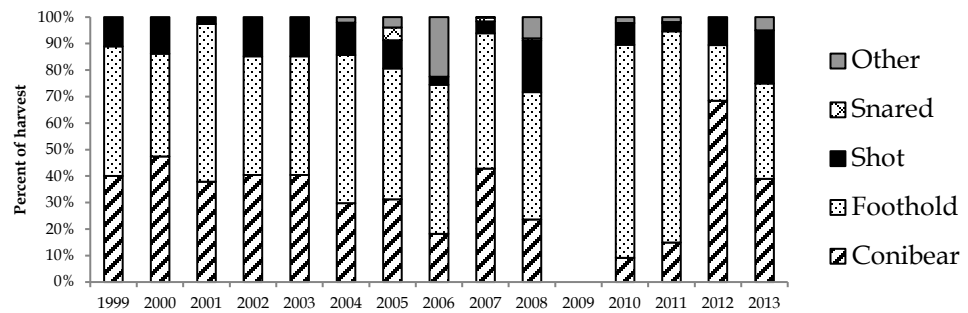
Southwest
n = 31



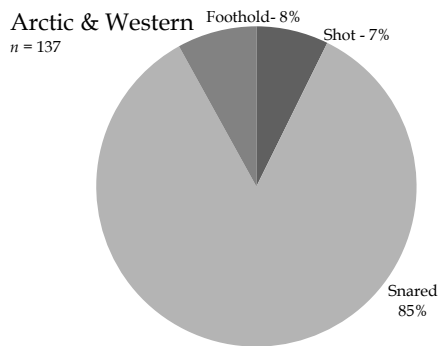
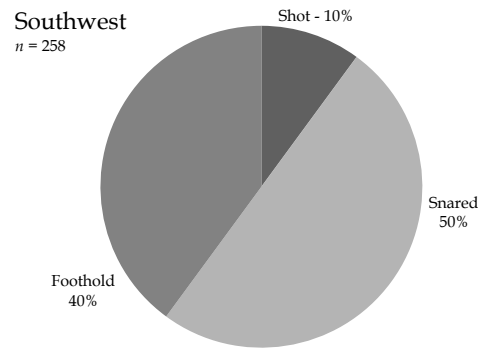
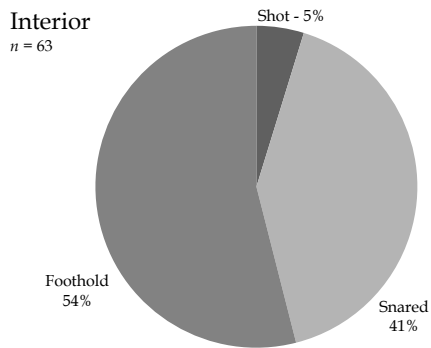
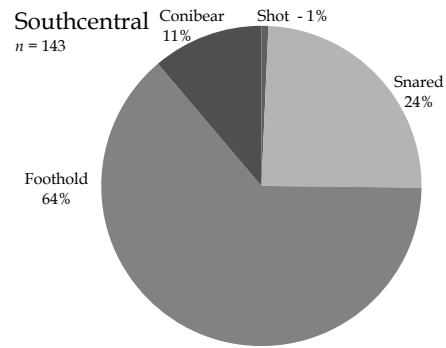
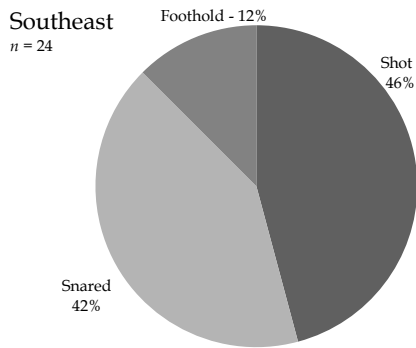
Arctic & Western
n = 15



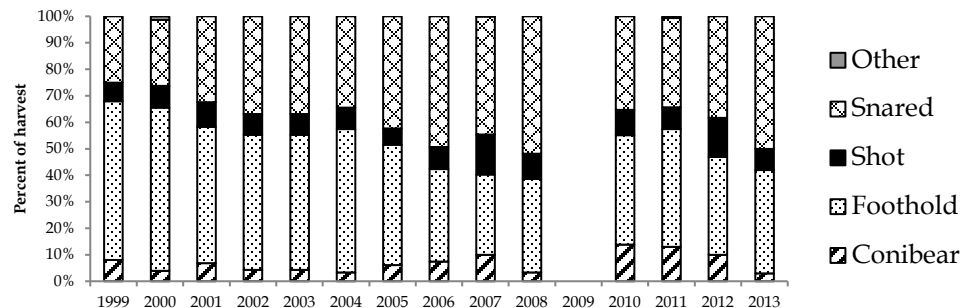
Statewide
trends in
harvest
methods



RED FOX



Statewide
trends in all
fox harvest
methods

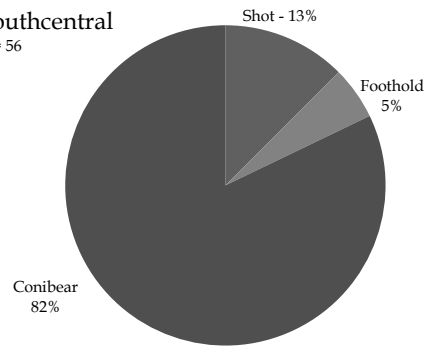


RED SQUIRREL

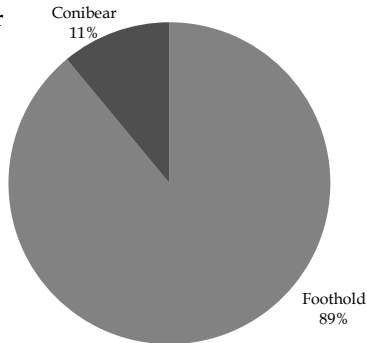
Southeast
n = 95



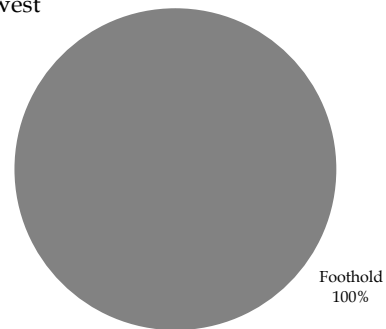
Southcentral
n = 56



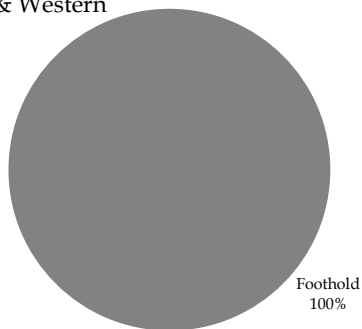
Interior
n = 309



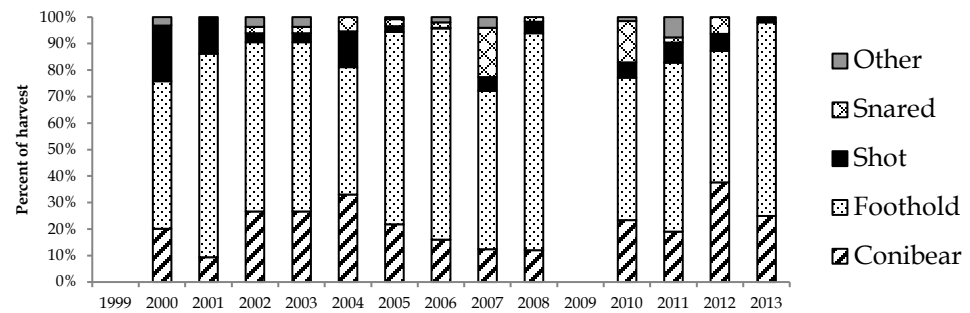
Southwest
n = 1



Arctic & Western
n = 12



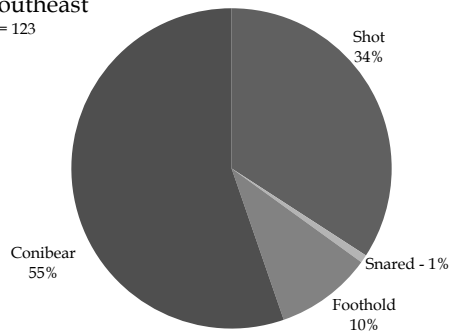
Statewide trends in harvest methods



RIVER OTTER

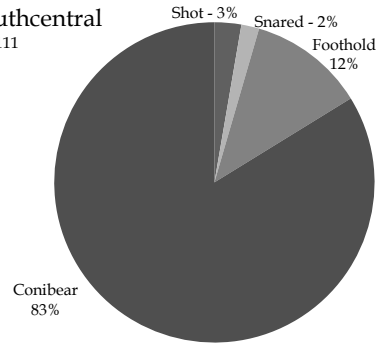
Southeast

n = 123



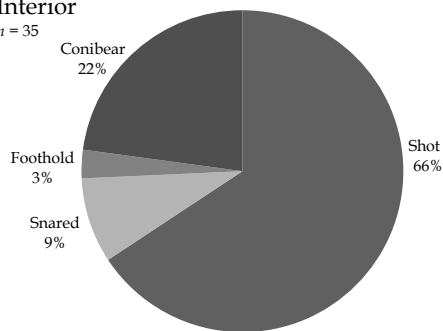
Southcentral

n = 111



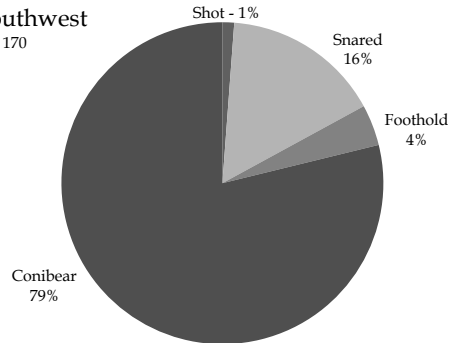
Interior

n = 35



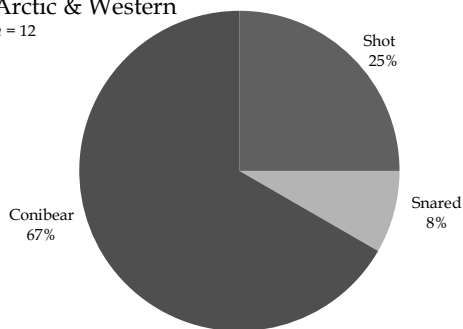
Southwest

n = 170

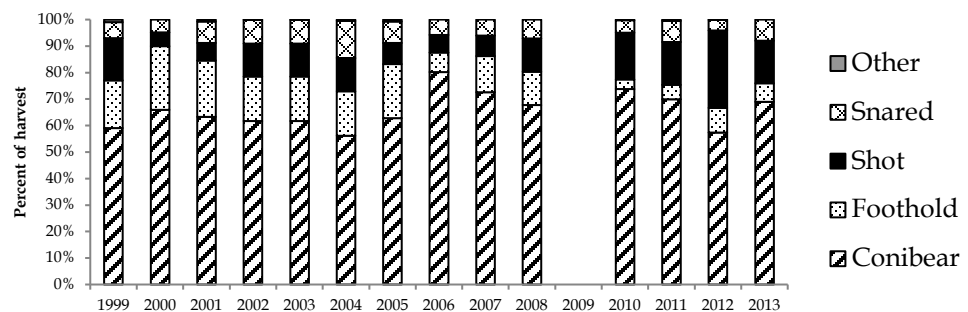


Arctic & Western

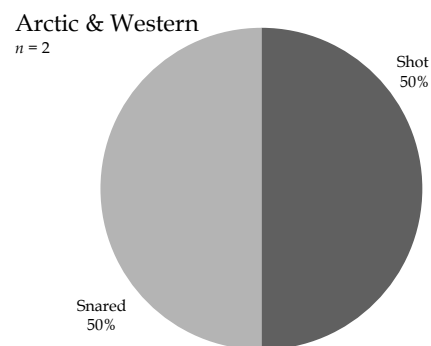
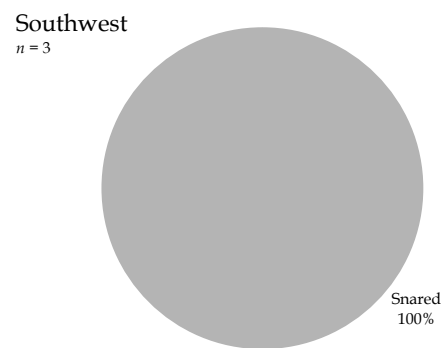
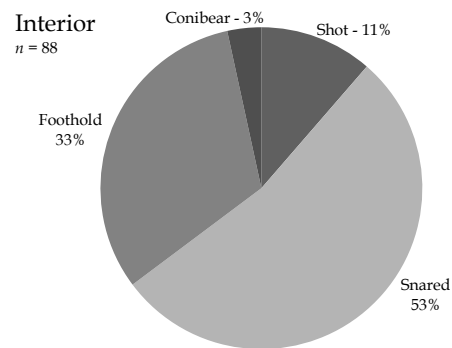
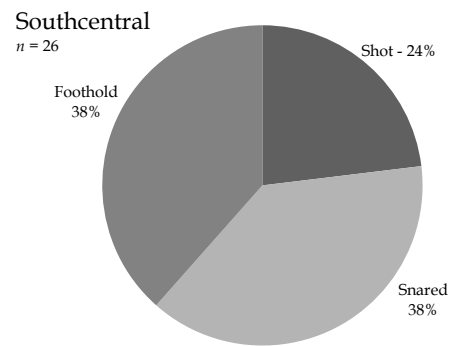
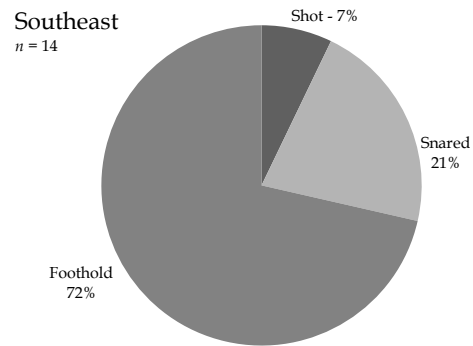
n = 12



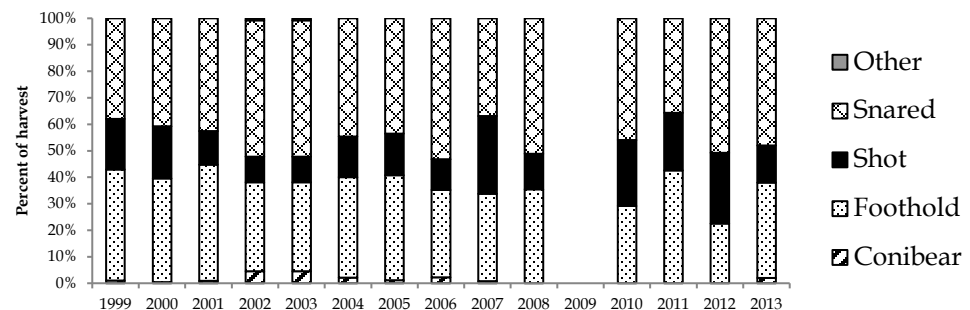
Statewide trends in harvest methods



WOLF

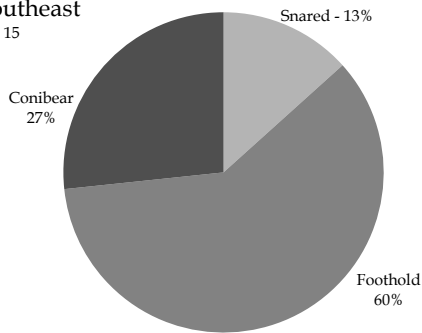


Statewide trends in harvest methods

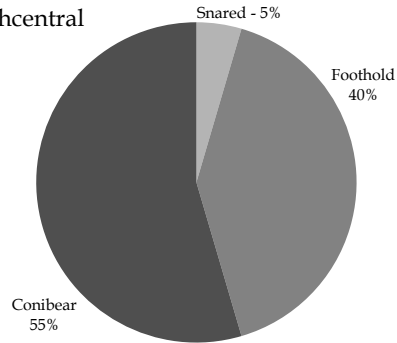


WOLVERINE

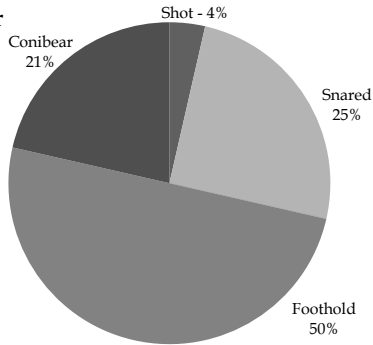
Southeast
n = 15



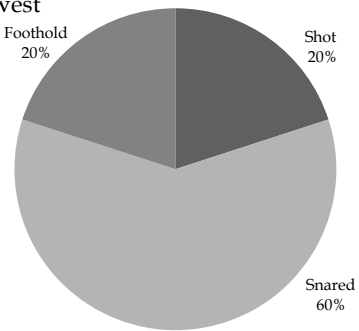
Southcentral
n = 22



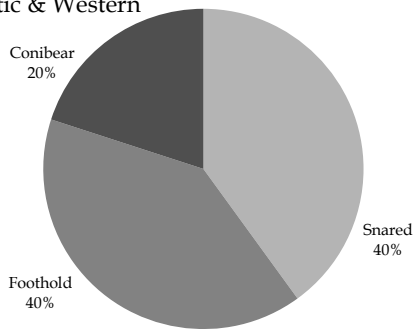
Interior
n = 56



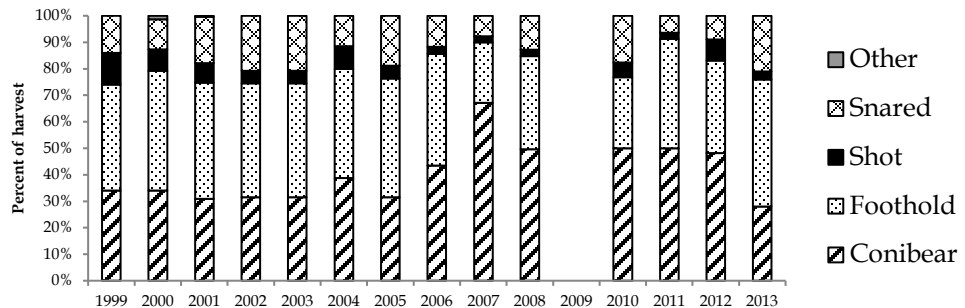
Southwest
n = 5



Arctic & Western
n = 5



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 2 measures. They developed an index for the responses received from trappers on the questionnaire. A numerical value was assigned to each of 3 responses: 1 = scarce; 2 = common; and 3 = abundant. The value of the abundance index was derived from a mathematical equation that expressed 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) ranged 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, as 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 'fewer' box was checked, 2 for the '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) in trend.

Relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations are found in Tables 4–9 below. Not all trappers provided information on every species.

Table 4. Southeast Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.

Species	Ketchikan, Prince of Wales & Vicinity GMUs ^a 1A, 2		Petersburg, Wrangell, Kupreanof & Vicinity GMUs 1B, 3		Juneau, Douglas, Haines, Yakutat GMUs 1C, 1D, 5		Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagoff Islands GMU 4	
	Relative abundance <i>n</i> ^b = 10	Trend <i>n</i> = 10	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 8	Trend <i>n</i> = 7	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 13	Trend <i>n</i> = 12	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 8	Trend <i>n</i> = 8
<i>Furbearers:</i>								
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c ^c	not present	— ^d	not present	n/c	not present	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Coyote	not present	n/c	not present	—	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Ermine	common	—	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	scarce	n/c
Lynx	not present	n/c	scarce	—	scarce	—	scarce	—
Marten	common	—	common	—	common	—	common	—
Mink	common	n/c	common	—	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	+ ^e	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Red Fox	not present	n/c	scarce	—	scarce	—	scarce	—
Red Squirrel	common	+	abundant	+	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	+	common	—	common	n/c	scarce	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	+
<i>Prey:</i>								
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	—	scarce	n/c
Hare	not present	n/c	scarce	—	scarce	n/c	scarce	—
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	abundant	+	common	n/c	common	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c

^a GMU = game management unit.^b *n* is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species.^c n/c = no change in trend.^d — = decrease in trend.^e + = increase in trend.

Table 5. Southcentral Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.

Species	Copper River & Upper Susitna Basins GMUs ^a 11, 13		Lower Susitna Basin GMUs 14, 16		Prince William Sound & North Gulf Coast GMU 6		Kenai Peninsula GMUs 7, 15	
	Relative abundance <i>n</i> ^b = 6	Trend <i>n</i> = 6	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 39	Trend <i>n</i> = 36	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 7	Trend <i>n</i> = 6	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 24	Trend <i>n</i> = 21
<i>Furbearers:</i>								
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c ^c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Coyote	abundant	+ ^d	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	– ^e	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	–	scarce	n/c	scarce	–	common	–
Marten	scarce	–	scarce	–	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Mink	scarce	–	scarce	n/c	abundant	–	common	n/c
Muskrat	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	+	scarce	n/c
Red Fox	common	–	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Squirrel	common	–	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	–	common	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
<i>Prey:</i>								
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Hare	scarce	–	scarce	–	scarce	–	common	–
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c

^a GMU = game management unit.^b *n* is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species.^c n/c = no change in trend.^d + = increase in trend.^e – = decrease in trend.

Table 6. Interior Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.

Species	Lower Tanana Basin GMUs ^a 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 <i>n</i> ^b = 49	Trend <i>n</i> = 48	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 12	Trend <i>n</i> = 11	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 9	Trend <i>n</i> = 9	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 6	Trend <i>n</i> = 6	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 1	Trend <i>n</i> = 1
<i>Furbearers:</i>										
Arctic Fox	not present	– ^c	not present	n/c ^d	not present	n/c	not present	–	not present	
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	+ ^e	not present	
Coyote	scarce	n/c	common	–	scarce	n/c	scarce	–	not present	
Ermine	common	n/c	common	–	common	n/c	common	n/c	not present	
Lynx	scarce	–	scarce	–	common	–	common	–	common	n/c
Marten	common	–	scarce	–	common	–	common	–	scarce	n/c
Mink	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	–	not present	
Muskrat	scarce	–	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	not present	
Red Fox	scarce	–	common	–	common	n/c	common	n/c	not present	
Red Squirrel	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	not present	
River Otter	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	not present	
Wolf	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	not present	
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	–	common	n/c	common	n/c
<i>Prey:</i>										
Grouse	common	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	not present	
Hare	scarce	–	common	–	common	–	scarce	–	not present	
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	not present	
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	–	scarce	n/c	not present	

^a GMU = game management unit.^b *n* is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species.^c – = decrease in trend.^d n/c = no change in trend.^e + = increase in trend.

Table 7. Southwest Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.

Species	Kodiak Archipelago GMU ^a 8		Alaska Peninsula GMU 9		Bristol Bay Area GMU 17	
	Relative abundance <i>n</i> ^b = 4	Trend <i>n</i> = 4	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 8	Trend <i>n</i> = 6	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 8	Trend <i>n</i> = 6
<i>Furbearers:</i>						
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c ^c	scarce	n/c	not present	n/c
Beaver	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	+ ^d
Coyote	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	– ^e
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	not present	n/c	common	–	scarce	n/c
Marten	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	abundant	n/c
Mink	not present	n/c	common	–	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	–	common	n/c	common	n/c
Red Fox	not present	–	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Red Squirrel	common	–	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Wolf	not present	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	not present	n/c	scarce	–	common	n/c
<i>Prey:</i>						
Grouse	not present	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Hare	common	+	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Mice/Rodents	common	–	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	n/c

^a GMU = game management unit.

^b *n* is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species.

^c n/c = no change in trend.

^d + = increase in trend.

^e – = decrease in trend.

Table 8. Arctic & Western Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.

Species	Arctic GMUs ^a 23, 26		Seward Peninsula GMU 22		Yukon Kuskokwim Delta GMU 18	
	Relative abundance <i>n</i> ^b = 3	Trend <i>n</i> = 3	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 3	Trend <i>n</i> = 2	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 9	Trend <i>n</i> = 9
<i>Furbearers:</i>						
Arctic Fox	not present	– ^c	not present		scarce	n/c ^d
Beaver	common	–	common	+ ^e	abundant	n/c
Coyote	not present	–	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	–	common	+	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	–	scarce	–	scarce	–
Marten	scarce	–	scarce	–	common	n/c
Mink	scarce	–	scarce	–	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Fox	scarce	–	common	–	common	n/c
Red Squirrel	not present	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	+	scarce	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	–	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
<i>Prey:</i>						
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Hare	scarce	–	scarce	–	common	–
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	common	n/c	scarce	–	common	–

^a GMU = game management unit.

^b *n* is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species.

^c – = decrease in trend.

^d n/c = no change in trend.

^e + = increase in trend.

Table 9. Statewide Alaska relative abundance and trend of furbearer populations, Alaska, 2013–2014.

Species	Southeast		Southcentral		Interior		Southwest		Arctic & Western	
	Relative abundance <i>n</i> ^a = 37	Trend <i>n</i> = 36	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 76	Trend <i>n</i> = 68	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 76	Trend <i>n</i> = 75	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 19	Trend <i>n</i> = 16	Relative abundance <i>n</i> = 14	Trend <i>n</i> = 13
<i>Furbearers:</i>										
Arctic Fox	not present	n/c ^b	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	not present	n/c	scarce	n/c
Beaver	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Coyote	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	– ^c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Ermine	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Lynx	scarce	–	scarce	–	scarce	–	scarce	n/c	scarce	–
Marten	common	–	scarce	–	common	–	common	n/c	common	n/c
Mink	abundant	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Muskrat	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
Red Fox	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	common	–	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Red Squirrel	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
River Otter	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	common	n/c
Wolf	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Wolverine	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c	scarce	n/c
<i>Prey:</i>										
Grouse	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c
Hare	scarce	n/c	scarce	–	scarce	–	abundant	n/c	scarce	–
Mice/Rodents	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	abundant	n/c	abundant	n/c
Ptarmigan	scarce	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	n/c	common	–

^a *n* is the total number of trappers who provided information on abundance or trend; not all trappers provided information on every species.

^b n/c = no change in trend.

^c – = decrease in trend.

Furbearer Harvest Report

Only 4 of the 13 species defined as furbearers are required to be sealed throughout Alaska: lynx, river otter, wolf, and wolverine. Marten, beaver, and fisher are required to be sealed in some units but not statewide. Consequently, information on the numbers, distribution, and harvest of many furbearers is limited. Table 10 below shows the number of each species harvested in each subunit as reported in the 2013 trapper questionnaire. Letter Z means there are either no subunits or none was specified.

Table 10. Furbearer harvest as reported on the 2013 trapper questionnaire, Alaska.

Region	Subunit ^a	<i>n</i>	Arctic Fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red Fox	Red Squirrel	River Otter	Wolf	Wolverine
Southeast	1A	6	0	8	0	0	0	63	17	0	0	32	10	9	0
	1B	1	0	0	0	20	0	70	300	0	0	0	5	3	0
	1C	6	0	19	0	42	0	39	49	0	0	6	10	0	3
	1D	4	0	6	0	33	0	62	6	0	0	0	1	0	3
	2Z	9	0	58	0	2	0	488	34	0	0	0	52	1	0
	3Z	8	0	5	0	18	0	76	138	0	0	0	18	9	0
	4Z	14	0	8	0	2	0	145	53	0	0	37	32	0	0
	5A	2	0	7	0	2	0	20	3	0	0	1	4	0	0
SE Total		50	0	111	0	119	0	963	600	0	0	76	132	22	6
Southcentral	6A	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	6B	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
	6C	6	0	34	5	17	1	13	34	62	0	0	3	1	1
	6D	3	0	0	0	5	0	9	12	0	0	5	22	0	1
	7Z	9	0	5	1	73	1	35	3	69	0	3	2	0	2
	8Z	7	0	27	0	0	0	2	0	0	64	0	119	0	0
	14C	3	0	0	0	9	0	11	0	21	0	0	1	0	1
	15	10	0	7	4	17	4	1	6	0	0	6	6	0	0
	15B	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15C	5	0	0	19	12	18	0	3	0	0	0	14	3	1
SC Total		47	0	73	37	134	27	81	63	152	64	14	167	6	7
Interior	12Z	7	0	30	2	23	31	129	1	30	14	7	0	15	6
	19	3	1	5	0	0	0	69	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
	19	7	0	41	0	52	5	480	3	0	1	1	1	2	3
	19Z	1	0	5	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	20	7	0	39	17	8	4	8	0	0	6	24	0	13	2
	20B	29	0	152	15	50	29	204	16	22	13	75	4	10	4
	20C	7	0	0	1	33	12	142	4	0	1	5	0	7	4
	20	5	0	0	12	9	13	41	5	0	9	48	1	0	9
	20E	5	0	0	3	6	2	105	0	0	1	20	0	7	0

Region	Subunit ^a	<i>n</i>	Arctic Fox	Beaver	Coyote	Ermine	Lynx	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Red Fox	Red Squirrel	River Otter	Wolf	Wolverine
	20F	5	0	1	2	14	13	145	2	0	2	30	0	2	11
	20Z	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	21	1	0	2	0	1	0	13	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	21B	1	0	0	0	0	0	60	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	21	4	0	8	0	8	3	212	3	0	1	15	4	2	4
	24B	1	0	23	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
	25B	2	0	10	0	2	1	123	9	0	2	91	0	0	0
	25C	4	0	0	0	12	3	140	8	0	0	22	0	9	0
	25	2	0	0	0	0	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Int. Total		93	1	318	52	218	129	1,895	56	52	52	338	12	68	46
Southwest	9B	3	0	7	1	0	9	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
	9C	4	0	12	1	0	0	0	2	0	81	0	2	1	0
	9D	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	9E	3	0	9	2	2	0	0	29	0	84	0	25	3	3
	11Z	2	0	0	4	0	0	19	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
	13	7	0	4	9	5	7	16	1	26	13	0	4	6	5
	13B	3	0	45	7	5	2	19	1	7	11	0	0	3	0
	13C	3	0	10	4	7	16	55	4	2	22	0	7	7	1
	13	3	0	3	0	5	3	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	2
	13E	6	0	4	11	23	6	32	14	5	8	0	3	1	2
	13Z	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	14	12	0	30	5	18	3	16	1	36	13	1	5	1	0
	14B	8	0	8	12	8	1	10	1	0	4	4	1	0	1
	16	6	0	36	2	15	1	30	2	0	4	0	4	0	1
	16B	11	0	62	29	25	1	89	28	41	24	40	9	0	6
	17B	2	0	0	0	0	0	27	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
	17C	6	0	73	0	0	0	31	4	1	12	0	8	2	1
	17Z	1	0	22	0	0	0	44	4	0	20	0	5	0	2
SW Total		82	0	329	87	113	49	392	96	118	302	48	73	26	27
Arctic & Western	18Z	11	1	199	2	7	24	90	25	31	158	12	14	0	0
	22	1	0	10	0	3	6	26	3	0	9	0	1	0	2
	22B	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	2
	22C	1	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	23Z	3	0	5	0	0	6	45	0	0	2	0	0	2	3
A&W Total		17	1	220	2	11	37	161	28	31	180	12	15	2	11
Unknown		1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Statewide		290	2	1,051	178	595	242	3,494	843	353	598	488	401	124	97

^a Z = Indicates no subunit or none was specified.

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. Table 11 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 fall within the ranges observed below, the statewide average of species reported on the questionnaire is 14% of the actual harvest. (See sealing records in Table 12 below).

Table 11. Trapper questionnaire totals as a percent of total number sealed, as reported on the 2013 questionnaire and in the 2013 regulatory year^a sealing records, Alaska.

Region	Species (%)						Average
	Beaver	Lynx	Marten	River Otter	Wolf	Wolverine	
Southeast	30	0	32	16	10	19	21
Southcentral	26	16	39	27	19	23	25
Interior		12		13	13	13	13
Southwest	52	26	71	34	13	17	35
Arctic & Western		10		4	1	8	6
Statewide		13		19	11	14	14

^a A regulatory year begins 1 July and ends 30 June, e.g., regulatory year 2013 = 1 July 2013–30 June 2014.

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 which it was taken, taking measurements, and collecting biological samples. Lynx, river otter, wolf, and wolverine are required to be sealed statewide. Marten, beaver, and fisher are required to be sealed only in certain game management units (GMU). 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.



Photo by Michael Druckrey

Table 12. Reported harvest from regulatory year^a sealing records, Alaska, 2009–2013.

Species	Region	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Beaver ^b	Southeast	415	265	292	378	372
	Southcentral	239	173	127	220	280
	Interior	127	62	110	121	30
	Southwest	866	1,110	728	688	634
	Arctic & Western	23	12	7	46	10
	Total:	1,670	1,622	1,264	1,453	1,326
Lynx	Southeast	8	4	4	1	0
	Southcentral	279	436	475	425	173
	Interior	3,620	2,161	1,531	1,302	1,113
	Southwest	1,603	1,767	1,128	640	192
	Arctic & Western	752	726	950	797	356
	Total:	6,262	5,094	4,088	3,165	1,834
Marten ^c	Southeast	1,802	2,555	3,758	4,466	3,030
	Southcentral	358	235	259	232	206
	Interior	160	20	41	19	12
	Southwest	1,014	656	1,105	723	556
	Arctic & Western	1	0	1	0	0
	Total:	3,335	3,466	5,164	5,440	3,804
River Otter	Southeast	248	528	622	932	820
	Southcentral	219	287	262	472	625
	Interior	106	71	64	82	89
	Southwest	224	255	231	253	213
	Arctic & Western	196	154	121	336	398
	Total:	993	1,295	1,300	2,075	2,145
Wolf	Southeast	134	160	171	191	211
	Southcentral	39	52	45	63	31
	Interior	517	471	561	646	523
	Southwest	251	305	378	157	205
	Arctic & Western	129	221	106	209	150
	Total:	1,070	1,209	1,261	1,266	1,120
Wolverine	Southeast	17	25	20	25	31
	Southcentral	18	25	29	50	31
	Interior	258	233	237	261	358
	Southwest	201	180	160	170	158
	Arctic & Western	90	140	110	135	133
	Total:	584	603	556	641	711

^a A regulatory year begins 1 July and ends 30 June, e.g., regulatory year 2009 = 1 July 2009–30 June 2010.

^b Beaver are required to be sealed in Game Management Units (GMU) 1–11, 13–15, and 17.

^c Marten are required to be sealed in GMUs 1–7 and 14–16.

Wolf Harvest Methods

Table 13. Reported wolf harvest methods from regulatory year^a sealing records, Alaska, 2009–2013.

Season	Region	Ground shooting	Trapping	Snaring	Other or unknown	Total wolves sealed
2009–2010	Southeast	45	56	31	2	134
	Southcentral	12	7	18	2	39
	Interior	122	148	201	46	517
	Southwest	109	52	53	37	251
	Arctic & Western	110	14	4	1	129
	Total:	398	277	307	88	1,070
2010–2011	Southeast	46	69	44	1	160
	Southcentral	19	8	23	2	52
	Interior	111	141	168	51	471
	Southwest	70	37	70	128	305
	Arctic & Western	169	21	25	6	221
	Total:	415	276	330	188	1,209
2011–2012	Southeast	56	79	36	0	171
	Southcentral	13	15	16	1	45
	Interior	123	126	208	104	561
	Southwest	218	39	38	83	378
	Arctic & Western	93	7	6	0	106
	Total:	503	266	304	188	1,261
2012–2013	Southeast	57	100	34	0	191
	Southcentral	31	7	24	1	63
	Interior	141	137	211	157	646
	Southwest	79	38	31	9	157
	Arctic & Western	165	25	7	12	209
	Total:	473	307	307	179	1,266
2013–2014	Southeast	51	120	40	0	211
	Southcentral	11	9	6	5	31
	Interior	138	121	184	80	523
	Southwest	83	34	26	62	205
	Arctic & Western	129	12	7	2	150
	Total:	412	296	263	149	1,120

^a A regulatory year begins 1 July and ends 30 June, e.g., regulatory year 2009 = 1 July 2009–30 June 2010.

Commercial Transactions Involving Furs

AVERAGE PRICES PAID FOR RAW FURS

Prices published by 2 major fur auction houses (North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc.) during January–June in each of the previous 5 years were averaged to produce the prices in this table. Top prices were also from fur auctions. Prices for the 2013 regulatory year in Alaska were obtained from the 2014 January–July auction house prices.

Table 14. Average fur prices published by the North American Fur Auction and Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc., for the last 5 regulatory years^a, 2009–2013.

Species	Average price (U.S.)					Top price 2013 (U.S.)
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Arctic Fox	26.22 ^b	33.55 ^b	52.82 ^b	59.97 ^b	40.87	100.00
Beaver	12.83	17.82	32.56	32.56	18.71	220.00
Coyote	36.13	52.90	65.99	76.27	56.49	750.00
Ermine	3.77	3.49	3.57	3.43	3.80	12.10
Lynx	127.50	149.64	179.78	205.11	144.49	450.00
Marten	32.92	51.07	108.78	143.81	76.94	400.00
Mink (wild)	12.62	16.78	22.83	27.90	17.51	50.00
Muskrat	7.73	7.22	9.97	12.53	10.36	27.00
Red Fox	26.22 ^b	33.55 ^b	52.82 ^b	59.97 ^b	40.18	320.00
Red Squirrel	1.50	1.06	0.97	0.74	0.94	1.80
River Otter	43.65	58.84	86.76	100.75	53.95	120.00
Wolf	98.69	150.67	245.29	215.84	170.17	1,450.00
Wolverine	227.80	273.50	269.95	271.35	224.90	430.00

^a A regulatory year begins 1 July and ends 30 June, e.g., regulatory year 2009 = 1 July 2009–30 June 2010.

^b All foxes were combined in annually between 2009–2012.

MINIMUM ESTIMATED FUR VALUE

Table 15 below summarizes the minimum total estimated value of furs trapped during the 2013–2014 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 marten and beaver values are certainly underestimated because the table only includes animals harvested from the areas in the state where sealing is required. For the unsealed species, we used the number of furs reported by trappers on the questionnaire.

Table 15. Fur value in Alaska, 2013–2014 trapping season.

Species	Total number sealed or reported	Average price (U.S.)	Minimum value (U.S.)
Arctic Fox	2	40.87	81.74
Beaver	1,326	18.71	24,809.46
Coyote	178	56.49	10,055.22
Ermine	595	3.80	2,261.00
Lynx	1,834	144.49	264,994.66
Marten	3,804	76.94	292,679.76
Mink	843	17.51	14,760.93
Muskrat	353	10.36	3,657.08
Red Fox	598	40.18	24,027.64
Red Squirrel	488	0.94	458.72
River Otter	2,145	53.95	115,722.75
Wolf	1,120	170.17	190,590.40
Wolverine	711	224.90	174,123.90
Total			1,118,223.26

Fur Sealing Requirements

Lynx, river otter, wolf, or wolverine taken anywhere in the state, marten in GMUs 1–7 and 14–16, beaver taken in GMUs 1–11, 13–15, and 17, and fisher in GMUs 1–5 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 sealer near you, contact the nearest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A list of area biologists is provided below. 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 Regional Fur Sealing Officers listed below.

Regional ADF&G Fur Sealing Officers

Region I (GMUs 1–5)	Paul Converse Alaska Department of Fish and Game PO Box 110024 Juneau, AK 99811-0024 (907) 465-4265
Region II (GMUs 6, 7, 8, 14 and 15)	Erik Bollerud Alaska Department of Fish and Game 333 Raspberry Road Anchorage, AK 99518 (907) 267-2344
Region III (GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26B,C)	Laurie Boeck Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1300 College Road Fairbanks, AK 99701 (907) 459-7205
Region IV (GMUs 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 7)	Joel Holyoak Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1800 Glenn Hwy #4 Palmer, AK 99645 (907) 746-6398
Region V (GMUs 18, 22, 23, and 26A)	Carmen Daggett Alaska Department of Fish and Game PO Box 689 Kotzebue, AK 99752 (907) 442-1710

Area Biologists and Game Management Units

GMU 1(A), 2 Boyd Porter (AAB: none) 2030 Sealevel Drive, Suite 205 KETCHIKAN, AK 99901 Phone: (907) 225-2475 Fax: (907) 225-2771	GMU 1 (B), 3 Rich Lowell (AAB: none) PO Box 667 PETERSBURG, AK 99833 Phone: (907) 772-5235 Fax: (907) 772-9336	GMU 4 Steve Bethune (AAB: none) 304 Lake Street Room 103 SITKA, AK 99835-7563 Phone: (907) 747-5449 Fax: (907) 747-6239
GMU 1(C), 1(D), 5 Stephanie Sell (AAB: Carl Koch) PO Box 110024 JUNEAU, AK 99811-0024 Phone: (907) 465-4266 Fax: (907) 465-4272	GMU 6 Charlotte Westing (AAB: none) PO Box 669 CORDOVA, AK 99574 Phone: (907) 424-3215 Fax: (907) 424-3235	GMU 7, 15 Jeff Selinger (AAB: Larry Lewis and Jason Herreman) 34828 Kalifornsky Beach Rd Ste B SOLDOTNA, AK 99669-8367 Phone: (907) 260-2905 Fax: (907) 262-4709
GMU 8 Nate Svoboda (AAB: John Cyre) 211 Mission Road KODIAK, AK 99615 Phone: (907) 486-1880 Fax: (907) 486-1869	GMU 9, 10 Dave Crowley (AAB: Chris Peterson) PO Box 37 KING SALMON, AK 99613 Phone: (907) 246-3340 Fax: (907) 246-3309	GMU 11, 13 Frank Robbins (AAB: Heidi Hatcher) PO Box 47 GLENNALLEN, AK 99588 Phone: (907) 822-3461 Fax: (907) 822-3811
GMU 12, 20(E) Jeff Gross (AAB: Jeff Wells) PO Box 355 TOK, AK 99780-0355 Phone: (907) 883-2971 Fax: (907) 883-2970	GMU 14(A), (B), 16 (A), (B) Tim Peltier (AAB: Chris Brockman) 1800 Glenn Hwy Suite 4 PALMER, AK 99645-6736 Phone: (907) 746-6327 Fax: (907) 746-6305	GMU 14(C) Dave Battle (AAB: Cory Stantorf) 333 Raspberry Road ANCHORAGE, AK 99518-1565 Phone: (907) 267-2185 Fax: (907) 267-2433
GMU 17 Neil Barten (AAB: none) PO Box 1030 DILLINGHAM, AK 99576 Phone: (907) 842-2334 Fax: (907) 842-5514	GMU 18 Patrick Jones (AAB: vacant) PO Box 1467 BETHEL, AK 99559 Phone: (907) 543-2979 Fax: (907) 543-2021	GMU 19, 21 (A), (E) Josh Peirce (AAB: Jon Barton) PO Box 230 MCGRATH, AK 99627 Phone: (907) 524-3323 Fax: (907) 524-3324
GMU 20(A), (B), (C), (F), 25(C) Tony Hollis (AAB: Mark Nelson) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: (907) 459-7233 Fax: (907) 459-7332	GMU 20(D) Bob Schmidt (AAB: Clint Cooper) PO Box 605 DELTA JUNCTION, AK 99737 Phone: (907) 895-4484 Fax: (907) 895-4833	GMU 21(B), (C), (D), 24 Glenn Stout (AAB: Sara Longson) 1300 College Road FAIRBANKS, AK 99701 Phone: (907) 459-7218 Fax: (907) 459-7332
GMU 22 Bill Dunker (AAB: Letty Hughes) PO Box 1148 NOME, AK 99762 Phone: (907) 443-2271 Fax: (907) 443-5893	GMU 23 Brandon Saito (AAB: Carmen Daggett) PO Box 689 KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 Phone: (907) 442-1712 Fax: (907) 442-2420	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
GMU 26 (A) Vacant (AAB: none) PO Box 1284 BARROW, AK 99723-1284 Phone: (907) 852-3464 Fax: (907) 852-3465	RI Reg Supvr – Ryan Scott (907) 465-4359 RI Mgmt Coord – Tom Schumacher (907) 465-4267	RII Reg Supvr – Howard Golden (907) 267-2177 RII Mgmt Coord – Cyndi Wardlow (907) 267-2529
RIII Reg Supvr – Darren Bruning (907) 459-7222 RIII Mgmt Coord – Doreen Parker McNeill (907) 459-7381	RIV Reg Supvr – Gino Del Frate (907) 861-2123 RIV Mgmt Coord – Todd Rinaldi (907) 861-2105	RV Reg Supvr – Tony Gorn (907) 267-2421 RV Mgmt Coord –Phillip Perry (907) 443-8189

Trapper Comments

We are looking for ways to improve the trapper questionnaire. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for ADF&G or the Board of Game on how trapping can be improved in Alaska?

*Author's Note – due to the delay in processing this report, we were unable to separate individual comments by region.

- 🐾 Rabbits crashed, no food for lynx and extremely cold early with no snow. I keep an average of rabbits and lynx. Lynx left and ate all the rabbits, thus later the lynx crash and eat their own. So I keep 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, wolverine, and 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.
- 🐾 Need more biologist input and “eyes in field” to place EO if warranted. Marten population last year was depleted all over but the season was still allowed to continue.
- 🐾 Regarding the request to bring 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.
- 🐾 I support regulations that facilitate increased responsibility for trappers. Required trap check times of 24-28 hours, use of killer type traps away from trails, roads, houses, etc., marking traps with owner name and other ID.
- 🐾 The seasons for beaver, river otter, and muskrat in Unit 14 need to end at the same time.
- 🐾 No comment at the present time.
- 🐾 I always buy trapping license in case I do trap.
- 🐾 I have never trapped before.
- 🐾 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 aforementioned.
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 Extend the muskrat season when the winter is long and spring is late.
- 🐾 Extend the river otter season.
- 🐾 Did not trap as marten are real scarce.

- 🐾 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 regulations on page 13 need to be changed to allow artificial light for all open seasons. Now it closes before many trapping seasons close.
- 🐾 My suggestion to ADF&G and the Board of Game is to keep the politics out of decision making.
- 🐾 I submitted 2 carcasses to ADF&G this winter and I am curious of what the findings are. One carcass was a mangy fox the other was a female wolverine. I believe they went to the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The report could reveal the local area without names of trappers.
- 🐾 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 take care of those traps and furs. At some point in time, we need to differentiate between sport trappers and commercial trappers, possibly by limiting the number of traps that each entity can use or go to reserved trap lines for people that have trapped before.
- 🐾 Keep up the good work.
- 🐾 Please please please open sea otter trapping. There are so many everywhere. I don't know if they are responsible for the very bad clamming this year, but I have never seen so many otters in Homer/Anchor Point/Whiskey Gulch/Clam Gulch and Kasilof.
- 🐾 I would like to see otter trapping in Unit 8 last through the end of February.
- 🐾 Nice to have wolf season open early.
- 🐾 Stop any and all cooperation with federal authorities on all lands inside the state of Alaska. I have experienced significant interference by federal protection officers contaminating wolf sets and tripping traps in lynx sets.
- 🐾 The main reason for a shorter season was due to a lack of snow to cross Copper River due to the bridge upstream at 36 mile which the state continues to put off fixing. Trapping on the east delta was 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?
- 🐾 Good job.
- 🐾 Trapped with my young sons. We set near the house which allowed them to check sets on foot alone at the end of the season.
- 🐾 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 – it does not make sense to spend millions on predator control when the public (trappers and hunters) should or can take care of the problem.

- 🐾 Start registration/database for where others are trapping to avoid conflicts.
- 🐾 Align seasons within game management units for similar species (i.e. fox/coyote, mink/ermine/marten, beaver/otter/muskrat, etc.).
- 🐾 Unit 8 February otter season, off the road system is under harvested.
- 🐾 I think marten could be opened November 10. They prime up earlier. When trapping with a boat the weather conditions are better. Not so dangerous.
- 🐾 First time I trapped since 1989.
- 🐾 Shorten or close the marten season in 14B.
- 🐾 Nope – Dang good job. A note on question 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° days kept us inside compared to other years.
- 🐾 I only took the one wolverine last year. I'm not an avid trapper by any means. I may never do it again. Sorry I'm not of much assistance to you.
- 🐾 If the wolf trapping starts the 15 of October (if this rumor is true), I'm 100% for it, but it should be both for snares and traps, not just snares. It also could start by the 1 of October as the wolf pelts are too far gone by the first of January due to lice to have a prime pelt to sell or for a trophy.
- 🐾 I would like the regulations on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to more clearly match ADF&G regulations.
- 🐾 Hello Tom, Glad to see you're still involved. 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 was gone most of the winter so did not trap. I only trapped a few nuisance fall beavers.
- 🐾 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 trapline. I usually take 3 or 4 young people along with me during the season.
- 🐾 Sorry it took me so long. Thanks for your work!

- ☛ I would like to see marten and otter trapping season run from November 30 to March 15.
- ☛ Make all new trappers complete either online or in class setting a basic trapper's 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." Things need to change and I think it's going to have to be mandated by ADF&G.
- ☛ What happened to the marten? Never found a single track in the 4 weeks I was able to trap.
- ☛ ATA a great organization. ADF&G 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.
- ☛ It would be nice to see common sense trapping regulations in affect along the Juneau road system instead of kneejerk reactions because of concerns of people who know nothing about trapping or wildlife management, even if a course was required to trap certain areas while avoiding conflict with other users. It can be done without banning trapping in certain areas.
- ☛ 14A/14B (in Willow area) opens too late for open water beaver trapping.
- ☛ I don't think we need this wolf management program here in Unit 3. I saw fewer wolves this year than years past. I'm also concerned about someone 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.
- ☛ Open otter and marten November 1.
- ☛ Allow the use of artificial light to target furbearers. Especially here in Southeast Alaska.
- ☛ Make it so a trapper can register their trapline so other trappers don't tromp on one's trapline and then they know the area is already being active so they don't waste their time in that area.
- ☛ 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. The bears here are getting too much. When we were young, we didn't hear of brown bears or grizzlies. People are getting scared for their children.
- ☛ It would be nice to look at all the trapping data you have compiled about other trappers and other regions besides my own.

- 🐾 Stop the land and shoot for wolves in units that have a fair number of trappers. Start lynx season December 1 when they begin to prime, end season is good on February 28.
- 🐾 Eliminate the cow moose hunts in the Minto Flats and Chatanika river drainages. The uneducated and unethical hunters 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 one's not able to hunt those 2 weeks, too bad.
- 🐾 Marten numbers are very, very low. My area should typically produce 6-18 marten per year. I caught 1 on the first week of the season and saw 1 set of tracks a week later. Should at least shorten the season to prevent overharvest, especially because with current fur prices, anything road accessible is very heavily trapped.
- 🐾 Start muskrat season in October for units 15 and 7, and increase the bag limit for beaver.
- 🐾 Lengthen otter and mink/ermine seasons in SE by 2-3 weeks. Marten season could be started earlier except in heavily harvested areas. Marten are prolific and young of the year die once food gets hard to find.
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 Available information before the 2012/2013 season provided a direction that 1) marten would be fewer and the catch would mainly be of adults, and 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 first week of targeting on marten, I closed all of my marten traps, shortened my line and trapped for fox, beaver, and a few wandering lynx.
- 🐾 Trappers should target coyotes more.
- 🐾 Many trappers are hesitant to supply the department with exact and personal results of trapping activities due to past abuses by department personnel and past attempts to micro-manage species 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 filled this out right. It looked like questions 8 on were for 2012-13 trappers.
-  Educate trappers as to good ethics and furbearer management.
-  Would like to see more furbearer studies. With hunting, there are sometime 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 trappers helping furbearer habitat?
-  I love to trap, but I live on ANC land. If they permitted the use of ATVs or some machines on logging roads, the increased land access would allow me to cover more ground and catch more animals.
-  Open a season for sea otters, they are overpopulated and the natives aren't managing them.
-  Start marten and mink seasons in Unit 4 two weeks earlier. Trap tags are not necessary in nonurban areas.
-  This weather has a big effect. Warm, cold, warm, rain, cold, hard to make sets. Other than that, I think it's pretty well regulated.
-  Keep up the good work.
-  Create a regulation preventing trapping within 200 feet of main highways. Folks at rest stops letting their pets out shouldn't have to deal with trapping. There's enough room for everyone. Move lynx season back in Unit 13 to start December 1.
-  The female wolverine was caught out of season, for this species was caught in a lynx set. We turned it in to ADF&G at Palmer, as required. Trapping conditions were poor due to lack of snow in November and early December. Once we started in January, trapping conditions were good.
-  Align otter season in Unit 16 with beaver season.
-  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 a law for stealing.
-  I am glad to get this survey and hope ADF&G can maintain or increase its research and management to ensure future trapping. I encourage ADF&G and 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 and coyotes – moderation in all things.

- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 Make new trappers take a trapper education course.
- 🐾 Saw very little cat sign in the low country, but did catch some big tom lynx up in the higher country.
- 🐾 No, I don't have any comments or suggestions.
- 🐾 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 GMU 20B, you can only use snares for wolves in April, and you must pull your legholds March 31. This does not make sense to me. If the reason is to avoid incidental catch, all legholds 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)?
- 🐾 Weather was poor. Fluctuating temperatures made for poor conditions. Travel was limited due to unsafe ice.
- 🐾 Remove the ¼ mile inland no trapping/no fun 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 November 10 and closing February 15. Except wolves.
- 🐾 Bait – whole pink salmon can be used for crab bait, so state in the regulations whole pink salmon can be used for trapping bait in SE AK. Kudos to Petersburg's ADF&G: Mary Meucci is very accommodating for trappers sealing furs.
- 🐾 Prices, fuel, and oil is really the main factor. Do not make any more money. It's like a hobby, also the weather is getting later for rivers and lakes to freeze. Global warming. The past is dead and gone.
- 🐾 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 15 through February 28. 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 we have some winter storms, a guy barely has a chance to get a line going before it's time to pull.

- ❧ Caught nothing on my trapline. No fur.
- ❧ I did not trap for the last 15 years. Now that I'm not working, I'll be trapping to stay healthy and get out of the house.
- ❧ Do not allow aerial wolf hunting in the Ochetna Drainage. Give me a break. Kill some coyotes from the air.
- ❧ I'm busy setting traps and that I avoid areas with people with pets.
- ❧ I've trapped in GMUs 9, 17, and 19 for forty years, and I also hold a master guide license, so I'm very familiar with game populations. The marten and fox populations have seen a significant drop in the last few years. I have not noticed a corresponding drop in prey (i.e. voles, etc.). We have no caribou in 17B, so the wolves have moved out. I would strongly recommend a shorter season on wolverine, fox, and marten.
- ❧ When I started to trap in 1972, trappers respected other's areas and 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 ADF&G on bids recommendations on effects of overharvesting – buffers would help.
- ❧ I would like to see the beaver season come in October 1 instead of October 10 to allow more trap time before winter freeze up.
- ❧ Beaver season is open too long in spring, too close to having litters. Fur is of poor quality, almost all are rubbed.
- ❧ Just let us trap.
- ❧ Marten in our area have declined, even though we try to rotate trapping area to reduce overharvest. There also seems to be more people trapping.
- ❧ Tell the Alaska Trappers Association to quit having trapping school. Too competitive, there's overflow 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 be registered, or at least map them so it would be easier for trappers to find an area to trap without interference to other trappers.
- ❧ Introduce red squirrels and snowshoe hares to Prince of Wales Island. This would greatly increase the food source for all predatory furbearers, which equals more furbearers and it would take some of the predatory pressure off the grouse, ptarmigan, and deer populations. The island has an unlimited food supply for squirrels and rabbits.

- Remove all the unnecessary restrictions imposed on trappers on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. All trapping regulations should be consistent with regulations on non-refuge lands.
- No. Thanks for the chance to comment.
- 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!
- For Unit 6C, end river otter the same month as beaver so you do not get bycatch. Thank you for a great report also!
- The scarce and common categories? Would scarce be 1 or 2 sightings/observed tracks a season? Are there other 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 information from the public, seriously review having correct name, spellings, and addresses. It's unprofessional when mail is mislabeled and may decrease your return ratios. Also, going through records, quantifying sets, distances, etc., writing and filling out the survey took ~1/2 hour. Consider the first sentence on the second paragraph or a trapper may not take the time/effort to ensure accuracy.
- The trapping regulations have got some dates when they open that are confusing. I would suggest all open dates be more easily understood. It can be confusing for some people.
- Thanks.
- Too many wolves and bears are killing all our moose.
- I think you have the season about right. Mink prime sometime after December 10 but most trappers know this and time their target species to match when the fur is prime. Overall – good job!
- Open coyote snaring only in Unit 20D on October 15 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 October 15 and November 10 when the other seasons open for trapping. Also, a lot of coyotes are killed in wolf equipment, which wolves open on October 15 in Unit 20D. The coyote is a wolf.
- 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 ADF&G in the pre-season.
- The friction between trappers and non-trappers (antis), 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 leash (being in their control), no dogs would ever get caught. We can trap along the sides of any trail without interfering with anyone.

- 🐾 I did not run my main line this season and made a small effort. Furbearers seem to have become scarce while not much wolf around; saw very few tracks all winter.
- 🐾 My wife and I sell licenses, and I am an authorized sealer, and my wife and 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 lose the meat. Come January 1, my wife and I are the only licensed people in the village, but hunting and fishing continue.
- 🐾 The need to better protect the trapline (trappers) against hikers, skiers, snowmachiners, and other trappers. These people are causing irreparable damage in practice. Trappers have no chance to protect their right.
- 🐾 Trapping for mink, marten, and otter should be earlier than December 1. Bays freeze up and become untrappable. It would be nice to use artificial light for taking beavers.
- 🐾 Keep beaver season open in 6C Copper Delta until March 1.
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 Wolverine season should be extended to March 15.
- 🐾 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 lifestyle of the outdoors. I do this on my own expenses and time.
- 🐾 Need more furbearer biologists in the state.
- 🐾 Just a comment that marten numbers in the Tok area in Unit 12 were down significantly on my trapline from the previous 2 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 cannot 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 made it brutal. Marten were plentiful until January, then they almost disappeared. I may not have any marten next year, the lack of marten sign in January was shocking.
- 🐾 Maybe a price list for furs at least for trappers who are just starting out, and maybe a list of buyers?
- 🐾 I think there should be more strict regulations on snowmobile use for trapping. Too many snowmobiles driving around trapping. Takes the sport and hard work out of it.
- 🐾 I would like to see fox season end the same time as coyote season so you don't accidentally catch a fox. Unit 14B.
- 🐾 You will improve trapping if you quit shooting so many wolves from aircraft. Wolverine numbers in the area will also likely increase.
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 How can I increase habitat to increase catchable numbers of animals?
- 🐾 I think you should change the lynx season in Unit 25D to December 15 – March 30.
- 🐾 I think the cold weather kept them from moving much. Also, I just started to trap this area.
- 🐾 I just want to say that trapping is an important part of our culture and I consider it part of the subsistence lifestyle that some people still choose to live. Unfortunately, lots of people don't understand this but that's the way it is.
- 🐾 Poor weather was the main reason for my decreased effort this year.
- 🐾 I think ADF&G needs to promote trapping in a positive light, just the same as sport fishing is (i.e., public forums, school presentations, etc.). Especially in the 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. Thanks.
- 🐾 Wolf numbers aren't decreasing, other trappers are saying the same. I saw more trappers this year compared to last year due to mild snow levels. I saw several illegal wolf snares without trap tags on them. Some marten trappers are getting defensive of "their" areas.
- 🐾 Keep up the good work.
- 🐾 Like long season for wolf in 9D.

- 🐾 Put more animals in my traps. Hahaha. Thanks for all info.
- 🐾 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 Island. I don't believe I'll trap next year for lack of animals and so many other people and fuel prices.
- 🐾 The requirement of ID tags on traps and snares should be restricted to the Juneau/Douglas area where the political kneejerk 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 otters need thinning as they eat their way through the once abundant shell fish 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.
- 🐾 Everything works fine now!
- 🐾 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 ever recoup costs associated.
- 🐾 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!
- 🐾 Put a harvest limit on wolf, wolverine, and lynx. Or put a quota on game units.
- 🐾 Allow a season on sea otters.
- 🐾 Doing a good job!
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 The loss of our May beaver season in 1A two years ago by the BOG had me pulling beaver sets early. The health of my trapline is fine, the average number of my catch has started the same for every year 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.
- 🐾 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 the wolverine season (effectively

extending it by one month, to end on January 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 them when I target late season wolves.
- 🐾 I think more people ought to go with the grandkids. Some of them days in January, it was -20 and afoot, we never got back to the pick-up early. Them kids will never forget them days. I’m sure at least two will be there this winter.
- 🐾 Just by informing the public on how trapping helps sustain the overall population of furbearers.
- 🐾 What happened 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 any way to improve it, it’s just nature.
- 🐾 It should be easier to build trapping cabins. The weather conditions in southeast meet 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 mainland 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.
- 🐾 No, keep up the good work.
- 🐾 Would nest boxes for marten be helpful in some areas? Is there any information out there in regards to targeting male marten so as to avoid catching females?
- 🐾 Thank you for all you do. The wolves in our area are 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.
- 🐾 Would like to see otter and beaver season run at the same time, or at least run beaver season longer so we can open water trap them in Unit 14A and B.
- 🐾 This is the 1st questionnaire I ever received in all the years I have trapped. I’ve been trapping Big Creek area for the 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

and work to trap. Myself, I like going out and see my old trapping country that has been handed down to me for many generations. Even though I don't make any money, trapping maybe it's in my blood. We live off the land "subsistence."

- 🐾 Regulations are fine now.
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 Extending marten trapping until the middle or end of March. Open beaver trapping earlier beginning Sept. 20.
- 🐾 Limit the number of wolverines taken in Unit 23 under a trapping license.
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 Information on fur handling could be expanded on. The video is good and could cover more.
- 🐾 Start marten season earlier.
- 🐾 Don't start lynx season until at least the second or third week of November.
- 🐾 Thanks for the questionnaire. A great trapping program. We genuinely miss and look forward to returning to Alaska and continue trapping. Aside from the wilderness and wildlife, trapping in Alaska is unique given its strong reliance on ethics to guide trapper's 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.
- 🐾 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 October or April). A non-target species can still be caught in a snare during those times.
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 Worst trapping season in 32 years, no hares. Everything was scarce, snow conditions were great.

- ☛ 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.
- ☛ Protect habitat. Protect habitat. Protect habitat. Study why there are less marten statewide (it is not from overtrapping). Keep same day airborne (SDA) for wolves in places. Less state gunning and more private citizen, permittee gunning. With SDA, permitted pilots can keep the wolves in check. Do not collar so many wolves, especially park service. When state and feds collar wolves, pelt loses most of its value to trappers.
- ☛ Does the sealing of marten in Units 7, 14, 15, and 16 still serve a purpose?
- ☛ 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 ADF&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.



Author's Note

I would like to thank ADF&G Information Services staff for their help in scanning and compiling data from the 2013–2014 Trapper Questionnaire. Without their assistance, this report would not have been possible to create.

I would also like to extend my thanks to everyone responding to the questionnaire. I hope we can continue to improve the questionnaire in a way that will lead to an increased response rate and more valuable information to those utilizing this report. For many of the species involved in this report, you are our primary source of knowledge. We use your responses to determine what is happening with the furbearers to better manage those populations for future generations to enjoy. Please continue to respond to the questionnaire in the future and encourage others to do the same. If you know of anyone wanting to receive future questionnaires, please have them contact me by phone or email (below).

Thank you and best of luck this coming season!

Brynn L. Parr
ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire Coordinator
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4148
dfg.dwc.permits@alaska.gov

