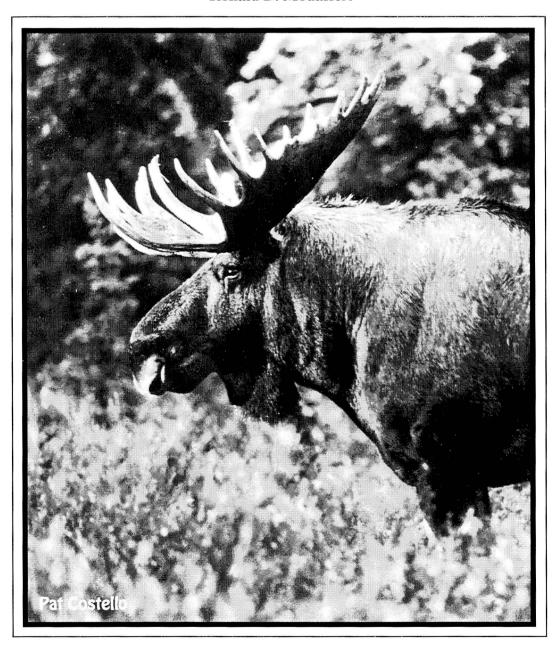
#### Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Research Progress Report

1 July 1992 - 30 June 1994

# Lower Susitna Valley Moose Population Identity and Movement Study

Ronald D. Modafferi



Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation December 1994

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> Grant W-24-2 Study 1.38

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#### RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT

State: Alaska

Project No.: W-24-1 Project Title: Big Game Investigations

W-24-2

Job No.: 1.38 Study Title: Lower Susitna Valley Moose

Population Identity and

Movement Study

Period Covered: 1 July 1992-30 June 1994

#### **SUMMARY**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff aerial surveyed, marked, and radiotracked moose in the lower Susitna River valley in Southcentral Alaska from October 1985 to February 1991. Survey and radiotracking data gathered (April 1980 to May 1986) during previous moose studies in lowland riparian areas of the lower Susitna River valley were incorporated into the database. Site specific information on herd density, sex/age composition, and distribution of moose were compiled from moose censuses and surveys in the study area. Data on moose killed by collisions with trains in Alaska were collected, analyzed in relation to snowpack depth, and published. Archived data on in utero fetus counts of moose in Southcentral Alaska were gathered, analyzed, and published. Data collected on survival of radiocollared moose were analyzed and written for publication. We analyzed data on birthing chronology, twinning rates and calf/cow ratios of radiocollared female moose. This report mainly contains data, findings, and discussions related to analysis of point-location data collected in monitoring radiocollared moose.

To select equipment, methods and procedures for analyzing point-location data collected in radiotelemetry studies, a radiotelemetry data analysis group was formed among Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff. The working group included biologists, biometricians and a data analyst/programmer. The group identified computer hardware and software for conducting analyses of radiotelemetry point-location data. The group acknowledged that point-location data collected in lower Susitna Valley moose studies would be used to refine this process.

Equipment and software identified for use in analyzing point-location data were: a 486-based computer with windows environment; CALHOME, a home range analysis software; Lotus 1-2-3, a spreadsheet program; ArcView, a geographic information system software; and FoxPro, a relational database management system. The adaptive kernel method in CALHOME was selected for home range analyses.

ADF&G staff outlined procedures for isolating and manipulating subsets of moose point-location data from the database file through home range analyses. Adaptive kernel home range analyses identified relationships between home range size, number of utilization distributions and bandwidth. Home range size varied from 9 mi<sup>2</sup> to 205 km<sup>2</sup>. Plots of home ranges showed 1 (unimodal) to 8 (multimodal) discrete utilization distribution polygons. Bandwidth had large effects on home range size and polygon number. In many cases, bandwidth selected by minimizing the least squares cross validation value appeared to provide a better estimate of home range than the optimum bandwidth selected by the program. These analyses clarified the need to identify an objective method for selecting bandwidth in adaptive kernel home range analysis. ADF&G staff discussed recommendations for future activities.

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#### **BACKGROUND**

Before statehood in 1959, the Susitna River Valley was ranked as the most productive moose (*Alces alces*) habitat in the territory (Chatelain 1951). Today, the innate potential of this area as habitat for moose is unsurpassed throughout the state.

The lower Susitna Valley is the focal point of more development than any other nonurban region in the state. Proposed and progressing projects involving grain and crop agriculture, dairy and grazing livestock, commercial forestry and logging, personal-use cutting of firewood, mineral and coal mining, land disposals, wildlife ranges and refuges, human recreation, human settlement, urban expansion, development of the highway and railway systems, and increased railroad traffic in the region may greatly detract from the area's potential to support moose.

Although development and associated activities may reduce the moose population in the Susitna Valley, resource users have demanded increased allocations to satisfy consumptive and nonconsumptive uses. This conflict created a tremendous need by local, state, and federal

land and resource management agencies for timely and accurate knowledge about moose populations in Subunits 13E, 14A, 14B, 16A, and 16B. These informational needs will intensify in response to (1) increased pressures to develop additional lands, (2) increased numbers of users and types of resource use, and (3) more complex systems for allocating resources to potential users.

The Division of Wildlife Conservation lacks necessary information about moose populations in the lower Susitna Valley to accurately assess the effects from these increasing resource demands. The division is unable to dispute or condone specific demands, or provide recommendations to regulate and minimize negative effects on moose populations or habitat. The division must be knowledgeable about moose population behavior to mitigate negative effects to moose populations or their habitat.

The division is the source of much information on moose populations for decisions on land use and resource allocation in the lower Susitna Valley. To be more effective in this capacity, the division should consolidate available data and expand that database with studies on movements and identity of moose populations.

Data from these studies will improve the division's ability to recognize, evaluate, and/or mitigate activities affecting moose populations and their habitat.

Habitat and environmental conditions vary greatly in the lower Susitna Valley. Large environmental differences may lead to area specific differences in moose population behavior. Therefore, a series of interrelated moose movements and population identity studies should be conducted at different locations in the lower Susitna Valley. Studies should be initiated where there are immediate conflicts in resource use. After evaluating conflicts in resource use in the lower Susitna Valley, we knew our studies should begin in the western foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains in Subunits 14A and 14B. Some of the densest postrut aggregations of moose in the region and, perhaps, the state are on Bald Mountain Ridge and Willow Mountain in the western foothills of Talkeetna Mountains. Subunits 14A and 14B provide recreation and resources to over half of Alaska's human population. This area is the focus of many development activities and conflicts in resource use. These Subunits have unique problems involving moose and transportation systems. Environmental information required for the recent Susitna River hydroelectric project emphasized the inadequacy of basic knowledge about moose populations in the area. Data from environmental assessment studies for the hydroelectric project pointed out inaccurate assumptions about moose populations in the lower Susitna Valley.

Historical information available on moose populations in the Susitna Valley is limited to (1) harvest statistics (ADF&G files), (2) inconsistently conducted sex-age composition surveys (ADF&G files); (3) inconsistently collected data for train- and vehicle-killed moose (ADF&G files), (4) a population movement study based on resightings of "visually collared" moose (ADF&G files), (5) studies on railroad mortality and productivity of the railbelt sub-population (Rausch 1958, 1959), (6) a radiotelemetry population identity study in the Dutch and Peters Hills (Didrickson and Taylor 1978), (7) an incomplete study of moose-snowfall

relationships in the Susitna Valley (ADF&G files), (8) a study of extensive moose mortality in a severe winter (1970-71), for which there is no final report, and (9) a pilot study to develop a rapid-assessment technique to identify and characterize moose winter range (Albert and Shea 1986).

Recent studies designed to assess effects of a proposed hydroelectric project on moose have provided much data on moose populations in areas adjacent to the Susitna River downstream from Devil Canyon (Arneson 1981; Modafferi 1982, 1983, 1984, 1988b). These studies suggest that moose sex-age composition counts conducted in alpine habitat postrut concentration areas of Subunits 14A and 14B were biased, including samples from unhunted moose populations and excluding samples from segments of hunted moose populations. Moose killed by hunters and trains in winter in Subunit 14B were fall residents of Subunit 16A. Fall resident moose of Subunit 16A migrated to winter areas in Subunit 14A. Moose vulnerable in fall hunts in Subunit 16A were included in Subunit 14A and 14B population composition and trend surveys. Moose that calved in Subunit 16A were fall residents of Subunit 14B. These data indicate that assumptions about movements and identities of moose populations in Subunits 14A and 14B (i.e., western foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains) may be incorrect or too simplistic.

Previous progress reports on lower Susitna Valley moose population identity and movement studies have been published (Modafferi 1987, 1988a, 1990, 1992).

#### **OBJECTIVES**

#### Primary

- To more precisely delineate moose annual movement patterns and location, timing, and duration of use of seasonal habitats
- To use movement patterns to identify and delineate major moose populations in the lower Susitna Valley
- To assess effects of seasonal timing on results of annual fall sex-age composition and population trend moose surveys
- To relate findings to moose population management in lower Susitna Valley

#### <u>Peripheral</u>

- To identify areas and habitats that are important for maintaining the integrity of moose populations in the lower Susitna Valley
- To locate moose winter areas and calving areas in the lower Susitna Valley

- To identify moose populations that sustain hunting mortality and "accidental" mortality in highway and railroad rights-of-way
- To determine moose natality rates and timing of calving
- To determine survival rates and timing calf and adult mortality

#### STUDY AREA

The study was conducted in a 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> area in the lower Susitna Valley in Southcentral Alaska (Fig. 1). The area is bordered on the north and west by the Alaska Mountain Range, on the east by the Talkeetna Mountains, and on the south by Cook Inlet. It encompasses all watersheds of the Susitna River downstream from Devil Canyon and includes all or portions of Subunits 14A, 14B, 16A, 16B, and 13E (Fig. 2).

Monthly mean temperatures range from 16 C in July to -13 C in January; maximum and minimum temperatures of 25 and -35 C are not uncommon. Total annual precipitation varies from about 40 cm in the southern portion to over 86 cm in the northern and western portions. Maximum winter snow depth varies from less than 20 cm in the southern portion to over 200 cm in the northern and western portions. Climatic conditions generally become more inclement away from the maritime influence of Cook Inlet. Elevations within the area range from sea level to rugged mountain peaks well above 1500 m.

Vegetation in the area is diverse and varied, depending on elevation. Vegetation types include wet coastal tundra and marsh, open low-growing spruce forest, closed spruce hardwood forest, treeless bog, shrubby thicket and alpine tundra (Viereck and Little 1972). Dominant habitat and canopy types in the area are characterized as: (1) floodplain - dominated by willow (Salix spp.) and poplars (Populus spp.), (2) lowland - dominated by a mixture of wet bogs and closed or open, mixed paper birch (Betula papyrifera)/white spruce (Picea glauca)/aspen (Populus tremuloides) forests, (3) mid elevation - dominated by mixed or pure stands of aspen/paper birch/white spruce, (4) higher elevation - dominated by alder (Alnus spp.), willow, and birch shrub thickets or grasslands (Calamagrostis spp.), and (5) alpine tundra - dominated by sedge (Carex spp.), ericaceous shrubs, prostrate willows, and dwarf herbs. Vegetation, climate and geography of the area were described in detail by Viereck and Little (1972) and Modafferi (1991). Moose surveys in postrut areas were conducted above timberline in alpine tundra habitats, roughly between elevations from 600 to 1,200 m. Moose surveys in winter areas were conducted in lowland floodplain habitats between elevations of 30 to 300 m.

Moose populations in this region increased during 1980-84 and 1985-87 and decreased in 1984-85 and 1987-91 (Griese 1993a, 1993b). Moose populations in the area were probably at or very near carrying capacity before winter 1984-85. Moose were hunted during subunit-specific open seasons. In most subunits, male moose were hunted every year during a September season. In some areas, limited numbers of permits were issued for the harvest of

antlerless and/or cow moose during the September season and/or a December through February season. Accidental collisions of moose with trains and highway vehicles were noteworthy sources of mortality in the region, particularly in deep-snow winters (Rausch 1958, Modafferi 1991). Moose predators in the area included wolves (Canis lupus) and brown (Ursus arctos) and black bears (U. americanus).

Information on predator densities in the area was largely circumstantial, but densities were relatively low in relation to many other areas in Alaska. Wolf density estimates ranged from about 1-2 wolves/100 km² in Subunits 14A, 14B and southern 16A to about 2-7 wolves/1000 km² in Subunits 13E, 16B and northern 16A (Ballard 1992a, Masteller 1994). In general, wolf populations probably increased during 1980-91. Brown bear density estimates ranged from 7-25 bears/1000 km² in Subunits 14A and 14B to about 12-35 bears/1000 km² in Subunits 13E, 16A, and 16B (Miller 1987, Grauvogel 1990, Griese 1993a). Brown bear populations were probably increasing during the study. Black bear density estimates ranged from about 35-104 bears/1000 km² in Subunits 14A and 14B (Grauvogel 1990) to about 90-193 bears/1000 km² in Subunits 13E, 16A, and 16B (Miller 1987, Griese 1993b). Black bear hunting over bait and increasing brown bear populations may have caused a decrease in black bear populations during the study.

#### **METHODS**

#### Moose Distribution Surveys

ADF&G staff conducted moose sex-age composition surveys during late autumn through winter to gather information on moose distribution and utilization of postrut areas. Surveys were conducted from October though April, 1986-91 in 7 discrete areas above timberline in the western foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains in Subunits 14A and 14B. Surveys were initiated in autumn after snowcover was adequate to observe moose. ADF&G staff surveyed about every 1-2 weeks, unless weather and snow conditions impeded aerial surveying and counting of moose. Surveys were terminated in spring when snow cover was inadequate to observe moose. Search effort during surveys was to count all moose. Search intensity varied with moose density but was usually about 1 minute/km<sup>2</sup>. Surveys were conducted in PA-12 Super Cub aircraft. Moose were classified in categories of calf, nonantlered adult, antlered yearlings (moose with antlers measuring <76 cm; Gasaway 1975, Gasaway et al. 1987), and antlered adults (moose with antlers ≥76 cm). In previous investigations in the study area, similar survey procedures were used to conduct moose sex-age composition surveys in lowland riparian winter areas during October through April (Modafferi 1988b). Surveys in winter areas were conducted in the Susitna River floodplain between Devil Canyon and Cook Inlet in Subunits 16A, 16B and 13E in 1981-85 and in the Alexander Creek, Moose Creek, Deshka River and Yentna River floodplains in Subunits 16A and 16B in 1984-85. Data from these surveys were analyzed to compile information on moose distribution in winter and moose utilization of lowland winter areas.

#### Capture, Radiocollaring, and Monitoring Moose

Moose were captured for radiocollaring by darting either from a helicopter or approached on foot or snowmachine. Moose were immobilized with etorphine hydrochloride (M99, Lemmon Co., Sellersville, Pa.) with or without xylaxine hydrochloride (Rompun, Haver-Lockhart, Shawnee, Kans.) or carfentanil citrate (Wildnil, Wildl. Lab., Fort Collins, Colo.). M99 and Wildnil were antagonized with diprenorphine (M50-50, Lemmon Company, Sellersville, Pa.), naloxone hydrochloride (Dupont Pharmaceuticals, Garden City, N.J.) or naltrexone hydrochloride (Dupont Pharmaceuticals, Garden City, N.J.). Immobilized moose were ear tagged and fitted with a visual-numbered canvas collar (Franzmann et al. 1974) and radiotransmitter with or without a mortality option (Telonics, Mesa, Ariz.). Moose were captured during December and January in postrut areas in Subunits 14A and 14B and during January through April in lowland winter areas in Subunits 16B. Capture procedures took place in the western foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains between the south fork of Montana Creek and the Little Susitna River in 1985-89, in the Alexander Creek floodplain in 1987, and in the floodplains of the Yentna and the Skwentna Rivers between Lake Creek and Old Skwentna in 1988-89 (Fig. 3).

Capture procedures in postrut areas began after 18 November 1985, when aerial surveys indicated peak numbers of moose were present in those areas (Modafferi 1987). Capture procedures in winter areas commenced after 1 January after numbers of moose in postrut areas decreased and numbers of moose observed in winter areas increased. Radiocollars were allocated within winter areas and within and between postrut areas in relation to distribution of moose.

Age of captured moose was estimated mainly by incisor tooth wear. However, in the lower Susitna River study, a first incisor tooth was removed from captured moose for cementum aging (Sergeant and Pimlott 1959). Captured moose were >18 months of age and few moose were <30 months. All were considered adults.

Radiocollared moose were radiotracked 1-5 times each month for visual observation using a telemetry-equipped Cessna-152, -180, -185 or a Piper PA-18 Super Cub fixed-wing aircraft and standard aerial radiotracking procedures (Ballard et al. 1991). Not all radiocollared moose were located on each survey, but radiofixes on >60 moose during a single 1-day survey were common. I searched intensively at each site to confirm precise locations and to verify the animal was alive. Moose were monitored from capture to death or date of censor. I attributed death of moose at capture locations or within 4 days after collaring to capture stress.

During 1980-85, 75 moose were captured, radiocollared and monitored as part of a moose movement study in the lower Susitna River valley (Arneson 1981; Modafferi 1982, 1983, 1984, 1988b). My study area encompassed radiofix point locations of these moose. Moose point location and descriptive data collected in the former study were incorporated into my database. Radiocollared moose that survived to January 1986 were monitored in my study.

#### Survival

Radiocollared moose were judged dead by direct observation, by transmitter pulse rate if the transmitter contained the mortality/movement option, or radiofix location if radiofix locations on consecutive surveys were identical. When a moose was judged to be dead, an intensive aerial search was conducted to locate the radiocollar, parts of a moose carcass, and/or a disturbed site suggesting the animal was dead. Locations were revisited and aerially searched until sufficient evidence confirmed or refuted that the moose was dead. Locations were visited on foot to verify death.

Date and cause of death of radiocollared moose that died from legal hunter-harvest, illegal harvest, defense of life or property, and collisions with vehicles or trains were provided by hunters, ADF&G, the Alaska Department of Public Safety, and the Alaska Railroad Corporation.

Deaths of moose judged to be dead during radiotracking aerial surveys were categorized into 1 of 4 groups based on circumstances and/or evidence at the site of death: (1) illegal harvest, (2) accident, (3) winter kill, or (4) other. Illegal harvest was assigned mainly to moose radiotracked to a residential housing development during the hunting season. The accident group included deaths resulting from injuries and drowning. Intact moose carcasses on the snow with no evidence suggesting predation or accident were considered winter-killed. The remaining group, other, included deaths caused by predation and wounding injuries. Several moose deaths assigned to the other group were bulls that died in late September during or shortly after the beginning of hunting season. Death of bulls in this calendar period likely resulted from wounds inflected by hunters (Gasaway 1983, Fryxell et al. 1988) and/or from wounds incurred during rut-related fights with other bull moose (Koore 1959). The category other also included cows that died in the period mid May through July. Death of cows in this calendar period likely resulted from complications with birthing (Markgren 1969) and/or confrontations with bears (Ballard 1992 b).

Precise date of death was known for train kills, hunter harvest, illegal harvest, and kills in defense of life or property. For deaths in which the date was unknown, the mid-point date between the last two surveys was used. This interval was  $\leq 15$  days in 30% of the deaths,  $\leq 35$  days in 65% of the deaths, but  $\geq 45$  days in 6 deaths.

#### Censoring

Moose were censored from the database if: (1) the transmitter was lost or failed, (2) an animal emigrated from the study area, or (3) when the study was terminated. Lost or failed transmitters were censored on the midpoint between the dates of the last 2 radiofixes. Hunter harvested moose were censored on the reported date of kill.

Censoring of hunter harvested moose could affect estimates of survival if moose mortality in the winter after hunting season was compensatory with hunter harvest of moose. I used regression analysis to examine for evidence of a compensatory relationship between hunter harvest in autumn and mortality the following winter. Hunter bull harvest was regressed on bull deaths assigned to all sources, winter kill, and other. Analyses encompassed calendar years 1980-90.

#### **Snow Conditions**

Snowpack depth measurements were used to appraise snow conditions. These measurements were from Alaska Climatological Data Reports, U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, National Climate Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina for October through April during 1980-91. Snow conditions were characterized using maximum snowpack depth and the duration of deep snowpack from October through April. Measurements at Wasilla, Willow, Talkeetna, and Skwentna weather stations were used to reflect general snow conditions in the study area. In a few instances, snow measurement data were unavailable for a particular month at a weather station. In these cases, data from the next nearest weather station were used to proportionalize maximum snow depth for the month in question.

#### Management and Analysis of Moose Point-Location Data

Radiofix locations (audio-visual or audio) were plotted on 1:63,360-scale USGS topographic maps during radiotracking surveys. Radiofix point locations were later transferred to translucent overlays of maps for computer digitizing. Digitized point-location data files were joined to descriptive data files, forming unified data files. Unified data files from Lower Susitna River, Talkeetna Mountains, Alexander Creek and Yentna/Skwentna rivers studies were combined, forming a master file containing all data collected in studies of radiocollared moose in lower Susitna River valley.

Data records of all monitored female radiocollared moose were used to study chronology of calf birthing, chronology of breeding, twinning rates and calf/cow ratios in lower Susitna River valley moose populations. Data fields containing information on survey date and number of calves associated with radiomarked females were segregated from the database, perused and "cleansed" of errors.

Data records from all radiocollared moose were used to study survival of moose in lower Susitna River valley moose populations. Data fields containing information on capture date, dates of point location, and date the moose was determined to be dead or censored were segregated from the database, perused and "cleansed" of errors.

Data records from all radiocollared moose were used to study movements, seasonal range, and home range in lower Susitna River valley moose populations. Data fields containing information on number, date, x and y coordinates, number of point locations were segregated from the database, perused and "cleansed" of errors.

To relate point locations, movements and home range of radiocollared moose to management and biology of moose, prominent events in management and life history of moose were identified and delimited with calendar dates and Julian days (Table 1). Management and life history events identified were calving, summer range, rut, postrut range, winter range, moose surveys, fall hunts, and winter hunts. Point-location data were analyzed in relation to these events and calendar date periods.

#### Movements, Seasonal Range, and Home Range Analyses

Environmental requirements of moose change during the calendar year. For example, moose use different habitat in winter than during calving or postrut. If the habitat is patchy, moose must move seasonally to access different habitats. Spatial relationship of seasonal habitat patches determines the size and conformation of moose home ranges. Short distances between patches of seasonal habitat lead to small home ranges and, possibly, unimodal utilization distributions. Large distances between habitat patches lead to large home ranges, and possibly, multimodal utilization distributions. To accurately describe moose home range, one must include an assessment of the distance between utilization distributions (seasonal ranges or habitats) along with area measurements. In many species, multimodal utilization distributions include 2 nonoverlapping polygons, representing a summer and a winter range. However, data in this study indicated that moose home range may have included more than 2 nonoverlapping utilization distributions and that longest annual movement may not be to a winter range. In this study, ADF&G staff will investigate methods of evaluating spatial relationship between seasonal ranges. Eventually, descriptions of moose home range will include a measure of spatial relationship between seasonal ranges.

#### Radiotelemetry Point-Location Data Analysis Group

Select participants in a working group to organize and develop methods and procedures for analyzing point-location data collected in wildlife radiotelemetry studies. Biologists, biometricians and programmer/analysts will be represented in the group. The group will review, select, and recommend methodologies and computer hardware and software to analyze point-location data the ADF&G collects in radiotelemetry studies of movements and home ranges of wildlife. Point-location data collected in lower Susitna River valley moose movement studies will be used in developing this process.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### Surveys of Moose in Postrut and Winter Areas

Moose count data collected on aerial surveys in postrut areas (Modafferi 1990) and winter areas (Modafferi 1988) were used to explain the relationship between snowpack depth, moose movements, and the train moose-kill in Subunits 13E, 14A and 14B in lower Susitna River Valley (Modafferi 1992). We did not analyze moose sex/age composition data.

#### Capture, Radiocollaring, and Monitoring Moose

#### Talkeetna Mountains:

Forty-four moose were captured and radiocollared in 7 discrete postrut areas in Subunits 14A and 14B (Fig. 3, area A-G) from 23 December 1985 to 4 February 1986. On December 1987 and 1988, 8 moose were captured and radiocollared in these areas. In January 1987, 7 moose were captured and radiocollared in lowland forest habitat (Fig. 4, Area H) located between Little Willow Creek and the Kashwitna River in Subunit 14B. In February 1989, 5 moose were captured and radiocollared at timber sale sites between Willow Creek and Iron Creek (Fig. 4, Area H). In February and March 1988, 6 moose were captured and radiocollared at personal-use firewood cutting sites near Coal Creek (Fig. 4, Area I). In April 1990, 7 moose were captured and radiocollared at 6 sites along the Parks Highway between the Little Susitna River in Subunit 14A and Sheep Creek in Subunit 14B (Fig. 1).

#### Alexander Creek:

In March 1987, 20 moose were captured and radiocollared in Alexander Creek floodplain (Fig. 4, Area J).

#### Yentna and Skwentna Rivers:

In February 1988 and 1989, 30 moose were captured and radiocollared in floodplains of the Skwentna and Yentna rivers between Old Skwentna and McDougall (Fig. 4, Area K).

#### Lower Susitna River:

At the time I began this study, radiotransmitters on 32 moose captured and radiocollared during previous studies in the lower Susitna River floodplain were operational and transmitting audible radio signals. These moose were monitored in my study. Radiotransmitters on some of these individuals exhibited either weak, infrequent, or no signals. I presumed these transmitters were weakening and expiring from battery failure.

#### Analysis of Radiotelemetry Point-location Data

#### Calendar Year and Seasonal Periods:

The calendar year, 7 May to 6 May the following year, was used to study annual home range of moose. A Julian calendar of 1 to 365 days was used to describe the 7 May to 6 May calendar year. To study seasonal home ranges, the Julian calendar year was subdivided into periods related to life history and management of moose (Table 1 and Appendix A).

#### Radiotelemetry Data Analysis Working Group:

The telemetry data analysis working group was selected. The group included biologists D. A. Anderson and C. C. Schwartz; biometricians E. F. Becker and J. VerHoef; analyst/programmer B. Strauch; and the principal investigator R. D. Modafferi. The group convened in Anchorage September 1993 to discuss and outline a study plan.

#### **Computer System and Software:**

The working group selected a computer system, printer, and basic software appropriate to conduct movement and home range analyses on radiotelemetry point-location data. The computer system selected was a 486-66 with 8 Kb of RAM and a Windows operating system. The printer selected was an 8 page per minute laser printer. The 4 softwares selected were Lotus 1-2-3, a spreadsheet program (Lotus Development Corporation 1993); FoxPro, a relational database management system (Microsoft FoxPro, 1993); ArcView, a geographic information system (ArcView 1992) and CALHOME, a home range analysis program (Kie et al. 1994a, 1994b). FoxPro was used to select, segregate, and manipulate data used in analyses. ArcView facilitated interactive manipulation of data fields within the point-location database, overlaying views of point locations with geographic feature databases and printing hardcopies of data. CALHOME ran home range analyses on X, Y coordinates of pointlocation data. This program is menu driven, enabling the user to select between 4 home range methods: adaptive kernel (Worton 1989), harmonic mean (Dixon and Chapman 1980), bivariate normal (Jennrich and Turner 1969), and minimum convex polygon (Mohr 1947). CALHOME provides hard copy and screen-display graphic representations of location points and home range polygons. This program also creates an output file, listing distances between successive point locations entered in home range analyses.

#### Administrative and Analytical Procedures:

Administrative procedures were initiated to purchase a 486-66 computer with a Windows operating system, laser jet printer, and 3 software to conduct analyses of the point-location database file. A copy of CALHOME (beta version) was requested and received (c/o John G. Kie, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, 2081 East Sierra Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710). Computer hardware and the software ArcView and FoxPro were delivered to the Palmer office 28 February 1994. The investigator was briefed on the Windows-based computer system, printer, and ArcView and FoxPro software. The investigator acquainted himself with the computer system, manipulating data with FoxPro and conducting interactive analyses with ArcView on subsets of the point-location data.

The telemetry data analysis working group convened in Anchorage on 11 August 1994 for an overview and discussion on using the updated version of the CALHOME home range analysis program (version 1). The group concluded that the adaptive kernel method (AK) of home range analysis was the most appropriate home range method for analysis of moose point-location data. The AK method, which produces an unbiased density estimate, is least influenced by effects of grid size and placement, and it provides realistic interpretations of

unimodal and multimodal utilization distributions. Goodness of fit was evaluated with a least squares cross validation score (LSCV) (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5). In adaptive kernel analyses, the CALHOME program allows the user to select bandwidth, grid cell size and utilization distribution point percentage contours (i.e., % of points included in estimated home range). Trial analyses of data verified compatibility of software and hardware, familiarized staff with AK home range analysis, and simplified data manipulations and procedures for AK analyses. Preliminary home range analyses indicated grid size and bandwidth were important components affecting shape and fit of the utilization distribution contours and estimates of home range. Grid density affects how well a plotted contour approximates the surface of interest. Denser grids provided smoother contours. The group decided to use the densest grid,  $50 \times 50$ , in all adaptive kernel home range analyses. The investigator used the 98% utilization distribution contours in all AK analyses. Experience in monitoring moose and preliminary data analyses indicated very few point locations were clearly extraneous to other point locations.

Point-location data from a sample of moose were used to study relationship between bandwidth size and the moose point-location data. These analyses were used to determine if a single bandwidth could be used in all AK moose home range analyses. To examine this, different size bandwidths were used in analyzing point-location data of each moose (Appendix B). Bandwidths yielding the lowest LSCV, a measure of goodness of fit, were selected as the "ideal" bandwidth for use in home range analyses (Appendix C). We conducted final adaptive kernel analyses using the "ideal bandwidth." We produced hard copy plots of final analysis home range polygons for the subset of moose (Appendix D).

#### Relationship between bandwidth, home range size, and number of utilization distributions:

Bandwidth selected by the trial and error process in Appendix B ranged from 400 m to 2600 m (Fig. 6). The bandwidths most frequently selected were between 1200 m and 1400 m. Bandwidth from 700 m to 1700 m provided minimum LSCVs in about 80% of the moose. The number of utilization distributions or polygons (i.e., polygon = >2 point locations encircled) identified in a moose home range varied from 1 to 8 (Fig. 7). Area of utilization distributions ranged from 9.2 mi<sup>2</sup> to 204.5 mi<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 8); 75% ranged from 20 mi<sup>2</sup> to 70 mi<sup>2</sup>. There was an inverse relationship between number of utilization distribution polygons (centroids) and bandwidth (Fig. 9). There was a positive relationship between home range size and centroids (Fig. 11).

#### Year Effects on Point-Location Data:

Radiotelemetry Point-location Data Analysis Working Group was concerned about year effects on estimates of home range. If year effects were not present, home range analyses conducted on point-location data collapsed over years. To explore for year effects in point-location data, point-location data from a sample of moose that exhibited multimodal utilization distributions (polygons) were examined for evidence of year-to-year philopatry in winter to a single utilization distribution polygon.

I presumed that polygons were likely to include year effects. However, I was aware that winter-season × year effects could be present in a unimodal utilization distribution. To force appearance of multiple polygons, home range analyses were performed with shorter bandwidths than those that provided the LSCVs. However, when examining the short bandwidths, I avoided selecting those that fragmented utilization distribution into numerous 1- and 2-point polygons.

The process of selecting a bandwidth to force appearance of multimodal utilization distributions was a very subjective procedure. When I was pleased with the representation of multiple polygons in an AK home range analysis plots of the home range analyses were produced (Appendix E) and the examination for year effects continued as follows: 1) each polygon was labeled with a number; polygons encompassing <3 points were considered as transient ranges or outlying points (outliers) and were not identified as a seasonal range; 2) outliers were classified into groups based on spatial relationship with respect to adjacent polygons and were labeled with a number; 3) data on x,y coordinates, Julian day, and Julian year of point locations (radiofix observations) were copied to a FoxPro database file; 4) database files were translated in LOTUS to .wk1 files; 5) .wk1 files were sorted by the x or y coordinate ("X-COORD, Y-COORD") to identify each location point on a CALHOME home range hard copy output; 6) each location point was assigned the number of the polygon or outlier group; 7) location point polygon numbers were entered into a field ("CENTROID") in the lotus file; 8) lotus files were sorted by Julian year ("CYEAR") 7 May through 6 May the following year (Appendix F); 9) Graphs of the point-location data, Julian day ("CJDAY") × polygon number, were created for each moose; and 10) graphs were examined visually for evidence of overlap in utilization distributions during a common calendar period (i.e., were several utilization distribution polygons represented during the same Julian day?). If the overlap of polygons was a year effect, data from selected years were deleted from graphs to determine if that eliminated the overlap.

There was a very shallow snowpack in lower Susitna River valley in Julian year 1985-86 (Fig. 4). Therefore, in exploring for year effects, I especially examined the hypothesis that moose used different areas (polygons) in the winter of 1985-86 than in winter in other years. The data examined supported this assertion. Many moose, particularly those radiocollared in Unit 14B, used different areas (polygons) in winter 1985-86 than in other years. The data indicated that in 1985-86 many moose stayed in postrut areas or moved only short distances from postrut areas to winter areas. Data gathered on moose surveys in postrut areas supported this movement pattern(Modafferi 1991). The data also indicate that moose did not use the same winter area in years other than 1985-86. These analyses also indicated that some moose used different areas during calving. However, this observation may be misleading because the length of time cow moose utilize calving sites probably depends on neonate survival. Cow moose that lose a calf shortly after calving may move immediately to a summer area, but cows with calves may remain in the calving area longer.

#### Spatial Relationship Between Season Ranges:

Data analyzed from a cow moose that moved a great distance between utilization distributions indicated the longest movements were between Julian day 340 and Julian day 60 the following year (Fig. 13). Timing of long distance movements correlates with movements from a winter range (late winter) to a calving range (spring). Other long distance movements occurred between Julian day 130 and Julian day 180. Timing of these movements correlates with movements from a rut range to a postrut range. Of particular significance is that the moose did not move great distances between postrut range and winter range.

#### **Publications**

#### Completed:

A manuscript titled "In Utero Pregnancy Rates, Litter Size and Productivity For Social Classes of Cow Moose in South-Central Alaska" was prepared and submitted for publication in the journal *Alces*. The manuscript was accepted and published in *Alces* 28:223-234.

#### In Draft Form:

A draft of the manuscript Survival of radiocollared adult moose in lower Susitna River valley, Southcentral Alaska is in Appendix H.

#### In Preparation:

- Birthing chronology, breeding chronology, twinning rate and calf/cow ratios in radiocollared cow moose in lower Susitna River valley in Southcentral Alaska: Characteristics and Relationship with Weather
- Movements, Seasonal Range, and Home Range of Radiocollared Moose in Lower Susitna Valley in Southcentral Alaska

#### **Future Activities**

Home range analyses conducted indicate that it is not possible to select a single bandwidth, based on minimum LSCV, for use in analysis of moose point-location data. These analyses indicated bandwidth must be examined in a trial and error process to select bandwidth based on a minimum LSCV value. J. Kie (pers. commun.) indicated that in analyzing deer home range data, the bandwidth selected was as the one which produced the lower LSCV value between the following 2 CALHOME analyses: 1) the program estimated optimum bandwidth and 2) 0.8 times, the program estimated optimum bandwidth value.

Confer with members of telemetry data analysis working group to: 1) establish a standardized method of selecting bandwidth for CALHOME AK home range analyses, 2) outline procedures that adjust for year effects in home range analyses, 3) determine methods

outline procedures that adjust for year effects in home range analyses, 3) determine methods of describing spatial relationship between seasonal home ranges in a home range, and 4) determine a method of incorporating information on spatial relationships of seasonal home ranges in home range analyses. Use these methodologies to analyze point-location data collected in lower Susitna Valley moose studies for information on population identity and moose movements.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I especially thank staff of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for helping with this study. D. C. McAllister assisted in many aspects of the study. I acknowledge many ADF&G colleagues for assistance in moose capture and radiotracking procedures. P. A. Arneson provided data on moose captured, radiocollared, and monitored during 1980 in Subunits 16A and 13E. J. B. Faro contributed information on moose captured, radiocollared, and monitored in Subunit 16B during 1987-88. My supervisors, K. B. Schneider, D. A. Anderson, and C. C. Schwartz, provided guidance, peer review assistance, and administrative support. I thank J. C. Didrickson, C. A. Grauvogel, H. J. Griese, and M. W. Masteller for their support. I thank light aircraft pilots C. A. Allen, Charlie Allen Flight Service; M. Houte, L. Rogers, C. R. and V. L. Lofstedt, Kenai Air Alaska; W. A. Woods, Woods Air Service; and W. D. Wiederkehr, Wiederkehr Air Inc. for skill, dedication, and enthusiasm on aerial radiotracking surveys. E. B. Becker and Jay VerHoef provided statistical advice and clarified analytical concepts. B. Strauch managed and processed the point-location data file and performed many GIS analyses. S. R. Peterson and other staff at ADF&G, Juneau, provided advice and comments on reports and manuscripts.

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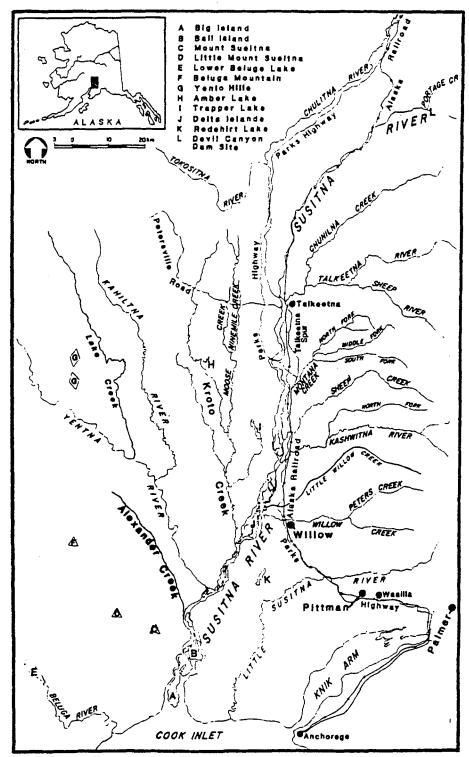


Figure 1. Map showing location of the etudy area in Alaeka with names listed for rivers, lakes and other prominent landscape features.

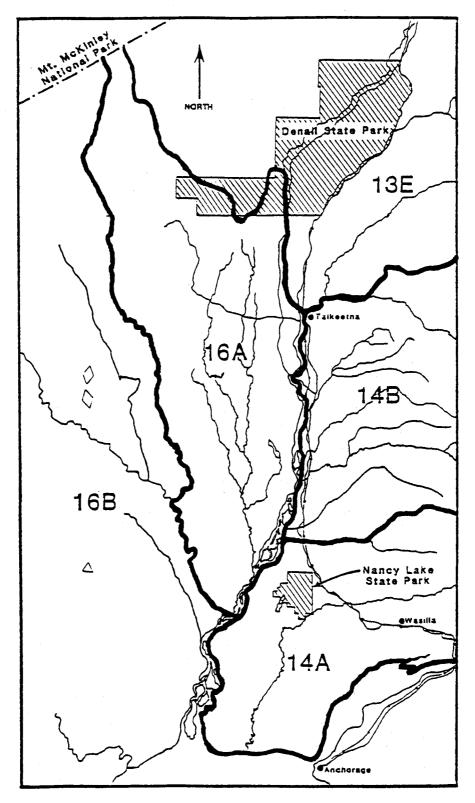


Fig. 2. Location of Game Management Subunits (13E, 14A, 14B, 16A and 16B) and state and national parks in the study area.

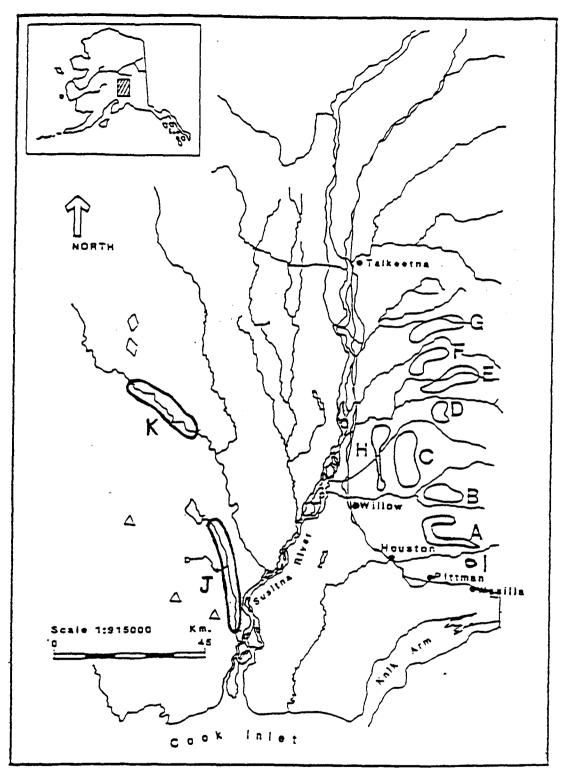


Fig.3. Locations of Talkeetna Mountains alpine habitat moose postrut areas (A-G), Kashwitna Corridor Forest (H), Coal Creek timber cut area (I), Alexander Creek (J) and the Lake Creek/Skwentna area (K) where moose were captured and radio-marked. A = Bald Mountain, B = Moss Mountain, C = Willow Mountain, D = Witna Mountain, E = Brownie Mountain, F = wolverine Mountain, and G = Sunshine Mountain.

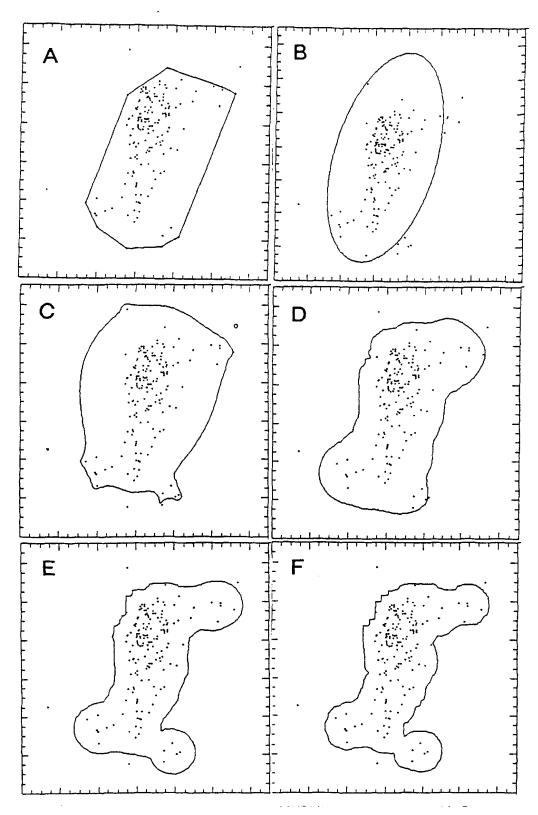


Fig. 4. A unimodal utilization distribution estimated from 98P% minimum convex polygon (A), 98V% bivariate normal (B), 98P% harmonic mean (C), and 98P% adaptive kernel (D-F) home range methods in the CALHOME home range analysis program (Kie et al. 1994). Bandwidth = 1,363 m (program default, optimum) in D, 900 in E, and 700 in F. Home range estimates (ha) = 4,499 (A), 6,266 (B), 5,880 (C), 5,165 (D), 4,411 (E), and 4,135 (F). Axis scaling not the same in all Figs.

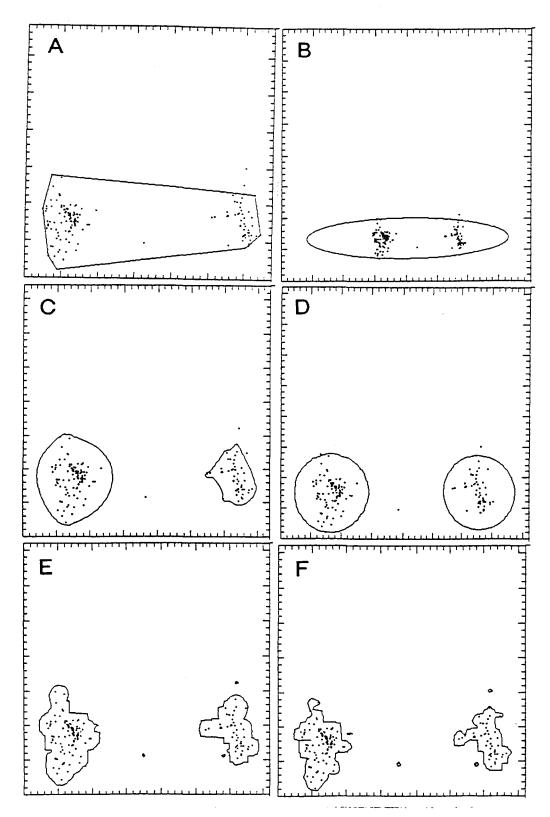


Fig. 5. A bimodal utilization distribution estimated from 98P% minimum convex polygon (A), 98V% bivariate normal (B), 98P% harmonic mean (C), and 98P% adaptive kernel (D-F) home range methods in the CALHOME home range analyses program (Kie et al. 1994). Bandwidth = 6,405 m (program default, optimum) in D, 900 in E, and 700 in F. Home range estimates (ha) = 28,690 (A), 65,790 (B), 15,160 (C), 23,570 (D), 12,050 (E), and 9,193 (F). Axis scaling not the same in all Figs.

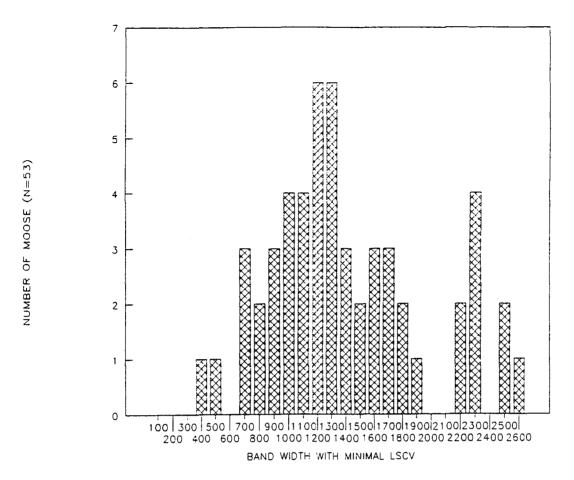


Fig. 6. Frequency distribution of bandwidths (m) selected for use in CALHOME adaptive kernel home range analyses performed on moose point location data. Bandwidth selection was based on minimizing the LSCV value.

N = 54 MOOSE

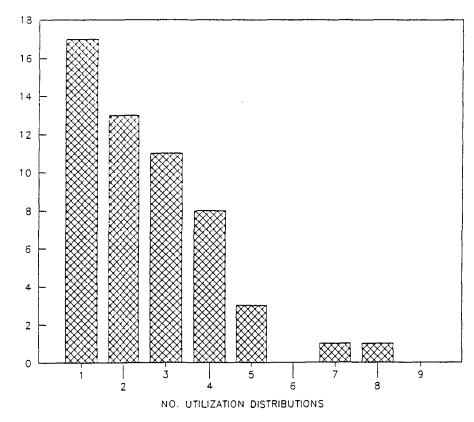


Fig. 7. Frequency distribution of the number of utilization distribution polygons delieneated in CALHOME adaptive kernel home range analyses performed on moose point location data. Utilization distribution polygon = a polygon encompassing >2 point locations.

NO. MOOSE

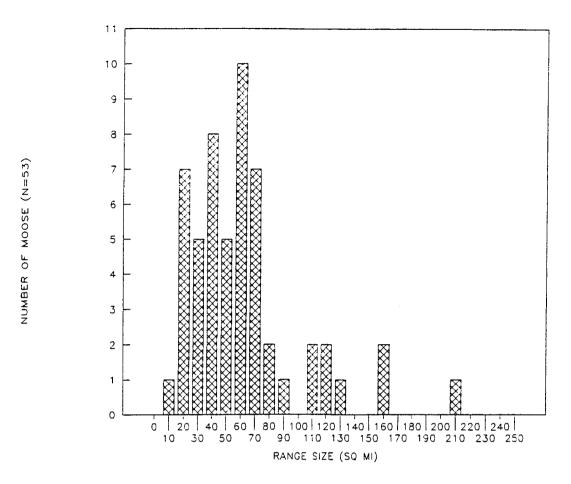


Fig. 8. Frequency distribution of estimates of home range size  $(\text{mi}^{\,2})$  obtained in CALHOME adaptive kernel home range analyses performed on moose point location data.

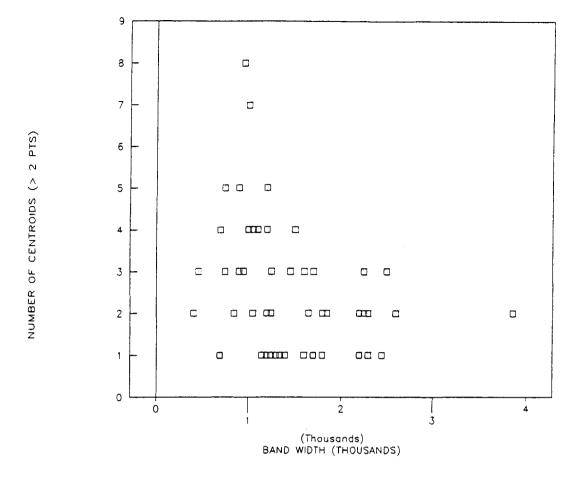


Fig. 9. Relationship between bandwidth (m) and number of utilization distribution polygons (centroids). Utilization distribution polygon = a polygon encompassing >2 point locations. Data obtained from CALHOME adaptive kernel analyses performed on moose point location data. Bandwidth selection was based on minimizing the LSCV value.

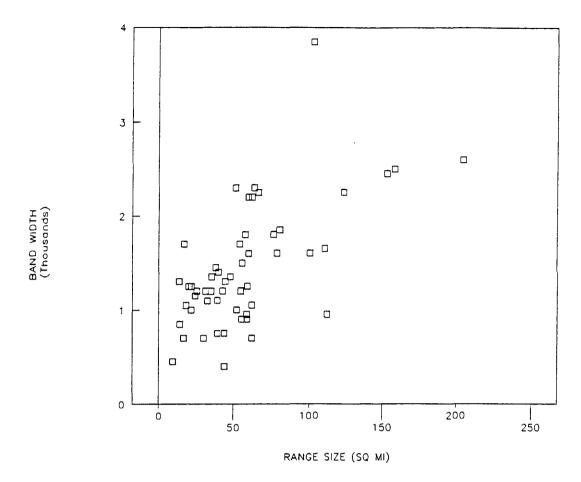
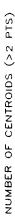


Fig. 10. Relationship between bandwidth (m) and moose home range size ( $\min^2$ ). Data obtained from CALHOME adaptive kernel analyses performed on moose point location data. Bandwidth selection was based on minimizing the LSCV value.



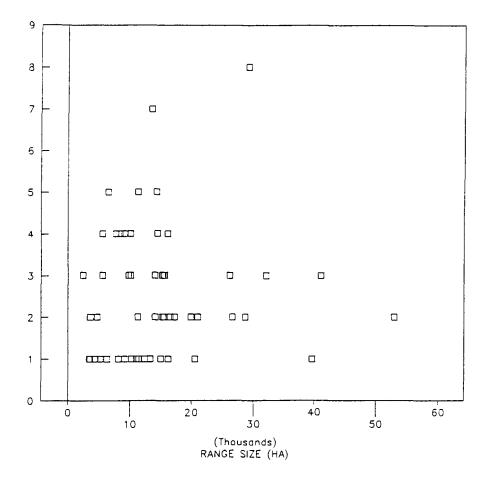
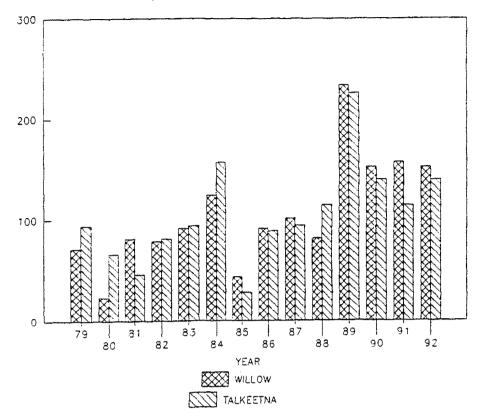


Fig. 11. Relationship between range size and number of utilization distribution polygons (centroids) delieneated in CALHOME adaptive kernel home range analyses performed on moose point location data. Utilization distribtuion polygon = a polygon encompassing >2 point locations.

## SUSITNA VALLEY SNOWPACK DEPTH 1979-93

(79=1979-80, 30=1980-81, ETC.)



MAXIMUM SNOWPACK DEPTH (CM) OCT-APR

Fig. 12. Maximum snowpack depth (cm) measured during October through April in Willow and Talkeetna in lower Susitna River valley, south-central Alaska, 1979-93.

Table 1. Coarse and fine grain calendar and Julian date periods delineating important events in management and life history of moose in lower Susitna River valley in Southcentral Alaska.

Grain Event		Period	Calendar date <sup>1</sup>	Julian date <sup>2</sup>	No. days	
Coarse	2					
	Life history					
		Calving	7 May to 15 Jun	1 to 40	40	
		Summer	13 Jul to 15 Aug	56 to 101	46	
		Rut	7 Sep to 10 Oct	124 to 157	34	
		Postrut	11 Oct to 1 Dec	158 to 209	52	
		Winter	15 Nov to 30 Apr	193 to 360	178	
	Management <sup>3</sup>					
		Fall hunt	20 Aug to 30 Sep	106 to 147	42	
		Winter hunt	1 Jan to 28 Feb	240-298	59	
		Survey	7 Nov to 21 Dec	185 to 229	45	

Table 1. Continued.

Grain	Event	Period Calendar date		Julian date <sup>2</sup>	No. days	
Fine				,		
	Life history					
		Calving	16 May to 31 May	10 to 25	16	
		Summer	13 Jul to 15 Aug	56 to 101	46	
		Rut	15 Sep to 5 Oct	132 to 152	21	
		Postrut	14 Oct to 1 Nov	161 to 179	19	
		Winter	10 Jan to 1 Mar	249 to 300	52	

<sup>1</sup> Calendar year = 7 May to 6 May the following year.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  Julian day 1 = 7 May.

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$  Periods and dates for management the same in fine grain.

APPENDIX A. JULIAN DAY NUMBER (CJDAY NO.) AND CALENDAR DATES FOR PROMINENT EVENTS IN LIFE HISTORY (SEASONS) AND MANAGEMENT (PERIODS) OF MOOSE

FILE: D:CJDAY.WK1 29 SEPTEMBER 1994 WHERE: FINE CENTROID=CENTROID AND COARSE CENTROID=MAXRANGE

							COARSE CENTROID-MAXRANGE
			FINE	COARSE			
CJDAY	CALENDAR	SEASON	CENTROID	CENTROID	PERIOD	NO. DAYS	<b>S</b>
	DATE	DATES	DATES	DATES	DATES	IN SEASO	ON
1	07-May-83	CALVING				1	
2	08-May-83	CALVING				2	
3	09-May-83	CALVING				3	
4	10-May-83	CALVING		C-4		4	
5	11-May-83	CALVING		C		5	
6	12-May-83	CALVING		C		6	
7	13-May-83	CALVING		C		7	
8	14-May-83	CALVING		C		8	
9	15-May-83	CALVING		C		9	
10	16-May-83	CALVING	C-10	C		10	
11	17-May-83	CALVING	C	C		11	
12	18-May-83	CALVING	C	C		12	
13	19-May-83	CALVING	C	C		13	
14	20-May-83	CALVING	C	С		14	
15	21-May-83	CALVING	C	С		15	
16	22-May-83	CALVING	C	C		16	
17	23-May-83	CALVING	C-40 DAYS	С		17	SEASON=REPLACE SEASON WITH 'CALVING' FOR
18	24-May-83	CALVING	С	С		18	CJDAY <=40; N=758; DAYS = 40
19	25-May-83	CALVING	С	С		19	FINE CENTROID=REPLACE CENTROID WITH 'C' FOR
20	26-May-83	CALVING	С	С		20	CJDAY >=10 AND CJDAY<=309; N=25; DAYS =16
21	27-May-83	CALVING	С	С		21	COARSE CENTROID=REPLACE MAXRANGE WITH 'C' FOR
22	28-May-83	CALVING	С	С		22	CJDAY >=4 AND CJDAY<=25; N=956; DAYS = 22
23	29-May-83	CALVING	С	С		23	
24	30-May-83	CALVING	С	С		24	TOTAL SEASON ='TRANS'; N=673
25	31-May-83	CALVING	C-25	C-25		25	TOTAL CENTROID='T'; N=6267
26	01-Jun-83	CALVING				26	TOTAL MAXRANGE='T'; N=4799
27	02-Jun-83	CALVING				27	·
28	03-Jun-83	CALVING				28	PERIOD = NO = 7929
29	04-Jun-83	CALVING				29	SURV N= 934
30	05-Jun-83	CALVING				30	FHUNT N= 997
31	06-Jun-83	CALVING				31	WHUNT N=1728
32	07-Jun-83	CALVING				32	
33	08-Jun-83	CALVING				33	
34	09-Jun-83	CALVING				34	
35	10-Jun-83	CALVING				35	
36	11-Jun-83	CALVING				36	
37	12-Jun-83	CALVING				37	
38	13-Jun-83	CALVING				38	
39	14-Jun-83	CALVING				39	
40	15-Jun-83	CALVING				40	
						. •	

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41 16-Jun-83
                 TRANS
                                                             1
42
   17-Jun-83
                                                             2
                 TRANS
    18-Jun-83
                 TRANS
                                                             3
    19-Jun-83
                 TRANS
                                                             4
45
    20-Jun-83
                 TRANS
                                                             5
46
    21-Jun-83
                 TRANS
                                                             6
47
    22-Jun-83
                 TRANS
                                                             7
    23-Jun-83
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48
                 TRANS
    24-Jun-83
49
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                 TRANS
50
    25-Jun-83
                 TRANS
                                                            10
51
    26-Jun-83
                 TRANS
                                                            11
52 27-Jun-83
                 TRANS
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53
    28-Jun-83
                 TRANS
                                                            13
54
    29-Jun-83
                                                            14
                 TRANS
   30-Jun-83
                 TRANS
                                                            15
56
   01-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                                                             1
57
   02-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                                                             2
    03-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                                                             3
    04-Jul-83
59
                 SUMMER
                                                             4
   05 - Jul -83
60
                 SUMMER
                                                             5
61
    06-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                                                             6
   07-Jul-83
                                                             7
62
                 SUMMER
    08-Jul-83
63
                 SUMMER
                                                             8
    09-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                                                             9
65
    10-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                                                            10
    11-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                                                            11
67
   12-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                                                            12
   13-Jul -83
68
                 SUMMER
                            S-68
                                      S-68
                                                            13
69
    14-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                            S
                                       S
                                                            14
70
    15-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                            S
                                      S
                                                            15
    16-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                                       S
                            S
                                                            16
72
    17-Jul-83
                                       S
                                                            17
                 SUMMER
                            S
73
    18-Jul-83
                                       $
                 SUMMER
                            $
                                                            18
74
    19-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                            S
                                      S
                                                            19
75
   20-Jul-83
                                       S
                            S
                 SUMMER
                                                            20
   21-Jul-83
76
                 SUMMER
                                      S
                                                            21
                            S
77
    22-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                           S
                                      S
                                                            22
78
    23-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                            S
                                      S
                                                            23
                                                                 SEASON=REPALCE SEASON WITH 'SUMMER' FOR CJDAY
79
    24-Jul-83
                                      S
                                                                 CJDAY <=101; N=937; DAYS = 46
                 SUMMER
                            S
                                                            24
80
    25-Jul-83
                                      $
                                                                 FINE CENTROID=REPLACE CENTROID WITH 'S' FOR
                 SUMMER
                           S
                                                            25
                                      S
81
    26-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                            S
                                                                 CJDAY >=68 AND CJDAY <=101; N=696; DAYS = 34
                                                            26
82
                                      S
   27- Jul -83
                 SUMMER
                           $
                                                            27
                                                                 COARSE CENTROID=REPLACE MAXRANGE WITH 'S' FOR
83
    28-Jul-83
                 SUMMER
                            S
                                      S
                                                            28
                                                                 CJDAY >=68 AND CJDAY <=101; N=696; DAYS = 34
    29-Jul -83
                                      S
                                                            29
                 SUMMER
                           S
    30-Jul-83
85
                                                            30
                 SUMMER
                           S-46 DAYS S
86 31-Jul-83
                                      S
                                                            31
                 SUMMER
                           S
   01-Aug-83
                 SUMMER
                           S
                                      S
                                                            32
    02-Aug-83
88
                                      $
                                                            33
                 SUMMER
                           S
89
    03-Aug-83
                                      S
                                                            34
                 SUMMER
                           S
   04-Aug-83
                 SUMMER
                           $
                                      $
                                                            35
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91
    05-Aug-83
                  SUMMER
                             S
                                                             36
                                        S
 92
     06-Aug-83
                  SUMMER
                             S
                                        S
                                                             37
 93
     07-Aug-83
                  SUMMER
                             S
                                        S
                                                             38
 94
     08-Aug-83
                  SUMMER
                             S
                                        S
                                                             39
 95
     09-Aug-83
                  SUMMER
                             s
                                        S
                                                             40
 96
     10-Aug-83
                  SUMMER
                             S
                                        S
                                                             41
 97
     11-Aug-83
                  SUMMER
                             S
                                        S
                                                             42
 98
     12-Aug-83
                  SUMMER
                             s
                                        S
                                                             43
99
     13-Aug-83
                  SUMMER
                             S
                                        S
                                                             44
100
     14-Aug-83
                  SUMMER
                                        s
                                                             45
                             s
101
     15-Aug-83
                  SUMMER
                             S-101
                                        S-101
                                                             46
102
     16-Aug-83
                  TRANS
                                                              1
103
     17-Aug-83
                  TRANS
                                                              2
104
     18-Aug-83
                                                              3
                  TRANS
105
     19-Aug-83
                  TRANS
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106
     20-Aug-83
                  TRANS
                                                 FH-106
                                                              5
107
     21-Aug-83
                                                  FH
                  TRANS
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108
     22-Aug-83
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                  TRANS
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109
     23-Aug-83
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                  TRANS
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110
     24-Aug-83
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                  TRANS
                                                 FH
111
     25-Aug-83
                  TRANS
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                                                 FH
112
     26-Aug-83
                  TRANS
                                                  FH
                                                             11
113
     27-Aug-83
                  TRANS
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                                                             12
114
     28-Aug-83
                  TRANS
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                                                 FH
     29-Aug-83
115
                  TRANS
                                                 FH
                                                             14
     30-Aug-83
116
                  TRANS
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                                                 FH
117
     31-Aug-83
                  TRANS
                                                 FH
                                                             16
118
     01-Sep-83
                  TRANS
                                                             17
                                                 FH
119
     02-Sep-83
                  TRANS
                                                             18
                                                 FH
120
     03-Sep-83
                  TRANS
                                                             19
                                                 FH
121
     04-Sep-83
                  TRANS
                                                             20
                                                 FH
122
    05-Sep-83
                  TRANS
                                                 FH
                                                             21
123
     06-Sep-83
                  TRANS
                                                             22
                                                 FH
124
     07-Sep-83
                  RUT
                                                              1
                                                 FH
125
     08-Sep-83
                  RUT
                                                 FH
                                                              2
126
     09-Sep-83
                  RUT
                                                              3
                                                 FH
127
     10-Sep-83
                  RUT
                                                              4
                                                                  PERIOD=REPLACE PERIOD WITH 'FH' FOR CJDAY >=1
                                                 FH
128
     11-Sep-83
                  RUT
                                                              5
                                                                   CJDAY <=147; N=997; DAYS = 42
                                                 FH
129
     12-Sep-83
                  RUT
                                                 FH
                                                              6
130
     13-Sep-83
                  RUT
                                                 FH
                                                              7
131
     14-Sep-83
                                                              8
                  RUT
                                                 FH
                             R-132
132
     15-Sep-83
                  RUT
                                        R-132
                                                              9
                                                 FH
133
     16-Sep-83
                  RUT
                             R
                                        R
                                                 FH
                                                             10
134
     17-Sep-83
                                                             11
                  RUT
                             R
                                        R
                                                 FH
135
     18-Sep-83
                  RUT
                             R
                                        R
                                                 FH
                                                             12
136
     19-Sep-83
                  RUT
                             R
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                                                 FH
                                                             13
137
     20-Sep-83
                             R
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                  RUT
                                        R
                                                 FH
     21-Sep-83
                  RUT
                             R
                                        R
                                                 FH
                                                             15
139
     22-Sep-83
                  RUT
                             R
                                        R
                                                 FH
                                                             16
140 23-Sep-83
                  RUT
                             R
                                        R
                                                 FH
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141	24-Sep-83	RUT	R	R	FH	18	SEASON=REPLACE SEASON WITH 'RUT' FOR CJDAY >=
142	25-Sep-83	RUT	R-34 DAY	S R	FH	19	CJDAY <=157; N=796; DAYS = 34
143	26-Sep-83	RUT	R	. <b>R</b>	FH	20	FINE CENTROID=REPLACE CENTROID WITH 'R' FOR C
144	27-Sep-83	RUT	R	R	FH	21	CJDAY <=152; N=628; DAYS = 21
145	28-Sep-83	RUT	R	R	FH	22	COARSE CENTROID=REPLACE MAXRANGE WITH 'R' FOR
146	29-Sep-83	RUT	R	R	FH	23	CJDAY <=152; N=628; DAYS = 21
147	30-Sep-83	RUT	R	R	FH-147	24	, ,
148	01-0ct-83	RUT	R	R		25	
149	02-oct-83	RUT	R	R		26	
150	03-0ct-83	RUT	R	R		27	
151	04-oct-83	RUT	R	R		28	
152	05-0ct-83	RUT	R-152	R-152		29	
153	06-0ct-83	RUT				30	
154	07-0ct-83	RUT				31	
155	08-0ct-83	RUT				32	
156	09-0ct-83	RUT				33	
157	10-oct-83	RUT				34	
158	11-0ct-83	POST RUT	ı	P-158		35	
159	12-0ct-83	POST RUT		P		36	
160	13-0ct-83	POST RUT		P		37	
161	14-0ct-83	POST RUT		P		38	
162	15-0ct-83	POST RUT		P		1	
163	16-0ct-83	POST RUT		•		2	
164	17-0ct-83	POST RUT		P		3	
165	18-0ct-83	POST RUT		•		4	
166	19-0ct-83	POST RUT		•		5	
167	20-oct-83	POST RUT		•		1	
168	21-0ct-83	POST RUT		•		2	
169	22-0ct-83	POST RUT		•		3	
170	23-0ct-83	POST RUT		, P		4	
171	24-0ct-83	POST RUT				5	
172	25-0ct-83	POST RUT		) h			
				•		6	
173	26-0ct-83	POST RUT		P n		7	
174	27-0ct-83	POST RUT		P		8	
175	28-Oct-83	POST RUT		•		9	
176	29-0ct-83	POST RUT		P		10	
177	30-0ct-83	POST RUT		•		11	
	31-0ct-83	POST RUT		P		12	
179	01-Nov-83	POST RUT		•		13	SEASON=REPLACE SEASON WITH 'POSTRUT' FOR D
180	02-Nov-83	POST RUT		-		14	CJDAY >=198 AND CJDAY <=198; N=730; DAYS = 41
181	03-Nov-83			P -		15	FINE CENTROID=REPLACE CENTROID WITH 'P' FOR
182	04-Nov-83	POST RUT		-		16	CJDAY >=167 AND CJDAY<=185; N=314; DAYS = 19
183	05-Nov-83	POST RUT		P -		17	COARSE CENTROID=REPLACE MAXRANGE WITH 'P' FOR
184	06-Nov-83	POST RUT		) - 405	011D11 40F	18	CJDAY >=158 AND CJDAY<=185; N=405; DAYS = 28
185	07-Nov-83	POST RUT	(	P-185	SURV-185	19	
186	08-Nov-83	POST RUT			SURV	20	
187	09-Nov-83	POST RUT			SURV	21	
188	10-Nov-83	POST RUT			SURV	22	
189	11-Nov-83	POST RUT			SURV	23	
190	12-Nov-83	POST RUT			SURV	24	

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191 13-Nov-83
                 POST RUT
                                                SURV
                                                           25
192
    14-Nov-83
                 POST RUT
                                                SURV
                                                           26
193
     15-Nov-83
                 POST RUT
                                                SURV
                                                           27
194
     16-Nov-83
                 POST RUT
                                                SURV
                                                           28
195
     17-Nov-83
                 POST RUT
                                                SURV
                                                           29
196
     18-Nov-83
                 POST RUT
                                                SURV
                                                           30
197
    19-Nov-83
                 POST RUT
                                                SURV
                                                           31
198
    20-Nov-83
                 POST RUT
                                                SURV
                                                           32
199
     21-Nov-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
                                                            1
200
    22-Nov-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
                                                            2
201
     23-Nov-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
                                                            3
202
     24-Nov-83
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                 WINTER
                                                SURV
                                                            5
203
    25-Nov-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
204
    26-Nov-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
                                                            1
205
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    27-Nov-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
206
    28-Nov-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
                                                            3
207
     29-Nov-83
                 WINTER
                                                            4
                                                                PERIOD=REPLACE PERIOD WITH 'SURV' FOR CJDAY >
                                                SURV
                                                            5
802
    30-Nov-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
                                                                CJDAY >= 185 AND CJDAY <=229; N=934
209
    01-Dec-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
                                                            6
                                                            7
210
    02-Dec-83
                                                SURV
                 WINTER
                                                            8
211
    03-Dec-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
212
    04-Dec-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
                                                            9
213
    05-Dec-83
                 WINTER
                                                SURV
                                                           10
214
    06-Dec-83
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                 WINTER
215
    07-Dec-83
                 WINTER
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                                                           12
216 08-Dec-83
                 WINTER
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    09-Dec-83
217
                 WINTER
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218
    10-Dec-83
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219
    11-Dec-83
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220 12-Dec-83
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                 WINTER
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221
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222
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223 15-Dec-83
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225
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226 18-Dec-83
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227 19-Dec-83
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228
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229
    21-Dec-83
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230
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231
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232 24-Dec-83
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233
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234
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235
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236
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237
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238
    30-Dec-83
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                 WINTER
239
    31-Dec-83
                 WINTER
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240 01-Jan-84
                 WINTER
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241 02-Jan-84
                 WINTER
                                               WH
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242 03-Jan-84
                 WINTER
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243 04-Jan-84
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                                               WH
244 05-Jan-84
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245 06-Jan-84
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246 07-Jan-84
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247 08-Jan-84
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248 09-Jan-84
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249 10-Jan-84
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250 11-Jan-84
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251 12-Jan-84
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252 13-Jan-84
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253 14-Jan-84
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254 15-Jan-84
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255 16-Jan-84
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256 17-Jan-84
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257 18-Jan-84
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258 19-Jan-84
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259 20-Jan-84
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260 21-Jan-84
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261 22-Jan-84
                 WINTER
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                                                           58
262 23-Jan-84
                                                           59
                 WINTER
                                      W
                                               WH
                                                                PERIOD=REPLACE PERIOD WITH 'WH' FOR
263 24-Jan-84
                 WINTER
                                      W
                                               WH
                                                           60
                                                                CJDAY >=240 AND CJDAY <=298; N=1728
264 25-Jan-84
                 WINTER
                                      W
                                               WH
                                                           61
265 26-Jan-84
                 WINTER
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266 27-Jan-84
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267 28-Jan-84
                 WINTER
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268 29-Jan-84
                 WINTER
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269 30-Jan-84
                 WINTER
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270 31-Jan-84
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                 WINTER
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    01-Feb-84
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271
                 WINTER
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272 02-Feb-84
                 WINTER
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                                                           69
273 03-Feb-84
                 WINTER
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274 04-Feb-84
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275 05-Feb-84
                 WINTER
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276 06-Feb-84
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277 07-Feb-84
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278 08-Feb-84
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    09-Feb-84
279
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280
   10-Feb-84
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281 11-Feb-84
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282 12-Feb-84
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283 13-Feb-84
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284
    14-Feb-84
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285 15-Feb-84
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286 16-Feb-84
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                            w
    17-Feb-84
287
                 WINTER
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288 18-Feb-84
                 WINTER
                                               WH
                                                           85
289 19-Feb-84
                 WINTER
                                      W
                                               WH
                                                           86
                                                                SEASON=REPLACE SEASON WITH 'WINTER' FOR
290 20-Feb-84
                 WINTER
                                               WH
                                                                CJDAY >=199 AND CJDAY <=360; N=4703; DAYS = 1
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204	24 5-1-04						
	21-Feb-84	WINTER	W	V	WH	88	FINE CENTROID=REPLACE CENTROID WITH 'W' FOR
292	22-Feb-84	WINTER	W	u 	WH	89	CJDAY >=297 AND CJDAY<=309; N=973; DAYS = 31
293	23-Feb-84	WINTER	W	W	WH	90	COARSE CENTROID=REPLACE MAXRANGE WITH 'W' FOR
294	24-Feb-84	WINTER	W	W	WH	91	CJDAY >=258 AND CJDAY<=330; N=2376; DAYS = 52
295	25-Feb-84	WINTER	W	W	WH	92	
296	26-Feb-84	WINTER	W	W	WH	93	
297	27-Feb-84	WINTER	u	W	WH	94	
298	28-Feb-84	WINTER	u	W	WH-298	95	
299	29-Feb-84	WINTER	u	W		96	
300	01-Mar-84	WINTER	W	W		97	
301	02-Mar-84	WINTER	u	W		98	
302	03-Mar-84	WINTER	W	W		99	
303	04-Mar-84	WINTER	W	W		100	
304	05-Mar-84	WINTER	W	W		101	
305	06-Mar-84	WINTER	W	W		102	
306	07-Mar-84	WINTER	W	W		103	
307	08-Mar-84	WINTER	W	W		104	
308	09-Mar-84	WINTER	W	W		105	
309	10-Mar-84	WINTER	W-309	W		106	
310	11-Mar-84	WINTER		W		107	
311	12-Mar-84	WINTER		W		108	
312	13-Mar-84	WINTER		W		109	
313	14-Mar-84	WINTER		u		110	
314	15-Mar-84	WINTER		W		111	
315	16-Mar-84	WINTER		W		112	
316	17-Mar-84	WINTER		W		113	
317	18-Mar-84	WINTER		W		114	
318	19-Mar-84	WINTER		W		115	
319	20-Mar-84	WINTER		W		116	
320	21-Mar-84	WINTER		W		1	
321	22-Mar-84	WINTER		W		2	
322	23-Mar-84	WINTER		W		3	
323	24-Mar-84	WINTER		W		4	
324	25-Mar-84	WINTER		W		5	
325	26-Mar-84	WINTER		W		6	
326	27-Mar-84	WINTER		u		7	
327	28-Mar-84	WINTER		u		8	
328	29-Mar-84	WINTER		w		9	
329	30-Mar-84	WINTER		w		10	
330	31-Mar-84	WINTER		W-330		11	
331	01-Apr-84	WINTER				12	
332	02-Apr-84	WINTER				13	
333	03-Apr-84	WINTER				14	
334	04-Apr-84	WINTER				15	
335	05-Apr-84	WINTER				16	
336	06-Apr-84	WINTER				17	
337	07-Apr-84	WINTER				18	
338	08-Apr-84	WINTER				19	
339	09-Apr-84	WINTER				20	
340	10-Apr-84	WINTER				21	

341	11-Apr-84	WINTER	22
342	12-Apr-84	WINTER	23
343	13-Apr-84	WINTER	24
344	14-Apr-84	WINTER	25
345	15-Apr-84	WINTER	26
346	16-Apr-84	WINTER	27
347	17-Apr-84	WINTER	28
348	18-Apr-84	WINTER	29
349	19-Apr-84	WINTER	30
350	20-Apr-84	WINTER	31
351	21-Apr-84	WINTER	32
352	22-Apr-84	WINTER	33
353	23-Apr-84	WINTER	34
354	24-Apr-84	WINTER	35
355	25-Apr-84	WINTER	36
356	26-Apr-84	WINTER	37
357	27-Apr-84	WINTER	38
358	28-Apr-84	WINTER	39
359	29-Apr-84	WINTER	40
360	30-Apr-84	WINTER	41
361	01-May-84	TRANS	42
362	02-May-84	TRANS	43
363	03-May-84	TRANS	44
364	04-May-84	TRANS	45
365	05-May-84	TRANS	46
366	06-May-84	TRANS	47

APPENDIX B. Sample of results of trial and error process used to select bandwidth for use in CALHOME adaptive kernel home range analysis of moose point location data.

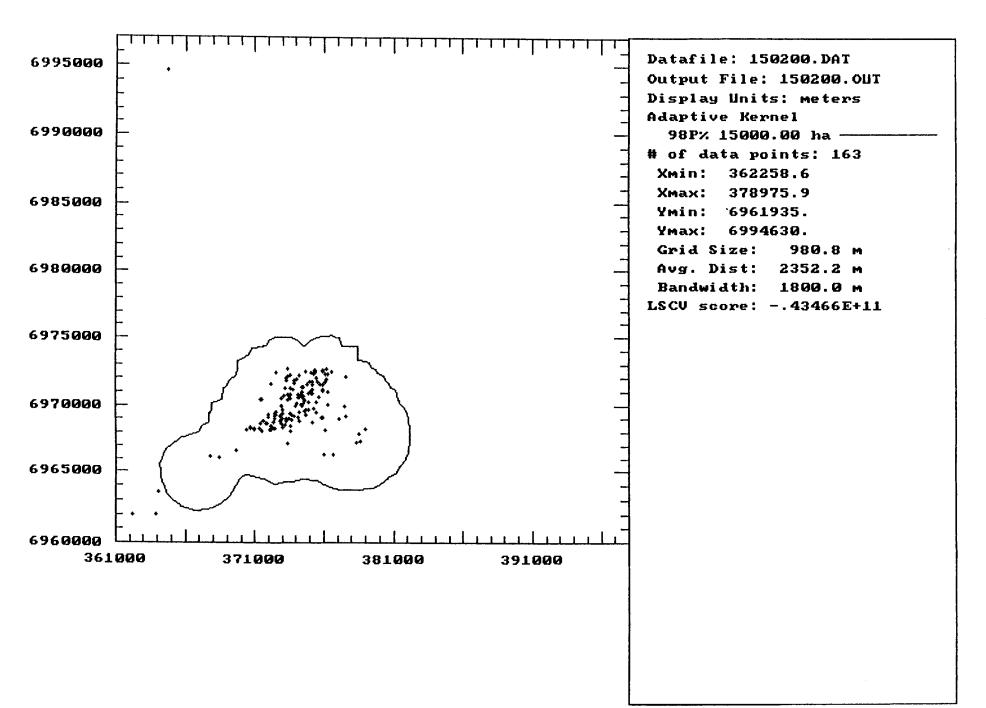
D:\CALHOME\BANDSUMM.WK1

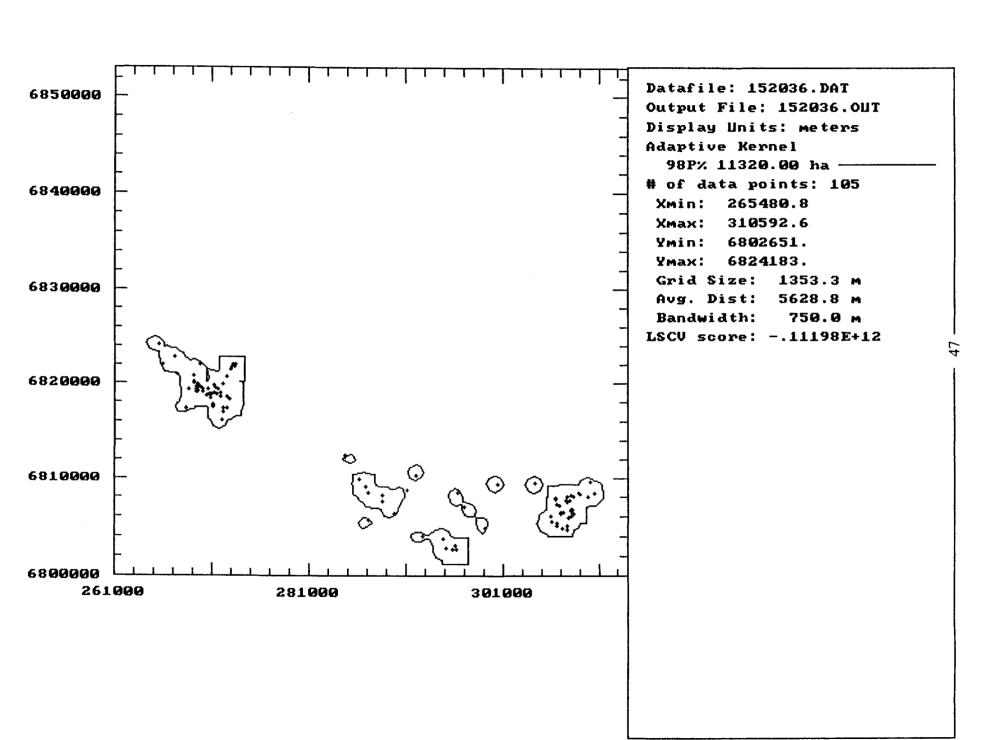
RESULTS OF TRIAL PROCESS USED TO IDENTIFY AND SELECT BAND WIDTHS ASSOCIATED WITH MINIMIZED LSCV VALUES

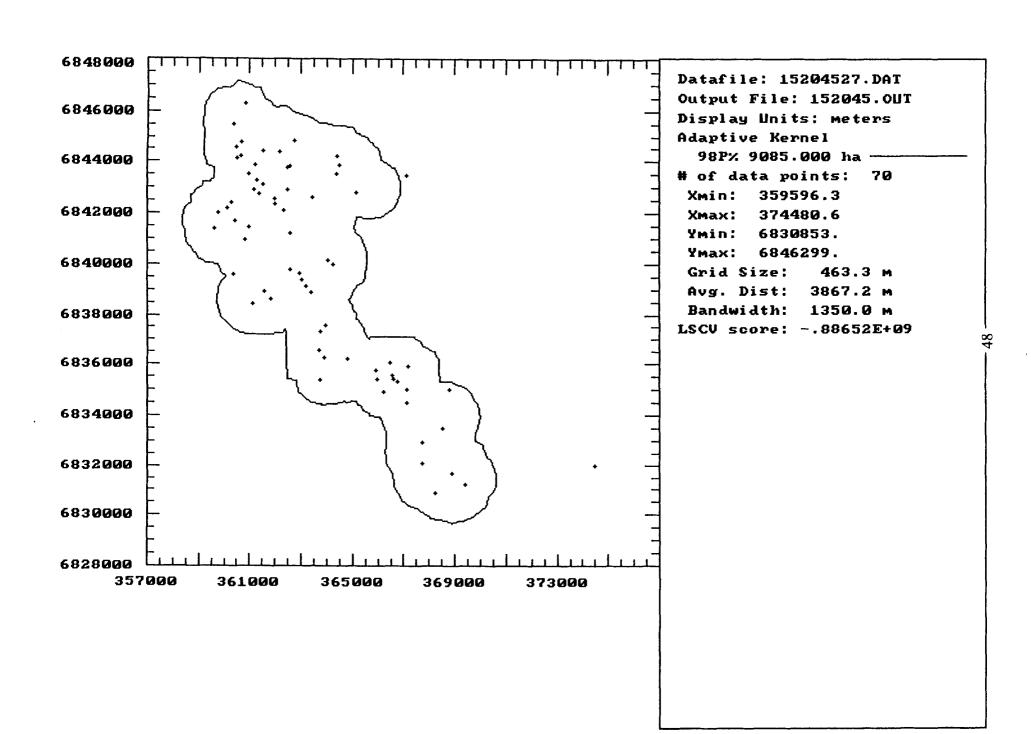
							NO.	
MOOSE ID	BAND	P*	CELL	LSCV SCORE	RANGE	SIZE	POLYS/	MINIMUM
	WIDTH		SIZE		(HA)	(SQ MI)	>2 PTS	LVSC
153140	1900	98	-50	-0.49690 E+10	21340	82.39		
153140	1800	98	-50	-0.49719 E+10	20570	79.42		
153140	1700	98	-50	-0.49625 E+10	19820	76.52		
153140	1600	98	-50	-0.49116 E+10	19110	73.78		
153140	1500	98	-50	-0.48593 E+10	17900	69.11		
153140	1400	98	-50	-0.48031 E+10	16580	64.01		
153140	1300	98	-50	-0.47199 E+10	16170	62.43		
153140	1200	98	-50	-0.45479 E+10	15800	61.00		
153140	1100	98	-50	-0.42128 E+10	14330	55.32		
153140	1850	98	-50	-0.49747 E+10	20970	80.96	2	***
153140	1850	97	-50	-0.49747 E+10	15120	58.37		***
153140	1850	95	-50	-0.49747 E+10	11040	42.62		***
153252	2700	98	-50	-0.42913 E+11	51830	200.1		
153252	2500	98	-50	-0.42809 E+11	52320	202.0		
153252	2400	98	-50	-0.42399 E+11	50660	195.5		
153252	2300	98	-50	-0.41629 E+11	49220	190.0		
153252	2200	98	-50	-0.40470 E+11	47890	184.9		
153252	2100	98	-50	-0.393 B+11	46500	179.5		
153252	2000	98	-50	-0.38398 E+11	44000	169.8		
153252	1900	98	-50	-0.37222 E+11	41950	161.9		
153252	1800	98	-50	-0.37 E+11	39200	151.3		
153252	2650	98	-50	-0.42993 E+11	52130	201.2		
153252	2550	98	-50	-0.42929 E+11	53250	205.5		
153252	2600	98	-50	-0.43002 E+11	52960	204.4	2	***
153252	2600	97	-50	-0.43002 E+11	39630	153.0		***
153252	2600	95	-50	-0.43002 E+11	28010	108.1		***
153640	1200	98	-50	-0.20303 E+11	18610	71.85		
153640	1300	98	-50	-0.27025 E+11	17410	67.22		
153640	1400	98	-50	-0.3192 E+11	18360	70.88		
153640	1500	98	-50	-0.3528 E+11	19190	74.09		
153640	1600	98	-50	-0.3797 E+11	20110	77.64		
153640	1700	98	-50	-0.41152 E+11	21530	83.12		
153640	1800	98	-50	-0.43814 B+11	23480	90.65		
153640	1900	98	-50	-0.46145 E+11	25430	98.18		
153640	2000	98	-50	-0.47625 E+11	27340	105.5		
153640	2100	98	-50	-0.48703 E+11	29220	112.8		
153640	2200	98	-50	-0.49305 E+11	31110	120.1		

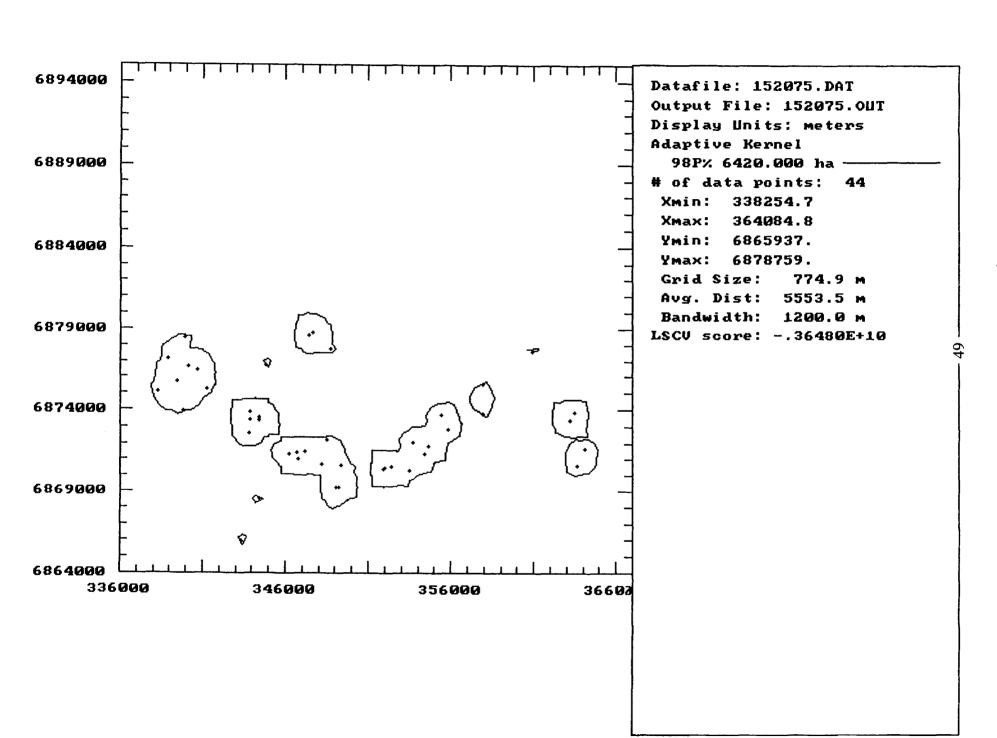
153640	2300	98	-50	-0.4928 E+1	1 32930	127.1		
153640	2250	98	-50	-0.49347 E+1	1 31990	123.5	3	***
153640	2250	97	-50	-0.49347 E+1	1 31900	123.1		***
153640	2250	95	-50	-0.49347 E+1	1 31320	120.9		***
153761	1200	98	-50	-0.75093 B+1	1 17640	68.10		
153761	1100	98	-50	-0.77642 E+1	1 16420	63.39		
153761	1000	98	-50	-0.73415 B+1		61.04		
153761	1150	98	-50	-0.76455 B+1		66.37		
153761	1050	98	-50	-0.7809 E+1		62.20	4	***
153761	1050	97	~50	-0.7809 E+1		59.30		***
153761	1050	95	-50	-0.7809 E+1		55.44		***
133701	1030	,,	30	0.7005 111	14300	33.11		
153721	1600	98	-50	-0.8146 E+0	9 11470	44.28		
				-0.82618 E+0		42.16		
153721	1500	98	-50					
153721	1300	98	-50	-0.81991 E+0		37.44		
153721	1350	98	-50	-0.83218 E+0		38.40		
153721	1450	98	-50	-0.83373 E+0		20 52		***
153721	1400	98	-50	-0.83616 E+0		39.53	1	***
153721	1400	97	-50	-0.83616 E+0		37.37		
153721	1400	95	-50	-0.83616 E+0	7805	30.13		***
153730	1300	98	-50	-0.26721 E+1		22.76		
153730	1200	98	-50	-0.26824 B+1	5129	19.80		
153730	1100	98	-50	-0.25915 E+1	5000	19.30		
153730	1250	98	-50	-0.26908 E+1	5489	21.19	3	***
153730	1250	97	-50	-0.26908 B+1	5234	20.20		***
153730	1250	95	-50	-0.26908 E+1	4764	18.39		***
153839	1300	98	-50	-0.46993 B+1	4752	18.34		
153839	1250	98	-50	-0.47416 E+1	4621	17.84		
153839	1150	98	-50	-0.47137 E+1	4316	16.66		
153839	1100	98	-50	-0.46373 B+1	4126	15.93		
153839	1200	98	-50	-0.46562 E+1	4496	17.35		***
153839	1200	97	-50	-0.46562 E+1	4264	16.46		***
153839	1200	95	-50	-0,46562 B+1	3974	15.34		***
153070	1100	98	-50	-0.99186 E+1	5788	22.34		
153070	1200	98	-50	-0.1057 B+1	6793	26.22		
153070	1300	98	-50	-0.11476 E+1	7959	30.72		
153070	1400	98	-50	-0.12479 B+1	9049	34.93		
153070	1450	98	-50	-0.13166 B+1	9761	37.68		
153070	1500	98	-50	-0.13518 E+1	NO POL	Y @ -50		
153070	1500	98	-49	-0.13427 E+1	10560	40.77		
153070	1450	98	-49	-0.13166 E+1	9761	37.68	3	***
153070	1450	97	-49	-0.13166 B+1	9752	37.65		***
153070	1450	95	-49	-0.13166 B+1	9722	37.53		***
153070	1550	98	-47	-0.1363 E+1	11540	44.55		

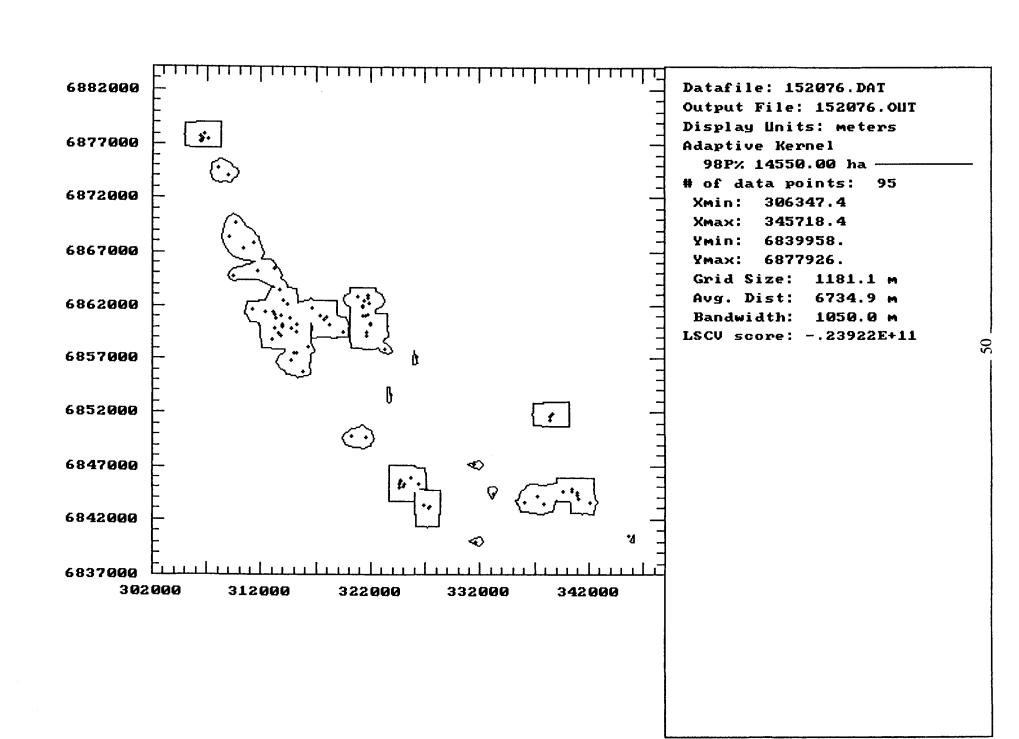
153070	1500	98	-47	-0.13215	B+10	10590	40.88		
153070	1600	98	-46	-0.14013	E+10	12370	47.76		
153070	1700	98	-46	-0.14593	<b>B</b> +10	14070	54.32	3	***
153070	1500	98	-46	-0.13215	<b>E+10</b>	10590	40.88		
153070	1400	98	-46	-0.12394	E+10	9134	35.26		
153070	1100	98	-46	-0.10981	B+10	5935	22.91		
153620	1400	98	-50	-0.1188	<b>B</b> +10	12800	49.42		
153620	1350	98	-50	-0.11917	B+10	12180	47.02		
153620	1250	98	-50	-0.1187	B+10	10650	41.11		
153620	1200	98	-50	0.11823	B+10	9943	38.38		
153620	1300	98	-50	-0.11941	B+10	11440	44.16	1	***
153620	1300	97	-50	-0.11941	B+10	11320	43.70		***
153620	1300	95	-50	-0.11941	B+10	10740	41.46		***
153582	1300	98	-50	-0.66838	B+11	20560	79.38		
153582	1200	98	- 50	-0.68723	B+11	18900	72.97		
153582	1100	98	-50	-0.6923	B+11	17030	65.75		
153582	1000	98	- 50	-0.70311	B+11	16240	62.70		
153582	950	98	-50	-0.70544	B+11	16200	62.54		
153582	850	98	-50	-0.70327	E+11	14020	54.13		
153582	800	98	-50	-0.70534	B+11	13080	50.50		
153582	900	98	-50	~0.71179	B+11	15320	59.15	3	***
153582	900	97	-50	-0.71179	B+11	13630	52.62		***
153582	900	95	-50	-0.71179	B+11	12170	46.98		***

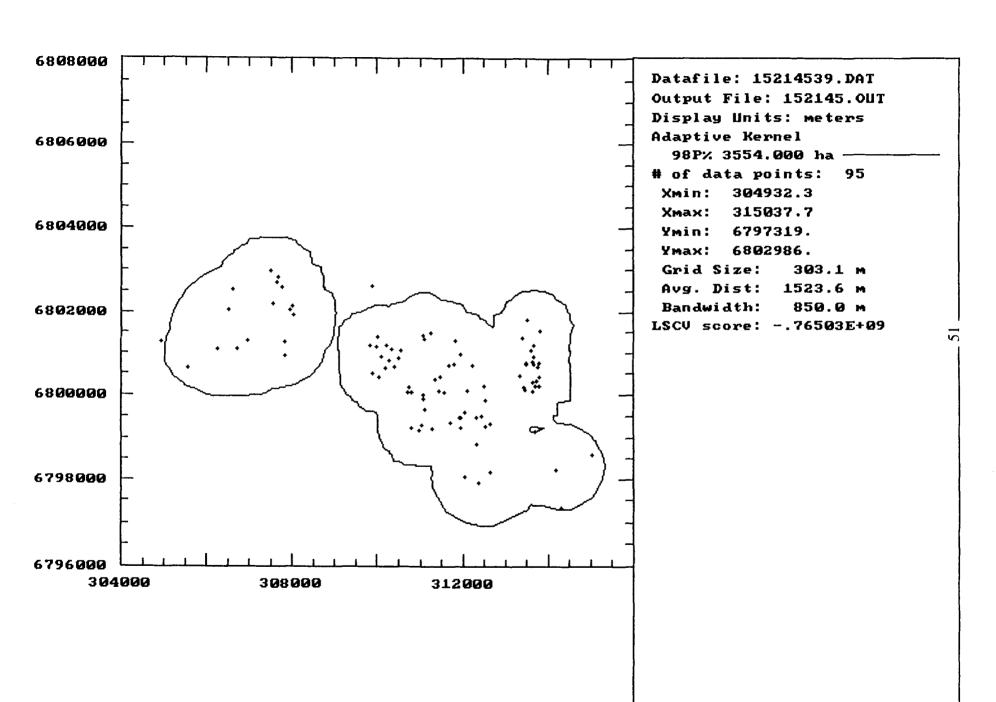


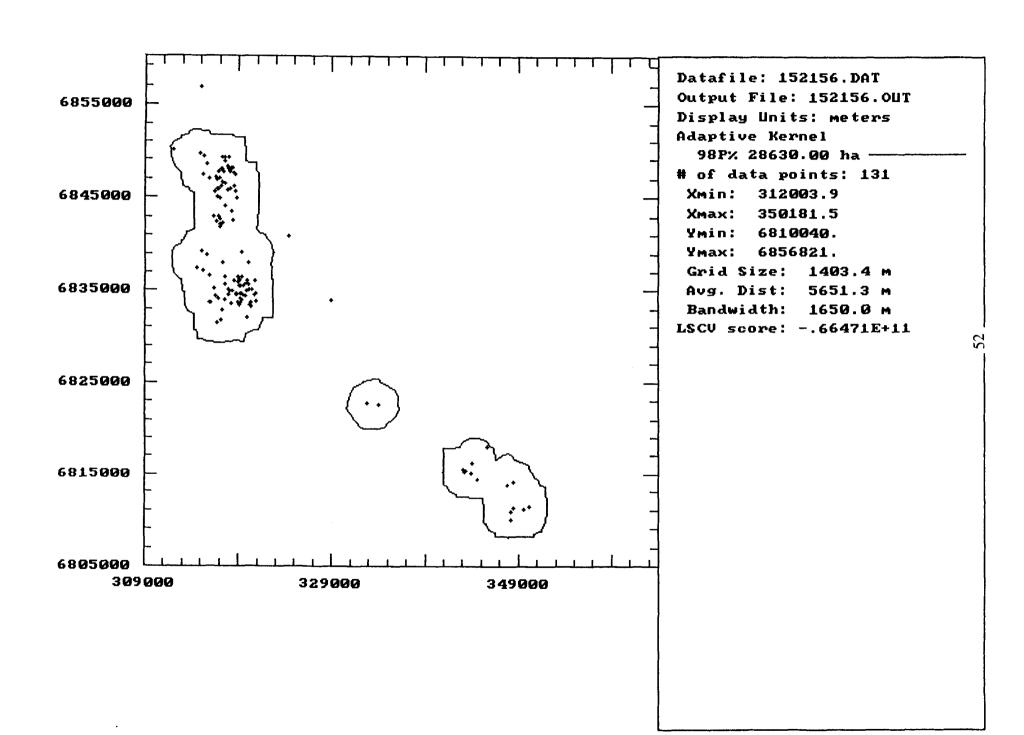


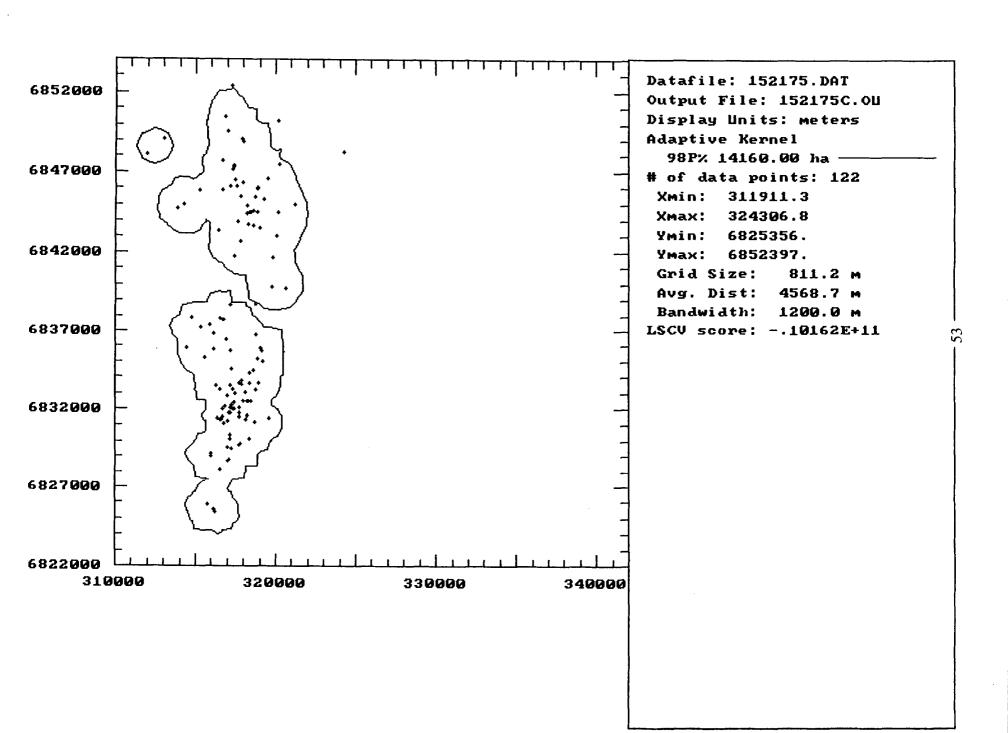


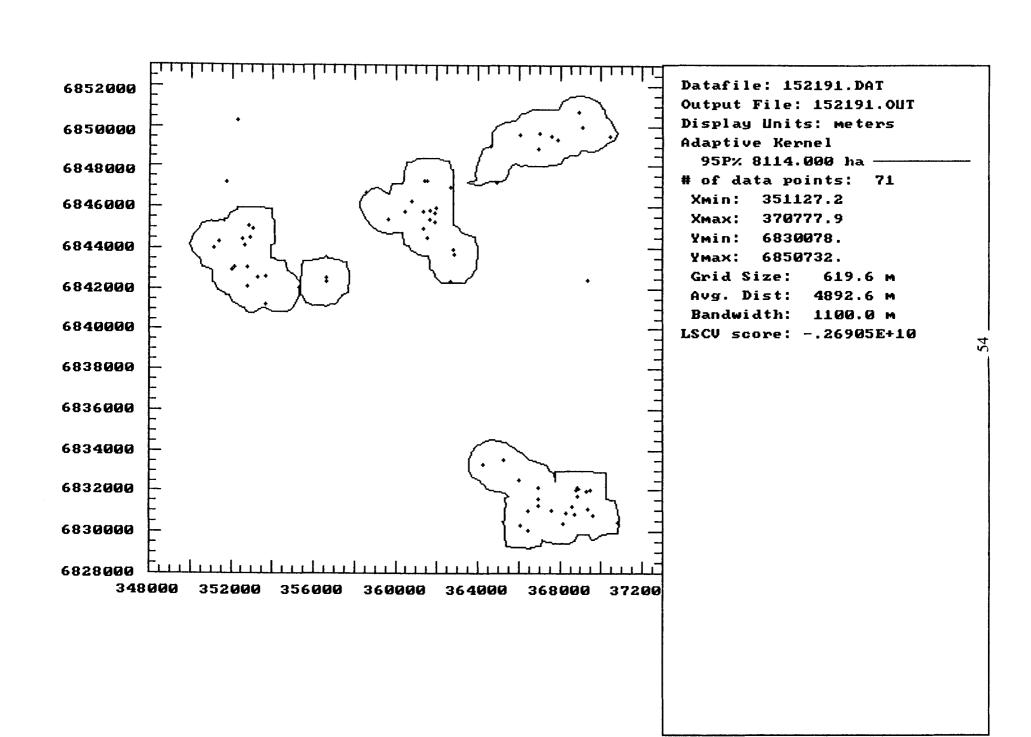


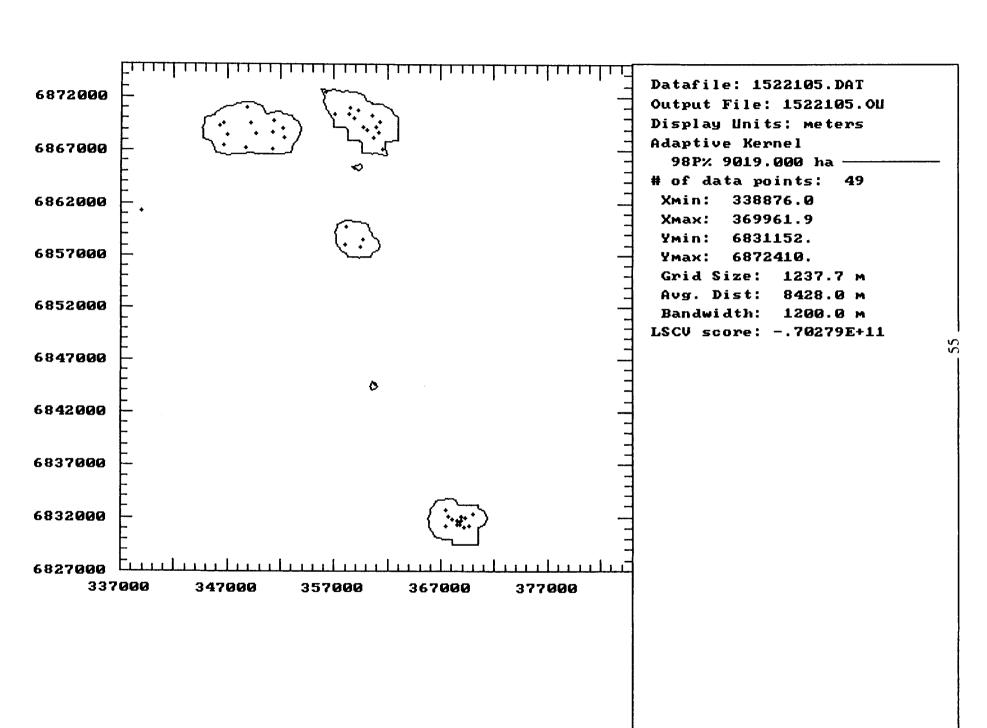


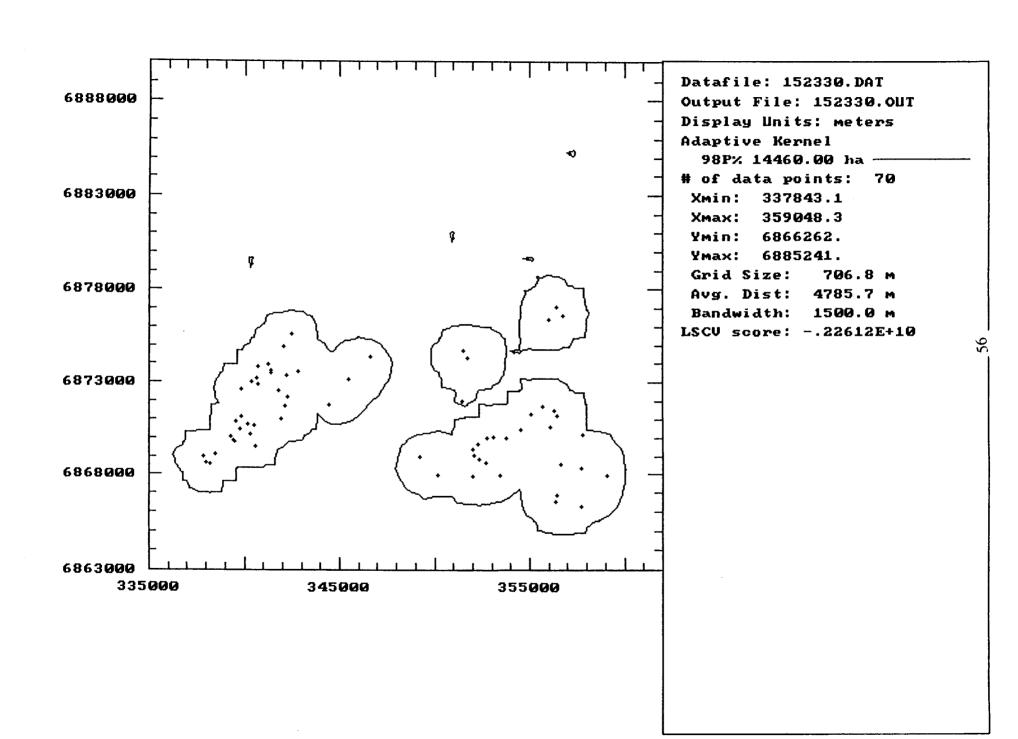


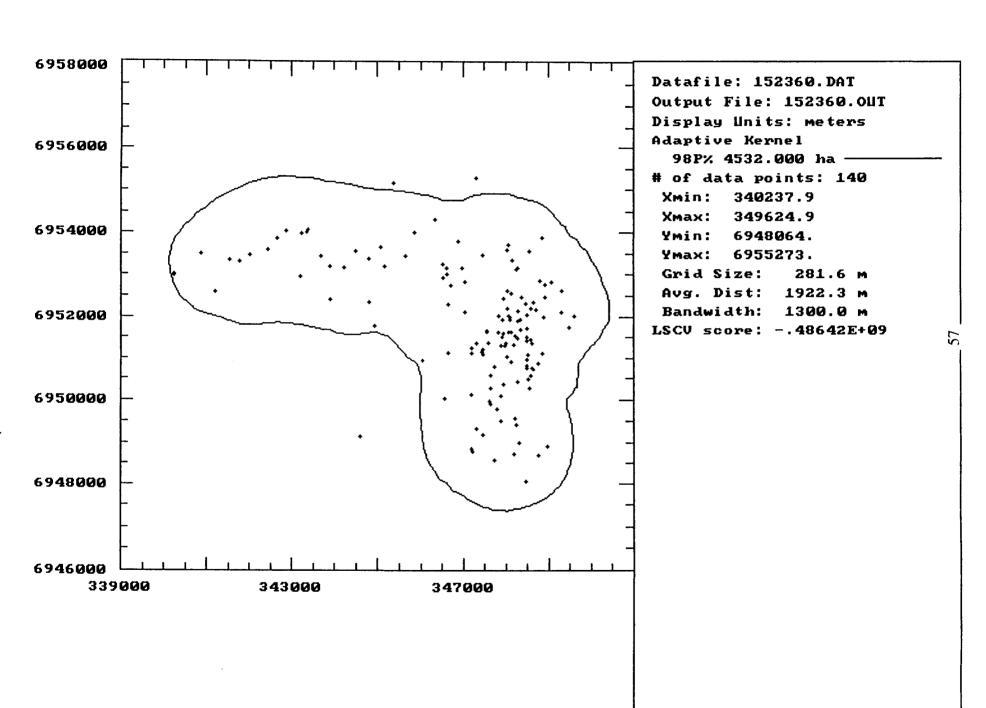


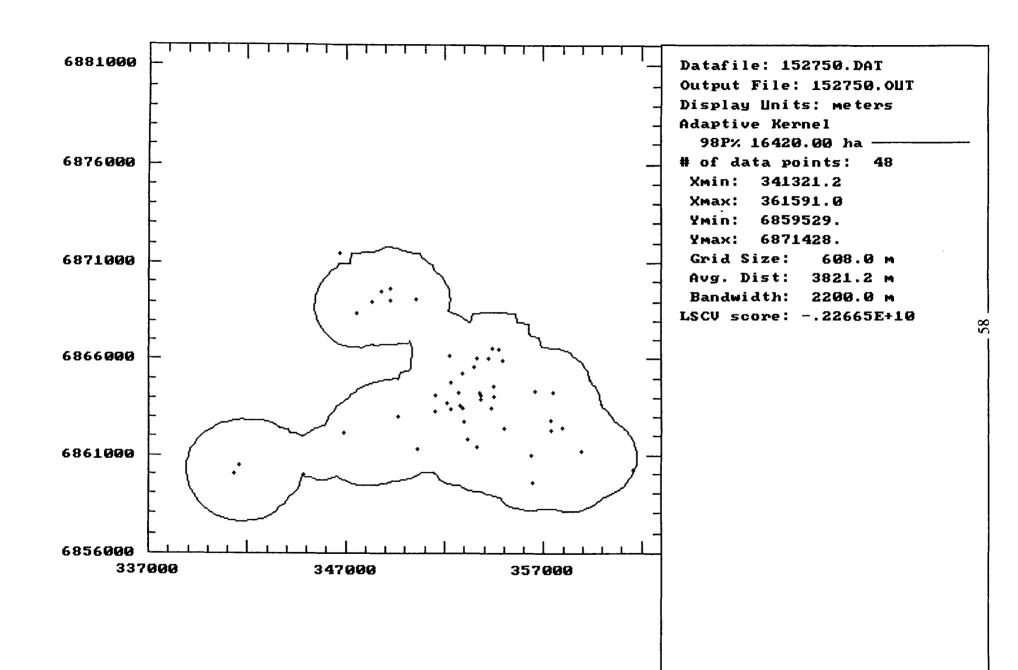


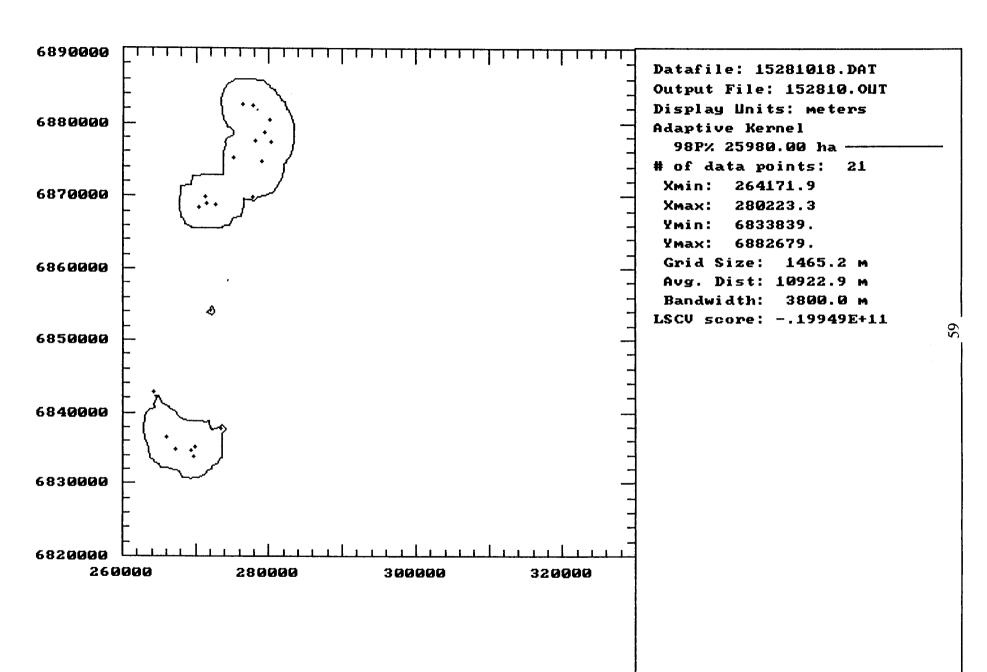


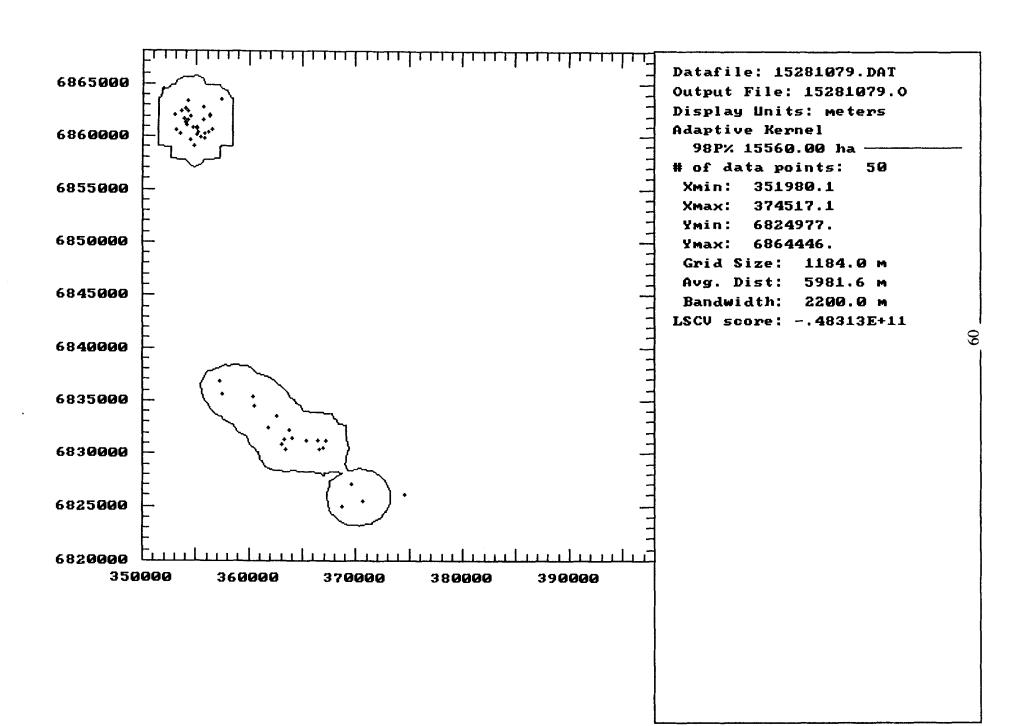


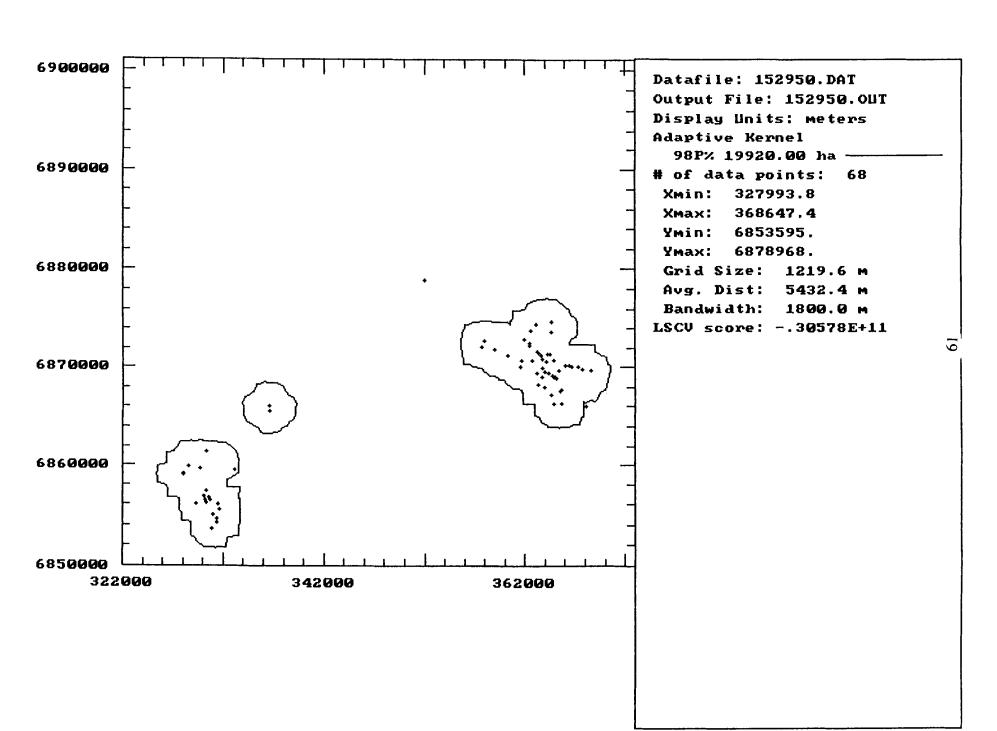


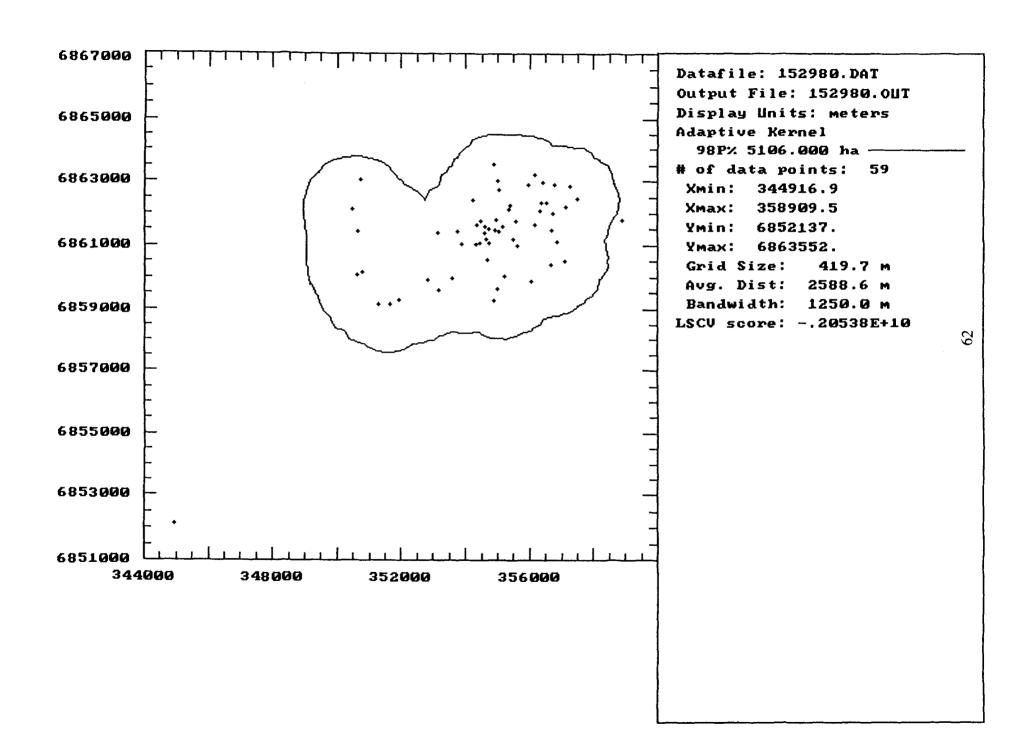


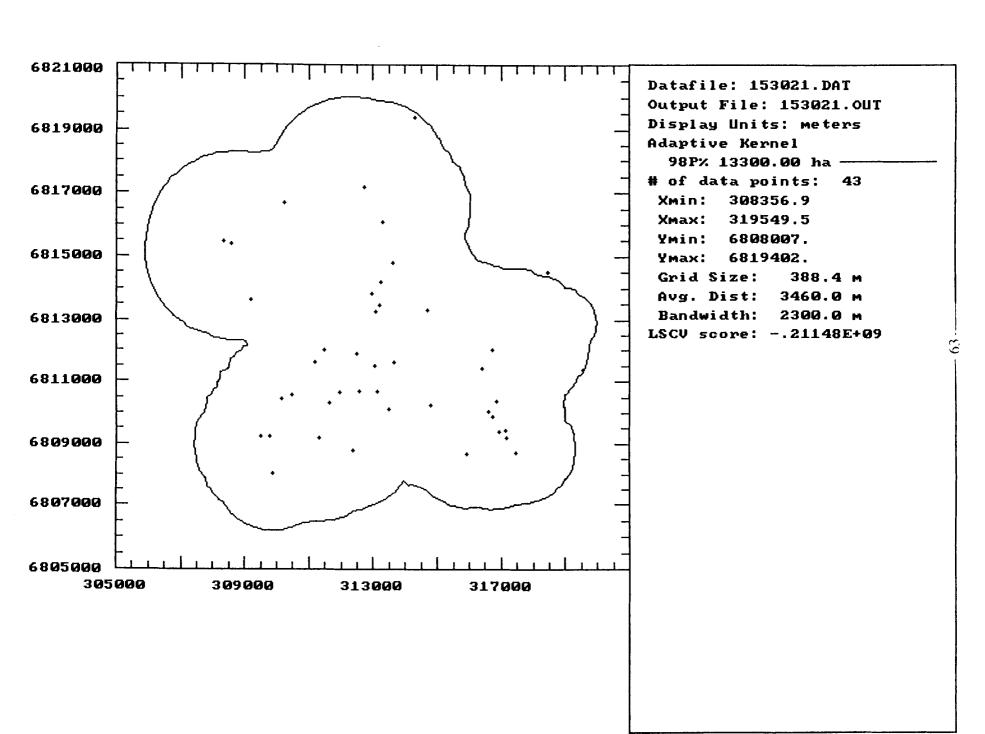


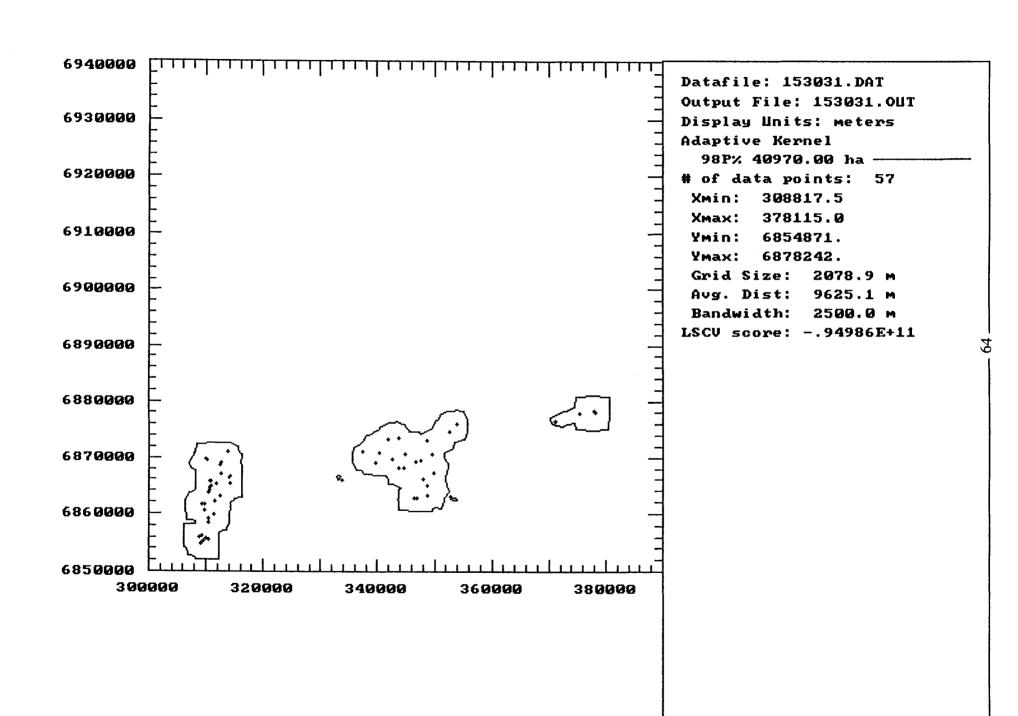


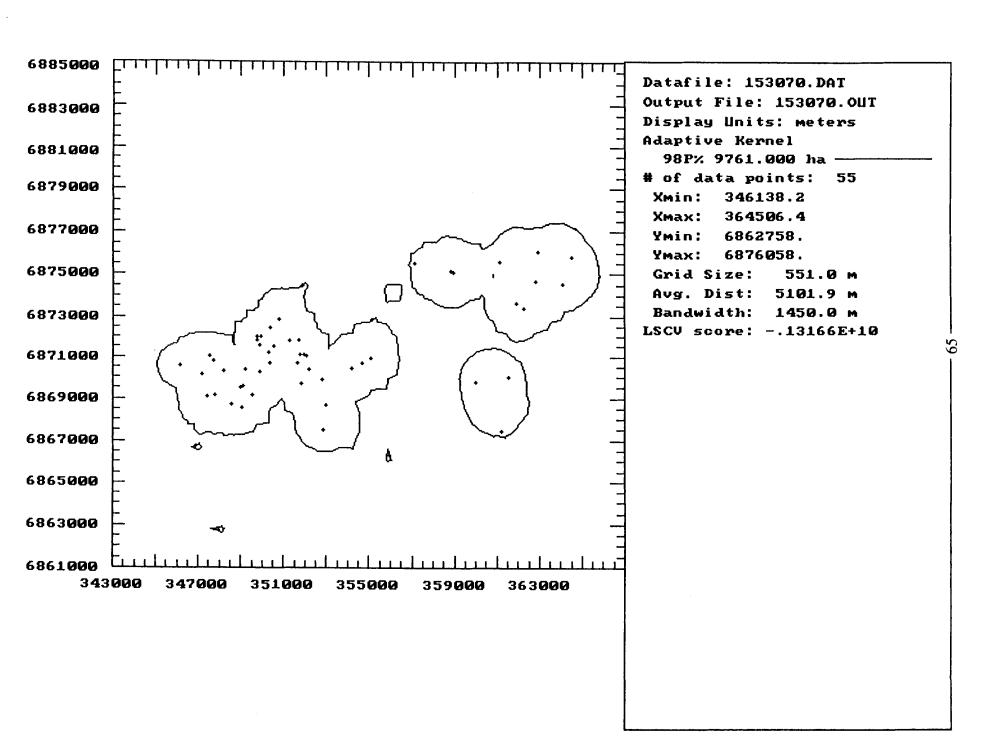


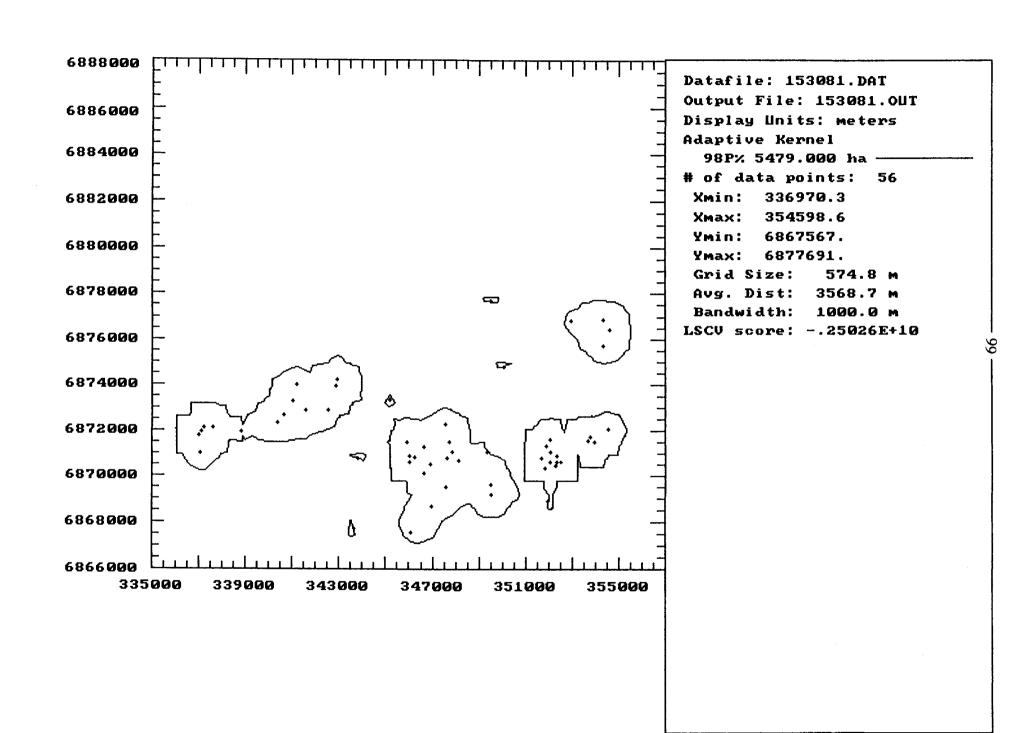


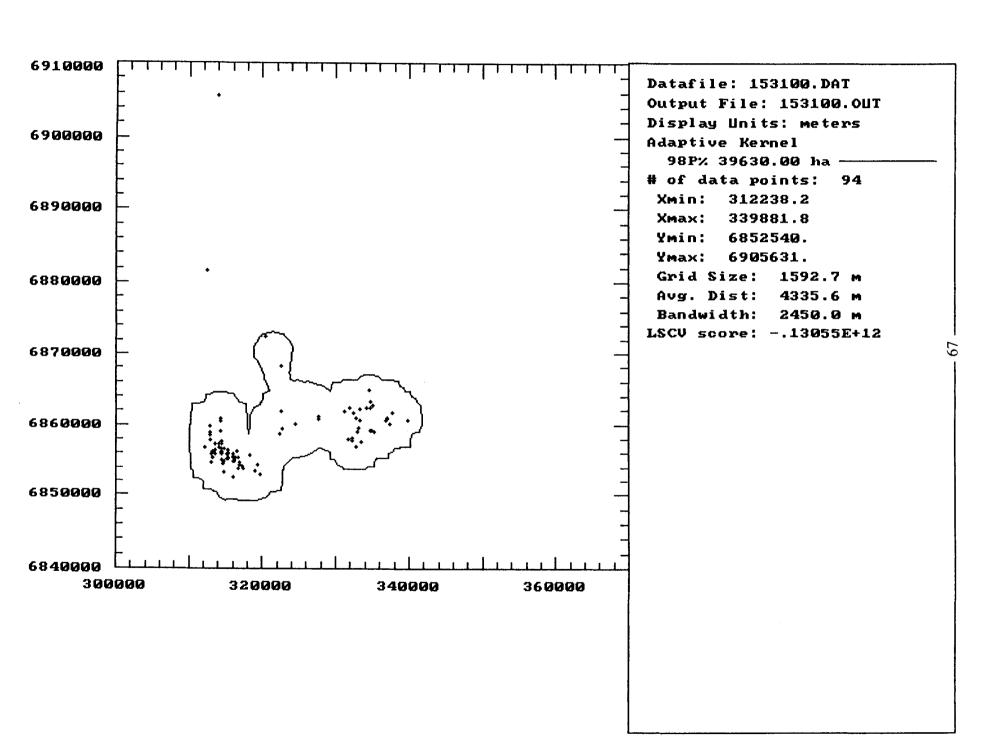


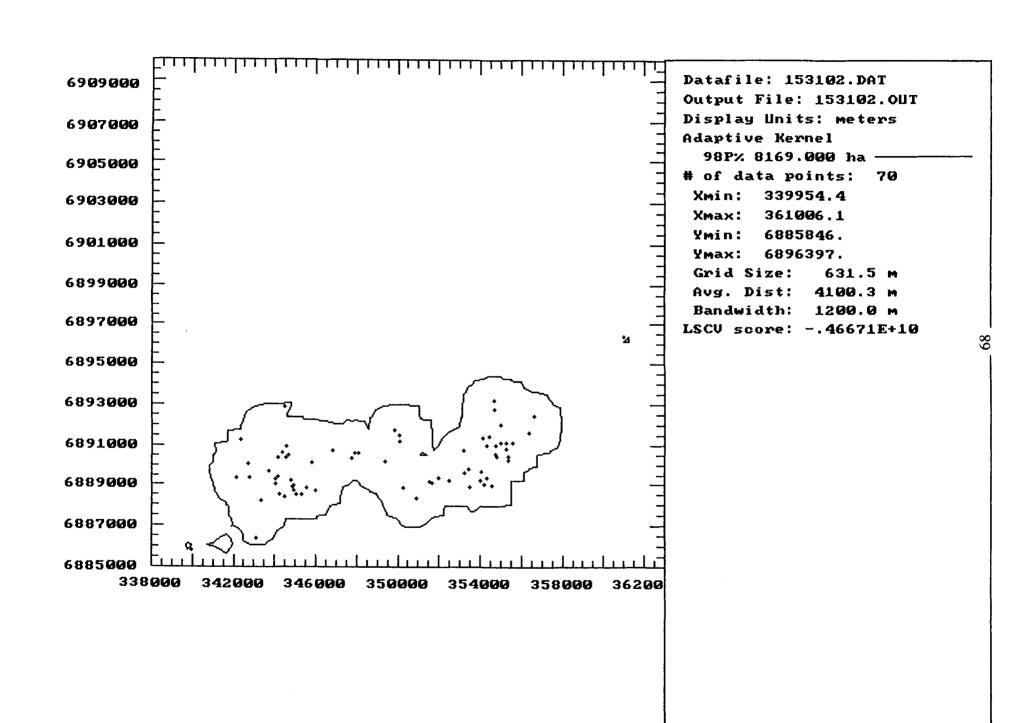


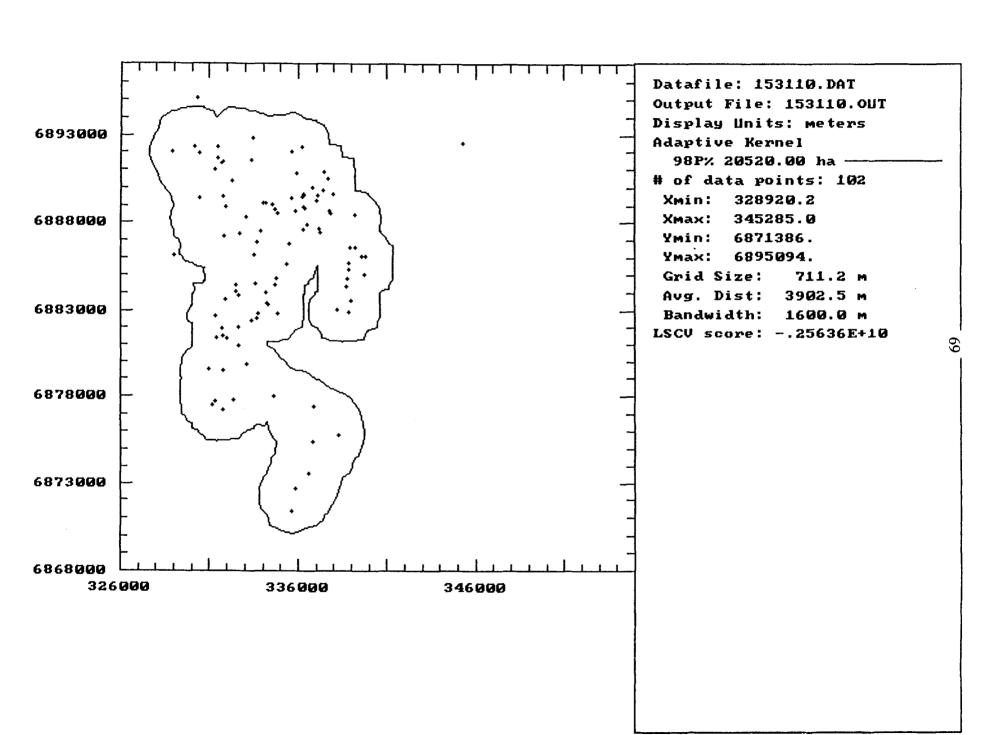


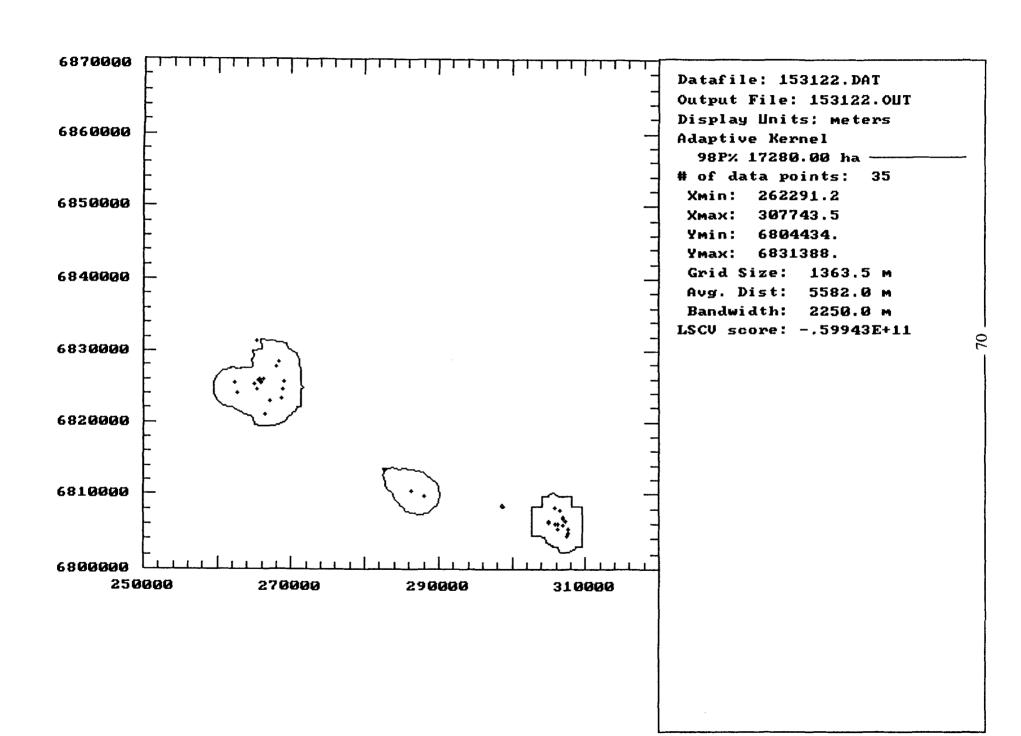


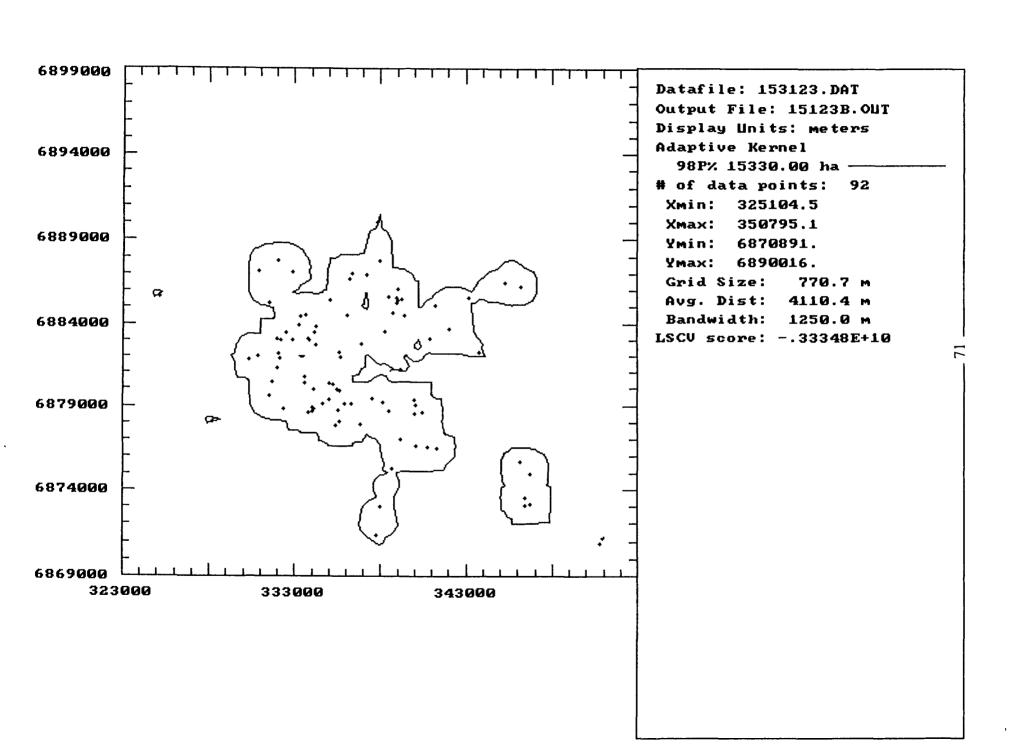


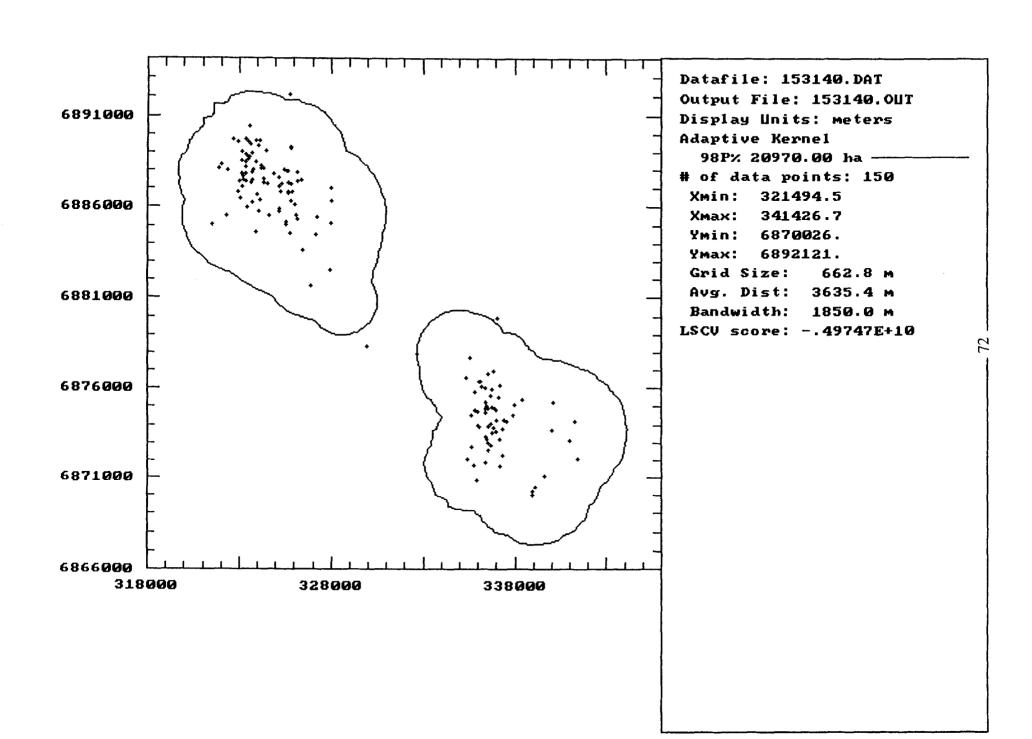


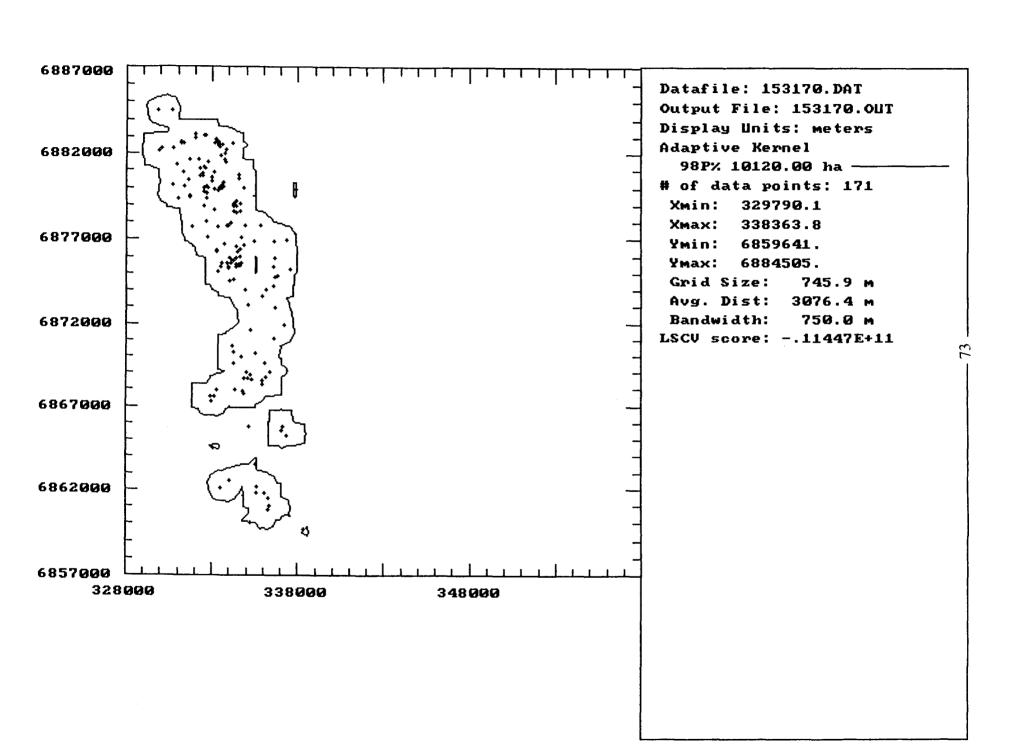


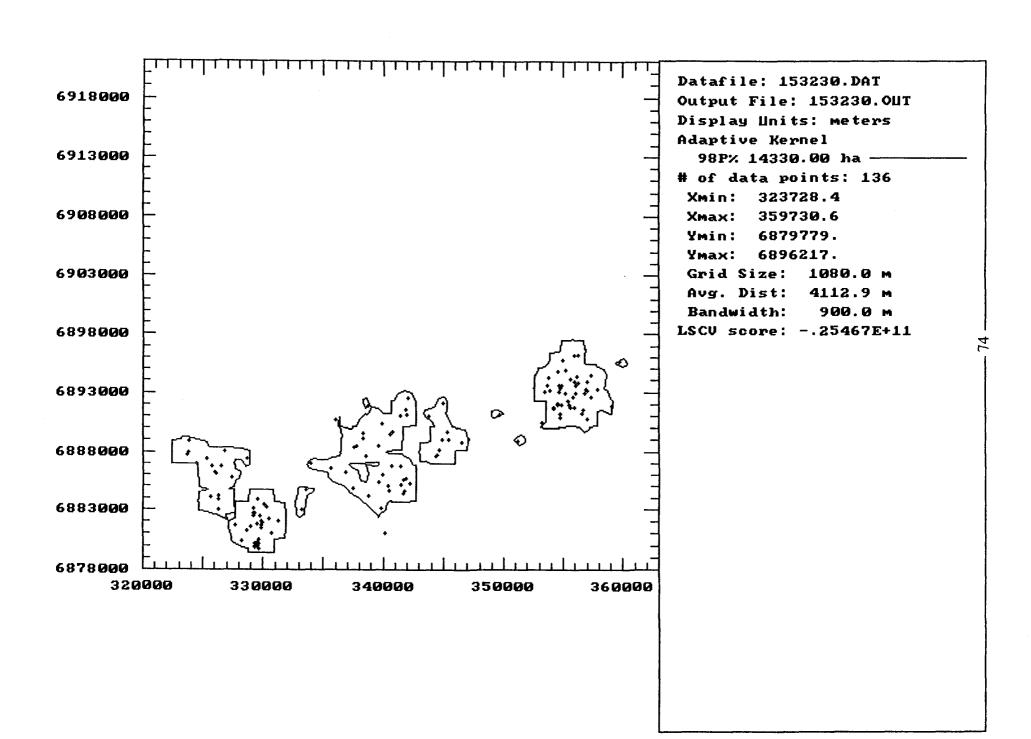


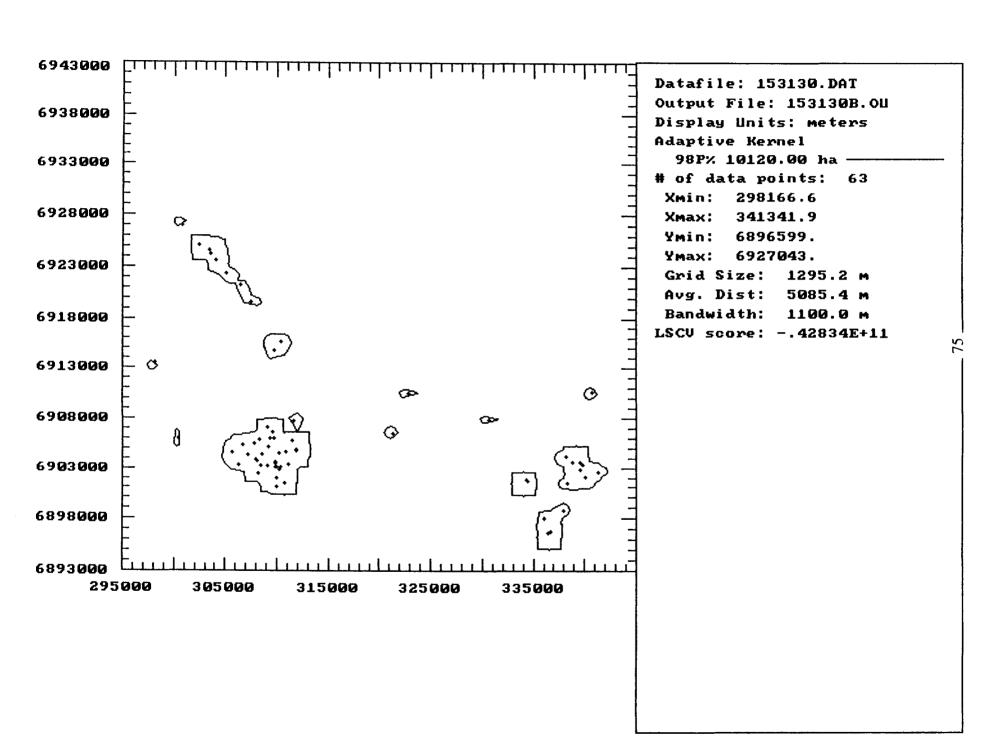


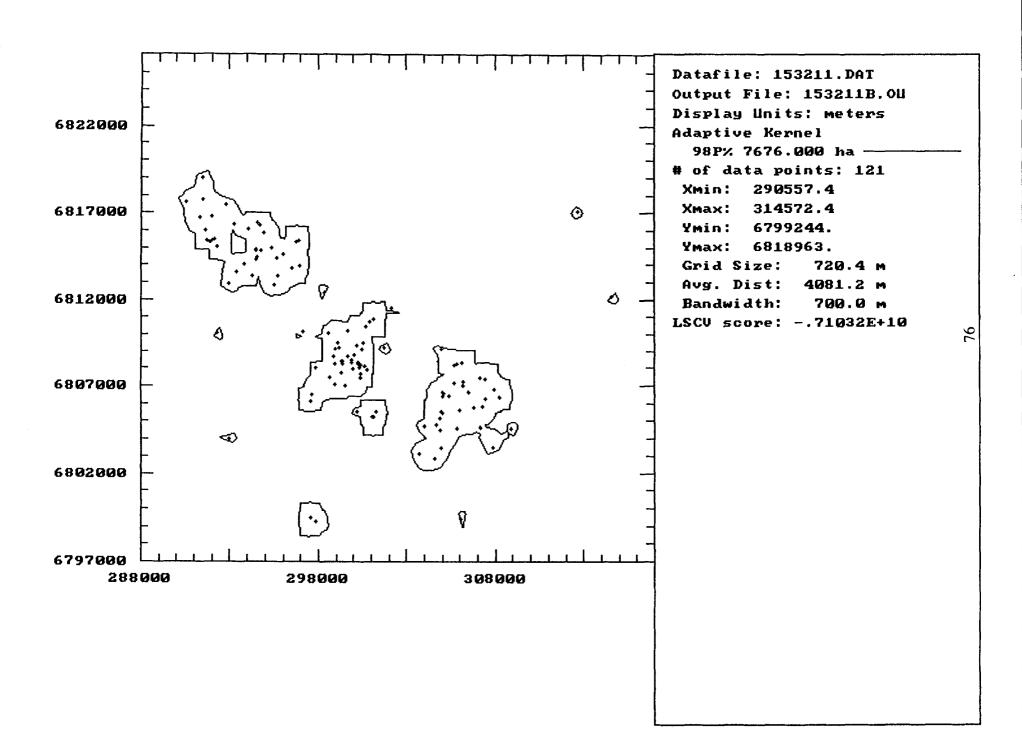


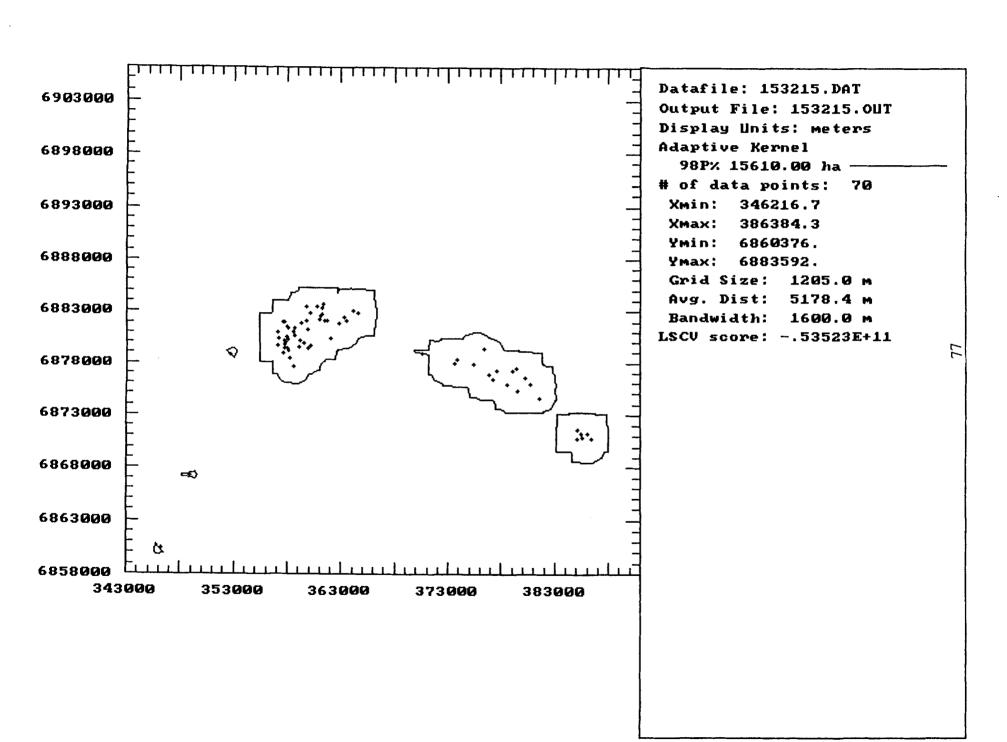


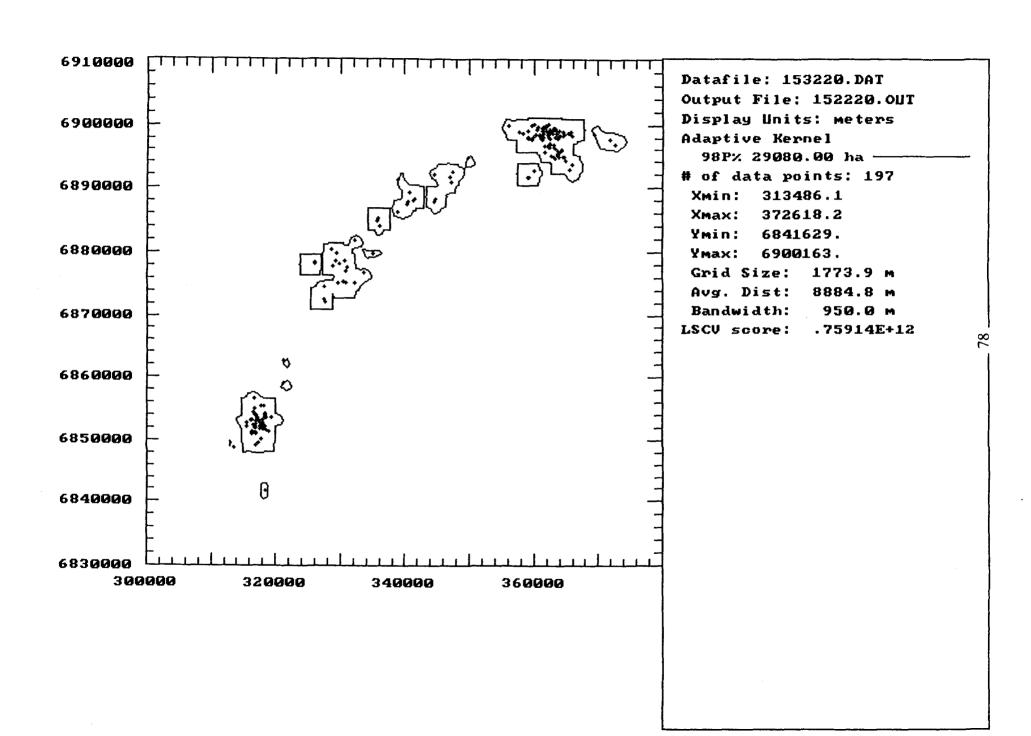


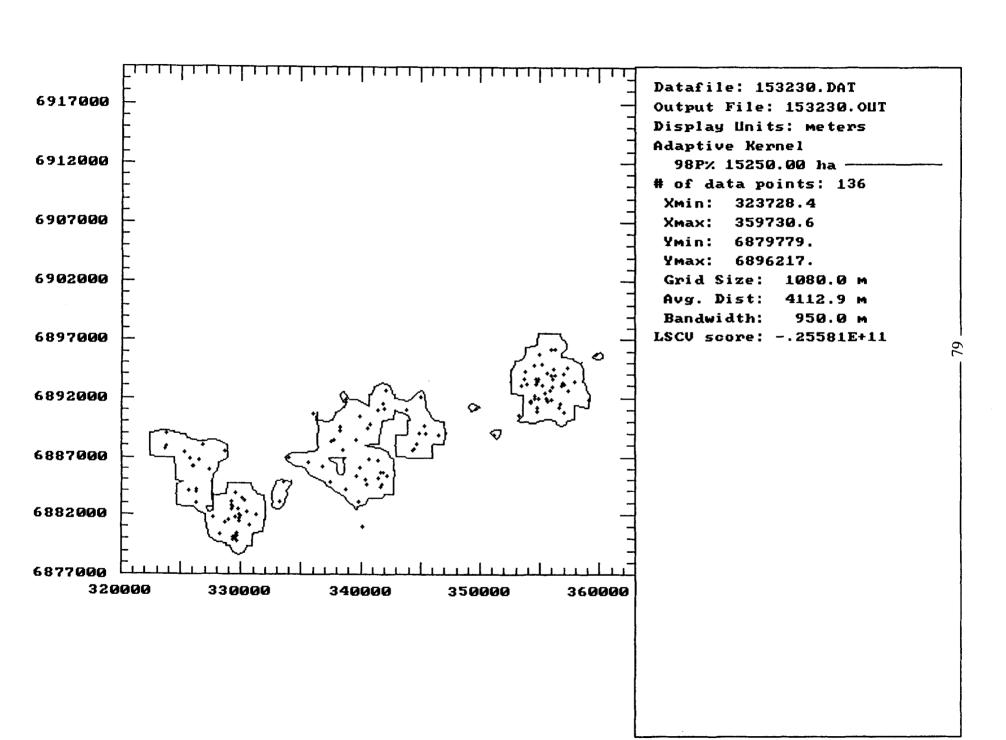


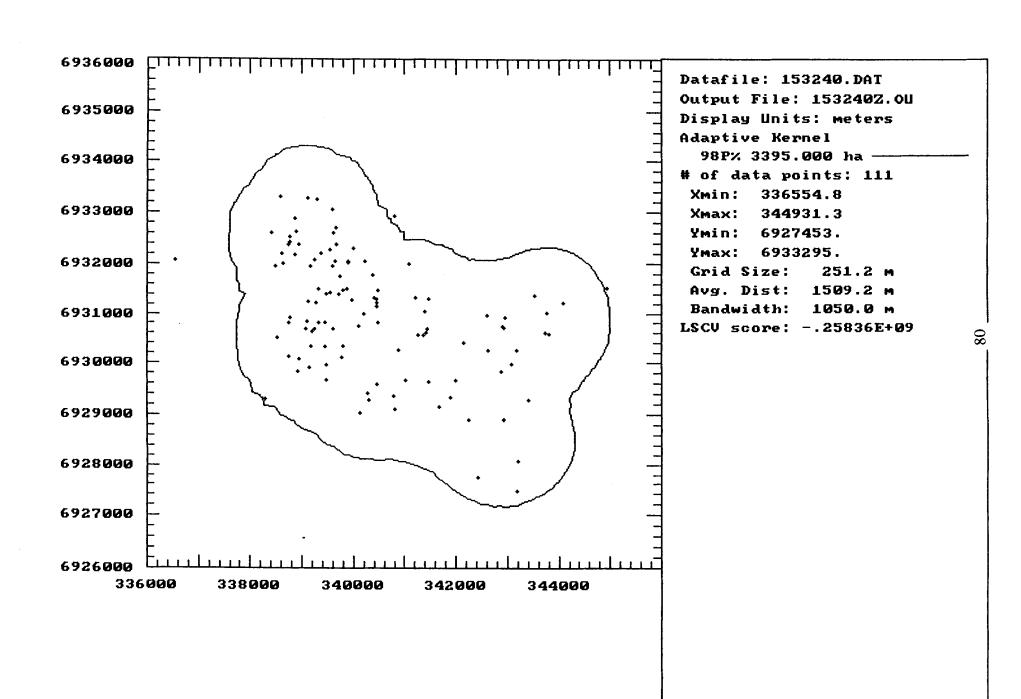


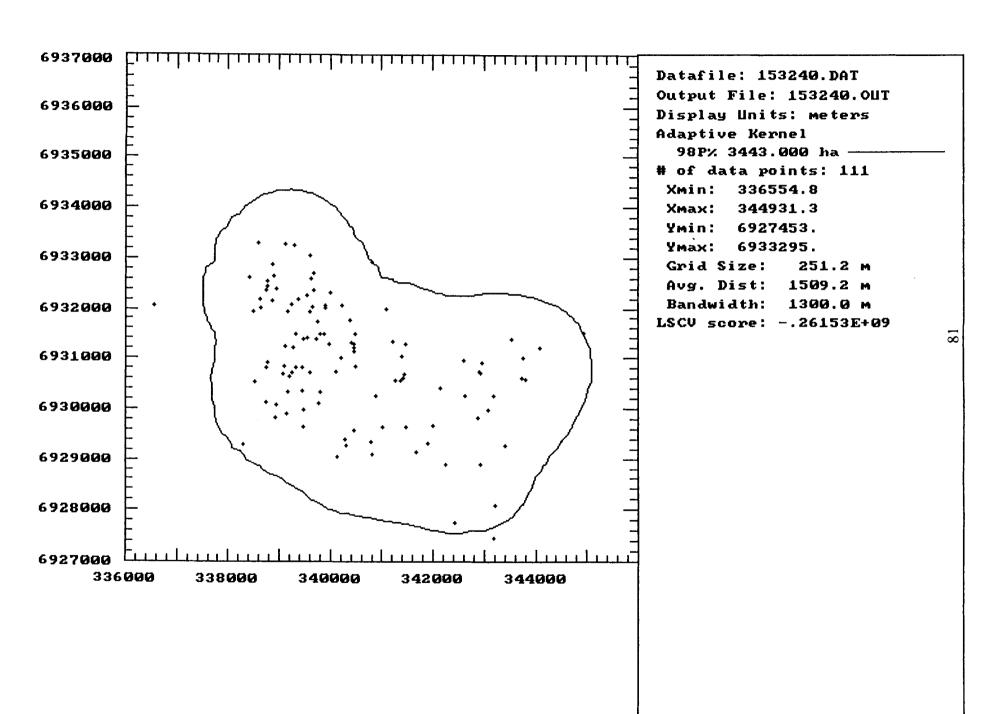


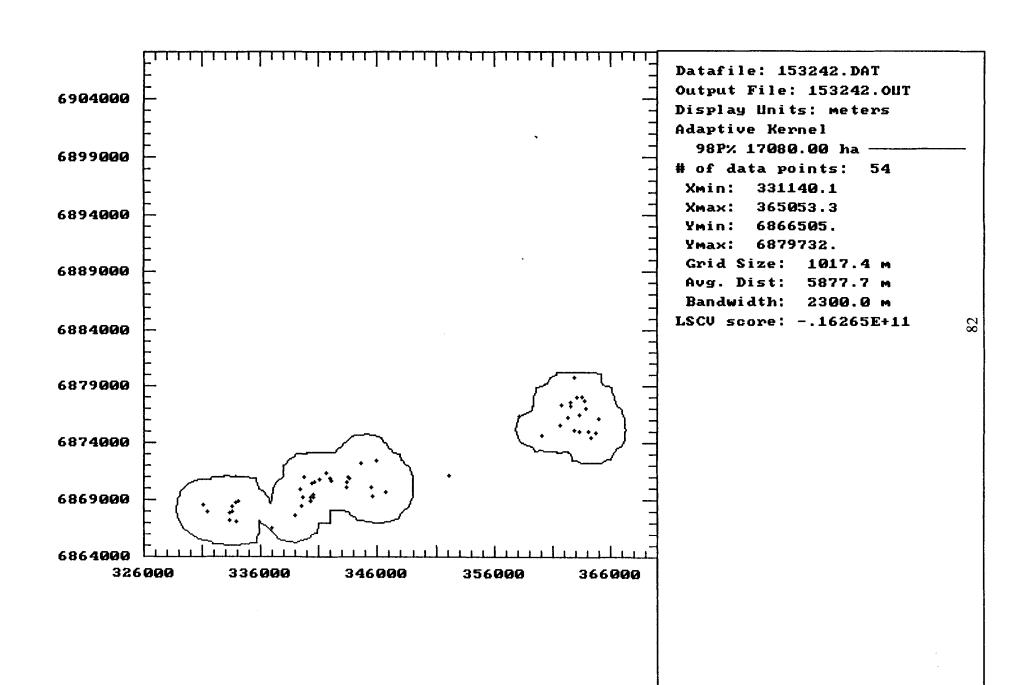


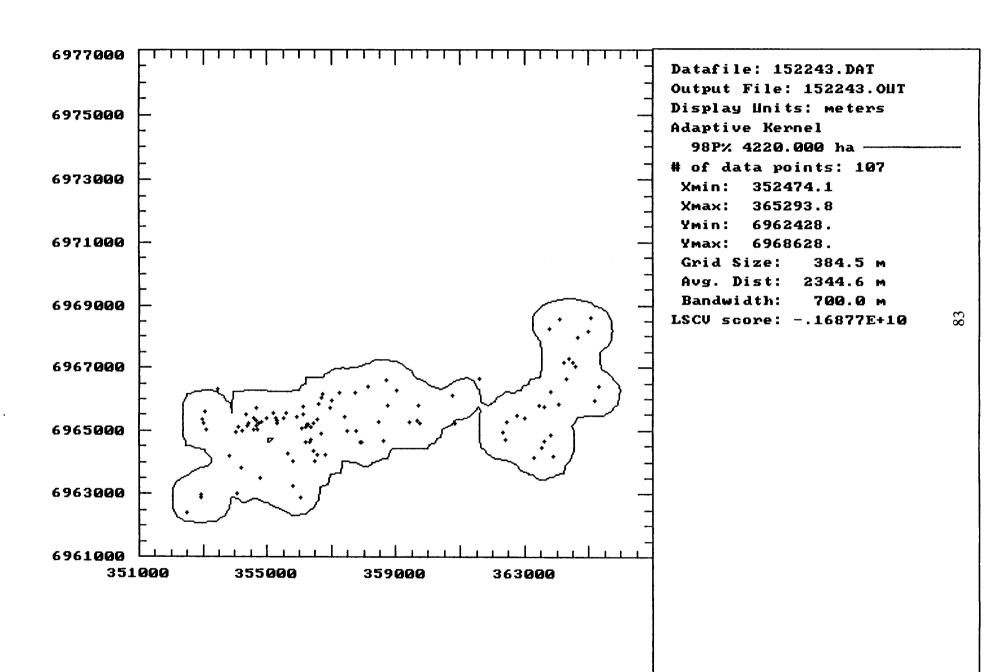


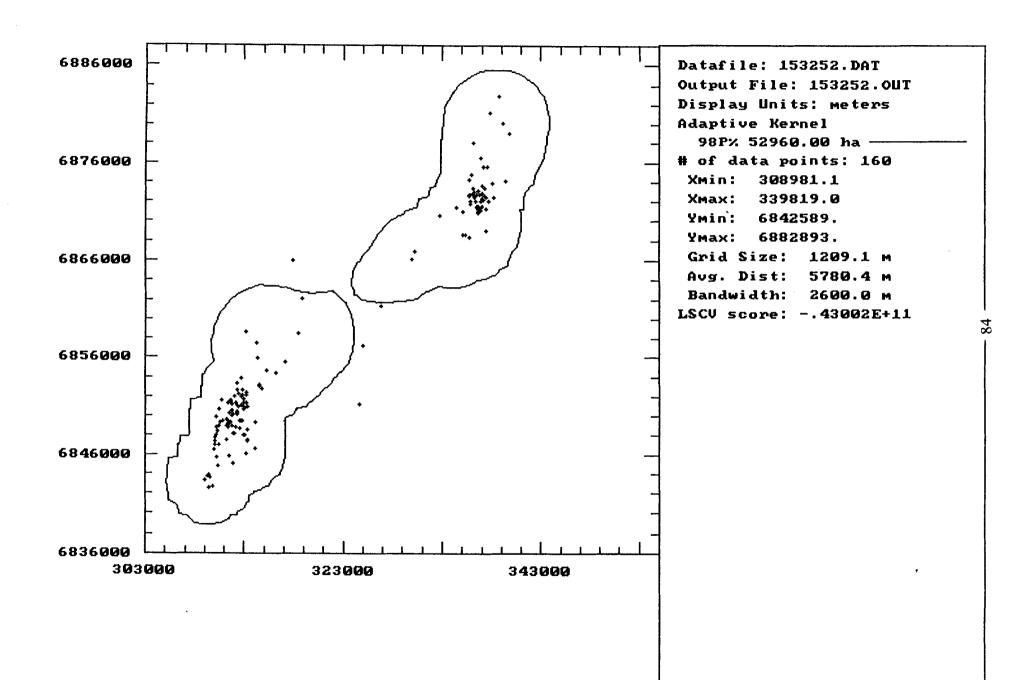


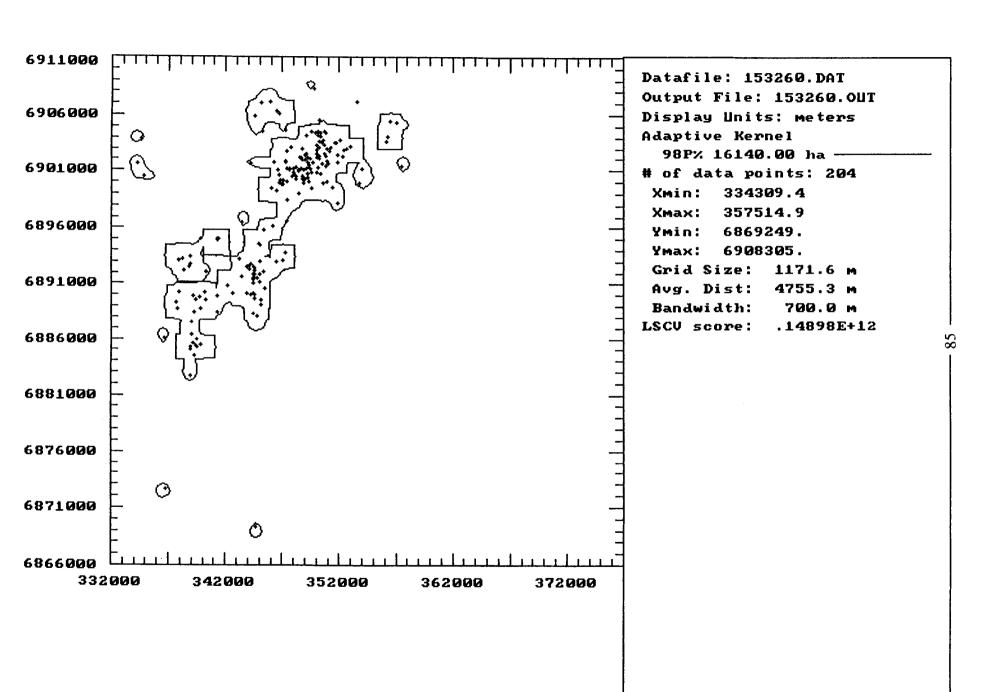


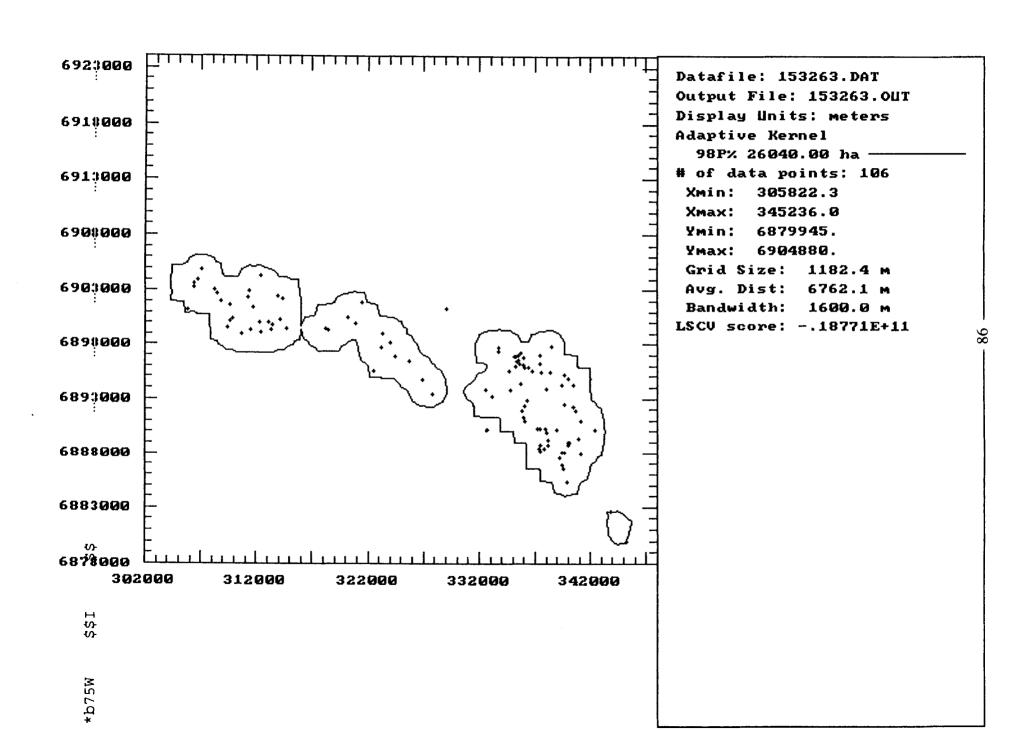


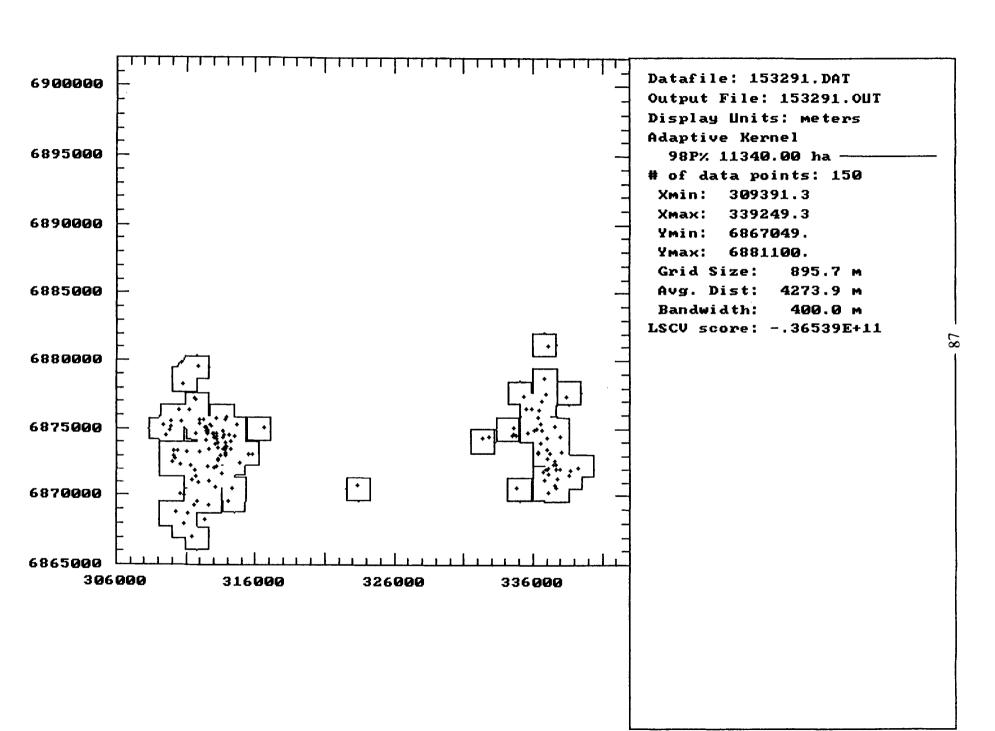


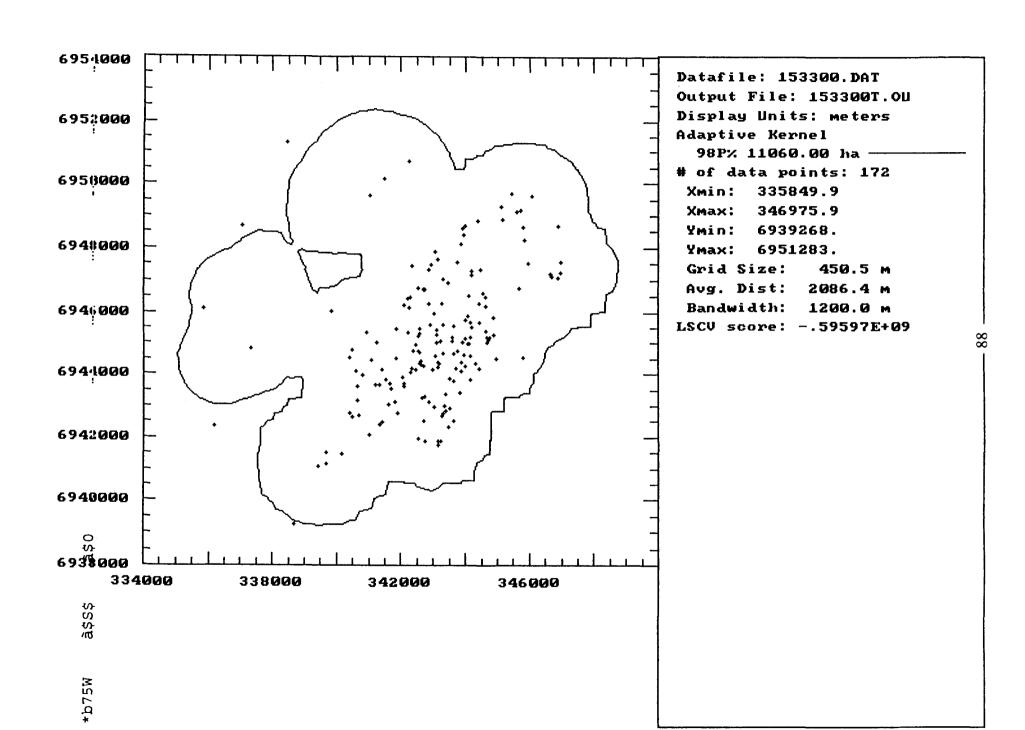


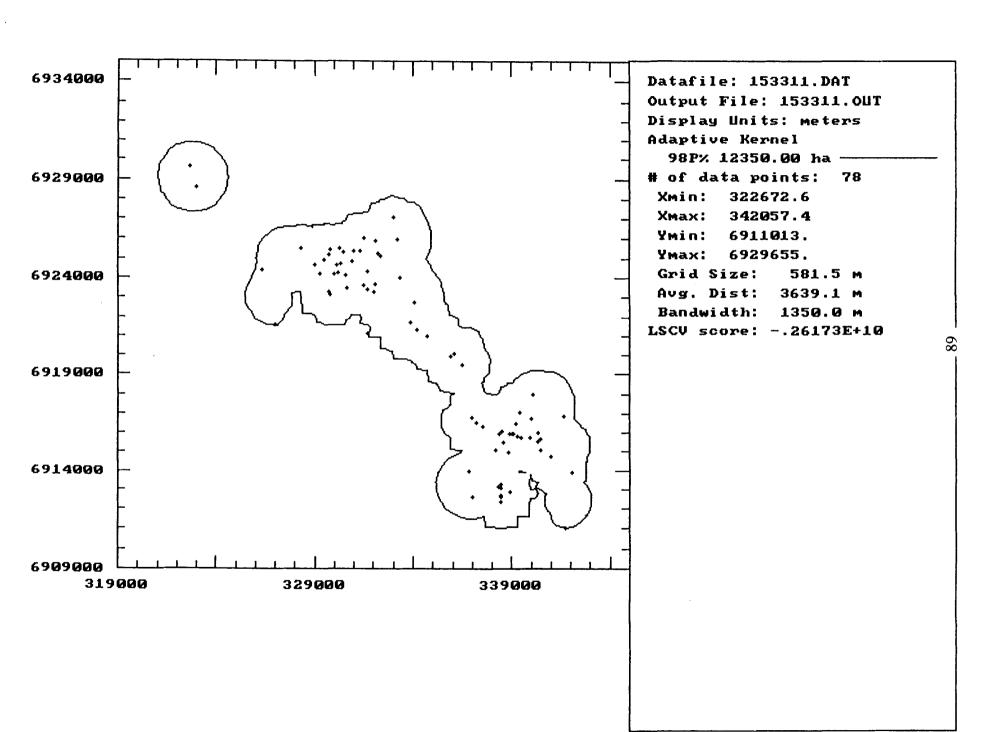


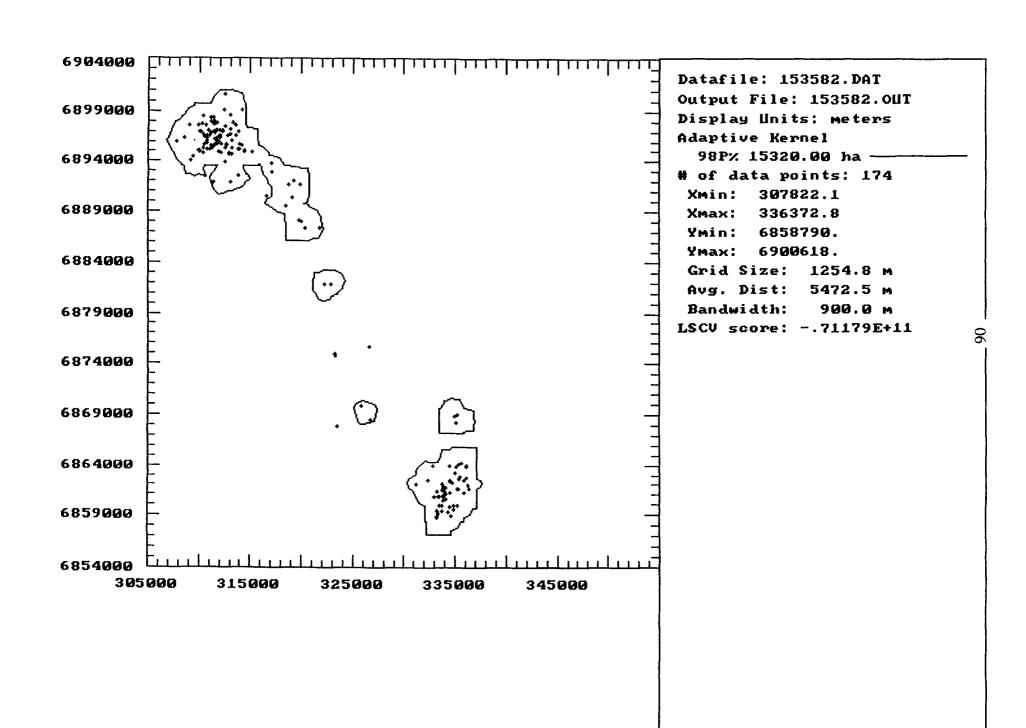


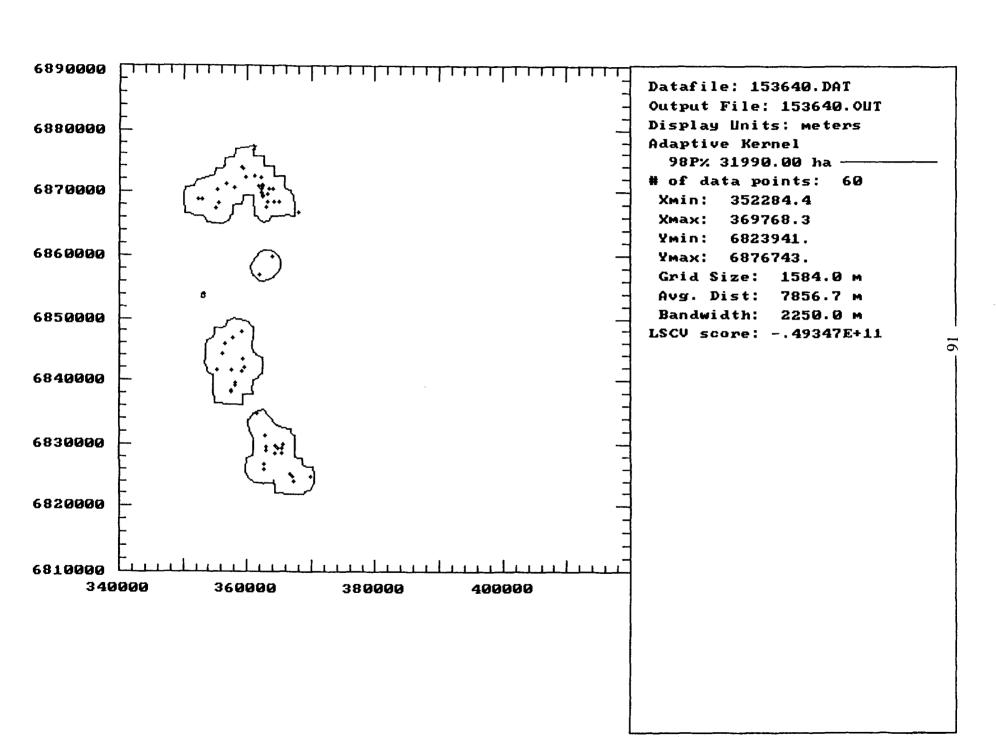


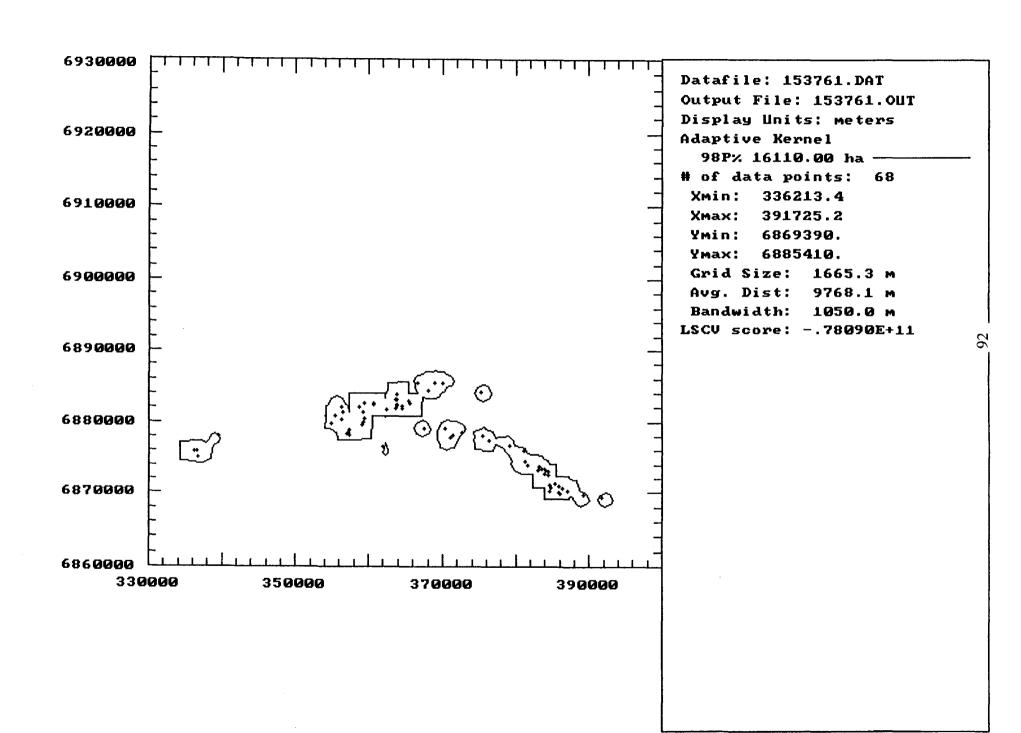


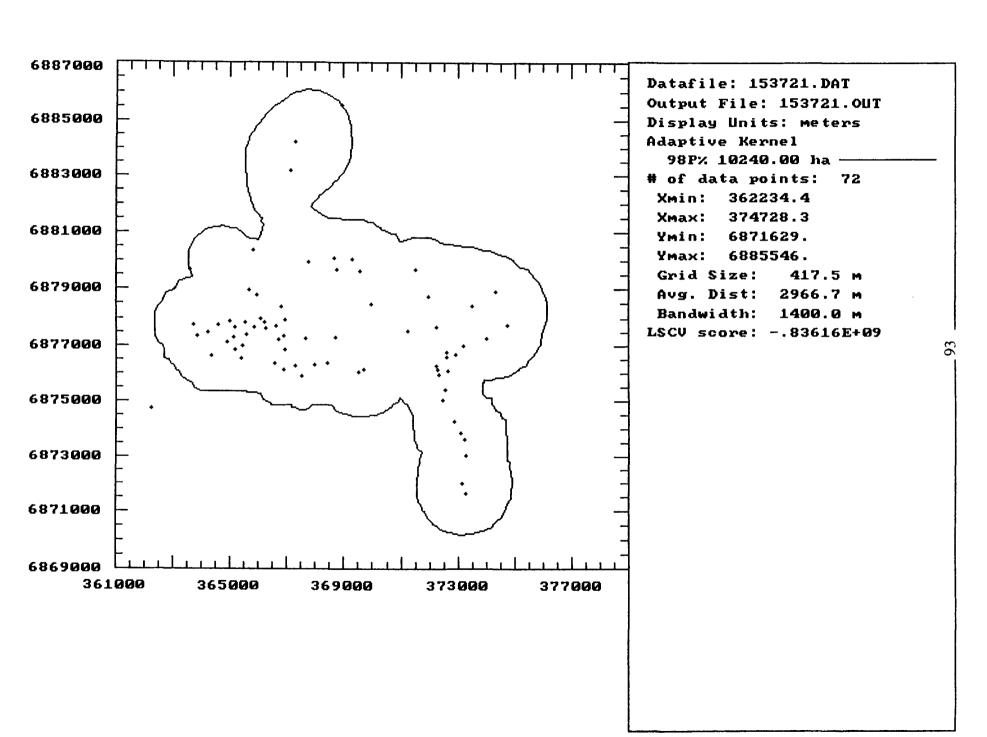


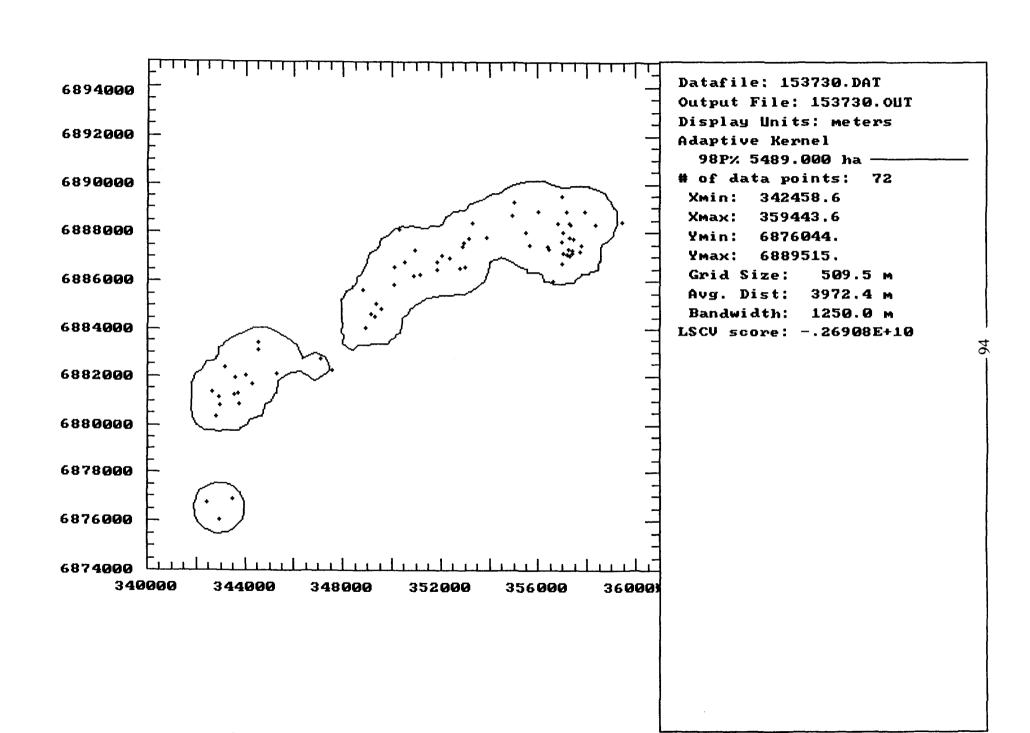


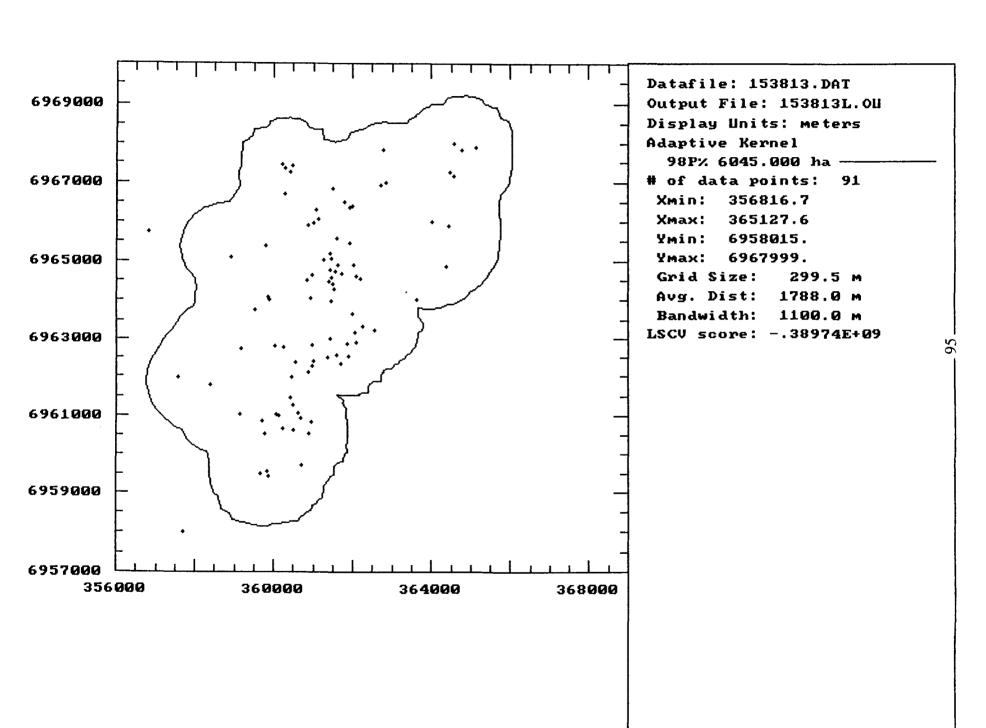


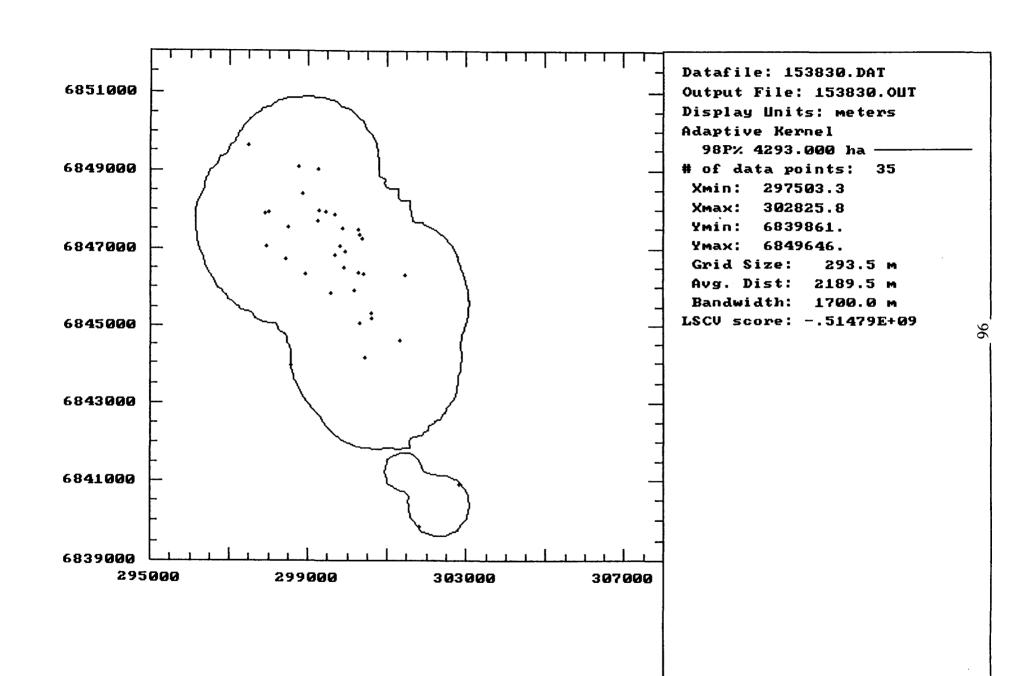


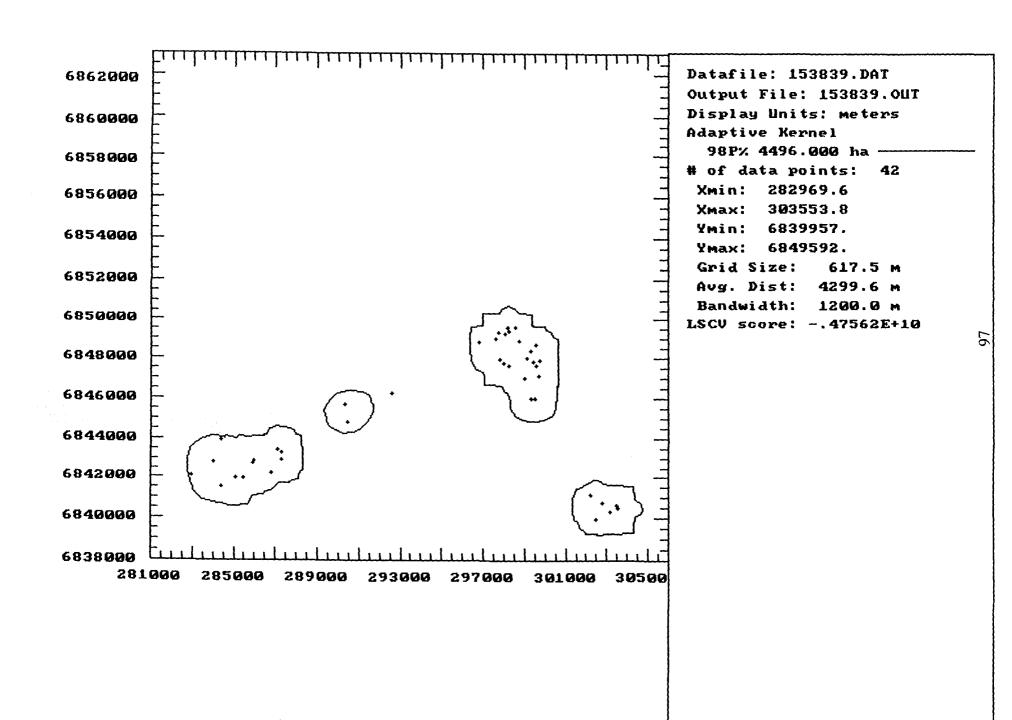












APPENDIX D. Summary of results of trial and error process used in selecting bandwidth for use in CALHOME adaptive kernel home range analysis of moose point-location data.

## D:\CALHOME\BANDSUMM.WK1

					RANGE SIZE		NO.		
MOOSE ID	BAND	Pŧ	CELL	LSCV SCORE			Polys/	MINIMUM	
	WIDTH		SIZE		(HA)	(SQ MI)	>2 PTS	LVSC	
153240	1300	98	-50	-0.26153 B+09	3443	13.29	1 0	***	
153300	1200	98	-50	-0.59597 8+09	11060	42.70	1 0	***	
153311	1350	98	-50	-0.26173 B+09	12350	47.68	1 0	***	
153102	1200	97	-50	-0.46671 B+10	8022	30.97	1 0	***	
153813	1150	98	-50	-0.38974 E+09	6170	23.82	1 0	***	
153021	2300	98	-44	-0.21148 E+09	13300	51.35	1 0	***	
150200	1800	98	~50	-0.43466 B+11	15000	57.91	1 0	***	
152750	2200	98	-50	-0.22665 E+10	16190	62.50	1 0	***	
152045	1350	98	-50	-0.88652 B+09	9085	35.07	1 0	***	
152243	700	98	-50	-0.16877 B+10	4220	16.29	1 0	***	
153620	1300	98	-50	-0.11941 B+10	11440	44.16	1 0	***	
153100	2450	98	-50	-0.13055 B+12	39630	153.0	1 0	***	
153721	1400	98	-50	-0.83616 E+09	10240	39.53	1 0	***	
153240	1300	98	-50	-0.26153 E+09	3379	13.04	1 0	***	
152980	1250	98	-50	-0.20538 B+10	5106	19.71	1 0	***	
153110	1600	98	-50	-0.25636 B+10	20520	79.22	1 0	***	
153830	1700	98	-50	-0.51479 B+09	4293	16.57	1 0	***	
153140	1850	98	-50	-0.49747 B+10	20970	80.96	2 0	***	
152175	1200	98	-50	-0.10162 B+11	14160	54.67	2 0	***	
153123	1250	98	-50	-0.33348 B+10	15330	59.18	2 0	***	
153291	400	98	-50	-0.36539 B+11	11340	43.78	2 0	***	
153122	2250	98	-50	-0.59943 B+11	17280	66.71	2 0	***	
5281079	2200	98	-50	-0.48313 B+11	15560	60.07	2 0	***	
152156	1650	98	-50	-0.66471 E+11	28630	110.5	2 0	***	
153252	2600	98	-50	-0.43002 B+11	52960	204.4	2 0	***	
152243	1050	98	~50	-0.13272 B+10	4630	17.87	2 0		
152950	1800	98	-50	-0.30578 B+11	19920	76.91	2 0	***	
153242	2300	97	-50	-0.16265 E+11	16560	63.93	2 0	***	
5281018	3850	98	-50	-0.19971 B+11	26550	102.5	2 0	***	
152145	850	98	-50	-0.76503 E+09	3554	13.72	2 0	***	
153730	1250	98	-50	-0.26908 B+10	5489	21.19	3 0	***	
153640	2250	98	-50	-0.49347 R+11	31990	123.5	3 0	***	
153230	950	98	-50	-0.25581 R+11	15250	58.88	3 0	***	
152145	450	98	600	-0.50037 B+09	2395	9.247	3 0	***	
153215	1600	98	-50	-0.53523 B+11	15610	60.27	3 0	***	
153582	900	98	-50	-0.71179 E+11	15320	59.15	3 0	***	
153031	2500	98	-50	-0.94986 E+11	40970	158.1		***	
153070	1450	98	-49	-0.13166 E+10	9761	37.68		***	
153263	1600	98	-50	-0.18771 B+11	26040	100.5		***	
153070	1700	98	-46	-0.14593 E+10	14070	54.32		***	
_153170	_ <mark>75</mark> 0 _	<u>9</u> 8 _	50_	0_11447 R+11		39.07 -		***	
153211	700	98	-50	-0.71032 E+10	7676	29.63	4 0	***	

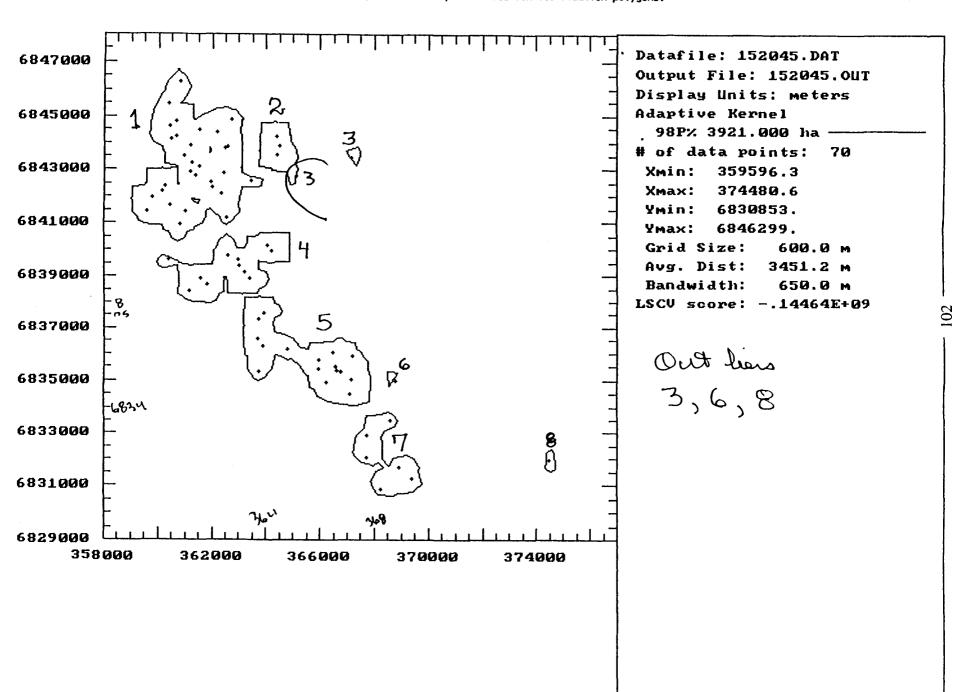
***	0	4	39.07	10120	B+11	-0.42834	-50	98	1100	153130
***	0	4	62.20	16110	B+11	-0.7809	-50	98	1050	153761
***	0	4	34.82	9019	B+11	-0.70279	~50	98	1200	1522105
***	0	4	32.11	8319	E+10	-0.26905	~50	98	1100	152191
***	0	4	55.83	14460	B+10	-0.22612	-45	98	1500	152330
***	0	4	21.15	5479	B+10	-0.25026	-46	98	1000	153081
***	0	4	62.31	16140	B+12	-0.14898	-50	98	700	153260
***	0	5	55.32	14330	B+11	-0.25467	-50	98	900	153230
***	0	5	24.78	6420	B+10	-0.3648	-50	98	1200	152075
***	0	5	43.70	11320	B+12	-0.11198	-50	98	750	152036
***	0	7	51.93	13450	B+11	-0.23252	-50	98	1000	152076
***	0	8	112.2	29080	B+12	-0.75914	-50	98	950	153220

APPENDIX E. Sample of database file used in indentifying Julian day of point locations in numbered utilization distribution polygons of moose home ranges.

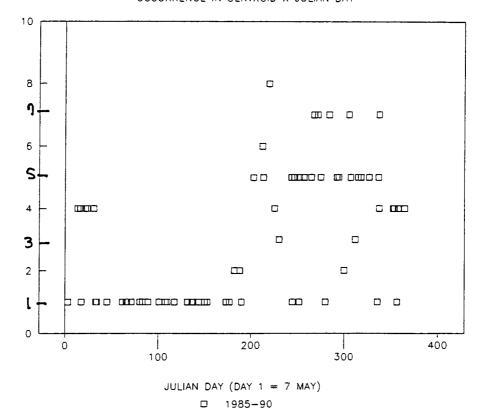
D:\CALHOME\5214539 COL 39 MOOSE NO. 152145 COL NO. 39

D: \CALHOMA \32.	14333	COL 39	m	JOSE NO.	132143	COL NO	. 39					
x_coord	Y_COOF	RD.	OBS	CENTROID	DATE	SEASON	PERIOD	CYEAR	CJDAY	CENTROID	sy	
314312.700000	679731	19.000000	0	6	26-Feb-82		WINT	8182	296	6	2	
310713.300000	680003	37.000000	1	4	03-Mar-82	W		8182	301	4	2	
311474.800000	680041	16.000000	2	5	24-Mar-82			8182	322	5	2	
311061.900000	680141	17.000000	3	4	05-Apr-82			8182	334	4	2	
313798.000000	680021	14.000000	4	5	16-Apr-82			8182	345	5	2	
313720.600000	680031	17.000000	5	5	26-Apr-82			8182	355	5	2	
313643.100000	680076	8.000000	6	5	10-May-82	С		8283	4	5	3	
313490.500000	680072	23.000000	7	5	17-May-82	С	CALF	8283	11	5	3	
313474.400000	680012	23.000000	8	5	26-May-82	С	CALF	8283	20	5	3	
311955.200000	679922	26.000000	9	5	08-Jun-82	С		8283	33	5	3	
311927.900000	679948	31.000000	10	5	17-Jun-82			8283	42	5	3	
314196.700000	679822	26.000000	11	6	29-Jun-82			8283	54	6	3	
311798.400000	680071	.3.000000	12	5	09-Jul- <b>8</b> 2	s		8283	64	5	3	
311949.100000	680096	8.000000	13	5	27-Jul-82	s	SUMM	8283	82	5	3	
312230.900000	680069	5.000000	14	5	06-Aug-82	s		8283	92	5	3	
312529.400000	679986	7.000000	15	5	16-Aug-82			8283	102	5	3	
311353.400000	680036	51.000000	16	5	31-Aug-82	н		8283	117	5	3	
311060.400000	679999	3.000000	17	4	23-Sep-82	н	RUT	8283	140	4	3	
315037.700000	679859	3.000000	18	6	05-Oct-82	R	RUT	8283	152	6	3	
311036.900000	679929	9.000000	19	4	20-Oct-82	P		8283	167	4	3	
311276.300000	679919	1.000000	20	4	10-Nov-82	٧	PRUT	8283	188	4	3	
310207.800000	680061	5.000000	21	4	13-Dec-82	v		8283	221	4	3	
311112.800000	680132	23.000000	22	4	04-Jan-83			8283	243	4	3	
310493.100000	680087	6.000000	23	4	21-Jan-83	W		8283	260	4	3	
310009.100000	680136	6.00000	24	4	04-Feb-83			8283	274	4	3	
312028.300000	679805	4.000000	25	5	16-Feb-83		WINT	8283	286	5	3	
309890.800000	680051	.0.00000	26	4	04-Mar-83	W		8283	302	4	3	
311427.700000	680007	78.000000	27	5	18-Mar-83	W		8283	316	5	3	
313708.900000	680020	06.000000	28	5	01-Apr-83			8283	330	5	3	
313655.300000	680007	75.000000	29	5	20-Apr-83			8283	349	5	3	
313442.600000	680016	50.00000	30	5	04-May-83			8283	363	5	3	
313500.100000	680073	30.000000	31	5	11-May-83	С		8384	5	5	4	
313338.600000	680042	29.000000	32	5	17-May-83	c	CALF	8384	11	5	4	
312655.700000	679818	9.000000	33	5	24-May-83	c	CALF	8384	18	5	4	
312527.600000	679927	79.000000	34	5	31-May-83	С	CALF	8384	25	5	4	
311718.600000	679936	9.000000	35	5	07-Jun-83	c		8384	32	5	4	
312651.500000	679931	1.000000	36	5	14-Jun-83	C		8384	39	5	4	
311667.300000	680068	33.000000	37	5	21-Jun-83			8384	46	5	4	
312381.600000	679789	5.000000	38	5	28-Jun-83			8384	53	5	4	
313693.400000	679912	29.000000	39	6	02-Aug-83	s	SUMM	8384	88	6	4	
311542.000000	680003	37.000000	40	5	27-Aug-83	H		8384	113	5	4	
313829.100000	680153	86.000000	41	5	06-Sep-83	н		8384	123	5	4	
313516.100000	680181	6.000000	42	5	19-Sep-83	н	RUT	8384	136	5	4	
310801.800000	680005	52.000000	43	4	03-Oct-83	R	RUT	8384	150	4	4	
310418.500000	680065	52.000000	44	4	21-Oct-83	P		8384	168	4	4	
309899.400000	680260	06.000000	45	3	09-Nov-83	v	PRUT	8384	187	3	4	

309976.900000 6801137.000	000 46	4 25-Nov-83 V		8384	203	4	4
310214.300000 6801166.000	000 47	4 15-Dec-83 V		8384	223	4	4
309827.900000 6801156.000	000 48	4 28-Dec-83		8384	236	4	4
310108.600000 6800883.000	000 49	4 11-Jan-84		8384	250	4	4
307843.600000 6800934.000	000 50	2 02-Feb-84		8384	272	2	4
310038.400000 6800416.000	000 51	4 16-Feb-84	WINT	8384	286	4	4
310291.100000 6800813.000	000 52	4 02-Mar-84 W		8384	301	4	4
307562.100000 6802187.000	000 53	2 14-Mar-84 W		8384	313	2	4
313790.600000 6800757.000	000 54	5 27-Mar-84		8384	326	5	4
313796.000000 6800421.000	000 55	5 10-Apr-84		8384	340	5	4
313643.100000 6800280.000	000 56	5 24-Apr-84		8384	354	5	4
313415.500000 6801343.000	000 57	5 15-May-84 C		8485	9	5	5
312300.800000 6798837.000	000 58	5 21-May-84 C	CALF	8485	15	5	5
312436.000000 6799498.000	000 59	5 29-May-84 C	CALF	8485	23	5	5
312054.800000 6799604.000	000 60	5 04-Jun-84 C	CALF	8485	29	5	5
312507.500000 6800188.000	000 61	5 18-Jun-84		8485	43	5	5
311814.800000 6801275.000	000 62	5 11-Jul-84 S		8485	66	5	5
312309.300000 6799482.000		5 30-Jul-84 S	SUMM	8485	85	5	5
312103.400000 6800076.000	000 64	5 10-Aug-84 S		8485	96	5	5
311079.200000 6799891.000		4 05-Sep-84 H		8485	122	4	5
310997.700000 6799159.000		4 26-Sep-84 H	RUT	8485	143	4	5
311109.300000 6799653.000		4 17-Oct-84		8485	164	4	5
310342.600000 6801074.000		4 06-Nov-84 P	PRUT	8485	184	4	5
310744.100000 6800177.000		4 19-Nov-84 V		8485	197	4	5
310804.100000 6799234.000		4 06-Dec-84 V		8485	214	4	5
310574.400000 6801036.000		4 20-Dec-84 V		8485	228	4	5
306726.500000 6801078.000		2 09-Jan-85		8485	248	2	5
306545.900000 6802059.000		2 21-Jan-85 W		8485	260	2	5
307953.100000 6802044.000		2 06-Feb-85		8485	276	2	5
308061.300000 6801910.000		2 18-Feb-85	WINT	8485	288	2	5
		2 07-Mar-85 W	W1W1	8485	305	2	5
307847.400000 6801259.000				8485	317	1	5
304932.300000 6801265.000		1 19-Mar-85 W				2	5
307764.400000 6802577.000		2 02-Apr-85		8485	331	2	5
308014.500000 6802145.000		2 15-Apr-85		8485	344 354	2	5
306644.000000 6802534.000		2 25-Apr-85		8485		2	5
307644.300000 6802714.000		2 02-May-85		8485 8586	361 4	5	6
313664.800000 6800897.000		5 10-May-85 C	CNIE		-	_	6
313679.800000 6801179.000		5 20-May-85 C	CALF	8586	14	5	
313616.800000 6801063.000		5 05-Jun-85 C	CALF	8586	30	5	6
313769.600000 6800642.000		5 12-Jun-85 C		8586	37	5	6
313664.600000 6800719.000		5 19-Jun-85		8586	44	5	6
313481.300000 6800739.000	-	5 17-Mar-86 W		8586	315	5	6
311960.800000 6799474.000		5 02-Jun-86 C	CALF	8687	27	5	7
311258.500000 6801467.000		4 26-Sep-86 H	RUT	8687	143	4	7
307509.600000 6802986.000		2 21-Dec-86 V		8687	229	2	7
306976.600000 6801294.000		2 17-Jan-87		8687	256	2	7
307692.700000 6802839.000		2 05-Feb-87		8687	275	2	7
306275.100000 6801070.000		2 12-Mar-87 W		8687	310	2	7
305579.000000 6800625.000	000 94	2 23-Mar-87		8687	321	2	7

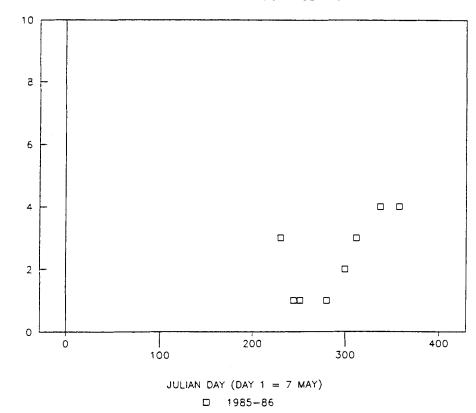




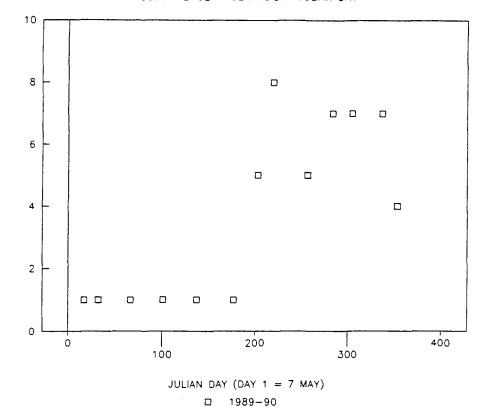


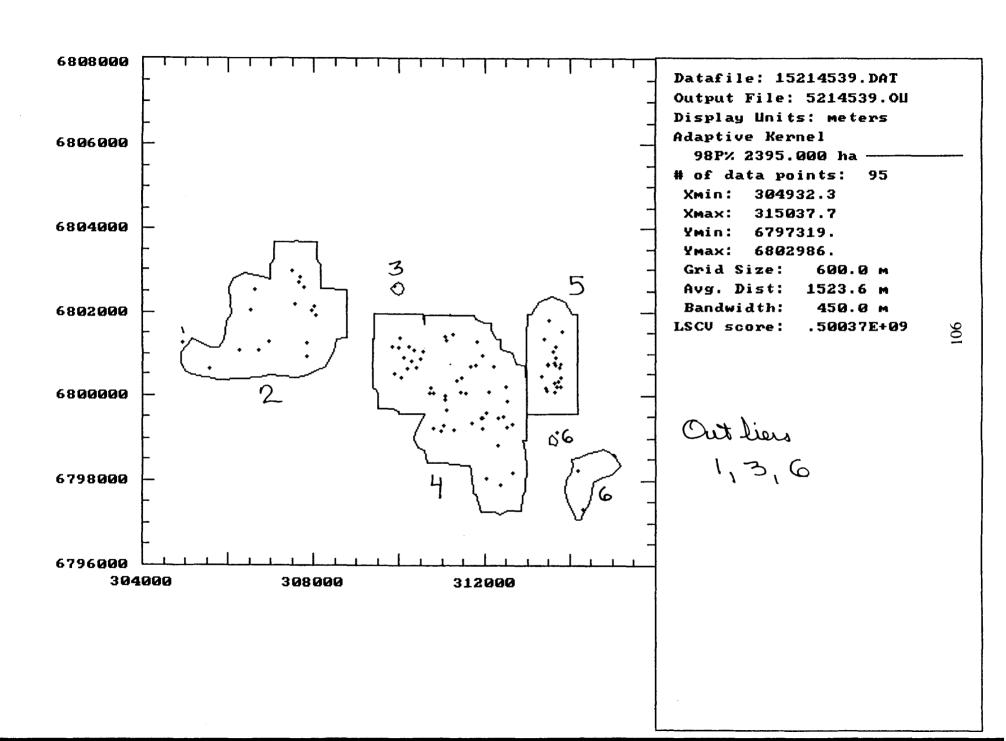
KERNAL CENTROID NUMBER





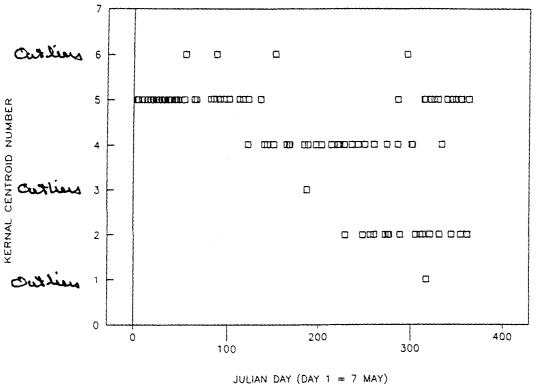






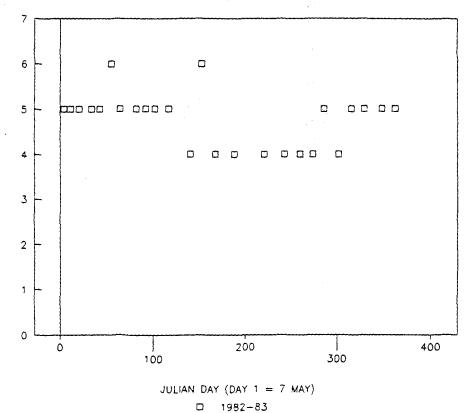
## ID 15214539 85-91 (D:CALHOME 15214539)

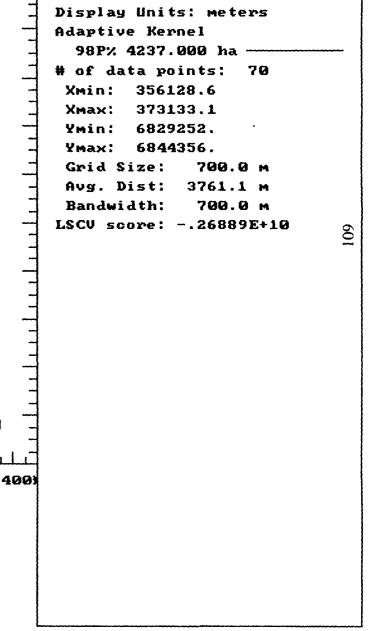
OCCURRENCE IN CENTROIDS X JULIAN DAY



1D15214539 1982-83 (D:CALHOME 15214539)

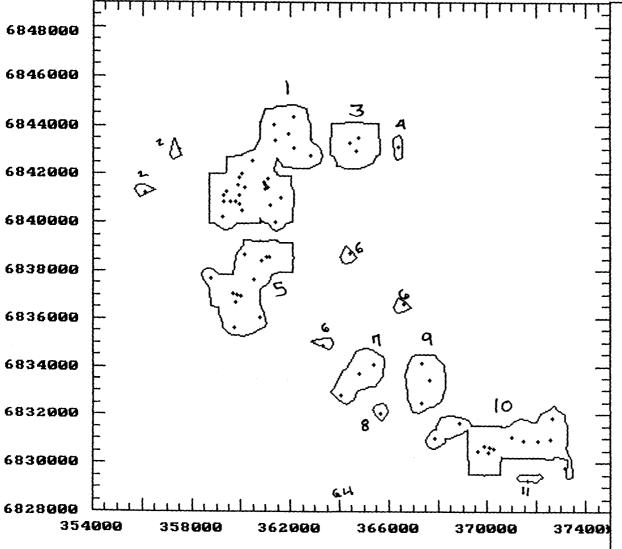
OCCURRENCE IN CENTROIDS X JULIAN DAY



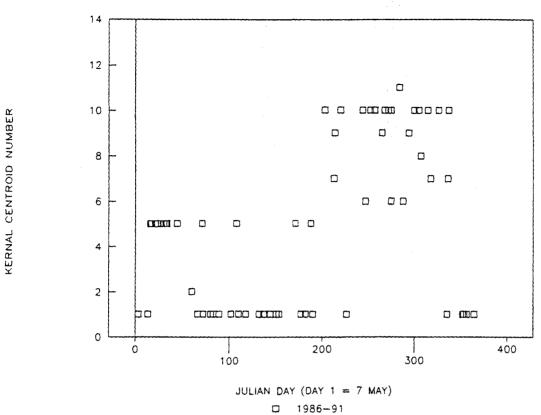


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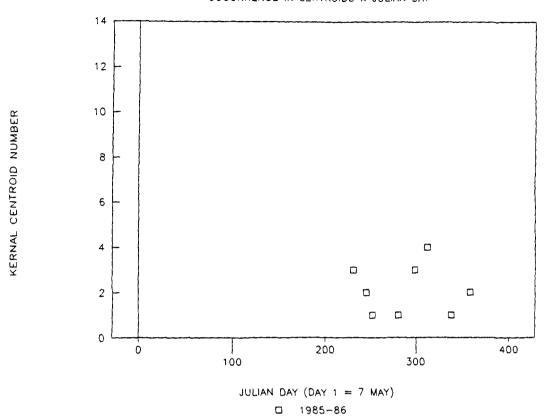
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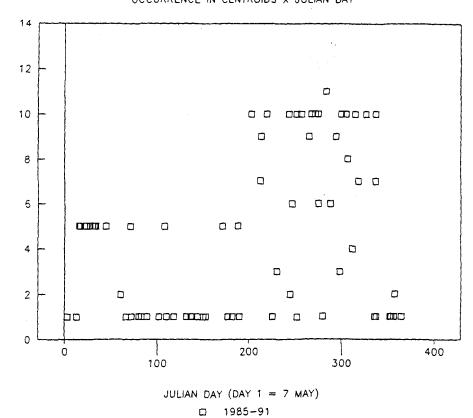


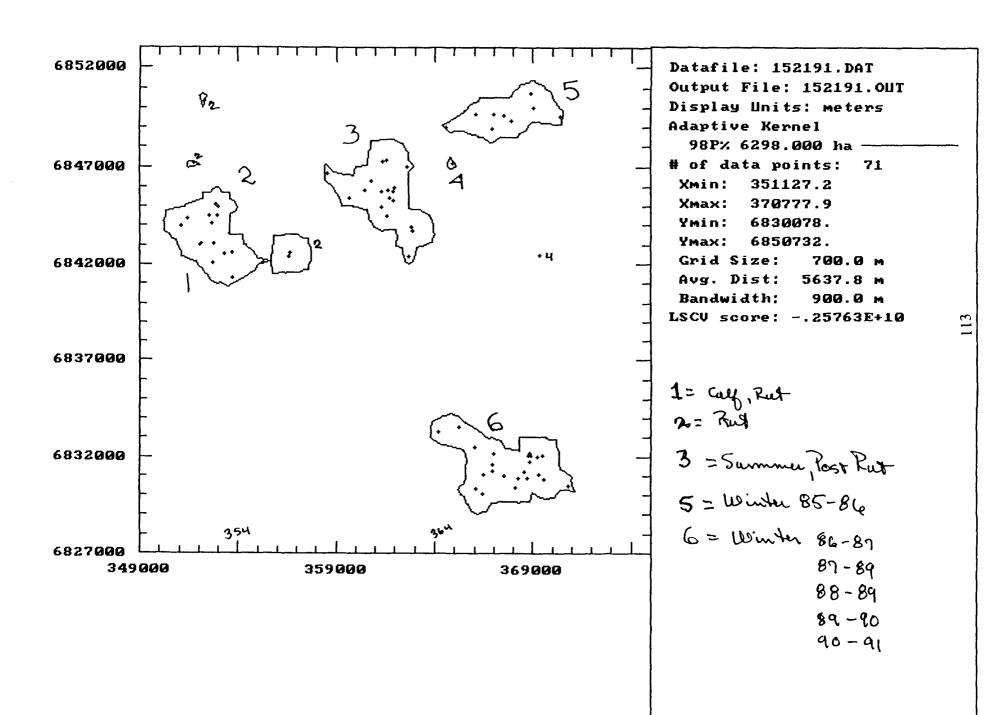




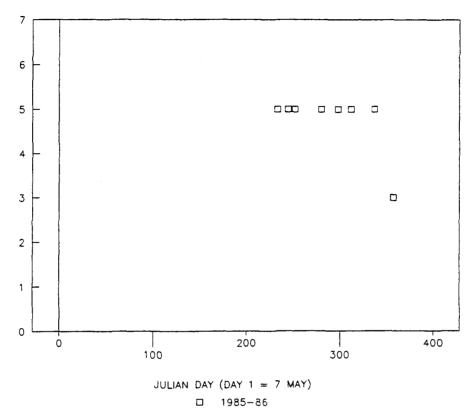




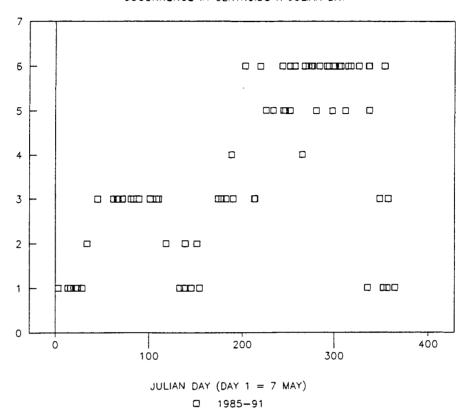


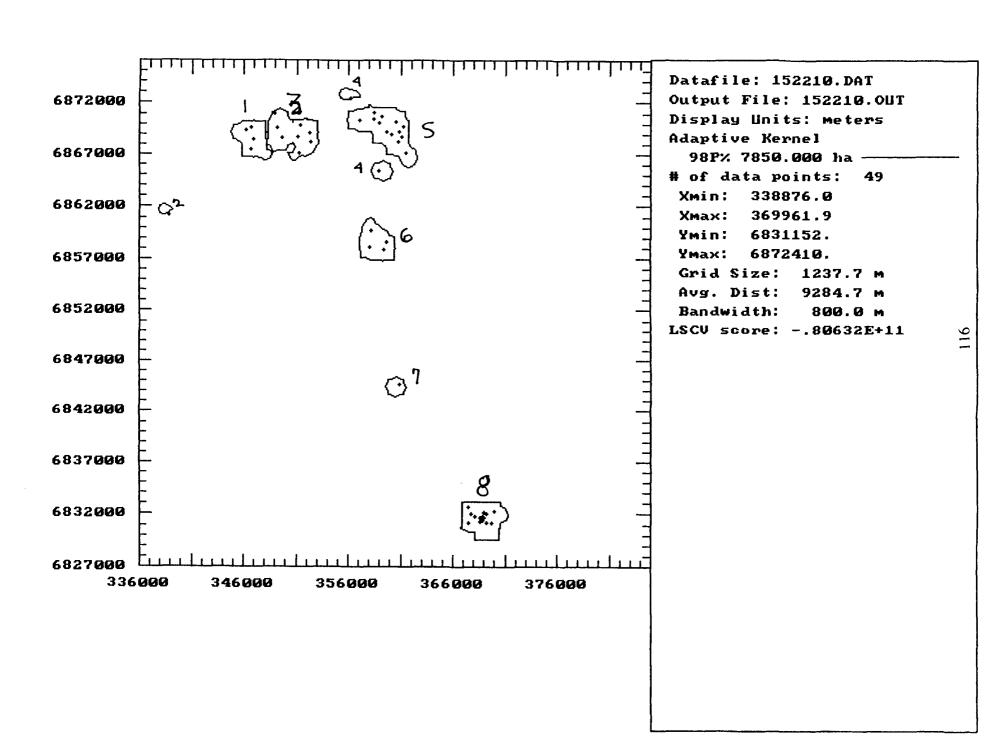


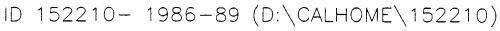




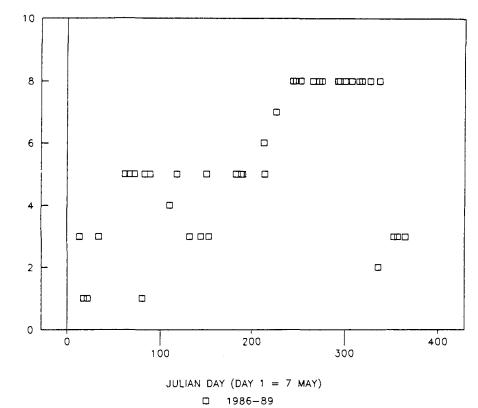




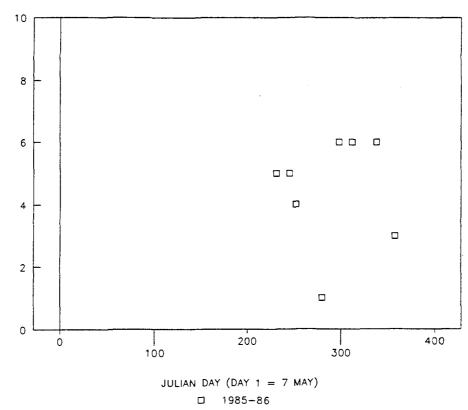


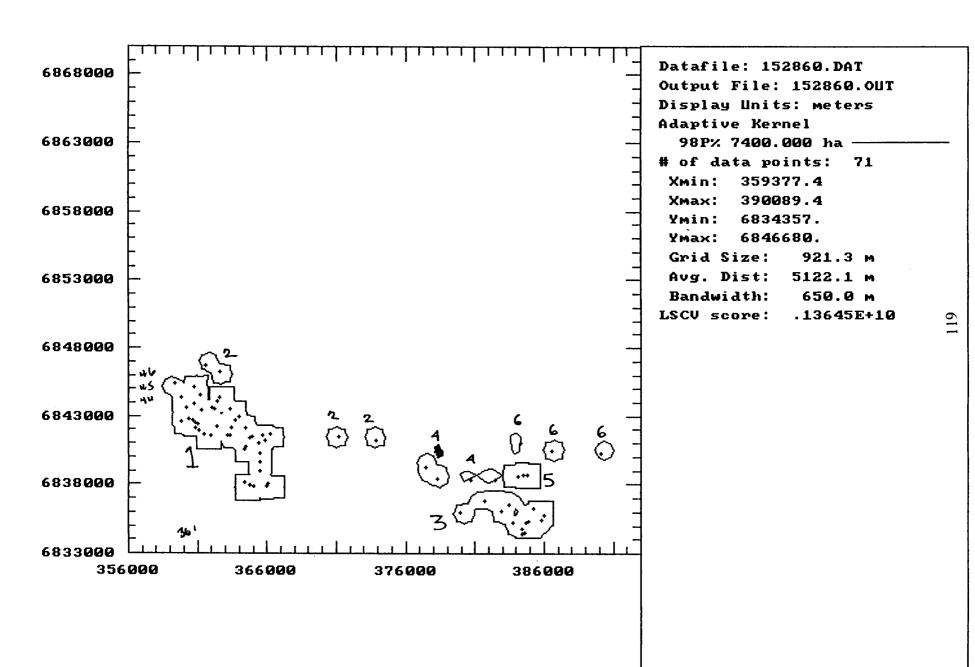


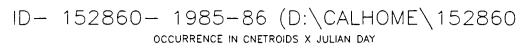
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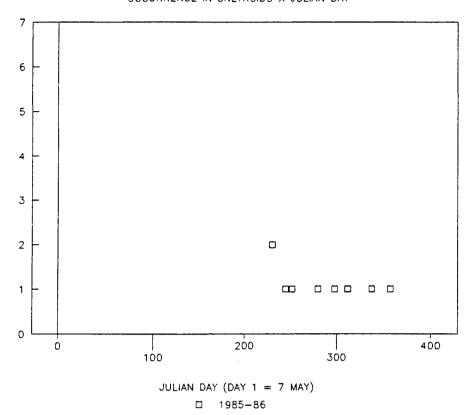




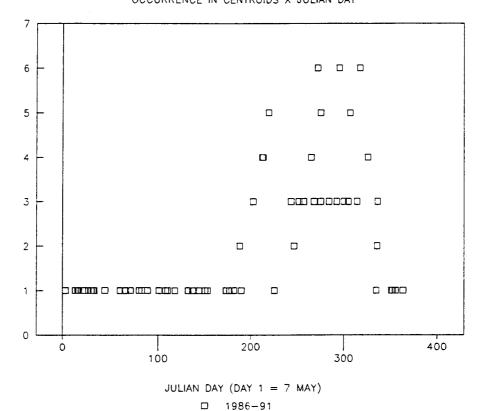


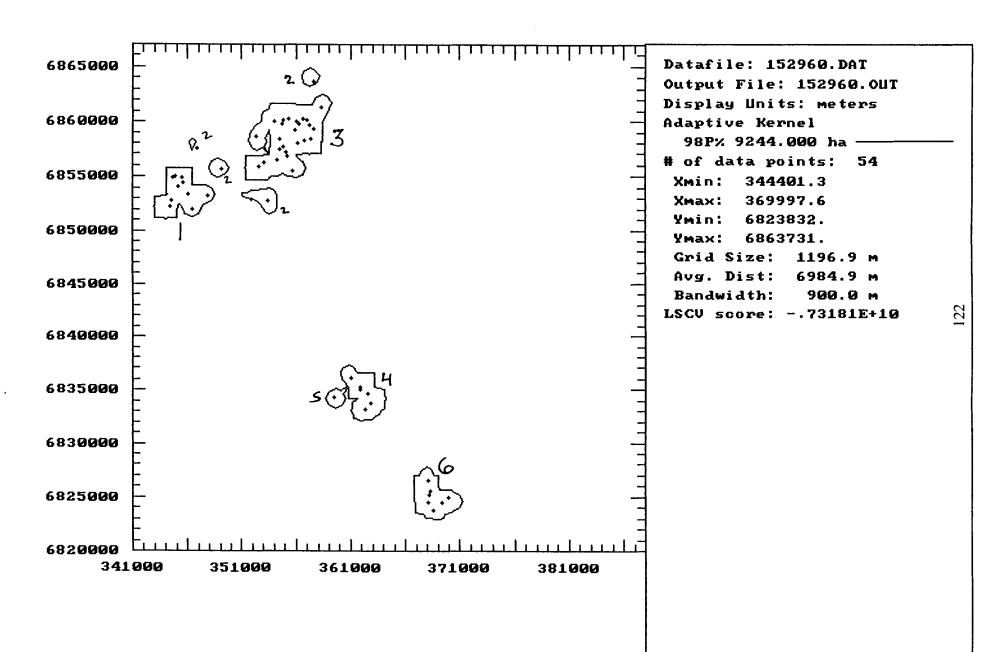




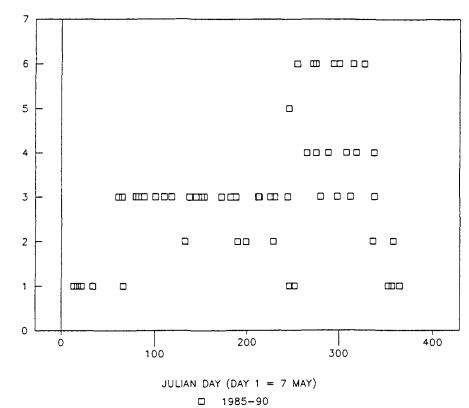




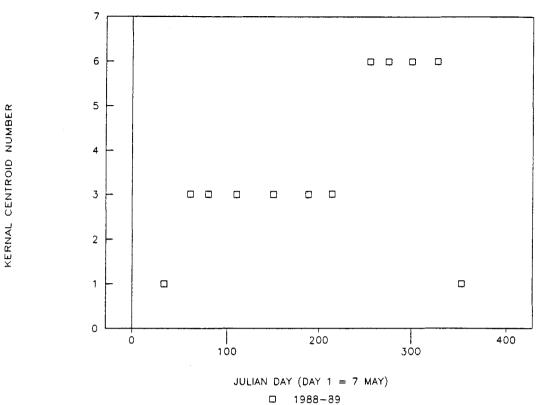




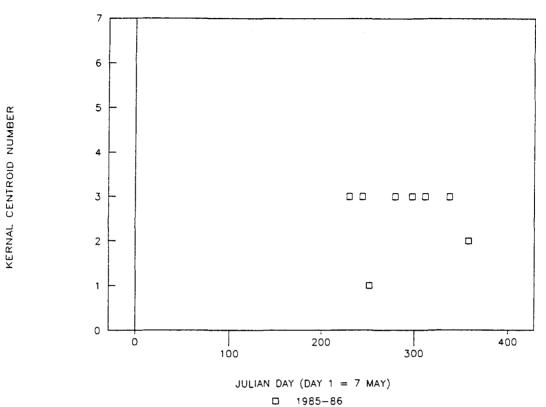


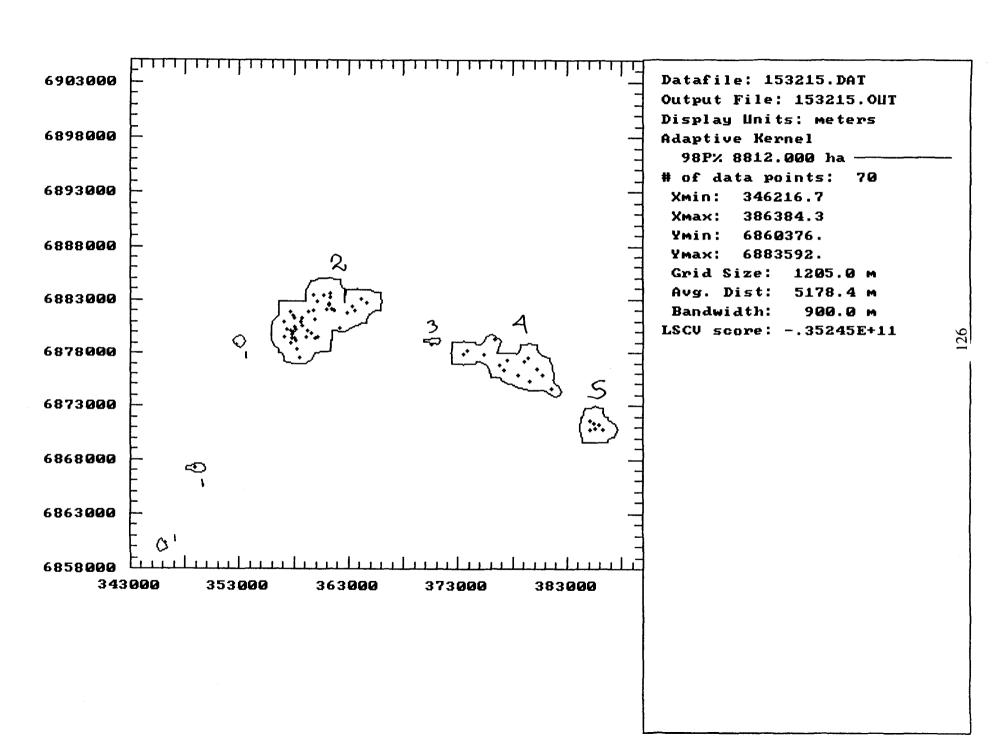




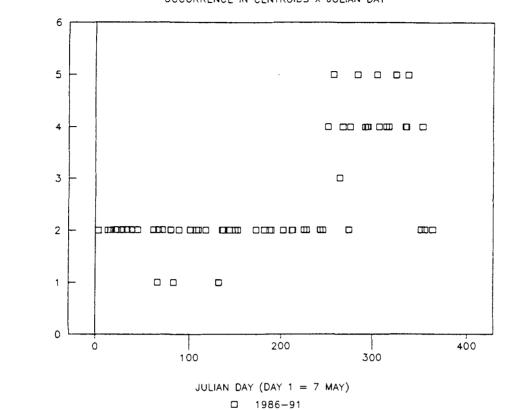


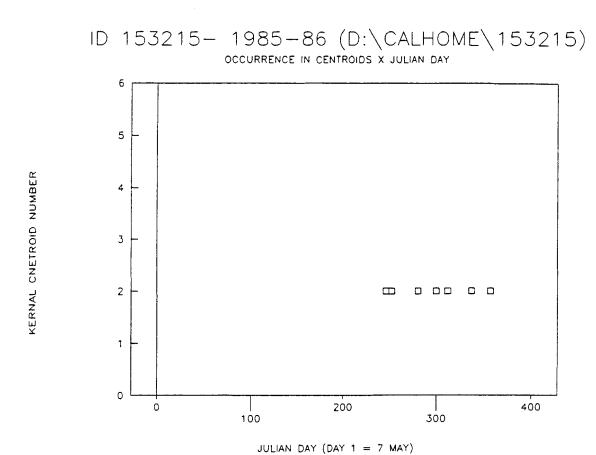




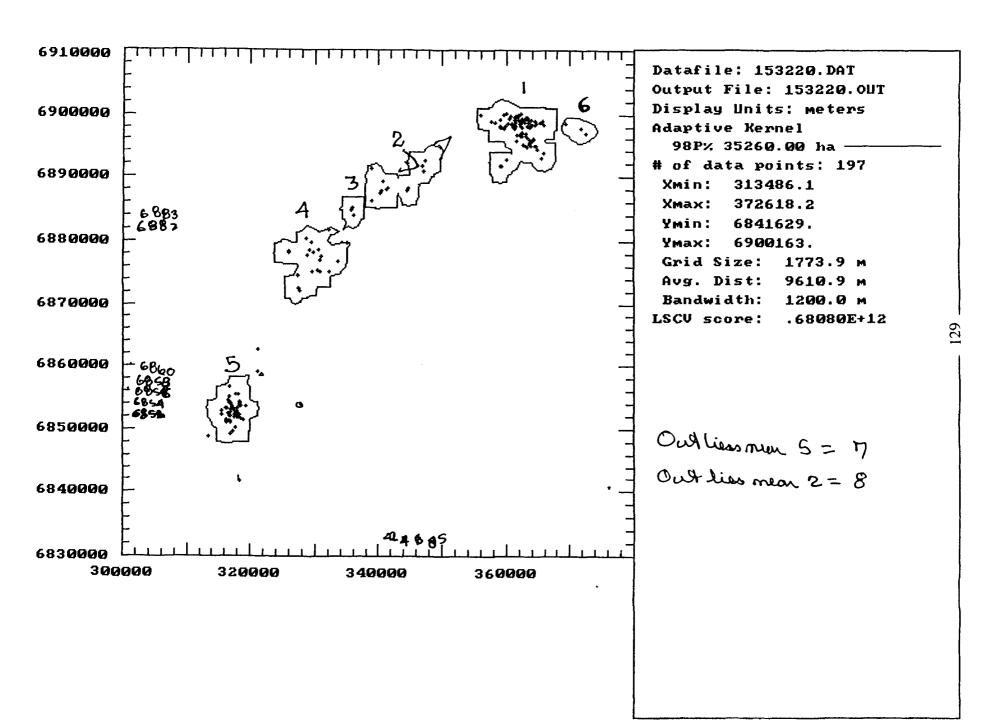


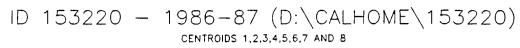


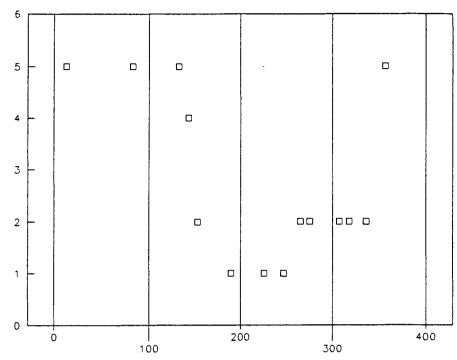




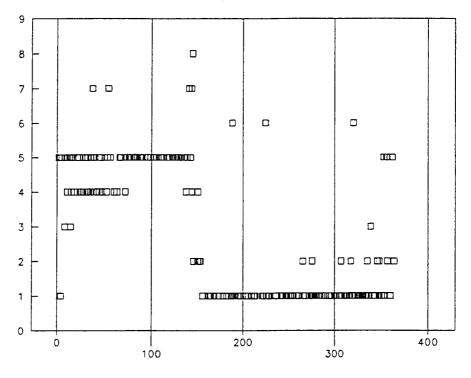
□ 1985-86





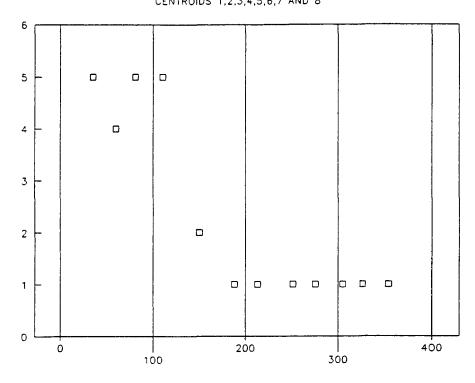


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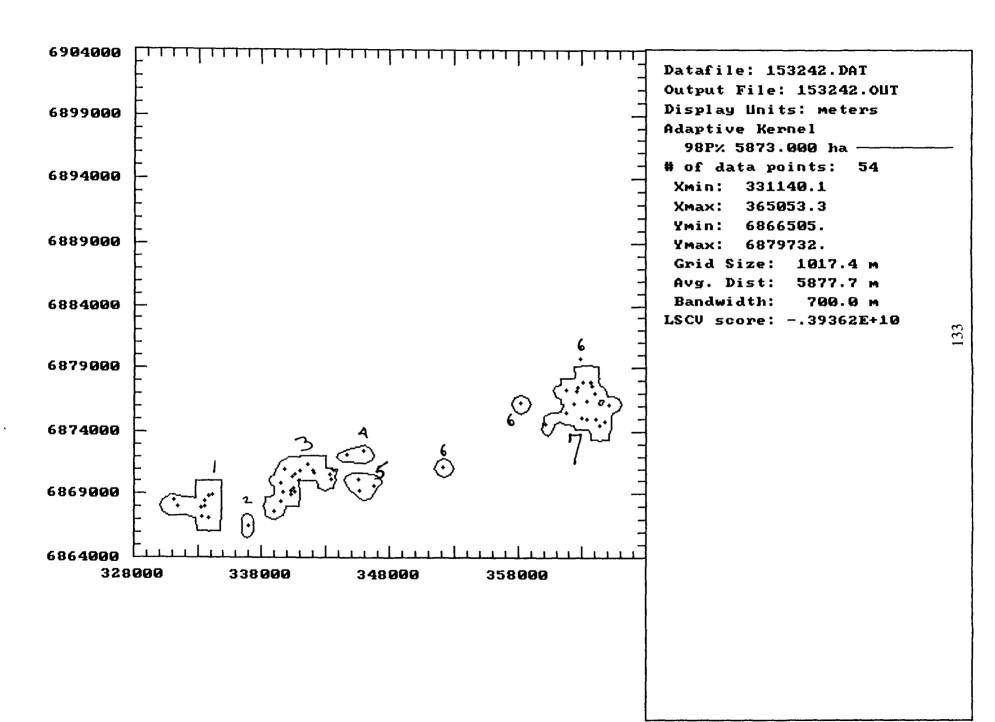


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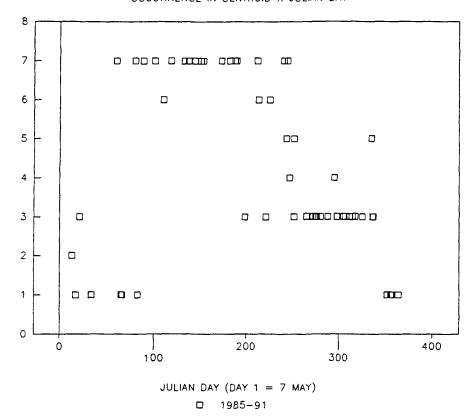
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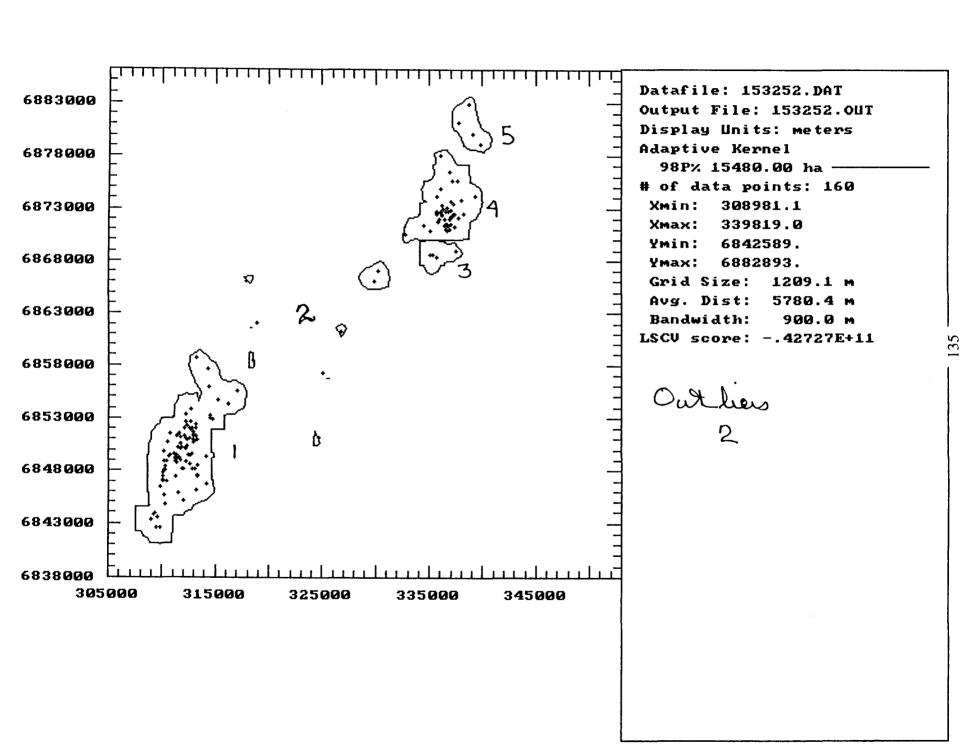


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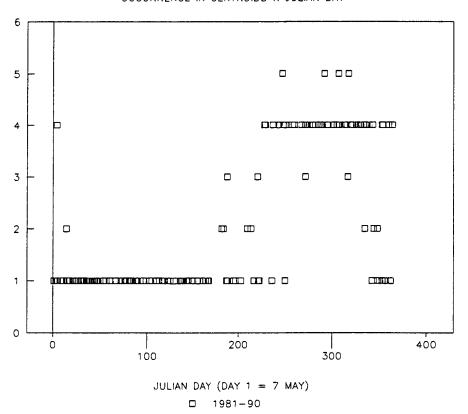


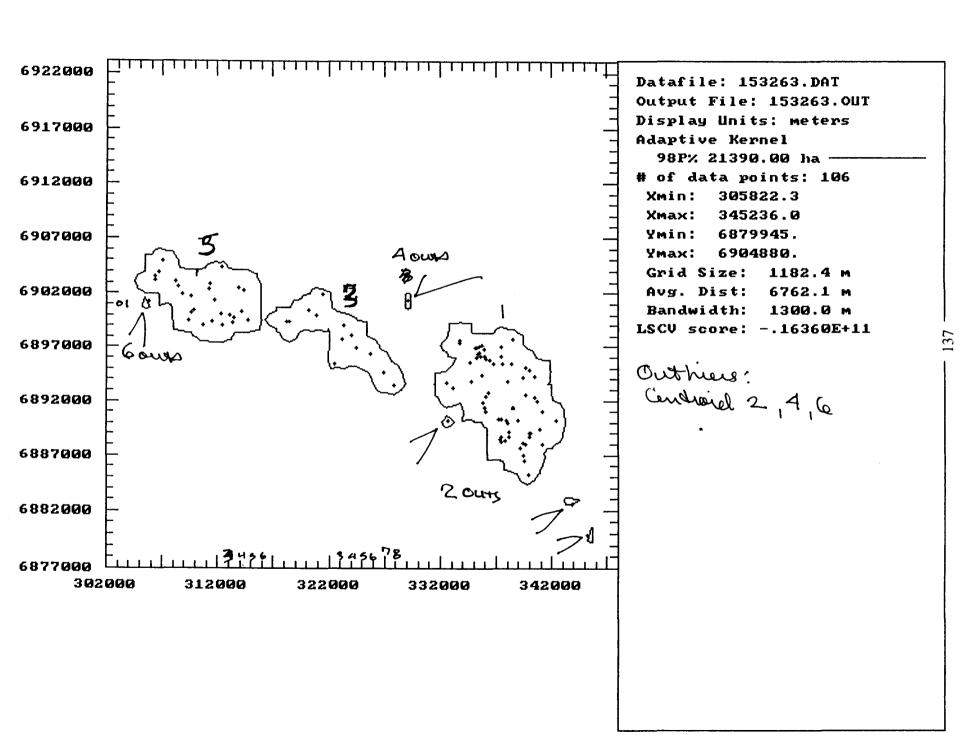




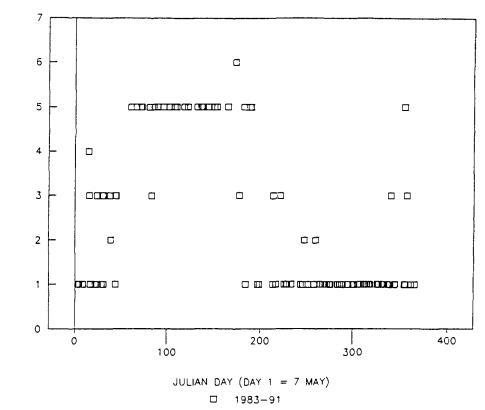


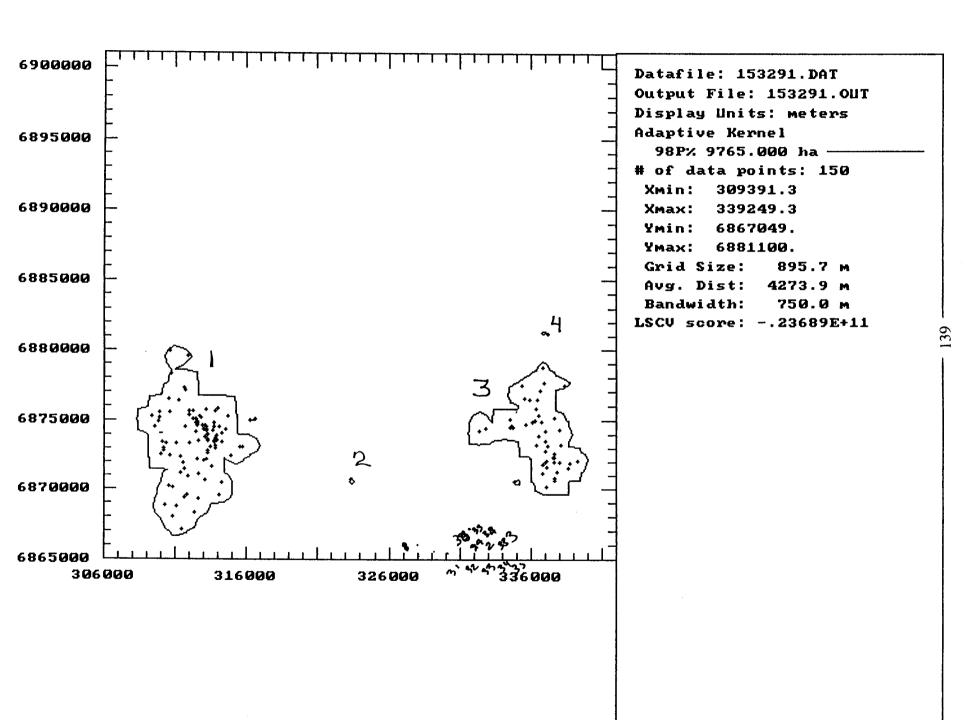








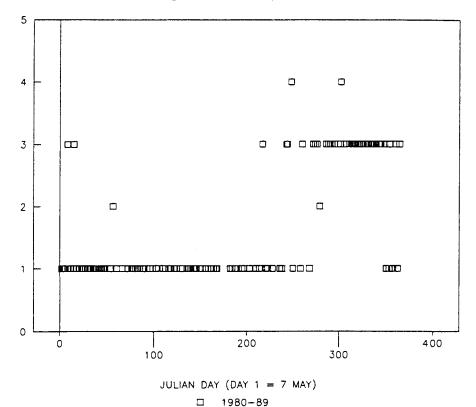




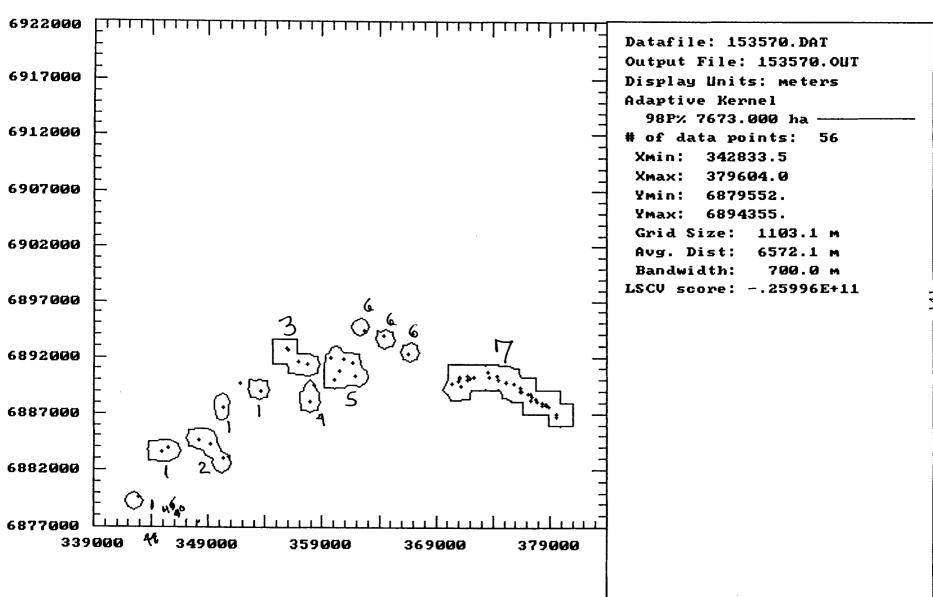


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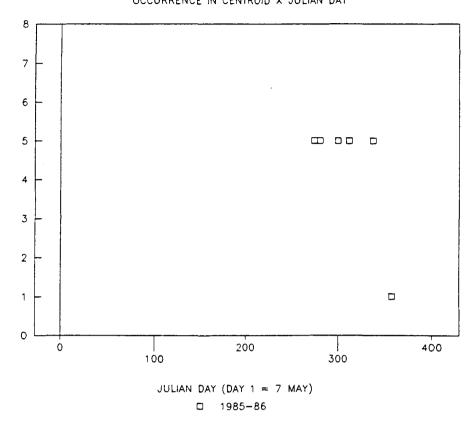




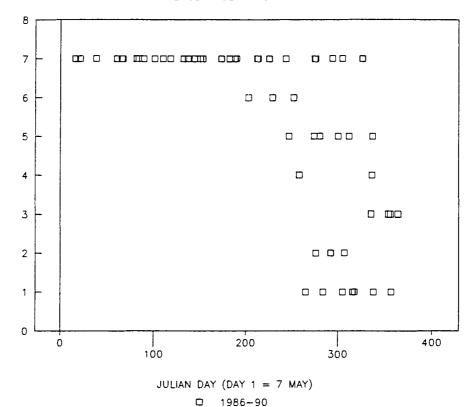


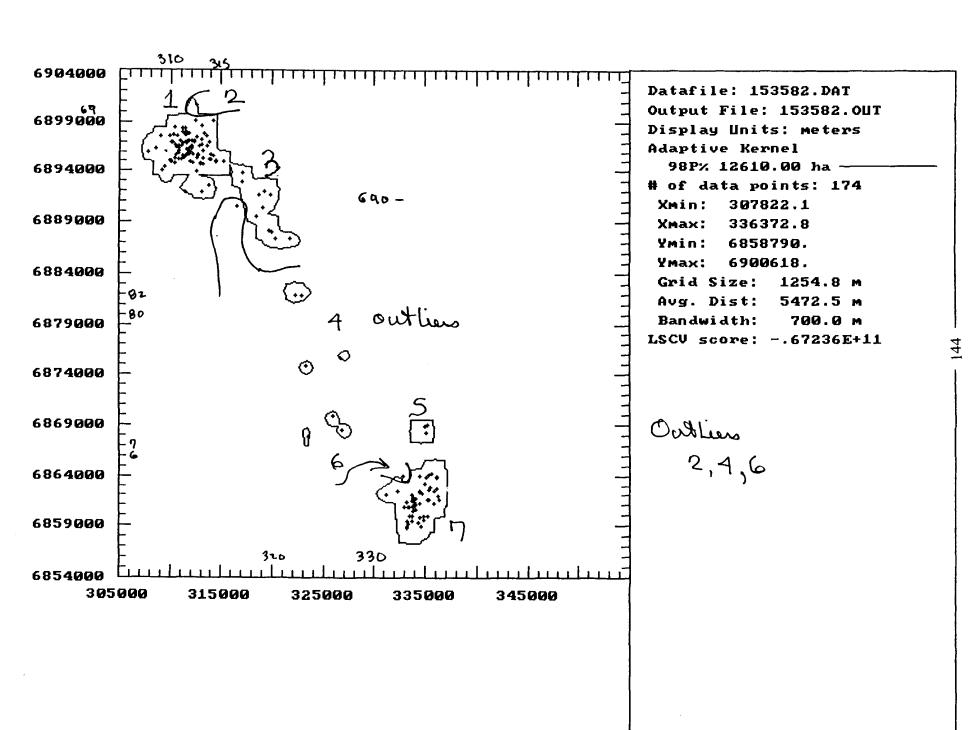
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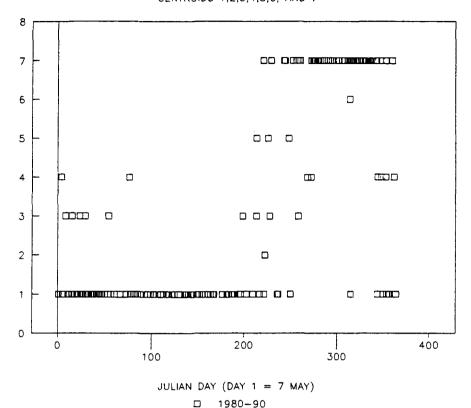


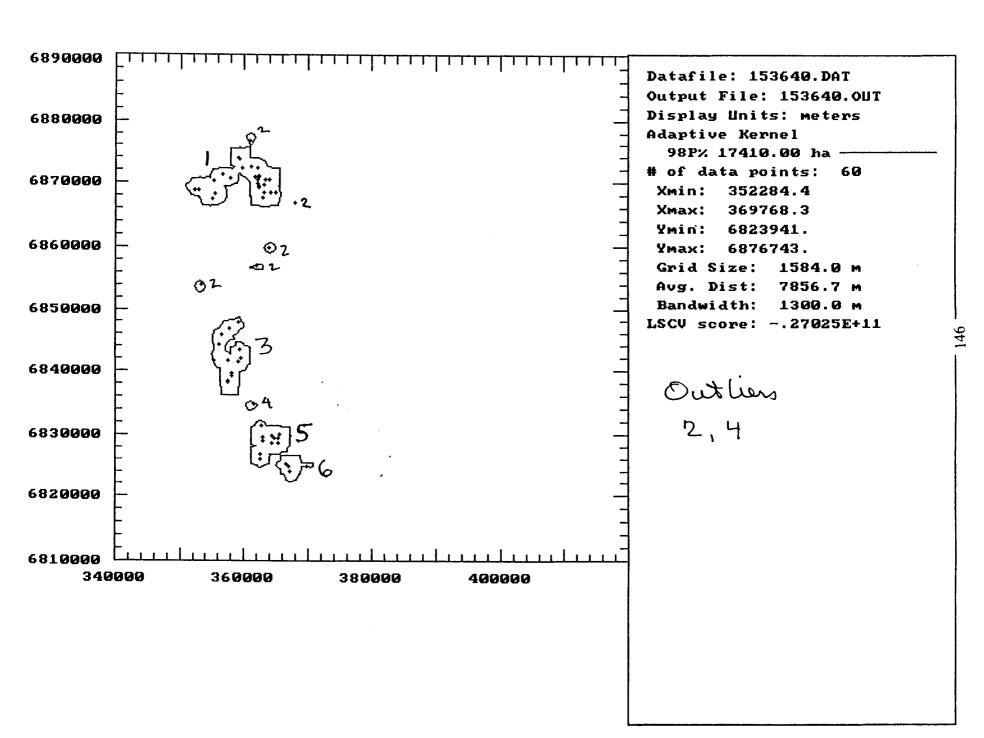




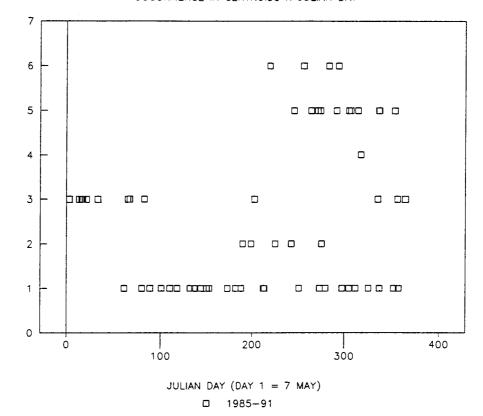


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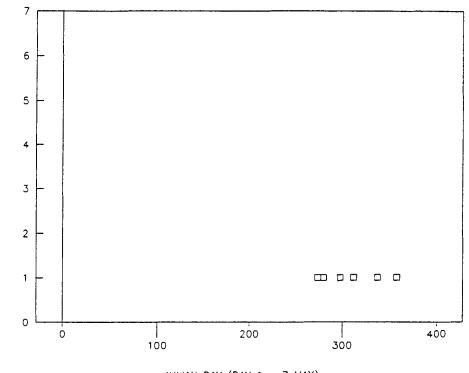


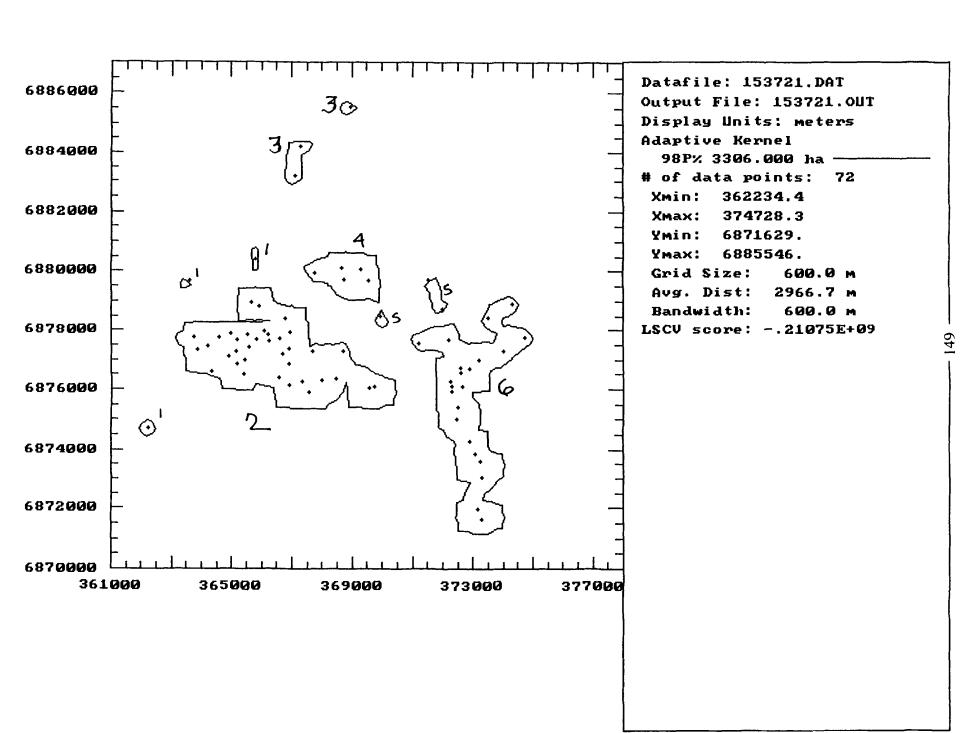




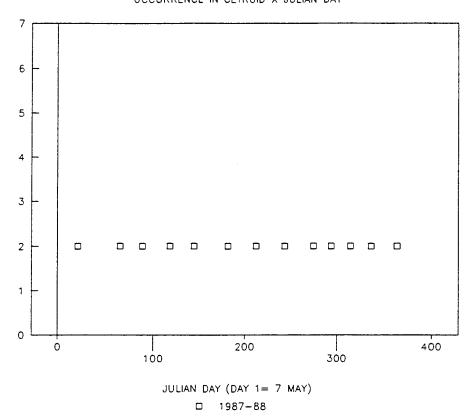




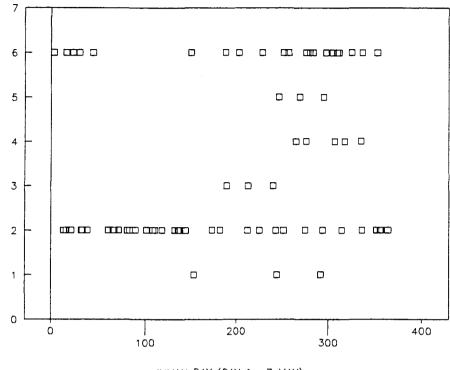


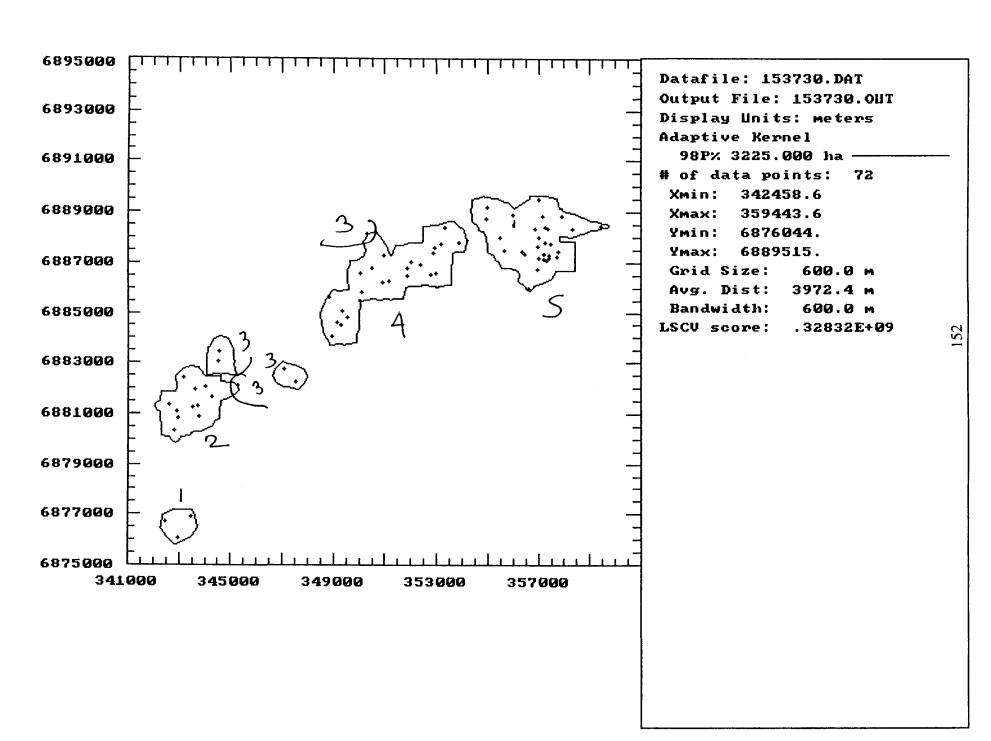






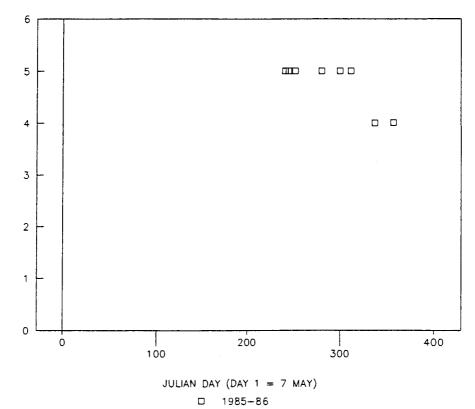






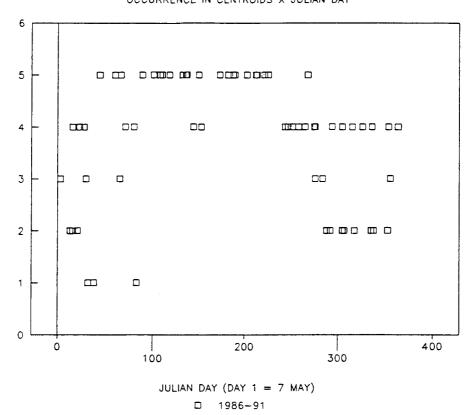


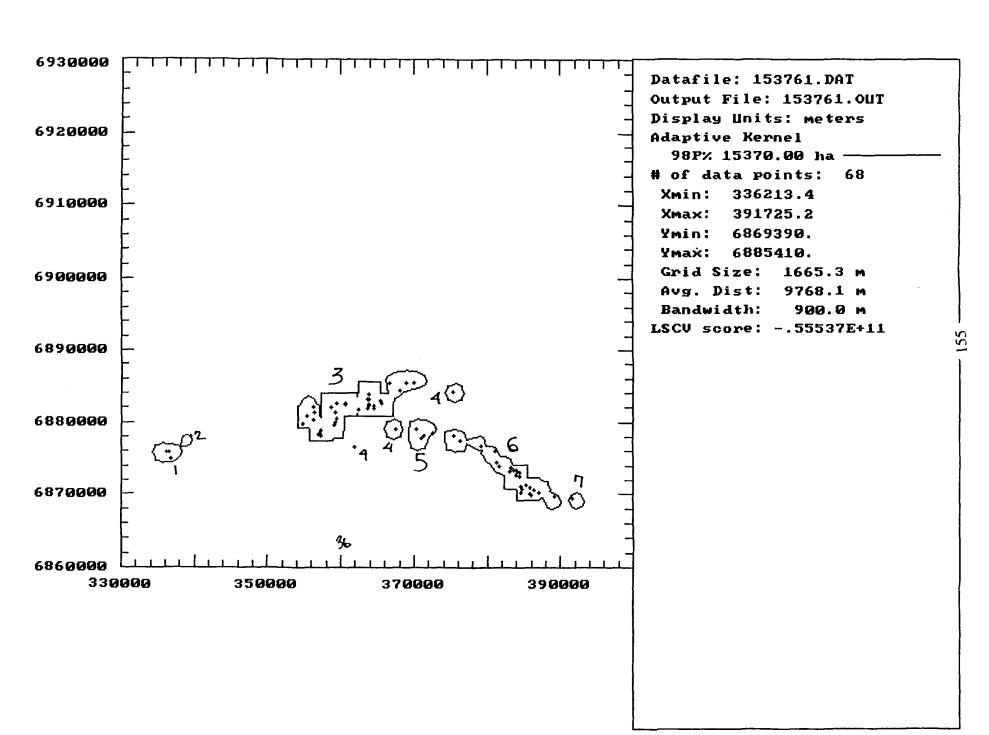
OCCURRENCE IN CENTROIDS X JULIAN DAY



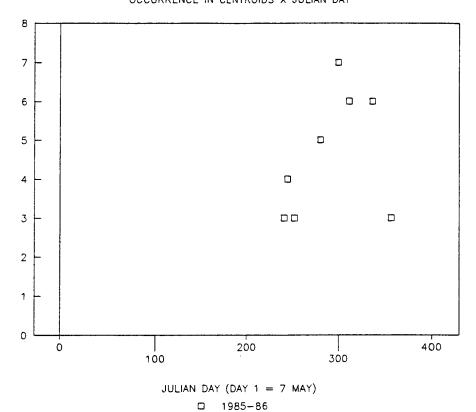
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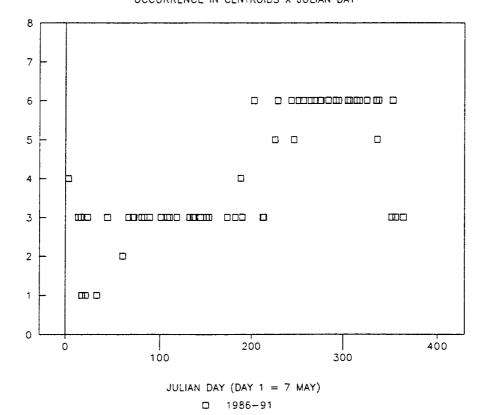












# IN UTERO PREGNANCY RATE, TWINNING RATE AND FETUS PRODUCTION FOR AGE-GROUPS OF COW MOOSE IN SOUTH-CENTRAL ALASKA

#### Ronald D. Modafferi

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ABSTRACT: The relationship of reproductive parameters (i.e., pregnancy rate, twinning rate and fetus production) to 5 age-groups (calf = C, yearling = Y, teen = T, prime = P and senior = S) of cow moose (Alces alces) were investigated. Age-class and in utero tetus counts from 895 cow moose killed in 14 area-specific antierless/cow-moose hunts (year/area (Y/A) samples) during November-February, 1964 to 1974, in south-central Alaska were analyzed. Measures of central tendency and dispersion were used to characterize the reproductive parameters in each age-group classification. There was evidence of agegroup effects on pregnancy rate (P = 0.0000). None of the C moose examined carried a fetus(es). Agegroups ordered by pregnancy rate were Y < T < S < P. The difference in pregnancy rate between P and S age-groups was not statistically significant (P = 0.1019). Y/A effects on pregnancy status were insignificant (P = 0.8414). There was evidence of age-group effects (P = 0.0001) and Y/A 0.0001) on occurrence of twinning. None of the Y age-group moose examined carried twin fetuses. Age-groups ordered by twinning rate were T < S < P. The difference in twinning rate between T and P age-groups was statistically significant (P = 0.05). Age-groups ordered by fetus production (fetuses/ 100 cows) were Y < T < S < P. Based on the reproductive parameters studied, cow moose attain their maximum productivity after 3-years-of-age. Findings emphasize the importance of considering cow moose reproductive maturity in measuring productivity, interpreting information on productivity, modeling moose population dynamics and implementing selective harvests of cow moose.

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Simulation models are becoming important tools in everyday management of moose (Page 1987). Population models highlight parameters that are basic and important in understanding moose population dynamics (Karns 1987). Productivity parameters are important, basic components in models of moose population dynamics and in management of moose populations (Simkin 1974, Verme 1974, Moen and Ausenda 1987). Quantitative information on some moose productivity parameters is scarce (Karns 1987, Crichton 1988). Refinements in knowledge about parameters of moose productivity will improve the quality of moose population models and lead to better moose management decisions. In this study, I was not particularly concerned with Y/A effects on cow moose productivity. Rather, the purpose of my study was to: (1) consolidate and analyze archived information on productivity parameters for

cow moose in south-central Alaska, (2) explore relationships between productivity parameters and age-class based age-groups and (3) provide moose managers, who are most familiar with net productivity in fall in the form of ratios of calves to adult cows, with baseline information on moose gross productivity.

#### STUDY AREA

Moose hunts took place in south-central Alaska (Fig. 1). The area included Alaska Game Management Unit (GMU) 7 and Game Management Subunits (GMS) 14A, 14B, 14C, 15A, 15B and 15C. Management Units 7, 15A, 15B and 15C were located on the Kenai Peninsula (Kenai). GMSs 14A and 14B were located in the Matanuska and Susitna River valleys (Mat-Su). The Ft. Richardson hunt area (Ft. Rich) was located in GMS 14C near Anchorage. The Kenai, Mat-Su and Ft. Rich

Appendix H. Draft of manuscript entitled "Survival of radiocollared adult moose in Lower Susitna valley, Southcentral Alaska."

21 July 1994 Ronald D. Modafferi Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1800 Glenn Highway Suite 4 Palmer, AK 99645 907-745-6890

RH: Adult Moose Survival • <u>Modafferi</u>

SURVIVAL OF RADIO-COLLARED ADULT MOOSE IN LOWER SUSITNA VALLEY, SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

Ronald D. Modafferi, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 4, Palmer, AK 99645

Abstract: Estimates of natural survival for adult moose (Alces alces) are presented by sex, season, and year for 204 (66 males) radio-collared adult moose monitored with aircraft in lower Susitna Valley southcentral Alaska during 15 May 1980 through 25 February 1991. Deaths were attributed to capture problems, accidents, defense of life or property, hunter harvest, illegal harvest, train kill, winter kill and other. Hunter harvest and captured related deaths were censored from survival calculations; moose were also censored for loss of signal contact and shedding of collars. Survival varied by sex, season, and calendar year. Summer survival rates were high for both cows (0.98) and bulls (0.99). Survival in autumn was lower for bulls (0.89) than for cows (0.98). Survival in winter and annual survival were highly variable and affected largely by winter-kill deaths attributed to snow accumulations. Survival in winter differed widely among years for both bulls (P < 0.001) and cows (P < 0.001). Annual survival differed among years for both bulls (P < 0.001) and cows Sightability varied by sex and season and was (P < = 0.001).attributed to habitat structure, moose behavior, physiology, and

nutritive condition. Lower survival of cows (0.98) versus bulls (0.99) during summer was attributed to bear predation on parturient cows and cows with neonates. Lower survival of bulls (0.89) versus cows (0.98) in autumn was ascribed to bullet wounding, illegal harvest, and fatal encounters with bears. Low and highly variable levels of survival in bulls (0.33 to 1.00) and cows (0.70 to 1.00) in winter and large differences in survival of bulls (0.29 to 1.00) and cows (0.65 to 0.99) among years were attributed mainly to snow accumulations. Moose managers must be cognizant of snow conditions through winter to accurately predict size and composition of pre-hunt populations and annual survival. Moose management programs must be sufficiently responsive to modify autumn harvest quotas in accordance with survival data obtained during the previous winter after standard post-hunt population surveys are conducted.

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Key words: adult moose, Alces alces, mortality, southcentral

Alaska, survival

Survival characteristics may provide important insight into factors affecting population change. Ultimately, survival data can be used to model population dynamics thereby strengthening management decisions. As indicated by Van Ballenberghe (1983), the literature contains few estimates of adult moose survival rates. Karns (1987) indicates that estimates of survival rate for adult moose (Mercer and Manuel 1974; Peterson 1977; Hauge and Keith 1981, Mytton and Keith 1981, Gasaway et al. 1983) was less

common than for calf moose. Recent literature on survival of moose includes Boar (1988), Bangs et al. (1989) and Larsen et al. (1989). Accidents, disease, habitat, hunting, parasites, pests, poaching, and weather are factors that influence moose survival (Crichton 1987, Lankester 1987).

The purpose of this study was to provide information on the non-hunting aspects of survival of radio-collared adult moose.

I especially thank staff of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for helping with various aspects of this study. E. B. Becker provided statistical advice, performed statistical analyses, and clarified analytical concepts. D. C. McAllister, assisted in many aspects of the study. I acknowledge many ADF&G colleagues for assistance in moose capture and radio-tracking procedures. P. A. Arneson provided data on radio-collared moose captured and monitored during April through December 1980. J. B. Faro contributed information on moose captured and monitored in Alaska Game Management Subunit (Subunit) 16B during 1987-88. supervisors, K. B. Schneider, D. A. Anderson, and C. C. Schwartz provided guidance, assistance and administrative support throughout this study. C. C. Schwartz also reviewed the manuscript and renewed my enthusiasm for completing this paper. S. R. Peterson reviewed a draft of this manuscript and provided many helpful comments. I thank area staff J. C. Didrickson, C. A. Grauvogel, H. J. Griese, and M. W. Masteller for supporting this study. I thank light-aircraft pilots C. A. Allen, Charlie Allen Flight Service, M. Houte, L. Rogers, C. R. and V. L. Lofstedt, Kenai Air Alaska, W. A. Woods, Woods Air Service, and W. D.

Wiederkehr, Wiederkehr Air Inc. for skill, dedication, and enthusiasm on aerial radio-tracking surveys. This study was funded in part by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration.

### STUDY AREA

Capture, radio-collaring, and radio-tracking of moose took place in a 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> area in the lower Susitna Valley in southcentral Alaska (Fig. 1). The area included portions of Game Management Subunits (Subunits) 13E, 14A, 14B, 16A, and 16B. Climate and geography of the area was described by Viereck and Little (1972) and Modafferi (1991). Snow accumulation varied greatly by year.

In general, moose populations in the region increased during 1980-84 and 1985-87 and decreased in 1984-85 and 1987-91. Moose populations in the area were probably at or very near carrying capacity before winter 1984-85. Moose were hunted during subunit-specific open seasons. In most subunits, male moose were hunted every year during a September season. In some areas, limited numbers of permits were issued for the harvest of antlerless and/or cow moose during the September season and/or a December through February season. Accidental collisions of moose with trains and highway vehicles were noteworthy sources of mortality in the region, particularly, in deep-snow winters (Rausch 1958, Modafferi 1991). Moose predators in the area included wolves (Canis lupus) and brown (Ursus arctos) and black bears (U. americanus).

Information on predator densities in the area was largely circumstantial. Wolf density estimates ranged from about 1-2

wolves/1000 km² in Subunits 14A, 14B, and southern 16A to about 2-7 wolves/1000 km² in Subunits 13E, 16B, and northern 16A (Ballard 1992a, Masteller 1994). In general, wolf populations probably increased during 1980-91. Brown bear density estimates ranged from 7-25 bears/1000 km² in Subunits 14A and 14B to about 12-35 bears/1000 km² in Subunits 13E, 16A, and 16B (Miller 1987, Grauvogel 1990, Griese 1993a). Brown bear populations were likely increasing during the study. Black bear density estimates ranged from about 35-104 bears/1000 km² in Subunits 14A and 14B (Grauvogel 1990) to about 90-193 bears/1000 km² in Subunits 13E, 16A, and 16B (Miller 1987, Griese 1993b). Black bear hunting over bait and increasing brown bear populations probably caused a decrease in black bear populations during the study.

### **METHODS**

# Capture, Radio-collaring and Monitoring of Moose

Moose were captured for radio-collaring mainly from a helicopter by darting. Moose were also approached on foot or snowmachine for darting. Moose were immobilized with etorphine hydrochloride (M99, Lemmon Co., Sellersville, Pa.) with or without xylaxine hydrochloride (Rompun, Haver-Lockhart, Shawnee, Kans.) or carfentanil citrate (Wildnil, Wildl. Lab., Fort Collins, Colo.). M99 and Wildnil were antagonized with diprenorphine (M50-50, Lemmon Company, Sellersville, Pa.), naloxone hydrochloride (Dupont Pharmaceuticals, Garden City, N.J.) or naltrexone hydrochloride (Dupont Pharmaceuticals, Garden City, N.J.). Immobilized moose were ear tagged and fitted with a visual-numbered canvas collar (Franzmann et al. 1974) and radio-

transmitter with or without a mortality option (Telonics, Mesa, Ariz.). Moose were captured during December through January in alpine postrut concentration areas in Subunits 14A and 14B and during January-April in lowland winter concentration areas in Subunits 13E, 16A, and 16B. Moose were primarily captured in 4 areas: lower Susitna River floodplain between Portage Creek and Cook Inlet in 1980-85; western foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains between South Fork of Montana Creek and the Little Susitna River in 1985-89; Alexander Creek floodplain in 1987, and floodplains of the Yentna and the Skwentna Rivers between Lake Creek and Old Skwentna in 1988-89.

Age of captured moose was estimated mainly by incisor tooth wear. However, early in the study a first incisor tooth was removed from captured moose for cementum aging (Sergeant and Pimlott 1959). Captured moose were >18 months of age and few moose were <30 months. All were considered adults.

Radio-collared moose were visually located 1-5 times each month for visual observation using Cessna-152, -180, and -185 or a Piper Super Cub (PA-18) aircraft and standard aerial radio-tracking procedures. Not all radio-collared moose were located on each survey but it was common to obtain radio-fixes on >60 moose during a single 1-day survey. I searched intensively at each site to confirm precise locations and to confirm that the animal was alive. Moose were monitored from capture to death or date of censor. Death of moose at capture locations or within 4 days after collaring was attributed to capture stress and excluded from survival analyses.

### Survival

Radio-collared moose were judged dead by direct observation, by transmitter pulse rate if the transmitter contained the mortality/movement option, or radio-fix location if radio-fix locations on consecutive surveys were identical. When a moose was judged to be dead, an intensive aerial search was conducted to locate the radio-collar, parts of a moose carcass, and/or a disturbed site suggesting the animal was dead. Locations were revisited and aerially searched until sufficient evidence confirmed or refuted that the moose was dead. Lastly, locations were visited on foot to verify death.

Additionally, hunters, the ADF&G, the Alaska Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection, and the Alaska Railroad Corporation provided the date and cause of death of radio-collared moose that died from legal hunter-harvest, illegal harvest, defense of life or property, and collisions with vehicles or trains.

In many instances, the exact cause of death was unknown, but circumstances and/or evidence at the site allowed me to categorize these into 1 of 4 groups: (1) illegal harvest, (2) accident, (3) winter kill, or (4) other. Illegal harvest was assigned mainly to moose radio-tracked to a residential housing development during the hunting season. The accident group included deaths resulting from injuries and drowning. Intact moose carcasses on the snow with no evidence suggesting predation or accident were considered winter killed. Winter kill included deaths from starvation and/or inclement weather. The remaining

group, other, included deaths caused by predation and wounding injuries. Several moose deaths assigned to the other group were bulls that died in late-September during or shortly after start of hunting season. The category other also included cows that died in the period mid-May through July. Death of cows in this calendar period likely resulted from complications with birthing (Markgren 1969:195-196) and/or confrontations with bears (Ballard 1992b:163).

Precise date of death was known for train kills, hunter harvest, illegal harvest, and kills in defense of life or property. For deaths in which the date was unknown, the midpoint date between the last two surveys was used. This interval was ≤15 days in 30% of the deaths, ≤35 days in 65% of the deaths, but ≥45 days in 6 deaths.

## Censoring

Moose were censored from the database if: (1) the transmitter was lost or failed, (2) an animal emigrated from the study area, or (3) when the study was terminated. Lost or failed transmitters were censored on the midpoint between the dates of the last 2 radio-fixes. Hunter harvested moose were censored on the reported date of kill.

Censoring of hunter harvested moose could impact estimates of survival if moose mortality in the winter following hunting season was compensatory with hunter harvest of moose. I used regression analysis to examine for evidence of a compensatory relationship between hunter harvest in autumn and mortality the

following winter. Hunter bull harvest was regressed on bull deaths assigned to all sources, winter kill, and other.

Analyses encompassed calendar years 1980-90.

### Survival Rate Estimation

Survival estimates were computed separately for males and females with staggered entry Kaplan-Meier procedure (Kaplan and Meier 1958, Pollock et al. 1989). I tested for differences among years and lumped data with similar survival functions. modified SAS (SAS Inst. Inc. 1985) statistical procedure which accommodated left (Hasbrouck et al. 1992) as well as right censored data was used to compute a K-sample test for equality. I accepted the null hypothesis that all annual Kaplan-Meier survival curves (Lee 1980) were equal and rejected it if at least 1 curve was monotonically larger or smaller than the rest. Following a rejection of the null hypothesis, the annual survival curve responsible for the largest contribution to the  $\underline{x}^2$ statistic was identified by year and compared for statistical similarity versus the survival curve representing the rest of the The process was repeated until a non-significant  $\underline{x}^2$ statistic was obtained. Identical rational and hypothesis testing procedures were used to examine survival by season for differences in survival curves among years.

I calculated annual survival rates based on a calendar year starting on 16 May. Seasonal survival rates were calculated for summer (16 May through 31 August), autumn (1 Sep through 31 December), and winter (1 January through 15 May) during 1980-91. Because winter-related mortality of moose can span into early May

in a long and/or late winter, the 16 May through 15 May calendar year aligned winter mortality with the appropriate winter and year.

#### Snow Conditions

Snowpack depth measurements were used to appraise snow These measurements were obtained from Alaska Climatological Data Reports, U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, National Climate Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina for October throught April during 1980-91. Snow conditions were characterized using maximum snowpack depth and the duration of deep snowpack from October through April. Duration of deep snow was the number of months that snow depth was  $\geq 110$  cm, the approximate chest of adult Alaskan moose. Measurements at Wasilla, Willow, Talkeetna, and Skwentna weather stations were used to reflect general snow conditions in the study area. few instances, snow measurement data were unavailable for a particular month at a weather station. In these cases, data from the next nearest weather station were used to proportionalize maximum snow depth for the month in question.

#### RESULTS

# Capture, Radio-collaring, Monitoring, Moose Sightability, and Population Sampling

During 1980-91, 204 moose (138 F) were captured, radio-collared, and monitored in lower Susitna Valley in southcentral Alaska. Number of moose monitored and at risk varied by calendar year; these ranged from 6 to 25 in males and from 29 to 89 in

females (Fig. 2). Moose were radio-tracked 9,754 times during 363 aerial surveys. Annual monitoring effort varied in relation to the number of radio-collared moose at risk (Fig. 2). Surveys ranged from 16 in 1985-86 to 43 in 1989-90. Fifteen moose (10 F) died from problems with capture and were omitted from survival analyses. Eighty-six of 128 females were monitored over 3 years and 25 females were monitored over 6 years (Fig. 3A). Sixteen of 61 males were monitored over 3 years while no males were monitored longer than 6 years (Fig. 3B).

Sightability of moose varied by season and sex (Fig. 4).

Monitoring effort was high during parturition (May-June), hunting season (September), and winter (January-April). Sightability was high from October through March when deciduous vegetation was leafless, snow cover was present, and moose were in shrub dominated open-canopy habitats. This situation coincided with aggregation of moose in postrut and winter concentration areas. However, sightability decreased from April through June when snow was patchy, leaf-out occurred, and moose dispersed from winter concentration areas. Moose sightability was particularly low in August when moose were in forest habitats. Sightability of cow moose was higher in late-May vs. early-May, June or July. While bulls easier to see in July vs. late-May, June or August. Bull moose were seen more frequently than cows in both August and September.

Moose monitored for survival varied widely (Hair 1980). Home range size of moose monitored >9 years ranged from 70  $\rm km^2$  to 1200  $\rm km^2$ . I monitored both migratory and non-migratory

individuals (LeResche 1974, Sweanor and Sandegren 1988) that moved <10 km and >35 km, respectively, between winter and summer ranges. Annual home ranges at low (46-91 m) or high (914-2560 m) elevation or annual ranges included seasonal ranges at both low and high elevations (91-1920 m). Monitored moose lived year-round in remote areas or in areas in close proximity to roadways, railways and humans, or year-round ranges overlapped both types of landscape. Home ranges could be adjacent to marine tidal flats or up to 100 km inland. Winter ranges of individuals were at both low (<100 m) and high (>1800 m) elevations. Postrutting areas were in alpine shrub and lowland mixed forest habitat. Winter areas were on lowland floodplains and in high elevation watersheds.

# Censorship, Mortality, and Causes of Mortality

Twenty-three (15 F) of 189 collared moose (128 F) were censored before the end of the study because they had either shed their collar or I lost contact. Fifty-three moose (47 F) were alive at the end of the study. Twenty-nine (5F) of 113 moose (66 F) monitored until death, were killed by hunters. Consequently, survival was based on 84 (61 F) deaths.

In total, 10 collared moose (5 F, 5 M) were censored for shed collars of which 8 were censored <3 months after capture. I expected some bulls to shed collars. Collars were fitted loosely on bulls to accommodate rut related increases in neck size.

Additionally, moose slipped collars in spring and early summer when neck hair was shedding and animals lowered their heads to feed on field layer vegetation. Of 7 moose deaths (5 F, 2 M)

assigned to illegal harvest, radio fix sites of 3 were in residential housing developments. Another illegal harvest involved a radio-collared cow observed in winter with a calf near an occupied remote cabin. On the subsequent survey, the radio-fix was at the cabin and a lone calf was nearby. That radio-signal was not heard on subsequent surveys. Another illegal kill, a male moose, was radio-tracked and observed near a well travelled highway. On the next survey the radio-fix was in the Talkeetna landfill.

Ten moose deaths (9 F, 1 M) were ascribed to accidents. The accident classification included moose that had fallen or slipped, drowned and/or died from exposure. Accidents included 1 in an ice jam during spring break-up, 1 in a log jam during spring high water, 2 in flowing water at the base of 70-100 m high steep rocky cliffs, 2 with only a head and neck protruding through iced-covered streams, 2 in open water leads of ice-cover rivers, and 1 with spayed hind legs on glare-ice of a frozen river. The 1 defense of life or property death was a bull shot by a rural homeowner because it aggressively precluded access to an out-building.

I did not detect a relationship between hunter harvest of bull moose in autumn and moose deaths in the following winter assigned to all other sources ( $\underline{b}_1$  = 0.087,  $R^2$  = 0.006), winter kill ( $\underline{b}_1$  = 0.059  $R^2$  = 0.003), or other ( $\underline{b}_1$  = 0.024,  $R^2$  = 0.001).

# Snowpack Depth

Maximum snowpack ranged from 10 to 276 cm among 4 snow stations and 6 months during October through April, 1980-90 (Fig.

Snowpack depth was greatest at Skwentna in 9 of 10 years and lowest at Wasilla in all years. Among years and snow stations calendar year maximum snowpack ranged from 46 to 276 cm. In 1985-86, maximum snowpack was not >46 cm and in 1980-83, it was not >89 cm. During 1980-91, snowpack at Wasilla was not >69 In 1984-85 and 1989-90, maximum snowpack was >110 cm at 3 or 4 snow stations but in 1989-90, snowpack depth was >225 cm at those 3 stations (Fig 5B). In 1989-90, maximum snowpack was >110 cm in 4 or 5 months at 3 snow stations. Winter in both 1984-85 and 1989-90 was considered severe with deep persistent snow for most of the winter. October and November maximum snowpack at Talkeetna and Skwentna were more than 50% greater in 1989-90 than in 1984-85 (Fig. 6). Talkeetna and Skwentna maximum snowpacks were greater in January 1990 than in October-April in 1984-85. Talkeenta and Skwentna maximum snowpacks during January-April was greater month by month in 1989-90 than in 1984-85. accumulation of deep snow and long duration of deep snow in 1989-90, provide evidence that winter conditions for moose, were more severe in 1989-90 than in 1984-85.

### Annual and Seasonal Survival

Annual survival curves for cow moose differed among calendar years 1980-91 (  $\underline{X}^2=57.9642$ , 10 df,  $\underline{P}=0.0000$ ) with 1989-90 significantly lower (0.65) ( $\underline{X}^2=49.3981$ , 1 df,  $\underline{P}=0.0000$ ) than the other years (Fig. 7A and Table 3). Survival did not differ among the remaining 10 years 1980-89 and 1990-91 (0.92) ( $\underline{X}^2=14.198$ , 9 df,  $\underline{P}=0.115$ ), despite the relatively low overall survival in 1984-85 (0.815). Apparently, above average survival

through autumn moderated the effects of below average survival in winter on the cumulative survival distribution in 1984-85.

Cow survival was not different among years within summer  $(\underline{x}^2)$ = 8.335, 9 df,  $\underline{P}$  = 0.501) and autumn ( $\underline{X}^2$  = 7.192, 9 df,  $\underline{P}$  = 0.617)) seasons, so yearly data were combined within summer and autumn seasons to generate a single survival curve for summer (0.98) and fall (0.98) and the calendar period, summer through autumn. Winter survival of cows was significantly different among years 1980-90, with 1989-90 lower  $(0.70) X^2 = 67.482$ , 10 df, P = 0.0000) than the rest. After removing 1989-90 winter data from the analysis, a difference was detected in winter survival curves among the remaining 9 years (1980-89 and 1990-91)  $(\underline{X}^2 = 22.159, 8 \text{ df}, \underline{P} = 0.005)$ ; survival in 1984-85 was lower (0.82) ( $X^2 = 5.258$ , 1 df, P = 0.022). After removing both 1984-85 and 1989-90 data no difference among the remaining 8 years was detected ( $\underline{X}^2$  = 2.509, 7 df, P = 0.926) so data were pooled over years to generate a single survival estimate (0.97) for a winter with normal accumulations of snow. Cow survival estimates from 1984-85 and 1989-90 were not different ( $X^2 = 2.509$ , 7 df, P = 0.926), thus data from these years were pooled to generate a single survival estimate (0.74) for cows during a deep-snow winter.

Annual survival curves of bulls differed among calendar years 1980-91 ( $\underline{X}^2$  = 26.34, 10 df,  $\underline{P}$  = 0.003) with 1989-90 significantly lower (0.29) ( $\underline{X}^2$  = 17.379, 1 df,  $\underline{P}$  < 0.001) than the other years (Fig. 7B and Table 3). Survival of bulls did not differ among the remaining years, 1980-89 and 1990-91 (0.84) ( $\underline{X}^2$ 

= 14.543, 9 df,  $\underline{P}$  = 0.104). Bull survival was lower in 1984-85 (0.69) than the average (0.83) but small sample sizes decreased power of the test.

Bull survival was not different among years within the summer (0.99) ( $\underline{X}^2 = 5.985$ , 10 df,  $\underline{P} = 0.817$ ) and autumn (0.90)  $(\underline{X}^2 = 8.117, 10 \text{ df}, \underline{P} = 0.617)$  season, so yearly data were combined within summer and autumn seasons to generate a single survival curve for summer (0.99) and autumn (0.90) and the calendar period, summer through autumn. Survival of bulls was lower (95% CIs) in autumn than in summer. Winter survival of bulls was significantly different ( $X^2 = 31.717$ , 9 df, P < 0.001) among years (1980-90) with 1989-90 lower (0.33) ( $\underline{X}^2$  = 23.94, 1 df, P < 0.001) than the rest. After removing the 1989-90 winter data from the analysis, I failed to detect a difference among the remaining 8 years ( $\underline{X}^2 = 13.411$ , 8 df,  $\underline{P} = 0.098$ ) so data were pooled over the years 1980-90 to generate a single survival estimate for bulls (0.94) in a winter with normal accumulations of snow. Data from winter 1989-90 provided a survival estimate (0.33) for bulls in a deep-snow winter.

# Timing and Cause of Mortality

During 16 May 1980 through 25 February 1991, 112 radiocollared moose (66 F) died (Tables 1 and 2). Twenty-nine (5 F)
of the 112 deaths were hunter kills and were excluded from this
analysis. Frequency of cow moose deaths peaked in winter in
March (26%) (Fig. 8A); number of deaths was higher in winter
(65%) than in spring (16%) and/or autumn (18%) (Fig. 9A). No cow
deaths occurred in November. Frequency of bull moose deaths was

low in May through August (4%), whereas 28% of the cow moose died during May through August. However, during September and October, frequency of deaths was clearly higher in bulls (39%) than in cows (12%) (Fig. 9A). The frequency of deaths for all moose was highest in winter (62%) with 38% in February through March and 26% in March. In years with deep-snow, 83% of the moose that died, did so in winter; 56% in February through March, and 44 in March (Fig. 8B). However, in normal snow years, 60% of the bulls died in autumn; 53% in September and October (Fig. 8C). In 1980-91, the frequency of moose deaths was highest in March with 23% of bulls and 26% of cows dying. In bulls, there was little difference between the frequency of death in autumn (46%) and winter (50%) (Fig. 9A), but in cows, there was a small difference between deaths in summer (16%) and autumn (18.3) and a large difference between those values and frequency of death in winter (66%) (Fig. 9A). In deep-snow years, 85% of the cow deaths and 75% of the bull deaths occurred in winter (Fig. 9B). In 1984-85 the year deep snow accumulated late in winter (January through March), frequency of deaths was higher in cows than in bulls, whereas in 1989-90 the year deep snow accmulated early in winter during October through January, frequency of deaths was higher in bulls than in cows and bulls died earlier (0% after April in the winter than cows (24% after April). In normal snow accumulation years, frequency of deaths in cows was highest in winter (43%) and lowest in autumn (25%), whereas in males, frequency of deaths was highest in autumn (60%) and lowest in summer (0%) (Fig. 9C).

Cause of death was known for 42 (15 F) of 113 (66 F) moose monitored until death (Tables 1 and 2): 10 (8 F) were ascribed to train, 28 (4 F) to hunter harvest, 1 (1F) to defense of life or property, and 2 (1 F) to illegal harvest. Cause of death for 71 (51 F) moose was not verified. Of these 71, 35 (26 F) were assigned to winter kill, 10 (9 F) to accidents, 5 (4 F) to illegal harvest, and 21 (12 F) to other. Hunter harvest was omitted from succeeding analyses. Frequency of deaths and cause of death varied in relation to snow accumulation and by sex of moose (Fig. 10). In 1980-91, frequency of winter kill in moose was 42%; 43% in females and 39% in males. In 1984-85 and 1989-90, the years with deep accumulaitons of snow in winter, frequency of winter kill was 66%; 63% in females and 75% in males. In 1980-84, 1985-89 and 1990-91, the years with normal accumulations of snow in winter, frequency of winter kill was 19%; 18% in females and 20% in males. In males, in years 1980-84, 1985-89, and 1990-91 combined and in 1980-91, the cause of death with highest frequency was other (47% and 39%, respectively). In 1980-91, percent of moose deaths attributed to accidents was >3 times greater in cows (15%) than in bulls (4%) whereas, in the same years, the number of deaths ascribed to other was >2 higher in males (39%) than in females (20%). Ιn 1980-84, 1985-89, and 1990-91, the years with normal accumulations of snow, frequency of moose deaths was similar among accidents (19%), illegal harvest (16%), and winter kill (19%).

#### DISCUSSION

One goal of this study was to provide moose managers with guideline data on survival to use in models of moose population dynamics. To refine survival data for this use, hunter harvest, a highly variable anthropogenic component of mortality was censored from derivation of survival estimates. However, censoring of the reported hunter harvest probably did not completely cleanse survivorship data of effects of hunters and hunting; death data likely remained confounded by death of moose from hunter inflicted bullet wounds (Lykke and Cowan 1968, Gasaway et al. 1983, Fryxell et al. 1988), unreported hunter harvest (Rausch et al. 1974:710), and illegal harvest (Crichton 1987, Bangs et al. 1989). I found no evidence of compensatory relationship between hunter harvest of bulls in autumn and all deaths, winter-kill deaths, or unknown cause deaths of bulls the following winter.

Annual survival of adult moose in lower Susitna Valley in southcentral Alaska was greatly influenced by highly variable snow conditions during winter. Survival rate for both bulls and cows was highest and varied the least during spring and summer. Survival rate for cows in autumn was not different from summer. Survival rate for bulls was lower in autumn than in spring and lower than that for cows in autumn. These findings re-emphasize the fundamental importance of snow conditions and winter-related mortality in the ecology and population dynamics of moose suggested previously for Alaska (Bishop and Rausch 1974, Coady 1974, Gasaway 1983:29, Ballard et al. 1991:34-35, Modafferi 1991) and elsewhere (Peterson and Allen 1974, Saether 1985, Mech et al.

1987, Anderson et al. 1991, Child et al. 1991). Snow conditions, which influence movements (Sweanor et al. 1992), distribution (Modafferi 1991) and mobility (Kelsall and Prescott 1971) predictably affect survival of moose. Moose survive poorly in early, long, deep-snow winters (Bishop and Rausch 1974, Peterson and Allen 1974, Ballard et al. 1991). Moose survival during the late May-early May calendar year, which included the deep-snow winter of 1989-90 (females 0.65, males 0.29) was lower than survival rates in many other moose studies (Albright and Keith 1981, Mytton and Keith 1981, Messier and Crete 1985, Boar 1988, Fryxell et al. 1988, Bangs et al. 1989). However, in lower Susitna Valley moose, survival was relatively high (cows 0.92 and bulls 0.84) in 7 of 9 years with snow accumulations that were relatively deep (81-157 cm) compared to snow accumulations that resulted in high mortality or limited distribution of moose in other populations (Nasimovich 1955, Kelsall and Telfer 1974, Peterson and Allen 1974, Wilhelmson and Sylven 1979). Clearly, the accumulation of snow that elicites a "severe" winter with respect to moose varies within a wide range of depths depending on location over the global distribution of moose.

My data showing differences in timing and magnitude of deaths of cows and bulls within and between the 2 deep-snow winters, 1984-85 and 1989-90, provide evidence of sex-based differences in winter survival of moose. Sex differences in survival in winter may be related to differences in seasonal dynamics of the nutritive condition and physiology of cow and bull moose. Nutritive condition of bull moose is at a low point

after the autumn rut in early winter (Regelin et al. 1985, Schwartz et al. 1987). Males must recoup their nutritive losses in early winter to survive through winter. Whereas, nutritional demands on cows are especially high during the final stages of pregnancy in late winter (Schwartz et al. 1984, Schwartz et al. 1987). Females must sustain growth and maintenance of reproductive tissues and a fetus(es) as well as maintain their nutritive condition to survive through winter and support lactation immediately following winter. Therefore, I believe that in 1984-85, the accumulation of deep snow in late winter was more harsh on cows than on bulls, but, in 1989-90, the accumulation of deep snow in early winter was more stressful on bulls than on cows. These findings suggest that the temporal patterns of snow accumulation are important factors effecting survival and the population dynamics of moose. Clearly, my data point-out that 1) moose are subject to major die-offs in winter after standard autumn post-hunt population surveys are conducted (Gasaway et al. 1986); 2) managers must be cognizant of snow conditions throughout winter to accurately assess the survival and population status of moose; and 3) management programs must have the flexibility to respond to late winter die-offs of moose when setting autumn harvest levels.

In other moose studies, high survival of adults was associated with low rates of predation (Ballard and Larsen 1987). However, predation was not identified as a prominent factor affecting survival of adult moose in lower Susitna Valley. Wolves were present in the study area, but there was no evidence

of wolf predation on collared moose. During 11 years, I observed evidence of wolf predation on moose only one time. instance, there was evidence that 2 moose were killed by wolves in the extreme northern part of the study area. Other predators, including black bears, brown bears, and coyotes were observed in encounters with cow moose with neonate(s). Nevertheless, I never observed bears or coyotes killing or consuming moose. However, my data show that from late-May through August survival of cows was lower than bulls and that survival of cows from late-May through June was lower than in July though August. These data suggest that cow moose were vulnerable to sex x time specific mortality associated with parturition and/or neonates. In other moose studies, mortality of adult cows during this calendar period was attributed to predation by brown bears (Boertje et al. 1988, Larsen et al. 1989). Bear predation was the most probable cause of cow moose deaths during this calendar period in my study.

The sex-biased mortality of bull moose in autumn, during hunting season and through the rut, was not unexpected. In other studies, death of moose, primarily males, during autumn was attributed to hunter inflicted bullet wounds (Gasaway et al. 1983, Fryxell et al. 1988), wounds from rut-related fights with other moose (Bubenik 1987:351-352, Gasaway 1992:28), and illegal harvest (Mytton and Keith 1981, Bangs et al. 1989, McDonald 1991). Although these are the most probable causes of bull moose mortality in autumn, wounds or predation from brown bears (Boertje et al. 1988, Larsen et al. 1989) that respond to

vocalizations of rutting bulls, were also potential sources of bull moose mortality.

Many investigators point out that accidents are a source of moose mortality (Bangs et al. 1989, Larsen et al. 1989, Cederlund and Sand 1991, Child et al. 1991, Lavsund and Sandegren 1991,). However, I am aware of only 1 study (Danilov 1987:519-520) that indicated accidents were a prominent source. In my study, in years with normal accumulations of snow and excluding moose deaths from collisions with trains or vehicles, 27% of the cow moose mortality could be attributed to accidents. During 1980-91, with train-kills omitted, 17% the cow moose deaths were from accidents. Accidents and train-kills combined accounted for 28% of the cow moose deaths. Collision with trains is a notable source of moose mortality in the lower Susitna Valley (Modafferi 1991), as in other jurisdictions (Child 1983, Andersen et al. 1991), because a railway crosses major summer-winter migration routes and winter ranges and in deep-snow years large numbers of migrating moose aggregate in winter areas along the railway corridor.

In many jurisdictions moose-vehicle collisions were an important source of mortality (Child et al. 1991, Lavsund and Sandegren 1991, McDonald 1991, Oosenburg et al. 1991). However, in my study, although a high-volume roadway was located roughly parallel to the railway, no collared moose were killed in collisions with vehicles. This incongruity between railway (N = 10) and roadway moose kill rates may be attributed to age of the moose I studied and to age-related learning processes. In

another moose study in Alaska, road-kill calf ratios were >3 times higher than the overall population calf ratios in the area (Del Frate and Spraker 1991). Moose I studied were adults; at the time of collaring no moose were <18 months. Perhaps, moose learn to avoid collisions with vehicles through non-lethal collisions with vehicles, whereas, few moose learn to avoid collisions with trains because most moose-train collisions are lethal.

Previous research indicates that moose select habitat based on many factors including availability of cover, overstory and/or forage (Peek et al. 1976, Pierce and Peek 1984). My radiotracked moose corroborate data from other studies that show overstory and cover characteristics of habitats utilized by moose differ by sex and time of year. Both sexes of moose were seen most frequently in winter when moose utilize shrub dominated open habitats in alpine or lowland landscapes. Cows were observed more frequently than bulls in early-May and June when parturient cows utilize wet, open black spruce bog climax communities (LeResche et al. 1974:157, Bailey and Bangs 1980). Cow moose were seen less frequently in June than in May. Decreased observability of cows during early-summer through August may be attributed to movement from the relatively open habitats used during parturition to denser forest habitats that cows with neonates utilize for concealment and isolation from other moose (Miguelle et al. 1992), predators (Stringham 1974, Stephens and Peterson 1984) and/or access to higher quality forage in shaded forests (Hjeljord 1992). Higher observability of bulls in July

than in late-May-September and higher observability of bulls than cows in July and August may be related to antler growth. Whereas, cows with neonates select relative dense habitats in late summer, bulls may avoid dense forests because their antlers are growing (Bubenik and Bubenik 1987, Verme 1988). Damage to growing antlers would be painful and malformed antlers would affect the status of a male. Higher observability of bulls in July than in August may be related to several factors including nutritional requirements and forage quality in sunny versus shaded growth sites (Hjeljord 1992). The higher observability of both cows and bulls in October and November than in summer correlates with movement of moose into open shrub dominated alpine habitat after the rut. This movement is likely influenced by forage quality (Thompson et al. 1981, Modafferi 1991). decrease in moose sightability during November through December correlates with the movement of moose from open shrub dominated postrut concentration areas through forest habitats to shrub dominated winter areas (Modafferi 1991).

## MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Accumulation of snow was a prominent and highly variable source of mortality affecting annual survival of moose in lower Susitna Valley in southcentral Alaska. My data indicate survival of 33% and 74% for bulls and cows, respectively, in winter (1 January though 15 May) after traditional autumn post-hunt population surveys are conducted. Clearly, annual management decisions and harvest policies should not be solidified before information on winter survival is available and analyzed.

Ideally, moose management programs should have provisions for reacting to winter die-offs of moose and reevaluating modifying management decisions and harvest policies formulated in late autumn.

If winter die-offs of moose periodically perturb manipulatively managed populations (Caughley and Sinclair 1994:2), should harvest policies and goals be commensurate with K carrying capacity in a normal snow winter or a deep-snow winter? To knowledgeably evaluate alternative forms of moose harvest policy, managers must utilize simulation models (Erickson and Sylven 1979, Sylven et al. 1987) to obtain baseline informatio on population dynamics and public processes to solicite input on allocation from social, political, and economic interests.

My data suggest that illegal harvest, unreported harvest, and other mortality related to hunting caused significant mortality in bulls in autumn. Moose managers should be aware of these less perceptible forms of mortality that are additive byproducts of hunter harvest.

Finally, my data indicate that in the absence of high densities of predators, snow accumulation in winter is a recurrent perturbing factor with large effects on size and composition of moose populations in lower Susint Valley. If predator densities increased to higher levels, winter weather perturbations could cause moose populations to be at lower density equilibria maintained by predators (i.e., a predator pit) (Van Ballenberghe 1987).

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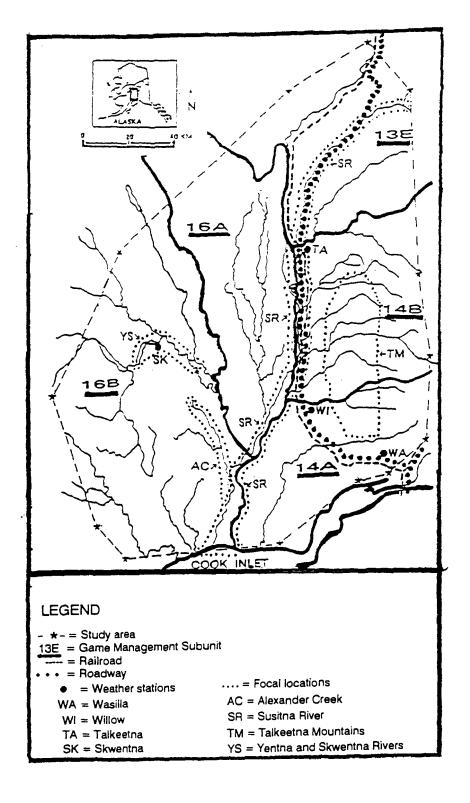
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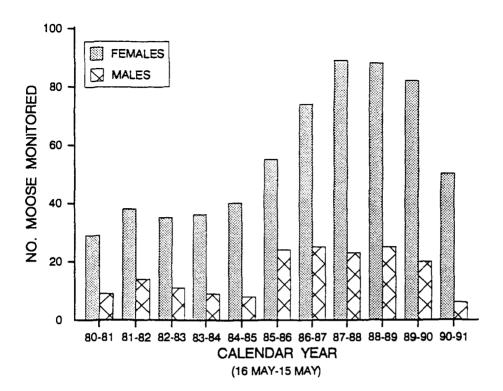
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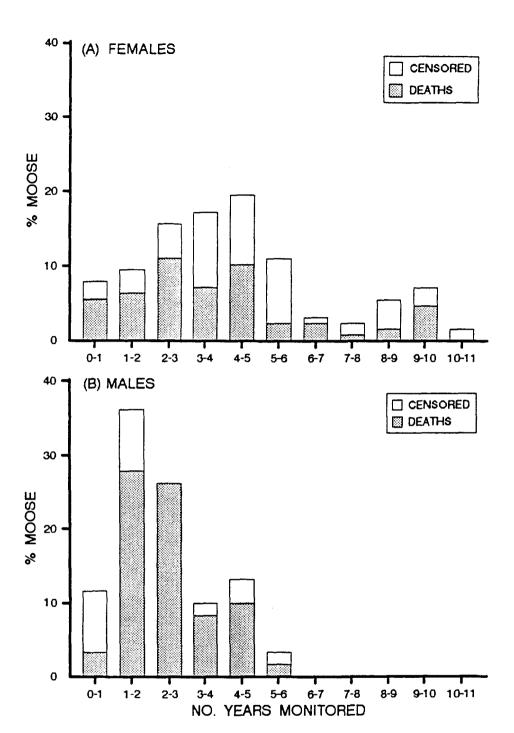
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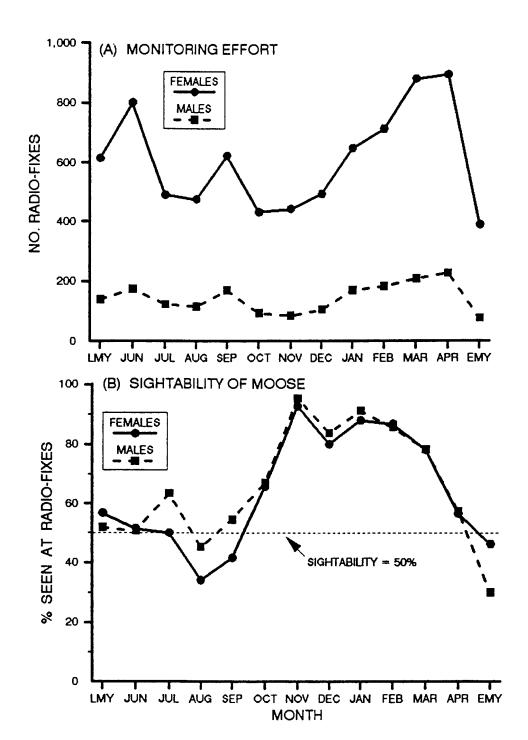
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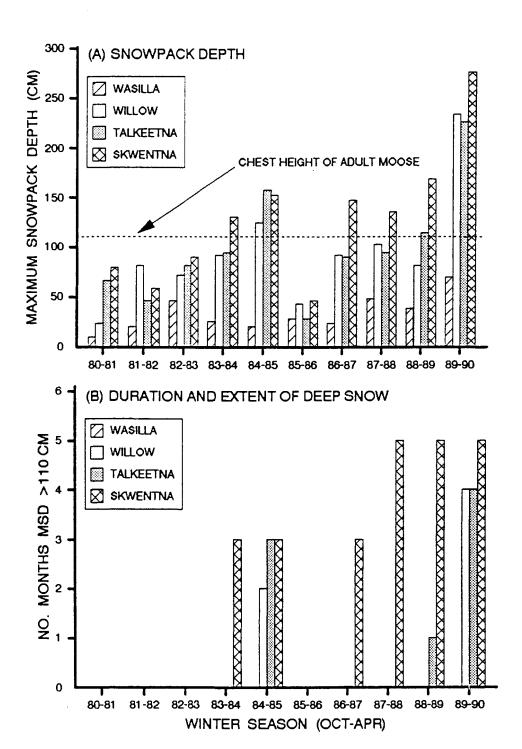
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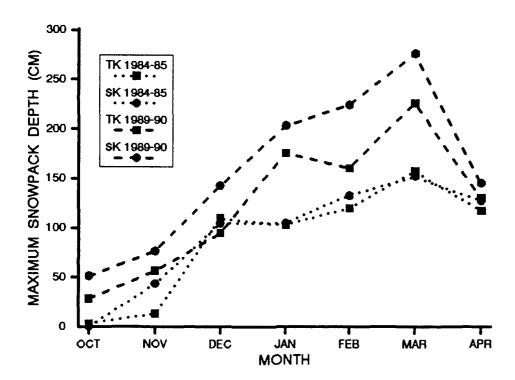


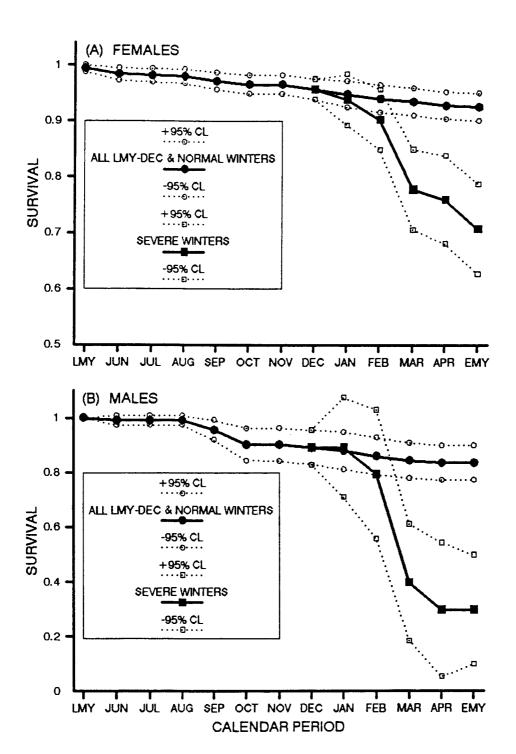


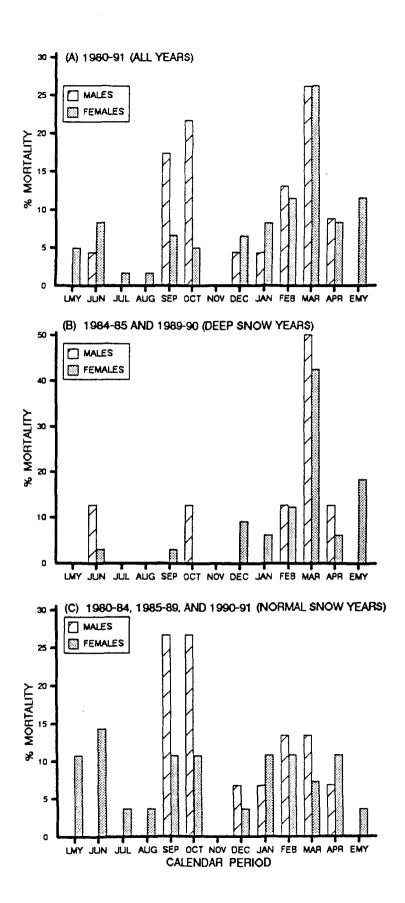


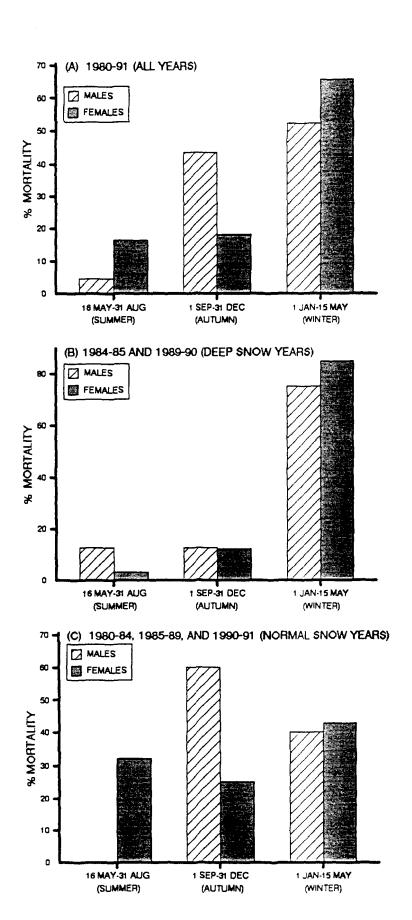












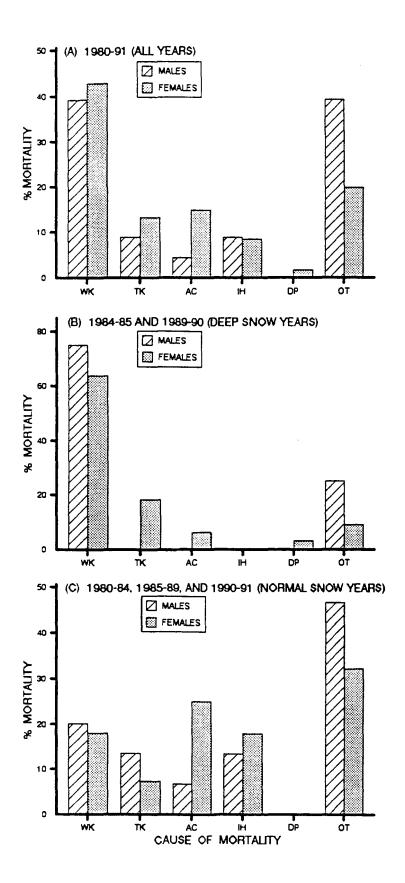


Table 1. Fate of 138 adult female radio-collared moose in lower Susitna Valley, in southcentral Alaska, 1979-91.

	Susitna	Talkeetna	Alexander	Yentna Skwentna	
Fate	River	Mountains	Creek	Rivers	All
Captured	54	50	17	17	138
Death at capture	3	5	2	0	10
Monitored	51	45	15	17	128
Censored	13	0	1	1	15
Lost signal contact	9	0	1	0	10
Shed collar	4	0	0	1	5
Deaths	34	19	6	7	66
Cause of death verified	10	3	1	1	15
Train kill	7	1	0	0	8
Hunter harvest	2	1	1	1	5
Illegal harvest	0	1	0	0	1

Table 1. Continued.

				Yentna	
	Susitna	Talkeetna	Alexander	Skwentna	
ate	River	Mountains	Creek '	Rivers	All
Defense of life or property	1	0	0	0	1
Cause of death unverified <sup>a</sup>	24	16	5	6	51
Winter kill <sup>b</sup>	14	5	3	4	26
Accident/injury	6	3	0	0	9
Illegal harvest	1	3	0	0	4
Other <sup>C</sup>	3	5	2	2	12
Survivors	4	26	8	9	47

Table 1. Continued.

				Yentna	
	Susitna	Talkeetna	Alexander	Skwentna	
Fate	River	Mountains	Creek	Rivers	All

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Cause of death determined by circumstances and evidence at site of radio-fix and/or radio-collar.

b Winter kill = no evidence of predation, accident or illegal kill and substrate covered with snow.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>C</sup> Other = circumstantial evidence insufficient to assign to a classification.

Table 2. Fate of 66 adult male radio-collared moose in lower Susitna Valley, in southcentral Alaska, 1979-91.

					_
	Susitna	Talkeetna	Alexander	Yentna Skwentna	
Fate	River	Mountains	Creek	Rivers	All
Captured	23	27	3	13	66
Death at capture	2	2	0	1	5
Monitored	21	25	3	12	61
Censored	4	2	0	2	8
Lost signal contact	1	2	0	0	3
Shed collar	3	0	0	2	5
Deaths	17	19	2	9	47
Cause of death verified	12	11	1	3	27
Train kill	2	0	0	0	2
Hunter harvest	10	10	1	3	24
Illegal harvest	0	1	0	0	1

Table 2. Continued.

	Susitna	Talkeetna	Alexander	Yentna Skwentna	
Fate	River	Mountains	Creek	Rivers	<b>A</b> 11
Defense of life or property	0	0	0	0	0
Cause of death unverified <sup>a</sup>	5	8	1	6	20
Winter kill <sup>b</sup>	2	2	0	5	9
Accident/injury	0	1	·	0	1
Illegal harvest	1	0	0	0	1
Other <sup>C</sup>	2	5	1	1	9
Survivors	0	4	1	1	6

Table 2. Continued.

			<del></del>		
				Yentna	
	Susitna	Talkeetna	Alexander	Skwentna	
Fate	River	Mountains	Creek	Rivers	All

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Cause of death determined by circumstances and evidence at site of radio-fix and/or radio-collar.

b Winter kill = no evidence of predation, accident or illegal kill and substrate covered with snow.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>C</sup> Other = circumstantial evidence insufficient to assign to a classification.

Table 3. Kaplan-Meier survival estimates for radio-collared adult female and male moose monitored with aircraft in lower Susitna Valley, southcentral Alaska 1980-91.

	Year		No.	Survival	
Sex	(16 May-15 May)	Season <sup>a</sup>	${ t monitored}^{ t b}$	estimate <sup>C</sup>	95% CI
					***************************************
Female	1980-89, 1990-91	Annual	534	0.9174	0.8928-0.9420
	1989-90	Annual	82	0.6499	0.5483-0.7516
	1980-91	Summer	489	0.9795	0.9668-0.9921
	1980-91	Autumn	486	0.9765	0.9628-0.9902
	1980-84, 1985-89	Winter-N	421	0.9671	0.9501-0.9841
	1984-85, 1989-90	Winter-S	111	0.7394	0.6605-0.8183
Male	1980-89, 1990-91	Annual	154	0.8412	0.7782-0.9041
	1989-90	Annual	20	0.2865	0.0928-0.4801
	1980-91	Summer	117	0.9914	0.9745-1.0083
	1980-91	Autumn	128	0.8879	0.8235-0.9522
	1980-89	Winter-N	117	0.9366	0.8922-0.9811
	1989-90	Winter-S	13	0.3333	0.1156-0.5511

Table 3. Continued.

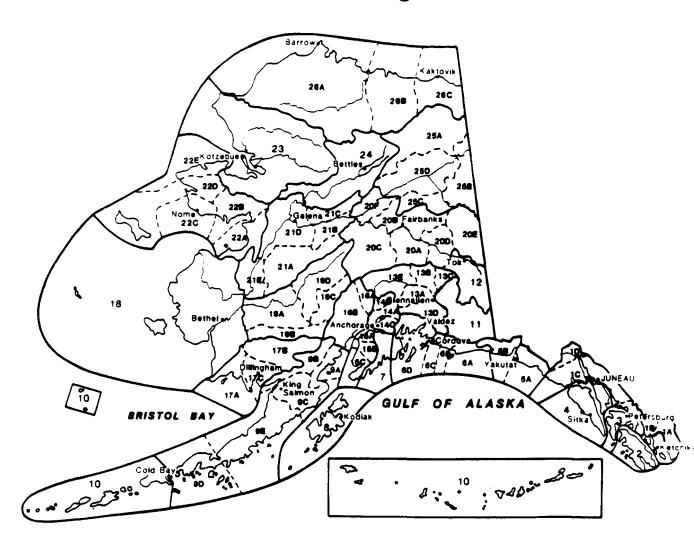
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	Year		No.	Survival	
Sex	(16 May-15 May)	Season <sup>a</sup>	monitored <sup>b</sup>	estimate <sup>C</sup>	95% CI

a Annual = 16 May-15 May; Summer = 16 May-31 Aug; Autumn = 1 Sep-31 Dec; and winter = 1 Jan-15 May. N = winter(s) with normal accumulations of snow. S = winter(s) with deep accumulations of snow.

b Includes individuals added in staggered entry but does not include moose that died from problems with capture.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>C</sup> Pollock et al., 1989.

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