

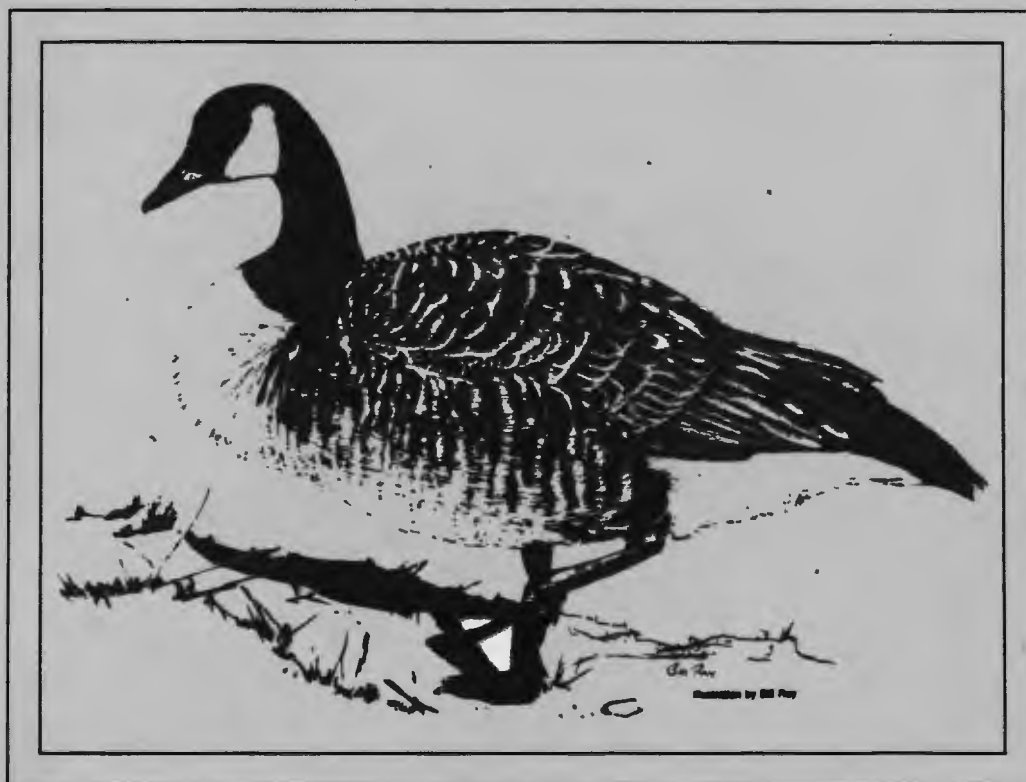
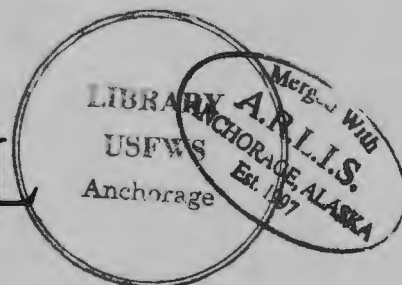
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Annual Performance Report of
Survey-Inventory Activities
1 July 1989-30 June 1990

WATERFOWL



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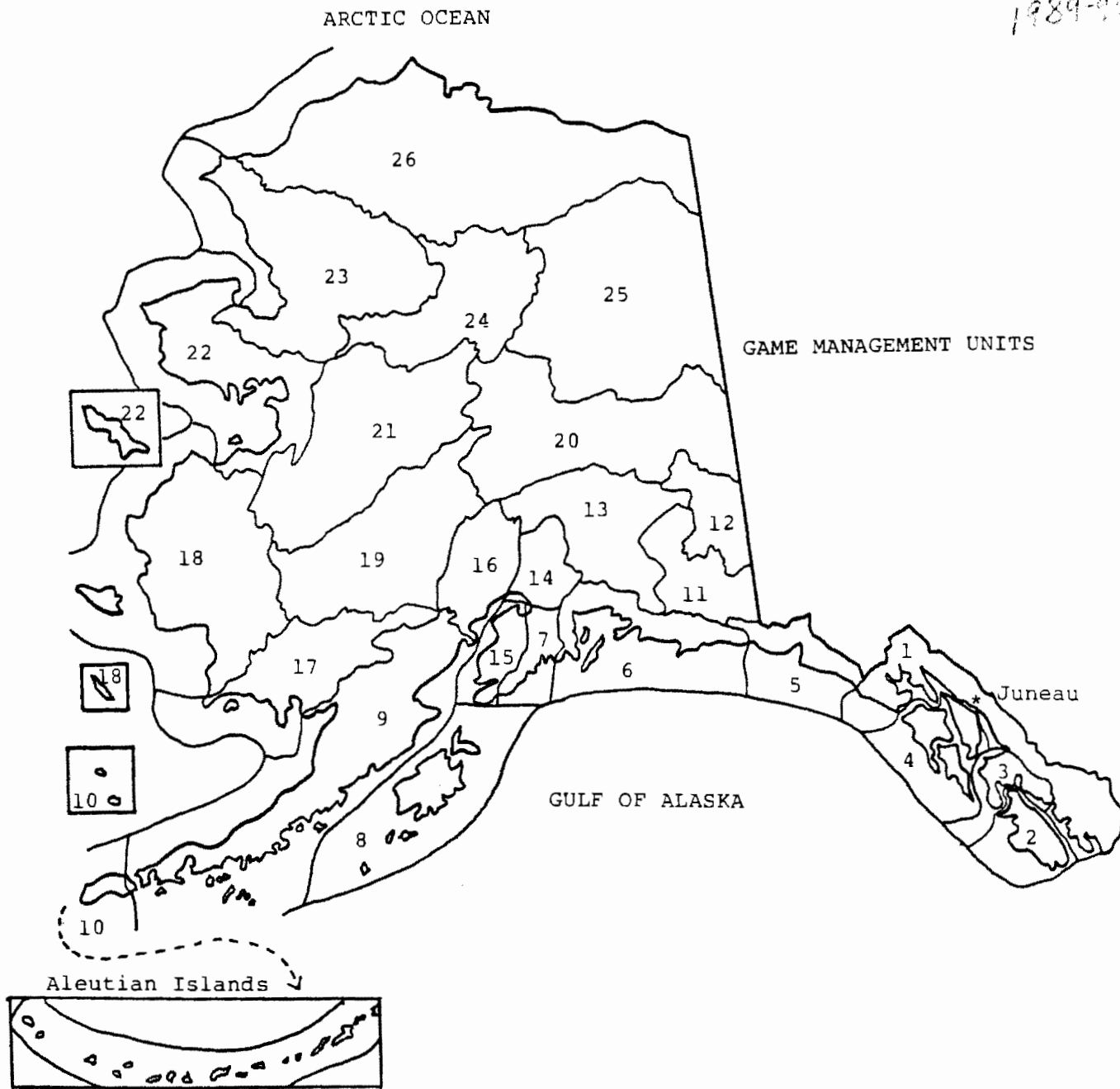
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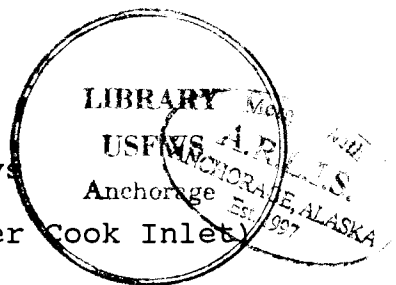
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PROJECT TITLE: Cook Inlet Waterfowl Surveys

PROJECT LOCATION: GMU 14, 15, and 16 (Upper Cook Inlet)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

1. Document trumpeter swan nesting in Upper Cook Inlet.
2. Conduct production and distribution surveys for Canada and Tule white-fronted geese.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE PROJECT PERIOD:

1. Documentation of trumpeter swans in the region was deferred because of the comprehensive 5-year inventory survey conducted by USFWS in 1990.
2. A comprehensive goose production survey was flown for Upper Cook Inlet from Knik Arm to Redoubt Bay, August 1-5, 1990. The survey was done in Piper Supercubs over 13 hours flight time. Coverage was complete for coastal marsh habitats and lower reaches of rivers. A total of 2,339 geese were observed, 73% Canadas and only 640 Tule white-fronts. An extensive search was conducted inland in Trading and Redoubt Bays for molting Tule geese, but no concentrations were found.

PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Data from local site surveys, goose production counts, and the USFWS inventory provide complete and accurate information on the status and distribution of trumpeter swans in Upper Cook Inlet. The department will do periodic monitoring between inventories.

Although coverage of goose production areas was essentially complete, the survey needs to be done earlier (July) to fully capture brood groups and precede dispersal that begins in August. It was particularly noteworthy that large groups of Tule white-fronts were not found, because over 1,500 have been counted on west Cook Inlet coastal areas in previous years.

SEGMENT PERIOD PROJECT COSTS:

	Personnel	Operating	Total
Planned	5.1	3.0	8.1
Actual	5.1	3.0	8.1
Difference	0	0	0

PROJECT TITLE: Colville Delta Waterfowl Surveys

PROJECT LOCATION: GMU 26 (Colville River Delta)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

1. Assess breeding pairs and production of tundra swans.
2. Monitor size and condition of black brant colonies.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE PROJECT PERIOD:

Tundra swan aerial surveys on 206 miles of transect provided nearly complete coverage of the delta during the mid-June pair/nest survey and mid-August production survey, the ninth year of this effort. In June, potential pairs (61) were down 10% from average, detected nests (25) were at the recent average, and 402 total swans was well above the average of 226. The August survey indicated 316 swans, 26 broods (average 2.85 cygnets) and 74 cygnets, for above-average production in 1990.

Mid-June nesting surveys were done on the four major brant colonies in the northeast delta. A total of 431 nests was recorded with an average clutch size of four eggs. Collective nest numbers, relatively stable for the past five years, were up 16% with increases on Char and Anachlik Islands in 1990.

PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

All objectives were met in maintaining baseline data on the delta's swans (9th year) and brant (6th year). This information remains vital to evaluating potential oil and gas development proposals on the delta's known reserves, and to address the paucity of information on brant colony dynamics and production in the arctic. Swan data are partially reported in proceedings of the 1990 International Swan Conference (IWRB); swan and brant data were presented to the 42nd Arctic Science Conference (AAAS 1991) in Fairbanks.

SEGMENT PERIOD PROJECT COSTS:

	Personnel	Operating	Total
Planned	5.1	4.1	9.2
Actual	5.1	3.7	8.8
Difference	0	0.4	0.4

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