

Proposal 31

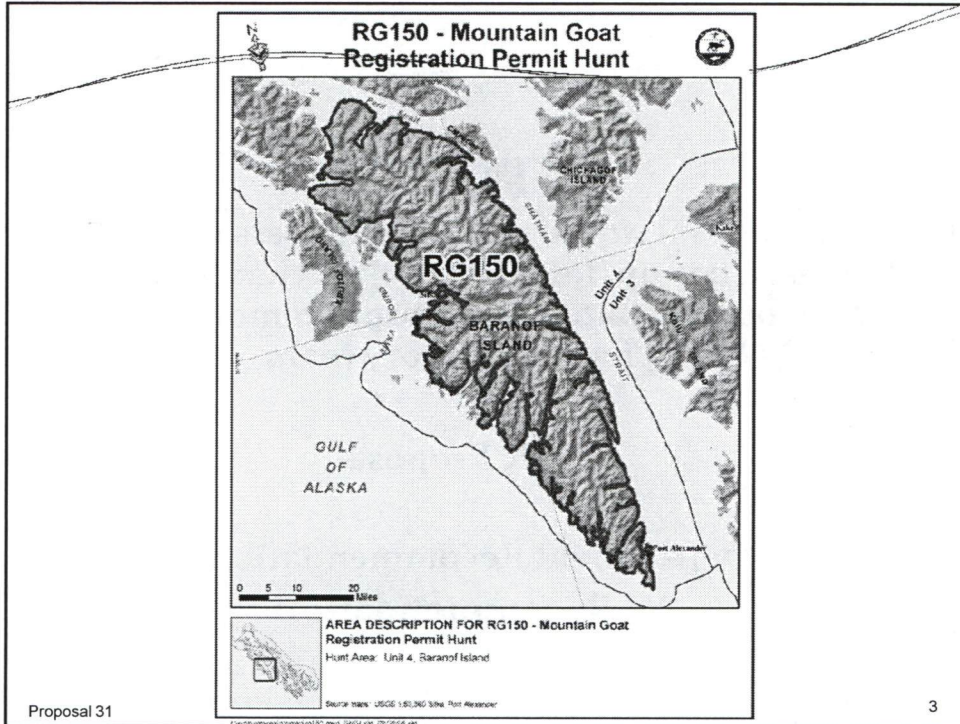
This proposal would penalize hunters who harvest a nanny (female goat), in that they would be prohibited from hunting mountain goats in Unit 4 for 5 regulatory years

Public Proposal

**Department Recommendation:
No Recommendation**

Discussion

- **Proponent submitted proposal for 2 reasons:**
 1. **Discourage harvest of female goats**
 2. **Impose penalty on hunters who repeatedly harvest female goats, which results in less opportunity for other hunters**



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Discussion

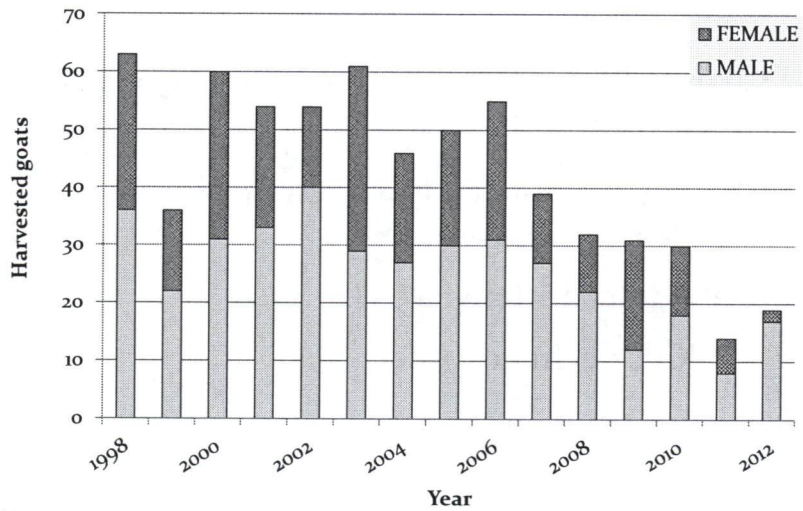
- Registration hunt (RG150): Aug 1-December 31; bag limit = 1 1 goat
- Management Objectives:
 - Maintain an island-wide population in excess of 1,000 goats
 - Maintain harvest sex ratios commensurate with survey observations
 - Manage harvest at a rate of 6 points per 100 goats observed during aerial surveys within discrete survey areas
 - Weighted harvest point system (males = 1 point, females = 2 points)

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Harvest History

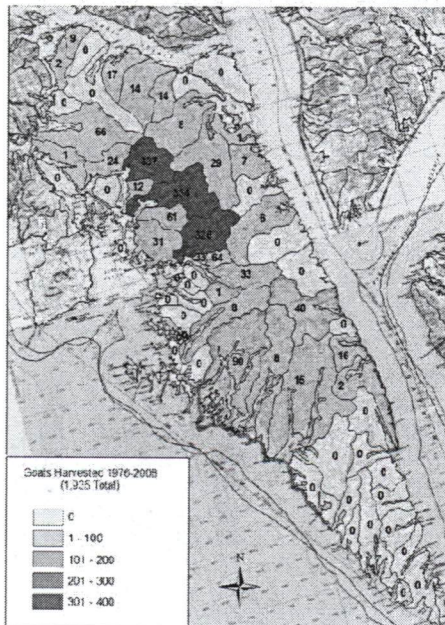
Mountain Goat Harvest 1998-2012



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Baranof Island Historic Goat Harvest 1976-2008



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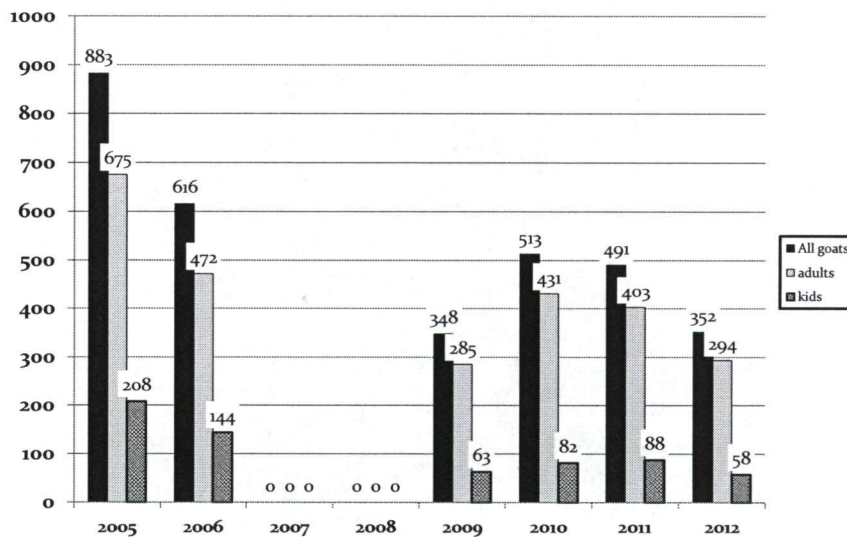
SURVEY TRENDS

- Aerial survey routes established in the 1950s
- Baranof Island aerial survey, 2004: 1300 goats (last island wide survey)
- Surveys completed in key established survey areas (zones 1-3), 2005-2012
 - Adults declined 43.5%
 - Kids declined 29%

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Baranof Is. Mtn Goat Aerial Survey Data
2005-2012



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Management Issues

- Female harvest, 1998-2012 40% of total harvest
- Older age females have been shown to be most productive (5, 6, 7)
- Average age of harvested females is increasing
- Hunting opportunity limited by excessive female harvest
- Multi-year closure of 2 areas to goat hunting
- Multiple Emergency Orders to close goat hunt areas
- Educational efforts have been only moderately successful in limiting female harvest

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Summary

- Harvest history is 40% females
 - Concern for high female harvest persists
 - Improvement seen in 2012 (17 males; 2 females)
- Aerial survey data (2005-2012) showed a decline in goat numbers
 - Adults 43.5%
 - Kids 29%
- Primarily a resident hunt
 - Small subset of resident hunters repeatedly harvest nannies, resulting in hunt closures
 - This results in less hunting opportunity
- Female goat harvest limits population productivity

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Recommendation

- Sitka AC supported proposal with idea of limiting the penalty period (3-5 years) and including a sunset clause
- Department Recommendation:

No Recommendation