

RC14



P.O. Box 5623  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

November 4, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

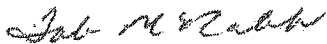
Our company, Ketchikan Outdoors, is a wildlife/sightseeing excursion company in Ketchikan, Alaska. Like many other tour operations in Southeast Alaska, we depend on the presence of wildlife, especially bears, to ensure customer satisfaction and revenue. The thrill of bear viewing is a driving force that motivates tourism to this area and generates the dollars upon which our local economy has become dependent. We must take whatever steps necessary to help protect this resource if our standard of living and economic growth are to continue.

As a bear and wildlife viewing guide I have personally noticed dramatic decreases in the presence of black bears in the Ketchikan vicinity over the past seven years. I can no longer depend on the creeks up George Inlet near the cannery, Carol Inlet around the Salmon Berry subdivision, Herring Cove beach, or various Gravina Island beaches to deliver what our customers pay for and expect . . . a single bear. Last year a small creek across from the George Inlet Cannery (locally known as "Blueberry Creek") was frequented by a large black bear. Our guides were able to take a good number of guests to see this bear. They were often times joined by other boats from other tour companies who have the same wildlife viewing venue. However, on the day that I took a group in hopes of seeing this awesome creature, two hunters were loading its remains into their skiff. That same week in nearby "Ice House Cove" a group of Kayakers from another tour company were watching a black bear as it walked out of the tree line on to the beach, staggered, and fell dead allegedly from a gunshot wound. This bear was obviously a threat to anyone near, and this graphic scene will not soon be forgotten by our guests to Southeast Alaska.

Furthermore, my wife Sarah McNabb was a bear viewing guide in the late nineties and recalls guiding tours to Anan and Traitor's Cove when it was common to see five to ten bears on a trip. In 2010 companies are reporting the average bears viewed to be none to one, and 50% of customers who visit these areas see no bears. That's a drastic change in a relatively short amount of time.

Based on personal experiences and research, it is clear bear hunting and bear viewing cannot co-exist in the same location. Each are important and should be allowed to continue but in a sustainable manner. The only solution I recommend is an implementation of protected viewing areas as well as designated hunting areas.

Sincerely,



Tab McNabb  
Owner  
Ketchikan Outdoors  
info@KetchikanOutdoors.com  
(907) 617-2716

My name is Lesley Kamm. My husband, Steve and I own and operate a single plane air taxi business, SeaWind Aviation since 2003.

We fly all kinds of charters, fishing, hunting, etc., and also rely heavily upon tourism in the summer months to support our business year round, as all of the air taxi companies do. Our popular flights are out to the Misty Fjords National Monument as well as Traitors Cove to view bears, and we purchase permits through the Forest Service to fly to these areas.

Part of my job at SeaWind is to take reservations, to explain our tours thoroughly and to get our customers excited about what they are going to see. I am there to greet them in person when they arrive and see them when they return from their flight with Steve. I get to see their expressions and sentiments when they return from their trip as well as their disappointments if they don't see bears, especially on our Traitors Cove bear trip where they are paying a high price to see bears.

Seeing the beauty of Alaska includes the wildlife Alaska has to offer. They are thrilled to see all kinds of wildlife, and especially bears. We hear it constantly, even from the customers we take on our Misty Fjords flights. They don't expect this by any means but are thrilled to see it and share their pictures with us when they return.

Today, our town relies upon the tourism market, and whether a person is directly working in tourism, we all are affected by it economically in some way. Our bear trips are about 25% of our income, and much more for other companies, such as Taquan Air.

We have seen a significant decline in the bear population at Traitors Cove for the last three years, and this year we had to cancel the bears trips mid season as we weren't seeing any bears. The passengers who saw bears saw only one or two and were very disappointed so in the end. We have been affected by the declining economy in the last few years, and additionally the cancellation of the bear tours has impacted our business negatively.

There have been numerous occasions throughout the years where our bear guides have come across hunters- sometimes seeing them at the dock with their dead bears and other times seeing them on the road and hearing negative comments about those "dam tourists". This is very embarrassing for us as we want our customers to have a positive experience.

Aren't we all tourists at some point? How do we feel when we are treated this way when we visit other places? If we took our children to Hawaii for example and decided to go our whale watching, I would be very upset to see a boat beside us harpooning whales. What kind of positive experience would that be for my children? I would question the ethics of the operator who took us out to see bears and I would probably want my money back. Additionally, if we came back to the dock and saw the whales all laid out on the dock, and heard negative remarks about those "damm tourists", I am going to take a negative attitude towards people in Hawaii and might not want to take a whale watching tour ever again, much less return to Hawaii.

Additionally, I feel there is a safety issue involved in allowing hunting within a few hundred yards of the viewing platform. Bullets can travel up to a mile in some cases and I don't feel that it is safe for our customers or our family as we also take our little girls to see the bears on the weekends. I feel there is a potential of someone being shot or possibly hurt by a wounded bear.

From this point, even if these proposals are adopted, it will take several years for the bear population to return. I hope that you will all take these proposals to heart as this is affecting a local economy, as well as the safety of people. We are asking for just a small area on the map show both locals and tourists can enjoy seeing bears safely.

Thank you,

Lesley Kamm

Bob Jahnke

40 year resident 1A

Home - 14 miles north of Ketchikan. Along with wife Kris we own and operate Trapline Supply located north of Ketchikan.

Past Director: Ketchikan Sports & Wildlife Club

Past member of Ketchikan Fish & Game Advisory Committee

National Trapper Association member since the mid 1970's

Present member of the Alaska Trappers Association

Present member Wild Fur Shippers Council; NAFA

Past member: Alberta Trappers Association

Past member: Fur Harvesters of America

39 Years of consistent trapping in 1A and parts of a few seasons in Unit 2

PROPOSAL #1 YES move date to May 1, see proposals 36 & 39

Do not close in May or June when Fawns are vulnerable

PROPOSAL #2 NO

PROPOSAL #4 NO

PROPOSAL #5 NO These are anti hunting proposals in popular black bear hunting areas. Hunting is a valuable management tool, A.D.F.&G. should have opposed these.

PROPOSAL #6 YES This was proposed to give the deer a chance to rebuild when the wolves leave the affected areas of 1A

PROPOSAL #7 YES My intent was to create a dialogue for the hunting public to understand why the goat permits (003) dropped so dramatically in one year. The fear was the wolf pack photographed in September of 2009 near Blue Lake may have done some damage or at least pushed the goats down in the timber where a survey would have lacked in good counts, or worse that the goats were being managed for the tourist industry.

PROPOSAL #8 YES 1A averaged 3 wolverine a season. The mainland wolf Trappers need this incentive returned.

PROPOSAL #9 YES I proposed this when the Department's number was twenty, since then the Department has raised their number to forty. Thirty is still the more reasonable number, forty may incur panic during a year with less effort.

PROPOSAL #18 NO

PROPOSAL #25 NO Please compare Unit 1A from the years 1995 thru 2001.

1996 could have incurred a Department panic as the one low harvest year in Unit 2 is doing now.

PROPOSAL #29 YES Beaver season to open November 10 in Units 1-5

PROPOSAL #31 NO This would outlaw several beaver traps including the popular #4 Victor Double Long Spring at 5 5/8". Also if this were to pass it would make it illegal to trap squirrels with #0's or #1's (squirrel harvest has a no closed season). Why compound an enforcement problem with another enforcement problem.

PROPOSAL #32 YES waterfowl back to September 1

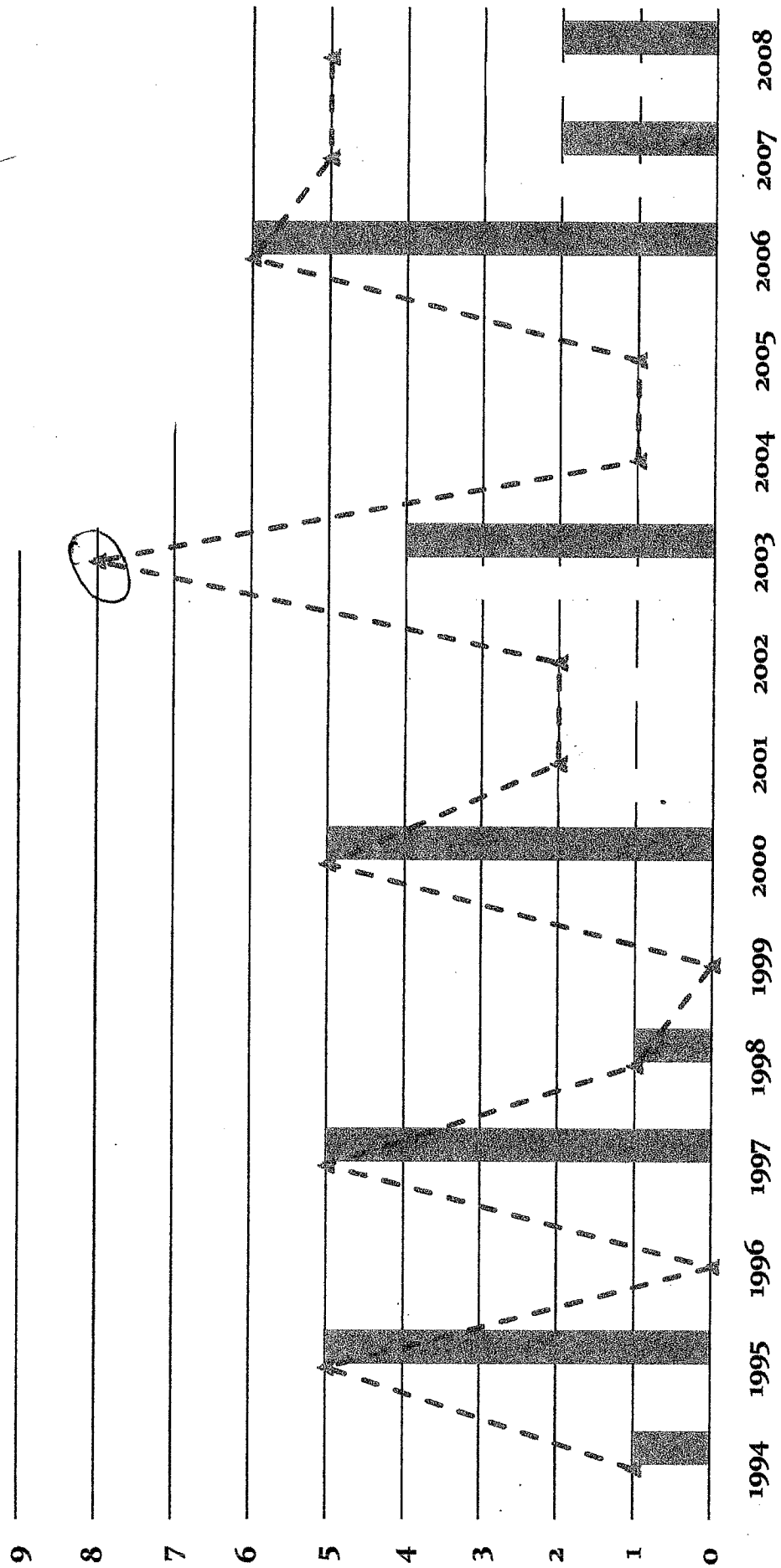
PROPOSAL #35 NO There is no problem in 1A with black bear numbers. We have seen good recruitment the last few years, wait two years for the next Board Meeting and evaluate the numbers again.

PROPOSAL #36 AMEND

PROPOSAL #39 AMEND Bear Baiting in Units 1A, 1B, 2 and 3 to begin May 1<sup>st</sup> to eliminate interfering with wolf trappers. See PROPOSAL #1. Do not close the month of June for nonresidents as this is a critical time for fawn survival.

PROPOSAL #43 NO We need to keep the wolf predation in check, if anything amend to lengthen wolf season in 1A.

# Wolverine Harvest Unit 1A



Female ■ Male -▲- Total

PER  
3/YEAR AVERAGE







# WinfoNet

## Fur Sealing

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  Monthly
  Lookup

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[Welcome, Boyd Porter](#)

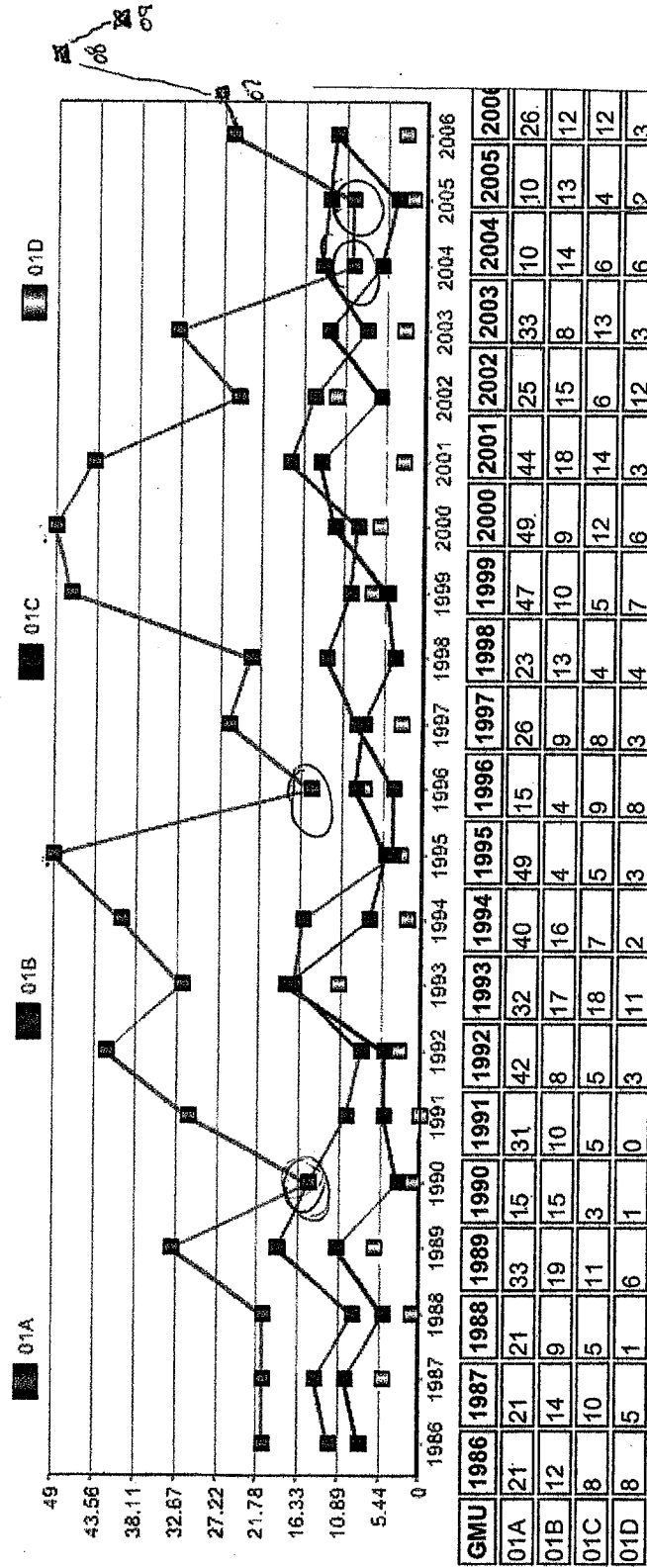
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### Wolf Harvest for unit(s) 01

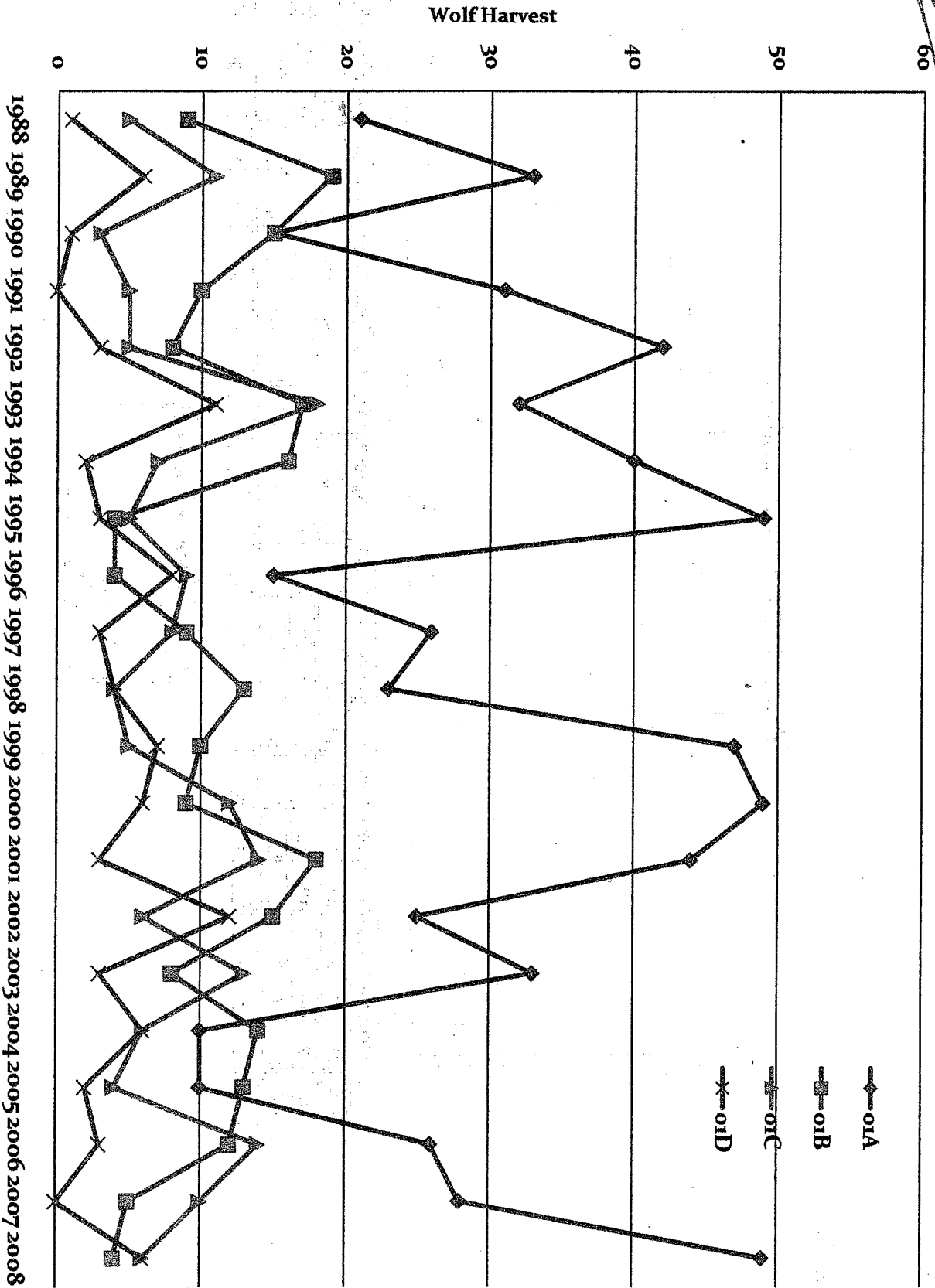


SHOW TRENDS IN FURSEAL

Unit:  01  02  03  04

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# Unit 1 Wolf Harvest



ADP  
MARS  
07/2008