

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
JUNEAU, ALASKA

STATE OF ALASKA
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ANNUAL REPORT OF SURVEY-INVENTORY ACTIVITIES
PART II. BLACK BEAR, BROWN BEAR, POLAR BEAR, CARIBOU

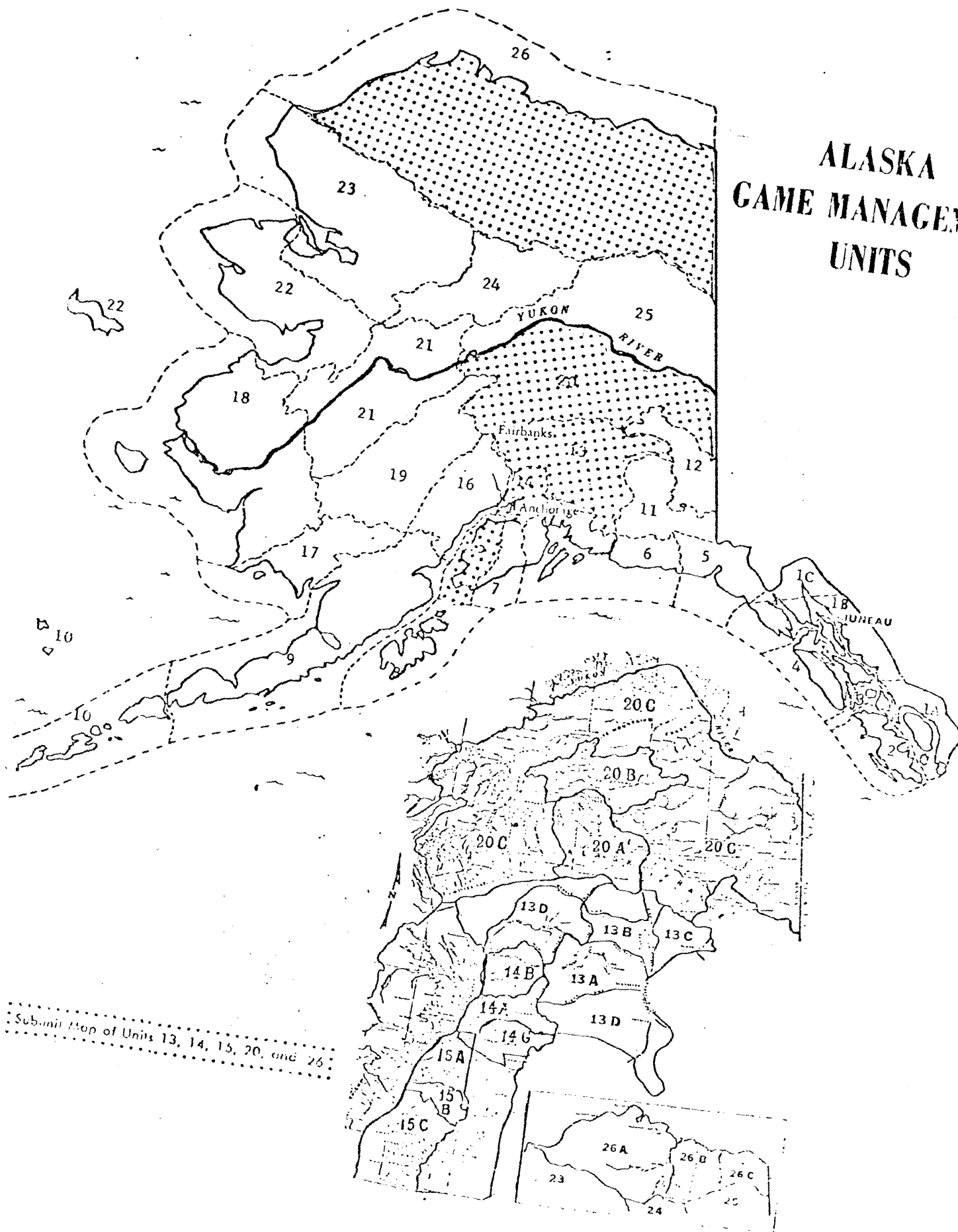
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ALASKA GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS



STATEWIDE HARVESTS AND POPULATION STATUS - 1975

Black Bear

Sealing of black bears taken by hunters was required only in Units 1-3, 5-7, 11-16, and 20; total harvest could not be estimated for the balance of the state. In those units, the total harvest in 1975 was 926. Sealing was initiated in most of these units in 1973, so harvest trends are not yet readily apparent. Black bear populations were reported to be healthy in all areas, with little or no indication that hunter harvest was affecting population levels.

Brown/Grizzly Bear

The statewide harvest for 1975 was 827 bears, very near the average for the last 5 years (820). Game Management Units 9, 8, and 4 were the units of heaviest harvest, with

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Game Management Unit Map.	i
Statewide Harvests and Population Status - 1975	ii
Black Bear.	1
GMU's 1A, 2 - Ketchikan and Prince of Wales Island	1
GMU 1B - Southeast Mainland.	3
GMU's 1C, 1D - Northern Mainland Portion of SE Alaska.	8
GMU 3 - Petersburg-Wrangell Area	10
GMU 5 - Yakutat.	15
GMU	

Caribou.	126
GMU's 7, 15 - Kenai Peninsula (Kenai Herds)	126
GMU 9 - Alaska Peninsula (Alaska Peninsula and Mulchatna Herds) .	130
GMU 10 - Aleutian Islands (Adak Island Herd).	133
GMU 10 - Unimak Island Only	137
GMU 11 - Wrangell Mountains and Chitina Valley (Mentasta Herd). .	138
GMU 12 - Chisana Herd	141
GMU's 12, 20, 25 - Fortymile Herd	142
GMU's 13, 20 - McKinley Herd.	143

BLACK BEAR

SURVEY-INVENTORY PROGRESS REPORT - 1975

Game Management Subunit 1A and Unit 2 - Ketchikan and Prince of Wales Island

Seasons and Bag Limits

Sept. 1 - June 30

Two bears; provided that not more than one may be a blue or glacier bear and that the taking of cubs or females accompanied by cubs is prohibited.

Harvest and Hunting Pressure

Thirty-three bears

Aircraft were used as transportation to the hunting area for 30 percent of the bears taken from Subunit 1A. The remaining 70 percent was taken using boats. In Unit 2, 43 percent was taken using air transportation, 24 percent was taken using boats and 33 percent from the road system. Eighty-four percent of 19 bears taken by nonresident hunters was taken using air transportation to the hunting areas.

Skull measurements again indicated that bears on Prince of Wales Island were slightly larger than those from Subunit 1A. In Subunit 1A, 25 males averaged 17.2 inches while 31 males taken in Unit 2 averaged 17.3 inches. Mean skull sizes changed very little from 1974.

Hunting effort per bear taken varied with the area and season hunted. During the spring season in Subunit 1A, 12 successful hunters on Revilla Island averaged 1.50 days/bear, while on the mainland, 15 hunters averaged 4.07 days/bear. The five fall season hunters in Subunit 1A hunted 1.2 days/bear. In Unit 2, 27 hunters in the spring season averaged 4.26

BLACK BEAR

SURVEY-INVENTORY PROGRESS REPORT - 1975

Game Management Subunit 1B - Southeast Mainland-Cape Fanshaw to Lemesurier Point

Seasons and Bag Limits

Sept. 1 - June 30

Two bears; provided that not more than one may be a blue or glacier bear and that the taking of cubs or females accompanied by cubs is prohibited.

Harvest and Hunting Pressure

Sealing requirements

III). In 1974 successful bear hunters spent 69 percent (50) of 72 days hunting black bears in this area and took 53 percent (8) of the reported harvest. Of 36 days reported in 1975, 86 percent was spent in the Cape Fanshaw-LeConte Bay area, accounting for 88 percent (7) of the harvest.

Nonresidents accounted for 47 percent of the total unit harvest in 1974 and 38 percent in 1975.

The current level of black bear harvests in Subunit 1B is considered light.

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Appendix I. Black bear harvest and mean skull sizes of bears taken in Game Management Subunit 1B.

Year	Total Harvest	No. Males	% Males	No. Females	% Females	No. Unknown Sex	% Unknown Sex	Mean Skull Size Males(n)	Mean Skull Size Females(n)
1973*	3*	3*	100.0*	0*	0*	0*	0*	16.9(3)*	*
1974	15	12	80.0	3	20.0	0	0.0	18.0(11)	15.4(3)
1975	8	6	75.0	2	25.0	0	0.		

Appendix III. Distribution of black bear harvests and hunting effort by resident and nonresident successful bear hunters in Alaska's Game Management Subunit 1B.

Area	No. of Bear		No. of Days Hunted		Average Days Hunted Per Bear	
	Res.	Non-Res.	Res.	Non-Res.	Res.	Non-Res.
Cape Fanshaw to Le Conte Bay						
1973*	2*	0*	9*	0*	4.5*	0.0*
1974	3					

Appendix IV. Comparisons of residency, guided and unguided and harvest of successful black bear hunters in Alaska's Game Management Subunit 1B.

Year	Residents		Non-Residents		Total Unit 1B
	Guided	Unguided	Guided	Unguided	
<u>Hunters</u>					
1973*	0*	3*	0*	0*	3*
1974	0	7	3	2	12
1					

Appendix I. Black bear harvests, calendar years 1974 and 1975. Participation by nonresidents, mean and range of skull sizes, color phase of bears and hunters taking two bears.

Subunit	Year	Total		%	No.	%	Mean Skull Size M**	Range Skull Sizes M**	Mean Skull Size F**	Range Skull Sizes F**	Color Phase		2 Bear Hunters	
		Kill	Males											

Four guides were active in GMU 3 in 1974 compared to 7 in 1975 (Appendix IV). Guided hunts accounted for 59 percent of the black bear harvest in 1974 and 54 percent in 1975.

The most important method of transportation used by successful hunters in GMU 3 was boats, with 77 percent and 74 percent using boats in 1974 and 1975, respectively. Other means were used considerably less and included aircraft, highway vehicle, off-road vehicles and by foot.

Composition and Productivity

Presently, there is no available information concerning the sex and age composition of black bear populations in GMU 3.

Management Summary and Conclusions

The hunting pressure in terms of successful hunters (information on unsuccessful hunters is

Appendix III. Distribution of black bear harvests and hunting effort by resident and nonresident successful hunters in Alaska's Game Management Unit 3.

Area	No. of Bear Taken		No. of Days Hunted		Aver. Days Hunted Per Bear	
	Res.	Non-Res.	Res.	Non-Res.	Res.	Non-Res.
Kupreanof Is.						
1973*	0*	0*	0*	0*	0.0*	0.0*
1974	1	3	3	40	3.0	

Appendix IV. Comparisons of residency, guided and unguided successful hunters in Alaska's Game Management Unit 3.

Year	Residents				Total Res.	Nonresidents		Total Nonres.	Total Unit
	Guided Unit	Nonunit	Unguided Unit	Nonunit		Guided	Unguided		
1973*	0*	0*	0*	3*	3*	5*	0*	5*	8

popularity of Prince William Sound spring black bear hunts, 2) black bears are easy to hunt, 3), high hunter success, 4) it is the first big game season to open in the spring and 5) a statewide increase in numbers of hunters.

After 2 years of harvest data, it is obvious that the spring season is the key to managing black bears in Prince William Sound. The vast majority of bears (75-90%) were taken in the spring of which 65-70 percent was males.

During 1974, the eastern side of Prince William Sound contributed 34 percent of the annual harvest, whereas in 1975 it contributed only 8 percent. The northern portion of Prince William Sound, Valdez Arm to and including Port Wells, jumped from 26 percent (1974) to 53 percent (1975). Also, the area east of the Copper River jumped from 5 percent in 1974 to 15 percent in 1975. The reasons for these major shifts were not obvious at this time.

Recommendations

APPENDIX I

Unit 6

Black Bear Sport Harvest by Season & Sex - 1975

	<u>Spring Harvest</u>			<u>Fall Harvest</u>			<u>1975 Harvest</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Unk.</</u>						

APPENDIX II

Unit 6

Black Bear Harvest by Year and Area

<u>Area</u>	<u>1974</u>		<u>1975</u>		<u>Difference</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	
1. East of Copper River to Icy Bay	5	4.6	22	14.9	(up

APPENDIX III

UNIT 6

1975 Black Bear Skull Size Data

	Male	Female	Unknown
Spring	17.3"(88)*	15.5"(29)	16.6"(10)
Fall	16.1"(9)	15.7"(3)	--
Spring and Fall	17.2"(97)	15.6"(32)	16.6"(10)

* Sample size in parenthesis.

Since skull sizes did not change appreciably and the harvest was heavily weighted toward male bears the harvest was believed to be well below the sustained yield level.

The harvest continues to be well distributed throughout the unit.

Recommendations

No changes are recommended.

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Appendix I - Harvest Data for Black Bears Taken in Game Management Unit 7

Year	Season	Resident		Non-Resident		Total		Total	% Males - ^{1/}	% Non-Residents
		♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀			
1973	Fall	13	14	1	5	6	0			

Appendix IV. Chronology of Black Bear Hunting Harvest in Game Management Unit 7, 1975.

Year	o o		Sex		Month of Kill												
			Unk.	Tot.	Unk.	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

