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BEAR HARVEST

HARZA-EBASCO SUSITNA JOINT VENTURE

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION REPORT

PERSON CONTACTED Sterling Miller, Big Game Biologist TASK NUMBER 4
 AFFILIATION Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, Anchorage. DATE April 19, 1985
 HARZA-EBASCO REPRESENTATIVE Chuck Elliott PHONE NUMBER ext. 318
 COPIES TO R. Fairbanks, R. Suttle, R. Lindsay
 SUBJECT Bear harvest in the project area.

NOTES I spoke with Sterling Miller over the phone concerning black and brown bear harvest in the project area. I commented that in his 1982 report (see footnote) he stated that the average harvest of black and brown bears in Game Management Unit 13 was 66 and 38 bears, respectively. I asked him if this had changed. He replied yes, that in 1980 ADF&G instituted a spring brown bear hunt and that there had been changes in the regulations. He provided the data given below. Miller felt the rise in brown bear harvest in 1983 and 1984 was due to changing the hunting regulations from allowing one brown bear per person every four years to one brown bear per year. He also felt the increase in 1984 black bear harvest was due to a regulation change; hunters in 1984 were allowed to bait-in black bears.

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HARVEST OF BROWN AND BLACK BEARS IN GMU 13 FROM 1980 TO 1984

<u>Year</u>	<u>Brown Bears</u>	<u>Black Bears</u>
<u>1980</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>87</u>
<u>1981</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>93</u>
<u>1982</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>73</u>
<u>1983</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>57</u>
<u>1984</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>102</u>
<u>AVERAGE</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>83</u>

Miller also commented that the current harvest level (since 1980) can not be considered "well below the sustainable harvest level" for brown bears. This is contrary to what was stated in the 1982 report, but with the change in hunting season and regulations there has been a change in the average harvest.

Report referred to: Miller, S.D., and D.C. McAllister. 1982. Susitna Hydroelectric Project, Phase I Final Report, Big Game Studies, Vol. VI, Black bear and brown bear. Alaska Dept. Fish and Game, Anchorage. 233pp.